

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1996

### MAIN FEATURES

<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>	<i>Change between—</i>	
	<i>Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996</i>	<i>Sep qtr 1995 and Sep qtr 1996</i>
	%	%
<b>Food</b>	1.0	2.5
<b>Clothing</b>	-0.2	0.5
<b>Housing</b>	-0.2	0.7
<b>Household equipment and operation</b>	0.5	1.9
<b>Transportation</b>	-0.3	1.1
<b>Tobacco and alcohol</b>	0.4	5.9
<b>Health and personal care</b>	0.9	4.3
<b>Recreation and education</b>	0.0	1.8
<b>All groups</b>	0.3	2.1
All groups excluding housing	0.3	2.4
All groups excluding food	0.2	2.1

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

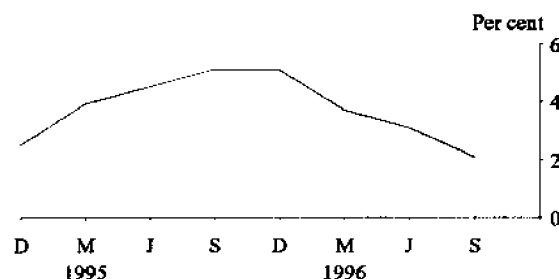
#### CPI Outcome

The All groups CPI increased 0.3 per cent between the June and September quarters 1996, resulting in an annual increase (September quarter 1996 on September quarter 1995) of 2.1 per cent. The quarterly change is the lowest recorded since December quarter 1993, and the annual increase the lowest since September quarter 1994.

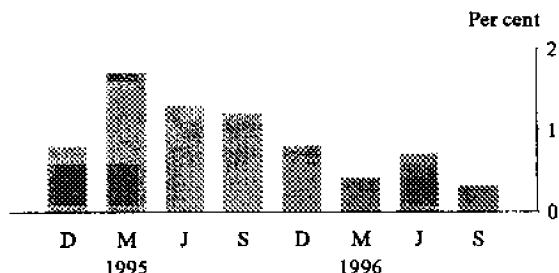
#### Overview of CPI Movements

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were prices of fresh fruit (up 10.1%), local government rates and charges (up 2.2%), hospital and medical

### ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT



### ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT



services (up 1.3%), urban transport fares (up 3.3%), the cost of entertainment (up 1.6%), vehicle insurance (up 1.5%), the price of bread (up 3.6%) and privately-owned dwelling rents (up 0.8%).

Partially offsetting the above were falls in mortgage interest charges (down 2.0%), prices of petrol (down 2.1%), motor vehicles (down 1.9%) and furniture (down 0.8%).

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were cigarette and tobacco prices (up 8.4%), hospital and medical services (up 5.0%), privately-owned dwelling rents (up 3.3%) and vehicle insurance (up 6.2%) with off-sets being provided by falls in the prices of motor vehicles (down 2.0%), local government rates and charges (down 3.8%), fresh potatoes (down 24.4%) and fresh vegetables (down 8.0%).

#### Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation

The index of underlying inflation, as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased by 0.5 per cent between the June and September quarters 1996, resulting in an annual increase (September quarter 1996 on September quarter 1995) of 2.4 per cent.

### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact **Information Services** on Canberra (06) 252 6627 or any ABS State office.
- for more detailed information about these statistics, contact Bill Ferris on Canberra (06) 252 6251 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

### Main contributions to change:

#### Food: +1.0%

The Food group was the largest contributor to the change in the All groups index, accounting for about two thirds of the total change this quarter. An increase in fresh fruit prices (+10.1%) accounted for about 40 per cent of the increase in the Food group index.

The rise in fresh fruit prices was mainly due to increases in banana prices in most cities.

Other food items to show increases include bread (+3.6%) and milk and cream (+1.6%), with partial off-sets from declines in prices of fresh vegetables (-2.5%) and beef and veal (-1.9%).

Over the 12 months to the September quarter 1996, food prices increased 2.5 per cent mainly due to increases in the prices of fresh fruit (+11.4%), bread (+8.8%), take away foods (+2.3%), confectionery (+4.1%) and milk and cream (+5.0%) which were partially offset by falls in prices of fresh potatoes (-24.4%), fresh vegetables (-8.0%) and beef and veal (-4.5%).

#### Household equipment and operation: +0.5%

Increases in the prices of other household non-durables (+2.7%, mainly reflecting increases in the prices of batteries and insecticides), electricity (+1.3%), pet foods (+4.0%), consumer credit (+0.6%) and household cleaning agents (+1.6%) were partially offset by falls in furniture prices (-0.8%).

#### Health and personal care: +0.9%

The increase in the cost of health and personal care this quarter largely reflects a rise in the cost of hospital and medical services (+1.3%). Increases in health fund premiums (Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Hobart and Canberra) accounted for a large part of this increase.

#### Transportation: -0.3%

Falls in the prices of petrol (-2.1%) and motor vehicles (-1.9%) more than offset rises in the cost of urban transport fares (+3.3%), vehicle insurance (+1.5%), motoring charges (+2.3%), tyres and tubes (+0.7%) and vehicle servicing (+0.5%).

The decline in petrol prices (after a rise of 3.1 per cent in the June quarter) is a result of an increase in May (+2.2%) followed by falls in June (-2.8%), July (-0.3%), August (-0.9%) and September (-0.3%). In the September quarter 1996 petrol prices were 1.0 per cent lower than in the September quarter 1995.

#### Tobacco and alcohol: +0.4%

Cigarettes and tobacco prices increased 0.7 per cent, mainly as a result of the increase in Commonwealth excise on 1 August and, in Brisbane, an increase in the State tobacco licence fee.

Nationally, the price of beer increased 0.2 per cent and spirits 1.0 per cent while wine prices declined 0.7 per cent.

Over the 12 months to the September quarter tobacco and alcohol prices increased 5.9 per cent overall due to increases in prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+8.4%), beer (+4.0%), wine (+5.0%) and spirits (+4.2%).

#### Housing: -0.2%

A fall (-2.0%) in mortgage interest charges more than offset rises in local government rates and charges (+2.2%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.8%), the costs of house repairs and maintenance (+1.3%) and house insurance (+0.7%) and government-owned dwelling rents (+0.2%).

The fall in mortgage interest charges reflects a decline in interest rates (-2.7%) partially offset by an increase in debt outstanding (+0.7%). Housing interest rates are calculated with a one month lag so that reductions effective in September will not be reflected until the next quarter.

Privately-owned dwelling rents declined in Canberra (-0.2%), were steady in Adelaide and rose in the other capitals. The increases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Brisbane, Perth and Hobart to 1.2 per cent in Sydney.

Housing costs in the September quarter 1996 were 0.7 per cent higher than in the September quarter 1995. Increases in privately-owned dwelling rents (+3.3%) were partially offset by lower local government rates and charges (-3.8%).

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX- ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

	Change between—	
	Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1995 and Sep qtr 1996
	%	%
Sydney	0.3	2.5
Melbourne	0.3	1.7
Brisbane	0.2	2.3
Adelaide	0.2	1.7
Perth	0.3	2.3
Hobart	0.4	2.3
Darwin	0.7	3.1
Canberra	0.0	1.9
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.3	2.1

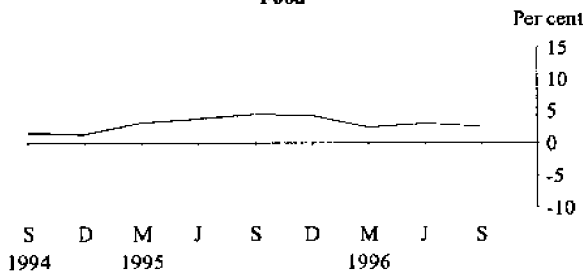
Dennis Trewin  
Acting Australian Statistician

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

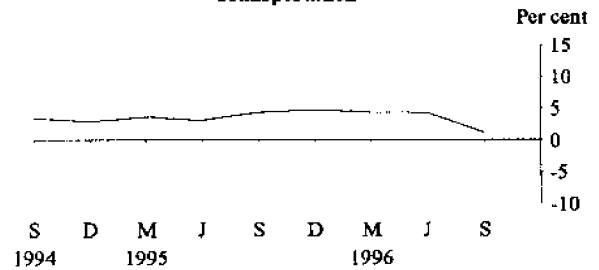
**All Groups**



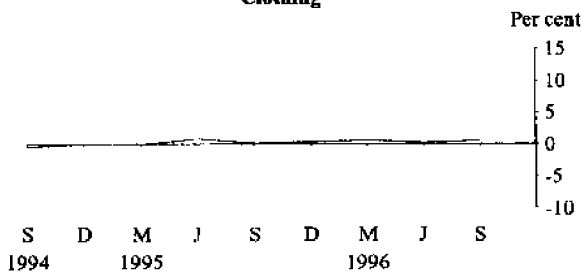
**Food**



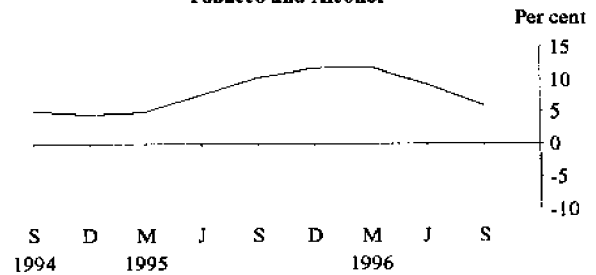
**Transportation**



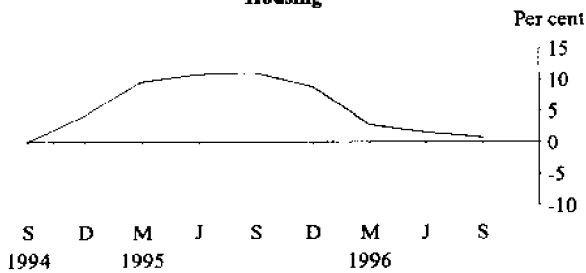
**Clothing**



**Tobacco and Alcohol**



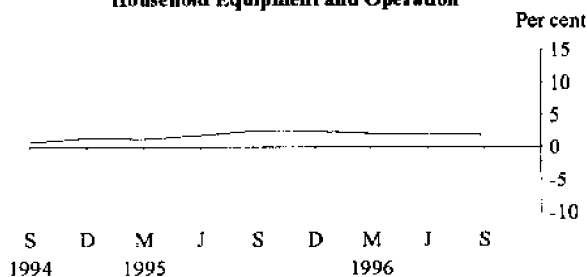
**Housing**



**Health and Personal Care**



**Household Equipment and Operation**



**Recreation and Education**

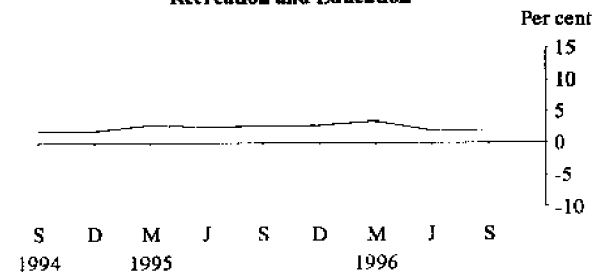


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS  
(Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

<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>
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
1992-93—									
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
1993-94—									
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
1994-95—									
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
1995-96—									
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
June	119.9	119.2	120.4	122.0	117.9	120.6	120.8	121.4	119.8
1996-97—									
September	120.2	119.6	120.6	122.2	118.3	121.1	121.6	121.4	120.1

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

<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>
Change from previous year									
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
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
1994-95—									
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
1995-96—									
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
June	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1
1996-97—									
September	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	1.9	2.1
Change from previous quarter									
1994-95—									
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
1995-96—									
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
June	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
1996-97—									
September	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN JUNE QUARTER 1996 AND SEPTEMBER 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
<b>FOOD</b>	0.09	0.38	-0.01	0.15	0.46	0.32	0.10	0.13	0.21
Milk and cream	0.00	0.04	-0.01	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.02
Bread	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.01	-0.01	0.04
Beef and veal	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02
Bacon and ham	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01
Processed meat	0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00
Fresh fruit	0.09	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.13	0.09
Fresh vegetables	-0.05	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.04	-0.08	-0.02
Processed vegetables	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Soft drinks and cordials	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01
Ice cream and ice confectionery	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Confectionery	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Meals out	-0.02	0.04	0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Take away foods	0.01	0.01	-0.07	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Eggs	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
<b>CLOTHING</b>	-0.03	0.02	-0.04	0.00	-0.03	0.00	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01
Footwear	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02
Children's footwear	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
<b>HOUSING</b>	0.07	-0.14	-0.01	-0.06	-0.08	-0.02	0.02	-0.11	-0.03
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Mortgage interest charges	-0.14	-0.19	-0.17	-0.17	-0.14	-0.13	-0.04	-0.23	-0.17
Local government rates and charges	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.07	0.00	0.13	0.06	0.07	0.06
House repairs and maintenance	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	-0.03	-0.02	0.03	0.03
House insurance	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b>	0.13	0.08	0.16	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.13	-0.05	0.11
Electricity	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Gas	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Furniture	-0.01	-0.07	0.02	-0.02	-0.09	0.06	0.00	-0.08	-0.04
Appliances	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
Household cleaning agents	0.02	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.02
Other household non-durables	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03
Stationery	0.02	0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01
Pet foods	0.01	0.05	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Consumer credit charges	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	-0.04	-0.07	0.01	-0.15	-0.28	-0.01	0.32	-0.15	-0.08
Motor vehicles	-0.10	-0.08	-0.09	-0.10	-0.10	-0.08	-0.03	-0.17	-0.10
Automotive fuel	-0.16	-0.04	-0.14	-0.18	-0.14	-0.08	0.00	-0.19	-0.11
Vehicle insurance	0.02	0.06	0.18	0.08	-0.12	0.01	0.23	0.08	0.04
Motoring charges	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.03
Tyres and tubes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Vehicle servicing etc.	0.04	-0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.01	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.07	0.05
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.08	0.10	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.05
Beer	0.01	0.02	-0.11	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.12	0.06	0.01
Wine	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Spirits	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.03	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.03	-0.04	0.00	0.03
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>	0.02	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.19	0.22	0.08	0.05	0.08
Hospital and medical services	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.15	0.19	0.03	0.06	0.06
Dental services	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.01
Pharmaceuticals	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>	-0.03	0.06	-0.01	0.00	0.03	-0.12	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Books newspapers and magazines	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.00	-0.04	-0.02	-0.01	0.00
Video and sound equipment	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Records cassettes and tapes	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Sports and photo equip and toys	-0.02	0.01	-0.02	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	0.01	-0.05	0.04	0.00	-0.01	-0.08	0.02	0.02	-0.01
O'seas holiday travel and accommodation	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	-0.03	0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01
Photographic services	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01
Entertainment	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.02	0.07	-0.02	-0.03	0.03	0.05
<b>Total change</b>	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.3
<b>Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change</b>	0.18	0.08	0.26	0.28	-0.08	0.25	0.28	0.18	0.14

(a) Composition of this category is described in footnote (c) Table 8, page 6

**TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN JUNE QUARTER 1996 AND SEPTEMBER 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	9.2	35.2	-0.6	4.4	15.0	1.8	0.3	1.2	66.3
Clothing	-2.6	1.4	-1.3	0.0	-1.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-3.7
Housing	7.3	-12.5	-0.7	-1.9	-2.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	-11.2
Household equipment and operation	14.2	7.3	5.8	4.2	2.7	0.7	0.4	-0.4	34.6
Transportation	-3.6	-6.7	0.4	-4.4	-9.4	0.0	0.9	-1.3	-23.3
Tobacco and alcohol	5.3	1.0	1.2	2.3	3.4	0.2	0.3	0.7	14.4
Health and personal care	2.8	9.9	1.6	0.8	6.2	1.2	0.2	0.5	23.1
Recreation and education	-3.1	5.0	-0.3	0.0	1.0	-0.6	0.0	0.2	2.3
All Groups	29.6	41.1	6.5	5.5	15.2	3.0	2.0	-0.3	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between June quarter 1996 and September 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>Trans- portation</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									
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
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<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
June	3.0	0.2	1.5	2.1	4.2	9.2	3.8	2.0	3.1
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	2.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.1	5.9	4.3	1.8	2.1
Change from previous quarter									
<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
June	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3

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>
<b>FOOD</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	117.7	115.4	117.8	118.4	117.8	118.4	118.6	119.6	117.1
<i>1996-97</i>									
September	118.2	117.5	117.7	119.2	120.3	120.0	119.1	120.3	118.3
<b>CLOTHING</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	107.7	108.3	105.8	105.5	107.0	106.0	106.4	107.0	107.4
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	107.4	108.5	105.3	105.5	106.4	105.9	105.9	106.5	107.2
<b>HOUSING</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	110.0	100.4	112.5	103.9	101.6	107.6	121.7	112.5	106.3
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	110.4	99.6	112.4	103.5	101.0	107.4	121.7	112.0	106.1
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b> (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	110.7	113.8	113.7	112.3	112.3	118.5	107.3	113.6	112.5
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	111.5	114.2	114.5	113.0	112.7	119.1	108.0	113.3	113.1

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>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
June	124.2	123.5	122.1	125.3	123.9	119.8	119.3	129.9	123.8
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	124.0	123.1	122.2	124.4	122.0	119.7	121.9	128.9	123.4
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	165.8	158.1	154.7	163.6	150.0	153.3	158.0	155.7	159.8
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	166.6	158.3	155.1	164.7	151.3	153.7	159.2	156.9	160.4
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	135.6	150.2	137.4	160.6	141.1	150.5	138.3	141.2	143.7
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	136.0	152.0	138.2	160.9	144.1	154.1	139.8	142.3	145.0
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<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
June	116.9	120.6	119.3	119.2	114.8	116.0	107.0	114.1	118.2
<i>1996-97—</i>									
September	116.7	121.1	119.3	119.2	115.1	115.1	106.9	114.2	118.2



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)			
	Sep qtr 1995	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1995 and Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Change between Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	
FOOD									
Dairy products	115.4	117.1	118.3	1.0	2.5	21.64	21.85	0.21	
Cereal products	122.3	126.8	128.0	0.9	4.7	1.82	1.83	0.01	
Meat and seafoods	125.1	129.0	131.4	1.9	5.0	2.58	2.63	0.05	
Beef and veal	106.4	108.3	108.5	0.2	2.0	3.47	3.48	0.01	
Lamb and mutton	108.7	105.8	103.8	-1.9	-4.5		0.81	0.79	
Pork	121.5	124.3	125.0	0.6	2.9		0.50	0.50	
Poultry	104.9	109.6	110.9	1.2	5.7		0.20	0.21	
Bacon and ham	87.0	93.4	95.1	1.8	9.3		0.45	0.45	
Processed meat	107.2	111.0	112.6	1.4	5.0		0.36	0.37	
Fish	109.5	112.1	113.0	0.8	3.2		0.78	0.78	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	101.0	102.1	100.8	-1.3	-0.2		0.37	0.37	
Processed fruit and vegetables	101.5	96.6	100.6	4.1	-0.9	1.77	1.85	0.08	
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	113.7	114.3	115.1	0.7	1.2	0.94	0.95	0.01	
Meals out and take away foods	125.5	127.8	129.1	1.0	2.9	3.46	3.50	0.04	
Other foods	115.5	117.9	118.2	0.3	2.3	5.58	5.59	0.01	
	117.9	119.8	120.5	0.6	2.2	2.02	2.03	0.01	
CLOTHING									
Men's and boy's clothing	106.7	107.4	107.2	-0.2	0.5	6.75	6.74	-0.01	
Women's and girls' clothing	110.3	111.8	111.3	-0.4	0.9	1.89	1.88	-0.01	
Fabrics and knitting wool	107.3	106.8	106.9	0.1	-0.4	2.73	2.74	0.01	
Footwear	103.8	103.4	104.5	1.1	0.7	0.79	0.80	0.01	
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	97.9	100.1	98.4	-1.7	0.5	1.07	1.05	-0.02	
	123.7	128.1	128.9	0.6	4.2	0.27	0.27	0.00	
HOUSING									
Rents	105.4	106.3	106.1	-0.2	0.7	18.84	18.81	-0.03	
Privately-owned dwelling rents	110.5	113.0	113.9	0.8	3.1	5.52	5.56	0.04	
Government-owned dwelling rents	109.7	112.4	113.3	0.8	3.3		5.07	5.11	
Home ownership	118.6	119.3	119.5	0.2	0.8		0.44	0.45	
Mortgage interest charges	102.9	103.1	102.5	-0.6	-0.4	13.33	13.25	-0.08	
Local government rates and charges	90.4	92.1	90.3	-2.0	-0.1		8.11	7.94	
House repairs and maintenance	137.7	129.6	132.4	2.2	-3.8		2.62	2.68	
House insurance	115.1	116.8	118.3	1.3	2.8		2.07	2.10	
	141.2	145.5	146.5	0.7	3.8		0.52	0.53	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
Fuel and light	111.0	112.5	113.1	0.5	1.9	20.53	20.64	0.11	
Furniture and floor coverings	119.4	119.5	121.0	1.3	1.3	2.71	2.74	0.03	
Appliances	114.5	117.0	116.3	-0.6	1.6	4.96	4.93	-0.03	
Household textiles	108.4	109.5	110.1	0.5	1.6	1.73	1.74	0.01	
Household utensils and tools	112.3	115.0	115.8	0.7	3.1	0.88	0.89	0.01	
Household supplies and services	106.1	106.0	105.8	-0.2	-0.3	1.31	1.31	0.00	
Postal and telephone services	118.3	120.8	122.9	1.7	3.9	4.71	4.78	0.07	
Consumer credit charges	107.8	106.7	106.7	0.0	-1.0	1.84	1.84	0.00	
	91.7	94.0	94.6	0.6	3.2	2.40	2.42	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)				Change between Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	
	Sep qtr 1995	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1995 and Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996
TRANSPORTATION	122.0	123.8	123.4	-0.3	1.1	19.49	19.41			-0.08	
Private motoring	120.9	122.8	121.9	-0.7	0.8	17.97	17.84			-0.13	
Motor vehicles	121.8	121.7	119.4	-1.9	-2.0			4.98	4.88		
Automotive fuel	120.0	121.3	118.8	-2.1	-1.0			5.53	5.42		
Vehicle insurance	127.2	133.1	135.1	1.5	6.2			2.79	2.83		
Motoring charges	136.4	139.5	142.7	2.3	4.6			1.08	1.11		
Tyres and tubes	107.1	105.2	105.9	0.7	-1.1			0.38	0.39		
Vehicle service repairs and parts	115.5	118.4	119.0	0.5	3.0			3.21	3.22		
Urban transport fares	141.5	143.1	147.8	3.3	4.5	1.52	1.57			0.05	
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	151.4	159.8	160.4	0.4	5.9	11.00	11.05			0.05	
Alcoholic drinks	125.7	130.9	131.1	0.2	4.3	6.31	6.32			0.01	
Beer	127.2	132.1	132.3	0.2	4.0			3.65	3.66		
Wine	118.7	125.5	124.6	-0.7	5.0			1.31	1.30		
Spirits	128.3	132.4	133.7	1.0	4.2			1.35	1.36		
Cigarettes and tobacco	212.4	228.5	230.2	0.7	8.4	4.69	4.72			0.03	
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE	139.0	143.7	145.0	0.9	4.3	8.68	8.76			0.08	
Health services	152.6	158.0	160.0	1.3	4.8	5.26	5.33			0.07	
Personal care products	122.1	126.4	126.6	0.2	3.7	2.49	2.49			0.00	
Hairdressing services	120.0	122.7	123.2	0.4	2.7	0.93	0.94			0.01	
RECREATION AND EDUCATION	116.1	118.2	118.2	0.0	1.8	12.85	12.86			0.01	
Books newspapers and magazines	138.2	143.1	142.5	-0.4	3.1	1.50	1.50			0.00	
Recreational goods	101.1	99.8	99.0	-0.8	-2.1	2.71	2.69			-0.02	
Holiday travel and accommodation	102.4	102.8	102.1	-0.7	-0.3	2.71	2.69			-0.02	
Recreational services	127.8	130.1	132.2	1.6	3.4	3.44	3.49			0.05	
Education and child care	134.6	142.2	142.3	0.1	5.7	2.50	2.50			0.00	
ALL GROUPS	117.6	119.8	120.1	0.3	2.1	119.8	120.1			0.3	

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 Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996
	Sep qtr 1995	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996 and Sep qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	Jun qtr 1996	Sep qtr 1996	
ALL GROUPS	117.6	119.8	120.1	0.3	2.1	119.8	120.1	0.3
All groups - excluding food	118.1	120.4	120.6	0.2	2.1	98.14	98.25	0.11
All groups - excluding clothing	118.4	120.6	121.0	0.3	2.2	113.36	113.03	0.33
All groups - excluding housing	119.8	122.3	122.7	0.3	2.4	100.94	101.29	0.35
All groups - excluding household equipment and operation	119.1	121.4	121.7	0.2	2.2	99.25	99.46	0.21
All groups - excluding transportation	116.8	119.1	119.5	0.3	2.3	100.29	100.69	0.40
All groups - excluding tobacco and alcohol	115.0	116.7	117.0	0.3	1.7	108.78	109.05	0.27
All groups - excluding health and personal care	116.3	118.3	118.6	0.3	2.0	111.34	111.10	0.24
All groups - excluding recreation and education	117.9	120.0	120.4	0.3	2.1	106.93	107.24	0.31
All groups - excluding home ownership	119.5	121.9	122.4	0.4	2.4	106.45	106.85	0.40
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	91.3	93.2	91.9	-1.4	0.7	10.55	10.41	-0.14
All groups - excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	120.5	122.8	123.3	0.4	2.3	109.69	109.23	0.46
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	116.5	118.5	118.8	0.3	2.0	115.54	115.81	0.27
All groups - goods component (a)	118.9	121.1	121.3	0.2	2.0	73.08	73.18	0.10
All groups - services component (b)	115.6	117.8	118.3	0.4	2.3	46.70	46.92	0.22
Selected State and local government charges (c)	128.4	126.3	128.7	1.9	0.2	7.68	7.82	0.14
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (c)	116.9	119.4	119.6	0.2	2.3	112.10	112.28	0.18

(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)
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
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	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
1996-97—												
September	123.1	n.y.a.	117.3	n.y.a.	130.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	126.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	122.7	113.0

(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	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
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year												
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	-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
1996-97—												
September	2.8	n.y.a.	1.0	n.y.a.	2.6	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	3.9	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.4	1.6
Change from previous quarter												
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	-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
1996-97—												
September	0.4	n.y.a.	0.3	n.y.a.	0.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	1.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.3	0.2

(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)							
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
1992-93—							
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
1993-94—							
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
1994-95—							
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
1995-96—							
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
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	119.9
1995-96—							
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	120.5
Percentage Changes							
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
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year							
1994-95—							
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
1995-96—							
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
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
1996-97—							
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4
Change from previous quarter							
1994-95—							
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
1995-96—							
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
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	0.8
1995-96—							
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5

(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:

Jun quarter 1996:	119.8	(see Table 1)
less: Mar quarter 1996:	119.0	(see Table 1)
Change in index points:	0.8	

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.8}{119.0} \times 100 = 0.7\%$$

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 1.82 index points to the total All Groups index number of 119.8 for June 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 - December quarter 1996 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 29 January 1997.

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.

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