

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH QUARTER 1996

MAIN FEATURES

Weighted average of eight capital cities	Change between—	
	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996
	%	%
Food	0.2	2.4
Clothing	-0.3	0.6
Housing	-0.4	2.8
Household equipment and operation	0.0	2.1
Transportation	0.1	4.3
Tobacco and alcohol	1.6	11.8
Health and personal care	1.9	5.1
Recreation and education	1.6	3.4
All groups	0.4	3.7
All groups excluding housing	0.6	3.9
All groups excluding food	0.5	4.0

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

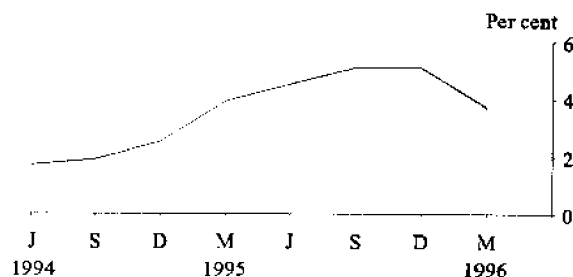
CPI Outcome

The All groups CPI increased 0.4 per cent between the December quarter 1995 and March quarter 1996, resulting in an annual increase (March quarter 1996 on March quarter 1995) of 3.7 per cent.

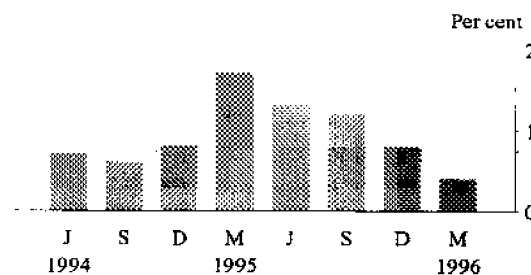
Overview of CPI Movements

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were education fees (up 5.7%), the cost of pharmaceuticals (up 9.8% - due mainly to the reduced effect of the PBS safety net scheme), cigarette and tobacco prices (up 1.8%), beer (up 1.5%), mortgage interest charges (up 0.7% - due to an increase in the debt

ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT



ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT



outstanding), entertainment (up 1.4%), and hospital and medical services (up 1.0%).

Partially offsetting the above were falls in local government rates and charges (down 5.9% - due solely to reductions in Melbourne), prices of fresh potatoes (down 30.3%), furniture (down 1.0%), fresh vegetables (down 4.3%), and petrol (down 0.5%).

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were cigarette and tobacco prices (up 22.2%), mortgage interest charges (up 5.6%), hospital and medical services (up 7.0%), vehicle insurance (up 10.6%), beer (up 5.9%), and entertainment (up 6.4%), with off-sets being provided by falls in local government rates and charges (down 4.2%), fresh vegetables (down 14.7%), video and sound equipment (down 8.0%), and fresh fruit (down 4.3%).

Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation

The index of underlying inflation, as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased by 0.4 per cent between December quarter 1995 and March quarter 1996, resulting in an annual increase (March quarter 1996 on March quarter 1995) of 3.3 per cent.

Main contributions to change:**Recreation and education: +1.6%**

The Recreation and education group was the largest contributor to the change in the All groups index, accounting for about 41 per cent of the total change this quarter. An increase in education fees (+5.7%) accounted for 52 per cent of this.

All cities recorded increases in education fees ranging from 7.2 per cent in Adelaide to 3.5 per cent in Darwin and coinciding with commencement of the new school year.

The cost of entertainment increased 1.4 per cent nationally, prices of books, newspapers, and magazines increased 1.6 per cent, and childcare fees increased 4.2 per cent.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1996, the cost of recreation and education has increased 3.4 per cent overall. An increase in entertainment costs accounted for 44 per cent of this annual increase, education fees accounted for 26 per cent, holiday travel and accommodation overseas for 19 per cent, and books, newspapers, and magazines for 14 per cent.

Tobacco and alcohol: +1.6%

Prices of cigarettes and tobacco increased 1.8 per cent nationally. The increase was due to an increase in the Commonwealth excise on tobacco products on and from 1 February 1996. It was partially offset by retail discounting in most cities.

The price of beer increased 1.5 per cent, wine increased 1.9 per cent, and spirits 1.0 per cent.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1996, tobacco and alcohol prices have increased 11.8 per cent overall.

Health and personal care: +1.9%

The increase in the cost of health and personal care this quarter is largely due to an increase in the cost of pharmaceuticals (+9.8%, reflecting mainly the reduced effect of the PBS safety net scheme), combined with an increase in the cost of hospital and medical services (+1.0%).

Increases in the cost of hospital and medical services were recorded in all cities as a result of increases in the net fee payable by households for medical services. The increases ranged from 0.3 per cent in Darwin to 1.6 per cent in both Brisbane and Canberra.

Housing: -0.4%

Falls in local government rates and charges (-5.9% nationally) and the cost of house repairs and maintenance (-0.5%) were partially offset by an increase in mortgage interest charges (+0.7%) and privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.8%).

Local government rates and charges fell 16.7 per cent in Melbourne due to a combination of falls in general rates (following amalgamation of local councils) and the abolition of the State Deficit Levy of \$100 (introduced in

the 1992-93 rating year). Reductions in general rates accounted for 59 per cent of the overall decrease.

The increase in mortgage interest charges reflects an increase in the debt outstanding (+0.7%) and no change in interest rates.

Privately-owned dwelling rents increased in all cities except Adelaide (no change) and Canberra (-0.2%, the eleventh consecutive quarter of negative movement and largely due to an oversupply of rental accommodation). The increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Brisbane to 1.3 per cent in Sydney.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1996, housing costs have increased 2.8 per cent nationally. Increases in mortgage interest charges (+5.6%) accounted for 83 per cent of this annual increase, and privately-owned dwelling rents (+3.1%) accounted for the remainder.

Food: +0.2%

Increases in prices of lamb and mutton (+8.9%), fresh fruit (+3.6%), and milk and cream (+1.7%) were partially offset by falls in prices of fresh potatoes (-30.3%) and fresh vegetables (-4.3%).

Transportation: +0.1%

Increases in the cost of vehicle insurance (+1.3%) and vehicle servicing, repairs, and parts (+0.4%) were partially offset by falls in prices of petrol (-0.5%) and tyres and tubes (-0.7%).

Petrol prices decreased 0.5 per cent this quarter as a result of increases in November (+0.8%) and December (+1.3%), falls in January (-1.8%) and February (-0.2%), and another increase in March (+0.8%). Over the 12 months to March quarter 1996, the price of petrol has increased 3.5 per cent.

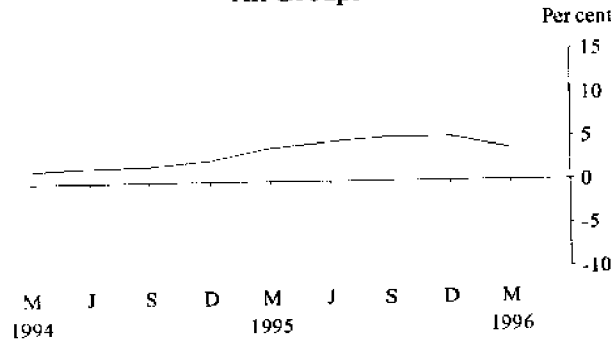
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX- ALL GROUPS
PERCENTAGE CHANGES

	<i>Change between—</i>	
	<i>Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996</i>	<i>Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Sydney	0.7	4.7
Melbourne	-0.2	2.9
Brisbane	0.8	3.3
Adelaide	0.4	3.2
Perth	0.7	3.6
Hobart	0.8	3.4
Darwin	0.5	3.9
Canberra	0.7	3.9
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.4	3.7

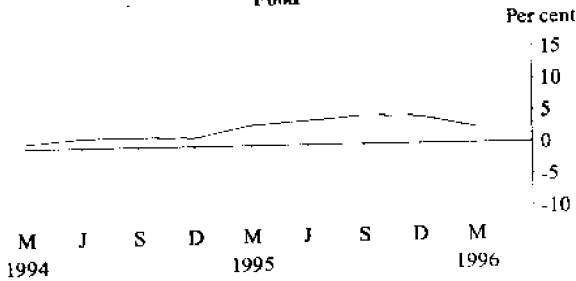
Dennis Trewin
Acting Australian Statistician

**WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE ON CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR**

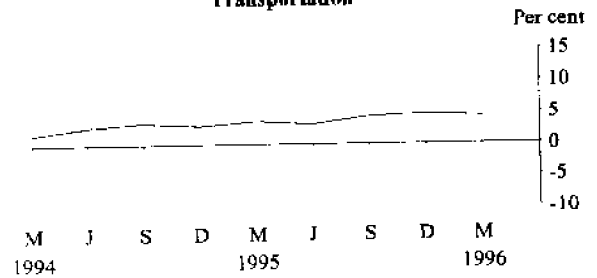
All Groups



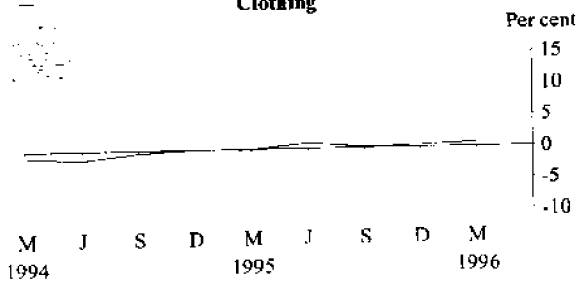
Food



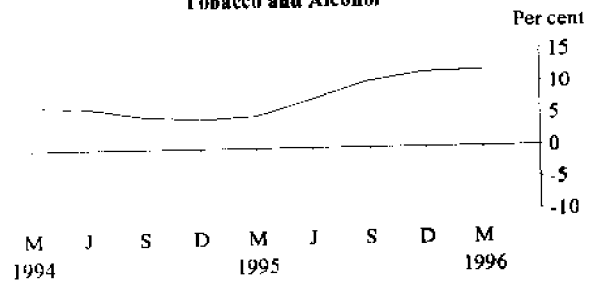
Transportation



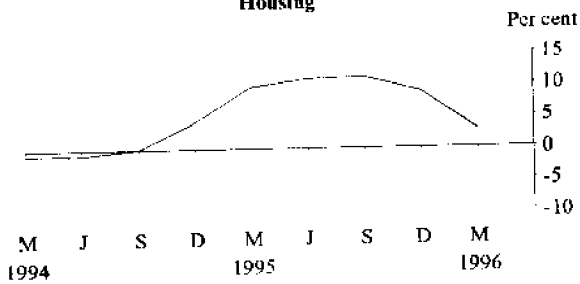
Clothing



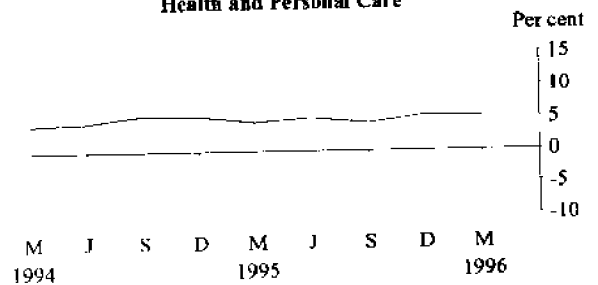
Tobacco and Alcohol



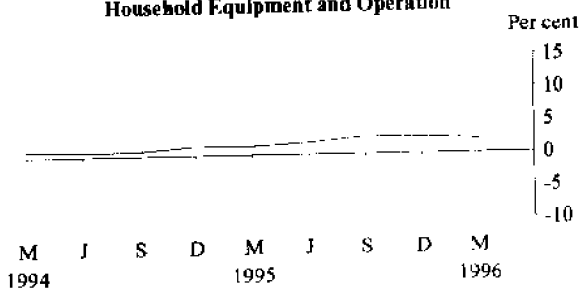
Housing



Health and Personal Care



Household Equipment and Operation



Recreation and Education

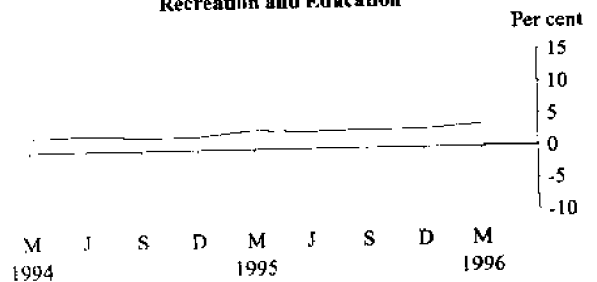


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1991-92	106.7	108.1	107.0	108.9	105.9	107.1	108.0	107.8	107.3
1992-93	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	108.4
1993-94	109.2	111.1	110.6	113.4	108.5	111.7	111.5	111.4	110.4
1994-95	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	113.9
<i>1991-92—</i>									
March	107.0	108.3	107.5	109.5	106.1	107.4	108.3	108.2	107.6
June	106.5	108.2	107.0	109.4	105.6	107.0	108.4	107.9	107.3
<i>1992-93</i>									
September	106.9	107.9	106.9	110.1	105.5	107.6	108.9	108.6	107.4
December	107.4	108.2	108.1	110.7	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.0	107.9
March	108.2	109.5	109.1	111.6	106.4	109.1	109.8	110.1	108.9
June	108.4	110.1	109.7	112.3	106.8	109.4	110.0	110.3	109.3
<i>1993-94</i>									
September	108.7	110.5	109.9	112.7	107.9	111.0	110.6	111.0	109.8
December	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	111.7	111.3	110.0
March	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	111.4	110.4
June	110.0	112.0	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112.0	111.2
<i>1994-95</i>									
September	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
December	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
March	113.7	115.0	115.8	117.8	113.0	116.1	115.3	116.3	114.7
June	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	117.3	117.6	117.9	120.1	115.6	118.4	118.0	119.1	117.6
December	118.3	118.5	118.6	121.1	116.3	119.2	119.2	120.0	118.5
March	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Change from previous year									
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
1993-94	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
1994-95	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
June	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.9
December	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.5
March	4.2	3.4	4.5	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.4	3.9
June	4.9	3.8	4.8	3.8	5.3	4.2	3.9	5.0	4.5
<i>1995-96</i>									
September	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.8	5.1
December	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.8	5.4	5.1
March	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1993-94</i>									
March	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.4
June	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
December	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
March	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.7
June	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
<i>1995-96</i>									
September	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
December	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
March	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1995 AND MARCH QUARTER 1996
MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS

Item	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD	0.02	-0.08	0.21	-0.01	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.05	0.04
Milk and cream	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02
Cheese	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Butter	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Bread	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.03	-0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01
Lamb and mutton	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04
Poultry	0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01
Processed meat	0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.01
Fresh fruit	0.05	0.02	0.10	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03
Fresh potatoes	-0.07	-0.10	-0.09	-0.11	0.00	-0.01	-0.04	-0.08	-0.08
Fresh vegetables	-0.02	-0.07	0.04	-0.08	0.02	-0.01	0.00	-0.06	-0.03
Confectionery	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Meals out	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
CLOTHING	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.04	0.01	0.00	-0.02
Men's shirts	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	-0.01
Men's footwear	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01
Women's footwear	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
HOUSING	0.16	-0.49	-0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.26	0.07	-0.08
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	-0.01	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mortgage interest charges	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.22	0.08	0.05
Local government rates and charges	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.17
House repairs and maintenance	0.01	0.00	-0.09	-0.02	-0.01	0.03	-0.02	0.01	-0.01
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	0.02	-0.09	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.01
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Furniture	-0.03	-0.12	0.04	-0.01	-0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	-0.04
Floor coverings	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Appliances	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pet foods	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.02
Telephone services	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Consumer credit charges	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02
TRANSPORTATION	0.15	-0.08	0.04	-0.06	0.01	-0.16	-0.04	0.06	0.03
Motor vehicles	-0.03	0.02	0.00	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.00
Automotive fuel	0.04	-0.10	0.00	-0.03	-0.05	-0.17	-0.01	-0.04	-0.02
Vehicle insurance	0.05	0.03	0.02	-0.01	0.04	0.03	-0.06	0.01	0.04
Motoring charges	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tyres and tubes	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Vehicle servicing etc.	0.06	-0.04	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.19	0.15	0.33	0.15	0.13	0.18
Beer	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.22	0.03	0.02	0.06
Wine	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Spirits	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.12	0.08	0.08
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE	0.20	0.11	0.14	0.16	0.20	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.16
Hospital and medical services	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.04
Dental services	0.03	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pharmaceuticals	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.08
Toiletries and personal products	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
RECREATION AND EDUCATION	0.14	0.27	0.34	0.17	0.18	0.15	-0.07	0.31	0.21
Books newspapers and magazines	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02
Video and sound equipment	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.03	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	-0.02	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.02	-0.03	-0.06	0.14	0.01
O'ceas holiday travel and accommodation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	-0.03	0.01
Entertainment	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.07	-0.05	0.06	0.05
Education fees	0.08	0.16	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.03	0.09	0.11
Child care fees	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Total change	0.8	-0.2	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5
Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change	0.02	-0.53	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	-0.15

(a) Composition of this category is described in footnote (c) Table 8, page 11.

TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1995 AND MARCH QUARTER 1996 (a)
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN WEIGHTED AVERAGE EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES ALL GROUP INDEX

	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
Food	1.8	-4.0	5.0	-0.2	4.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	7.5
Clothing	-2.2	-0.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	-3.5
Housing	10.7	-28.2	-0.3	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	-15.0
Household equipment and operation	1.6	-5.1	1.4	1.5	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.7
Transportation	9.7	-4.8	1.1	-1.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	0.3	4.8
Tobacco and alcohol	11.4	10.2	3.6	3.4	3.2	1.1	0.2	0.7	33.9
Health and personal care	13.5	6.4	3.3	3.0	4.1	0.6	0.2	0.9	32.0
Recreation and education	8.7	15.5	7.8	3.0	3.6	0.5	-0.1	1.8	40.9
All Groups	54.5	-10.6	22.4	9.7	17.3	3.1	1.1	4.7	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between December quarter 1995 and March quarter 1996) in the All Groups index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

TABLE 5. WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES: PERCENTAGE CHANGES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
Change from previous year									
1992-93	1.5	1.0	-4.3	-0.2	2.3	8.2	2.2	2.1	1.0
1993-94	1.9	-0.7	-0.4	0.5	2.2	7.5	4.0	2.6	1.8
1994-95	2.5	0.0	6.2	1.3	3.3	5.5	5.0	2.4	3.2
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	0.7	-1.1	-0.7	0.9	1.7	6.7	4.1	2.1	1.4
June	1.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.7	2.8	6.4	4.4	2.4	1.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	1.5	-0.5	0.0	0.7	3.4	5.0	5.5	2.0	1.9
December	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	5.3	2.0	2.5
March	3.1	-0.1	9.7	1.3	3.6	4.9	4.4	2.9	3.9
June	3.8	0.8	10.9	1.8	3.1	7.5	5.0	2.6	4.5
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	4.5	0.1	11.1	2.6	4.3	10.2	4.2	2.8	5.1
December	4.3	0.3	8.8	2.5	4.7	11.6	5.3	2.8	5.1
March	2.4	0.6	2.8	2.1	4.3	11.8	5.1	3.4	3.7
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	0.3	-0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.3	1.1	2.9	0.2	0.4
June	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.9	1.1	-0.1	0.6
December	0.5	0.2	2.7	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.8
March	2.1	-0.6	5.4	0.4	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.7
June	0.4	0.9	1.8	0.8	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.3
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	1.5	-0.5	0.7	0.7	2.7	3.4	0.4	0.2	1.2
December	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	2.6	1.3	1.0	0.8
March	0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.4

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
FOOD (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94</i>									
March	110.2	107.8	111.2	112.0	110.2	112.6	112.6	111.9	109.8
June	109.4	107.9	110.2	113.0	109.9	112.2	113.1	111.4	109.5
<i>1994-95-</i>									
September	110.2	108.6	110.7	114.5	111.6	113.9	112.8	112.3	110.4
December	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
March	113.4	111.2	114.1	115.7	115.1	115.4	114.7	116.4	113.2
June	114.0	111.7	114.5	115.7	115.7	116.1	115.5	116.7	113.7
<i>1995-96-</i>									
September	116.0	113.5	115.4	117.8	116.6	117.3	115.3	117.2	115.4
December	116.4	114.0	115.8	118.2	115.8	117.1	116.4	118.8	115.7
March	116.6	113.6	117.0	118.2	116.9	118.1	117.4	119.2	115.9
CLOTHING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94</i>									
March	105.6	106.7	105.5	106.0	108.2	106.4	103.6	106.9	106.3
June	106.0	106.9	105.4	105.8	108.5	106.4	105.3	106.7	106.4
<i>1994-95-</i>									
September	106.6	107.0	105.3	105.2	107.9	106.6	105.7	107.0	106.6
December	106.6	107.4	106.3	105.1	107.4	105.3	105.9	107.1	106.8
March	106.0	107.0	105.5	104.2	106.9	105.0	106.2	107.1	106.2
June	107.0	108.2	105.9	105.1	107.5	106.1	106.3	107.1	107.2
<i>1995-96-</i>									
September	106.7	107.7	105.3	104.8	106.9	105.9	107.0	107.4	106.7
December	107.2	108.1	104.9	105.2	107.3	105.6	105.5	106.7	107.1
March	106.7	107.9	105.1	104.9	106.8	106.3	105.9	106.7	106.8
HOUSING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94-</i>									
March	94.7	92.2	100.1	91.6	86.9	93.3	103.6	98.8	93.7
June	95.9	92.4	100.7	91.9	87.8	94.2	104.5	99.3	94.4
<i>1994-95-</i>									
September	96.8	92.7	101.1	92.4	88.5	94.8	105.3	99.7	94.9
December	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
March	104.4	100.4	109.0	100.8	96.9	102.7	113.0	108.7	102.8
June	106.6	102.0	110.7	102.2	99.0	104.5	115.5	110.7	104.7
<i>1995-96-</i>									
September	107.4	102.4	111.4	102.7	100.0	106.0	116.5	111.3	105.4
December	108.4	102.8	112.1	103.8	100.8	106.5	118.9	111.8	106.1
March	109.2	99.8	112.1	103.9	101.2	107.2	120.2	112.2	105.7
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94-</i>									
March	105.1	110.8	107.1	107.9	108.1	112.2	103.7	107.5	107.9
June	106.0	110.8	107.2	108.2	107.9	112.4	104.2	107.8	108.2
<i>1994-95-</i>									
September	106.2	110.3	107.9	108.3	108.3	112.8	104.3	107.7	108.2
December	106.6	110.9	109.1	108.7	109.0	113.9	104.3	108.6	108.9
March	107.1	111.5	109.2	109.5	108.9	114.9	104.7	109.2	109.3
June	108.5	111.8	110.6	110.2	110.0	115.4	105.0	110.4	110.2
<i>1995-96-</i>									
September	109.0	112.5	111.6	111.5	110.5	116.5	106.1	111.5	111.0
December	109.8	113.1	112.4	112.0	110.9	117.5	106.3	111.9	111.6
March	109.9	112.6	112.7	112.4	111.1	117.8	106.7	112.2	111.6

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES — *continued*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
TRANSPORTATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	110.8	114.9	112.0	117.6	113.9	111.9	111.3	115.4	113.2
June	112.7	117.5	113.8	118.5	116.0	112.8	113.9	117.8	115.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	115.3	118.4	115.8	119.6	117.9	113.9	114.9	119.6	117.0
December	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
March	115.4	118.5	116.7	119.9	119.3	115.1	114.9	119.7	117.3
June	116.8	119.9	117.4	121.4	121.4	117.2	116.4	122.1	118.8
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	121.1	122.4	120.1	124.4	123.4	119.4	119.0	126.8	122.0
December	121.9	122.5	120.1	124.3	123.1	120.1	118.2	127.1	122.3
March	122.8	121.9	120.5	123.9	123.2	119.0	117.9	127.5	122.4
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	135.7	133.0	132.2	142.6	130.4	134.3	134.4	130.9	134.5
June	138.1	134.0	134.1	144.5	131.8	134.8	136.4	132.2	136.2
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	139.9	134.0	136.5	144.2	133.6	137.2	137.8	134.0	137.4
December	141.9	134.7	138.4	147.8	135.9	139.1	139.2	134.9	139.1
March	143.3	137.1	140.9	150.2	137.7	140.3	141.4	137.2	141.1
June	150.2	143.5	144.1	153.2	140.2	143.1	146.3	143.3	146.4
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	158.3	149.5	145.6	154.8	140.6	144.3	149.7	148.0	151.4
December	161.5	153.3	150.6	159.7	145.6	145.9	156.0	151.9	155.3
March	164.2	156.0	152.6	162.2	147.5	150.3	157.5	153.8	157.8
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	123.8	137.4	124.0	145.5	124.8	137.5	129.5	128.1	130.7
June	124.4	139.2	124.6	148.2	125.5	137.9	129.7	129.0	131.9
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	126.3	139.8	128.5	148.3	127.6	138.7	132.6	131.1	133.4
December	126.0	140.8	128.4	148.7	128.4	138.7	133.5	131.2	133.7
March	128.7	143.4	131.8	153.0	130.1	140.4	133.2	134.1	136.5
June	129.7	145.5	133.6	155.3	135.7	141.0	135.3	134.5	138.5
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	130.4	146.0	134.1	155.4	135.7	146.7	135.3	134.6	139.0
December	131.6	148.4	134.7	158.7	137.2	146.9	136.2	138.0	140.8
March	135.0	150.2	137.2	161.0	140.4	149.7	138.6	141.0	143.5
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1993-94—</i>									
March	111.5	114.1	111.2	114.1	107.5	109.7	105.4	111.3	112.1
June	112.5	114.8	113.5	114.8	107.5	111.3	106.1	112.0	113.0
<i>1994-95—</i>									
September	112.0	114.9	113.5	115.1	107.7	111.7	105.9	111.1	112.9
December	112.6	116.4	115.5	116.2	109.4	113.0	106.8	112.9	114.1
March	113.8	117.9	117.2	117.2	109.0	115.4	105.4	114.7	115.3
June	115.5	117.5	117.0	116.5	112.3	114.0	106.0	114.1	115.9
<i>1995-96—</i>									
September	115.8	118.0	116.8	116.5	112.1	113.3	107.5	113.8	116.1
December	116.7	120.1	116.4	117.3	113.8	115.8	106.4	113.7	117.3
March	118.0	122.4	119.7	118.9	115.5	117.1	105.8	116.1	119.2

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)			Percentage Change between			Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			Change between Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	
	Mar qtr 1995	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	
FOOD	113.2	115.7	115.9	0.2	2.4	21.38	21.42	21.38	21.42	0.04	
Dairy products	119.0	123.6	125.1	1.2	5.1	1.77	1.79	1.77	1.79	0.02	
Cereal products	120.5	126.7	126.6	-0.1	5.1	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	0.00	
Meat and seafoods	103.8	105.6	107.4	1.7	3.5	3.39	3.44	3.39	3.44	0.05	
Beef and veal	105.2	107.5	107.1	-0.4	1.8	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.00	
Lamb and mutton	108.2	114.0	124.2	8.9	14.8	0.46	0.50	0.46	0.50	0.04	
Pork	103.9	107.7	108.7	0.9	4.6	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	
Poultry	89.0	90.6	91.7	1.2	3.0	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	0.01	
Bacon and ham	106.6	106.4	107.5	1.0	0.8	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.00	
Processed meat	107.8	107.8	109.1	1.2	1.2	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.01	
Fish	102.1	103.3	102.9	-0.4	0.8	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.00	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	106.9	101.1	96.7	-4.4	-9.5	1.86	1.78	1.86	1.78	-0.08	
Processed fruit and vegetables	110.1	113.8	114.5	0.6	4.0	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	0.01	
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	121.8	126.3	127.0	0.6	4.3	3.42	3.44	3.42	3.44	0.02	
Meals out and take away foods	113.6	115.8	116.2	0.3	2.3	5.48	5.50	5.48	5.50	0.02	
Other foods	115.0	118.8	118.8	0.0	3.3	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	
CLOTHING	106.2	107.1	106.8	-0.3	0.6	6.73	6.71	6.73	6.71	-0.02	
Men's and boy's clothing	109.2	110.7	110.6	-0.1	1.3	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87	0.00	
Women's and girls' clothing	106.4	106.7	106.7	0.0	0.3	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	0.00	
Fabrics and knitting wool	104.0	104.2	104.0	-0.2	0.0	0.80	0.79	0.80	0.79	-0.01	
Footwear	99.0	99.6	98.2	-1.4	-0.8	1.07	1.05	1.07	1.05	-0.02	
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	120.7	126.5	126.9	0.3	5.1	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.00	
HOUSING	102.8	106.1	105.7	-0.4	2.8	18.82	18.74	18.82	18.74	-0.08	
Rents	108.9	111.2	112.1	0.8	2.9	5.43	5.47	5.43	5.47	0.04	
Privately-owned dwelling rents	108.0	110.5	111.4	0.8	3.1	4.98	5.02	4.98	5.02	0.04	
Government-owned dwelling rents	118.8	118.9	119.3	0.3	0.4	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.00	
Home ownership	99.9	103.6	102.7	-0.9	2.8	13.39	13.27	13.39	13.27	-0.12	
Mortgage interest charges	86.8	91.1	91.7	0.7	5.6	8.02	8.07	8.02	8.07	0.05	
Local government rates and charges	135.3	137.7	129.6	-5.9	-4.2	2.79	2.62	2.79	2.62	-0.17	
House repairs and maintenance	114.7	116.7	116.1	-0.5	1.2	2.07	2.06	2.07	2.06	-0.01	
House insurance	139.2	143.4	143.9	0.3	3.4	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	0.01	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	109.3	111.6	111.6	0.0	2.1	20.36	20.37	20.36	20.37	0.01	
Fuel and light	118.8	119.4	119.5	0.1	0.6	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.71	0.00	
Furniture and floor coverings	113.8	115.8	114.9	-0.8	1.0	4.91	4.87	4.91	4.87	-0.04	
Appliances	108.2	108.1	108.4	0.3	0.2	1.70	1.71	1.70	1.71	0.01	
Household textiles	109.1	114.5	115.5	0.9	5.9	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.00	
Household utensils and tools	105.2	105.9	105.8	-0.1	0.6	1.31	1.31	1.31	1.31	0.00	
Household supplies and services	115.0	119.1	119.7	0.5	4.1	4.64	4.66	4.64	4.66	0.02	
Postal and telephone services	107.9	107.8	106.8	-0.9	-1.0	1.86	1.84	1.86	1.84	-0.02	
Consumer credit charges	88.0	92.7	93.4	0.8	6.1	2.37	2.39	2.37	2.39	0.02	

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SELECTED EXPENDITURE CLASSES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES — continued

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	Mar qtr 1995	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	
	Mar qtr 1995	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	
TRANSPORTATION												
Private motoring	117.3	122.3	122.4	0.1	4.3	4.3	19.23	19.26	0.03	0.03		
Motor vehicles	116.1	121.1	121.3	0.2	4.5	4.5	17.75	17.75	0.02	0.02		
Automotive fuel	117.3	121.9	121.7	-0.2	3.8	3.8	4.98	4.98	0.00	0.00		
Vehicle insurance	113.7	118.3	117.7	-0.5	3.5	3.5	5.39	5.37	-0.02	-0.02		
Motoring charges	119.8	130.8	132.5	1.3	10.6	10.6	2.74	2.78	0.04	0.04		
Tyres and tubes	133.7	137.7	138.6	0.7	3.7	3.7	1.07	1.07	0.00	0.00		
Vehicle service repairs and parts	105.3	106.5	105.8	-0.7	0.5	0.5	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.00		
Urban transport fares	113.9	116.6	117.1	0.4	2.8	2.8	3.16	3.17	0.01	0.01		
	137.5	141.7	142.2	0.4	3.4	3.4	1.50	1.51	0.01	0.01		
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL												
Alcoholic drinks	141.1	155.3	157.8	1.6	11.8	11.8	10.69	10.87	0.18	0.18		
Beer	122.4	126.8	128.7	1.5	5.1	5.1	6.11	6.20	0.09	0.09		
Wine	122.8	128.1	130.0	1.5	5.9	5.9	3.54	3.60	0.06	0.06		
Spirits	115.9	120.8	123.1	1.9	6.2	6.2	1.26	1.28	0.02	0.02		
Cigarettes and tobacco	127.1	128.9	130.2	1.0	2.4	2.4	1.31	1.32	0.01	0.01		
	186.0	223.1	227.2	1.8	22.2	22.2	4.58	4.66	0.08	0.08		
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE												
Health services	136.5	140.8	143.5	1.9	5.1	5.1	8.51	8.67	0.16	0.16		
Personal care products	148.3	156.3	157.9	1.0	6.5	6.5	5.20	5.26	0.06	0.06		
Hairstressing services	122.1	121.0	125.8	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.39	2.48	0.09	0.09		
	118.5	120.5	122.6	1.7	3.5	3.5	0.92	0.93	0.01	0.01		
RECREATION AND EDUCATION												
Books newspapers and magazines	115.3	117.3	119.2	1.6	3.4	3.4	12.76	12.97	0.21	0.21		
Recreational goods	136.5	139.6	141.8	1.6	3.9	3.9	1.47	1.49	0.02	0.02		
Holiday travel and accommodation	102.6	100.5	100.5	0.0	-2.0	-2.0	2.73	2.73	0.00	0.00		
Recreation services	102.5	106.0	106.5	0.5	3.9	3.9	2.79	2.81	0.02	0.02		
Education and child care	123.9	129.2	130.9	1.3	5.6	5.6	3.41	3.46	0.05	0.05		
	134.0	134.7	142.0	5.4	6.0	6.0	2.36	2.49	0.13	0.13		
ALL GROUPS	114.7	118.5	119.0	0.4	3.7	3.7	118.5	119.0	0.5	0.5		

TABLE 8. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — SPECIAL SERIES: WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)			Percentage Change between		Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)		Change between Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996
	Mar qtr 1995	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Mar qtr 1995 and Mar qtr 1996	Dec qtr 1995	Mar qtr 1996	
ALL GROUPS	114.7	118.5	119.0	0.4	3.7	118.5	119.0	0.5
All groups - excluding food	115.1	119.1	119.7	0.5	4.0	97.11	97.58	0.47
All groups - excluding clothing	115.3	119.3	119.9	0.5	4.0	111.76	112.29	0.53
All groups - excluding housing	116.9	120.8	121.5	0.6	3.9	99.67	100.26	0.59
All groups - excluding household equipment and operation	116.0	120.1	120.7	0.5	4.1	98.13	98.63	0.50
All groups - excluding transportation	114.3	117.8	118.4	0.5	3.6	99.26	99.74	0.48
All groups - excluding tobacco and alcohol	112.7	115.7	116.0	0.3	2.9	107.80	108.13	0.33
All groups - excluding health and personal care	113.4	117.1	117.5	0.3	3.6	109.98	110.33	0.35
All groups - excluding recreation and education	114.7	118.7	119.0	0.3	3.7	105.73	106.03	0.30
All groups - excluding home ownership	116.6	120.4	121.1	0.6	3.9	105.10	105.73	0.63
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	87.7	92.1	92.7	0.7	5.7	10.43	10.50	0.07
All groups - excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	117.8	121.5	121.9	0.3	3.5	108.06	108.50	0.44
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	113.7	117.3	117.8	0.4	3.6	114.29	114.76	0.47
All groups - goods component (a)	116.0	119.5	119.9	0.3	3.4	72.13	72.35	0.22
All groups - services component (b)	112.8	116.9	117.6	0.6	4.3	46.36	46.65	0.29
Selected State and local government charges (c)	126.9	128.6	126.1	-1.9	-0.6	7.82	7.67	-0.15
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (c)	114.0	117.9	118.6	0.6	4.0	110.67	111.33	0.66

(a) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises the Food group (except meals out); Clothing group (except dry cleaning and shoe repairs); Household equipment and operation group (except veterinary services, house contents insurance, repairs to appliances, postal and telephone services and consumer credit charges); Tobacco and alcohol group; materials used in house repairs and maintenance; motor vehicles; automotive fuel; tyres and tubes; parts used in vehicle service and repairs; personal care products, books, newspapers and magazines; and recreational goods. (b) The 'All groups, services component' comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'. (c) Selected State and local government charges comprise: government-owned dwelling rents; water and sewerage rates; council property rates and charges; electricity prices; gas prices (Melbourne and Perth only); motor vehicles third party insurance premiums (except Canberra and in part only in Sydney and Brisbane); motor vehicle registration fees; drivers' licence fees; urban bus fares (government bus fares only in Sydney and Melbourne); council fares only in Brisbane); urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin). The derivations and limitations of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

**TABLE 9. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, INDEX NUMBERS (a)**
(Base of each Index : 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand (c)
1991-92	108.7	105.9	107.1	108.8	115.0	121.7	117.9	107.6	120.0	106.1	108.8	106.5
1992-93	112.1	106.8	110.3	110.8	118.6	130.8	123.5	111.4	129.0	108.1	111.0	108.7
1993-94	114.8	107.9	113.2	112.0	122.0	140.1	130.4	114.2	137.8	110.9	113.5	109.4
1994-95	118.0	107.8	107.8	113.4	124.8	151.4	138.0	119.1	150.3	114.5	116.5	110.5
1991-92—												
March	108.9	105.6	107.5	108.7	115.1	123.2	118.6	107.8	120.8	106.2	109.4	107.0
June	110.0	107.0	108.7	109.4	117.3	126.0	121.0	110.5	122.9	106.9	109.3	107.5
1992-93—												
September	110.7	106.3	109.1	110.0	117.1	127.4	122.1	110.1	123.4	107.3	109.8	108.1
December	111.7	106.7	109.2	110.3	118.0	128.7	121.6	110.8	125.8	107.8	110.6	108.6
March	112.7	106.6	111.0	111.2	118.4	132.1	123.8	111.3	133.5	108.4	111.6	108.9
June	113.3	107.6	111.9	111.5	120.8	134.8	126.4	113.5	133.2	109.0	112.0	109.1
1993-94—												
September	113.7	108.1	112.6	112.1	121.1	136.4	127.2	112.2	133.5	109.5	112.6	109.3
December	114.6	107.6	112.4	112.6	121.4	139.3	128.3	113.4	135.0	110.3	113.2	109.4
March	115.1	107.7	113.6	111.8	121.8	140.8	132.2	114.4	140.9	111.4	113.6	109.3
June	115.9	108.1	114.1	111.5	123.5	143.7	134.0	116.6	141.6	112.5	114.4	109.5
1994-95												
September	116.9	107.7	114.9	112.2	123.4	147.6	136.6	119.3	145.3	113.6	115.1	109.8
December	117.4	108.2	114.6	112.4	123.9	149.6	136.2	117.2	147.5	114.4	115.7	110.4
March	118.2	107.4	115.3	113.9	125.1	152.9	138.4	118.8	152.6	114.5	116.9	110.6
June	119.4	107.8	115.8	115.1	126.6	155.5	140.7	121.0	155.9	115.3	118.3	111.3
1995-96—												
September	119.7	107.3	116.1	115.3	127.0	158.6	141.8	121.4	157.9	115.4	119.8	111.2
December	120.2	107.3	115.7	115.3	127.7	159.6	142.3	122.0	161.6	115.6	120.8	111.6
March	121.2	n.y.a.	116.4	n.y.a.	128.5	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	122.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	121.5	112.0

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 15. (b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany). (c) From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

**TABLE 10. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS:
ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOUSING, PERCENTAGE CHANGES (a)**

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand (c)
Change from previous year												
1992-93	3.1	0.8	3.0	1.8	3.1	7.5	4.7	3.5	7.5	1.9	2.0	2.1
1993-94	2.4	1.0	2.6	1.1	2.9	7.1	5.6	2.5	6.8	2.6	2.3	0.6
1994-95	2.8	-0.1	-4.8	1.3	2.3	8.1	5.8	4.3	9.1	3.2	2.6	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year												
1993-94—												
March	2.1	1.0	2.3	0.5	2.9	6.6	6.8	2.8	5.5	2.8	1.8	0.4
June	2.3	0.5	2.0	0.0	2.2	6.6	6.0	2.7	6.3	3.3	2.1	0.4
1994-95—												
September	2.8	-0.4	2.0	0.1	1.9	8.2	7.4	6.3	8.8	3.8	2.2	0.5
December	2.4	0.6	2.0	-0.2	2.1	7.4	6.2	3.4	9.3	3.7	2.2	0.9
March	2.7	-0.3	1.5	1.9	2.7	8.6	4.7	3.8	8.3	2.8	2.9	1.2
June	3.0	-0.3	1.5	3.2	2.5	8.2	5.0	3.8	10.1	2.5	3.4	1.6
1995-96—												
September	2.4	-0.4	1.0	2.8	2.9	7.5	3.8	1.8	8.7	1.6	4.1	1.3
December	2.4	-0.8	1.0	2.6	3.1	6.7	4.5	4.1	9.6	1.1	4.4	1.1
March	2.5	n.y.a.	1.0	n.y.a.	2.7	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.9	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	3.9	1.3
Change from previous quarter												
1993-94												
March	0.4	0.1	1.1	-0.7	0.3	1.1	3.0	0.9	4.4	1.0	0.4	-0.1
June	0.7	0.4	0.4	-0.3	1.4	2.1	1.4	1.9	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.2
1994-95—												
September	0.9	-0.4	0.7	0.6	-0.1	2.7	1.9	2.3	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.3
December	0.4	0.5	-0.3	0.2	0.4	1.4	-0.3	-1.8	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
March	0.7	-0.7	0.6	1.3	1.0	2.2	1.6	1.4	3.5	0.1	1.0	0.2
June	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.6
1995-96—												
September	0.3	-0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.0	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.3	-0.1
December	0.4	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	2.3	0.2	0.8	0.4
March	0.8	n.y.a.	0.6	n.y.a.	0.6	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.6	0.4

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 15. (b) The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany). (c) From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

TABLE 11. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION(a)

Period	All Groups	All Groups excluding Housing(b)	All Groups excl. interest and "volatile items"(c)	Private Sector Goods and Services(d)			Treasury Underlying Rate(e)
				Goods	Services	Total	
Index Numbers (1989-90 = 100.0)							
1991-92	107.3	108.8	109.3	107.9	108.0	107.9	108.2
1992-93	108.4	111.0	112.1	110.9	109.0	110.4	110.4
1993-94	110.4	113.5	115.2	113.9	110.8	113.1	112.7
1994-95	113.9	116.5	118.1	116.2	114.0	115.7	115.1
<i>1991-92—</i>							
March	107.6	109.4	109.9	108.0	108.1	108.1	108.5
June	107.3	109.3	110.1	108.9	108.2	108.7	109.3
<i>1992-93—</i>							
September	107.4	109.8	110.7	109.5	108.6	109.3	109.6
December	107.9	110.6	111.6	110.4	109.2	110.1	110.1
March	108.9	111.6	112.6	111.3	108.9	110.7	110.7
June	109.3	112.0	113.4	112.2	109.3	111.5	111.3
<i>1993-94—</i>							
September	109.8	112.6	114.1	113.1	109.6	112.2	112.0
December	110.0	113.2	114.8	113.6	111.0	112.9	112.4
March	110.4	113.6	115.6	114.1	111.0	113.3	113.0
June	111.2	114.4	116.1	114.6	111.6	113.8	113.5
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	111.9	115.1	116.7	115.0	112.7	114.4	114.2
December	112.8	115.7	117.5	115.7	113.7	115.2	114.8
March	114.7	116.9	118.3	116.3	114.2	115.7	115.2
June	116.2	118.3	119.7	117.9	115.5	117.3	116.3
<i>1995-96—</i>							
September	117.6	119.8	121.0	119.4	116.8	118.7	117.7
December	118.5	120.8	122.1	120.3	118.4	119.9	118.5
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	119.0
Percentage Changes							
Change from previous year							
1991-92	1.9	3.0	3.6	3.1	1.9	2.7	3.1
1992-93	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.8	0.9	2.3	2.0
1993-94	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.7	1.7	2.4	2.1
1994-95	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year							
<i>1993-94—</i>							
March	1.4	1.8	2.7	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.1
June	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	1.9	2.2	2.3	1.7	2.8	2.0	2.0
December	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.0	2.1
March	3.9	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.9
June	4.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.5
<i>1995-96—</i>							
September	5.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.1
December	5.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.2
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.3
Change from previous quarter							
<i>1993-94—</i>							
March	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5
June	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
<i>1994-95—</i>							
September	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.6
December	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
March	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
June	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.0
<i>1995-96—</i>							
September	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
December	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.0	0.7
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 16, page 15. (b) This series covers approximately 84 per cent of the total CPI basket. (c) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: Fresh fruit and vegetables, Mortgage interest charges, Automotive fuel, and Consumer credit charges. The resulting series covers approximately 85 per cent of the total CPI basket. (d) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: items in (c), Government-owned dwelling rents, Fuel and light, Local government rates and charges, Postal and telephone services, Motoring charges, Urban transport fares, Health services, Pharmaceuticals, and Education and child care. The resulting series covers approximately 69 per cent of the total CPI basket. (e) Comprises the All Groups CPI excluding: items in (c) and (d) (except Motoring charges), Meat and seafoods, Clothing, Tobacco and alcohol, and Holiday travel and accommodation. The resulting series covers approximately 51 per cent of the total CPI basket.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Brief description of the CPI

1. The CPI measures quarterly changes in the price of a *basket* of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (ie metropolitan wage and salary earner households). This *basket* covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Pensioners and other social welfare recipients are not included in the CPI population group and the index does not reflect concessional prices paid by these people such as subsidised government dwelling rents, public transport fares and the like.

2. The capital city indexes measure price movements over time in each city individually. They do not measure differences in retail price levels between cities.

3. Further information about the CPI is contained in a booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0) which is available from the ABS on request. A more detailed account is contained in *The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6461.0).

Prices

4. Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are generally collected quarterly. However, some important items are priced monthly or more frequently (e.g. bread, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, petrol, alcohol and tobacco) and a small number annually (e.g. seasonal clothing).

5. In order to facilitate a more even spread of field collection workload the bulk of the items for which prices are collected quarterly are priced in the first two months of each quarter (ie July/August, October/November, January/February, April/May). With a few exceptions items priced in the third month are those subject to price changes at discrete points of time (e.g. electricity and postal charges, milk); in these cases information about any changes in price during the quarter is obtained so that an average price for the whole quarter can be calculated.

Weighting pattern

6. There are 107 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the twelfth series CPI and each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

7. Changes in the weighting pattern have been made at approximately five-yearly intervals to take account of changes in household spending patterns. The CPI now comprises twelve series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

Analysis of CPI changes

8. 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 CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities

Index numbers:

Mar quarter 1995:	114.7	(see Table 1)
less: Dec quarter 1994:	112.8	(see Table 1)
Change in index points:	1.9	

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{1.9}{112.8} \times 100 = 1.7\%$$

9. In this publication, percentage changes are calculated to illustrate 3 different kinds of movements in index numbers :

- movements between consecutive financial years (where the index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers),
- movements between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, and
- movements between consecutive quarters.

10. Table 7 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for subgroups and for selected expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each group and subgroup makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products subgroup contributed 1.79 index points to the total All Groups index number of 119.0 for March quarter 1996. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group and subgroup.

11. Table 8 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 7.

12. Information on the impact of changes in Selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 3 and 8. Table 3 shows the contribution made by changes in these charges to the CPI for each capital city, while Table 8 shows index numbers for two special series *Selected State and local government charges* and *All Groups excluding selected State and local government charges*. An explanation of the derivation and limitations of these figures was published in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

International comparisons

13. In analysing price movements in Australia, an important consideration is Australia's performance relative to other countries. However, due to the many differences in the structure of the housing sector in different countries and in the way that housing is treated in their CPIs, a simple comparison of All groups (or headline) CPIs is often inappropriate. To provide a better basis for international comparisons, the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a resolution which called for countries to "provide for dissemination at the international level of an index which excludes shelter, in addition to the all-items index."

14. Table 9 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series *All groups excluding housing*. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989-90 = 100.0.

15. In producing this table, the ABS is grateful for the assistance of the relevant national statistical agencies which have either directly supplied indexes for all items excluding shelter or data to enable their derivation.

Alternative Measures of Consumer Price Inflation

16. The various uses of the CPI may be grouped into two-major categories. The first relates to uses of the CPI to assess changes in the purchasing power of household incomes, particularly as input to income adjustment processes. The second relates to uses as a general measure of inflation.

17. It is not possible to produce a single measure that is entirely suitable for both purposes, due to certain fundamental differences in requirements. For more details, see the Information Paper *The Australian Consumer Price Index, 12th Series Review* (Cat. No. 6450.0).

18. While the removal of shelter costs from the CPI serves to improve international comparability there is a need for other measures for some purposes. In particular, there is a requirement for measures which seek to remove temporary influences and one-off changes in order to focus on the "underlying" inflation rate.

19. There is no universally accepted methodology for deriving a measure of an "underlying" inflation rate. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury (Treasury) have developed several alternative measures which, while based on the CPI, exclude various components which have been assessed as contributing significant temporary influences from time to time.

20. Table 11 presents the *All groups* CPI, the series recommended for international comparisons (*All groups excluding housing*), and a number of possible "underlying" measures including the Treasury measure. A description of the Treasury "underlying" inflation rate was published in the Appendix to the September quarter 1994 issue of this publication.

21. No single series can be claimed to provide the ideal guide to "underlying" inflation in every time period due to the variations in the sources of particular "shocks". Judgement will still be required in assessing the trend from period to period. However, Treasury and the RBA have agreed that the Treasury series provides the best available guide to "underlying" inflation for macro-economic policy purposes.

Related publications

22. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods (6461.0)

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges (6442.0)

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: 12th Series Review (6450.0)

Next issue

23. The Consumer Price Index - June quarter 1996 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 24 July 1996.

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

n.a.	not available
r	revised
n.y.a.	not yet available

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers in Table 7 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.

For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

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