

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, DECEMBER QUARTER 1993

**NOTE:** 1. Commencing with this issue, international comparisons on an ILO recommended basis (i.e. All groups excluding housing) are presented in Tables 9 and 10 on page 12.  
2. See Appendix for an explanation of the treatment of annual credit card fees in the CPI.

### MAIN FEATURES

Weighted average of eight capital cities	Change between—	
	Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1992 and Dec qtr 1993
	%	%
Food	0.6	2.6
Clothing	-0.3	-0.9
Housing	-1.4	-0.4
Household equipment and operation	-0.1	-0.1
Transportation	0.3	2.3
Tobacco and alcohol	1.8	7.9
Health and personal care	0.4	3.5
Recreation and education	1.1	3.0
<b>All groups</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>
All groups excluding housing	0.5	2.4
All groups excluding tobacco and alcohol	0.1	1.4

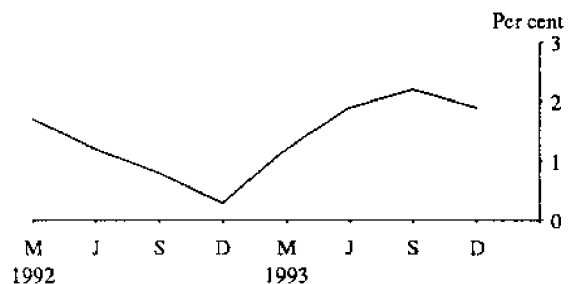
### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

#### Overview

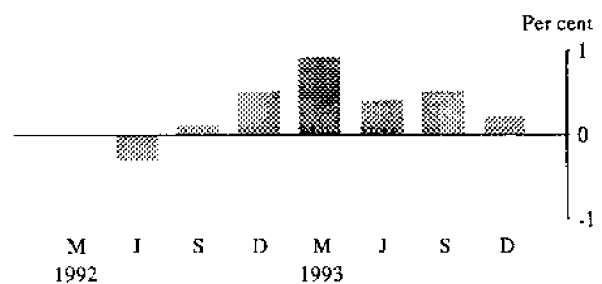
The All groups CPI increased 0.2 per cent between the September and December quarters 1993, resulting in an annual increase (December quarter 1993 on December quarter 1992) of 1.9 per cent.

Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were cigarette and tobacco prices (up 3.1%), the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (up 9.0%),

ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT



ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT



local government rates and charges (up 2.8%), holiday travel and accommodation in Australia (up 3.7%), furniture (up 1.3%), petrol (up 0.8%) and fresh vegetable prices (up 6.2%).

Partially offsetting the above were falls in mortgage interest charges (down 5.1%) and consumer credit charges (down 3.6%) - mainly due to falls in interest rates.

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were prices of cigarettes and tobacco (up 15.1%), motor vehicles (up 5.6%), alcoholic drinks (up 3.7%), local government rates and charges (up 7.7%) and the cost of hospital and medical services (up 4.8%), with significant off-sets being provided by mortgage interest charges (down 5.2%), consumer credit charges (down 8.6%) and petrol (down 1.4%).

**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- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact **Information Services** on Canberra (06) 252 6627 or any ABS State office.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 Bohdan Stankewytsch 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 public

## Main contributions to change

### Housing: -1.4%

The fall in housing costs results from a fall in mortgage interest charges (-5.1%) partially offset by an increase in local government rates and charges (+2.8%).

The fall in mortgage interest charges reflects a slight increase in the value of the debt outstanding (+1.4%) combined with a fall in interest rates (-6.2%).

An increase in local government rates and charges was recorded in all cities except Sydney (no change). Increases in the other cities ranged from 0.5 per cent in Darwin to 9.2 per cent in Canberra.

### Tobacco and alcohol: +1.8%

The increase this quarter is mainly attributable to increases in cigarette and tobacco prices (+3.1%), largely reflecting the flow-on effect of price increases during the September quarter.

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1993, cigarette and tobacco prices have increased 15.1 per cent nationally mainly as a result of increases in State government franchise and licence fees and the Commonwealth excise on tobacco products.

### Food: +0.6%

Increases in prices of fresh vegetables (+6.2%), fish (+3.4%) and ice cream and ice confectionery (+4.2%) were partially offset by falls in prices of lamb and mutton (-3.9%) and take away food (-0.4%).

At the national level, the increase in fresh vegetable prices results from increases in prices of tomatoes, cauliflower and onions, partially offset by a fall in the price of lettuce.

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1993, food prices have increased 2.6 per cent overall. The main contributors to the annual increase have been increases in prices of fresh vegetables (+10.1%), lamb and mutton (+15.0%), take away food (+1.9%) and milk and cream (+5.2%).

### Recreation and education: +1.1%

Increases in the cost of holiday travel and accommodation overseas (+9.0%) and in Australia (+3.7%), entertainment (+0.9%), and books, newspapers and magazines (+0.8%) were partially offset by a fall in the price of sports and photographic equipment and toys (-4.3%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1993, recreation and education costs have increased 3.0 per cent overall. The main contributors to the annual increase have been prices of books, newspapers and magazines (+8.8%), education fees (+4.3%), the cost of holiday travel and accommodation in Australia (+4.1%) and entertainment costs (+2.2%).

### Transportation: +0.3%

Increases in petrol prices (+0.8%), the cost of vehicle insurance (+1.0%), vehicle servicing, repairs and parts

(+0.7%), and urban transport fares (+0.2%) were partially offset by a fall in motor vehicle prices (-0.9%).

Petrol prices increased by 0.8 per cent this quarter as a result of falls in July (-1.2%) and August (-1.7%), increases in September (+3.3%) and October (+0.9%), followed by further falls in November (-1.0%) and December (-3.1%). Over the 12 months to December quarter 1993, the price of petrol has fallen by 1.4 per cent.

Motor vehicle prices fell in all cities except Hobart (+0.2%) and Darwin (+0.7%) - the falls ranged from 0.4 per cent in Adelaide to 1.1 per cent in Sydney and Brisbane. The 0.9 per cent overall fall this quarter follows a 2.1 per cent increase last quarter, delivering an annual increase (December quarter 1993 on December quarter 1992) of 5.6 per cent.

### Health and personal care: +0.4%

The increase this quarter is predominantly due to an increase in the cost of hospital and medical services (+1.6%) as a result of increases in health insurance premiums, combined with an overall increase in the net fee payable by households for medical services.

This increase was partially offset by a fall in the cost of pharmaceuticals (-5.7%) due mainly to the increased effect of the PBS safety net scheme.

### Household equipment and operation: -0.1%

The fall in consumer credit charges (-3.6%) reflects an increase of 0.6 per cent in the value of the debt outstanding combined with a fall in interest rates of 4.2 per cent.

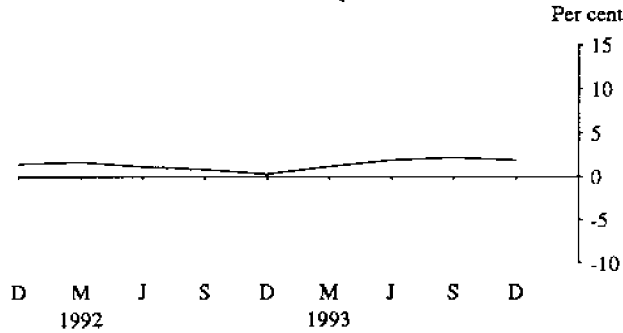
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX- ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

	Change between—	
	Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1992 and Dec qtr 1993
	%	%
Sydney	0.1	1.3
Melbourne	0.3	2.4
Brisbane	0.3	1.9
Adelaide	0.1	1.9
Perth	0.6	2.3
Hobart	0.5	3.3
Darwin	1.0	2.3
Canberra	0.3	2.1
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.2	1.9

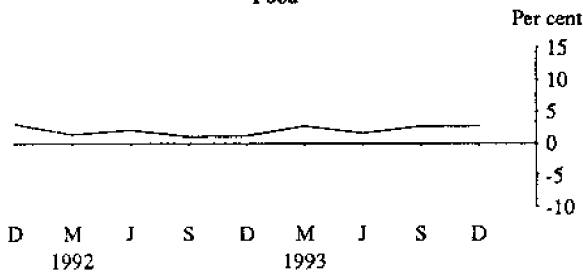
IAN CASTLES  
Australian Statistician

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

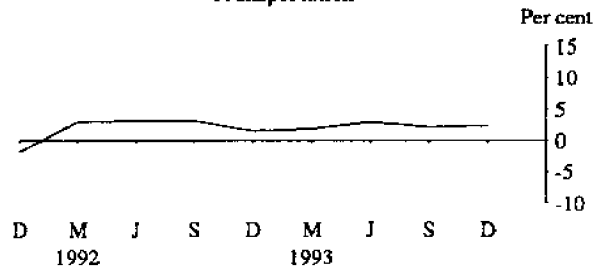
**All Groups**



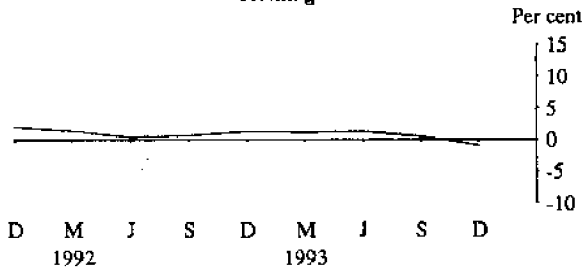
**Food**



**Transportation**



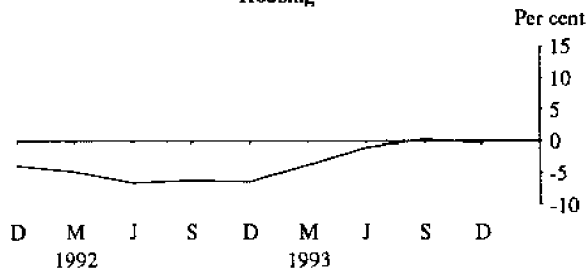
**Clothing**



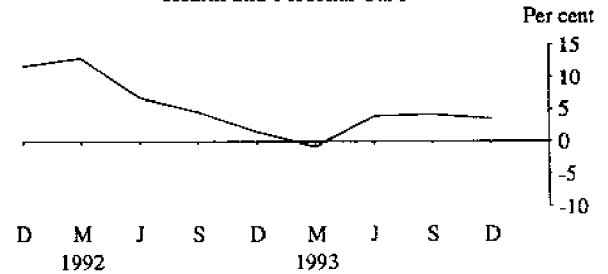
**Tobacco and Alcohol**



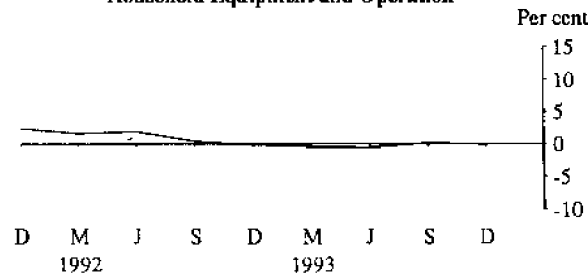
**Housing**



**Health and Personal Care**



**Household Equipment and Operation**



**Recreation and Education**

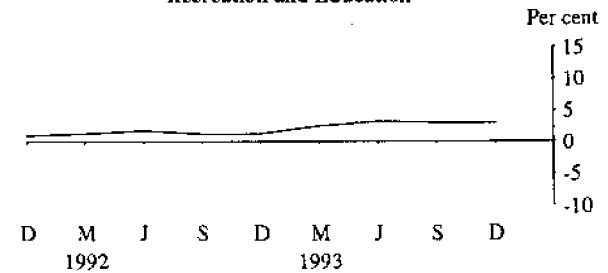


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS  
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	104.9	105.8	104.9	106.2	105.1	104.9	105.7	105.1	105.3
1991-92	106.7	108.1	107.0	108.9	105.9	107.1	108.0	107.8	107.3
1992-93	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	108.4
<i>1989-90—</i>									
December	99.2	99.2	99.3	99.2	98.9	99.4	99.4	99.3	99.2
March	100.9	100.7	100.8	100.6	101.2	101.0	100.6	101.2	100.9
June	102.5	102.7	102.2	102.5	102.9	101.9	102.4	102.3	102.5
<i>1990-91—</i>									
September	103.1	103.5	102.8	103.8	103.7	103.0	103.5	103.1	103.3
December	105.5	106.6	105.4	106.9	106.2	105.5	106.4	106.0	106.0
March	105.7	106.1	105.7	106.7	105.2	105.2	106.1	105.5	105.8
June	105.4	106.8	105.7	107.3	105.1	105.8	106.6	105.6	106.0
<i>1991-92—</i>									
September	106.0	107.6	106.1	108.0	105.7	106.7	106.9	107.0	106.6
December	107.1	108.4	107.3	108.8	106.1	107.4	108.2	107.9	107.6
March	107.0	108.3	107.5	109.5	106.1	107.4	108.3	108.2	107.6
June	106.5	108.2	107.0	109.4	105.6	107.0	108.4	107.9	107.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.9	107.9	106.9	110.1	105.5	107.6	108.9	108.6	107.4
December	107.4	108.2	108.1	110.7	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.0	107.9
March	108.2	109.5	109.1	111.6	106.4	109.1	109.8	110.1	108.9
June	108.4	110.1	109.7	112.3	106.8	109.4	110.0	110.3	109.3
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.7	110.5	109.9	112.7	107.9	111.0	110.6	111.0	109.8
December	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	111.7	111.3	110.0

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Change from previous year									
1990-91	4.9	5.8	4.9	6.2	5.1	4.9	5.7	5.1	5.3
1991-92	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	1.9
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5
March	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
June	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
December	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
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
<i>1993-94—</i>									
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
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.9
March	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
June	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.1
December	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
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
<i>1993-94—</i>									
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

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1993  
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>	0.19	0.05	0.12	0.16	0.11	0.29	0.26	0.29	0.13
Milk and cream	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cheese	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Bread	0.00	-0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cakes and biscuits	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Beef and veal	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.01
Lamb and mutton	-0.01	-0.04	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.04	-0.02
Poultry	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	-0.01
Bacon and ham	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01
Processed meat	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.01
Fish	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02
Fresh vegetables	0.08	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.05	0.09	0.12	0.06	0.04
Ice cream and ice confectionery	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Take away foods	-0.06	0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.06	-0.02
Margarine	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
<b>CLOTHING</b>	0.00	-0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-0.02
Women's outer clothing	-0.04	-0.01	-0.05	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.04	-0.03
Womens underwear nightwear etc.	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Fabrics and knitting wool	0.01	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.01	-0.01
Men's footwear	0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Women's footwear	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01
<b>HOUSING</b>	-0.29	-0.23	-0.10	-0.30	-0.12	-0.24	-0.24	-0.21	-0.23
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.01	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.04	-0.02	0.01
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.01
Mortgage interest charges	-0.30	-0.38	-0.31	-0.35	-0.29	-0.34	-0.29	-0.49	-0.34
Local government rates and charges	0.00	0.12	0.10	0.04	0.12	0.04	0.00	0.20	0.07
House repairs and maintenance	-0.01	-0.01	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01
<b>HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION</b>	-0.15	0.06	0.08	0.12	-0.09	0.10	-0.09	0.00	-0.02
Electricity	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gas	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Furniture	-0.07	0.13	0.18	0.17	-0.04	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.05
Floor coverings	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01
Household cleaning agents	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Telephone services	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Consumer credit charges	-0.09	-0.08	-0.10	-0.08	-0.07	-0.03	-0.11	-0.07	-0.09
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	-0.03	0.13	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.05
Motor vehicles	-0.06	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.04	0.00	0.02	-0.03	-0.04
Automotive fuel	-0.04	0.13	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05
Vehicle insurance	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.00	-0.02	0.03
Vehicle servicing etc.	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.02
Urban transport fares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.43	0.09	0.60	0.17	0.16
Beer	0.04	0.04	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.03
Wine	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.02
Spirits	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.36	0.05	0.48	0.07	0.10
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>	0.05	0.05	-0.04	-0.02	0.05	0.00	0.04	-0.01	0.04
Hospital and medical services	0.07	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.06
Pharmaceuticals	-0.05	-0.04	-0.05	-0.05	-0.04	-0.06	-0.04	-0.05	-0.05
Toiletries and personal products	0.03	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.02	0.15	0.27	0.48	0.04	0.13
Books newspapers and magazines	0.01	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.01
Sports and photo equip and toys	-0.03	-0.14	-0.07	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.06
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	0.02	0.07	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.16	0.32	0.01	0.05
O'seas holiday travel and accommodation	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.04	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.06	0.10
Entertainment	0.00	0.09	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.03
<b>Total change</b>	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.2
<b>Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change</b>	0.00	0.14	0.09	0.06	0.21	0.04	0.02	0.29	0.08

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

TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1993 (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	26.1	6.5	5.8	6.3	4.6	2.1	0.9	3.5	55.6
Clothing	0.2	-3.4	-2.0	-1.0	-1.3	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-7.9
Housing	-41.2	-28.2	-5.1	-11.8	-5.6	-1.8	-0.9	-2.5	-97.2
Household equipment and operation	-20.3	7.1	3.6	4.7	-4.0	0.7	-0.3	0.0	-8.9
Transportation	-5.2	16.1	3.9	1.8	3.8	0.6	0.3	1.1	21.6
Tobacco and alcohol	19.3	15.0	4.4	3.4	18.8	0.7	2.2	2.0	65.1
Health and personal care	6.8	6.8	-2.0	-0.9	2.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	13.4
Recreation and education	20.7	16.3	6.5	0.7	6.4	1.9	1.7	0.5	54.8
All Groups	5.4	35.7	14.9	3.5	24.9	4.3	4.0	4.0	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between September quarter 1993 and December quarter 1993) in the All Groups index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All Groups</i>
Change from previous year									
1990-91	3.3	4.6	3.5	5.0	6.8	8.8	9.6	5.0	5.3
1991-92	2.4	1.7	-4.4	2.3	1.8	5.7	10.7	1.8	1.9
1992-93	1.5	1.0	-4.3	-0.2	2.3	8.2	2.2	2.1	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	2.9	2.0	-3.9	2.4	-1.8	5.8	11.7	0.9	1.5
March	1.3	1.3	-4.8	1.6	2.9	4.8	13.0	1.2	1.7
June	2.0	0.4	-6.6	1.9	3.1	3.9	6.8	1.8	1.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	1.0	0.6	-6.2	0.4	3.1	5.8	4.6	1.3	0.8
December	1.1	1.2	-6.4	-0.2	1.5	7.6	1.5	1.3	0.3
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
<i>1993-94—</i>									
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
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	0.5	0.5	-0.5	0.7	1.6	1.0	4.1	1.0	0.9
March	0.6	-0.2	-2.3	-0.3	0.0	0.4	4.7	-0.1	0.0
June	0.3	0.5	-1.9	0.6	-0.4	1.1	-3.9	-0.1	-0.3
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	-0.4	-0.2	-1.7	-0.6	1.8	3.2	-0.2	0.5	0.1
December	0.7	1.1	-0.6	0.1	0.0	2.7	1.1	1.0	0.5
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
<i>1993-94—</i>									
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

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — GROUP INDEXES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
FOOD (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	106.1	104.6	105.4	105.9	105.9	105.8	106.1	106.4	105.5
March	106.6	104.9	106.3	106.4	107.4	106.7	106.7	107.2	106.1
June	106.4	106.0	106.2	106.9	107.6	107.2	107.5	107.0	106.4
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	105.6	105.5	105.7	107.3	107.7	107.3	107.1	107.0	106.0
December	106.6	105.5	107.2	108.1	108.2	107.5	108.3	107.5	106.7
March	109.5	107.3	109.4	111.3	110.0	109.0	110.6	110.5	109.0
June	107.8	107.0	108.7	110.4	109.2	109.1	110.1	108.6	108.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	108.6	107.8	109.4	110.4	109.8	110.2	111.2	109.8	108.8
December	109.6	108.1	110.1	111.3	110.3	111.7	112.6	111.4	109.5
CLOTHING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	106.3	107.0	105.9	104.9	107.5	105.8	104.8	107.0	106.5
March	106.1	106.4	105.7	105.2	107.5	105.5	105.3	107.1	106.3
June	106.1	107.5	106.2	106.1	108.5	105.7	105.9	106.6	106.8
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.6	106.8	105.6	106.0	108.0	105.3	106.1	106.1	106.6
December	107.3	108.3	107.5	107.2	109.2	107.3	106.8	107.0	107.8
March	107.3	107.7	106.7	107.2	108.4	107.2	106.5	107.4	107.5
June	108.0	108.4	107.4	107.6	108.9	107.7	107.3	108.1	108.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	106.2	107.9	106.3	107.5	108.3	106.9	103.8	108.0	107.1
December	106.3	107.5	105.6	107.1	107.8	106.8	103.7	107.2	106.8
HOUSING (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	100.1	100.6	103.2	102.3	95.9	100.6	107.3	103.2	100.4
March	98.1	97.8	101.6	99.8	93.0	97.7	106.3	101.4	98.1
June	96.8	95.5	100.3	97.3	89.7	96.2	103.9	99.9	96.2
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	95.5	93.3	99.3	95.4	88.1	95.0	102.9	98.7	94.6
December	95.0	92.3	99.0	94.0	87.6	94.4	102.9	99.2	94.0
March	95.4	92.4	100.0	94.0	88.1	95.3	103.8	100.2	94.4
June	96.1	94.5	100.5	93.8	87.9	95.0	104.2	100.4	95.2
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	96.1	93.8	100.4	93.3	87.7	94.9	104.2	100.3	94.9
December	94.5	92.4	99.8	91.6	86.9	93.4	103.0	99.2	93.6
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	107.3	108.3	107.1	107.6	107.6	109.4	106.6	107.3	107.7
March	106.8	107.9	106.9	107.3	107.6	109.1	106.1	107.2	107.4
June	107.6	108.9	107.3	108.1	107.4	109.7	106.2	108.0	108.0
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	107.1	107.8	106.4	108.1	107.1	110.1	106.1	107.9	107.4
December	106.8	108.6	105.7	108.1	107.7	110.4	105.6	107.5	107.5
March	105.8	108.2	105.8	106.7	107.0	110.3	105.1	107.5	106.9
June	106.0	108.7	107.0	107.3	107.7	110.4	104.8	107.8	107.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	105.9	109.0	106.1	107.5	108.6	111.3	105.0	107.1	107.5
December	105.1	109.3	106.5	108.2	108.1	111.8	104.5	107.0	107.4

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>1991-92—</i>									
December	108.3	110.3	109.2	110.5	109.3	106.8	108.3	110.8	109.3
March	108.2	110.1	109.2	110.9	109.5	107.1	108.4	111.0	109.3
June	107.0	110.1	108.6	111.2	109.9	106.5	108.0	111.3	108.9
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	109.2	112.0	110.6	113.7	111.2	108.7	110.9	113.8	110.9
December	109.0	112.0	110.1	115.1	110.8	110.0	111.0	114.1	110.9
March	109.1	113.1	110.6	114.9	111.2	110.9	110.6	114.4	111.3
June	109.9	113.7	111.4	116.1	111.6	111.7	110.7	114.8	112.1
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.9	115.0	111.8	117.3	113.6	111.6	112.8	116.9	113.2
December	110.6	115.8	112.3	117.6	114.2	112.3	113.4	117.5	113.5
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	115.4	117.1	109.7	118.1	110.2	112.1	111.7	112.6	114.7
March	116.1	116.9	110.6	119.2	110.8	111.6	112.9	114.3	115.2
June	118.3	117.2	112.3	119.6	111.9	112.2	117.3	113.4	116.5
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	125.7	118.0	113.1	126.5	112.6	114.0	119.6	120.0	120.2
December	128.3	118.8	125.9	130.4	113.9	112.4	122.8	122.0	123.4
March	129.1	126.4	126.3	131.3	113.8	116.9	123.6	123.0	126.1
June	130.7	127.7	128.4	136.4	115.6	119.9	124.2	125.2	128.0
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	131.8	129.8	130.7	138.8	123.7	132.1	127.0	127.3	130.8
December	134.0	131.7	131.8	140.0	129.1	133.4	133.1	129.7	133.1
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	118.4	125.2	117.2	124.2	117.2	122.0	122.6	118.5	120.9
March	123.0	131.7	122.1	134.1	122.1	125.2	128.7	122.5	126.6
June	116.2	127.5	117.7	131.6	116.9	122.9	120.9	118.3	121.6
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	115.9	127.2	116.8	131.5	116.5	125.1	121.8	119.0	121.4
December	117.5	128.5	116.2	132.2	119.2	125.6	123.2	121.3	122.7
March	119.8	131.5	120.6	136.8	121.0	129.1	126.2	124.5	125.6
June	120.4	132.1	121.3	138.9	122.3	129.3	126.1	124.4	126.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	120.6	131.9	121.2	138.7	122.1	134.5	126.2	125.2	126.5
December	121.4	132.9	120.5	138.4	122.9	134.5	126.9	125.1	127.0
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each Index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)									
<i>1991-92—</i>									
December	106.4	108.8	107.0	106.8	105.9	106.6	105.7	106.0	107.2
March	106.2	108.7	106.1	108.8	104.6	107.4	103.8	106.5	107.1
June	106.0	108.9	105.2	108.9	105.3	106.0	105.2	107.0	107.0
<i>1992-93—</i>									
September	106.6	109.2	105.7	108.9	105.3	107.0	106.4	107.8	107.5
December	108.0	110.2	106.7	109.9	107.6	108.2	104.4	107.6	108.6
March	109.1	112.0	108.0	111.7	106.5	108.5	103.2	108.3	109.8
June	110.3	111.9	108.5	112.3	107.2	108.2	104.5	109.4	110.4
<i>1993-94—</i>									
September	110.6	112.2	108.9	112.8	107.1	108.7	104.1	110.2	110.7
December	112.0	113.3	110.2	113.0	108.5	111.0	108.1	110.5	111.9



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

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1989-90=100.0)				Percentage Change between		Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			Change between Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	
	Dec qtr 1992	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	
FOOD	106.7	108.8	109.5	0.6	2.6	20.23		20.23	0.13		
Dairy products	111.5	114.3	115.6	1.1	3.7	1.64		1.66	0.02		
Cereal products	113.4	115.2	116.1	0.8	2.4	2.32		2.32	0.02		
Meat and seafoods	99.1	102.0	102.6	0.6	3.5	3.27		3.29	0.02		
Beef and veal	100.3	103.2	104.0	0.8	3.7		0.79		0.80	0.01	
Lamb and mutton	95.1	113.8	109.4	-3.9	15.0		0.46		0.44	-0.02	
Pork	100.5	103.3	105.0	1.6	4.5		0.19		0.19	0.00	
Poultry	88.3	88.0	86.2	-2.0	-2.4		0.42		0.41	-0.01	
Bacon and ham	102.3	104.3	107.2	2.8	4.8		0.34		0.35	0.01	
Processed meat	104.9	103.4	105.6	2.1	0.7		0.72		0.73	0.01	
Fish	97.4	96.7	100.0	3.4	2.7		0.35		0.37	0.02	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	79.9	82.3	84.3	2.4	5.5	1.51		1.55	0.04		
Processed fruit and vegetables	107.1	108.2	108.6	0.4	1.4	0.89		0.90	0.01		
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	115.8	117.7	119.1	1.2	2.8	3.19		3.23	0.04		
Meals out and take away foods	113.2	115.3	115.0	-0.3	1.6	5.46		5.44	-0.02		
Other foods	108.4	109.3	109.8	0.5	1.3	1.84		1.85	0.01		
CLOTHING	107.8	107.1	106.8	-0.3	-0.9	6.73		6.71	-0.02		
Men's and boy's clothing	109.3	107.7	108.1	0.4	-1.1	1.82		1.82	0.00		
Women's and girls' clothing	107.4	107.8	106.9	-0.8	-0.5	2.73		2.73	-0.03		
Fabrics and knitting wool	105.9	104.6	103.6	-1.0	-2.2	0.80		0.79	-0.01		
Footwear	105.4	103.5	103.7	0.2	-1.6	1.11		1.11	0.00		
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	116.4	118.6	118.9	0.3	2.1	0.25		0.25	0.00		
HOUSING	94.0	94.9	93.6	-1.4	-0.4	16.83		16.60	-0.23		
Rents	107.2	107.5	107.9	0.4	0.7	5.25		5.26	0.01		
Privately-owned dwelling rents	106.7	106.9	107.1	0.2	0.4	4.82		4.83	0.01		
Government-owned dwelling rents	112.4	113.0	115.7	2.4	2.9		0.42		0.43	0.01	
Home ownership	88.5	89.7	87.7	-2.2	-0.9	11.59		11.34	-0.25		
Mortgage interest charges	74.7	74.6	70.8	-5.1	-5.2		6.57		6.23	-0.34	
Local government rates and charges	120.5	126.3	129.8	2.8	7.7		2.55		2.62	0.07	
House repairs and maintenance	111.4	113.3	113.8	0.4	2.2		2.01		2.02	0.01	
House insurance	123.0	127.2	128.2	0.8	4.2		0.46		0.46	0.00	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	107.5	107.5	107.4	-0.1	-0.1	19.61		19.59	-0.02		
Fuel and light	114.8	117.7	117.8	0.1	2.6	2.67		2.67	0.00		
Furniture and floor coverings	110.0	109.2	110.5	1.2	0.5	4.63		4.69	0.06		
Appliances	103.4	105.3	105.6	0.3	2.1	1.66		1.67	0.01		
Household textiles	106.8	107.2	107.4	0.2	0.6	0.82		0.82	0.00		
Household utensils and tools	104.5	106.1	105.9	-0.2	1.3	1.31		1.31	0.00		
Household supplies and services	110.6	112.1	112.1	0.0	1.4	4.36		4.36	0.00		
Postal and telephone services	107.2	105.8	105.6	-0.2	-1.5	1.82		1.82	0.00		
Consumer credit charges	96.6	91.6	88.3	-3.6	-8.6	2.34		2.25	-0.09		

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)			
	Dec qtr 1992	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1992 and Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Change between Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>										
Private motoring	110.9	113.2	113.5	113.5	0.3	2.3	17.81	17.86	0.05	
Motor vehicles	110.1	112.1	112.5	112.5	0.4	2.2	16.41	16.46	0.05	
Automotive fuel	106.5	113.5	112.5	112.5	-0.9	5.6		4.64	4.60	-0.04
Vehicle insurance	114.7	112.2	113.1	113.1	0.8	-1.4		5.11	5.16	0.05
Motoring charges	108.3	108.0	109.1	109.1	1.0	0.7		2.26	2.29	0.03
Tyres and tubes	118.5	128.8	129.4	129.4	0.5	9.2		1.00	1.00	0.00
Vehicle service repairs and parts	102.5	103.4	103.1	103.1	-0.3	0.6		0.38	0.38	0.00
Urban transport fares	109.8	111.5	112.3	112.3	0.7	2.3		3.02	3.04	0.02
	125.5	132.1	132.3	132.3	0.2	5.4	1.40	1.40	0.00	
<b>TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL</b>										
Alcoholic drinks	123.4	130.8	133.1	133.1	1.8	7.9	9.00	9.16	0.16	
Beer	113.6	116.7	117.8	117.8	0.9	3.7	5.63	5.68	0.05	
Wine	114.5	117.8	118.8	118.8	0.8	3.8		3.26	3.29	0.03
Spirits	104.8	108.6	109.9	109.9	1.2	4.9		1.13	1.15	0.02
Cigarettes and tobacco	119.4	121.6	122.4	122.4	0.7	2.5		1.24	1.25	0.01
	147.3	164.5	169.6	169.6	3.1	15.1	3.38	3.48	0.10	
<b>HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE</b>										
Health services	122.7	126.5	127.0	127.0	0.4	3.5	7.64	7.68	0.04	
Personal care products	132.0	136.0	137.9	137.9	1.4	4.5	4.53	4.59	0.06	
Hairdressing services	110.0	114.3	112.7	112.7	-1.4	2.5	2.25	2.22	-0.03	
	111.9	113.2	113.3	113.3	0.1	1.3	0.86	0.86	0.00	
<b>RECREATION AND EDUCATION</b>										
Books newspapers and magazines	108.6	110.7	111.9	111.9	1.1	3.0	12.04	12.17	0.13	
Recreational goods	119.8	129.4	130.4	130.4	0.8	8.8	1.36	1.37	0.01	
Holiday travel and accommodation	102.0	103.6	101.4	101.4	-2.1	-0.6	2.82	2.75	-0.07	
Recreational services	98.7	96.2	102.0	102.0	6.0	3.3	2.54	2.69	0.15	
Education and child care	117.6	118.9	120.0	120.0	0.9	2.0	3.14	3.17	0.03	
	118.7	124.8	124.8	124.8	0.0	5.1	2.19	2.19	0.00	
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>	107.9	109.8	110.0	110.0	0.2	1.9	109.8	110.0	0.2	

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)	
	Dec qtr 1992	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1992 and Dec qtr 1993	Sep qtr 1993	Dec qtr 1993	Change between Sep qtr 1993 and Dec qtr 1993
ALL GROUPS	107.9	109.8	110.0	0.2	1.9	109.8	110.0	0.2
All groups - excluding food	108.3	110.0	110.1	0.1	1.7	89.67	89.78	0.11
All groups - excluding clothing	108.0	110.0	110.2	0.2	2.0	103.04	103.30	0.26
All groups - excluding housing	110.6	112.6	113.2	0.5	2.4	92.94	93.41	0.47
All groups - excluding household equipment and operation	108.1	110.3	110.6	0.3	2.3	90.16	90.42	0.26
All groups - excluding transportation	107.4	109.2	109.4	0.2	1.9	91.96	92.15	0.19
All groups - excluding tobacco and alcohol	106.7	108.1	108.2	0.1	1.4	100.77	100.85	0.08
All groups - excluding health and personal care	107.1	108.8	109.0	0.2	1.8	102.13	102.33	0.20
All groups - excluding recreation and education	107.9	109.7	109.8	0.1	1.8	97.73	97.84	0.11
All groups - excluding home ownership	110.5	112.5	113.0	0.4	2.3	98.18	98.67	0.49
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	80.2	79.0	75.3	-4.7	6.1	8.95	8.53	-0.42
All groups - excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	111.1	113.3	114.0	0.6	2.6	100.82	101.48	0.66
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	107.2	109.0	109.2	0.2	1.9	106.17	106.34	0.17
All groups - goods component (a)	109.9	112.3	112.7	0.4	2.5	67.75	68.03	0.28
All groups - services component (b)	104.9	106.0	105.9	-0.1	1.0	42.02	41.98	-0.04
Selected State and local government charges (b)	117.0	122.1	123.6	1.2	5.6	7.43	7.51	0.08
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (c)	107.4	109.0	109.2	0.2	1.7	102.34	102.50	0.16

(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)

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany (b)	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Australia	New Zealand
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	105.5	103.4	102.7	105.6	107.7	110.9	109.1	104.0	105.6	104.0
1991-92	108.7	105.9	106.9	109.0	115.0	121.7	117.9	107.6	108.8	106.5
1992-93	112.1	106.8	110.4	110.9	118.6	130.9	123.4	111.4	111.0	108.7
<i>1989-90—</i>										
September	98.2	99.0	98.9	98.7	97.5	97.0	97.1	99.4	97.6	98.2
December	99.1	99.7	99.4	99.3	99.0	98.1	98.2	100.3	99.2	99.6
March	100.9	99.9	100.7	100.6	100.4	101.0	100.3	99.2	100.8	100.4
June	101.9	101.3	101.1	101.4	103.2	103.9	104.4	101.1	102.4	101.8
<i>1990-91—</i>										
September	103.4	101.6	101.3	102.6	104.7	106.1	106.0	104.6	103.2	102.6
December	105.6	103.3	102.3	104.0	106.7	108.6	106.5	103.3	106.3	103.9
March	106.2	103.8	103.1	107.4	107.4	112.3	110.7	103.8	106.3	104.6
June	106.9	104.9	103.9	108.4	111.9	116.4	113.1	104.3	106.6	104.7
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	107.5	104.7	105.5	108.9	113.0	118.1	115.2	105.5	107.7	105.6
December	108.4	106.1	106.1	108.4	114.5	119.5	116.6	106.6	108.9	105.9
March	108.9	105.6	107.4	108.9	115.2	123.3	118.6	107.8	109.4	107.0
June	110.0	107.0	108.4	109.7	117.3	126.0	121.0	110.5	109.3	107.5
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	110.7	106.3	108.6	110.1	117.1	127.5	122.1	110.1	109.8	108.1
December	111.8	106.7	109.6	110.5	118.0	128.8	121.6	110.8	110.6	108.6
March	112.5	106.6	111.1	111.4	118.4	132.2	123.4	111.3	111.6	108.9
June	113.3	107.6	112.1	111.7	120.8	135.0	126.4	113.5	112.0	109.1
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	114.1	108.2	113.0	112.1	121.1	136.1	127.2	112.2	112.6	109.3
December	114.6	n.y.a.	113.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	139.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	113.2	109.4

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 14.

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

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	Australia	New Zealand
Change from previous year										
1990-91	5.5	3.4	2.7	5.6	7.7	10.9	9.1	4.0	5.6	4.0
1991-92	3.0	2.4	4.1	3.2	6.8	9.7	8.1	3.5	3.0	2.4
1992-93	3.1	0.8	3.3	1.7	3.1	7.6	4.7	3.5	2.0	2.1
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	4.0	3.1	4.1	6.1	7.9	11.3	8.7	0.9	4.4	2.9
December	2.7	2.7	3.7	4.2	7.3	10.0	9.5	3.2	2.4	1.9
March	2.5	1.7	4.2	1.4	7.3	9.8	7.1	3.9	2.9	2.3
June	2.9	2.0	4.3	1.2	4.8	8.2	7.0	5.9	2.5	2.7
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	3.0	1.5	2.9	1.1	3.6	8.0	6.0	4.4	1.9	2.4
December	3.1	0.6	3.3	1.9	3.1	7.8	4.3	3.9	1.6	2.5
March	3.3	0.9	3.4	2.3	2.8	7.2	4.0	3.2	2.0	1.8
June	3.0	0.6	3.4	1.8	3.0	7.1	4.5	2.7	2.5	1.5
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	3.1	1.8	4.1	1.8	3.4	6.7	4.2	1.9	2.6	1.1
December	2.5	n.y.a.	3.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	8.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.4	0.7
Change from previous quarter										
<i>1991-92—</i>										
September	0.6	-0.2	1.5	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.9
December	0.8	1.3	0.6	-0.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.3
March	0.5	-0.5	1.2	0.5	0.6	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.5	1.0
June	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.4	-0.1	0.5
<i>1992-93—</i>										
September	0.6	-0.7	0.2	0.4	-0.2	1.2	0.9	-0.3	0.5	0.6
December	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5
March	0.6	-0.1	1.4	0.8	0.3	2.6	1.5	0.4	0.9	0.3
June	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.3	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	0.4	0.2
<i>1993-94—</i>										
September	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	-1.2	0.5	0.2
December	0.4	n.y.a.	0.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.5	0.1

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 13, page 14.

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

Note: Data included in these tables will be updated and published in the March 1994 and subsequent editions of "Australian Economic Indicators" (ABS catalogue number 1350.0).

## 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, local government rates and charges).

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:		
Sep quarter 1993:	109.8	(see Table 1)
less: Jun quarter 1993:	109.3	(see Table 1)
Change in index points:	0.5	

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.5}{109.3} \times 100 = 0.5\%$$

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 1.64 index points to the total All Groups index number of 109.8 for September quarter 1993. 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.

#### Related publications

16. 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

17. The Consumer Price Index - March quarter 1994 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 27 April 1994.

18. 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 *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The catalogue and Publications 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.

## APPENDIX

## TREATMENT OF CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT FEES IN THE CPI

Changes in consumer credit arrangements have resulted in most providers of credit card services announcing reductions in interest rates and the introduction of annual account keeping fees. These announcements have prompted considerable interest in the treatment of these fees in the CPI.

This Appendix provides a general explanation of why and how these fees will be taken into account in the CPI.

Consumer credit charges have been included in the CPI since March quarter 1987. In the absence of account keeping fees, the weight assigned to consumer credit charges reflects the relative expenditure by CPI target group households on interest charges for credit used for all household purposes other than the purchase of dwellings. Consumer credit includes both fixed term credit such as personal loans and revolving credit such as that provided by credit cards.

Within a CPI framework, a price series for consumer credit charges is required to answer the question **"What is the change over time in the payments required to finance a quantum of goods and services identical to that being financed by consumer credit in the base period?"**

The particular problem which arises in answering this question lies in defining what, in subsequent periods, is an equivalent quantum of goods and services to that which was being financed in the base period. While the interest charges which people pay are determined by applying a rate of interest (expressed as a percentage) to an amount of debt (expressed as a dollar value), neither of these variables is a direct measure of quantum. The interest rate can be considered as the price of money, while the value of outstanding debt can itself be regarded as representing the product of the quantum of goods and services and their prices.

The change in interest charges from one period to another clearly depends on both changes in the prices of goods and services financed by consumer credit and changes in interest rates. The method currently used to calculate the consumer credit charges component of the CPI recognises this by, in concept, revaluing each quarter the base period figure of debt outstanding in line with changes in the all groups excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges index and then applying current period interest rates to the revalued debt. The interest payable component of consumer credit charges will continue to be calculated in this manner.

As fees associated with the operation of credit cards also contribute to the total cost of financing goods and services on credit, any changes in these fees should be reflected in the CPI. Therefore, with the introduction of annual credit card fees, the price measure for consumer credit charges will be influenced by both changes in interest payable and changes in credit card fees.

In general, the credit card fees payable by households are determined by applying a flat fee (or price) to the number of credit card accounts operated. As such, the construction of a price measure for credit card fees is reasonably straightforward. The difficulty lies in determining the number of credit card accounts underlying the measure (ie the quantum to be held constant from period to period).

In essence there are three possibilities. Working from the largest to the smallest number they are: the total number of accounts held; the total number of "active" accounts (ie only those accounts used to actually acquire goods and services); and the number of accounts that continue to be maintained after the introduction of account fees.

The last option can be readily dismissed on the grounds that it represents a price induced change in consumption patterns, the effect of which should be excluded from a pure price index like the CPI. Choosing between the first two is not as clear cut. The ABS has decided that the second option (ie total number of active accounts) is the most appropriate for the CPI because only those cards which have actually been used to access consumer credit would be incorporated in the measure. In comparison with the second option, the first option would result in the imputation of a price change for credit cards held for a variety of purposes not directly related to the use of consumer credit (eg for contingency or identification purposes).

It should be noted that the net effect of changes in credit card interest rates and the introduction of annual fees will flow through the CPI over a number of quarters (with some interest rate reductions taking effect late in 1993 while account fees are not scheduled till 1994). Furthermore, the movement in the published series for consumer credit charges will also reflect movements in interest payable on personal loans.



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