

**12**

**COMMERCE**

---



## Introduction

This chapter relates to retail trade and price indexes. Data from the monthly Retail Trade Survey is included, supplemented by information from the Retail Census.

The Consumer Price Index, together with the two price indexes relating to Materials Used in Building and the House Price Indexes are covered in this chapter. Further explanation relating to these indexes is given at the end of the chapter.

## RETAIL TRADE

### Industry analysis

In original terms, Victorian retail turnover in 1994-95 grew significantly when compared with the recession years of the early 1990s. Total turnover increased by 7.2% between 1993-94 and 1994-95, with clothing and soft goods retailing the only industry group to show a decline.

Department stores increased turnover by 3.5% between 1993-94 and 1994-95, recovering from a decline of 1.5% in the previous twelve months. The industries to show the strongest growth in 1994-95 were recreational goods retailing (23.6%), other retailing (which includes pharmacies, second hand stores, nurseries and jewellers) (13.9%), and hospitality and services (13.1%). Food retailing, which grew by 7.3%, was by far the largest industry group, contributing 41% of total retail turnover.

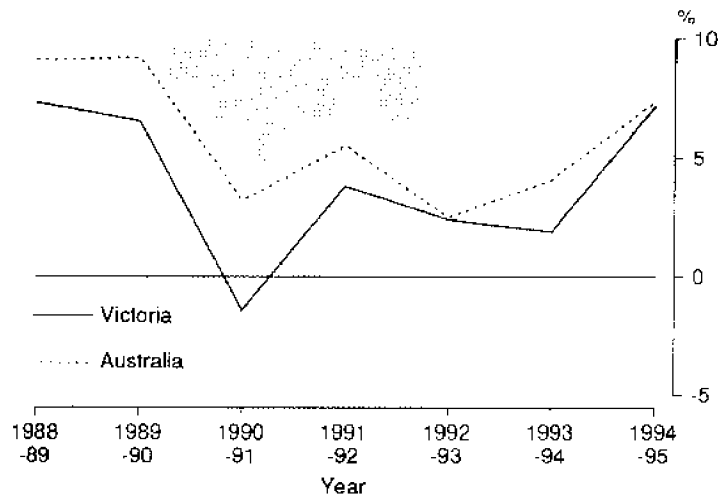
**TABLE 12.1 TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS<sup>(a)</sup> AT CURRENT PRICES: BY INDUSTRY, VICTORIA**

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	\$m					
Food	8 802.7	9 102.0	9 725.6	9 856.8	9 989.7	10 723.8
Department stores	2 303.8	2 276.3	2 423.9	2 507.3	2 468.5	2 554.4
Clothing and soft goods	2 116.2	2 127.1	2 157.4	2 140.1	1 965.6	1 873.0
Household goods	3 054.4	2 819.3	2 837.8	3 089.7	3 160.0	3 169.6
Recreational goods	1 224.3	1 114.5	1 096.4	1 106.3	1 227.0	1 517.0
Other retailing	1 659.6	1 570.0	1 803.1	1 973.0	2 202.5	2 509.4
Hospitality and services	3 460.9	3 291.5	3 111.0	3 037.8	3 158.6	3 571.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 621.9</b>	<b>22 300.7</b>	<b>23 155.2</b>	<b>23 711.0</b>	<b>24 171.9</b>	<b>25 919.0</b>

(a) Excludes establishments which retail motor vehicles, parts, petrol etc. but includes non-petrol sales of identified convenience stores of petrol stations.

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)

## PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TURNOVER, VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIA



Source: *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0)

The chart above illustrates that the growth in retail turnover in Victoria was below the growth rate for Australia between 1989-90 and 1994-95. Between 1989-90 and 1990-91, in the midst of Victoria's economic recession, turnover declined by 1.4%. Victorian turnover increased in the following years and grew strongly by 7.2% between 1993-94 and 1994-95.

**TABLE 12.2 QUARTERLY TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED<sup>(a)</sup>, AT CURRENT PRICES: BY INDUSTRY, VICTORIA**

	\$m					
Food	2 535.5	2 485.8	2 591.1	2 663.3	2 702.2	2 761.9
Department stores	634.1	625.9	629.0	637.5	636.6	640.2
Clothing and soft goods	487.6	461.2	460.0	468.5	489.2	454.5
Household goods	769.2	750.9	776.7	757.5	815.4	821.7
Recreational goods	303.8	327.0	369.8	376.5	361.5	406.5
Other retailing	545.2	556.7	589.3	610.6	637.6	679.5
Hospitality and services	776.5	824.0	864.3	890.1	902.7	918.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 051.9</b>	<b>6 031.7</b>	<b>6 280.1</b>	<b>6 403.9</b>	<b>6 545.3</b>	<b>6 682.7</b>

(a) Excludes establishments which retail motor vehicles, parts, petrol etc. but includes non-petrol sales of identified convenience stores of petrol stations.

Source: *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0)

Growth in the estimate of seasonally adjusted retail turnover strengthened during 1994-95, particularly during the latter half of the year.

The recreational goods retailing industry group recorded the strongest growth (24.3%) during 1994-95. This group contains the growing speciality retailing sub groups, or 'category killers', of toy and game retailing and sport and camping equipment retailing. The growth of this industry may reflect a change in the pattern of consumer spending away from department store purchases of these 'speciality' goods. Department store sales improved marginally over the same period (3.2%).

The hospitality and services and other retailing groups also experienced strong growth over the year, while turnover for the clothing and soft goods group declined (-4.5%). The reason for the decline in turnover for this industry group may, in part, be due to the reduction in tariffs on these types of goods, combined with the movement offshore of large manufacturers.

### 1991-92 Retail Census

At 30 June 1992 there were 44,882 shopfront retailing locations operating in Victoria, about one quarter of the Australian total, which occupied floorspace of 9.3 million square metres. During 1991-92 these locations recorded turnover of \$23.7 billion, which was \$5,338 per head of population, slightly below the Australian average of \$5,463 per head.

There were 266,346 people employed in shopfront retailing locations in Victoria. The turnover per person employed was about \$89,000, slightly below the national average.

In Victoria, \$11.5 billion (49% of the total shop front retailing turnover) was spent in personal and household goods retailing outlets and a further \$10.4 billion (44%) in food retailing stores. The remaining expenditure of \$1.9 billion (7%) was on selected personal services.

**TABLE 12.3 RETAILING: VICTORIA, 1991-92**

	Locations at 30 June no.	Persons employed			Wages and salaries \$m	Turnover \$m	Turnover per person employed \$
		Full-time no.	Part-time no.	Total			
Food retailing	14 552	54 326	54 857	109 183	982	10 458	95 784
Personal and household good retailing	20 896	63 357	48 137	111 494	1 351	11 482	102 979
Selected personal services	9 434	26 925	18 744	45 669	415	1 739	38 078
Total shopfront retailing	44 882	144 608	121 738	266 346	2 748	23 678	88 901
Motor vehicle retailing and services	9 448	42 266	7 780	50 046	833	9 653	192 888

Source: *Retailing in Victoria* (8623.2)

### Previous censuses

Direct comparison of the 1991-92 census with the 1979-80 and 1985-86 censuses is not possible due to differences in scope and coverage and because a revised industry classification was used in 1991-92.

### PRICE INDEXES

#### The Consumer Price Index

Price indexes are designed to measure the changes in prices over time of a constant list of goods and/or services. The items on this list are allocated 'weights' which represent their relative consumer importance. From time to time indexes are reviewed and new fixed weights are introduced to reflect up-to-date expenditure patterns.

Prices of all goods and services are sought to be measured at constant quality, thus identifying 'pure' price movement. To do this, identical or equivalent items are priced in successive time periods as far as possible. Changes in quality are taken into account to ensure that the price indexes reflect only pure price change.

TABLE 12.4 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ALL GROUPS, EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

Year	Eight capitals (a)									
		Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
1990-91	105.3	104.9	105.8	104.9	106.2	105.1	104.9	105.7	105.1	
1991-92	107.3	106.7	108.1	107.0	108.9	105.9	107.1	108.0	107.8	
1992-93	108.4	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	
1993-94	110.4	109.2	111.1	110.6	113.4	108.5	111.7	111.5	111.4	
1994-95	113.9	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	
All groups percentage changes										
1989-90	8.0	8.1	8.3	7.5	7.2	8.3	7.1	6.2	7.4	
1990-91	5.3	4.9	5.8	4.9	6.2	5.1	4.9	5.7	5.1	
1991-92	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	
1992-93	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	
1993-94	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	
1994-95	3.2	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	

Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0

(a) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Source: *Consumer Price Index* (6401.0)

In 1994-95, the all groups Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Melbourne stood at 114.1 (base year 1989-90 = 100.0). The annual increase in the Melbourne CPI was 2.7% with the highest rises being in housing (5.2%) and the health and personal care group (also 5.2%). The increase in the Melbourne CPI since 1989-90 was 14.1% with the highest rises being in health and personal care (42.4%), and tobacco and alcohol (37.3%).

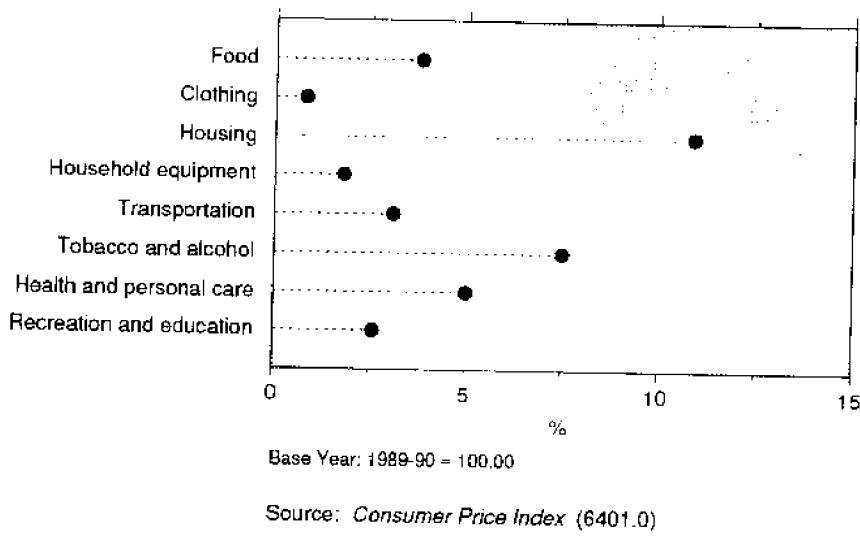
TABLE 12.5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MELBOURNE

Group									
								Percentage change	
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1989-90 to 1993-94 to	1994-95	
Food	100.0	102.5	104.9	106.3	107.9	110.1	10.1	2.0	
Clothing	100.0	104.6	106.8	107.8	107.3	107.4	7.4	0.0	
Housing	100.0	104.2	98.9	93.1	92.7	97.5	-2.5	5.2	
Household equipment	100.0	105.7	108.3	108.3	110.0	111.1	11.1	0.0	
Transport	100.0	107.2	109.8	112.7	115.8	118.8	18.8	2.6	
Tobacco and alcohol	100.0	111.3	116.8	122.7	132.1	137.3	37.3	3.9	
Health and personal care	100.0	111.6	126.3	129.8	135.4	142.4	42.4	5.2	
Recreation and education	100.0	105.9	108.6	110.8	113.6	116.7	16.7	2.7	
<b>All groups</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>108.9</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	

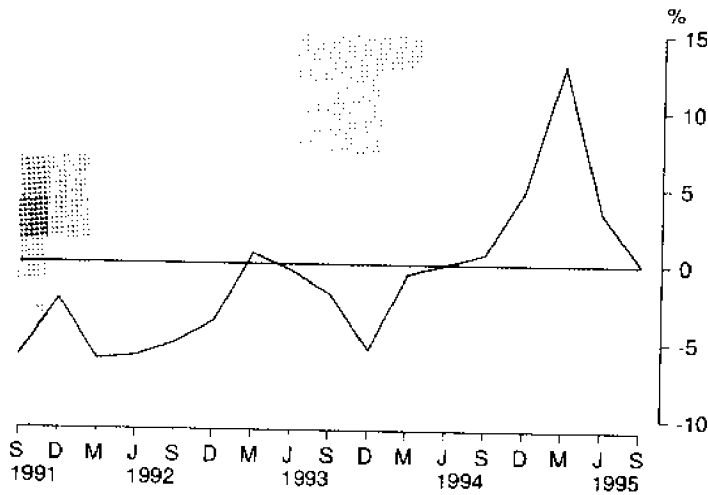
Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0

Source: *Consumer Price Index* (6401.0)

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY GROUP,  
MELBOURNE, JUNE QUARTER 1994 TO JUNE QUARTER 1995**



**MORTGAGE INTEREST CHARGES - PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM  
PREVIOUS QUARTER, MELBOURNE**



**Imported items**

Since 1989-90 the price of wholly or predominantly imported goods included in the CPI increased by 10.5% (weighted average of the eight capital cities). By comparison the price of non-imported goods increased by 16.5% over the same period.

**TABLE 12.6 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IMPORTED AND NON-IMPORTED ITEMS, WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES**

Year	Imported items			Non-imported items			All Groups
	Motor vehicles	Other goods	Total goods	Goods	Services	Total	
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	101.0	101.9	101.7	105.5	105.9	105.7	105.3
1991-92	105.1	102.0	103.1	108.5	106.7	107.9	107.3
1992-93	111.0	103.4	105.1	111.5	105.4	109.0	108.4
1993-94	119.7	105.6	108.5	114.0	106.3	110.9	110.4
1994-95	130.3	106.6	110.5	116.5	111.3	114.4	113.9

Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0

Source: *Consumer Price Index: Effect of Changes in Prices of Imported Items* (6444.0)

**Average retail prices**

Over the five years to June 1995, the rate and direction of changes to food prices and other items have differed markedly. For some items such as milk, prices have steadily increased, whilst for other items such as beef, prices have dropped.

**TABLE 12.7 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS, MELBOURNE**

Item	Unit	June quarter					
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
cents							
<b>Dairy products -</b>							
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	85	91	96	101	104	113
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500g	315	311	329	302	349	337
Butter	500g	193	194	182	178	184	164
<b>Cereal products -</b>							
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680g	137	155	159	160	153	160
Flour, self-raising	2kg	284	282	302	303	315	330
Rice, medium grain	1kg	103	107	111	109	114	120
<b>Meat and Seafoods -</b>							
<b>Beef-</b>							
Rump steak	1kg	1 153	1 171	1 124	1 057	1 102	1 120
Chuck steak	1kg	619	631	633	586	623	594
<b>Lamb-</b>							
Leg	1kg	545	515	512	554	549	558
Loin chops	1kg	780	765	746	783	792	801
Chicken, frozen	1kg	312	309	328	291	323	321
Bacon, middle rashers	250g pkt	289	265	284	287	293	286
Salmon, pink	210g can	279	270	234	261	232	221



**TABLE 12.7 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS, MELBOURNE - continued**

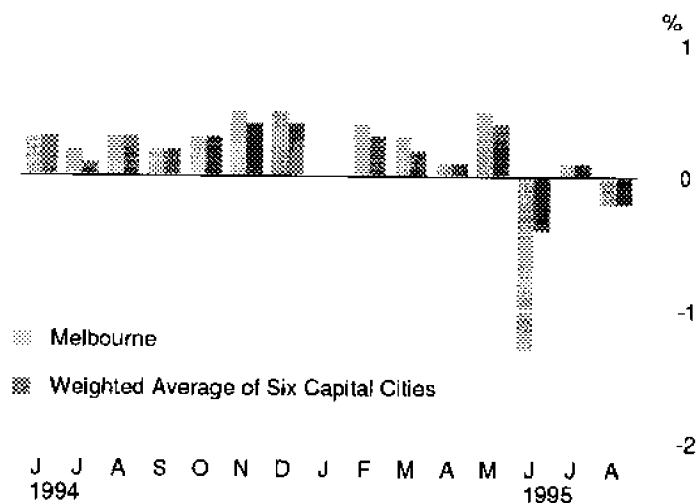
Unit	June quarter						
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
cents							
<b>Fruit and vegetables -</b>							
Potatoes	1kg	99	85	82	95	70	137
Onions	1kg	109	79	66	127	100	103
Peaches, canned	825g	185	183	190	197	203	198
Oranges	1kg	122	130	135	114	105	124
<b>Other food -</b>							
Eggs	55g dozen	174	180	178	190	200	196
Sugar, white	2kg	217	189	174	171	199	192
Jam, strawberry	500g jar	212	230	224	226	247	233
Tea	250g	146	172	167	171	182	177
Coffee, instant	150g jar	454	431	425	402	428	561
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500g	144	156	160	153	159	163
<b>Other items -</b>							
Beer, full strength, unchilled	24 x 375ml bottles	1 936	2 144	2 252	2 280	2 395	2 469
Pet food	410g	84	80	87	92	93	91
Laundry detergent	1kg	439	437	442	439	429	439
Toilet soap	2 x 125 g	150	151	152	156	159	165
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	61.7	65.1	67.2	66.5	70.2	71.1

Source: *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)*

**Materials used in house building**

The All Groups index number for the Price Index of Materials Used in House Building for Melbourne in 1994-95 was 154.7, a 3.4 % increase on 1993-94. The weighted average of the six state capital cities increased by 3.0 % for the same period.

**PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, ALL GROUPS, MELBOURNE AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES (Percentage change from previous month)**



Source: *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)*

**TABLE 12.8 PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, ALL GROUPS, MELBOURNE AND OTHER CITIES**

Melbourne	133.5	138.1	137.3	141.1	149.6	154.7
Sydney	139.1	145.7	146.1	148.5	154.8	160.0
Brisbane	134.1	141.9	144.7	147.8	152.2	155.4
Adelaide	129.7	136.2	135.5	137.8	151.8	154.1
Perth	140.8	148.7	149.3	150.5	153.5	158.7
Hobart	128.0	134.2	138.3	140.7	144.3	150.2
Weighted average of six State capital cities	135.8	142.1	142.4	145.2	152.1	156.7

Base year: 1985-86 = 100.0

Source: *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0)**TABLE 12.9 PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, MELBOURNE**

Ready mixed concrete	121.1	133.7	117.1	133.3	151.0	152.5
Clay bricks	130.9	136.0	140.2	142.3	142.5	147.2
Concrete roof tiles	130.8	137.8	140.0	139.7	143.1	152.4
Hardwood	120.4	117.8	115.1	123.9	142.0	157.5
Softwood	124.8	123.0	117.3	124.5	161.3	162.9
Aluminium windows and doors	142.5	146.5	146.9	148.4	146.0	149.4
Builders' hardware	131.9	136.9	140.9	144.7	149.1	154.6
Paint	115.5	158.4	170.0	168.8	178.1	185.2
Metal sheet fascia and guttering	144.7	154.6	157.7	156.8	154.9	157.6
Plaster and plaster products	133.3	142.4	147.7	150.0	150.9	152.7
All groups, Melbourne	133.5	138.1	137.3	141.1	149.6	154.7
All groups, weighted average of six State capital cities	135.8	142.1	142.4	145.2	152.1	156.7

Base year: 1985-86 = 100.0

Source: *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0)**Materials used in building other than house building**

In 1994-95, the All Groups index number for the Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Melbourne, was 108.9, a 2.1% increase over 1993-4. For the weighted average of six state capital cities, the increase recorded was 2.7%.

Prices for some materials used in building other than house building decreased in 1994-5. Decreases in Melbourne occurred in reinforcing steel bar, fabric and mesh, builders' hardware, and sand and aggregate. These price reductions were outweighed by increases in other materials, the largest increases occurring in structural timber, paint and other coatings and non-ferrous pipes and fittings. Details are provided below in Table 12.10.

**TABLE 12.10 PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING, MELBOURNE**

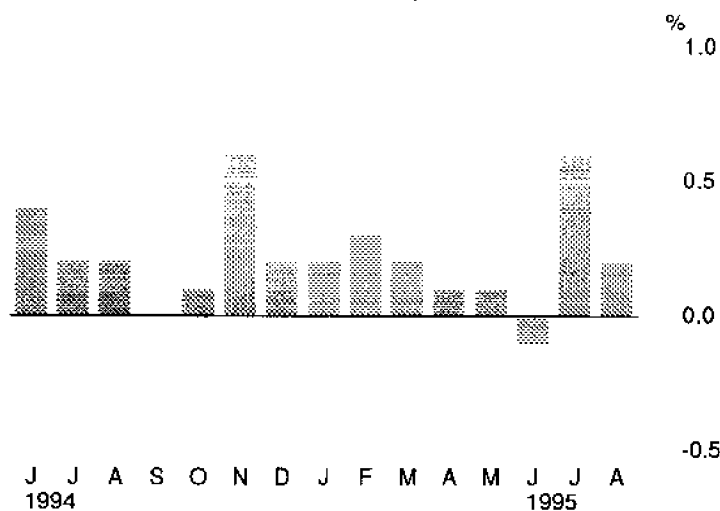
Structural timber	100.0	100.1	97.2	103.2	119.5	123.0
Clay bricks	100.0	103.8	106.9	108.5	109.3	112.3
Ready mixed concrete	100.0	107.4	94.0	108.2	123.4	124.2
Precast concrete products	100.0	103.7	102.8	99.5	99.2	104.8
Steel decking, and cladding	100.0	104.0	107.5	109.0	104.7	106.5
Structural steel	100.0	98.8	93.3	91.3	93.3	95.3
Reinforcing steel bar, mesh, etc.	100.0	106.7	97.3	99.2	102.0	101.8
Aluminium windows	100.0	99.5	96.4	96.0	96.5	98.8
Fabricated steel products	100.0	106.9	109.5	108.4	109.4	110.7
Builders' hardware	100.0	105.2	112.6	117.2	116.2	113.7
Sand and aggregate	100.0	115.5	119.0	113.8	119.5	118.5
Carpet	100.0	102.0	100.4	98.8	98.3	98.5
Paint and other coatings	100.0	111.0	119.2	118.8	125.0	131.2
Non-ferrous pipes and fittings	100.0	99.4	89.4	90.9	86.5	100.8
All groups excluding electrical materials and mechanical services	100.0	104.3	101.8	103.4	106.6	108.5
All electrical materials	100.0	107.4	110.7	108.9	107.3	113.5
All mechanical services	100.0	103.6	105.6	105.5	106.8	108.9
All plumbing materials	100.0	105.0	104.1	104.0	105.3	112.6
All groups	100.0	104.5	103.4	104.4	106.7	108.9
All groups, weighted average of six State capital cities	100.0	105.1	105.7	106.0	107.5	110.4

Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0

Source: *Price Index of Materials Used in Building other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)*

**PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING - ALL GROUPS, MELBOURNE**

(Percentage change from previous month)



Source: *Price Index of Materials Used in Building other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)*

**House Price Indexes**

In 1994-95 the Price Index for Established Houses for Melbourne increased by 2.8%, the second consecutive year for which an increase was recorded, after three consecutive years in which decreases were recorded. The cumulative increase from 1991-92 was 3.3%.

The Project Home Price Index for Melbourne rose by 3.5% between 1992-93 and 1993-94, and by 1.8% between 1993-94 and 1994-95.

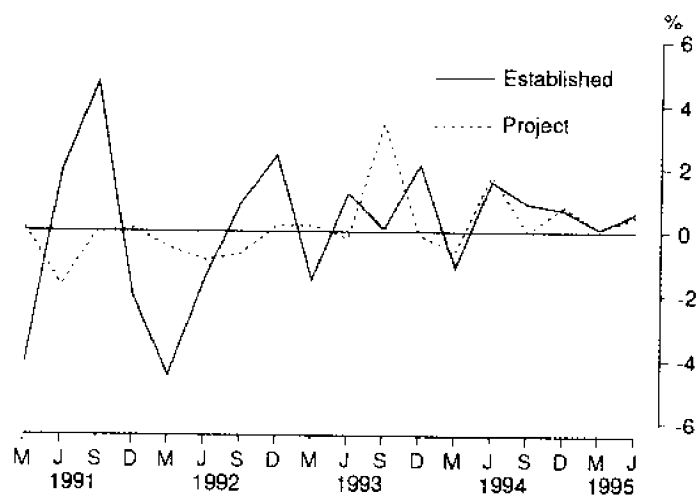
**TABLE 12.11 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES: EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES AND AUSTRALIA (a)**

	Established houses					Project homes				
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Melbourne	95.2	94.8	93.1	95.2	97.9	103.2	101.8	100.4	103.9	105.8
Sydney	100.5	104.9	105.3	108.8	113.7	102.9	103.1	103.6	105.8	107.9
Brisbane	114.3	128.2	134.9	138.0	139.3	104.3	105.2	108.8	110.1	112.5
Adelaide	106.2	106.5	110.1	109.1	111.7	104.5	105.4	105.4	111.4	114.6
Perth	94.8	94.1	98.4	104.7	109.0	91.9	90.6	92.8	96.2	100.0
Hobart	106.3	112.0	116.6	122.5	129.0	106.4	110.1	114.1	117.7	121.3
Darwin	109.3	115.5	133.6	155.7	178.1	105.3	107.8	111.4	118.6	125.2
Canberra	107.3	124.4	134.2	134.4	130.4	110.6	123.7	131.8	132.7	129.2
Australia (a)	100.8	104.6	106.0	109.1	112.6	102.1	102.1	103.0	105.8	108.1

Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

(a) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Source: *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0)

**HOUSE PRICE INDEXES: ESTABLISHED HOUSE AND PROJECT HOME PRICE INDEXES, MELBOURNE**

Source: *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0)

## REFERENCES

### RETAIL TRADE

Retail trade statistics are collected by the ABS through periodical censuses and regular sample surveys.

#### Monthly Retail Trade Survey

The monthly Retail Trade Survey has been conducted in various forms since 1962. The principal objective of the collection is to show month to month movement of retail turnover. The survey is one of the main economic indicators, providing an 'early' indication of changes in the economic climate. Retail spending is also a very important component of the Australian National Accounts, contributing around 40% of Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE).

Monthly estimates of turnover are based on a survey of about 7,000 retail and selected service businesses (representing 20,000 outlets). All 'large' businesses are included in the survey, while a sample of about 4,400 'smaller' businesses is selected. Data are published at the Australian and state levels by industry on a monthly basis. The data are presented in four series: original current price, seasonally adjusted, trend estimates, and constant price estimates.

The reported data is the basis for the original current price series. The seasonally adjusted series is compiled by removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised. The smoothing of the seasonally adjusted series to create the trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. Trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time. To enable analysis of the movement of retail activity in 'real' terms, estimates of retail turnover at constant (1989-90) prices are also compiled.

#### Retail Census

Every 5-6 years a census is undertaken of all retail establishments in order to obtain comprehensive retail sector data. Historically, the data from the census has been used to provide an updated set of turnover benchmark figures for all retail units in the retail survey. Rebenchmarking the survey usually results in a break in the time series and, as such, provides the opportunity to review and improve the survey's methodology. The most recent retail census was conducted in respect of 1991-92.

The next census will be conducted in respect of the 1996-97 financial year.

### PRICE INDEXES

#### The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is sometimes referred to as a measure of inflation, a measure of changes in purchasing power or a measure of changes in the cost of living. It is, in fact, 'a measure of change, over time, in the retail prices of a constant basket of goods and services'.

As well as giving the information needed to select items to be included in the CPI, Household Expenditure Survey figures also show the relative importance of each item to the total spending on all items. The weighting pattern for the Consumer Price Index in June quarter 1992 (twelfth series) for the eight capital cities combined is as follows:

Group	Percentage contribution to the All Groups CPI	12th series
Food		18.324
Clothing		6.264
Housing		15.900
Household equipment and operation		18.370
Transportation		15.967
Tobacco and alcohol		7.475
Health and personal care		6.850
Recreation and education		10.850
<b>Total All Groups</b>		<b>100.000</b>

Source: *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0)

### Producer price indexes

During the 1960s, the ABS began producing a range of price indexes covering materials used and articles produced by defined sectors of the Australian economy. The following producer price indexes (previously known as wholesale prices indexes) are now published monthly: Price Index of Materials Used in House Building; Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building; Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries; Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry; Price Indexes of Copper Materials; Import Price Index; Export Price Index; and Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining. Only the building indexes are produced on a state basis, while the remaining indexes are produced on a national basis.

### Materials Used in House Building

The Materials Used in House Building Index measures changes in prices of selected materials used in the construction of houses in each capital city Statistical Division. A house is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. The index does not purport to represent buildings of any kind other than detached houses.

### Materials Used in Building Other than House Building

This index measures changes in prices of selected materials used in the construction of buildings (other than houses) in the Melbourne metropolitan area. The building types directly represented in the index include flats, hotels and motels, shops, factories, offices, schools etc.

### House Price indexes

These indexes provide estimates of changes in housing prices for the eight capital cities. They measure price movements over time in each city. They do not measure differences in price levels between cities.