

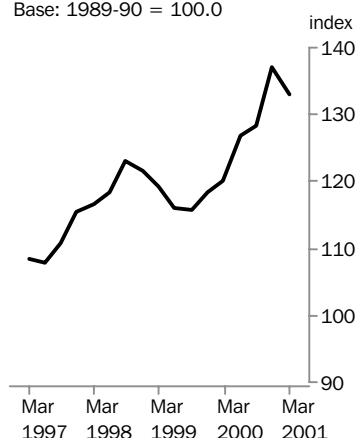
IMPORT PRICE INDEX

AUSTRALIA

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

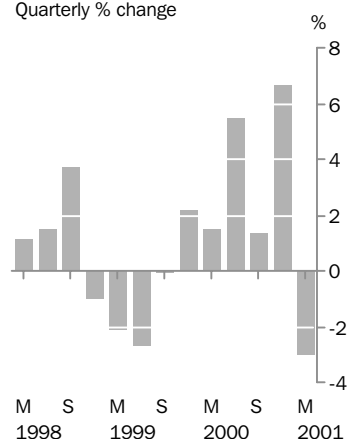
Index numbers

Base: 1989-90 = 100.0



All groups

Quarterly % change



MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Dec Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001	% change Mar Qtr 2000 to Mar Qtr 2001
All groups	-3.0	10.7
Food and live animals	-0.4	4.4
Beverages and tobacco	-0.4	0.8
Crude materials	-6.8	8.5
Mineral fuels, etc.	-22.6	16.6
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-6.8	-7.3
Chemical products	2.2	15.5
Manufactured goods, by material	-1.1	9.7
Machinery and transport equipment	-1.3	9.5
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-0.6	11.4
Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	-2.1	7.8

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

FINAL ISSUE
See page 2
for details.

ALL GROUPS INDEX

- World market price falls for crude oil and other petroleum products, combined with a slight appreciation in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies, led to a large decrease in the index. This is the largest decrease (-3.0%) since the September quarter 1988 (-4.4%).

MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- The main contributors to the decrease were price falls for petroleum and related products.
- Partly offsetting the price falls were price increases for chemicals and related products.

- 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.

NOTES

FINAL ISSUE

This issue will be the last of this publication. The ABS has reviewed its publication strategy for export and import price indexes with a view to integrating these publications. From June quarter 2001 the key series will be published in a new publication – *International Trade Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6457.0). 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.



Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

IMPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

<i>Period</i>	<i>Index numbers(a)</i>	<i>% change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>	<i>% change from previous period</i>
1996-1997	108.6		-5.6
1997-1998	115.4		6.3
1998-1999	119.9		3.9
1999-2000	120.2		0.3
1997			
March	108.4	-5.6	-0.1
June	107.9	-2.4	-0.5
September	110.8	1.3	2.7
December	115.4	6.4	4.2
1998			
March	116.7	7.7	1.1
June	118.5	9.8	1.5
September	122.9	10.9	3.7
December	121.7	5.5	-1.0
1999			
March	119.1	2.1	-2.1
June	115.9	-2.2	-2.7
September	115.8	-5.8	-0.1
December	118.3	-2.8	2.2
2000			
March	120.1	0.8	1.5
June	126.7	9.3	5.5
September	128.4	10.9	1.3
December	137.0	15.8	6.7
2001			
March	132.9	10.7	-3.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), Contribution to All Groups Index

Category	December Qtr 2000	March Qtr 2001	Change
All groups	137.0	132.9	-4.1
SITC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
0 Food and live animals chiefly for food	4.62	4.60	-0.02
1 Beverages and tobacco	0.79	0.79	0.00
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2.47	2.30	-0.17
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	14.10	10.91	-3.19
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.28	0.26	-0.02
5 Chemicals and related products n.e.s.	15.82	16.18	0.36
6 Manufactured goods classified by material	16.54	16.34	-0.20
7 Machinery and transport equipment	62.56	61.76	-0.80
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	19.19	19.08	-0.11
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.65	0.64	-0.01

SITC DIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)

03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	1.17	1.18	0.01
24 Cork and wood	1.10	1.01	-0.09
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	14.10	10.91	-3.19
51 Organic chemicals	3.88	3.83	-0.05
52 Inorganic chemicals	0.74	1.02	0.28
59 Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	1.63	1.63	0.00
64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper and paperboard	2.88	2.87	-0.01
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s. and related products	3.13	3.05	-0.08
69 Manufactures of metals n.e.s.	3.02	3.00	-0.02
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	3.41	3.35	-0.06
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	5.21	5.15	-0.06
74 General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	6.82	6.72	-0.10
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	9.07	8.81	-0.26
76 Telecommunications and sound recording equipment	7.90	7.82	-0.08
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	7.69	7.58	-0.11
78 Road vehicles	15.49	15.33	-0.16
79 Other transport equipment	6.98	7.01	0.03
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s.	3.17	3.15	-0.02
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	7.45	7.37	-0.08

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 16 of the Explanatory Notes

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By SITC Section

Period	Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	Beverages and tobacco (1)	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials (3)	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4)	Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere (9)
1996-1997	112.8	114.3	110.2	98.1	158.8	107.5	109.6	108.5	111.2	93.6
1997-1998	129.0	126.0	119.1	93.4	156.4	112.9	116.7	115.5	120.3	90.5
1998-1999	125.1	130.5	119.8	84.9	178.2	114.2	122.6	121.9	127.9	91.9
1999-2000	116.9	127.0	124.9	135.4	138.5	111.0	120.2	119.4	126.1	89.8
1997										
March	112.3	115.7	110.0	103.9	155.6	107.1	109.5	107.9	110.9	90.9
June	115.8	119.2	110.4	95.3	145.4	106.3	109.3	107.6	111.4	89.6
September	125.4	122.0	114.7	94.2	141.7	108.3	111.9	110.8	114.3	87.6
December	129.4	125.0	118.4	104.3	151.8	112.0	116.1	114.9	119.8	89.0
1998										
March	129.8	127.4	120.9	88.4	154.8	113.7	118.3	117.6	122.3	89.3
June	131.5	129.6	122.5	86.5	177.1	117.7	120.3	118.8	124.9	96.1
September	130.6	132.0	127.6	86.1	180.6	120.8	125.6	123.7	130.9	97.1
December	126.3	130.3	119.3	85.1	185.8	116.4	124.9	123.9	129.1	94.9
1999										
March	123.1	130.0	117.2	75.4	179.7	112.2	122.2	122.4	127.5	91.2
June	120.5	129.8	114.9	93.0	166.5	107.4	117.6	117.6	123.9	84.2
September	116.6	126.3	115.8	111.3	148.9	105.7	117.2	116.5	122.9	79.9
December	116.0	126.6	120.2	128.4	147.9	106.6	118.4	118.6	123.9	92.1
2000										
March	116.3	127.7	127.0	143.7	126.8	111.4	119.7	118.4	125.5	92.2
June	118.7	127.5	136.6	158.3	130.3	120.3	125.4	124.2	132.0	95.0
September	117.8	125.1	140.5	184.2	126.6	120.5	125.1	123.8	133.5	96.5
December	121.9	129.2	147.8	216.5	126.1	125.9	132.8	131.3	140.6	101.5
2001										
March	121.4	128.7	137.8	167.5	117.5	128.7	131.3	129.6	139.8	99.4

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division

Period	<i>Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (33)</i>	<i>Organic chemicals (51)</i>	<i>Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper (64)</i>	<i>Textile yarn, fabrics, and related products (65)</i>	<i>Power generating machinery and equipment (71)</i>	<i>Machinery specialised for particular industries (72)</i>
1996-1997	98.1	100.6	100.3	108.7	120.6	115.5
1997-1998	93.4	111.5	104.8	117.6	131.8	126.1
1998-1999	84.9	105.1	113.4	120.6	143.7	134.2
1999-2000	135.4	110.6	111.3	115.6	144.3	131.2
1997						
March	103.9	100.2	98.4	109.2	120.0	114.0
June	95.3	104.0	97.5	109.6	119.9	116.3
September	94.2	110.1	99.3	112.7	125.2	119.3
December	104.3	111.2	103.7	117.2	130.9	126.2
1998						
March	88.4	112.9	107.0	120.2	133.7	129.3
June	86.5	111.8	109.2	120.3	137.2	129.7
September	86.1	115.9	115.1	125.6	144.9	136.4
December	85.1	106.8	113.5	124.1	145.1	137.5
1999						
March	75.4	98.9	113.6	118.8	143.3	135.7
June	93.0	98.6	111.4	113.9	141.5	127.3
September	111.3	97.1	110.7	112.3	139.9	126.4
December	128.4	104.6	109.6	113.3	141.8	129.3
2000						
March	143.7	113.4	109.4	114.8	143.1	130.3
June	158.3	127.4	115.4	122.1	152.3	138.8
September	184.2	125.0	121.0	115.5	156.0	135.4
December	216.5	132.2	125.5	129.3	170.6	145.7
2001						
March	167.5	130.5	125.4	125.9	167.3	144.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division *continued*

Period	General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (74)	Office machines and ADP machines (75)	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment (76)	Electrical machinery, etc. and parts thereof (77)	Road vehicles (78)	Other transport equipment (79)
1996-1997	119.4	60.0	84.9	99.6	136.3	113.2
1997-1998	131.4	60.5	85.2	104.4	142.3	127.9
1998-1999	145.9	53.9	84.4	109.7	150.1	142.9
1999-2000	144.0	45.6	81.4	105.0	152.1	141.2
1997						
March	118.5	59.0	84.2	99.0	135.7	114.4
June	119.2	58.1	82.3	98.9	134.2	114.9
September	123.6	58.9	83.5	99.6	139.4	118.7
December	129.9	60.8	85.0	103.9	141.6	126.0
1998						
March	134.3	61.8	86.4	106.2	143.6	131.2
June	137.7	60.5	86.0	107.8	144.4	135.7
September	147.2	59.5	85.8	113.1	148.0	147.0
December	147.6	55.7	84.1	111.2	152.9	144.6
1999						
March	147.0	51.8	84.1	110.2	152.5	142.0
June	141.9	48.5	83.6	104.4	146.8	138.0
September	139.3	46.9	82.6	103.1	147.3	136.3
December	142.5	45.7	80.0	104.3	153.3	137.9
2000						
March	142.5	43.7	80.0	103.6	152.2	140.5
June	151.8	46.2	82.8	108.9	155.6	150.2
September	151.9	45.3	82.2	108.7	155.5	152.6
December	162.7	48.3	84.2	115.0	163.2	164.9
2001						
March	160.3	47.0	83.3	113.3	161.5	165.7

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected HTISC Section

Period	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco (4)	Mineral products (5)	Chemical industry products (6)	Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (7)	Wood pulp, paper and paper products (10)	Textiles and textile articles (11)	Base metals and articles thereof (15)	Machinery and electrical equipment (16)	Transport equipment (17)	Instruments, clocks and watches, optical and photographic apparatus (18)
1996-1997	112.8	106.3	103.0	114.1	100.3	104.1	107.9	93.1	130.3	119.3
1997-1998	126.5	103.1	106.9	120.9	108.4	112.7	114.1	99.2	138.7	125.3
1998-1999	131.2	96.9	109.0	120.1	118.0	115.3	120.1	102.4	148.7	133.6
1999-2000	122.7	146.6	104.0	118.3	117.8	111.7	118.5	97.5	149.9	135.2
1997										
March	112.7	111.8	102.2	114.1	99.6	104.3	107.6	92.3	130.1	118.3
June	115.2	103.5	100.6	114.9	98.9	104.9	106.8	92.3	129.3	117.9
September	120.0	103.0	102.9	115.8	102.2	108.1	110.0	94.6	134.1	120.1
December	125.6	113.8	106.2	119.6	107.0	112.4	113.6	98.8	137.8	125.8
1998										
March	128.6	98.4	107.2	123.3	110.8	115.1	115.4	101.2	140.6	126.5
June	131.8	97.1	111.1	124.9	113.7	115.3	117.4	102.0	142.4	128.8
September	134.3	98.5	114.3	124.7	120.6	119.6	123.2	106.1	148.1	135.0
December	133.1	97.2	111.4	121.7	118.1	117.2	122.5	104.0	151.3	135.0
1999										
March	130.1	87.2	106.9	120.5	117.7	114.2	119.7	101.9	150.4	133.8
June	127.3	104.5	103.3	113.5	115.5	110.2	115.0	97.6	145.0	130.7
September	123.3	122.7	101.1	112.9	115.3	108.3	115.1	96.0	144.8	131.7
December	121.9	139.4	100.4	114.9	116.3	110.1	116.7	96.2	149.9	132.9
2000										
March	120.7	154.3	103.8	118.3	117.1	110.9	118.4	95.9	149.8	135.1
June	124.7	170.1	110.8	127.0	122.5	117.5	123.7	101.7	155.0	140.9
September	123.0	197.2	110.3	128.8	126.5	115.3	123.9	101.0	155.7	140.4
December	128.1	231.3	114.2	137.0	131.0	126.1	129.5	107.3	165.0	149.0
2001										
March	127.1	180.0	117.4	135.5	128.6	123.6	128.8	105.6	163.7	148.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Division

<i>Period</i>	<i>Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)</i>	<i>Mining (B)</i>	<i>Manufacturing (C)</i>
1996-1997	128.0	115.6	106.8
1997-1998	154.9	110.0	113.5
1998-1999	136.9	105.5	118.1
1999-2000	120.0	169.7	116.5
1997			
March	127.9	121.8	106.5
June	136.4	111.0	106.1
September	158.4	110.7	108.8
December	158.7	122.9	113.1
1998			
March	154.1	103.7	115.1
June	148.2	102.6	117.0
September	145.1	105.2	121.2
December	140.8	104.3	120.0
1999			
March	134.0	93.1	117.7
June	127.7	119.5	113.6
September	122.1	139.5	112.8
December	116.7	158.8	115.0
2000			
March	121.0	179.4	116.0
June	120.2	201.0	122.0
September	118.2	230.0	122.6
December	122.4	271.0	129.7
2001			
March	117.7	208.8	128.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Subdivision

<i>Period</i>	<i>Agriculture (1)</i>	<i>Oil and gas extraction (12)</i>	<i>Food, beverages and tobacco (21)</i>	<i>Textiles (221-222)</i>	<i>Clothing, footwear and leather (223-226)</i>	<i>Wood and paper products (23)</i>	<i>Printing, publishing and recorded media (241-243)</i>
1996-1997	127.8	117.8	115.3	108.4	100.8	106.7	114.5
1997-1998	154.7	107.9	125.4	116.7	110.5	112.9	128.4
1998-1999	136.7	98.1	127.5	119.0	117.4	117.5	141.8
1999-2000	119.9	177.3	120.1	114.9	116.1	122.4	137.5
1997							
March	127.8	125.7	114.6	108.8	100.7	106.3	114.8
June	136.2	112.5	115.5	109.0	101.7	105.9	115.3
September	158.2	110.6	118.9	112.0	105.1	108.3	120.8
December	158.5	123.9	124.5	116.3	109.8	112.0	126.2
1998							
March	153.9	99.8	127.3	119.3	112.1	114.1	131.6
June	148.0	97.2	131.0	119.2	114.8	117.1	135.1
September	144.9	96.6	131.3	124.0	118.6	121.9	144.7
December	140.6	96.1	128.4	121.9	117.9	116.8	142.6
1999							
March	133.8	83.7	126.4	117.4	118.4	116.0	141.6
June	127.5	116.1	124.0	112.8	114.5	115.3	138.2
September	121.9	140.8	119.6	111.3	113.0	117.0	138.0
December	116.6	164.8	120.1	112.1	115.3	120.4	135.8
2000							
March	120.9	190.0	118.5	114.6	113.8	122.7	135.8
June	120.1	213.7	122.3	121.4	122.3	129.3	140.2
September	118.0	245.6	121.2	116.6	122.8	134.6	139.5
December	122.2	290.1	125.1	129.7	131.2	140.0	147.5
2001							
March	117.6	221.7	125.1	126.7	130.6	135.1	146.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

Period	<i>Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)</i>	<i>Non-metallic mineral products (26)</i>	<i>Basic metal products (271-273)</i>	<i>Fabricated metal products (274-276)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (281-282)</i>	<i>Other machinery and equipment (283-286)</i>	<i>Other manufacturing (29)</i>
1996-1997	104.8	115.9	100.5	111.7	127.2	94.6	109.8
1997-1998	109.0	125.5	104.2	119.5	135.8	100.1	119.1
1998-1999	108.2	138.1	105.7	130.8	145.7	103.1	129.5
1999-2000	111.9	130.4	107.6	127.1	146.7	98.6	126.7
1997							
March	105.4	115.9	99.2	112.3	127.1	93.7	109.7
June	103.9	114.9	99.0	111.1	126.3	93.6	110.4
September	105.2	117.4	101.3	113.5	131.0	95.7	112.4
December	109.6	124.7	103.4	119.0	134.9	99.9	118.1
1998							
March	109.4	126.7	104.7	121.4	137.7	101.9	121.1
June	111.7	133.1	107.3	124.0	139.7	102.7	124.8
September	112.8	141.0	109.0	133.6	145.6	106.5	132.7
December	110.4	142.8	108.2	132.5	148.1	104.8	131.2
1999							
March	106.1	138.4	104.9	130.8	147.0	102.8	128.8
June	103.5	130.2	100.7	126.4	142.2	98.2	125.3
September	105.1	128.3	99.6	125.3	141.9	96.8	121.1
December	108.5	130.8	105.5	126.8	146.4	97.4	123.3
2000							
March	113.0	128.4	109.9	125.7	146.4	97.3	127.6
June	121.0	134.0	115.4	130.5	151.9	102.8	134.8
September	123.9	132.5	115.4	131.3	152.7	102.0	140.7
December	131.0	141.1	120.6	138.9	162.2	108.0	145.2
2001							
March	129.5	139.7	119.7	137.8	161.0	106.4	144.5

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC Category

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food and beverages</i>	<i>Industrial supplies n.e.s.</i>	<i>Fuels and lubricants</i>	<i>Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Consumer goods n.e.s.</i>
1996-1997	116.0	105.8	99.0	95.0	126.9	110.1
1997-1998	132.6	112.8	90.2	100.7	135.1	118.4
1998-1999	130.8	116.2	79.8	103.1	144.5	126.2
1999-2000	121.5	114.9	134.9	98.8	146.1	123.8
1997						
March	115.2	105.4	105.4	94.1	126.8	109.8
June	119.1	105.3	96.0	94.0	126.2	109.7
September	128.7	108.0	94.3	96.2	130.4	112.5
December	132.7	111.7	101.0	100.5	134.2	117.6
1998						
March	133.1	114.2	83.8	102.7	136.9	120.6
June	135.7	117.2	81.8	103.2	139.0	123.0
September	135.0	121.4	80.7	106.7	144.3	128.9
December	132.7	117.8	79.4	105.1	146.8	127.9
1999						
March	129.4	114.9	69.8	102.8	145.8	125.9
June	126.1	110.7	89.2	97.8	141.2	121.9
September	121.3	109.4	109.0	96.2	140.9	120.6
December	121.1	112.2	127.5	97.9	145.9	122.7
2000						
March	120.7	115.5	144.1	97.7	145.9	122.7
June	122.8	122.6	159.0	103.5	151.5	129.1
September	121.3	123.1	178.4	103.7	151.4	128.2
December	125.0	130.3	210.5	109.8	160.7	134.2
2001						
March	124.1	130.6	161.5	107.9	159.5	133.2

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC End Use Class

<i>Period</i>	<i>Capital goods</i>	<i>Intermediate goods</i>	<i>Consumption goods</i>
1996-1997	107.7	102.5	115.2
1997-1998	113.7	109.1	123.2
1998-1999	119.4	111.1	129.3
1999-2000	116.9	113.4	126.9
1997			
March	107.0	102.6	114.9
June	106.7	101.9	114.9
September	109.3	104.9	117.9
December	113.2	109.4	122.7
1998			
March	115.6	110.1	124.7
June	116.7	111.8	127.3
September	121.3	115.2	131.7
December	121.3	112.9	130.9
1999			
March	119.9	109.4	128.8
June	115.2	106.9	125.8
September	114.2	107.5	124.5
December	115.8	110.7	125.9
2000			
March	115.7	114.0	126.2
June	122.0	121.2	131.1
September	121.3	124.9	132.0
December	128.4	135.6	137.7
2001			
March	126.8	128.1	137.1

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION	<p>1 This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of imports of merchandise landed in Australia—the <i>Import Price Index</i>. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90 = 100.0.</p>
SCOPE	<p>2 The Import Price Index, either directly or indirectly, covers about 95% of merchandise imported during the weighting period.</p> <p>3 The remaining imports are not represented because of the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality. These unrepresented items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ live animals (not for food)▪ jewellery and other articles of precious metal n.e.s.▪ military equipment▪ special transactions▪ commodities not classified according to kind▪ works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques▪ ships of various types. <p>4 The index numbers for each quarter relate to prices of those imports of merchandise that are physically landed in Australia during that quarter.</p>
CLASSIFICATION	<p>5 Index numbers for sections and selected divisions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in tables 3 and 4, while index numbers for selected sections of the Harmonized Tarrif Item Statistical Classification (HTSIC) are provided in table 5.</p> <p>6 Tables 6 and 7 contain index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which the imported commodity would be classified as primarily produced had it been produced in Australia, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC.</p> <p>7 Table 8 contains index numbers for categories of the United Nations' Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). Table 9 contains index numbers for these categories rearranged to form the broader end use classes: Capital goods, Intermediate goods and Consumption goods. Each category has been allocated wholly to one of these classes except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ category 321, Motor spirit (which has been allocated in part to Intermediate goods and in part to Consumption goods)▪ category 51, Passenger motor cars (which has been allocated in part to Capital goods and in part to Consumption goods).
ITEMS AND WEIGHTS	<p>8 Commencing with the September quarter 2000, the index is annually reweighted and chained. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items) were selected on the basis of recent import values. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of imports for each item during 1999–2000. These weights were then revalued to reflect link period (June quarter 2000) price levels. Many of the items carry not only their own weight but also the weight of unpriced commodities whose prices are considered to move in a similar manner. The selected items constituted approximately 95% of the total value of imports of merchandise to Australia during the weighting period. The weighting pattern of the Import Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, is shown in the September 2000 issue of this publication.</p>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

PRICE MEASUREMENT

9 Prices of individual shipments are obtained from importers of the selected items and relate to the quarter in which the goods arrive in Australia. Imports are priced on a 'free on board' (f.o.b.), country of origin basis. Freight and insurance charges involved in shipping goods from foreign to Australian ports are therefore excluded from the prices used in the index, as are Australian import duties and taxes.

10 As the prices used in the index are expressed in Australian currency, changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements for the many commodities that are bought in currencies other than Australian dollars. Prices reported in a foreign currency are converted to Australian dollars using the relevant exchange rates. Where imports are purchased at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* the forward exchange cover.

11 The price series used relate to specified standards, grades, types, etc. of each commodity. The aim is to incorporate in the index price changes for imports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices from predominant countries of origin are used for each of the specified goods priced in order to lessen the impact of price variations attributable solely to changes, over time, in the mix of countries of origin. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between countries are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

INDEX NUMBERS

12 Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of quarterly index numbers.

REVISIONS

13 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.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

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

15 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:

All groups index numbers —

March Quarter 2001	132.9	(see Table 1)
less March Quarter 2000	120.1	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	12.8	
Percentage change =	$\frac{12.8}{120.1} \times 100$	= 10.7

16 Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of imports make to the All groups index. For example, Road vehicles contributed 15.33 index points to the All groups index number of 132.9 for March Quarter 2001 and -0.16 index points to the net change of -4.1 index points.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- FURTHER INFORMATION
- 17** The September 1991 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index prior to the introduction of annual reweighting and chaining. A detailed description of the previous Import Price Index is contained in the December Quarter 1982 issue of this publication.
- FURTHER INFORMATION (*continued*)
- 18** Further information on recent price index developments in the ABS is presented in the following publications:
- *Information Paper: An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia* (Cat. no. 6421.0)
 - *Information Paper: Producer Price Index Developments* (Cat. no. 6422.0) (Comprises detailed discussion of Stage of Production concept and detail of selected Service Industries indexes.)
 - *Information Paper: Review of the Import Price Index and Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6424.0)
 - *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System* (Cat. no. 6425.0).
- RELATED PUBLICATIONS
- 19** Users may also wish to refer to the following Producer Price Index publications, which are available from ABS Bookshops:
- *Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6405.0)
 - *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
 - *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6408.0)
 - *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)
 - *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Australia* (Cat. no. 6415.0)
 - *Producer Price Indexes for Selected Service Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6423.0).
 - *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0).
- 20** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include:
- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0)
 - *Consumer Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6401.0)
 - *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6345.0)
 - *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (Cat. no. 6302.0)
 - *Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables* (Cat. no. 5209.0)
- 21** 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.
- UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS
- 22** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Peter Sturgeon on 02 6252 5348 or to any ABS office.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
	BEC	Classification by Broad Economic Categories
	HTISC	Harmonized Tariff Item Statistical Classification
	f.o.b.	free on board
	n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified or included
	r	revised
	SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

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.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL* **client.services@abs.gov.au**
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney 1041

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne 3001



2641400003017
ISSN 0812-7247

RRP \$18.00