

CANBERRA

<u>, 1</u>

Reference No. 9.1

3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MARCH QUARTER 1976

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein.

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March quarter 1976 increased by 3.0% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney +3.1%; Melbourne +2.7%; Brisbane +3.2%; Adelaide +3.2%; Perth +3.3%; Hobart +2.7%; Canberra +2.5%. An analysis of these changes is given in the table on page 3 and in paragraph 15.

Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

		Perc	Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter												
Ouarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra							
∎ri National de la companya de la companya National de la companya de la company	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent							
1973-74 -						·									
March	+2.4	+2.3	+2.3	+2.6	+2.5	+2.5	+2.1	+3.0							
June	+4.1	+3.9	+4.6	+3.6	+4.3	+3.5	+4.1	+3.2							
1974-75 -															
September	+5.1	+5.2	+4.9	+5.4	+5.1	+4.9	+5.0	+5.2							
December	+3.8	+3.6	+3.3	+3.2	+4.4	+6.0	+5.1	+3.4							
March	+3.6	+3.4	+3.8	+2.7	+4.4	+3.8	+2.3	+2.3							
June	+3.5	+3.7	+3.5	+2.6	+3.2	+4.1	+3.1	+4.1							
1975-76 -															
September (b)	+0.8	+1.5	+0.6	+1.6	-0.6	0.1	+0.7	0.1							
December (b)	+5.6	+4.6	+6.0	+6.3	+5.8	+6.3	+7.5	+8.0							
March	+3.0	+3.1	+2.7	+3.2	+3.2	+3.3	+2.7	+2.5							

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (b) Includes effects of price decreases in health services with the introduction of Medibank

Recent annual changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Same Quarter of Preceding Year

Quarter	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
·	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1973-74 -								
March	+13.6	+13.5	+13.6	+14.2	+14.5	+11.2	+12.9	+14.1
June	+14.4	+14.3	+14.8	+14.3	+15.3	+11.9	+14.6	+14.3
1974-75 -								
September	+16.0	+15.9	+16.5	+15.8	+16.8	+14.8	+16.4	+16.1
December	+16.3	+15.8	+16.0	+15.7	+17.3	+18.0	+17.3	+15.6
March	+17.6	+17.0	+17.6	+15.8	+19.5	+19.5	+17.6	+14.8
June	+16.9	+16.9	+16.3	+14.7	+18.2	+20.1	+16.5	+15.8
1975-76							2.4	_ • • •
September	+12.1	+12.7	+11.5	+10.5	+11.8	+14.4	+11.8	+9.9
December	+14.0	+13.8	+14.5	+13.8	+13.3	+14.7	+14.3	+14.9
March	+13.4	+13.6	+13.2	+14.3	+12.0	+14.2	+14.7	+15.1

a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

WOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Trevor Travers on 52 7911 extension 6251 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of the index have been as follows:

	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter										
Quarter	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscel- laneous	All Groups					
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent					
1973-74 -											
March	+3.4	+2.0	+2.2	+2.4	+1.7	+2.4					
June	+3.7	+7.3	+5.1	+3.5	+3.1	+4.1					
1974-75 -											
September	+2.7	+4.9	+4.7	+6.6	+7.0	+5.1					
December	-0.2	+7.3	+5.4	+3.5	+5.0	+3.8					
March	+1.1	+1.4	+3.2	+3.8	+6.3	+3.6					
June	+3.4	+4.4	+5.3	+3.5	+2.6	+3.5					
1975-76 –											
September	+1.6	+2.3	+3.6	+2.4	(a)-2.0	(a)+0.8					
December	+3.1	+6.9	+5.3	+3.0	(a)+8.0	(a)+5.6					
March	+5.0	+1.3	+2.8	+2.2	+2.5	+3.0					

(a) Includes effects of price decreases in health services with the introduction of Medibank.

6. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of goods and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). *Eight series* for short periods have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

7. A detailed description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 58, 1973 (Reference No. 6.7) which describes the sixth and seventh series of the index. The *eighth series* differs only because of the deletion of the item "radio and television licences" as from September quarter 1974.

8. The quarterly prices for food items used in the index are the averages of prices normally collected as at the middle of each of the three months of the quarter. However, for potatoes and for onions from December quarter 1968, weekly prices are averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices of all non-food items are collected at regular quarterly intervals (or at annual intervals with items such as local government rates and seasonal clothing) normally as at the middle of the mid-month of each quarter. However, for furniture, major household appliances and motoring items (other than motor car) the collection is made during the first month of each quarter to facilitate field collection arrangements.

9. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

10. Table 1 on page 5 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1963-64 to 1974-75 and for each quarter from March quarter 1969. Table 2 on pages 6 and 7 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from March quarter 1973 to March quarter 1976.

11. Table 3 on page 8 shows monthly Food Group index numbers for each month from July 1972. In Table 4 information of contributions by the Food Group to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points is shown for both December quarter 1975 and March quarter 1976 and each of the three months of this quarter, i.e. January, February and March 1976. A more detailed presentation of information on monthly food price movements can be found in the monthly bulletin *Consumer Price Index, Food Group Index Numbers* (Reference No. 9.11). Since the food group is the only group of the index for which prices are collected monthly, it is not possible to provide monthly indexes for other groups.

12. Table 5 on page 9 shows index numbers for December quarter 1975 and March quarter 1976 for groups and sub-groups of the index and for some special groupings. It also contains information of contributions by index sub-groups to the total index in terms of All Groups Index Points for these two quarters. Users of these figures should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts. 13. Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percentage changes rather than changes in the 'index points' because 'index point' changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percentage changes are not. In this bulletin details are given in terms of percentage changes in paragraphs 2-5. However, the analysis in paragraph 14 shows movements in terms of All Groups 'index points'. This analysis shows the contribution of selected items and of the five groups to movements in the total indexes. Table 5 on page 9 shows movements expressed as both percentage changes and changes in 'index points'. The following example illustrates the computation of 'index point' and percentage changes :

All Groups : Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities

Index Point Change		Percentage Change
March quarter 1976 CPI (1966-67 = 100.0)	197.4	Index points difference divided by the index for the previous period
less December quarter 1975 CPI	191.7	$\frac{197.4 - 191.7}{191.7} \times 100 = 3.0\%$
Index points difference	5.7	$\frac{191.7}{191.7} \times 100 = 3.0\%$

14. The following analysis and Table 5 on page 9 are provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1975 to March quarter 1976.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX Movements from December Quarter 1975 to March Quarter 1976 Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a) (b)

Group	Six Capitals (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
7WR 1			INDEX	POINTS (a)			,	
Food –								
Potatoes	+0.8	+0.7	+0.9	+1.4	+0.9	+0.2	+0.6	+0.8
Meat	+0.5	+0.5	+0.2	+0.9	+0.8	+0.7	+0.2	+0.6
Dairy produce	+0.3	+0.5	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4	+0.2
Cereal products	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2
Soft drinks, ice cream								
and confectionery	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2
Other	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3
Clothing and Drapery	+0.3	+0.3	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3
Housing -						•		
House price, repairs								
and maintenance	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.4	+0.5	+0.6	+0.7	+0.2
Rent, private	+0.3	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.5	+0.2	+0.2
Rent, government	+0.1	••	+0.2	••*	••	••	••	+0.1
Household Supplies								
and Equipment –								
Fuel and light	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	••			+0.1	+0.1
Other	+0.3	+0.4	+0.2	+0.4	+0.5	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3
Miscellaneous –								
Petrol	+0.2	+0.5		+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.3
Other Motoring Goods	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3
Motoring Services	•							
and charges	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+1.0	+0.1
Cigarettes and tobacco	+0.3	••	+0.6		+0.1	+0.8		
Fares	+0.2	+0.6	•••	••	•••			
Health Services	+0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2
Other	+0.3	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.7	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
Total Change								
(Index Points) (d)	+5.7	+6.2	+5.0	+6.0	+6.0	+6.2	+5.1	+4.7

(a) See explanation in paragraph 13. (b) In terms of 1966-67 base. (c) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (d) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

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15. A summary of the various group indexes, together with the *main quarterly* price changes which affected the index between December quarter 1975 and March quarter 1976 is shown below:

Food Group. Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the food group index and of disparate movements between cities. Potato prices reached a high level in February and fell during March in most cities. Their average price for March quarter in all cities was significantly higher than that for December quarter. Meat prices also increased in all cities. The price of bread increased in all cities and milk prices increased in all cities except Brisbane and Canberra. The index for the group increased by 5.0% for the quarter.

Clothing and Drapery Group. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 1.3% for the quarter.

Housing Group. There were increases in all sections of the group except local government rates and charges. The group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.8%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group. There were increases in all sections of the group which for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 2.2% for the quarter.

Miscellaneous Group. There were increases in most sections of the group especially motoring goods and services (the main increases being for petrol in Sydney associated with an increase in tax; and third party insurance in Adelaide, Perth and Hobart). Charges for health services increased in all cities. There were increases in prices of cigarettes and tobacco in Melbourne and Perth associated with changes in State taxes. The index for the group showed a quarterly increase of 2.5%.

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TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ALL GROUPS - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA (Base of Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
Year -								
1963-64	9 0.6	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	92.5
1964-65	94.0	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	95.3
1965-66	97.4	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	98.1
1966-67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	103.3	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	102.6
1968-69	106.0	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	104.4
1969-70	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	107.4
1970-71	114.6	116.8	113.1	114.2	112.5	114.1	112.6	113.0
1971-72	122.4	126.3	119.7	121.6	119.2	120.7	119.9	119.4
1972-73	129.8	133.9	127.2	128.6	126.5	127.3	126.7	126.3
1973-74	146.6	151.3	144.0	146.1	143.9	140.6	142.6	142.8
1974-75	171.1	176.1	167.9	168.7	169.7	166.1	166.7	164.9
1774-73	1/1.1	170.1	107.3	100.7	109.7	100.1	100.7	101.5
Quarter -								
1968-69 -						1055	104 -	104.0
March	106.4	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	104.8
June	107.2	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	105.2
1969-70								
September	107.8	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	106.0
December	108.7	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	106.7
March	109.8	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	108.0
June	111.2	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	109.0
1970-71 —								
September	111.9	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	109.7
December	114.0	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	113.2
March	115.2	117.4	113.7	115.1	112.9	114.8	113.2	113.6
June	117.2	119.8	115.2	117.2	115.4	116.4	114.6	115.6
1971-72 -		11110						
September	119.4	123.3	116.5	119.0	116.5	117.2	116.5	117.2
December	122.2	126.0	119.7	121.3	119.1	120.5	120.3	119.4
March	123.4	127.3	120.7	122.6	120.2	121.8	120.9	119.9
June	123.4	127.5	121.9	123.6	121.1	123.1	122.0	120.9
1972-73 –	124.5	120.5	121.7	125.0	121.1	125.1	122.0	
	126.2	120.2	123.6	124.6	123.0	124.8	123.4	122.6
September	126.2	130.3		124.6	123.0	125.3	125.4	122.0
December	127.7	132.0	125.0		124.5	127.8	125.1	127.1
March	130.4	134.6	127.8	129.4		131.4	127.3	130.9
June	134.7	138.8	132.3	133.9	131.6	151.4	150.6	130.9
1973-74 -			1040	100 /	1065	1244	125.2	1266
September	139.6	144.1	136.8	139.4	136.5	134.4	135.2	135.6
December	144.6	149.4	141.9	144.0	141.9	138.6	141.1	140.8
March	148.1	152.8	145.2	147.8	145.4	142.1	144.0	145.0
June	154.1	158.7	151.9	153.1	151.7	147.1	149.9	149.6
1974-75 -							•	
September	162.0	167.0	159.4	161.4	159.4	154.3	157.4	157.4
December	168.1	173.0	164.6	166.6	166.4	163.6	165.5	162.7
March	174.1	178.8	170.8	171.1	173.8	169.8	169.3	166.4
June	180.2	185.5	176.7	175.6	179.3	176.7	174.6	173.2
1975-76 -								
September	181.6	188.2	177.7	178.4	178.2	176.5	175.9	173.0
December	191.7	196.9	188.4	189.6	188.6	187.7	189.1	186.9
March	197.4	203.1	193.4	195.6	194.6	193.9	194.2	191.6

For footnotes see page 10.

Quarter	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		FOOL	GROUP	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
1972-73 –					,			
March	126.9	127.6	127.3	129.2	123.9	124.8	121.4	125.7
June	134.0	133.6	135.3	136.2	132.1	131.5	124.9	132.0
1973-74 –								
September	141.4	142.6	141.1	144.7	140.7	135.1	131.9	140.1
December	147.0	150.0	145.9	150.0	145.1	137.0	139.7	146.0
March	152.0	154.3	150.8	155.7	149.7	144.8	144.2	151.6
June	157.6	159.0	157.2	159.7	157.8	149.7	149.7	156.7
1974-75 –								
September	161.9	164.3	161.1	165.1	160.3	152.2	155.1	160.6
December	161.6	164.5	159.6	161.4	161.2	156.1	158.0	158.1
March	163.4	166.2	159.8	163.9	163.4	164.2	158.1	160.5
June	168.9	170.3	166.2	168.7	170.0	171.2	163.1	167.7
1975-76								
September	171.6	173.1	170.1	170.4	171.5	171.9	168.8	171.1
December	176.9	179.0	175.1	176.6	176.0	175.4	174.8	178.8
March	185.7	187.7	182.8	187.9	185.9	183.8	181.6	187.5
	······································	C	LOTHING AND	DRAPERY	GROUP		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
1972-73 –	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
March	1,25.7	125.7	125.3	125.4	126.9	126.2	125.5	125.4
June	131.1	131.1	130.8	1 30.2	132.8	131.1	130.4	130.7
1973-74 -			r					
September	134.9	135.3	134.6	133.9	135.9	134.8	134.2	134.1
December	140.4	140.8	139.6	139.5	141.6	140.9	139.8	139.6
March	143.2	144.1	142.2	142.1	144.2	143.8	142.7	143.0
June	153.6	154.1	152.9	152.5	155.0	153.7	152.9	152.7
1974-75 -								
September	161.1	162.4	160.0	159.3	161.8	162.2	160.3	160.1
December	172.8	174.0	171.5	171.7	173.4	174.0	171.6	- 172.4
March	175.2	176.2	174.1	173.7	176.2	176.5	174.0	174.3
June	182.9	183.6	182.2	181.2	183.9	184.1	181.3	182.2
1975-76 -				· .				
September	187.1	187.4	186.2	185.6	189.6	188.5	186.1	185.7
December	200.0	200.3	199.0	198.7	202.2	201.1	199.7	200.1
March	202.6	202.6	201.9	201.8	205.0	203.8	202.4	202.7
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	HOUSI	NG GROUP	<u></u>			
1072 72	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
1972-73 -	143.1	155.5	133.8	137.2	134.2	140.4	132.7	129.7
March				137.2	134.2	140.4	132.7	129.7
June	146.7	160.5	137.0	140.2	130.0	141./	134.4	130.0
1973-74 –	1 40 0	164.0	100 6	143.3	140.6	143.9	137.1	133.0
September	149.8	164.0	139.5	143.3	140.6	143.9	137.1	133.0
December	155.5	168.8	146.2	148.1	148.1	147.8	146.8	140.5
March	158.9	172.0	149.7	151.9				
June	167.0	181.3	157.8	157.7	161.0	155.0	153.9	· 145.1
1974-75	154.0	107.0	166.7	1075	160.0	160.5	163.6	167 1
September	174.8	187.9	166.7	167.5	169.9	160.5	163.6	157.1
December	184.3	195.5	176.9	175.5	181.6	173.4	179.8	162.8
March	190.2	200.1	184.2	179.2	191.3	178.4	186.0	165.0
June	200.3	213.2	194.7	183.4	198.2	184.6	194.2	168.2
1975-76 -	· · · ·		001.4	100.7	204.0	101.0	100 7	100.0
September	207.5	220.5	201.4	193.7	204.0	191.2	199.7	172.3
December	218.4	230.9	210.5	200.9	221.3	207.5	214.5	194.3
March	224.6	236.2	217.5	205.5	228.0	215.8	221.4	198.5

For footnotes see page 10.

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TABLE 2. – continued
CONSUMER PRICE INDEXGROUP INDEXES – SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA
(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
		HOUSEH	OLD SUPPLIES	AND EQUIP	MENT GROUP			
1972-73 -					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
March	115.9	118.9	112.4	117.6	113.4	117.9	120.3	111.5
June	117.6	120.5	114.0	118.9	116.0	120.0	122.5	115.9
1973-74 -								
September	120.9	123.8	117.9	123.3	117.6	121.8	125.5	117.7
December	122.9	125.9	119.6	125.0	119.6	124.8	126.7	118.8
March	125.9	129.3	122.5	127.2	123.6	126.9	128.4	120.3
June	130.3	133.7	128.1	130.9	126.6	129.4	132.5	123.3
1974-75 —								
September	1 38.9	143.9	134.5	142.4	135.2	137.1	139.1	130.0
December	143.7	147.8	138.9	149.5	140.2	143.8	148.3	138.9
March	149.2	153.6	144.8	152.0	146.0	149.6	153.2	141.6
June	154.4	160.8	148.8	155.1	148.7	156.8	156.0	145.1
1975-76 –								
September	158.1	162.9	152.1	162.5	152.3	164.5	16 0.1	147.9
December	162.9	167.2	157.0	166.2	159.1	168.9	171.8	152.9
March	166.5	171.5	160.3	169.9	162.9	171.2	174.1	155.8
			MISCELLA	NEOUS GROU	JP			
1972-73								
March	137.8	144.0	134.8	133.7	134.0	131.1	137.7	136.5
June	140.0	146.2	136.9	137.2	135.6	132.1	141.0	137.5
1973-74 –								
September	144.0	149.8	141.8	141.9	139.3	134.9	144.2	141.9
December	149.5	154.2	148.1	146.2	146.1	141.5	148.6	146.9
March	152.1	157.0	150.5	149.7	148.6	142.9	150.7	152.6
June	156.8	161.6	155.8	154.4	152.1	146.9	156.6	156.2
1974-75 -	167.7	172.7	166.6	164.2	163.9	158.1	165.8	166.3
September		172.7	173.2	172.3	173.5	138.1	174.2	173.8
December	176.1			172.3	175.5	170.7	174.2	175.8
March	187.2	192.9 198.8	185.5 189.2	180.8	191.3	184.1	185.2	180.3
June 1975-76 –	192.1	190.0	169.2	104.2	191.5	104.1	165.2	109.0
September	188.2	199.3	183.2	182.6	181.0	175.7	178.3	181.8
December	203.2	209.8	201.0	202.0	194.9	193.7	178.5	200.9
March	203.2 208.2	209.8	201.0	202.0	194.9	195.7	203.2	200.9
Mai Cli	208.2	210.4	<u> </u>		177.4	177.0	203.2	204.1
		·	ALL	GROUPS				
1972-73 -						100.0	100 -	107 1
March	130.4	134.6	127.8	129.4	127.0	127.8	127.5	127.1
June	134.7	138.8	132.3	133.9	131.6	131.4	130.8	130.9
1973-74 —	100 0	144.1	126.9	120.4	126 6	134.4	135.2	135.6
September December	139.6	144.1 149.4	136.8	139.4 144.0	136.5 141.9	134.4	·· 141.1	135.6
March	144.6	149.4	141.9 145.2	144.0	141.9	138.6	141.1	140.8
	148.1					142.1	144.0	143.0
June	154.1	158.7	151.9	153.1	151.7	14/.1	147.7	147.0
1974-75 -	163.0	167.0	. 150 4	161 4	160 4	154 2	157.4	157.4
September	162.0	167.0	159.4	161.4	159.4	154.3	157.4	157.4
December	168.1	173.0	164.6	166.6	166.4	163.6		
March	174.1	178.8	170.8	171.1	173.8	169.8	169.3	166.4
June	180.2	185.5	176.7	175.6	179.3	176.7	174.6	173.2
1975-76 -	101 6	100 0	1777	170 4	170 0	176.5	175.9	173.0
September	181.6	188.2	177.7	178.4	178.2	176.5	175.9	173.0
December March	191.7 197.4	196.9 203.1	188.4 193.4	189.6	188.6	193.9	194.2	191.6
a march	197.4	203.1	193.4	195.6	194.6	173.7	174.6	131.0

For footnotes see page 10.

	Period	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
1972 – Ji	July	118.9	119.5	118.6	119.8	116.4	120.2	115.1	116.2
P	August	120.2	120.9	120.1	120.5	117.3	121.8	115.9	118.5
	September	121.1	122.1	120.7	121.4	118.7	121.4	116.6	119.5
	October	121.6	122.8	120.8	122.9	119.0	121.1	117.6	120.0
	November	121.7	122.6	121.3	124.3	119.0	120.3	117.9	119.7
	December	121.4	122.1	121.2	124.1	118.0	120.3	118.3	119.9
1973 – Ja	January	122.2	122.6	121.5	125.7	119.8	122.4	118.4	120.5
F	February	127.9	129.3	127.8	130.1	125.0	124.6	122.3	127.8
	March	130.6	130.8	132.5	131.7	126.9	127.5	123.6	128.7
	April	132.8	132.6	134.6	135.1	129.7	128.8	124.4	131.2
	May	133.8	133.6	134.9	136.4	132.2	131.7	124.6	132.1
	June	135.3	134.5	136.5	137.3	134.4	134.1	125.6	132.5
	July	137.6	138.3	137.6	140.4	136.5	134.4	128.0	136.5
	August	141.5	142.5	141.4	145.4	140.5	134.8	132.0	139.9
	September	145.1	146.9	144.4	148.3	145.0	136.2	135.8	144.0
	October	145.9	148.7	144.7	149.3	144.8	130.2	136.3	144.5
	November	145.5	150.1	144.7	149.8	144.8	136.3	141.6	144.5
	December	147.9	151.1	146.7	149.8	145.5	130.5	141.0	143.9
1974 – Ja	lanuary	150.4	153.4	149.0	154.3	147.2	142.0	143.0	150.1
	February	152.0	154.1	150.8	155.3	150.4	145.2	144.7	152.1
	March	153.5	155.4	152.5	155.5	151.4	147.3	145.0	152.7
	April	155.2	156.7	152.5	157.5	154.5	147.9	147.4	154.2
	May	158.1	159.3	157.8	160.5	159.3	149.8	149.6	154.2
	June	158.1	161.0	158.9	161.1	159.5	151.5	152.1	157.1
	July	158.6	160.4	158.2	160.8	158.6	149.9	152.6	158.4
	August	163.0	160.4	158.2	166.3	158.6	149.9	152.6	158.4
	September	163.0	165.7	162.6	168.1	161.6	152.4	155.1	161.3
	October	163.5	166.2	162.2	168.1	161.6	154.4	157.7	162.3
	November	163.5	166.2	158.8			154.9		
	November December	160.9	163.8	158.8	160.3 158.9	161.1 159.8	155.7 157.8	157.7 156.9	157.9 155.4
1975 – Ja		162.1	165.0	157.7	162.2	161.9	161.3	150.5	155.4
	February	162.1	165.6	159.7	162.2	163.2	161.5	157.8	158.5
	March	165.2	165.6	161.0	165.1	165.2	167.5	157.8	163.2
	April	165.2	168.1	164.8	168.9	165.1	167.5	158.9	163.2
	May	167.9	169.5	166.0	168.5	170.0	171.2	161.4	167.1
	May June	169.0	170.7	166.0	168.5 168.8	170.0	171.2 172.5		168.1
								164.5	
	July	170.2	171.8	168.2	169.7	170.7	170.8	166.0	169.4
	August	171.4	172.7	169.7	170.3	171.4	172.1	169.4	171.2
	September	173.3	174.7	172.4	171.3	172.5	172.8	171.0	172.6
	October	175.5	178.0	173.7	174.0	174.3	173.7	173.5	177.0
	November	176.7	178.5	174.9	176.7	175.8	175.6	174.2	178.7
	December	178.6	180.5	176.7	179.1	177.9	176.9	176.7	180.7
1976 – Ja		183.9	186.0	181.2	186.9	183.4	181.1	179.5	185.4
	February	186.9	189.2	184.3	189.0	186.9	183.9	182.3	188.4
JV.	March	186.2	187.8	183.0	187.9	187.4	186.5	182.9	188.7

TABLE 3.CONSUMER PRICE INDEXINDEX NUMBERS - MONTHLY - FOOD GROUP - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA(Base of Index for each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX FOOD GROUP : (IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)

Perio	d	Six Capitals (b)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
December quart	ter 1975	49.48	50.07	47.82	50.67	50.62	49.62	51.42	49.49
January	1976	51.42	52.03	49.48	53.61	52.74	51.22	52.81	51.32
February March	1976 1976	52.27 52.07	52.92 52.55	50.32 49.97	54.21 53.92	53.74 53.90	52.03 52.77	53.63 53.81	52.14 52.22
March quarter	1976	51.92	52.50	49.92	53.91	53.46	52.01	53.42	51.89

For footnotes see page 10.

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TABLE 5. – CONSUMER PRICE INDEX PARTICULARS FOR GROUPS, SUB-GROUPS AND SPECIAL GROUPINGS DECEMBER QUARTER 1975 AND MARCH QUARTER 1976 Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities : Base – Year 1966-67 = 100.0

	Ye	Index Number ase of each Ind ar 1966-67 = 1 is otherwise no	lex : 00.0		ps Index Points (con Groups, etc. to To	
Group and sub-group	Dec. qtr 1975	March qtr 1976	Percentage change since Dec. qtr (d)	Dec. qtr 1975	March qtr 1976	Change in All Group Index Points since Dec. qtr (d)
FOOD GROUP	207.9	216.6	+4.2	6.15	6.41	+0.26
Cereal products Dairy produce	207.8 165.0	216.6 171.1	+4.2	8.73	9.06	+0.33
Preserved fruit and vegetables	159.0	163.3	+2.7	2.34	2.40	+0.06
Potatoes and onions	202.2	309.9	+53.3	1.62	2.49	+0.87
Soft drinks, ice cream and						
confectionery	214.1	220.8	+3.1	8.03	8.28 16.66	+0.25 +0.48
Meat Beef	166.1 139.8	171.0 143.8	+3.0 +2.9	16.18 5.40	5.56	+0.16
Mutton	162.4	166.5	+2.5	0.59	0.60	+0.01
Lamb	176.9	181.2	+2.4	3.18	3.26	+0.08
Pork	194.5	202.7	+4.2	1.66	1.74	+0.08
Processed meat (e)	164.7	169.7	+3.0	5.34	5.51	+0.17.
Snacks, take away food (f)(g)	(133.7)	(138.8)	+3.8	1.77	1.84	+0.07 +0.13
Other food	152.9	157.2	+2.8	4.66 49.48	4.79 51.92	+2.44
Food Group	176.9	185.7	+5.0	47.40	J1.74	- 4. 77
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY						
GROUP Predominantly summer						
Predominantly summer seasonal (h)	233.9	233.9		5.56	5.56	
Predominantly winter	4 J J . 7	200.7	••	5155		
seasonal (i)	194.5	194.5	••	4.65	4.65	••.
Predominantly non-seasonal	179.1	182.9	+2.1	10.02	10.23	+0.21
Footwear Closhing and Dream Cross	229.9	235.7	+2.5	4.76	4.88	+0.12
Clothing and Drapery Group	200.0	202.6	+1.3	25.00	25.33	+0.33
HOUSING GROUP						
Rent, privately owned						+0.32
dwellings (j)	207.8	213.3	+2.6	11.91 1.19	12.23	+0.32
Rent, government owned houses Home ownership (k)	210.7 229.4	226.2 235.6	+7.4 +2.7	16.17	- 16.60	+0.43
House price and repairs and	229.4	235.0	+2.7	10.17	10.00	
maintenance	216.4	224.8	+3.9	11.19	11.62	+0.43
Local government rates and			•			
charges	258.6	258.6		4.98	4.98	• •
Housing Group	218.4	224.6	+2.8	29.27	30.11	+0.84
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND						
EQUIPMENT GROUP						
Fuel and light	160.8	165.3	+2.8	5.82	5.98	+0.16
Electricity	155.8	160.9	+3.3	3.74	3.86	+0.12
Gas	160.9	161.6	+0.4	1.42	1.43	+0.01
Other (1)	193.1	203.9	+5.6	0.66	0.69	+0.03 +0.01
Household appliances Furniture and floor coverings	119.7	120.2 208.7	+0.4 +2.8	3.68 3.98	3.69 4.09	+0.01
Other household utensils.	203.0	208.7	72.0	3.70	4.07	
sundries and stationery	174.6	177.8	+1.8	3.86	3.93	+0.07
Personal requisites and	171.0	11110		••		
proprietary medicines	181.0	186.0	+2.8	4.41	4.54	+0.13
Household Supplies and						.0.40
Equipment Group	162.9	166.5	+2.2	21.75	22.23	+0.48
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP						
Fares (m)	205.8	218.4	+6.1	3.26	3.46	+0.20
Motoring	197.6	202.4	+2.4	26.92	27.58	+0.66
Goods (n)	171.7	175.3	+2.1	19.62	20.03 7.55	+0.41 +0.25
Services and charges (0) Cigarettes and tobacco	279.8	289.2	+3.4 +3.5	7.30 7.62	7.55 7.89	+0.25
Beer	223.2 210.5	231.1 212.3	+3.5	9.82	9.90	+0.08
Wines and spirits (f)	(143.4)	(147.2)	+2.6	2.57	2.64	+0.07
Postal and telephone services	242.0	242.0		3.22	3.22	
Newspapers and magazines	236.5	244.0	+3.2	2.27	2.35	+0.08
Recreational goods				<i></i>		10.00
and services (f)(p)	(126.5)	(127.6)	+0.9	3.12 3.78	3.15 4.00	+0.03 +0.22
Health services (q) Other services (s)	(97.5) 300.5	(103.2) 302.9	+5.8 +0.8	3.78	3.68	+0.22
Miscellaneous Group	203.2	208.2	+2.5	66.24	67.86	+1.62
All Groups						
-	191.7	197.4	+3.0	(c)191.7	(c)197.4	(c)+5.7
SPECIAL GROUPINGS						
All Groups excluding						
food group	197.3	201.8	+2.3	142.25	145.53	+3.28
All Groups excluding	107 (103.5	, , ,	162.45	167.34	+4.89
housing group All Groups excluding hospital	187.6	193.2	+3.0	102,45	107.34	14.07
and medical services	195.6	201.3	+2.9	189.95	195.50	+5.55
Goods component (t)	186.2	191.8	+3.0	148.62	153.14	+4.52
Services component (u)	214.7	220.7	+2.8	43.11	44.31	+1.20

FOOTNOTES TO TABLES

- (a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.
- (b) Weighted average of six State capital cities.
- (c) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reason quarterly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with thos shown by the relevant index points.
- (d) See paragraph 13 on page 3.
- (e) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968 and sausages as from December quarter 1973 (previously include in Beef sub-group).
- (f) Base : December quarter 1973 = 100.0.
- (g) Includes cooked chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches.
- (h) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' summerweight outerwear and women's and girls' summerweight underwear.
- (i) Men's, women's, boys' and girls' winterweight outerwear and underwear, and blankets.
- (j) Includes flats as from December quarter 1968.
- (k) Does not include cost of land or interest charges on house purchase.
- (1) Firewood and kerosene. Includes heating oil and briquettes as from December quarter 1968.
- (m) City and suburban rail, bus and tram.
- (n) Motor car, petrol, oil, tyres, tubes, tyre retreading, battery and motor vehicle replacement parts.
- (o) Registration, third party insurance, drivers licence and motor vehicle repairs (labour component only).
- (p) Includes cameras, film, film processing, phonograph records, television maintenance and cinema admission. Radio and television licences excluded as from September quarter 1974.
- (q) Base : December quarter 1968 = 100.0.
- (s) Hairdressing, drycleaning and shoe repairs.
- (t) The special grouping "All Groups Goods Component" comprises the Food Group; Clothing and Drapery Group Household Supplies and Equipment Group; and the items : house price; house repair materials used by home-owners; motoring goods; motor vehicle replacement parts; cigarettes and tobacco; beer; wines and spirits newspapers and magazines; photographic goods; phonograph records; and television replacement parts.
- (u) The special grouping "All Groups Services Component" comprises the items : dwelling rents; house repairs carried out by tradesmen; local government rates and charges; fares; motor vehicle repairs (labour component only) motor vehicle registration; motor vehicle third party insurance; driver's licence; postal and telephone services; film processing; television maintenance (labour and contract charges only); cinema admission; health services hairdressing; dry cleaning; and shoe repairs.