



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—MARCH QUARTER 1984

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Trevor Travers on Canberra (062) 52 6251 or any of our State offices.*

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

MAIL INQUIRIES *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.*

MAIN FEATURES

	Change between	
	Dec. qtr 1983 and Mar. qtr 1984 %	Mar. qtr 1983 and Mar. qtr 1984 %
All groups index		
Sydney	-0.5	+4.9
Melbourne	-0.5	+6.9
Brisbane	+0.2	+5.8
Adelaide	—	+6.2
Perth	-0.9	+6.0
Hobart	+0.2	+5.8
Canberra	+0.1	+5.7
Darwin	+0.5	+5.1
Weighted average of eight capital cities	-0.4	+5.9

Main price changes between December quarter 1983 and March quarter 1984 were as follows:

Food: +1.6%

Prices of meals out and take-away foods increased in all cities.

Lamb prices increased in all cities.

Prices of soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery increased in all cities.

Bread prices increased in all cities.

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices fell in all cities except Sydney, Canberra and Darwin.

Clothing: +0.4%

Small increases in clothing prices were recorded in all cities.

Housing: +1.6%

House prices increased in all cities except Darwin.

Rents of privately owned dwellings increased in all cities except Darwin.

House repair and maintenance costs increased in all cities.

Household equipment and operation: +0.7%

Prices for household supplies and services increased in all cities.

Furniture and floorcoverings prices increased in most cities.

Electricity prices increased in Adelaide, Hobart and Darwin and fell in Sydney.

Transportation: +0.7%

Motor vehicle servicing and repair costs increased in all cities.

Motor car prices rose in all cities.

Petrol prices fell in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra but rose in Sydney, Hobart and Darwin.

Tobacco and alcohol: +1.8%

Beer prices increased in all cities.

Cigarette prices increased in all cities.

Health and personal care: -19.3%

Prices of hospital and medical services decreased significantly in all cities as a result of changes to health insurance arrangements with the introduction of Medicare-see Appendix for details. The decrease in Brisbane is smaller because public hospital treatment was already free of charge in Queensland.

Recreation and education: +2.1%

Education and child care fees increased in all cities.

Entertainment charges increased in all cities.

Holiday travel and accommodation charges increased for most cities.

A. R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

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 expenditures by 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. Each group is in turn divided into sub-groups. Index numbers at the *group* and *All Groups* levels are published for each State capital city, Canberra, Darwin, and for the weighted average of eight capital cities. Index numbers for *All Groups* are also published for the weighted average of six State capital cities. *Subgroup index numbers* are published for the weighted average of eight capital cities.

2. It is important to note that 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. For a more detailed account, *The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0)* describes what the index measures, the goods and services included in it, and how the index is produced; it also describes the problems encountered in compiling the CPI and how those are dealt with.

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. The bulk of items for which prices are collected quarterly are priced at the middle of the mid-month of the quarter (i.e. in August, November, February and May), but, to facilitate a more even spread of the field collection workload, some goods and services are priced in the first and third months of each quarter. Items priced in the third month are generally those subject to price changes at discrete points of time (e.g. electricity and postal charges, milk); in these cases information is obtained of any changes in price during the quarter so that a weighted average price for the whole quarter can be calculated.

Weighting pattern

6. There are 105 *expenditure classes* (that is, groupings of like items) in the tenth 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 ten series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series. The tenth series (that is, the current series), which was introduced in the June quarter 1982, has a weighting pattern based, in general, on estimated household expenditure in 1979-80.

Index points and percentage changes

8. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as percentage changes, or as changes in 'index points'. The difference between these two methods of describing movements in indexes is shown by the following example:

All Groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities

Index numbers:

March quarter 1984:	132.0
Less: December quarter 1983:	132.5
Change in index points:	-0.5

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{-0.5}{132.5} \times 100 = -0.4\%$$

The index number of 132.0 for March quarter 1984 indicates an increase of 32.0% since the reference base year (1980-81).

9. Most of the tables in this publication show index numbers or percentage changes calculated from index numbers. However, Table 3 shows the main changes between December quarter 1983 and March quarter 1984, in terms of *All Groups index points*, for each capital city.

Special tables and groupings

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 some special series. It also shows the *contribution* which each group and subgroup makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy produce subgroup contributed 2.61 index points to the total All Groups index number of 132.0 for March quarter 1984. The final column shows contributions to the *change in All Groups index points* by each group and subgroup.

11. The All Groups index includes the effects of changes in prices for hospital and medical services. To facilitate analysis of trends in retail prices without the effects of these changes, Table 5 shows percentage changes for a special series *All Groups excluding hospital and medical services*, and compares these with changes in the All Groups index. For further information on the most recent changes in health insurance arrangements, see the appendix to this publication.

State and local government charges

12. Information on the impact of changes in selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 3 and 7. Table 3 shows the contribution made by changes in these charges to the CPI for each capital city, while Table 7 shows index numbers for two special groupings '*Selected State and local government charges*' and '*All Groups excluding selected State and local government charges*'. For information on the derivation and limitations of these figures, see the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not 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.

**TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : ALL GROUPS
INDEX NUMBERS**
(Base of each index: Year 1980-81 = 100.0)

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
1979-80	91.4	91.1	91.4	91.5	91.6	91.9	91.6	91.1	..	..
1980-81	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1981-82	110.4	110.2	110.4	110.7	110.5	111.2	110.0	110.7	111.1	110.4
1982-83	123.1	123.4	122.8	122.9	123.5	122.5	121.8	124.0	123.1	123.1
<i>Quarter—</i>										
<i>1979-80—</i>										
March	92.4	92.3	92.1	92.8	92.6	92.9	92.6	92.2	..	..
June	95.0	94.9	94.9	95.0	95.3	95.2	94.8	94.8	..	..
<i>1980-81—</i>										
September	96.8	96.6	96.8	96.6	96.6	97.4	97.0	96.6	96.9	96.8
December	98.8	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.5	98.8	98.7	98.9	99.2	98.8
March	101.1	101.3	101.0	100.9	101.2	100.8	101.0	100.9	101.0	101.1
June	103.4	103.3	103.3	103.6	103.7	103.0	103.2	103.6	102.9	103.4
<i>1981-82—</i>										
September	105.5	105.1	105.5	106.0	105.8	106.5	105.7	105.7	105.0	105.5
December	109.9	109.4	110.1	110.1	110.0	111.2	109.7	110.0	111.3	109.9
March	111.8	111.5	111.6	112.5	111.7	112.4	111.3	111.8	113.0	111.8
June	114.5	114.6	114.3	114.1	114.4	114.6	113.4	115.2	115.0	114.5
<i>1982-83—</i>										
September	118.5	118.7	118.3	118.0	118.6	118.6	116.9	118.7	118.8	118.5
December	121.9	122.4	121.3	121.9	121.8	121.8	121.0	123.3	122.1	122.0
March	124.6	125.1	124.0	125.0	125.2	123.7	123.5	125.9	124.6	124.7
June	127.3	127.4	127.4	126.6	128.5	125.9	125.9	128.0	126.9	127.3
<i>1983-84—</i>										
September	129.5	129.2	129.5	129.3	130.3	129.4	127.5	129.8	128.6	129.4
December	132.5	131.8	133.3	132.0	132.9	132.3	130.4	133.0	130.3	132.5
March	132.0	131.2	132.6	132.3	132.9	131.1	130.7	133.1	131.0	132.0

**TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : ALL GROUPS
PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Change from previous year</i>										
1980-81	+9.4	+9.8	+9.4	+9.3	+9.2	+8.8	+9.2	+9.8	..	..
1981-82	+10.4	+10.2	+10.4	+10.7	+10.5	+11.2	+10.0	+10.7	+11.1	+10.4
1982-83	+11.5	+12.0	+11.2	+11.0	+11.8	+10.2	+10.7	+12.0	+10.8	+11.5
<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>										
<i>1981-82—</i>										
March	+10.6	+10.1	+10.5	+11.5	+10.4	+11.5	+10.2	+10.8	+11.9	+10.6
June	+10.7	+10.9	+10.6	+10.1	+10.3	+11.3	+9.9	+11.2	+11.8	+10.7
<i>1982-83—</i>										
September	+12.3	+12.9	+12.1	+11.3	+12.1	+11.4	+10.6	+12.3	+13.1	+12.3
December	+10.9	+11.9	+10.2	+10.7	+10.7	+9.5	+10.3	+12.1	+9.7	+11.0
March	+11.4	+12.2	+11.1	+11.1	+12.1	+10.1	+11.0	+12.6	+10.3	+11.5
June	+11.2	+11.2	+11.5	+11.0	+12.3	+9.9	+11.0	+11.1	+10.3	+11.2
<i>1983-84—</i>										
September	+9.3	+8.8	+9.5	+9.6	+9.9	+9.1	+9.1	+9.4	+8.2	+9.2
December	+8.7	+7.7	+9.9	+8.3	+9.1	+8.6	+7.8	+7.9	+6.7	+8.6
March	+5.9	+4.9	+6.9	+5.8	+6.2	+6.0	+5.8	+5.7	+5.1	+5.9
<i>Change from previous quarter</i>										
<i>1981-82—</i>										
March	+1.7	+1.9	+1.4	+2.2	+1.5	+1.1	+1.5	+1.6	+1.5	+1.7
June	+2.4	+2.8	+2.4	+1.4	+2.4	+2.0	+1.9	+3.0	+1.8	+2.4
<i>1982-83—</i>										
September	+3.5	+3.6	+3.5	+3.4	+3.7	+3.5	+3.1	+3.0	+3.3	+3.5
December	+2.9	+3.1	+2.5	+3.3	+2.7	+2.7	+3.5	+3.9	+2.8	+3.0
March	+2.2	+2.2	+2.2	+2.5	+2.8	+1.6	+2.1	+2.1	+2.0	+2.2
June	+2.2	+1.8	+2.7	+1.3	+2.6	+1.8	+1.9	+1.7	+1.8	+2.1
<i>1983-84—</i>										
September	+1.7	+1.4	+1.6	+2.1	+1.4	+2.8	+1.3	+1.4	+1.3	+1.6
December	+2.3	+2.0	+2.9	+2.1	+2.0	+2.2	+2.3	+2.5	+1.3	+2.4
March	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	+0.2	—	-0.9	+0.2	+0.1	+0.5	-0.4

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1983 AND MARCH QUARTER 1984 IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS

	<i>Weighted average of six State capital cities</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
Food	+0.42	+0.48	+0.36	+0.36	+0.52	+0.37	+0.26	+0.66	+0.85	+0.43
Meals out and take-away food	+0.12	+0.14	+0.08	+0.07	+0.18	+0.18	+0.08	+0.11	+0.24	+0.12
Lamb and mutton	+0.10	+0.11	+0.11	+0.03	+0.13	+0.05	+0.03	+0.14	+0.02	+0.10
Cereal products	+0.08	+0.09	+0.09	+0.06	+0.07	+0.06	+0.10	+0.09	+0.10	+0.08
Soft drinks, ice-cream and confectionery	+0.05	+0.03	+0.07	+0.05	+0.09	+0.06	+0.02	+0.07	+0.06	+0.05
Fresh fruit and vegetables	-0.02	+0.02	-0.01	-0.04	-0.09	-0.01	-0.14	+0.08	+0.21	-0.01
Clothing	+0.04	+0.03	+0.02	+0.06	+0.12	+0.04	+0.10	+0.01	+0.03	+0.04
Housing	+0.27	+0.13	+0.42	+0.19	+0.55	+0.11	+0.30	+0.37	+0.04	+0.27
House purchase, including alterations	+0.12	+0.01	+0.24	+0.09	+0.31	+0.04	+0.17	+0.18	—	+0.12
Privately-owned dwelling rents	+0.08	+0.06	+0.10	+0.06	+0.13	+0.04	+0.05	+0.18	-0.01	+0.08
House repairs and maintenance	+0.06	+0.06	+0.08	+0.05	+0.08	+0.04	+0.09	+0.01	+0.02	+0.06
Household equipment and operation	+0.13	-0.03	+0.14	+0.23	+0.46	+0.13	+0.33	+0.05	+0.30	+0.12
Household supplies and services	+0.05	+0.06	+0.05	+0.06	+0.03	+0.04	+0.06	+0.12	+0.05	+0.06
Furniture and floorcoverings	+0.04	+0.07	-0.01	+0.08	+0.04	-0.01	—	+0.04	+0.06	+0.04
Electricity	-0.04	-0.18	+0.01	—	+0.23	—	+0.23	—	+0.17	-0.03
Transportation	+0.15	+0.16	+0.16	+0.02	+0.14	+0.21	+0.41	+0.24	+0.33	+0.16
Vehicle servicing, repairs and parts	+0.08	+0.04	+0.13	+0.02	+0.09	+0.08	+0.14	+0.11	+0.17	+0.08
Motor vehicle purchase	+0.05	+0.03	+0.06	+0.04	+0.05	+0.08	+0.05	+0.05	+0.10	+0.05
Automotive fuel	-0.03	+0.03	-0.11	-0.09	-0.03	—	+0.12	-0.01	+0.05	-0.04
Tobacco and alcohol	+0.21	+0.25	+0.15	+0.19	+0.27	+0.21	+0.42	+0.27	+0.42	+0.21
Beer	+0.15	+0.17	+0.11	+0.10	+0.18	+0.15	+0.25	+0.15	+0.32	+0.15
Cigarettes and tobacco	+0.03	+0.04	+0.01	+0.05	+0.02	+0.07	+0.16	+0.03	+0.05	+0.04
Health and personal care	-2.08	-2.04	-2.32	-1.00	-2.38	-2.38	-1.84	-1.84	-1.48	-2.07
Personal care products	+0.05	+0.04	+0.07	+0.06	+0.05	+0.05	+0.05	+0.04	+0.06	+0.05
Dental services	+0.02	+0.03	+0.02	+0.02	+0.02	+0.02	—	+0.04	+0.01	+0.02
Hospital and medical services	-2.16	-2.12	-2.42	-1.09	-2.47	-2.46	-1.90	-1.94	-1.57	-2.15
Recreation and education	+0.30	+0.35	+0.36	+0.19	+0.30	+0.07	+0.32	+0.34	+0.15	+0.31
Education and child care	+0.14	+0.12	+0.18	+0.12	+0.12	+0.08	+0.10	+0.08	+0.03	+0.14
Entertainment	+0.09	+0.12	+0.09	+0.02	+0.09	+0.10	+0.08	+0.18	+0.02	+0.09
Holiday travel and accommodation	+0.07	+0.12	+0.07	-0.01	+0.06	+0.01	+0.14	+0.05	-0.03	+0.07
Total change	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	+0.3	—	-1.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.7	-0.5
Contribution of selected State and local government charges(a) to total change	-0.40	-0.57	-0.44	+0.03	-0.14	-0.42	-0.03	-0.31	-0.15	-0.40

(a) Selected charges comprise: 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); motor vehicle registration fees; drivers' licence fees; urban bus fares (government fares only in Sydney and Melbourne, council fares only in Brisbane); urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin); and public hospital charges (not applicable in Brisbane). The derivation and limitation of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

**TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : GROUP INDEXES : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES:
PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	Food %	Clothing %	Housing %	Household equipment and operation %	Trans- portation %	Tobacco and alcohol %	Health and personal care (a) %	Recreation and education %	All Groups (a) %
<i>Change from previous year</i>									
1981-82	+8.6	+7.1	+11.1	+10.6	+10.3	+9.2	+24.2	..	+10.4
1982-83	+9.1	+6.6	+10.5	+11.9	+12.6	+13.6	+23.3	..	+11.5
<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>									
1981-82— March	+7.7	+7.1	+11.1	+10.3	+10.0	+9.4	+30.2	..	+10.6
June	+7.7	+6.5	+11.7	+12.1	+9.0	+10.1	+32.1	..	+10.7
1982-83— September	+7.1	+6.8	+11.7	+12.9	+15.0	+11.6	+39.1	..	+12.3
December	+8.0	+6.4	+11.5	+13.2	+11.5	+15.2	+17.9	..	+11.0
March	+9.0	+6.1	+10.6	+12.1	+13.6	+13.9	+20.0	+9.8	+11.5
June	+12.2	+7.1	+8.7	+9.9	+10.2	+13.8	+19.8	+10.7	+11.2
1983-84— September	+10.2	+5.9	+7.1	+8.4	+8.1	+11.2	+15.0	+9.6	+9.2
December	+8.9	+5.9	+6.7	+7.4	+9.6	+12.5	+11.0	+7.4	+8.6
March	+8.7	+6.1	+6.8	+6.5	+7.2	+12.9	-13.9	+5.6	+5.9
<i>Change from previous quarter</i>									
1981-82— March	+0.9	+0.5	+2.3	+2.6	+1.2	+2.6	+2.3	..	+1.7
June	+1.5	+2.4	+3.3	+3.2	+3.1	+2.3	+2.5	+1.2	+2.4
1982-83— September	+3.0	+1.1	+2.6	+3.0	+5.6	+4.5	+6.4	+2.1	+3.5
December	+2.5	+2.2	+2.9	+3.8	+1.3	+5.1	+5.7	+2.3	+3.0
March	+1.8	+0.2	+1.5	+1.5	+3.0	+1.5	+4.1	+3.9	+2.2
June	+4.5	+3.4	+1.5	+1.3	—	+2.1	+2.4	+2.0	+2.1
1983-84— September	+1.1	—	+1.1	+1.6	+3.6	+2.1	+2.1	+1.1	+1.6
December	+1.3	+2.2	+2.4	+2.9	+2.8	+6.3	+2.1	+0.3	+2.4
March	+1.6	+0.4	+1.6	+0.7	+0.7	+1.8	-19.3	+2.1	-0.4

(a) Series includes effects of price changes in hospital and medical services; see paragraph 11.

**TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX :
COMPARISON OF 'ALL GROUPS EXCLUDING HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES' AND ALL GROUPS INDEX :
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES : PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

	<i>Change from previous quarter</i>		<i>Change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>	
	<i>All Groups excluding hospital and medical services</i> %	<i>All Groups</i> %	<i>All Groups excluding hospital and medical services</i> %	<i>All Groups</i> %
1980-81— June	+2.3	+2.3	..	..
1981-82— September	+2.2	+2.0	+9.3	+9.0
December	+2.9	+4.2	+10.2	+11.2
March	+1.7	+1.7	+9.4	+10.6
June	+2.4	+2.4	+9.6	+10.7
1982-83— September	+3.3	+3.5	+10.7	+12.3
December	+2.7	+3.0	+10.5	+11.0
March	+2.1	+2.2	+10.9	+11.5
June	+2.1	+2.1	+10.6	+11.2
1983-84— September	+1.7	+1.6	+8.9	+9.2
December	+2.4	+2.4	+8.5	+8.6
March	+1.2	-0.4	+7.6	+5.9

TABLE 6.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—GROUP INDEXES

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra	Darwin	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	108.8	108.7	110.3	109.2	109.9	108.9	108.3	111.5	109.1
June	110.1	110.8	111.2	111.4	112.1	110.8	109.2	111.9	110.7
1982-83—									
September	113.0	114.5	114.2	114.5	115.7	114.5	112.5	114.1	114.0
December	115.2	117.4	118.1	117.1	118.9	117.5	115.9	117.8	116.8
March	117.9	119.1	121.1	119.0	120.2	118.7	118.7	121.3	118.9
June	122.4	126.1	124.9	125.1	124.6	123.7	122.6	124.9	124.2
1983-84—									
September	124.0	126.8	126.9	125.9	126.2	125.3	124.2	125.1	125.6
December	125.7	128.6	128.3	126.0	128.5	127.8	126.4	126.2	127.2
March	128.0	130.2	129.9	128.4	130.2	129.0	129.5	129.5	129.2
CLOTHING (Base of each index : Year 1980-81=100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	106.8	107.2	109.3	107.8	107.6	106.5	108.2	110.5	107.4
June	109.9	109.5	111.6	110.3	110.4	109.1	109.5	111.9	110.0
1982-83—									
September	111.2	110.8	113.3	111.6	110.3	110.3	111.6	112.5	111.2
December	113.6	113.1	115.5	114.3	113.6	111.9	113.5	115.3	113.7
March	113.6	112.8	116.8	115.2	114.2	112.7	114.3	116.4	113.9
June	118.0	116.8	119.4	118.9	117.7	116.2	118.3	118.0	117.8
1983-84—									
September	117.6	117.2	119.5	119.0	116.9	116.6	118.7	120.6	117.8
December	120.9	119.4	122.2	119.9	120.6	118.7	120.9	121.6	120.4
March	121.4	119.6	123.0	121.3	121.2	119.6	120.9	122.1	120.9
HOUSING (Base of each index : Year 1980-81=100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	112.1	112.2	115.1	111.8	110.0	108.1	113.2	114.6	112.2
June	116.0	116.2	118.5	114.5	112.5	111.0	118.5	116.0	115.9
1982-83—									
September	118.9	118.9	123.7	117.8	114.9	112.5	120.7	122.8	118.9
December	121.3	122.5	127.8	122.8	118.9	116.6	123.6	125.5	122.3
March	122.4	125.2	129.9	125.6	120.3	117.5	125.0	125.9	124.1
June	124.1	128.2	130.6	127.4	120.5	118.6	127.0	127.3	126.0
1983-84—									
September	124.8	130.4	132.4	129.2	121.3	120.0	130.3	127.8	127.4
December	126.9	134.3	135.8	134.3	123.7	122.9	134.7	129.2	130.5
March	127.8	137.5	137.2	138.8	124.6	125.3	137.7	129.5	132.6
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION (Base of each index : Year 1980-81=100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	111.7	113.2	110.9	111.8	110.3	112.4	110.9	110.9	112.0
June	116.8	115.4	114.9	115.3	113.7	114.2	114.0	115.1	115.6
1982-83—									
September	121.2	117.7	118.2	118.5	117.5	116.5	118.0	119.3	119.1
December	126.0	123.0	121.5	122.7	120.3	119.9	123.9	121.7	123.6
March	127.7	125.0	123.5	124.8	121.5	123.9	126.6	123.9	125.5
June	129.3	126.4	125.0	127.1	122.4	126.6	127.9	124.8	127.1
1983-84—									
September	130.8	128.1	128.8	128.3	127.0	128.3	128.6	127.5	129.1
December	135.1	132.4	130.4	131.6	128.7	132.1	132.8	129.8	132.8
March	134.9	133.4	132.2	134.8	129.7	134.6	133.2	132.4	133.7

TABLE 6.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—GROUP INDEXES—continued

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra	Darwin	Weighted average of eight capital cities
TRANSPORTATION (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	111.6	108.4	116.0	111.8	112.5	114.1	112.3	109.7	111.3
June	115.5	112.9	114.9	116.2	114.9	116.4	119.0	112.6	114.7
1982-83—									
September	123.4	119.0	121.4	120.1	120.7	121.9	123.5	116.2	121.1
December	126.1	118.4	123.5	122.5	122.0	125.2	128.0	118.3	122.7
March	129.8	122.3	127.2	127.9	124.7	129.7	130.4	121.0	126.4
June	128.8	122.3	126.8	129.2	126.6	130.4	130.7	123.4	126.4
1983-84—									
September	133.1	127.4	132.4	132.9	130.4	133.5	134.0	126.0	130.9
December	136.3	130.7	137.6	137.2	133.8	136.3	137.2	128.1	134.5
March	137.3	131.7	137.7	138.0	135.0	139.0	138.7	130.1	135.5
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each index : Year 1980-81=100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	111.2	109.6	110.1	110.1	110.2	109.9	110.4	111.2	110.4
June	114.5	111.3	113.1	112.0	111.9	111.6	113.0	116.7	112.9
1982-83—									
September	120.1	115.5	118.2	117.5	117.4	118.0	117.6	122.0	118.0
December	126.6	121.4	123.5	122.8	123.2	124.3	123.5	127.6	124.0
March	128.8	123.1	124.8	124.3	124.5	126.0	125.2	128.5	125.8
June	131.9	125.6	126.9	127.8	126.6	127.5	127.6	131.0	128.5
1983-84—									
September	133.5	128.2	128.7	131.4	134.9	129.7	129.8	134.0	131.2
December	140.5	140.8	134.4	138.6	140.3	136.4	135.6	139.6	139.5
March	143.2	142.7	136.5	142.2	142.7	141.3	138.6	143.4	142.0
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each index : Year 1980-81=100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	127.7	137.6	117.5	127.9	141.3	126.3	129.9	147.1	131.2
June	133.3	139.0	119.9	129.2	142.9	127.6	136.5	149.4	134.5
1982-83—									
September	137.9	152.1	120.8	147.3	154.4	134.4	141.2	155.6	143.1
December	150.0	155.8	132.5	149.7	159.5	144.2	153.1	162.3	151.2
March	155.0	162.4	141.1	161.2	161.9	146.2	159.2	168.0	157.4
June	156.4	170.2	142.0	167.7	163.4	147.1	159.8	169.5	161.1
1983-84—									
September	158.7	174.0	143.3	168.9	177.0	147.4	160.7	170.1	164.5
December	160.0	181.1	144.4	170.0	183.7	148.0	162.0	170.9	167.9
March	130.1	142.7	127.9	134.8	144.1	122.0	132.1	139.6	135.5
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each index : March quarter 1982 = 100.0)									
1981-82—									
March	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
June	100.9	102.0	100.5	101.0	100.3	101.7	101.5	100.1	101.2
1982-83—									
September	102.9	104.1	103.3	103.3	101.9	103.5	104.6	102.7	103.3
December	104.9	106.9	105.7	104.8	104.3	107.8	107.7	105.2	105.7
March	109.9	110.7	109.3	108.2	107.6	112.6	111.4	108.0	109.8
June	112.3	113.0	111.0	110.2	109.6	113.7	112.9	110.0	112.0
1983-84—									
September	113.7	113.7	112.6	111.5	111.1	114.9	114.1	112.0	113.2
December	113.3	114.6	112.8	112.2	111.8	116.3	115.9	111.8	113.5
March	116.1	117.3	114.3	114.8	112.3	118.8	118.1	112.7	115.9

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—INDEX NUMBERS AND INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTIONS : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1980-81 = 100.0)				Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)			
	1983		1984		1983		1984		1983		1984	
	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Dec. qtr	Mar. qtr	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Dec. qtr	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Mar. qtr
FOOD	118.9	127.2	129.2	127.6	+1.6	+8.7	27.76	28.19	2.62	2.66	+0.04	+0.10
Dairy produce	128.4	133.9	134.6	134.6	+0.5	+4.8	2.60	2.61	0.01	0.91	+0.01	+0.01
Cereal products	127.7	135.0	138.7	138.7	+2.7	+8.6	2.97	3.05	0.08	0.27	+0.08	+0.14
Meat and seafoods	108.4	115.2	117.7	117.7	+2.3	+6.3	6.09	6.23	0.14	0.73	+0.01	+0.01
Beef and veal	104.0	115.9	117.7	117.7	+1.6	+3.2	2.62	2.66	0.04	0.91	+0.01	+0.01
Lamb and mutton	102.4	95.9	107.2	107.2	+11.8	+4.7	0.81	0.91	0.10	0.27	+0.01	+0.01
Pork	123.1	117.2	118.7	118.7	+1.3	-3.6	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.73	—	—
Poultry	117.8	118.7	119.5	119.5	+0.7	+1.4	0.73	0.73	0.00	1.13	-0.01	-0.01
Other meat	119.3	119.5	118.3	118.3	-1.0	-0.8	1.14	1.13	0.01	0.54	-0.01	+0.01
Fish	109.9	114.5	115.7	115.7	+1.0	+5.3	0.53	0.53	0.00	0.54	-0.01	+0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	107.0	137.1	136.5	136.5	-0.4	+27.6	2.48	2.47	0.01	1.18	+0.01	+0.01
Processed fruit and vegetables	125.9	131.8	132.6	132.6	+0.6	+5.3	1.17	1.18	0.01	3.72	+0.05	+0.05
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	130.7	139.0	141.0	141.0	+1.4	+7.9	3.67	3.72	0.05	6.16	+0.12	+0.12
Meals out and take-away food	123.0	130.3	132.9	132.9	+2.0	+8.0	6.04	6.16	0.12	2.77	+0.03	+0.03
Other food	117.5	124.4	125.6	125.6	+1.0	+6.9	2.74	2.77	0.03	0.55	+0.01	+0.01
CLOTHING	113.9	120.4	120.9	120.9	+0.4	+6.1	9.81	9.85	0.04	2.95	—	—
Men's and boys' clothing	114.8	120.3	120.2	120.2	-0.1	+4.7	2.95	2.95	0.00	4.04	+0.01	+0.01
Women's and girls' clothing	110.8	117.8	118.2	118.2	+0.3	+6.7	4.03	4.04	0.01	0.60	+0.01	+0.01
Piecegoods and other clothing	120.1	126.4	128.7	128.7	+1.8	+7.2	0.60	0.61	0.01	1.69	+0.02	+0.02
Footwear	113.4	120.7	122.0	122.0	+1.1	+7.6	1.69	1.71	0.02	0.54	+0.01	+0.01
Clothing and footwear services	126.9	133.2	134.3	134.3	+0.8	+5.8	0.54	0.55	0.01	17.84	+0.27	+0.27
HOUSING	124.1	130.5	132.6	132.6	+1.6	+6.8	17.57	17.84	0.27	5.58	+0.09	+0.09
Rent	123.7	130.0	132.1	132.1	+1.6	+6.8	5.49	5.58	0.09	4.89	+0.08	+0.08
Privately-owned dwelling rents	122.3	128.5	130.7	130.7	+1.7	+6.9	4.81	4.89	0.08	0.69	+0.01	+0.01
Government-owned dwelling rents	133.9	141.2	142.9	142.9	+1.2	+6.7	12.08	12.26	0.18	2.67	+0.18	+0.18
Home ownership(a)	124.5	131.1	133.0	133.0	+1.4	+6.8	2.67	2.66	-0.01	9.41	+0.18	+0.18
Local government rates and charges	129.1	144.9	144.9	144.9	—	+12.2	2.67	2.67	0.00	2.67	—	—
Other home ownership	123.4	127.6	130.1	130.1	+2.0	+5.4	9.41	9.41	0.00	1.74	+0.01	+0.01
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	125.5	132.8	133.7	133.7	+0.7	+6.5	18.06	18.18	0.12	3.75	+0.12	+0.12
Fuel and light	144.4	155.3	154.7	154.7	-0.4	+7.1	3.76	3.75	-0.01	3.20	-0.01	-0.01
Furniture and floor coverings	122.1	128.8	130.3	130.3	+1.2	+6.7	3.16	3.20	0.04	1.95	+0.04	+0.04
Appliances	110.4	113.3	114.0	114.0	+0.6	+3.3	1.94	1.95	0.01	1.19	+0.01	+0.01
Drapery	115.4	127.0	128.4	128.4	+1.1	+11.3	1.86	1.87	0.01	4.49	+0.01	+0.01
Household utensils and tools	122.1	131.0	132.0	132.0	+0.8	+8.1	1.86	1.87	0.01	1.74	+0.01	+0.01
Household supplies and services	129.3	133.2	134.9	134.9	+1.3	+4.3	4.43	4.49	0.06	22.29	+0.06	+0.06
Postal and telephone services	119.0	130.4	130.6	130.6	+0.2	+9.7	1.73	1.74	0.01	20.32	+0.01	+0.01
TRANSPORTATION	126.4	134.5	135.5	135.5	+0.7	+7.2	22.13	22.29	0.16	5.46	+0.16	+0.16
Private motoring	125.7	133.1	134.0	134.0	+0.7	+6.6	20.19	20.32	0.13	5.51	+0.05	+0.05
Motor vehicle purchase	120.6	127.3	128.5	128.5	+0.9	+6.6	5.46	5.46	0.00	6.57	-0.04	-0.04
Automotive fuel	129.0	138.4	137.7	137.7	-0.5	+6.5	6.61	6.57	-0.04	8.12	+0.13	+0.13
Other motoring costs	126.8	133.1	135.1	135.1	+1.5	+6.5	8.12	8.12	0.00	1.97	+0.03	+0.03
Urban transport fares	130.2	145.9	147.6	147.6	+1.2	+13.4	1.94	1.97	0.03			

For footnotes see page 9.

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—INDEX NUMBERS AND INDEX POINTS CONTRIBUTIONS : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES—continued

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1980-81 = 100.0)				Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups Index points)			
	1983		1984		1983		1984		1983		1984	
	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Mar. qtr	Dec. qtr	Dec. qtr and Mar. qtr 1983 %	Mar. qtr and Dec. qtr 1984 %	Dec. qtr 1983	Mar. qtr 1984	Dec. qtr 1983	Mar. qtr 1984	Dec. qtr 1983 and Mar. qtr 1984	
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL												
Alcoholic beverages	125.8	139.5	142.0	142.0	+1.8	+12.9	11.95	12.16	11.95	12.16	+0.21	
Beer	124.6	132.9	135.8	135.8	+2.2	+9.0	8.12	8.30	8.12	8.30	+0.18	
Wine and spirits	127.9	136.5	140.0	140.0	+2.6	+9.5	5.69	5.84	5.69	5.84	+0.15	
Cigarettes and tobacco	117.3	125.3	126.9	126.9	+1.3	+8.2	2.43	2.46	2.43	2.46	+0.03	
	129.1	156.1	157.5	157.5	+0.9	+22.0	3.82	3.86	3.82	3.86	+0.04	
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE												
Health services	157.4	167.9	135.5	135.5	-19.3	-13.9	10.73	8.66	10.73	8.66	-2.07	
Personal care products	129.4	135.0	137.4	137.4	+1.8	+6.2	2.83	2.88	2.83	2.88	+0.05	
Personal care services	125.1	135.2	136.5	136.5	+1.0	+9.1	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.92	+0.01	
RECREATION AND EDUCATION(b)												
Books, newspapers, magazines	109.8	113.5	115.9	115.9	+2.1	+5.6	14.49	14.80	14.49	14.80	+0.31	
Other recreational goods	131.4	138.6	139.7	139.7	+0.8	+6.3	2.01	2.02	2.01	2.02	+0.01	
Holiday travel and accommodation(b)	106.2	107.3	106.7	106.7	-0.6	+0.5	3.03	3.02	3.03	3.02	-0.01	
Other recreational services	110.9	115.0	116.8	116.8	+1.6	+5.3	4.65	4.72	4.65	4.72	+0.07	
Education and child care(b)	133.1	138.5	142.8	142.8	+3.1	+7.3	3.14	3.24	3.14	3.24	+0.10	
	114.0	117.5	127.1	127.1	+8.2	+11.5	1.66	1.80	1.66	1.80	+0.14	
ALL GROUPS	124.7	132.5	132.0	132.0	-0.4	+5.9	132.5	132.0	132.5	132.0	-0.5	
SPECIAL SERIES												
All groups, excluding food group	126.3	134.0	132.8	132.8	-0.9	+5.1	104.74	103.78	104.74	103.78	-0.96	
All groups, excluding housing group	124.7	132.8	131.9	131.9	-0.7	+5.8	114.93	114.13	114.93	114.13	-0.80	
All groups, excluding hospital and medical services	122.7	130.4	132.0	132.0	+1.2	+7.6	126.10	127.72	126.10	127.72	+1.62	
All groups, goods component(c)	121.3	129.1	130.5	130.5	+1.1	+7.6	92.93	93.98	92.93	93.98	+1.05	
All groups, services component(d)	134.2	142.4	136.7	136.7	-4.0	+1.9	39.56	37.99	39.56	37.99	-1.57	
Selected State and local government charges(e)	153.6	167.5	161.2	161.2	-3.8	+4.9	(f)10.38	9.98	(f)10.38	9.98	-0.40	
All groups, excluding selected State and local government charges(e)	122.7	130.1	129.9	129.9	-0.2	+5.9	(f)122.12	121.99	(f)122.12	121.99	-0.13	

(a) Does not include cost of land and interest charges on house purchase. (b) Base: March quarter 1982 = 100.0. (c) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises the Food group (except meals out); Clothing group (except clothing and footwear services); Household equipment and operation group (except contents insurance, repairs to appliances and postal and telephone services); Tobacco and alcohol group; house purchase; house repairs and maintenance-goods; motor vehicle purchase; automotive fuel; tyres and tubes; vehicle service and repairs-goods; personal care products; books, newspapers and magazines; and other recreational goods. (d) The 'All groups, services component' comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'. (e) 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 vehicle third party insurance premiums (except Canberra); motor vehicle registration fees; drivers' licence fees; urban bus fares (government fares only in Sydney and Melbourne, council fares only in Brisbane); urban rail and tram fares (not applicable in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin); and public hospital charges (not applicable in Brisbane). The derivation and limitations of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication. (f) The index points contribution of 'selected State and local government charges' has changed because of the change in weighting of 'net hospital services'-see Appendix, paragraph 4, footnote(a).

APPENDIX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—MARCH QUARTER 1984

HEALTH SERVICES SUB-GROUP—EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN HEALTH INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The CPI for March quarter 1984 is affected by price changes for hospital and medical services resulting from changes to health insurance arrangements with the introduction of the Medicare scheme on 1 February 1984. Also there were increases in doctors' fees during the quarter and schedule fees for medical services were increased on 1 March 1984.

2. The new arrangements under the Medicare system include:

- the abolition of all charges for patients occupying standard (public ward) accommodation in public hospitals (i.e. with treatment by hospital doctors);
- the abolition of charges for outpatient treatment in public hospitals;
- reduced bed-day charges for patients occupying intermediate (shared) or private ward accommodation in public hospitals (i.e. with treatment by a doctor of the patient's choice) with consequential reductions in hospital insurance contribution rates;
- provision under Medicare of basic medical insurance cover free of direct charge with benefits equal to 85 per cent of the schedule fee for each medical services item (with maximum patient contributions of \$10 per service and \$150 per person per year);
- abolition of the option to insure with private health insurance funds to cover the 'gap' between the schedule fee and the basic insurance benefit for medical services; and
- introduction of a Commonwealth Government levy on income earners equal to 1 per cent of taxable income above a certain threshold and up to a prescribed ceiling.

Treatment of Medicare Levy in the CPI

3. The 1 per cent Medicare levy introduced on 1 February 1984 is not considered to be part of the price of hospital and medical services for CPI purposes because it is a compulsory payment, for which liability depends solely on the level of each individual's income (in other words a direct tax). This treatment of the Medicare levy is consistent with the exclusion of personal direct income tax from the CPI. The reason for this exclusion is that the amount of tax payable by a particular household is not related to the quantity of goods or services consumed or purchased, but depends on such things as the amount and sources of income, the number of income earners in the household, the number of dependants and so on.

Price Measurement in March quarter 1984

4. The following table shows the contribution of the various components to the change in the Health Services sub-group between December quarter 1983 and March quarter 1984, expressed in terms of All Groups index points:

CPI HEALTH SERVICES SUB-GROUP Weighted average of eight capital cities				
<i>All Groups index points</i>				
	<i>December quarter 1983 (former basis)(a)</i>	<i>December quarter 1983 (new basis) (a)</i>	<i>March quarter 1984</i>	<i>Change between December quarter and March quarters</i>
Hospital and medical services—				
Health insurance fund contributions	5.04	5.30	3.45	-1.85
Net price for medical services	0.61	0.53	0.61	+0.08
Net price for hospital services	0.75	0.56	0.19	-0.37
<i>Total hospital and medical services</i>	<i>6.40</i>	<i>6.40</i>	<i>4.25</i>	<i>-2.15</i>
Dental services	0.59	0.59	0.61	+0.02
Total Health Services sub-group	6.99	6.99	4.86	-2.13

(a) The relative contributions of the three components of hospital and medical services in December quarter 1983 have changed because the internal combining weights for these components have been adjusted. The new combining weights take account of information, from the Health Insurance Survey conducted by the ABS in March 1983, on proportions of persons covered by health insurance funds and persons uninsured. Weights remain constant at the CPI expenditure class level and hence there is no change in the contributions of the expenditure classes 'hospital and medical services' and 'dental services'.

5. In interpreting the movements shown it is important to note that hospital and medical services are priced in the CPI on an 'average of quarter basis'. That is, the prices used in compiling the quarterly CPI are an average of prices applying throughout the quarter. As Medicare was introduced on 1 February 1984 the average prices used in the March quarter 1984 CPI incorporate one month of pre-Medicare prices and two months of prices under Medicare. Therefore, the March quarter 1984 CPI reflects approximately two-thirds of the overall impact on the CPI of the price changes resulting from the introduction of Medicare. The remaining one third of the impact will be reflected in the CPI for the June quarter 1984.

6. The health insurance fund contributions component is measured by pricing commonly purchased levels of insurance cover from major health insurance funds in each capital city, for hospital and medical services prior to 1 February 1984 and for hospital services only from that date onwards. In calculating price movement for

health insurance fund contributions, the internal combining weights given to the various health insurance fund tables have been adjusted to reflect more up to date information on fund membership from the 1983 Health Insurance Survey and from other sources.

7. The net price for medical services component is calculated by pricing a representative selection of medical services (e.g. doctor's consultation), and calculating a net amount for each service from the average fee charged by doctors less the appropriate medical benefit paid, where applicable.

8. If the present arrangements remain unchanged, net prices for hospital services will fall to zero once the Medicare scheme is operative for a whole quarter. This is because it is assumed that the CPI population group

either uses standard (public ward) hospital accommodation for which there is no charge, or, if they use intermediate (shared) or private ward accommodation in public hospitals, they have hospital insurance which provides full cover for the charges.

9. In recent years, hospital and medical services have posed special problems of price measurement because of the magnitude and frequency of changes in the institutional arrangements which affect the relative contributions of the public and private sectors and the ways in which the costs can be met by the consumer. To assist those users who prefer to analyse trends in retail prices unaffected by changes in health financing arrangements the ABS publishes (in Table 5 of this publication) a special series 'All Groups excluding hospital and medical services'.

