



MARCH QUARTER 2001

Final  
Issue

6415.0

# PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN COAL MINING

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 20 APR 2001

## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

<i>Price indexes of materials used in coal mining</i>	<i>% change Dec Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001</i>	<i>% change Mar Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001</i>
Open cut mining	-4.3	1.5
Underground mining	1.9	4.4

## NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

This publication contains price indexes relating to materials used in the mining of coal in Australia. Separate indexes show movements in prices of materials used in open cut and underground coal mining operations.

### INDEX NUMBERS

Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers. In cases where more complete information is obtained after index numbers for a period have been published, or it is discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication. Each index is presented on a reference base of 1987-88=100.0.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

. . not applicable  
r revised

### FINAL ISSUE

This issue will be the last of this publication. The ABS has reviewed its publication strategy for producer price indexes with a view to integrating its range of publications. From June quarter 2001 the key series will be published in a new publication – *Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6427.0). Subscribers of this publication will be sent details of the new publication and information on arrangements for ensuring that they will continue to receive the series that they are interested in. Others who are interested in receiving details of the new publication should contact Lee Taylor on 1800 155 106.

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on Canberra 02 6252 5348, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN COAL MINING

Period	OPEN CUT.....			UNDERGROUND.....		
	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period
<b>1996-1997</b>	121.9	..	1.8	129.6	..	2.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	120.4	..	-1.2	129.8	..	0.2
<b>1998-1999</b>	118.9	..	-1.2	131.8	..	1.5
<b>1999-2000</b>	128.4	..	8.0	131.2	..	-0.5
<b>1997</b>						
March	123.5	2.3	0.2	129.5	2.3	0.1
June	120.9	0.4	-2.1	129.7	2.0	0.2
September	120.3	0.4	-0.5	129.6	-0.2	-0.1
December	121.7	-1.2	1.2	129.6	0.2	0.0
<b>1998</b>						
March	122.4	-0.9	0.6	130.1	0.5	0.4
June	117.3	-3.0	-4.2	129.9	0.2	-0.2
September	119.0	-1.1	1.4	132.0	1.9	1.6
December	118.8	-2.4	-0.2	131.7	1.6	-0.2
<b>1999</b>						
March	118.0	-3.6	-0.7	131.7	1.2	0.0
June	119.8	2.1	1.5	131.6	1.3	-0.1
September	120.6	1.3	0.7	130.2	-1.4	-1.1
December	126.9	6.8	5.2	130.4	-1.0	0.2
<b>2000</b>						
March	131.2	11.2	3.4	131.2	-0.4	0.6
June	134.8	12.5	2.7	133.0	1.1	1.4
September	132.0	9.5	-2.1	132.9	2.1	-0.1
December	139.2	9.7	5.5	134.4	3.1	1.1
<b>2001</b>						
March	133.2	1.5	-4.3	137.0	4.4	1.9

(a) Base of each index: 1987-88 = 100.0

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**1** These indexes are fixed weights indexes. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of the estimated average values of materials used in the operation of open cut and underground coal mines in Australia during the three years ended June 1987.

### PRICES

**2** The point of pricing is delivered on mine site or to the primary storage area for a group of mines. Prices are obtained from representative suppliers of the materials used in coal mining. Under the diesel rebate scheme, the excise paid on diesel fuel used in off-road mining is partially rebated.

**3** As far as possible, actual transactions prices are used—that is, the prices actually paid by coal mines to suppliers for materials delivered on mine sites. The actual price paid for anything can, of course, be described in various ways. Instead of being described as a single price (as usually happens in retail shops), a price for a mining material may be described in terms of the components that make up the price—for instance, ‘supplier’s price plus freight’, ‘basic price less (particular types of) discount’, and so on. It is these net prices that buyers pay to sellers in exchange for materials that the ABS aims to use in compiling these indexes.

### ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

**4** Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter to quarter movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

**5** Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in ‘index points’ or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods:

Open cut mining index numbers –

March Qtr 2001	133.2	(see Table 1)
less March Qtr 2000	131.2	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	2.0	
Percentage change	2.0	x 100 = 1.5
	131.2	

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**6** Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications:

- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
- *Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia* (Cat. no. 6410.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0)
- *Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6405.0)
- *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0).
- *Producer Price Indexes for Selected Service Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6423.0).

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**7** For details regarding the effect of the new tax system, see *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System 2000* (Cat. no. 6425.0).

**8** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

## INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

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