

**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS  
EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES  
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**Scope of publication**

1. This publication contains average prices for selected items which are included in the Consumer Price Index for the eight capital cities.

2. The CPI covers a wide range of goods and services arranged in eight groups which are in turn divided into subgroups. The selected items for which average prices are shown in this publication fall within the Food Group and the following non-food subgroups: household supplies and services; private motoring; alcoholic drinks; and personal care products. The items and varieties selected, however, do not comprise all of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food Group or the specified subgroups of the CPI.

**Average prices**

3. Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers in each city. The specified grades etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative to measure price change over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual averages of all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned. Furthermore, the selected grades, brands, etc. for some items differ between cities and may also differ from one period to the next due to a change in product specification. Thus *the average prices for some items may not be comparable from city to city, nor from quarter to quarter.* Details of differences in specifications are provided in footnotes to the table.

4. Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables are collected weekly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh milk, fresh meat, bread, fish, petrol and alcohol are collected monthly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for all other items are collected during the mid month of each quarter (i.e. in August, November, February and May).

5. Commencing with the December quarter 1996, average retail prices are calculated using the geometric mean of the individual observations.

**Related publications**

6. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on request:

*Consumer Price Index (6401.0)* - issued quarterly  
*A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)*  
*The Australian Consumer Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0)*, available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concept Reference Library (1361.0)*

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

**Information Consultancy Service**

8. Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

**National Dial-a-Statistic Line – 0055 86 400**

9. This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year for a range of statistics.

**Electronic Data Services**

10. A large range of data is available via on-line services diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD-ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS office.

**Dennis Trewin**  
Acting Australian Statistician

**INQUIRIES**

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Sue Lewis on Canberra (02) 6252 5754 or any ABS State office. for information about other ABS statistics and services, please call Information Services on*

## AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997 (Cents)

Item	Unit	Sydney	Melb.	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra
<b>Dairy products</b>									
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	(a) 1 litre	116	130	117	122	133	125	121	114
Milk, powdered, full cream	750 g	467	484	467	487	470	564	562	502
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	378	360	338	323	336	381	350	389
Butter	(b) 500 g	185	206	173	164	184	205	207	182
<b>Cereal products</b>									
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	203	199	191	161	182	183	196	190
Biscuits, dry	250 g	155	167	161	146	161	181	177	156
Breakfast cereal, corn based	550 g	333	336	358	307	341	367	335	350
Flour, self-raising	2 kg	331	331	267	239	268	275	301	337
Rice, long grain	1 kg	145	144	139	125	163	160	166	148
<b>Meat and seafoods</b>									
<b>Beef</b>									
Silverside Roast	(c) 1 kg	764	744	717	723	750	650	883	679
Rump steak	1 kg	1172	1072	1088	1135	1024	992	1218	1028
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	1106	1010	978	1082	1159	980	1256	956
Chuck steak	1 kg	588	576	617	616	615	586	724	540
Silverside, corned	1 kg	600	600	587	626	584	615	568	619
<b>Lamb</b>									
Leg	1 kg	658	572	616	565	589	578	659	586
Loin chops	1 kg	811	878	843	794	874	701	918	808
Forequarter chops	1 kg	491	495	498	534	554	494	596	466
<b>Pork</b>									
Leg	1 kg	574	532	630	622	606	654	723	574
Loin chops	1 kg	881	787	829	802	838	827	849	916
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	365	398	354	362	364	406	440	372
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	312	310	316	321	346	325	401	307
Beef corned	340 g can	283	279	308	267	284	324	303	301
Sausages	1 kg	345	325	350	360	419	358	395	281
Salmon, pink	210 g can	211	222	222	217	226	260	250	219
<b>Fresh fruit and vegetables</b>									
Oranges	1 kg	196	140	136	96	209	117	231	131
Bananas	1 kg	280	259	251	272	917	254	295	265
Potatoes	1 kg	122	136	117	111	114	70	132	113
Tomatoes	1 kg	221	192	176	291	254	231	332	205
Carrots	1 kg	143	113	100	113	116	133	178	133
Onions	1 kg	143	100	110	127	103	99	161	127
<b>Processed fruit and vegetables</b>									
Peaches	825 g can	192	185	194	188	224	202	239	190
Pineapple, sliced	450 g can	111	101	104	98	118	117	130	109
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	121	117	118	119	135	152	164	126
<b>Confectionery</b>									
Chocolate, milk, block	250 g	301	294	292	261	286	285	303	275
<b>Other food</b>									
Eggs	(d) 55g, 1 dozen	277	272	262	239	263	288	310	275
Sugar, white	2 kg	221	200	196	185	239	242	250	208
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	250	237	238	235	251	260	277	230
Tea	250 g	206	201	189	182	223	220	222	206
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	630	638	629	573	685	663	610	614
Tomato sauce	600 ml	175	183	189	162	203	202	220	173
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	159	137	145	144	166	162	191	159
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	425 g	101	94	100	91	104	107	109	92
Baby food	(e) 120 g can	61	55	60	57	62	69	64	61
<b>Household supplies and services</b>									
Laundry detergent	1 kg	476	456	511	446	474	535	521	504
Dishwashing detergent	(f) 500 ml	320	315	347	298	340	361	334	321
Facial tissues	pkt 224	194	174	192	167	192	203	199	182
Toilet paper	4 x 280 sheet rolls	334	325	351	314	323	366	327	315
Pet food	410 g	102	99	98	96	114	113	106	93
<b>Private motoring</b>									
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	74.6	74.5	65.8	74.5	74.6	79.7	80.9	77.3
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	72.4	72.3	63.6	72.2	72.5	77.7	78.9	75.1
<b>Alcoholic drinks</b>									
Beer, low alcohol, unchilled	(g) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2003	1598	2303	2072	2351	2351	2316	1886
Beer, full strength, unchilled	(g)(h) 24 x 375 ml bottles	2682	2657	2638	2693	2699	2748	3033	2487
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	(i) 285 ml glass	168	195	180	195	224	179	230	175
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar	(i) 285 ml glass	154	165	170	171	220	154	215	156
Scotch nip, public bar	(j) 30 ml	329	290	255	348	355	253	321	292
<b>Personal care products</b>									
Toilet soap	(k) 4 x 125 g	250	264	283	289	281	336	325	265
Toothpaste	140 g	235	240	253	231	246	260	244	225

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk. (b) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra: 2 x 250 g. (c) Brisbane and Darwin prices relate to topside roast (Brisbane price related to silverside roast prior to this quarter). Adelaide price relates to blade bolar roast. (d) Eggs in Sydney have a net carton weight of 700 g per dozen. Eggs in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra have a minimum weight of 55g. Eggs in Brisbane and Hobart have a minimum net weight of 52 g. Eggs in Perth have a minimum net weight of 50g. Eggs in Darwin have a minimum net weight of 54g. (e) Previously 125g. (f) Not comparable with previous periods due to change in size and specification. (g) Darwin, chilled. (h) Alcoholic content of full strength beer is greater than 3.9%. (i) Hobart glass size 225ml. (j) Not comparable with previous periods due to change in specification (increase in alcohol content). (k) Previously 2 x 125g.

