

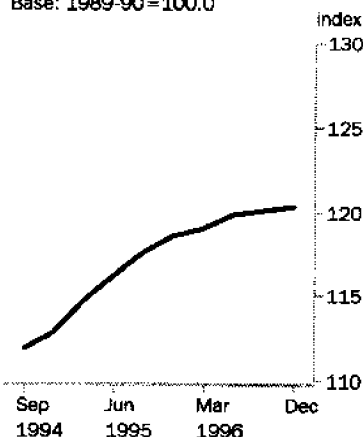
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 29 JAN 1997

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

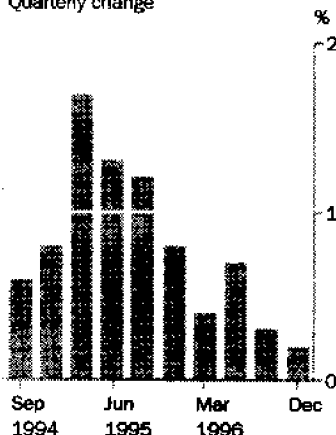
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



INQUIRIES

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

	% change Sep Qtr 1996 to Dec Qtr 1996	% change Dec Qtr 1995 to Dec Qtr 1996
<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>		
Food	0.9	3.2
Clothing	0.3	0.4
Housing	-2.7	-2.7
Household equipment and operation	0.4	1.8
Transportation	0.9	1.8
Tobacco and alcohol	0.5	3.8
Health and personal care	1.2	4.2
Recreation and education	0.5	1.3
All groups	0.2	1.5
All groups excluding housing	0.7	2.3

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.2% between the September and December quarters 1996, the lowest quarterly change since December quarter 1993.
- rose 1.5% between the December quarters 1995 and 1996, the lowest annual change since March quarter 1994.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were the price of petrol (+2.7%), the cost of hospital and medical services (+2.7%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+4.5%), and prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+1.2%), fresh vegetables (+6.5%) and furniture (+1.3%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in mortgage interest charges (-7.0%), prices of motor vehicles (-0.7%) and lamb and mutton (-2.7%), costs of overseas travel and accommodation (-1.6%) and pharmaceuticals (-3.0%), and wine prices (-1.4%).
- contributing most to the annual increase were petrol prices (+3.1%), hospital and medical services (+5.0%), prices of cigarettes and tobacco (+4.4%) and fresh fruit (+16.8%) with off-sets being provided by falls in mortgage interest charges (-7.8%), local government rates and charges (-3.6%) and prices of motor vehicles (-2.7%).

Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation

The index of underlying inflation, as defined by the Commonwealth Treasury, increased 0.4% between the September and December quarters 1996, and 2.1% between the December quarters 1995 and 1996.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

March 1997

23 April 1997

June 1997

23 July 1997

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

ROUNDING

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

W. McLennan

Australian Statistician

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

HOUSING: -2.7%

A fall (-7.0%) in mortgage interest charges more than offset rises in privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.7%), local government rates and charges (+0.3%) and the cost of house insurance (+1.8%).

The fall in mortgage interest charges reflects a substantial decline in interest rates (-7.5%) which was partially offset by an increase in the value of debt outstanding (+0.5%). Housing interest rates are calculated with a one month lag, therefore reductions effective in September and November are both reflected in this quarter.

Privately-owned dwelling rents declined in Canberra (-0.2%, their fourteenth consecutive decline), were steady in Brisbane and rose in the other capitals. The increases ranged from 0.1% in Hobart to 1.1% in Melbourne.

Housing costs in the December quarter 1996 were 2.7% lower than in the December quarter 1995. Reductions in mortgage interest charges (-7.8%) and local government rates and charges (-3.6%) were partially offset by an increase in privately-owned dwelling rents (+3.3%).

FOOD: +0.9%

The increase this quarter is mainly attributable to increases in prices of fresh vegetables (+6.5%), fresh fruit (+3.6%), bread (+2.4%), meals out (1.3%) and fresh potatoes (+12.1%). The most significant price fall was a seasonal decline for lamb and mutton (-2.7%).

The rise in fresh vegetable prices followed a fall (-2.5%) in the previous quarter. At the national level, the rise in the December quarter was largely attributable to pumpkin prices with a partial off-set from lower lettuce prices.

All cities except Darwin recorded a rise in food prices in the December quarter, with the increases ranging from 0.3% in Brisbane to 1.5% in Sydney.

TRANSPORTATION: +0.9%

The increase in transportation costs this quarter results mainly from higher petrol prices (+2.7%). Vehicle insurance (+1.4%) and other transportation costs rose while there was a partial offset from lower motor vehicle prices (-0.7%). December was the fourth consecutive quarter in which vehicle prices showed no change or declined.

The increase in petrol prices (after a fall of 2.1% in the September quarter) is a result of falls in August (-0.9%) and September (-0.3%), rises in October (+1.7%) and November (+2.5%) and a fall in December (-0.4%). In the December quarter 1996 petrol prices were 3.1% higher than in the December quarter 1995.

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1996 motor vehicle prices declined 2.7% while there were rises in vehicle insurance costs (+4.8%), vehicle servicing, repairs and parts (+2.3%) and urban transport fares (+5.2%).

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE: +1.2%

The main contributor to the increase in health and personal care costs was a rise in the cost of hospital and medical services (+2.7%). This mainly reflects increases in some health fund premiums this quarter, a flow on from premium rises in the previous quarter and higher medical fees. There was a partial off-set from a decline in the net cost of pharmaceuticals (-3.0%) mainly due to the increased effect of the PBS safety net scheme.

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION: +0.4%

Increases in the prices of furniture (+1.3%), floor coverings (+0.5%) and bedding (+3.0%), and the cost of house contents insurance (+1.6%) were partially off-set by falls in the prices of kitchen and cooking utensils (-1.3%), and other household non-durables (-1.1%, largely reflecting lower battery prices) and the cost of telephone services (-0.5%). All cities except Darwin recorded increases this quarter.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +0.5%

Increases in the cost of domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+4.5%, largely seasonal), entertainment (+0.9%) and books, newspapers and magazines (+0.7%) were partially off-set by falls in the cost of holiday travel and accommodation overseas (-1.6%), and records, cassettes and tapes (-2.9%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, All groups percentage changes

PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN

Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996 Dec Qtr 1995 and Dec Qtr 1996

Sydney	0.2	1.8
Melbourne	0.3	1.2
Brisbane	0.2	1.9
Adelaide	0.3	1.2
Perth	0.1	1.8
Hobart	0.2	1.8
Darwin	0.1	2.1
Canberra	0.0	1.2
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.2	1.5

ALL GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1992-93	107.7	108.9	108.5	111.2	106.2	108.5	109.5	109.5	108.4
1993-94	109.2	111.1	110.6	113.4	108.5	111.7	111.5	111.4	110.4
1994-95	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	113.9
1995-96	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
1992									
December	107.4	108.2	108.1	110.7	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.0	107.9
1993									
March	108.2	109.5	109.1	111.6	106.4	109.1	109.8	110.1	108.9
June	108.4	110.1	109.7	112.3	106.8	109.4	110.0	110.3	109.3
September	108.7	110.5	109.9	112.7	107.9	111.0	110.6	111.0	109.8
December	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	111.7	111.3	110.0
1994									
March	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	111.4	110.4
June	110.0	112.0	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112.0	111.2
September	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
December	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
1995									
March	113.7	115.0	115.8	117.8	113.0	116.1	115.3	116.3	114.7
June	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
September	117.3	117.6	117.9	120.1	115.6	118.4	118.0	119.1	117.6
December	118.3	118.5	118.6	121.1	116.3	119.2	119.2	120.0	118.5
1996									
March	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0
June	119.9	119.2	120.4	122.0	117.9	120.6	120.8	121.4	119.8
September	120.2	119.6	120.6	122.2	118.3	121.1	121.6	121.4	120.1
December	120.4	119.9	120.8	122.6	118.4	121.3	121.7	121.4	120.3

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

ALL GROUPS, Percentage Changes

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)									
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
1993-94	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
1994-95	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
1995-96	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1992									
December	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
1993									
March	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
June	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
September	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
December	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
1994									
March	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
June	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
September	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.9
December	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.5
1995									
March	4.2	3.4	4.5	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.4	3.9
June	4.9	3.8	4.8	3.8	5.3	4.2	3.9	5.0	4.5
September	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.8	5.1
December	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.8	5.4	5.1
1996									
March	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7
June	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1
September	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	1.9	2.1
December	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1992									
December	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
1993									
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.9
June	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
December	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2
1994									
March	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.4
June	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
September	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
December	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
1995									
March	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.7
June	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
September	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
December	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
1996									
March	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
June	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
September	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3
December	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2

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

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Trans- portation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All groups
1992-93	107.4	107.5	94.6	107.3	111.3	124.4	124.0	109.1	108.4
1993-94	109.4	106.7	94.2	107.8	113.8	133.7	129.0	111.9	110.4
1994-95	112.1	106.7	100.0	109.2	117.5	141.0	135.5	114.6	113.9
1995-96	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
1992									
December	106.7	107.8	94.0	107.5	110.9	123.4	122.7	108.6	107.9
1993									
March	109.0	107.5	94.4	106.9	111.3	126.1	125.6	109.8	108.9
June	108.0	108.1	95.2	107.4	112.1	128.0	126.4	110.4	109.3
September	108.8	107.1	94.9	107.5	113.2	130.8	126.5	110.7	109.8
December	109.5	106.8	93.6	107.4	113.5	133.1	127.0	111.9	110.0
1994									
March	109.8	106.3	93.7	107.9	113.2	134.5	130.7	112.1	110.4
June	109.5	106.4	94.4	108.2	115.2	136.2	131.9	113.0	111.2
September	110.4	106.6	94.9	108.2	117.0	137.4	133.4	112.9	111.9
December	110.9	106.8	97.5	108.9	116.8	139.1	133.7	114.1	112.8
1995									
March	113.2	106.2	102.8	109.3	117.3	141.1	136.5	115.3	114.7
June	113.7	107.2	104.7	110.2	118.8	146.4	138.5	115.9	116.2
September	115.4	106.7	105.4	111.0	122.0	151.4	139.0	116.1	117.6
December	115.7	107.1	106.1	111.6	122.3	155.3	140.8	117.3	118.5
1996									
March	115.9	106.8	105.7	111.6	122.4	157.8	143.5	119.2	119.0
June	117.1	107.4	106.3	112.5	123.8	159.8	143.7	118.2	119.8
September	118.3	107.2	106.1	113.1	123.4	160.4	145.0	118.2	120.1
December	119.4	107.5	103.2	113.6	124.5	161.2	146.7	118.8	120.3

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

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

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Trans- portation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All groups
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)									
1992-93	1.5	1.0	-4.3	-0.2	2.3	8.2	2.2	2.1	1.0
1993-94	1.9	-0.7	-0.4	0.5	2.2	7.5	4.0	2.6	1.8
1994-95	2.5	0.0	6.2	1.3	3.3	5.5	5.0	2.4	3.2
1995-96	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1992									
December	1.1	1.2	-6.4	0.2	1.5	7.6	1.5	1.3	0.3
1993									
March	2.7	1.1	-3.8	-0.5	1.8	9.5	-0.8	2.5	1.2
June	1.5	1.2	-1.0	-0.6	2.9	9.9	3.9	3.2	1.9
September	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.1	8.8	4.2	3.0	2.2
December	2.6	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	2.3	7.9	3.5	3.0	1.9
1994									
March	0.7	-1.1	-0.7	0.9	1.7	6.7	4.1	2.1	1.4
June	1.4	1.6	-0.8	0.7	2.8	6.4	4.4	2.4	1.7
September	1.5	-0.5	0.0	0.7	3.4	5.0	5.5	2.0	1.9
December	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	5.3	2.0	2.5
1995									
March	3.1	-0.1	9.7	1.3	3.6	4.9	4.4	2.9	3.9
June	3.8	0.8	10.9	1.8	3.1	7.5	5.0	2.6	4.5
September	4.5	0.1	11.1	2.6	4.3	10.2	4.2	2.8	5.1
December	4.3	0.3	8.8	2.5	4.7	11.6	5.3	2.8	5.1
1996									
March	2.4	0.6	2.8	2.1	4.3	11.8	5.1	3.4	3.7
June	3.0	0.2	1.5	2.1	4.2	9.2	3.8	2.0	3.1
September	2.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.1	5.9	4.3	1.8	2.1
December	3.2	0.4	-2.7	1.8	1.8	3.8	4.2	1.3	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1992									
December	0.7	1.1	-0.6	0.1	0.0	2.7	1.1	1.0	0.5
1993									
March	2.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.6	0.4	2.2	2.4	1.1	0.9
June	-0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
September	0.7	-0.9	-0.3	0.1	1.0	2.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
December	0.6	-0.3	-1.4	-0.1	0.3	1.8	0.4	1.1	0.2
1994									
March	0.3	-0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.3	1.1	2.9	0.2	0.4
June	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7
September	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.9	1.1	-0.1	0.6
December	0.5	0.2	2.7	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.8
1995									
March	2.1	-0.6	5.4	0.4	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.7
June	0.4	0.9	1.8	0.8	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.3
September	1.5	-0.5	0.7	0.7	2.7	3.4	0.4	0.2	1.2
December	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	2.6	1.3	1.0	0.8
1996									
March	0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.4
June	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7
September	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3
December	0.9	0.3	-2.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.2

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Dec Qtr 1996(a)

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.34	0.18	0.05	0.27	0.10	0.10	-0.07	0.30	0.21
Dairy products	0.01	0.03	—	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Milk and cream	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.01
Cheese	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	-0.01	—
Butter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other dairy products	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Cereal products	0.08	0.07	-0.04	0.02	-0.06	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.04
Bread	0.03	0.06	-0.02	0.03	-0.05	0.05	—	0.06	0.03
Cakes and biscuits	0.03	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Breakfast cereals	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Other cereal products	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Meat and seafoods	0.03	-0.01	0.09	-0.02	-0.04	—	0.03	-0.02	0.01
Beef and veal	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—	0.01	-0.02	—
Lamb and mutton	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.02
Pork	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01
Poultry	0.02	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
Bacon and ham	—	-0.01	0.05	0.02	—	-0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Processed meat	-0.01	—	0.04	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.03	—
Fish	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	0.21	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.07	0.02	-0.01	0.17	0.10
Fresh fruit	0.08	—	-0.02	—	0.08	-0.03	—	0.03	0.04
Fresh potatoes	0.03	0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	—	0.02	0.02
Fresh vegetables	0.10	—	0.05	0.05	-0.02	0.03	-0.02	0.11	0.05
Processed fruit and vegetables	—	0.01	-0.03	0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	—
Processed fruit	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Fruit juice	—	—	-0.03	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	0.02	—
Processed vegetables	—	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	-0.02	0.02	—	—	0.04	0.03	-0.04	-0.02	—
Soft drinks and cordials	—	—	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Confectionery	-0.03	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.03	—	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Meals out and take away foods	0.04	—	0.01	0.09	0.05	0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.04
Meals out	0.03	0.01	—	0.05	0.09	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Take away foods	0.01	—	0.01	0.04	-0.03	0.01	—	0.01	—
Other food	-0.01	0.01	—	0.03	0.01	-0.01	-0.04	0.04	0.01
Eggs	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Sugar	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Food additives, sauces and spices	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—
Margarine	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—
Cooking oils and fats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other food	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	-0.02	-0.03	0.01	0.01
Clothing	0.05	—	-0.01	0.03	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Men's and boys' clothing	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Men's outer clothing	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Men's knitwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Men's shirts	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Boys' clothing	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's and girls' clothing	—	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Women's outer clothing	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Women's knitwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—	0.01
Girls' clothing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	-0.02	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.03	0.02	0.01	-0.01
Footwear	0.04	—	-0.01	0.02	—	—	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Men's footwear	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01
Women's footwear	0.02	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Children's footwear	0.02	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Dec Qtr 1996(a) *continued*

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Housing	-0.51	0.48	-0.51	-0.51	-0.44	-0.42	-0.19	-0.81	-0.50
Rents	0.07	0.04	—	0.02	—	0.02	0.25	0.01	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.06	-0.01	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.19	-0.01	0.01
Home ownership	-0.58	-0.51	-0.51	-0.53	-0.44	-0.44	-0.44	-0.80	-0.53
Mortgage interest charges	-0.59	-0.51	-0.55	-0.57	-0.48	-0.46	-0.41	-0.78	-0.55
Local government rates and charges	—	—	—	0.05	0.03	—	—	—	0.01
House repairs and maintenance	-0.01	—	0.03	—	—	0.02	-0.02	-0.03	—
House insurance	0.03	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.01
Household equipment and operation	0.05	0.12	0.04	0.12	0.08	0.04	-0.01	0.14	0.08
Fuel and light	—	—	—	0.03	—	0.01	—	—	—
Electricity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gas	—	—	—	0.03	—	—	—	—	0.01
Other fuel	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—
Furniture and floor coverings	0.02	0.10	0.01	0.08	0.06	—	0.03	0.10	0.06
Furniture	0.02	0.10	-0.01	0.09	0.07	—	0.03	0.09	0.05
Floor coverings	—	0.01	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Appliances	—	0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Household textiles	0.01	0.03	-0.01	—	0.03	0.01	—	—	0.02
Bedding	0.03	—	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	-0.01	0.02	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.01
Household utensils and tools	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Kitchen and cooking utensils	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.04	—	—	—	-0.01
Cleaning utensils	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tools	-0.02	—	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.03	—
Household supplies and services	0.04	-0.03	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.01	-0.01	0.07	0.03
Household cleaning agents	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.01
Household paper products	0.01	—	0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.01	-0.02	—	—
Other household non-durables	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01
Stationery	0.01	0.01	0.07	—	0.01	—	-0.01	0.04	0.01
Watches and clocks	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—
Veterinary services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pet foods	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.01	—	—
Travel goods	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	—
House contents insurance	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.03	0.01
Repairs to appliances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal and telephone services	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01
Postal services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telephone services	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01
Consumer credit charges	—	—	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	—
Transportation	0.23	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.10	0.29	0.05	0.19	0.19
Private motoring	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.17	0.10	0.25	0.05	0.18	0.18
Motor vehicles	-0.02	-0.05	-0.04	-0.06	-0.04	—	—	0.01	-0.03
Automotive fuel	0.18	0.07	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.13	0.05	0.13	0.15
Vehicle insurance	0.02	0.13	-0.01	0.05	-0.09	0.13	0.01	0.02	0.04
Motoring charges	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Tyres and tubes	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	0.02	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.01	-0.01	—	0.02	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.02	—	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.04	—	0.01	0.01
Tobacco and Alcohol	0.03	-0.02	0.37	0.01	0.05	-0.07	-0.01	-0.05	0.05
Alcoholic drinks	0.03	-0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.05	-0.07	-0.02	-0.06	-0.01
Beer	0.04	0.01	-0.13	-0.01	0.10	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	0.02
Wine	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.04	-0.01	-0.04	-0.02
Spirits	—	—	-0.03	0.02	—	-0.01	—	-0.02	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	—	-0.01	0.54	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.06

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES, Dec Qtr 1996(a) *continued*

Group, sub-group and expenditure class									Weighted average of eight capital cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	
Health and personal care	0.03	0.19	0.02	0.27	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.10
Health services	0.04	0.21	0.06	0.31	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.12
Hospital and medical services	0.03	0.20	0.07	0.28	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.11
Optical services	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	-0.01	—
Dental services	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.03	—
Personal care products	-0.02	-0.03	-0.05	-0.03	-0.01	-0.07	-0.04	-0.03	-0.03
Pharmaceuticals	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Toiletries and personal products	0.02	—	-0.02	—	0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	0.01
Hairstressing services	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Recreation and education	0.03	0.11	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.20	0.22	0.16	0.07
Books, newspapers and magazines	0.02	-0.01	0.02	—	0.03	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
Recreational goods	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04	-0.01	-0.03	—	0.01	—	-0.02
Video and sound equipment	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Records, cassettes and tapes	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	-0.01
Sports and photographic equipment and toys	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	0.02	0.02	—
Holiday travel and accommodation	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.05
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.14	0.12	0.07	0.16	0.07
Holiday travel and accommodation overseas	-0.04	0.02	-0.01	—	-0.11	0.01	0.05	-0.02	-0.02
Recreational services	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.01	0.03
Photographic services	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—	—
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Entertainment	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.02
Education and child care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Education fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child care fees	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
All groups	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.2
Selected State and local government charges	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.10	-0.02	0.09	0.20	—	0.02

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

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

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

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Change between
	1995	1996	1996	1996 and Dec Qtr 1996	1995 and Dec Qtr 1996	1996 (b)	1996	Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996
Food	115.7	118.3	119.4	0.9	3.2	21.96	22.17	0.21
Dairy products	123.6	128.0	129.1	0.9	4.4	1.84	1.85	0.01
Milk and cream	134.0	139.6	140.6	0.7	4.9	1.17	1.18	0.01
Cheese	111.1	111.9	112.6	0.6	1.4	0.42	0.42	—
Butter	93.4	99.4	101.1	1.7	8.2	0.07	0.07	—
Other dairy products	114.3	120.3	123.1	2.3	7.7	0.18	0.18	—
Cereal products	126.7	131.4	133.5	1.6	5.4	2.63	2.67	0.04
Bread	132.7	142.6	146.0	2.4	10.0	1.17	1.20	0.03
Cakes and biscuits	122.6	123.3	124.3	0.8	1.4	0.91	0.92	0.01
Breakfast cereals	124.9	126.4	128.0	1.3	2.5	0.30	0.30	—
Other cereal products	118.6	120.8	122.3	1.2	3.1	0.24	0.24	—
Meat and seafoods	105.6	108.5	108.9	0.4	3.1	3.48	3.49	0.01
Beef and veal	107.5	103.8	103.8	—	-3.4	0.79	0.79	—
Lamb and mutton	114.0	125.0	121.6	-2.7	6.7	0.51	0.49	-0.02
Pork	107.7	110.9	114.3	3.1	6.1	0.20	0.21	0.01
Poultry	90.6	95.1	96.8	1.8	6.8	0.45	0.46	0.01
Bacon and ham	106.4	112.6	114.5	1.7	7.6	0.37	0.37	—
Processed meat	107.8	113.0	113.1	0.1	4.9	0.78	0.78	—
Fish	103.3	100.8	102.5	1.7	-0.8	0.37	0.38	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	101.1	100.6	106.0	5.4	4.8	1.88	1.98	0.10
Fresh fruit	109.8	123.8	128.2	3.6	16.8	0.98	1.02	0.04
Fresh potatoes	125.9	78.8	88.3	12.1	-29.9	0.17	0.19	0.02
Fresh vegetables	88.9	86.4	92.0	6.5	3.5	0.73	0.78	0.05
Processed fruit and vegetables	113.8	115.1	115.3	0.2	1.3	0.95	0.95	—
Processed fruit	115.6	115.6	118.0	2.1	2.1	0.15	0.16	0.01
Fruit juice	117.4	120.5	120.4	-0.1	2.6	0.49	0.49	—
Processed vegetables	107.7	107.2	106.8	-0.4	-0.8	0.31	0.30	-0.01
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	126.3	129.1	129.3	0.2	2.4	3.51	3.51	—
Soft drinks and cordials	122.8	125.3	125.5	0.2	2.2	1.40	1.40	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	138.6	141.1	144.1	2.1	4.0	0.48	0.49	0.01
Confectionery	127.0	130.1	129.6	-0.4	2.0	1.63	1.62	-0.01
Meals out and take away foods	115.8	118.2	118.9	0.6	2.7	5.63	5.67	0.04
Meals out	117.0	119.1	120.7	1.3	3.2	2.15	2.17	0.02
Take away foods	116.0	118.6	118.7	0.1	2.3	3.49	3.49	—
Other food	118.8	120.5	120.8	0.2	1.7	2.04	2.05	0.01
Eggs	129.0	140.2	140.6	0.3	9.0	0.19	0.19	—
Sugar	101.5	103.5	101.5	-1.9	—	0.07	0.07	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	130.8	134.0	135.8	1.3	3.8	0.18	0.18	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	123.1	121.3	121.1	-0.2	-1.6	0.37	0.37	—
Food additives, sauces and spices	116.1	115.4	115.8	0.3	-0.3	0.27	0.27	—
Margarine	114.5	114.1	112.3	-1.6	-1.9	0.15	0.15	—
Cooking oils and fats	126.6	128.0	128.8	0.6	1.7	0.12	0.12	—
Other food	115.8	118.5	119.1	0.5	2.8	0.69	0.70	0.01
Clothing	107.1	107.2	107.5	0.3	0.4	6.71	6.72	0.01
Men's and boys' clothing	110.7	111.3	111.8	0.4	1.0	1.86	1.87	0.01
Men's outer clothing	111.1	110.3	110.1	-0.2	-0.9	0.75	0.75	—
Men's knitwear	112.0	114.0	114.0	—	1.8	0.17	0.17	—
Men's shirts	107.2	106.9	108.3	1.3	1.0	0.34	0.34	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	111.3	113.0	112.8	-0.2	1.3	0.16	0.16	—
Boys' clothing	110.7	113.5	114.8	1.1	3.7	0.44	0.44	—
Women's and girls' clothing	106.7	106.9	106.9	—	0.2	2.72	2.72	—
Women's outer clothing	104.6	104.5	104.2	-0.3	-0.4	1.73	1.73	—
Women's knitwear	106.6	106.3	106.3	—	-0.3	0.21	0.21	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	118.6	120.3	121.1	0.7	2.1	0.39	0.40	0.01
Girls' clothing	106.9	107.4	108.0	0.6	1.0	0.39	0.39	—
Fabric and knitting wool	104.2	104.5	103.1	-1.3	-1.1	0.79	0.78	-0.01

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

	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
				Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1995 and Dec Qtr 1996			Change between Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996
Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Dec Qtr 1995	Sep Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996			Sep Qtr 1996 (b)	Dec Qtr 1996	
Clothing continued								
Footwear	99.6	98.4	100.1	1.7	0.5	1.05	1.07	0.02
Men's footwear	98.3	96.4	98.5	2.2	0.2	0.33	0.34	0.01
Women's footwear	101.7	102.2	103.4	1.2	1.7	0.48	0.48	—
Children's footwear	98.1	95.0	97.0	2.1	-1.1	0.24	0.24	—
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	126.5	128.9	129.5	0.5	2.4	0.27	0.27	—
Housing	106.1	106.1	103.2	-2.7	-2.7	18.65	18.15	-0.50
Rents	111.2	113.9	114.7	0.7	3.1	5.52	5.56	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	110.5	113.3	114.1	0.7	3.3	5.08	5.12	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	118.9	119.5	120.3	0.7	1.2	0.44	0.45	0.01
Home ownership	103.6	102.5	98.3	-4.1	-5.1	13.12	12.59	-0.53
Mortgage interest charges	91.1	90.3	84.0	-7.0	-7.8	7.87	7.32	-0.55
Local government rates and charges	137.7	132.4	132.8	0.3	-3.6	2.65	2.66	0.01
House repairs and maintenance	116.7	118.3	118.1	-0.2	1.2	2.08	2.08	—
House insurance	143.4	146.5	149.1	1.8	4.0	0.52	0.53	0.01
Household equipment and operation	111.6	113.1	113.6	0.4	1.8	20.62	20.70	0.08
Fuel and light	119.4	121.0	121.2	0.2	1.5	2.74	2.74	—
Electricity	117.6	119.1	119.1	—	1.3	2.02	2.02	—
Gas	125.8	128.0	128.5	0.4	2.1	0.65	0.66	0.01
Other fuel	113.5	115.1	116.7	1.5	2.8	0.06	0.06	—
Furniture and floor coverings	115.8	116.3	117.6	1.1	1.6	4.95	5.01	0.06
Furniture	118.7	118.9	120.5	1.3	1.5	3.99	4.04	0.05
Floor coverings	107.0	108.7	109.2	0.5	2.1	0.96	0.97	0.01
Appliances	108.1	110.1	109.7	-0.4	1.5	1.73	1.73	—
Household textiles	114.5	115.8	117.9	1.8	3.0	0.88	0.90	0.02
Bedding	117.2	117.0	120.5	3.0	2.8	0.39	0.40	0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	112.7	115.3	116.2	0.8	3.1	0.49	0.50	0.01
Household utensils and tools	105.9	105.8	105.1	-0.7	-0.8	1.31	1.30	-0.01
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	99.2	100.1	101.5	1.4	2.3	0.28	0.29	0.01
Kitchen and cooking utensils	107.2	105.4	104.0	-1.3	-3.0	0.39	0.38	-0.01
Cleaning utensils	103.5	105.3	105.1	-0.2	1.5	0.10	0.10	—
Tools	108.8	109.2	107.7	-1.4	-1.0	0.53	0.53	—
Household supplies and services	119.1	122.9	123.5	0.5	3.7	4.77	4.80	0.03
Household cleaning agents	119.0	124.2	124.8	0.5	4.9	0.80	0.81	0.01
Household paper products	111.5	110.8	112.3	1.4	0.7	0.52	0.52	—
Other household non-durables	117.8	121.5	120.2	-1.1	2.0	1.01	1.00	-0.01
Stationery	111.4	117.7	120.0	2.0	7.7	0.55	0.56	0.01
Watches and clocks	123.7	131.0	134.4	2.6	8.6	0.17	0.17	—
Veterinary services	135.3	139.6	139.8	0.1	3.3	0.15	0.15	—
Pet foods	121.5	127.6	126.9	-0.5	4.4	0.60	0.60	—
Travel goods	102.1	101.5	103.7	2.2	1.6	0.28	0.28	—
House contents insurance	143.9	147.2	149.6	1.6	4.0	0.48	0.49	0.01
Repairs to appliances	126.8	130.0	130.0	—	2.5	0.21	0.21	—
Postal and telephone services	107.8	106.7	106.3	-0.4	-1.4	1.83	1.82	-0.01
Postal services	110.5	110.5	110.5	—	—	0.18	0.18	—
Telephone services	107.3	106.2	105.7	-0.5	-1.5	1.65	1.64	-0.01
Consumer credit charges	92.7	94.6	94.6	—	2.0	2.41	2.41	—
Transportation	122.3	123.4	124.5	0.9	1.8	19.48	19.67	0.19
Private motoring	121.1	121.9	123.1	1.0	1.7	17.93	18.11	0.18
Motor vehicles	121.9	119.4	118.6	-0.7	-2.7	4.90	4.87	-0.03
Automotive fuel	118.3	118.8	122.0	2.7	3.1	5.44	5.59	0.15
Vehicle insurance	130.8	135.1	137.1	1.4	4.8	2.85	2.89	0.04
Motoring charges	137.7	142.7	143.0	0.2	3.8	1.12	1.12	—
Tyres and tubes	106.5	105.9	107.0	1.0	0.5	0.39	0.39	—
Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	116.6	119.0	119.3	0.3	2.3	3.24	3.25	0.01
Urban transport fares	141.7	147.8	149.0	0.8	5.2	1.55	1.56	0.01

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr 1995	Sep Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1995 and Dec Qtr 1996	Sep Qtr 1996 (b)	Dec Qtr 1996	Change between Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996
Tobacco and alcohol	155.3	160.4	161.2	0.5	3.8	11.01	11.06	0.05
Alcoholic drinks	126.8	131.1	131.0	-0.1	3.3	6.30	6.29	-0.01
Beer	128.1	132.3	132.8	0.4	3.7	3.64	3.66	0.02
Wine	120.8	124.6	122.9	-1.4	1.7	1.30	1.28	-0.02
Spirits	128.9	133.7	133.7	—	3.7	1.36	1.36	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	223.1	230.2	232.9	1.2	4.4	4.71	4.77	0.06
Health and personal care	140.8	145.0	146.7	1.2	4.2	8.74	8.84	0.10
Health services	156.3	160.0	163.7	2.3	4.7	5.33	5.45	0.12
Hospital and medical services	165.5	169.2	173.8	2.7	5.0	4.30	4.41	0.11
Optical services	118.4	119.1	120.2	0.9	1.5	0.21	0.21	—
Dental services	133.9	138.7	139.3	0.4	4.0	0.82	0.82	—
Personal care products	121.0	126.6	125.3	-1.0	3.6	2.48	2.45	-0.03
Pharmaceuticals	116.6	127.7	123.9	-3.0	6.3	0.96	0.94	-0.02
Toiletries and personal products	123.9	125.9	126.2	0.2	1.9	1.51	1.52	0.01
Hairdressing services	120.5	123.2	124.3	0.9	3.2	0.93	0.94	0.01
Recreation and education	117.3	118.2	118.8	0.5	1.3	12.94	13.01	0.07
Books, newspapers and magazines	139.6	142.5	143.5	0.7	2.8	1.50	1.51	0.01
Recreational goods	100.5	99.0	98.2	-0.8	-2.3	2.69	2.67	-0.02
Video and sound equipment	84.1	80.5	79.7	-1.0	-5.2	0.76	0.76	—
Records, cassettes and tapes	105.8	102.8	99.8	-2.9	-5.7	0.33	0.32	-0.01
Sports and photographic equipment and toys	109.4	109.5	109.2	-0.3	-0.2	1.59	1.59	—
Holiday travel and accommodation	106.0	102.1	103.9	1.8	-2.0	2.70	2.75	0.05
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	108.4	101.6	106.2	4.5	-2.0	1.48	1.55	0.07
Holiday travel and accommodation overseas	102.9	102.6	101.0	-1.6	-1.8	1.22	1.20	-0.02
Recreational services	129.2	132.2	133.3	0.8	3.2	3.52	3.55	0.03
Photographic services	110.4	114.0	114.7	0.7	3.9	0.29	0.29	—
Repairs to recreational goods	117.1	118.9	120.1	0.9	2.6	0.14	0.14	—
Entertainment	132.2	135.1	136.3	0.9	3.1	3.10	3.12	0.02
Education and child care	134.7	142.3	142.4	0.1	5.7	2.53	2.53	—
Education fees	142.9	151.1	151.1	—	5.7	2.02	2.02	—
Child care fees	113.4	119.5	119.7	0.2	5.6	0.51	0.52	0.01
All groups	118.5	120.1	120.3	0.2	1.5	120.1	120.3	0.2

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

(b) The ABS has moved to a new processing system for the CPI. The new system is able to calculate points contributions data to a higher level of precision than was possible on the old system. As a consequence, points contributions for September quarter 1996 have been revised. Index numbers have not been affected by the change.

SPECIAL SERIES, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr 1995	Sep Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1996	Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996	Dec Qtr 1995 and Dec Qtr 1996	Sep Qtr 1996 (c)	Dec Qtr 1996	Change between Sep Qtr 1996 and Dec Qtr 1996
All groups	118.5	120.1	120.3	0.2	1.5	120.1	120.3	0.2
Selected components								
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	92.1	91.9	87.0	-5.3	-5.5	10.28	9.73	-0.55
Goods component(b)	119.5	121.3	122.0	0.6	2.1	73.31	73.72	0.41
Services component(b)	116.9	118.3	117.8	-0.4	0.8	46.80	46.61	-0.19
Selected State and local government charges(b)	128.6	128.7	128.9	0.2	0.2	7.92	7.94	0.02
All groups excluding								
Food	119.1	120.6	120.6	0.0	1.3	98.15	98.16	0.01
Clothing	119.3	121.0	121.2	0.2	1.6	113.40	113.61	0.21
Housing	120.8	122.7	123.6	0.7	2.3	101.46	102.18	0.72
Household equipment and operation	120.1	121.7	121.9	0.2	1.5	99.49	99.63	0.14
Transportation	117.8	119.5	119.6	0.1	1.5	100.62	100.66	0.04
Tobacco and alcohol	115.7	117.0	117.2	0.2	1.3	109.10	109.27	0.17
Health and personal care	117.1	118.6	118.7	0.1	1.4	111.37	111.48	0.11
Recreation and education	118.7	120.4	120.6	0.2	1.6	107.16	107.32	0.16
Home ownership	120.4	122.4	123.3	0.7	2.4	106.98	107.74	0.76
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	121.5	123.3	124.2	0.7	2.2	109.83	110.60	0.77
Hospital and medical services	117.3	118.8	118.9	0.1	1.4	115.81	115.91	0.10
Selected State and local government charges(b)	117.9	119.6	119.8	0.2	1.6	112.19	112.39	0.20

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

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

(c) The ABS has moved to a new processing system for the CPI. The new system is able to calculate points contributions data to a higher level of precision than was possible on the old system. As a consequence, points contributions for September quarter 1996 have been revised. Index numbers have not been affected by the change.



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

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand
1992-93	112.1	106.8	110.3	110.8	118.6	130.8	123.5	111.4	129.0	108.1	111.0	108.7
1993-94	114.8	107.9	113.2	112.0	122.0	140.1	130.4	114.2	137.8	110.9	113.5	109.4
1994-95	118.0	107.8	115.2	113.4	124.8	151.4	138.0	119.1	150.3	114.5	116.5	110.5
1995-96	120.9	107.3	116.3	116.0	128.3	160.8	144.4	122.5	163.7	116.0	121.1	111.9
1992												
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
1993												
March	112.7	106.6	111.0	111.2	118.4	132.1	123.8	111.3	133.5	108.4	111.6	108.9
June	113.3	107.6	111.9	111.5	120.8	134.8	126.4	113.5	133.2	109.0	112.0	109.1
September	113.7	108.1	112.6	112.1	121.1	136.4	127.2	112.2	133.5	109.5	112.6	109.3
December	114.6	107.6	112.4	112.6	121.4	139.3	128.3	113.4	135.0	110.3	113.2	109.4
1994												
March	115.1	107.7	113.6	111.8	121.8	140.8	132.2	114.4	140.9	111.4	113.6	109.3
June	115.9	108.1	114.1	111.5	123.5	143.7	134.0	116.6	141.6	112.5	114.4	109.5
September	116.9	107.7	114.9	112.2	123.4	147.6	136.6	119.3	145.3	113.6	115.1	109.8
December	117.4	108.2	114.6	112.4	123.9	149.6	136.2	117.2	147.5	114.4	115.7	110.4
1995												
March	118.2	107.4	115.3	113.9	125.1	152.9	138.4	118.8	152.6	114.5	116.9	110.6
June	119.4	107.8	115.8	115.1	126.6	155.5	140.7	121.0	155.9	115.3	118.3	111.3
September	119.7	107.3	116.1	115.3	127.0	158.6	141.8	121.4	157.9	115.4	119.8	111.2
December	120.2	107.3	115.7	115.3	127.7	159.6	142.3	122.0	161.6	115.6	120.8	111.6
1996												
March	121.2	106.9	116.4	116.0	128.5	160.7	145.2	122.3	167.0	116.3	121.5	112.0
June	122.6	107.8	116.9	117.3	130.0	164.1	148.1	124.3	168.1	116.8	122.3	112.8
September	123.1	107.3	117.3	117.5	130.3	165.5	149.6	126.1	168.5	117.3	122.7	113.0
December	124.1	n.y.a.	117.1	118.5	131.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	126.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	123.6	113.8

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

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

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

Period	United States of America	Japan	Germany	Canada	United Kingdom	Hong Kong	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan	Indonesia	Singapore	Australia	New Zealand
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous year)												
1992-93	3.1	0.8	3.0	1.8	3.1	7.5	4.7	3.5	7.5	1.9	2.0	2.1
1993-94	2.4	1.0	2.6	1.1	2.9	7.1	5.6	2.5	6.8	2.6	2.3	0.6
1994-95	2.8	-0.1	1.8	1.3	2.3	8.1	5.8	4.3	9.1	3.2	2.6	1.0
1995-96	2.5	-0.5	1.0	2.3	2.8	6.2	4.6	2.9	8.9	1.3	3.9	1.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)												
1992												
December	3.0	0.6	2.8	1.8	3.1	7.8	4.3	3.9	5.3	1.8	1.6	2.5
1993												
March	3.5	0.9	3.3	2.3	2.9	7.2	4.4	3.2	10.5	2.0	2.0	1.8
June	3.0	0.6	2.9	1.9	3.0	7.0	4.5	2.7	8.4	1.9	2.5	1.5
September	2.7	1.7	3.2	1.9	3.4	7.1	4.2	1.9	8.2	2.1	2.6	1.1
December	2.6	0.8	2.9	2.1	2.9	8.2	5.5	2.3	7.3	2.3	2.4	0.7
1994												
March	2.1	1.0	2.3	0.5	2.9	6.6	6.8	2.8	5.5	2.8	1.8	0.4
June	2.3	0.5	2.0	0.0	2.2	6.6	6.0	2.7	6.3	3.3	2.1	0.4
September	2.8	-0.4	2.0	0.1	1.9	8.2	7.4	6.3	8.8	3.8	2.2	0.5
December	2.4	0.6	2.0	-0.2	2.1	7.4	6.2	3.4	9.3	3.7	2.2	0.9
1995												
March	2.7	-0.3	1.5	1.9	2.7	8.6	4.7	3.8	8.3	2.8	2.9	1.2
June	3.0	-0.3	1.5	3.2	2.5	8.2	5.0	3.8	10.1	2.5	3.4	1.6
September	2.4	-0.4	1.0	2.8	2.9	7.5	3.8	1.8	8.7	1.6	4.1	1.3
December	2.4	-0.8	1.0	2.6	3.1	6.7	4.5	4.1	9.6	1.1	4.4	1.1
1996												
March	2.5	-0.5	1.0	1.8	2.7	5.1	4.9	2.9	9.4	1.6	3.9	1.3
June	2.7	0.0	0.9	1.9	2.7	5.5	5.3	2.7	7.8	1.3	3.4	1.3
September	2.8	0.0	1.0	1.9	2.6	4.4	5.5	3.9	6.7	1.6	2.4	1.6
December	3.2	n.y.a.	1.2	2.8	2.7	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	3.5	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.3	2.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1992												
December	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.0	-0.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	0.7	0.5
1993												
March	0.9	-0.1	1.6	0.8	0.3	2.6	1.8	0.5	6.1	0.5	0.9	0.3
June	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	-0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2
September	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.6	-1.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2
December	0.8	-0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.2	2.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.1
1994												
March	0.4	0.1	1.1	-0.7	0.3	1.1	3.0	0.9	4.4	1.0	0.4	-0.1
June	0.7	0.4	0.4	-0.3	1.4	2.1	1.4	1.9	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.2
September	0.9	-0.4	0.7	0.6	-0.1	2.7	1.9	2.3	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.3
December	0.4	0.5	-0.3	0.2	0.4	1.4	-0.3	-1.8	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
1995												
March	0.7	-0.7	0.6	1.3	1.0	2.2	1.6	1.4	3.5	0.1	1.0	0.2
June	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.6
September	0.3	-0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.0	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.3	-0.1
December	0.4	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	2.3	0.2	0.8	0.4
1996												
March	0.8	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.0	0.2	3.3	0.6	0.6	0.4
June	1.2	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.0	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7
September	0.4	-0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
December	0.8	n.y.a.	-0.2	0.9	0.7	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.7	0.7

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

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

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

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items' (c)	Goods	Services	Total	Treasury Underlying Rate(c)
1992-93	108.4	111.0	112.1	110.9	109.0	110.4	110.4
1993-94	110.4	113.5	115.2	113.9	110.8	113.1	112.7
1994-95	113.9	116.5	118.1	116.2	114.0	115.7	115.1
1995-96	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	118.8
1992							
December	107.9	110.6	111.6	110.4	109.2	110.1	110.1
1993							
March	108.9	111.6	112.6	111.3	108.9	110.7	110.7
June	109.3	112.0	113.4	112.2	109.3	111.5	111.3
September	109.8	112.6	114.1	113.1	109.6	112.2	112.0
December	110.0	113.2	114.8	113.6	111.0	112.9	112.4
1994							
March	110.4	113.6	115.6	114.1	111.0	113.3	113.0
June	111.2	114.4	116.1	114.6	111.6	113.8	113.5
September	111.9	115.1	116.7	115.0	112.7	114.4	114.2
December	112.8	115.7	117.5	115.7	113.7	115.2	114.8
1995							
March	114.7	116.9	118.3	116.3	114.2	115.7	115.2
June	116.2	118.3	119.7	117.9	115.5	117.3	116.3
September	117.6	119.8	121.0	119.4	116.8	118.7	117.7
December	118.5	120.8	122.1	120.3	118.4	119.9	118.5
1996							
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	119.0
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	119.9
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	120.5
December	120.3	123.6	124.8	122.5	121.6	122.3	121.0

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

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

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

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

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

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

1992-93	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.8	0.9	2.3	2.0
1993-94	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.7	1.7	2.4	2.1
1994-95	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1
1995-96	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.2

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)

1992							
December	0.3	1.6	2.1	2.4	0.4	1.9	1.9
1993							
March	1.2	2.0	2.5	3.1	0.7	2.4	2.0
June	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.6	1.8
September	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.3	0.9	2.7	2.2
December	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.9	1.6	2.5	2.1
1994							
March	1.4	1.8	2.7	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.1
June	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
September	1.9	2.2	2.3	1.7	2.8	2.0	2.0
December	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.0	2.1
1995							
March	3.9	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.9
June	4.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.5
September	5.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.1
December	5.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.2
1996							
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.3
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4
December	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.1

PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)

1992							
December	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5
1993							
March	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	-0.3	0.5	0.5
June	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5
September	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.6
December	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.4
1994							
March	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5
June	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
September	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.6
December	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
1995							
March	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
June	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.0
September	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
December	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.0	0.7
1996							
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	0.8
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5
December	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4

(a) Refer to paragraphs 20-25 of the Explanatory Notes
for further information(b) Refer to paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for a
description of this series

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CPI

1 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (i.e. metropolitan wage and salary earner households). This 'basket' covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups:

- food
- clothing
- housing
- household equipment and operation
- transportation
- tobacco and alcohol
- health and personal care and
- recreation and education.

Pensioners and other social welfare recipients are not included in the CPI population group and the index does not reflect concessional prices paid by these people such as subsidised government dwelling rents, public transport fares and the like.

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

3 Further information about the CPI is contained in a booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0) which is available from the ABS on request. A more detailed account is contained in *The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6461.0), contained on the CD-ROM *Statistical Concepts Reference Library* (1361.0).

PRICES

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

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

WEIGHTING PATTERN

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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ANALYSIS OF CPI CHANGES

8 Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in index points or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating changes in index points and percentage changes between any two periods:

All groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Index numbers:

December Quarter 1996 120.3 (see Table 1)

less September Quarter 1996 120.1 (see Table 1)

Change in index points 0.2

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.2}{120.1} \times 100 = 0.2\%$$

9 Percentage changes are calculated to illustrate three different kinds of movements in index numbers:

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

10 Table 6 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products sub-group contributed 1.85 index points to the total All groups index number of 120.3 for December Quarter 1996. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group, sub-group and expenditure class.

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

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

SPECIAL SERIES

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

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

All Groups, goods component: comprises the Food group (except Meals out), Clothing group (except Dry cleaning and Shoe repairs), Household equipment and operation group (except Veterinary services, House contents insurance, Repairs to appliances, Postal and telephone services and Consumer credit charges), Tobacco and alcohol group, Materials used in house repairs and maintenance, Motor vehicles, Automotive fuel, Tyres and tubes, Parts used in vehicle services and repairs, Personal care products, Books, Newspapers and magazines, and Recreational goods. The resulting series accounted for approximately 61% of the All groups CPI in the June quarter 1992.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SPECIAL SERIES (continued)

Selected State and local government charges: comprises Government-owned dwelling rents, Water and sewerage rates, Council property rates and charges, Electricity prices, Gas prices (Melbourne and Perth only), Motor vehicle third party insurance premiums (except Canberra and in part only in Sydney and Brisbane), Motor vehicle registration fees, Drivers' licence fees, Urban bus fares (government bus fares only in Sydney and Melbourne, council fares only in Brisbane), Urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin).

All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items': comprises the All groups CPI excluding: Fresh fruit and vegetables, Mortgage interest charges, Automotive fuel, and Consumer credit charges. The resulting series covers approximately 85% of the total CPI basket.

Private sector goods and services: in addition to the items excluded from the series "All groups excluding interest and 'volatile items'", also excludes: Government-owned dwelling rents, Fuel and light, Local government rates and charges, Postal and telephone services, Motoring charges, Urban transport fares, Health services, Pharmaceuticals, and Education and child care. The resulting series covers approximately 69% of the total CPI basket.

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

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

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

16 Table 8 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series 'All groups excluding housing'. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989–90 = 100.0.

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

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

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

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION

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

21 It is not possible to produce a single measure that is entirely suitable for both purposes, due to certain fundamental differences in requirements. For more details, see the Information Paper *The Australian Consumer Price Index, 12th Series Review* (6450.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

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

24 Table 10 presents the All groups CPI, All groups excluding housing (the series recommended for international comparisons), and a number of possible 'underlying' measures including the Treasury measure. A description of the Treasury 'underlying' inflation rate was published in the Appendix to the September quarter 1994 issue of this publication.

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

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

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

- *The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods* (6461.0), available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concept Reference Library* (1361.0)
- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0)
- *Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges* (6442.0)
- *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0)
- *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities* (6403.0)
- *Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: 12th Series Review* (6450.0)

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

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

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