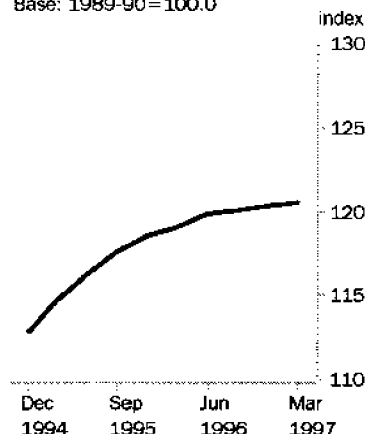


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 23 APR 1997

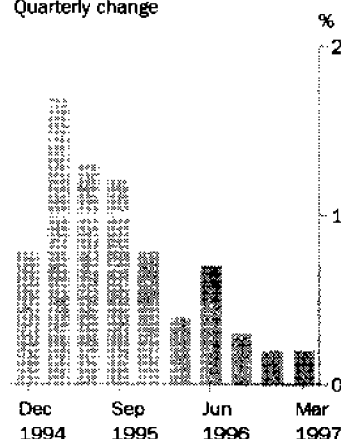
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Dec Qtr 1996 to Mar Qtr 1997	% change Mar Qtr 1996 to Mar Qtr 1997
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	0.7	3.7
Clothing	-0.5	0.2
Housing	-2.9	-5.2
Household equipment and operation	-0.1	1.7
Transportation	0.6	2.3
Tobacco and alcohol	0.3	2.5
Health and personal care	2.7	4.9
Recreation and education	1.9	1.5
All groups	0.2	1.3
All groups excluding housing	0.7	2.5

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.2% between the December quarter 1996 and March quarter 1997, the same increase as the previous quarter.
- rose 1.3% between the March quarters 1996 and 1997, the lowest annual change since March quarter 1993.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were the cost of hospital and medical services (+4.0%), education fees (+6.4%), the prices of automotive fuel (+1.6%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+5.2%), and entertainment services (+2.0%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in mortgage interest charges (-8.0%), the prices of motor vehicles (-1.9%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-5.0%), fresh fruit (-2.9%) and furniture (-0.7%).
- contributing most to the annual increase were the prices of hospital and medical services (+8.1%), automotive fuel (+5.3%), vehicle insurance (+5.4%), and take away foods (+3.5%), with offsets provided by falls in mortgage interest charges (-15.7%), and the prices of motor vehicles (-4.4%) and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-6.8%).

Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation

The index of underlying inflation, as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased 0.4% between the December quarter 1996 and March quarter 1997, and 2.1% between the March quarters 1996 and 1997.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Judy Henson on 06 252 6251, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

June 1997

23 July 1997

September 1997

22 October 1997

.....

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

.....

ROUNDING

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers in Table 6 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.

W. McLennan

Australian Statistician

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

HOUSING: -2.9%

The decrease in housing costs results from a fall (-8.0%) in mortgage interest charges. Partially offsetting this drop were increases in privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.5%) and local government rates and charges (+0.2%).

The fall in mortgage interest charges this quarter reflects a decrease in interest rates (-8.3%) which was only partially offset by an increase in the value of the debt outstanding (+0.5%). Housing interest rates are calculated with a one month lag, therefore reductions which occurred in December, January and February are reflected in this quarter. The decrease this quarter is the largest quarterly fall since the introduction of the mortgage interest charges in March quarter 1987.

Privately owned dwelling rents increased in all cities with the exceptions of Brisbane (no change) and Canberra (-0.3%). This was the fifteenth consecutive quarter of decline for Canberra. The increases ranged from 0.1% in Adelaide to 0.8% in Sydney.

Over the twelve months to March quarter 1997, the cost of housing has fallen by 5.2%, due solely to a fall of 15.7% in mortgage interest charges. Partially offsetting this decrease were increases in privately-owned dwelling rents (+2.9%) and local government rates and charges (+2.7%).

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE: +2.7%

The main contributor to the increase in health and personal care costs was a rise in the cost of hospital and medical services (+4.0%). This mainly reflects increases in some health fund premiums, and a flow on from price rises that occurred late in the previous quarter. A rise in general practitioners' fees also contributed to this increase.

The other significant contributor to this movement was pharmaceuticals (+3.7%). This increase was mainly due to the cyclical reduction in the effect of the PBS safety net scheme.

Health and personal care costs rose by 4.9% between the March quarter 1996 and March quarter 1997. The most significant movements within this group were for hospital and medical services (+8.1%), dental services (+3.9%) and hairdressing services (+2.2%).

Most of the annual rise in hospital and medical services is attributable to rises in health fund premiums which rose 4.5% over the 12 months. Other significant increases occurred for hospital services and non-hospital services.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +1.9%

The increase this quarter is mainly attributable to increases in education fees (+6.4%, associated with the new school year), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+5.2%, largely seasonal), entertainment services (+2.0%), and books, newspapers and magazines (+2.2%).

The most significant price falls were a seasonal decline in overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-5.0%) and video and sound equipment (-2.5%).

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

FOOD: +0.7%

The increase this quarter is mainly attributable to increases in prices of take away foods (+1.3%), fresh vegetables (+4.5%), and confectionary (+1.8%). The most significant price fall was for fresh fruit (-2.9%). The rise in the price of take away foods was the sixth consecutive quarterly rise.

All cities except Canberra (no change) recorded a rise in food prices in the March quarter, with the increases ranging from 0.1% in Hobart to 1.5% in Brisbane.

TRANSPORTATION: +0.6%

The increase in transportation costs this quarter results mainly from higher petrol prices (+1.6%) and vehicle insurance premiums (+1.9%). There were also rises in urban transport fares, with Melbourne (+3.7%) and Brisbane (+3.5%) showing the largest increases. A partial offset was contributed by lower motor vehicle prices (-1.9%). March was the fifth consecutive quarter in which vehicle prices showed no change or declined.

The increase in petrol prices (after a rise of 2.7% in December quarter 1996) is a result of a rise in November (+2.5%), a fall in December (-0.4%), and rises in January (+0.7%), February (+0.2%) and March (+0.7%). In the March quarter 1997, petrol prices were 5.3% higher than in the March quarter 1996.

Over the 12 months to March quarter 1997, motor vehicle prices declined 4.4% while there were rises in urban transport fares (+6.3%), vehicle insurance costs (+5.4%), petrol prices (+5.3%) and other motoring charges such as vehicle registration (+4.4%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, All groups percentage changes

PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN

*Dec Qtr 1996 and
Mar Qtr 1997* *Mar Qtr 1996 and
Mar Qtr 1997*

Sydney	0.2	1.3
Melbourne	0.2	1.5
Brisbane	0.6	1.6
Adelaide	0.0	0.8
Perth	-0.2	0.9
Hobart	0.5	1.5
Darwin	-0.1	1.5
Canberra	0.0	0.5
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.2	1.3



ALL GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
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
1995-96	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
1993									
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
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
1994									
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
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
1995									
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
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
1996									
March	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0
June	119.9	119.2	120.4	122.0	117.9	120.6	120.8	121.4	119.8
September	120.2	119.6	120.6	122.2	118.3	121.1	121.6	121.4	120.1
December	120.4	119.9	120.8	122.6	118.4	121.3	121.7	121.4	120.3
1997									
March	120.6	120.1	121.5	122.6	118.2	121.9	121.6	121.4	120.5

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

ALL GROUPS, Percentage Changes

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
PERCENTAGE 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
1995-96	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1993									
March	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
June	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
September	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
December	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
1994									
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
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
1995									
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
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
1996									
March	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7
June	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1
September	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	1.9	2.1
December	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.5
1997									
March	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1993									
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.9
June	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
December	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2
1994									
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
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
1995									
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
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
1996									
March	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
June	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
September	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3
December	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
1997									
March	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.2

CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities—Index Numbers(a)

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Trans- portation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All groups
1992-93	107.4	107.5	94.6	107.3	111.3	124.4	124.0	109.1	108.4
1993-94	109.4	106.7	94.2	107.8	113.8	133.7	129.0	111.9	110.4
1994-95	112.1	106.7	100.0	109.2	117.5	141.0	135.5	114.6	113.9
1995-96	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
1993									
March	109.0	107.5	94.4	106.9	111.3	126.1	125.6	109.8	108.9
June	108.0	108.1	95.2	107.4	112.1	128.0	126.4	110.4	109.3
September	108.8	107.1	94.9	107.5	113.2	130.8	126.5	110.7	109.8
December	109.5	106.8	93.6	107.4	113.5	133.1	127.0	111.9	110.0
1994									
March	109.8	106.3	93.7	107.9	113.2	134.5	130.7	112.1	110.4
June	109.5	106.4	94.4	108.2	115.2	136.2	131.9	113.0	111.2
September	110.4	106.6	94.9	108.2	117.0	137.4	133.4	112.9	111.9
December	110.9	106.8	97.5	108.9	116.8	139.1	133.7	114.1	112.8
1995									
March	113.2	106.2	102.8	109.3	117.3	141.1	136.5	115.3	114.7
June	113.7	107.2	104.7	110.2	118.8	146.4	138.5	115.9	116.2
September	115.4	106.7	105.4	111.0	122.0	151.4	139.0	116.1	117.6
December	115.7	107.1	106.1	111.6	122.3	155.3	140.8	117.3	118.5
1996									
March	115.9	106.8	105.7	111.6	122.4	157.8	143.5	119.2	119.0
June	117.1	107.4	106.3	112.5	123.8	159.8	143.7	118.2	119.8
September	118.3	107.2	106.1	113.1	123.4	160.4	145.0	118.2	120.1
December	119.4	107.5	103.2	113.6	124.5	161.2	146.7	118.8	120.3
1997									
March	120.2	107.0	100.2	113.5	125.2	161.7	150.6	121.0	120.5

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

CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities-Percentage Changes

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Trans- portation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All groups
PERCENTAGE 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
1995-96	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1993									
March	2.7	1.1	-3.8	-0.5	1.8	9.5	-0.8	2.5	1.2
June	1.5	1.2	-1.0	-0.6	2.9	9.9	3.9	3.2	1.9
September	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.1	8.8	4.2	3.0	2.2
December	2.6	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	2.3	7.9	3.5	3.0	1.9
1994									
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
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
1995									
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
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
1996									
March	2.4	0.6	2.8	2.1	4.3	11.8	5.1	3.4	3.7
June	3.0	0.2	1.5	2.1	4.2	9.2	3.8	2.0	3.1
September	2.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.1	5.9	4.3	1.8	2.1
December	3.2	0.4	-2.7	1.8	1.8	3.8	4.2	1.3	1.5
1997									
March	3.7	0.2	-5.2	1.7	2.3	2.5	4.9	1.5	1.3

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1993									
March	2.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.6	0.4	2.2	2.4	1.1	0.9
June	-0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
September	0.7	-0.9	-0.3	0.1	1.0	2.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
December	0.6	-0.3	-1.4	-0.1	0.3	1.8	0.4	1.1	0.2
1994									
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
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
1995									
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
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
1996									
March	0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.4
June	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7
September	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3
December	0.9	0.3	-2.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.2
1997									
March	0.7	-0.5	-2.9	-0.1	0.6	0.3	2.7	1.9	0.2

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Mar Qtr 1997(a)

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.20	0.06	0.32	0.10	0.09	0.03	0.28	—	0.15
Dairy products	—	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	-0.01	—	0.03
Milk and cream	—	0.06	0.01	—	0.02	0.04	—	—	0.02
Cheese	—	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Butter	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Other dairy products	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Cereal products	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.01	—	0.07	—	—	0.01
Bread	0.03	-0.03	0.04	-0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01	—	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	-0.03	0.01	—	—	0.01
Breakfast cereals	—	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Other cereal products	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Meat and seafoods	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.08	0.04	0.05	—
Beef and veal	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—
Lamb and mutton	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.02	—	0.02	—
Pork	—	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—
Poultry	0.01	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	0.01
Bacon and ham	—	0.02	-0.04	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.02	0.01
Processed meat	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	—
Fish	-0.01	—	0.02	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	0.02	-0.04	0.14	0.05	0.07	-0.05	0.12	-0.08	0.02
Fresh fruit	-0.04	-0.05	—	-0.03	0.07	-0.01	0.03	-0.11	-0.03
Fresh potatoes	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fresh vegetables	0.05	-0.01	0.12	0.07	0.01	-0.05	0.09	0.02	0.03
Processed fruit and vegetables	0.02	—	—	0.01	0.03	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Processed fruit	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
Fruit juice	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.01
Processed vegetables	0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.04
Soft drinks and cordials	—	0.02	0.03	—	-0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	0.01	0.02	—	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Confectionery	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	—	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.03
Meals out and take away foods	0.08	0.02	0.06	—	-0.01	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.04
Meals out	0.01	-0.02	—	-0.01	—	0.05	—	—	—
Take away foods	0.07	0.03	0.05	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.05
Other food	0.02	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Eggs	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—
Sugar	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	—
Food additives, sauces and spices	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Margarine	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooking oils and fats	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	—
Other food	0.02	-0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.02	—	—
Clothing	-0.04	-0.03	-0.02	-0.06	-0.05	—	-0.02	—	-0.03
Men's and boys' clothing	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01
Men's outer clothing	—	—	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	—	—	—	-0.01
Men's knitwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Men's shirts	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Boys' clothing	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Women's and girls' clothing	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Women's outer clothing	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's knitwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01
Girls' clothing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	-0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.03	—	0.01	0.01	—	-0.02
Footwear	—	—	0.02	—	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—
Men's footwear	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Women's footwear	—	—	—	—	-0.02	—	-0.01	—	—
Children's footwear	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01



CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Mar Qtr 1997(a) *continued*

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Housing	-0.54	-0.52	-0.58	-0.49	-0.51	-0.46	-0.58	-0.88	-0.54
Rents	0.05	0.03	—	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.06	0.02	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.03
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	—	0.01	0.05	—	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Home ownership	-0.59	-0.55	-0.58	-0.54	-0.52	-0.46	-0.60	-0.88	-0.57
Mortgage interest charges	-0.60	-0.56	-0.59	-0.55	-0.52	-0.49	-0.62	-0.88	-0.58
Local government rates and charges	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
House repairs and maintenance	—	-0.01	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	—
House insurance	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—
Household equipment and operation	-0.02	-0.04	0.06	-0.08	-0.01	0.15	-0.05	-0.03	-0.02
Fuel and light	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.24	—	0.02	0.01
Electricity	—	—	—	—	—	0.23	—	—	0.01
Gas	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—
Other fuel	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
Furniture and floor coverings	—	-0.07	0.05	-0.06	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.08	-0.03
Furniture	—	-0.08	0.03	-0.06	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.09	-0.03
Floor coverings	0.01	—	0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Appliances	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.02	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Household textiles	-0.01	—	0.02	—	-0.01	—	—	0.02	—
Bedding	-0.02	—	0.03	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Towels, linen and curtains	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—
Household utensils and tools	—	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.03	-0.05	—	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	-0.01	—	-0.02	—	—	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01
Kitchen and cooking utensils	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	-0.04	—	—
Cleaning utensils	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tools	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—
Household supplies and services	0.03	0.07	-0.01	—	0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03
Household cleaning agents	—	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	—	—	—
Household paper products	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	—
Other household non-durables	0.02	0.03	0.05	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02
Stationery	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Watches and clocks	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Veterinary services	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pet foods	0.01	0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Travel goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
House contents insurance	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.01
Repairs to appliances	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal and telephone services	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Postal services	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01
Telephone services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consumer credit charges	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02
Transportation	0.08	0.15	0.17	0.02	0.04	0.13	0.05	0.26	0.11
Private motoring	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.02	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.26	0.08
Motor vehicles	-0.09	-0.10	-0.08	-0.12	-0.04	-0.07	-0.05	-0.05	-0.09
Automotive fuel	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.11	0.01	0.12	0.11	0.20	0.09
Vehicle insurance	0.03	0.12	0.04	—	0.02	0.06	-0.02	0.03	0.05
Motoring charges	0.03	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.08	0.02
Tyres and tubes	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.04	-0.01	0.01	—	0.02
Urban transport fares	—	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.02	—	—	—	0.03
Tobacco and Alcohol	0.01	0.03	0.18	0.02	0.04	0.02	—	0.03	0.03
Alcoholic drinks	0.04	0.04	0.16	-0.01	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05
Beer	0.01	0.01	0.13	-0.01	0.02	0.03	—	-0.04	0.02
Wine	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.06	0.01
Spirits	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	-0.04	-0.01	0.02	0.02	—	0.01	-0.03	—	-0.01

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Mar Qtr 1997(a) continued

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Derwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Health and personal care	0.29	0.18	0.34	0.20	0.13	0.30	0.20	0.19	0.24
Health services	0.23	0.15	0.28	0.12	0.08	0.24	0.16	0.16	0.19
Hospital and medical services	0.23	0.13	0.27	0.12	0.07	0.25	0.15	0.15	0.18
Optical services	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01
Dental services	—	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.02	0.01
Personal care products	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04
Pharmaceuticals	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Toiletries and personal products	—	—	0.03	0.04	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—
Hairdressing services	0.02	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.01
Recreation and education	0.13	0.37	0.28	0.26	0.07	0.43	0.06	0.42	0.24
Books, newspapers and magazines	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.03	—	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03
Recreational goods	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	—	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.03
Video and sound equipment	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02
Records, cassettes and tapes	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Sports and photographic equipment and toys	—	0.01	—	-0.02	0.01	0.02	—	0.02	—
Holiday travel and accommodation	-0.02	0.06	0.08	0.02	-0.05	0.15	—	0.21	0.02
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	0.07	0.11	0.10	0.06	-0.02	0.19	0.02	0.22	0.08
Holiday travel and accommodation overseas	-0.09	-0.06	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.06
Recreational services	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.09	—	0.06	0.07
Photographic services	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	—
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Entertainment	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.06
Education and child care	0.11	0.18	0.13	0.20	0.09	0.14	0.03	0.11	0.14
Education fees	0.09	0.18	0.12	0.20	0.09	0.13	0.04	0.11	0.13
Child care fees	0.02	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—
All groups	0.2	0.2	0.7	—	-0.2	0.6	-0.1	—	0.2
Selected State and local government charges(b)	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.04	—	0.34	—	0.08	0.04

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series



GROUP, SUB-GROUP & EXPENDITURE CLASS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Mar Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Change between Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997
Food	115.9	119.4	120.2	0.7	3.7	22.17	22.32	0.15
Dairy products	125.1	129.1	131.1	1.5	4.8	1.85	1.88	0.03
Milk and cream	136.3	140.6	143.4	2.0	5.2	1.18	1.20	0.02
Cheese	111.6	112.6	114.4	1.6	2.5	0.42	0.43	0.01
Butter	93.2	101.1	99.8	-1.3	7.1	0.07	0.07	—
Other dairy products	115.4	123.1	122.9	-0.2	6.5	0.18	0.18	—
Cereal products	126.6	133.5	134.1	0.4	5.9	2.67	2.68	0.01
Bread	133.3	146.0	146.5	0.3	9.9	1.20	1.21	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	121.5	124.3	125.2	0.7	3.0	0.92	0.93	0.01
Breakfast cereals	125.8	128.0	129.4	1.1	2.9	0.30	0.31	0.01
Other cereal products	119.1	122.3	121.2	-0.9	1.8	0.24	0.24	—
Meat and seafoods	107.4	108.9	108.9	—	1.4	3.49	3.49	—
Beef and veal	107.1	103.8	103.2	-0.6	-3.6	0.79	0.79	—
Lamb and mutton	124.2	121.6	122.2	0.5	-1.6	0.49	0.49	—
Pork	108.7	114.3	115.9	1.4	6.6	0.21	0.21	—
Poultry	91.7	96.8	97.8	1.0	6.7	0.46	0.47	0.01
Bacon and ham	107.5	114.5	115.0	0.4	7.0	0.37	0.38	0.01
Processed meat	109.1	113.1	112.0	-1.0	2.7	0.78	0.78	—
Fish	102.9	102.5	102.7	0.2	-0.2	0.38	0.38	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	96.7	106.0	107.1	1.0	10.8	1.98	2.00	0.02
Fresh fruit	113.7	128.2	124.5	-2.9	9.5	1.02	0.99	-0.03
Fresh potatoes	87.7	88.3	95.4	8.0	8.8	0.19	0.20	0.01
Fresh vegetables	85.1	92.0	96.1	4.5	12.9	0.78	0.81	0.03
Processed fruit and vegetables	114.5	115.3	116.3	0.9	1.6	0.95	0.96	0.01
Processed fruit	117.2	118.0	118.1	0.1	0.8	0.16	0.16	—
Fruit juice	118.8	120.4	122.0	1.3	2.7	0.49	0.50	0.01
Processed vegetables	106.9	106.8	107.3	0.5	0.4	0.30	0.31	0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	127.0	129.3	130.7	1.1	2.9	3.51	3.55	0.04
Soft drinks and cordials	123.5	125.5	125.9	0.3	1.9	1.40	1.40	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	139.1	144.1	145.3	0.8	4.5	0.49	0.50	0.01
Confectionery	127.6	129.6	131.9	1.8	3.4	1.62	1.65	0.03
Meals out and take away foods	116.2	118.9	119.8	0.8	3.1	5.67	5.71	0.04
Meals out	117.7	120.7	120.4	-0.2	2.3	2.17	2.17	—
Take away foods	116.2	118.7	120.3	1.3	3.5	3.49	3.54	0.05
Other food	118.8	120.8	120.5	-0.2	1.4	2.05	2.04	-0.01
Eggs	130.4	140.6	140.5	-0.1	7.7	0.19	0.19	—
Sugar	101.9	101.5	102.5	1.0	0.6	0.07	0.07	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	132.3	135.8	133.4	-1.8	0.8	0.18	0.18	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	119.6	121.1	119.4	-1.4	-0.2	0.37	0.37	—
Food additives, sauces and spices	115.3	115.8	115.7	-0.1	0.3	0.27	0.27	—
Margarine	117.0	112.3	113.1	0.7	-3.3	0.15	0.15	—
Cooking oils and fats	129.4	128.8	129.1	0.2	-0.2	0.12	0.12	—
Other food	116.3	119.1	119.7	0.5	2.9	0.70	0.70	—
Clothing	106.8	107.5	107.0	-0.5	0.2	6.72	6.69	-0.03
Men's and boys' clothing	110.6	111.8	111.3	-0.4	0.6	1.87	1.86	-0.01
Men's outer clothing	110.4	110.1	109.3	-0.7	-1.0	0.75	0.74	-0.01
Men's knitwear	112.1	114.0	114.0	—	1.7	0.17	0.17	—
Men's shirts	107.5	108.3	108.1	-0.2	0.6	0.34	0.34	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	112.2	112.8	113.8	0.9	1.4	0.16	0.16	—
Boys' clothing	110.9	114.8	113.8	-0.9	2.6	0.44	0.44	—
Women's and girls' clothing	106.7	106.9	106.8	-0.1	0.1	2.72	2.72	—
Women's outer clothing	104.6	104.2	104.2	—	-0.4	1.73	1.73	—
Women's knitwear	106.6	106.3	106.3	—	-0.3	0.21	0.21	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	118.5	121.1	120.9	-0.2	2.0	0.40	0.39	-0.01
Girls' clothing	107.1	108.0	107.7	-0.3	0.6	0.39	0.39	—
Fabric and knitting wool	104.0	103.1	100.3	-2.7	-3.6	0.78	0.76	-0.02

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Mar Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Change between Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997
Clothing continued								
Footwear	98.2	100.1	100.0	-0.1	1.8	1.07	1.07	—
Men's footwear	95.8	98.5	98.8	0.3	3.1	0.34	0.34	—
Women's footwear	100.6	103.4	103.0	-0.4	2.4	0.48	0.48	—
Children's footwear	97.7	97.0	97.0	—	-0.7	0.24	0.24	—
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	126.9	129.5	130.2	0.5	2.6	0.27	0.28	0.01
Housing	105.7	103.2	100.2	-2.9	-5.2	18.15	17.61	-0.54
Rents	112.1	114.7	115.3	0.5	2.9	5.56	5.60	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	111.4	114.1	114.7	0.5	3.0	5.12	5.15	0.03
Government-owned dwelling rents	119.3	120.3	121.5	1.0	1.8	0.45	0.45	—
Home ownership	102.7	98.3	93.9	-4.5	-8.6	12.59	12.02	-0.57
Mortgage interest charges	91.7	84.0	77.3	-8.0	-15.7	7.32	6.74	-0.58
Local government rates and charges	129.6	132.8	133.1	0.2	2.7	2.66	2.67	0.01
House repairs and maintenance	116.1	118.1	118.3	0.2	1.9	2.08	2.08	—
House insurance	143.9	149.1	150.8	1.1	4.8	0.53	0.53	—
Household equipment and operation	111.6	113.6	113.5	-0.1	1.7	20.70	20.68	-0.02
Fuel and light	119.5	121.2	121.5	0.2	1.7	2.74	2.75	0.01
Electricity	117.6	119.1	119.3	0.2	1.4	2.02	2.03	0.01
Gas	126.1	128.5	128.9	0.3	2.2	0.66	0.66	—
Other fuel	114.1	116.7	117.7	0.9	3.2	0.06	0.06	—
Furniture and floor coverings	114.9	117.6	117.0	-0.5	1.8	5.01	4.98	-0.03
Furniture	117.5	120.5	119.6	-0.7	1.8	4.04	4.01	-0.03
Floor coverings	107.3	109.2	109.7	0.5	2.2	0.97	0.97	—
Appliances	108.4	109.7	109.4	-0.3	0.9	1.73	1.72	-0.01
Household textiles	115.5	117.9	117.7	-0.2	1.9	0.90	0.90	—
Bedding	118.3	120.5	119.5	-0.8	1.0	0.40	0.40	—
Towels, linen and curtains	113.6	116.2	116.6	0.3	2.6	0.50	0.50	—
Household utensils and tools	105.8	105.1	104.6	-0.5	-1.1	1.30	1.29	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	98.9	101.5	99.4	-2.1	0.5	0.29	0.28	-0.01
Kitchen and cooking utensils	107.5	104.0	103.8	-0.2	-3.4	0.38	0.38	—
Cleaning utensils	105.3	105.1	106.0	0.9	0.7	0.10	0.10	—
Tools	108.2	107.7	107.6	-0.1	-0.6	0.53	0.53	—
Household supplies and services	119.7	123.5	124.4	0.7	3.9	4.80	4.83	0.03
Household cleaning agents	120.9	124.8	125.3	0.4	3.6	0.81	0.81	—
Household paper products	111.6	112.3	110.6	-1.5	-0.9	0.52	0.52	—
Other household non-durables	117.7	120.2	122.7	2.1	4.2	1.00	1.02	0.02
Stationery	111.4	120.0	120.1	0.1	7.8	0.56	0.56	—
Watches and clocks	126.9	134.4	128.8	-4.2	1.5	0.17	0.16	-0.01
Veterinary services	137.2	139.8	142.2	1.7	3.6	0.15	0.16	0.01
Pet foods	124.2	126.9	128.9	1.6	3.8	0.60	0.61	0.01
Travel goods	99.6	103.7	104.0	0.3	4.4	0.28	0.29	0.01
House contents insurance	144.5	149.6	152.3	1.8	5.4	0.49	0.50	0.01
Repairs to appliances	127.8	130.0	130.9	0.7	2.4	0.21	0.21	—
Postal and telephone services	106.8	106.3	106.4	0.1	-0.4	1.82	1.83	0.01
Postal services	110.5	110.5	111.3	0.7	0.7	0.18	0.19	0.01
Telephone services	106.2	105.7	105.8	0.1	-0.4	1.64	1.64	—
Consumer credit charges	93.4	94.6	93.8	-0.8	0.4	2.41	2.39	-0.02
Transportation	122.4	124.5	125.2	0.6	2.3	19.67	19.78	0.11
Private motoring	121.3	123.1	123.7	0.5	2.0	18.11	18.19	0.08
Motor vehicles	121.7	118.6	116.3	-1.9	-4.4	4.87	4.78	-0.09
Automotive fuel	117.7	122.0	123.9	1.6	5.3	5.59	5.68	0.09
Vehicle insurance	132.5	137.1	139.7	1.9	5.4	2.89	2.94	0.05
Motoring charges	138.6	143.0	144.7	1.2	4.4	1.12	1.14	0.02
Tyres and tubes	105.8	107.0	106.1	-0.8	0.3	0.39	0.39	—
Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	117.1	119.3	120.3	0.8	2.7	3.25	3.27	0.02
Urban transport fares	142.2	149.0	151.2	1.5	6.3	1.56	1.59	0.03



GROUP, SUB-GROUP & EXPENDITURE CLASS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities *continued*

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Mar Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1997 and Mar Qtr 1997	Mar Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Change between Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997
Tobacco and alcohol	157.8	161.2	161.7	0.3	2.5	11.06	11.09	0.03
Alcoholic drinks	128.7	131.0	131.9	0.7	2.5	6.29	6.34	0.05
Beer	130.0	132.8	133.5	0.5	2.7	3.66	3.68	0.02
Wine	123.1	122.9	124.0	0.9	0.7	1.28	1.29	0.01
Spirits	130.2	133.7	135.1	1.0	3.8	1.36	1.37	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	227.2	232.9	232.4	-0.2	2.3	4.77	4.76	-0.01
Health and personal care	143.5	146.7	150.6	2.7	4.9	8.84	9.08	0.24
Health services	157.9	163.7	169.2	3.4	7.2	5.45	5.64	0.19
Hospital and medical services	167.2	173.8	180.7	4.0	8.1	4.41	4.59	0.18
Optical services	119.1	120.2	120.7	0.4	1.3	0.21	0.22	0.01
Dental services	135.5	139.3	140.8	1.1	3.9	0.82	0.83	0.01
Personal care products	125.8	125.3	127.3	1.6	1.2	2.45	2.49	0.04
Pharmaceuticals	128.0	123.9	128.5	3.7	0.4	0.94	0.97	0.03
Toiletries and personal products	124.5	126.2	126.7	0.4	1.8	1.52	1.52	—
Hairstyling services	122.6	124.3	125.3	0.8	2.2	0.94	0.95	0.01
Recreation and education	119.2	118.8	121.0	1.9	1.5	13.01	13.25	0.24
Books, newspapers and magazines	141.8	143.5	146.6	2.2	3.4	1.51	1.54	0.03
Recreational goods	100.5	98.2	97.3	-0.9	-3.2	2.67	2.64	-0.03
Video and sound equipment	83.1	79.7	77.7	-2.5	-6.5	0.76	0.74	-0.02
Records, cassettes and tapes	107.0	99.8	98.5	-1.3	-7.9	0.32	0.32	—
Sports and photographic equipment and toys	109.7	109.2	109.3	0.1	-0.4	1.59	1.59	—
Holiday travel and accommodation	106.5	103.9	104.7	0.8	-1.7	2.75	2.77	0.02
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	109.2	106.2	111.7	5.2	2.3	1.55	1.63	0.08
Holiday travel and accommodation overseas	103.0	101.0	98.0	-5.0	-6.8	1.20	1.14	-0.06
Recreational services	130.9	133.3	135.9	2.0	3.8	3.55	3.62	0.07
Photographic services	110.9	114.7	115.9	1.0	4.5	0.29	0.29	—
Repairs to recreational goods	116.1	120.1	121.8	1.4	4.9	0.14	0.14	—
Entertainment	134.1	136.3	139.0	2.0	3.7	3.12	3.18	0.06
Education and child care	142.0	142.4	150.1	5.4	5.7	2.53	2.67	0.14
Education fees	151.1	151.1	160.8	6.4	6.4	2.02	2.15	0.13
Child care fees	118.2	119.7	121.7	1.7	3.0	0.52	0.52	—
All groups	119.0	120.3	120.5	0.2	1.3	120.3	120.5	0.2

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



SPECIAL SERIES, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

INDEX NUMBERS(a).....	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)					
	Mar Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Mar Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997	Dec Qtr 1996	Mar Qtr 1997	Change between Dec Qtr 1996 and Mar Qtr 1997
All groups	119.0	120.3	120.5	0.2	1.3	120.3	120.5	0.2
Selected components								
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	92.7	87.0	81.6	-6.2	-12.0	9.73	9.13	-0.60
Goods component(b)	119.9	122.0	122.3	0.2	2.0	73.72	73.91	0.19
Services component(b)	117.6	117.8	117.8	0.0	0.2	46.61	46.59	-0.02
Selected State and local government charges(b)	126.1	128.9	129.6	0.5	2.8	7.94	7.98	0.04
All groups excluding								
Food	119.7	120.6	120.6	0.0	0.8	98.16	98.18	0.02
Clothing	119.9	121.2	121.4	0.2	1.3	113.61	113.81	0.20
Housing	121.5	123.6	124.5	0.7	2.5	102.18	102.89	0.71
Household equipment and operation	120.7	121.9	122.1	0.2	1.2	99.63	99.82	0.19
Transportation	118.4	119.6	119.7	0.1	1.1	100.66	100.73	0.07
Tobacco and alcohol	116.0	117.2	117.4	0.2	1.2	109.27	109.41	0.14
Health and personal care	117.5	118.7	118.7	0.0	1.0	111.48	111.42	-0.06
Recreation and education	119.0	120.6	120.5	-0.1	1.3	107.32	107.25	-0.07
Home ownership	121.1	123.3	124.1	0.6	2.5	107.74	108.49	0.75
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	121.9	124.2	125.1	0.7	2.6	110.60	111.38	0.78
Hospital and medical services	117.8	118.9	118.9	0.0	0.9	115.91	115.91	0.00
Selected State and local government charges(b)	118.6	119.8	120.0	0.2	1.2	112.39	112.53	0.14

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing-Index Numbers(a)(b)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand
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	115.2	113.4	124.8	151.4	138.0	119.1	150.3	114.5	116.5	110.5
1995-96	120.9	107.3	116.3	116.0	128.3	160.8	144.4	122.5	163.7	116.0	121.1	111.9
1993												
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
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
1994												
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
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
1995												
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
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
1996												
March	121.2	106.9	116.4	116.0	128.5	160.7	145.2	122.3	167.0	116.3	121.5	112.0
June	122.6	107.8	116.9	117.3	130.0	164.1	148.1	124.3	168.1	116.8	122.3	112.8
September	123.1	107.3	117.3	117.5	130.3	165.5	149.6	126.1	168.5	117.3	122.7	113.0
December	124.1	107.5	117.1	118.5	131.2	167.4	149.5	126.3	173.1	117.7	123.6	113.8
1997												
March	124.7	n.y.a.	118.0	n.y.a.	131.6	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	124.5	113.9

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

(b) Refer to paragraphs 15-19 of the Explanatory Notes for further information

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing-Percentage Changes(a)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand
PERCENTAGE 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	1.8	1.3	2.3	8.1	5.8	4.3	9.1	3.2	2.6	1.0
1995-96	2.5	-0.5	1.0	2.3	2.8	6.2	4.6	2.9	8.9	1.3	3.9	1.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)												
1993												
March	3.5	0.9	3.3	2.3	2.9	7.2	4.4	3.2	10.5	2.0	2.0	1.8
June	3.0	0.6	2.9	1.9	3.0	7.0	4.5	2.7	8.4	1.9	2.5	1.5
September	2.7	1.7	3.2	1.9	3.4	7.1	4.2	1.9	8.2	2.1	2.6	1.1
December	2.6	0.8	2.9	2.1	2.9	8.2	5.5	2.3	7.3	2.3	2.4	0.7
1994												
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
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
1995												
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
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
1996												
March	2.5	-0.5	1.0	1.8	2.7	5.1	4.9	2.9	9.4	1.6	3.9	1.3
June	2.7	0.0	0.9	1.9	2.7	5.5	5.3	2.7	7.8	1.3	3.4	1.3
September	2.8	0.0	1.0	1.9	2.6	4.4	5.5	3.9	6.7	1.6	2.4	1.6
December	3.2	0.2	1.2	2.8	2.7	4.9	5.1	3.5	7.1	1.8	2.3	2.0
1997												
March	2.9	n.y.a.	1.4	n.y.a.	2.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.5	1.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1993												
March	0.9	-0.1	1.6	0.8	0.3	2.6	1.8	0.5	6.1	0.5	0.9	0.3
June	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	-0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2
September	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.6	-1.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2
December	0.8	-0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.2	2.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.1
1994												
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
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
1995												
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
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
1996												
March	0.8	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.0	0.2	3.3	0.6	0.6	0.4
June	1.2	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.0	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7
September	0.4	-0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
December	0.8	0.2	-0.2	0.9	0.7	1.1	-0.1	0.2	2.7	0.3	0.7	0.7
1997												
March	0.5	n.y.a.	0.8	n.y.a.	0.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.7	0.1

(a) Refer to paragraphs 15-19 of the Explanatory Notes for further information

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION, Index Numbers(a)(b)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES(c).....

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items'(c)	Goods	Services	Total	Treasury Underlying Rate(c)
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
1995-96	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	118.8
1993							
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
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
1994							
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
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
1995							
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
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
1996							
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	119.0
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	119.9
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	120.5
December	120.3	123.6	124.8	122.5	121.6	122.3	121.0
1997							
March	120.5	124.5	125.6	122.6	122.8	122.7	121.5

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

(b) Refer to paragraphs 20-25 of the Explanatory Notes for further information

(c) Refer to paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION, Percentage Changes(a)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES(b).....

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All groups excluding interest and volatile items'(b)	Goods	Services	Total	Treasury Underlying Rate(b)
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PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)

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
1995-96	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.2

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)

1993							
March	1.2	2.0	2.5	3.1	0.7	2.4	2.0
June	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.6	1.8
September	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.3	0.9	2.7	2.2
December	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.9	1.6	2.5	2.1
1994							
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
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
1995							
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
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
1996							
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.3
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4
December	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.1
1997							
March	1.3	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.8	1.8	2.1

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)

1993							
March	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	-0.3	0.5	0.5
June	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5
September	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.6
December	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.4
1994							
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
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
1995							
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
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
1996							
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	0.8
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5
December	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4
1997							
March	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.4

(a) Refer to paragraphs 20-25 of the Explanatory Notes for further information

(b) Refer to paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CPI

1 The Consumer Price Index (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 (i.e. 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), contained on the CD-ROM *Statistical Concepts Reference Library* (1361.0).

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 (i.e. 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); 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 changes in index points and percentage changes between any two periods:

All groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Index numbers:

March Quarter 1997 120.5 (see Table 1)

less December Quarter 1996 120.3 (see Table 1)

Change in index points 0.2

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.2}{120.3} \times 100 = 0.2\%$$

9 Percentage changes are calculated to illustrate three 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 6 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 groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products sub-group contributed 1.88 index points to the total All groups index number of 120.5 for March Quarter 1997. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group, sub-group and expenditure class.

11 Table 7 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 6.

12 Information on the impact of changes in Selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 5 and 7. Table 5 shows the contribution to the CPI made by changes in these charges for each capital city, while Table 7 shows index numbers for two special series 'Selected State and local government charges' and 'All groups excluding selected State and local government charges'.

SPECIAL SERIES

13 Various series are presented in this publication which are helpful for analytical purposes. These series are compiled by taking subsets of the CPI basket. A complete list of CPI groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes is contained in Tables 5 and 6.

14 Some of the compiled series are self explanatory, such as 'All groups, excluding food'. Other series and their composition are described below:

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 services and repairs, Personal care products, Books, Newspapers and magazines, and Recreational goods. The resulting series accounted for approximately 61% of the All groups CPI in the June quarter 1992.

All Groups, services component: comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SPECIAL SERIES (continued)

Selected State and local government charges: comprises Government-owned dwelling rents, Water and sewerage rates, Council property rates and charges, Electricity prices, Gas prices (Melbourne and Perth only), Motor vehicle 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).

All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items': 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% of the total CPI basket.

Private sector goods and services: in addition to the items excluded from the series "All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items'", also excludes: 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% of the total CPI basket.

Treasury underlying rate: excludes items from the CPI basket whose prices are highly volatile, exhibit marked seasonal patterns or are largely affected by policy decisions – in addition to the items excluded from the series "Private sector goods and services", the Treasury underlying rate also excludes Meat and seafoods, Clothing group, Tobacco and alcohol group; and Holiday travel and accommodation; but includes Motoring charges. The resulting series covers approximately 51% of the total CPI basket.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

15 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'.

16 Table 8 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.

17 The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) before the unification of Germany.

18 From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

19 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

20 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.

21 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* (6450.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

22 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.

23 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.

24 Table 10 presents the All groups CPI, All groups excluding housing (the series recommended for international comparisons), 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.

25 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

26 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.

27 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods* (6461.0), available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concept Reference Library* (1361.0)
- *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)

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
- r revised
- nil or rounded to zero

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