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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH QUARTER 1991

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ELECTRONIC SERVICES

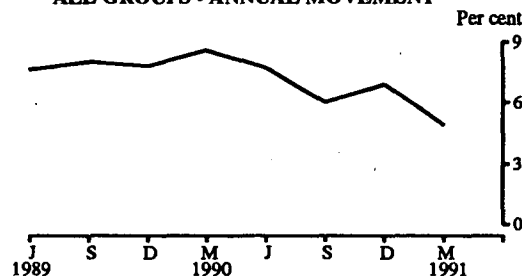
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MAIN FEATURES

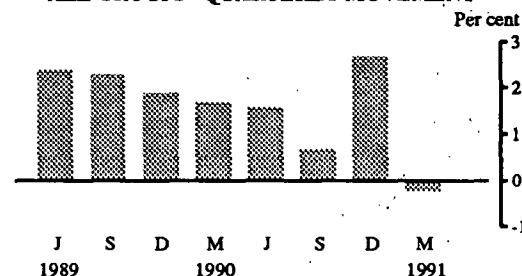
Weighted average of eight capital cities	Change between	
	Dec. qtr 1990 and Mar. qtr 1991 %	Mar. qtr 1990 and Mar. qtr 1991 %
Food	+2.1	+5.2
Clothing	+0.5	+4.9
Housing	-1.4	+1.6
Household equipment and operation	+0.5	+5.0
Transportation	-4.6	+4.5
Tobacco & alcohol	+1.3	+8.7
Health and personal care	+3.5	+10.2
Recreation and education	-0.3	+4.2
All groups	-0.2	+4.9
All groups excluding housing	0.0	+5.5
All groups excluding food	-0.7	+4.8

The annual increase (March quarter 1991 on March quarter 1990) was 4.9%, the lowest since March quarter 1985 (4.4%).

ALL GROUPS - ANNUAL MOVEMENT



ALL GROUPS - QUARTERLY MOVEMENT



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overview.

The CPI fell by 0.2% between the December quarter 1990 and March quarter 1991. Falls in the CPI were last recorded in March quarter 1984 (-0.4%) and December quarter 1963 (-0.1%).

Lower petrol prices (down 15.4%) and mortgage interest charges (down 3.8%) had a substantial impact on the CPI this quarter. Falls in prices for overseas and domestic travel and accommodation (down 5.2%) and child care fees (down 14.7%) also contributed significantly to the overall decrease.

Increases in fresh fruit and vegetable prices (up 14.0%), education fees (up 10.3%), pharmaceutical costs (up 14.3%), entertainment charges (up 3.8%), consumer credit charges (up 2.5%) and charges for hospital and medical services (up 2.5%) served to significantly offset the above falls.

Main contributions to change.

The five groups which had the most significant influence on the change in the all groups index were Transportation, Food, Housing, Health and Personal Care and Recreation and Education.

Transportation: -4.6%

The transportation group is the largest contributor to change in the all groups index. This was mainly due to a 15.4% fall in petrol prices. Motor vehicle prices showed a net decrease of 0.7%. Significant discounting of some models was partly offset by increases for other models. The petrol and motor vehicle decreases were in part offset by price increases for motoring charges (+2.1%), vehicle servicing repairs and parts (+1.2%) and urban transport fares (+1.2%).

Food: +2.1%

The increase in the food group this quarter had the largest offsetting influence on the change in the all groups index. Significant increases in fresh vegetables prices (+21.1%) and fresh fruit prices (+11.2%) accounted for most of the increase. Price increases were also recorded for take away foods (+1.3%), soft drinks and cordials (+2.2%) and milk and cream (+2.1%).

Housing: -1.4%

Decreases were recorded for the housing group in all cities this quarter. These decreases were the result of falls in mortgage interest charges ranging from -4.1% in Sydney to -1.9% in Darwin.

Mortgage interest rates decreased for the fourth consecutive quarter, with mortgage debt continuing the recent trend of moderate increases.

Health and Personal Care: +3.5%

An increase in the cost of pharmaceuticals (+13.8%) contributed most to the increase this quarter. The cost of prescription drugs increased as a result of higher average charges for PBS prescriptions due to a decrease in the effect of the safety net provision. The cost of hospital and medical services also increased (+2.2%) mainly due to increases in health insurance premiums.

Recreation and Education: -0.3%

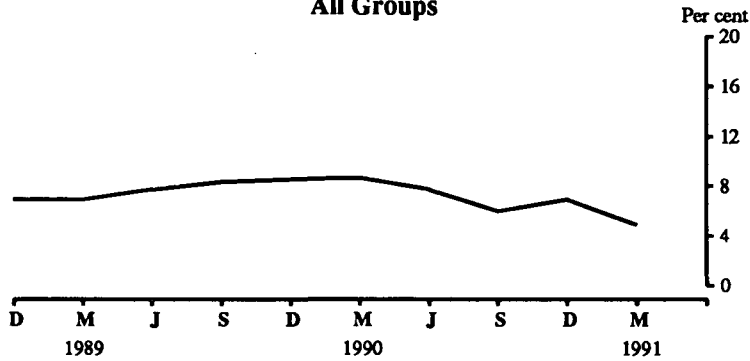
Increases in education fees (+10.3%) and entertainment charges (+3.8%) were more than offset by falls in both overseas and domestic holiday travel and accommodation costs (-5.2%) and child care fees (-14.7%).

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS
PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

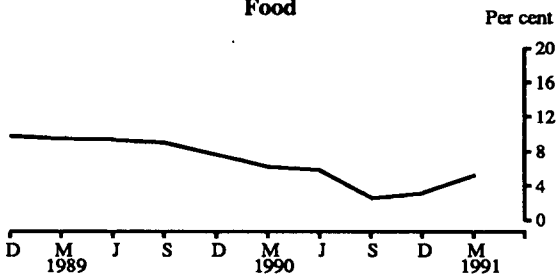
	<i>Change between</i>	
	<i>Dec. qtr 1990 and Mar. qtr 1991</i>	<i>Mar. qtr 1990 and Mar. qtr 1991</i>
Sydney	+0.2	+4.7
Melbourne	-0.5	+5.3
Brisbane	+0.2	+4.8
Adelaide	-0.2	+6.0
Perth	-1.0	+3.9
Hobart	-0.2	+4.2
Darwin	-0.3	+5.4
Canberra	-0.5	+4.2
Weighted average of eight capital cities	-0.2	+4.9

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

All Groups



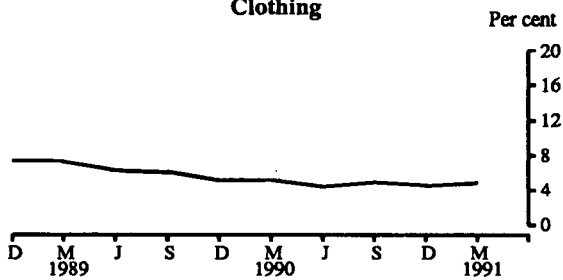
Food



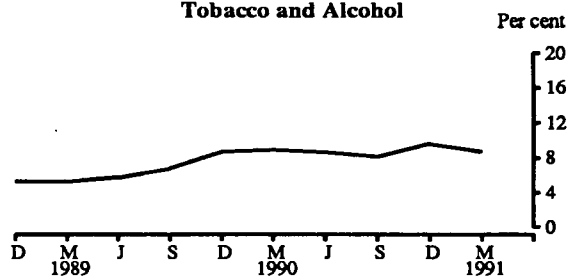
Transportation



Clothing



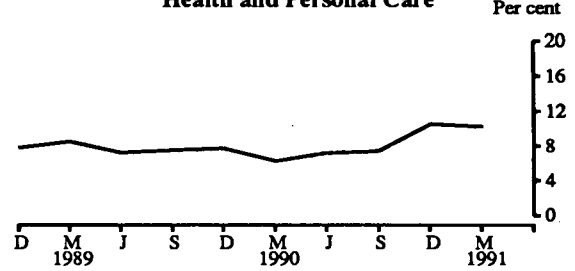
Tobacco and Alcohol



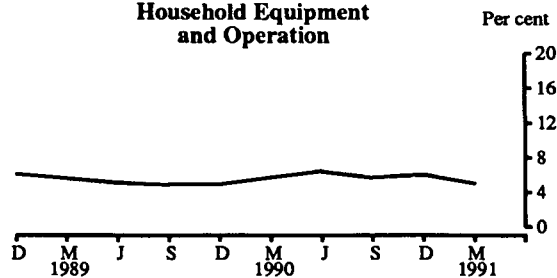
Housing (a)



Health and Personal Care



**Household Equipment
and Operation**



Recreation and Education

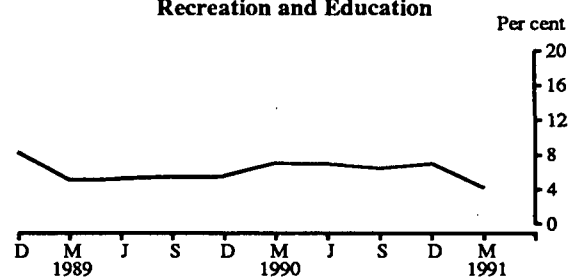


TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each Index: Year 1980-81 = 100.0)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1986-87	161.4	163.9	161.8	164.0	161.8	162.5	159.3	163.4	162.6
1987-88	173.7	175.9	173.1	175.0	173.3	174.4	170.6	174.7	174.5
1988-89	187.7	187.9	185.4	187.8	186.1	185.3	178.9	186.4	187.3
1989-90	203.0	203.6	199.3	201.2	201.7	198.3	190.0	200.2	202.3
Quarter - 1986-87									
March	163.5	166.0	164.1	165.7	163.8	164.8	161.4	165.1	164.7
June	166.1	168.6	166.1	168.4	166.6	167.3	163.9	167.8	167.2
1987-88									
September	169.0	171.6	168.4	170.5	169.1	170.3	166.6	170.0	170.0
December	171.8	174.5	171.5	173.8	171.8	172.9	169.5	173.0	172.9
March	175.6	177.1	174.6	176.3	174.6	175.8	171.7	176.4	176.0
June	178.3	180.4	177.9	179.2	177.7	178.4	174.5	179.5	179.0
1988-89									
September	182.9	183.0	180.5	182.7	181.3	180.6	175.6	181.7	182.4
December	187.6	186.2	183.7	185.7	185.1	183.5	177.2	185.0	186.2
March	187.8	188.7	186.4	189.5	187.0	186.8	180.0	187.2	188.0
June	192.5	193.8	191.0	193.2	191.0	190.3	182.9	191.5	192.6
1989-90									
September	197.8	198.1	194.5	196.5	195.5	193.6	185.5	194.5	197.0
December	201.4	202.0	197.9	199.6	199.5	197.1	188.8	198.8	200.7
March	204.9	205.1	200.9	202.5	204.1	200.2	191.2	202.7	204.1
June	208.0	209.0	203.7	206.2	207.5	202.1	194.6	204.8	207.4
1990-91									
September	209.2	210.7	204.8	208.8	209.1	204.2	196.7	206.5	208.9
December	214.2	217.0	210.1	215.1	214.3	209.2	202.2	212.3	214.5
March	214.6	216.0	210.6	214.6	212.1	208.7	201.6	211.3	214.1

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

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Change from previous year									
1987-88	7.6	7.3	7.0	6.7	7.1	7.4	7.1	6.9	7.3
1988-89	8.1	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.4	6.3	4.9	6.7	7.3
1989-90	8.2	8.4	7.5	7.1	8.4	7.0	6.2	7.4	8.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
1988-89									
March	6.9	6.5	6.8	7.5	7.1	6.3	4.8	6.1	6.8
June	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.5	6.7	4.8	6.7	7.6
1989-90									
September	8.1	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.2	5.6	7.0	8.0
December	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.4	6.5	7.5	7.8
March	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
June	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
1990-91									
September	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
December	6.4	7.4	6.2	7.8	7.4	6.1	7.1	6.8	6.9
March	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Change from previous quarter									
1988-89									
March	0.1	1.3	1.5	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.0
June	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.4
1989-90									
September	2.8	2.2	1.8	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.4	1.6	2.3
December	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.9
March	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.3	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.7
June	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.8	1.7	0.9	1.8	1.0	1.6
1990-91									
September	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.7
December	2.4	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.7
March	0.2	-0.5	0.2	-0.2	-1.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1990 AND MARCH QUARTER 1991
MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE IN TERMS OF ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS

Item	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD	1.17	0.51	1.46	0.29	0.40	0.67	0.95	0.75	0.83
Milk and cream	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Cereal products	0.06	0.04	0.10	-0.05	-0.12	0.06	0.04	-0.01	0.03
Lamb and mutton	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.04	-0.01	-0.01	0.05	0.03
Processed meat	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.02	-0.01	0.06	0.08	0.02	0.03
Fresh fruit	0.25	0.04	0.22	0.21	0.16	0.18	0.28	0.28	0.18
Fresh vegetables	0.39	0.16	0.65	0.09	0.13	0.04	0.32	0.24	0.29
Soft drinks and cordials	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.07	-0.01	0.05	0.02	0.04
Meals out	0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Take away foods	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.04	0.05	0.11	0.07	0.07
CLOTHING	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.02	0.06
Men's outer clothing	0.02	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Boys' clothing	-0.01	-0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01
Womens underwear nightwear etc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Fabrics and knitting wool	0.02	0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02
HOUSING	-0.49	-0.41	-0.28	-0.42	-0.87	-0.28	-0.16	-0.39	-0.46
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.06	0.08	0.05	0.07	-0.09	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.05
Government-owned dwelling rents	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Mortgage interest charges	-0.65	-0.57	-0.35	-0.48	-0.84	-0.44	-0.26	-0.56	-0.59
House repairs and maintenance	0.04	0.06	0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.07	0.04
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	0.30	0.14	0.38	0.02	0.09	0.07	0.25	0.04	0.21
Furniture	-0.08	-0.07	0.04	-0.02	-0.06	-0.01	0.03	-0.14	-0.06
Household textiles	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	0.00	0.03
Tools	0.12	0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.02	0.05
Household paper products	-0.02	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	-0.06	-0.01	-0.02
Stationery	-0.02	0.00	-0.03	-0.15	-0.03	-0.10	-0.01	0.02	-0.03
Consumer credit charges	0.13	0.13	0.19	0.12	0.17	0.11	0.17	0.18	0.14
TRANSPORTATION	-1.42	-1.96	-1.55	-1.58	-2.19	-1.24	-1.37	-1.78	-1.69
Motor vehicles	-0.01	-0.17	0.08	0.03	-0.29	0.02	0.00	-0.16	-0.08
Automotive fuel	-1.61	-1.77	-1.87	-1.91	-1.97	-1.65	-1.13	-1.79	-1.75
Motoring charges	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.03
Vehicle servicing etc.	0.08	0.03	0.10	0.09	0.04	0.04	-0.18	0.12	0.06
Urban transport fares	0.01	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	0.33	0.20	0.11	0.35	0.18	0.09	0.36	0.09	0.24
Beer	0.14	0.05	0.01	0.10	0.12	-0.02	0.12	0.04	0.08
Wine	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.08	-0.02	0.04
Spirits	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.15	0.03	0.05	0.15	0.03	0.08
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE	0.27	0.68	0.42	0.64	0.32	0.38	0.22	0.33	0.45
Hospital and medical services	0.01	0.31	0.06	0.32	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.14
Dental services	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.04
Pharmaceuticals	0.19	0.22	0.26	0.18	0.18	0.29	0.14	0.21	0.21
Toiletries and personal products	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.08	0.05	-0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04
RECREATION AND EDUCATION	0.11	-0.26	-0.03	0.15	-0.27	-0.33	-0.86	-0.16	-0.08
Books newspapers and magazines	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03
Holiday travel and accommodation in Australia	-0.05	-0.26	-0.21	-0.12	-0.27	-0.58	-0.56	-0.21	-0.17
O'ceas holiday travel and accommodation	-0.18	-0.25	-0.12	-0.15	-0.14	-0.04	-0.17	-0.49	-0.20
Entertainment	0.15	0.20	0.22	0.13	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.33	0.17
Education fees	0.23	0.30	0.12	0.26	0.17	0.24	0.11	0.22	0.23
Child care fees	-0.08	-0.18	-0.19	-0.05	-0.12	0.00	-0.31	-0.14	-0.13
Total change	0.3	-1.0	0.5	-0.5	-2.3	-0.6	-0.5	-1.1	-0.4
Contribution of selected State and local government charges (a) to total change	0.07	0.03	0.16	0.10	0.05	0.31	0.01	0.03	0.07

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

TABLE 4. CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1990 AND MARCH QUARTER 1991 (a)
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN WEIGHTED AVERAGE EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES ALL GROUPS INDEX.

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	-86.2	-32.9	-38.8	-6.2	-9.1	-2.7	-1.9	-4.9	-184.3
Clothing	-5.4	-4.3	-1.4	-0.7	-1.7	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-13.8
Housing	36.4	26.3	7.3	8.8	20.1	1.1	0.3	2.5	102.4
Household equipment and operation	-22.2	-9.4	-10.2	-0.4	-2.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	-45.7
Transportation	105.1	126.4	41.3	33.5	50.7	4.9	2.8	11.5	375.7
Tobacco and alcohol	-23.9	-12.8	-2.7	-7.6	-4.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.6	-53.6
Health and personal care	-19.6	-43.7	-11.1	-13.6	-7.4	-1.5	-0.4	-2.1	-98.7
Recreation and education	-7.6	16.6	1.0	-3.0	6.4	1.3	1.7	1.0	16.7
All Groups	-23.5	66.6	-14.5	10.9	52.6	2.3	1.1	6.9	100.0

(a) Table 4 shows the percentage contribution of Groups in each city to the change (between December quarter 1990 and March quarter 1991) in the All Groups index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities. The small negative movement in the March quarter All Groups index is the net outcome of significantly larger offsetting movements for individual Groups and cities. As a result of the relatively small denominator underlying the values in the table this quarter, special care is required in its use.

ANALYTICAL SERIES (a)

TABLE 5. DEBT PROFILE METHOD - 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
Change from previous year									
1987-88	5.2	7.8	6.8	6.9	7.8	8.4	11.3	7.8	7.3
1988-89	9.4	7.1	10.8	5.7	3.9	5.7	8.4	6.2	7.1
1989-90	7.1	5.2	16.8	5.5	8.0	8.3	7.2	6.2	8.2
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
1988-89									
March	9.4	7.3	11.8	5.6	2.7	5.2	8.5	5.1	6.9
June	9.3	6.3	16.2	5.1	5.3	5.7	7.2	5.2	7.7
1989-90									
September	9.0	6.1	19.1	4.9	6.0	6.8	7.5	5.4	8.3
December	7.6	5.1	18.7	4.9	8.2	8.7	7.7	5.5	8.5
March	6.2	5.2	17.0	5.7	9.9	8.9	6.2	7.0	8.6
June	5.8	4.4	13.0	6.4	8.0	8.6	7.2	6.9	7.7
1990-91									
September	2.6	4.9	7.8	5.7	7.7	8.1	7.4	6.4	6.0
December	3.2	4.5	5.1	6.0	12.2	9.6	10.5	7.0	6.9
March	5.2	4.9	1.6	5.0	4.5	8.7	10.2	4.2	4.9
Change from previous quarter									
1988-89									
March	1.5	-0.1	3.5	0.7	1.0	2.0	5.3	0.8	1.6
June	3.2	2.8	5.3	1.0	2.4	2.1	0.5	1.1	2.4
1989-90									
September	2.5	0.2	5.4	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.0	1.0	2.3
December	0.3	2.0	3.4	1.5	2.4	2.0	0.7	2.5	1.9
March	0.2	0.1	2.0	1.5	2.6	2.2	3.8	2.3	1.7
June	2.8	2.0	1.6	1.7	0.6	1.8	1.5	1.0	1.6
1990-91									
September	-0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.9	1.9	1.2	0.5	0.7
December	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.8	6.7	3.4	3.6	3.1	2.7
March	2.1	0.5	-1.4	0.5	-4.6	1.3	3.5	-0.3	-0.2

(a) This table is intended to assist in the analysis of price change (as distinct from movements in the CPI) and is therefore based on indexes calculated using the debt profile method of measuring mortgage interest charges from March quarter 1987.

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - GROUP INDEXES

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	178.4	183.9	177.6	180.4	183.8	181.9	171.8	172.8	180.5
June	184.5	190.8	183.8	185.6	185.7	185.2	175.2	176.6	186.2
1989-90									
September	189.4	196.6	186.8	189.5	188.4	188.8	176.7	180.8	190.8
December	189.4	198.1	185.8	188.4	190.6	192.1	178.6	183.2	191.4
March	191.4	195.4	187.5	186.8	194.0	192.1	177.7	185.3	191.7
June	196.3	202.8	191.6	190.7	198.2	194.9	182.3	187.9	197.0
1990-91									
September	193.9	201.4	189.2	192.6	198.9	194.8	182.1	186.9	195.7
December	196.4	201.5	191.5	196.1	201.1	197.1	185.3	188.5	197.5
March	202.3	204.1	199.0	197.6	203.2	200.6	190.4	192.5	201.7
CLOTHING (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	173.9	177.3	175.6	180.2	177.0	173.1	157.6	175.1	175.9
June	179.2	181.1	180.0	186.2	182.7	178.3	159.8	180.9	180.8
1989-90									
September	179.6	182.3	179.7	186.6	181.5	178.5	159.2	181.7	181.2
December	182.8	186.4	184.7	188.7	186.4	182.3	161.2	185.7	184.9
March	182.7	186.9	183.6	190.1	185.8	183.5	161.9	185.0	185.0
June	186.9	191.0	186.6	191.9	188.6	186.9	164.3	190.2	188.7
1990-91									
September	188.1	192.3	188.1	193.2	189.2	187.2	167.2	191.8	190.0
December	191.1	194.6	194.2	196.0	194.1	191.2	169.1	194.8	193.2
March	192.0	195.4	195.1	196.5	195.3	191.8	170.7	195.1	194.1
HOUSING (a) (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	199.7	207.3	179.0	197.2	182.1	179.9	168.9	201.9	197.7
June	210.8	218.9	186.6	204.3	193.4	186.1	174.4	210.7	208.1
1989-90									
September	222.3	230.9	195.7	212.6	206.6	193.5	180.1	220.0	219.3
December	230.6	237.2	202.4	219.0	215.1	200.0	185.5	229.6	226.8
March	234.5	242.6	205.4	223.4	222.6	203.0	188.3	233.0	231.4
June	237.8	248.0	208.3	226.5	225.8	204.8	190.4	234.8	235.1
1990-91									
September	239.5	249.1	209.4	228.1	226.7	205.4	189.9	234.9	236.4
December	239.8	251.9	213.3	232.2	227.7	207.2	197.1	241.4	238.4
March	236.6	248.7	211.3	228.8	222.1	205.1	196.1	238.3	235.1
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	182.2	182.3	186.9	184.0	182.9	183.2	179.1	180.4	183.1
June	183.6	185.0	188.9	185.4	185.2	185.5	180.5	182.6	185.0
1989-90									
September	186.1	188.1	191.2	187.5	188.6	187.7	182.6	185.3	187.8
December	188.3	192.2	195.0	191.1	189.5	190.4	184.5	188.2	190.7
March	191.4	195.5	196.4	193.5	192.6	192.3	185.7	190.6	193.5
June	193.9	198.8	199.5	197.8	197.6	194.6	189.5	194.4	196.8
1990-91									
September	192.8	203.0	202.1	199.8	199.8	199.4	192.8	197.6	198.5
December	198.7	204.6	205.2	203.1	202.3	202.7	194.6	200.2	202.1
March	200.3	205.4	207.3	203.2	202.8	203.1	196.0	200.4	203.2

(a) These series have been affected by the adoption of a new approach to the treatment of mortgage interest charges.

TABLE 6. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - GROUP INDEXES - *continued*

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
TRANSPORTATION (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	199.3	184.5	196.4	201.6	192.0	199.5	192.3	193.3	193.6
June	203.6	189.0	201.3	204.9	196.9	204.1	195.6	200.4	198.2
1989-90									
September	212.8	190.6	205.4	205.8	200.4	206.7	197.8	198.7	202.5
December	218.9	195.4	209.9	210.5	203.1	208.5	199.9	204.4	207.4
March	224.8	200.4	214.9	215.6	207.7	212.8	202.2	212.0	212.7
June	226.1	201.1	216.1	218.3	209.6	211.0	205.3	212.9	214.0
1990-91									
September	232.7	204.3	218.0	221.8	212.7	214.7	209.4	216.5	218.1
December	245.9	220.9	231.4	236.3	228.6	228.4	221.2	230.6	232.8
March	236.2	209.4	222.7	226.5	214.9	220.8	212.7	220.3	222.2
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	211.1	204.8	212.6	210.9	213.0	229.7	216.7	209.1	210.1
June	215.3	209.8	217.3	215.8	217.3	233.3	217.9	213.7	214.6
1989-90									
September	220.7	214.7	221.6	221.2	222.2	237.0	220.5	217.7	219.6
December	225.1	219.5	224.2	223.5	229.1	239.9	226.4	222.0	223.9
March	229.1	224.6	229.9	228.5	236.4	244.6	230.0	226.8	228.9
June	233.1	228.2	234.3	234.0	240.9	249.1	235.1	230.1	233.0
1990-91									
September	237.1	232.9	238.4	239.5	245.8	252.3	239.2	234.2	237.4
December	242.0	247.3	242.4	253.5	247.2	258.4	246.6	239.3	245.4
March	246.3	250.2	243.8	257.9	249.6	259.6	250.2	240.7	248.7
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE (Base of each index : Year 1980-81 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	181.9	203.7	187.2	190.8	193.9	168.4	187.0	188.7	191.1
June	182.2	205.0	189.1	191.6	195.7	170.6	188.7	189.5	192.1
1989-90									
September	183.7	207.2	189.3	196.0	199.2	171.3	190.4	192.4	194.1
December	184.2	206.7	191.4	201.7	204.1	174.2	196.4	195.5	195.0
March	191.6	213.8	199.6	209.4	212.2	185.8	211.8	198.6	203.0
June	193.7	216.8	201.8	216.3	215.8	188.7	215.7	200.7	206.0
1990-91									
September	195.4	220.2	202.5	221.2	218.9	191.2	217.7	201.1	208.5
December	202.5	231.0	205.9	228.6	223.4	196.9	221.2	210.0	216.1
March	206.9	242.2	213.4	238.9	229.5	202.8	226.2	216.3	223.7
RECREATION AND EDUCATION (Base of each index : March Quarter 1982 = 100.0)									
1988-89									
March	161.9	165.4	164.4	163.3	157.4	167.6	153.1	169.1	163.2
June	163.5	167.9	167.3	165.2	156.6	168.2	155.1	169.4	165.0
1989-90									
September	165.0	169.4	168.7	166.9	158.8	171.8	158.0	172.0	166.6
December	169.2	174.0	173.3	170.1	162.8	175.6	161.8	174.3	170.8
March	172.3	179.3	175.6	173.0	167.0	179.1	164.8	180.2	174.7
June	173.8	181.5	177.5	175.3	167.8	181.0	166.5	179.1	176.4
1990-91									
September	175.1	181.7	178.5	177.0	167.4	182.8	168.7	180.9	177.2
December	179.4	189.2	182.7	180.1	174.7	185.9	172.6	186.2	182.7
March	180.3	187.3	182.4	181.3	172.6	183.5	166.5	185.1	182.1

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

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1980-81=100.0)				Percentage Change between				Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)				Change between Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	
	Mar qtr 1990	Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991		Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	Mar qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991			Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991			Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991
FOOD	191.7	197.5	201.7		2.1	5.2			38.86	39.69			0.83	
Dairy products	184.4	190.8	192.6		0.9	4.4			3.16	3.19			0.03	
Cereal products	214.7	226.6	228.2		0.7	6.3			4.23	4.26			0.03	
Meat and seafoods	165.3	166.3	168.8		1.5	2.1			7.07	7.18			0.11	
Beef and veal	173.6	177.9	178.7		0.5	2.9					2.07		0.01	
Lamb and mutton	157.6	154.2	159.9		3.7	1.5			2.06				0.03	
Pork	167.0	168.3	168.3		0.0	0.8			0.94				0.00	
Poultry	151.6	146.0	147.7		1.2	-2.6			0.35				0.00	
Bacon and ham	145.6	147.2	149.7		1.7	2.8			0.72				0.01	
Processed meat	161.5	164.5	167.5		1.8	3.7			0.65				0.03	
Fish	214.7	216.5	220.4		1.8	2.7			1.39				0.03	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	198.1	189.2	215.6		14.0	8.8			0.95				0.02	
Processed fruit and vegetables	205.0	209.5	210.9		0.7	2.9			3.32	3.78			0.46	
Soft drinks - ice cream and confectionery	212.1	221.4	224.0		1.2	5.6			1.82	1.83			0.01	
Meals out and take away foods	208.3	219.0	221.2		1.0	6.2			5.91	5.98			0.07	
Other foods	178.7	186.7	187.8		0.6	5.1			9.96	10.06			0.10	
									3.38	3.40			0.02	
CLOTHING	185.0	193.2	194.1		0.5	4.9			14.13	14.19			0.06	
Men's and boy's clothing	176.0	185.7	186.4		0.4	5.9			3.99	4.00			0.01	
Women's and girls' clothing	188.8	197.1	197.5		0.2	4.6			6.47	6.49			0.02	
Fabrics and knitting wool	192.0	195.9	199.1		1.6	3.7			0.95	0.97			0.02	
Footwear	181.8	187.4	188.9		0.8	3.9			2.16	2.18			0.02	
Dry cleaning and shoe repairs	212.8	228.0	229.1		0.5	7.7			0.56	0.56			0.00	
HOUSING	231.4	238.4	235.1		-1.4	1.6			33.19	32.73			-0.46	
Rents	228.0	236.8	238.1		0.5	4.4			10.07	10.13			0.06	
Privately-owned dwelling rents	224.5	233.0	234.3		0.6	4.4					9.22		0.05	
Government-owned dwelling rents	255.3	265.9	268.0		0.8	5.0			9.17				0.01	
Home ownership	233.2	239.5	234.2		-2.2	0.4			0.90	0.91				
Mortgage interest charges (a)	158.8	160.3	154.2		-3.8	-2.9			23.12	22.60			-0.52	
Local government rates and charges	220.5	237.5	237.5		0.0	7.7			15.42	14.83			-0.59	
House repairs and maintenance	186.4	194.5	197.1		1.3	5.7			3.88	3.88			0.00	
House insurance	197.9	215.8	222.1		2.9	12.2			2.96	3.00			0.04	
									0.86	0.89			0.03	
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION	193.5	202.1	203.2		0.5	5.0			37.51	37.72			0.21	
Fuel and light	210.1	220.8	221.9		0.5	5.6			4.81	4.84			0.03	
Furniture and floor coverings	198.3	210.0	208.7		-0.6	5.2			8.68	8.63			-0.05	
Appliances	145.0	147.1	147.1		0.0	1.4			2.85	2.85			0.00	
Household textiles	189.2	193.7	197.3		1.9	4.3			1.38	1.41			0.03	
Household utensils and tools	207.9	214.0	218.5		2.1	5.1			3.55	3.62			0.07	
Household supplies and services	195.3	203.8	203.5		-0.1	4.2			7.81	7.80			-0.01	
Postal and telephone services	159.0	162.8	162.8		0.0	2.4			2.67	2.67			0.00	
Consumer credit charges (a)	134.7	142.5	146.0		2.5	8.4			5.76	5.90			0.14	

For footnotes see page 10.

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

Group, Sub-group and Expenditure class	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1980-81=100.0)			Percentage Change between		Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)				
	Mar qtr 1990	Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991	Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	Mar qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991	Change between Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991		
TRANSPORTATION	212.7	232.8	222.2	-4.6	4.5	37.23	35.54	-1.69		
Private motoring	210.5	230.1	218.8	-4.9	3.9	35.00	33.29	-1.71		
Motor vehicles	229.6	228.4	226.9	-0.7	-1.2		11.38		-0.08	
Automotive fuel	187.6	238.8	202.0	-15.4	7.7		11.36		-1.75	
Vehicle insurance	259.4	272.2	272.5	0.1	5.1		4.55		0.00	
Motoring charges	193.3	201.6	205.8	2.1	6.5		1.61		0.03	
Tyres and tubes	165.6	170.6	172.3	1.0	4.0		0.46		0.01	
Vehicle service repairs and parts	203.8	216.0	218.6	1.2	7.3		5.57		0.06	
Urban transport fares	234.9	261.3	264.5	1.2	12.6	2.23	2.25	0.02		
TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL	228.9	245.4	248.7	1.3	8.7	17.97	18.21	0.24		
Alcoholic drinks	207.7	219.5	222.5	1.4	7.1	12.47	12.64	0.17		
Beer	213.7	227.7	230.2	1.1	7.7		7.51		0.08	
Wine	175.9	175.2	178.6	1.9	1.5		2.34		0.04	
Spirits	211.9	231.3	234.7	1.5	10.8		2.63			
Cigarettes and tobacco	287.5	319.0	323.2	1.3	12.4	5.49	5.57	0.08		
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE	203.0	216.1	223.7	3.5	10.2	12.71	13.16	0.45		
Health services	196.3	216.7	222.0	2.4	13.1	7.56	7.74	0.18		
Personal care products	212.1	211.9	225.6	6.5	6.4	3.76	4.01	0.25		
Hairstressing services	201.4	210.9	213.8	1.4	6.2	1.39	1.41	0.02		
RECREATION AND EDUCATION	174.7	182.7	182.1	-0.3	4.2	22.91	22.83	-0.08		
Books newspapers and magazines	233.7	249.4	252.2	1.1	7.9	2.63	2.66	0.03		
Recreational goods	124.7	124.8	124.6	-0.2	-0.1	4.91	4.91	-0.01		
Holiday travel and accommodation (b)	185.3	201.1	190.7	-5.2	2.9	7.11	6.74	-0.37		
Recreational services	217.4	228.5	235.8	3.2	8.5	5.12	5.28	0.16		
Education and child care (b)	232.5	234.4	242.4	3.4	4.3	3.13	3.24	0.11		
ALL GROUPS	204.1	214.5	214.1	-0.2	4.9	214.5	214.1	-0.4		

(a) Base : December quarter 1986 = 100.0. (b) Base : March quarter 1982 = 100.0.

TABLE 8. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - SPECIAL SERIES : WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

	Index numbers (Base of each index: Year 1980-81=100.0)			Percentage Change between		Contribution to total CPI (expressed as All Groups index points)		
	Mar qtr 1990	Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991	Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	Mar qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991	Dec qtr 1990	Mar qtr 1991	Change between Dec qtr 1990 and Mar qtr 1991
ALL GROUPS	204.1	214.5	214.1	-0.2	4.9	214.5	214.1	-0.4
SPECIAL SERIES								
All groups - excluding food	207.4	219.0	217.4	-0.7	4.8	175.65	174.37	-1.28
All groups - excluding housing	199.7	210.6	210.6	0.0	5.5	181.32	181.33	0.01
All groups - excluding home ownership	201.0	211.9	212.0	0.0	5.5	191.39	191.46	0.07
Mortgage interest and consumer credit charges (a)	151.7	154.9	151.7	-2.1	0.0	21.16	20.72	-0.44
All groups excluding mortgage interest and consumer credit charges	124.0	130.8	130.8	0.0	5.5	193.35	193.35	0.00
All groups - excluding hospital and medical services	204.7	214.9	214.4	-0.2	4.7	208.97	208.38	-0.59
All groups - goods component (b)	195.2	205.3	204.8	-0.2	4.9	132.79	132.79	-0.35
All groups - services component (c)	222.8	234.2	233.9	-0.1	5.0	81.37	81.27	-0.10
Selected State and local government charges (d)	233.6	247.2	248.6	0.6	6.4	12.87	12.94	0.07
All groups - excluding selected State and local government charges (d)	201.9	212.2	211.7	-0.2	4.9	201.64	201.12	-0.52

(a) Base : December quarter 1986 = 100.0. (b) The special series 'All groups, goods component' comprises the Food group (except meals out), Clothing group (except dry cleaning and shoe repairs), Household equipment and operation group (except veterinary services, house contents insurance, repairs to appliances, postal and telephone services and consumer credit charges), Tobacco and alcohol group, materials used in house repairs and maintenance; motor vehicles; automotive fuel; tyres and tubes; parts used in vehicle service and repairs; personal care products; books, newspapers and magazines; and recreational goods. (c) The 'All groups, services component' comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'. (d) Selected State and local government charges comprise: government-owned dwelling rent; 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). The derivations and limitations of these figures was described in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Brief description of the CPI

The CPI measures quarterly changes in the price of a basket of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (ie metropolitan wage and salary earner households). This basket covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Pensioners and other social welfare recipients are not included in the CPI population group and the index does not reflect concessional prices paid by these people such as subsidised government dwelling rents, public transport fares and the like.

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

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

Prices

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

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

Weighting pattern

6. There are 107 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the eleventh 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 eleven series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

Analysis of CPI changes

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

All Groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities

Index numbers:

Dec quarter 1990: 214.5 (see Table 1)

less: Sept quarter 1990: 208.9 (see Table 1)

Change in index points: +5.6

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{+5.6}{208.9} \times 100 = +2.7\%$$

9. In this publication, percentage changes are calculated to illustrate 3 different kinds of movements in index numbers:

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

10. Table 7 provides a detailed analysis, for the weighted average of eight capital cities, of movements in the CPI since the previous quarter, including information on movements for subgroups and for selected expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each group and subgroup makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy products subgroup contributed 2.91 index points to the total All Groups index number of 197.0 for September quarter 1989. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group and subgroup.

11. Table 8 provides summary information about a range of Special series in a similar format to that provided in Table 7.

12. Information on the impact of changes in Selected State and local government charges on the CPI is included in Tables 3 and 8. Table 3 shows the contribution made by changes in these charges to the CPI for each capital city, while Table 8 shows index numbers for two special series *Selected State and local government charges* and *All Groups excluding selected State and local government charges*. An explanation of the derivation and limitations of these figures was published in the Appendix to the December quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

Related publications

13. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts Sources and Methods (6461.0)

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges (6442.0)

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)

Next issue

14. The Consumer Price Index - June quarter 1991 (6401.0) is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 7 August 1991.

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

Symbols and other usages

n.a.	not available
r	revised
n.y.a.	not yet available

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this publication are due to rounding. For similar reasons quarterly movements shown by subgroup or group index numbers in Table 7 do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points.

Electronic services

DISCOVERY. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (06) 2526017.

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