

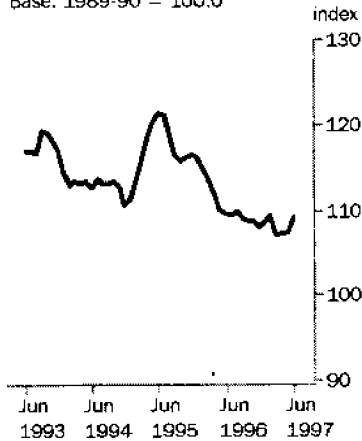
# IMPORT PRICE INDEX

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 15 AUG 1997

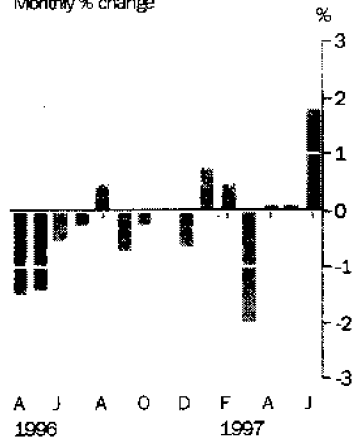
## Index numbers

Base: 1989-90 = 100.0



## All groups

Monthly % change



## JUNE KEY FIGURES

	% change May 97 to Jun 97	% change Jun 96 to Jun 97
<b>All groups</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Food and live animals	2.8	6.6
Beverages and tobacco	1.5	10.5
Crude materials	2.2	-1.7
Mineral fuels, etc.	3.4	6.4
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	0.6	-14.8
Chemical products	1.7	-2.1
Manufactured goods, by material	1.5	-1.3
Machinery and transport equipment	2.0	-1.2
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1.4	1.4
Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	2.1	-7.3

## JUNE KEY POINTS

### ALL GROUPS INDEX

- A continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies in June resulted in price increases for a wide range of items. This is the largest increase recorded in the index since May 1995.

**NOTE:**  
See 'Planned changes  
to this publication'  
on Page 2.

### MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- The exchange rate was the major cause of price increases in machinery and transport equipment during June.
- Crude petroleum prices increased, reflecting world market prices.

## INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on 06 252 5348, or any ABS Office.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
September 1997	21 October 1997
December 1997	23 January 1998

.....

## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

.....

## PLANNED CHANGES TO THIS PUBLICATION

As a result of measures in the 1997/98 Federal Budget to reduce ABS running costs, the frequency of compilation and publication of the producer and international trade price indexes will be reduced from monthly to quarterly, thereby putting the statistics on the same frequency as the Consumer Price Index. This issue is the last monthly release of this publication. Commencing with the September quarter 1997, the publication will be released on a quarterly basis.

Subscriptions to this publication will be automatically extended to compensate for the reduced frequency of publication. This will be reflected on 1998 renewal notices. If you wish to make other arrangements please call our toll free number, 1800 020 608.

.....

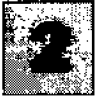
W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

<i>Period</i>	<i>Index numbers(a)</i>	<i>% change from corresponding month of previous year</i>	<i>% change from previous period</i>
<b>1994-95</b>	114.8		-0.7
<b>1995-96</b>	115.0		0.2
<b>1996-97</b>	108.5		-5.7
<b>1996</b>			
April	111.8	-5.3	-1.5
May	110.2	-8.2	-1.4
June	109.6	9.7	-0.5
July	109.3	9.7	-0.3
August	109.8	-7.1	0.5
September	109.0	-6.4	-0.7
October	108.7	-6.1	-0.3
November	108.7	-6.5	0.0
December	108.0	-7.3	-0.6
<b>1997</b>			
January	108.8	-6.3	0.7
February	109.3	-4.7	0.5
March	107.1	5.6	-2.0
April	107.2	4.1	0.1
May	107.3	-2.6	0.1
June	109.2	-0.4	1.8

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



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX, Contribution to All Groups Index(a)

Category	May 1997	June 1997	Change
All groups	107.3	109.2	1.9

### SITC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)

0 Food and live animals chiefly for food	4.17	4.28	0.11
1 Beverages and tobacco	0.96	0.98	0.02
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	3.63	3.71	0.08
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	4.96	5.12	0.16
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.38	0.38	0.00
5 Chemicals and related products n.e.s.	11.25	11.44	0.19
6 Manufactured goods classified by material	18.42	18.69	0.27
7 Machinery and transport equipment	48.63	49.59	0.96
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14.45	14.64	0.19
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.41	0.42	0.01

### SITC DIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)

03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	1.08	1.10	0.02
24 Cork and wood	1.86	1.88	0.02
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4.96	5.12	0.16
51 Organic chemicals	2.36	2.44	0.08
52 Inorganic chemicals	1.06	1.07	0.01
59 Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	1.83	1.80	-0.03
64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper and paperboard	2.66	2.68	0.02
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s. and related products	4.53	4.59	0.06
69 Manufactures of metals n.e.s.	3.08	3.14	0.06
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	3.24	3.29	0.05
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	6.41	6.51	0.10
74 General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	7.05	7.18	0.13
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	4.29	4.39	0.10
76 Telecommunications and sound recording equipment	3.10	3.13	0.03
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	5.41	5.46	0.05
78 Road vehicles	14.15	14.57	0.42
79 Other transport equipment	5.01	5.05	0.04
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s.	2.91	2.91	0.00
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	5.84	5.91	0.07
Other	26.47	26.98	0.51

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By SITC Section

Period	Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	Beverages and tobacco (1)	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials (3)	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4)	Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere (9)
<b>1994-95</b>	116.6	106.6	121.9	90.1	140.4	108.8	110.4	121.1	113.4	104.4
<b>1995-96</b>	115.9	109.8	125.8	89.8	170.1	115.1	115.7	117.4	114.2	103.7
<b>1996-97</b>	112.8	114.3	110.2	98.1	158.7	107.5	109.6	108.5	111.2	93.6
<b>1996</b>										
April	111.2	109.6	122.3	94.4	179.4	111.6	113.7	112.6	111.6	100.7
May	110.8	109.0	115.6	92.5	171.4	110.7	112.1	111.1	110.7	99.1
June	110.9	109.3	113.8	90.9	172.0	109.5	111.7	110.5	111.0	98.0
July	111.4	109.7	112.3	90.3	172.5	109.4	110.6	110.0	111.8	97.8
August	112.8	110.0	112.5	91.8	165.5	109.7	110.5	110.6	112.4	99.3
September	112.4	109.7	111.8	94.6	163.6	108.6	109.6	109.6	111.4	97.0
October	111.0	110.0	109.2	99.3	165.5	107.7	109.2	109.1	111.0	96.9
November	110.6	113.4	108.0	102.3	168.1	107.6	109.8	108.7	110.7	95.1
December	111.2	114.1	107.3	101.4	166.7	107.1	109.5	107.7	110.3	95.2
<b>1997</b>										
January	111.0	115.0	109.2	106.4	164.0	107.6	109.8	108.3	111.2	91.9
February	112.7	116.1	111.6	107.8	151.1	107.3	110.0	108.8	111.5	91.2
March	113.3	115.9	109.2	97.6	151.7	106.5	108.6	106.5	110.0	89.6
April	114.2	117.7	109.9	95.8	144.0	106.4	108.8	106.6	110.6	89.1
May	115.0	119.0	109.5	93.5	145.6	105.4	108.7	107.1	111.0	88.9
June	118.2	120.8	111.9	96.7	146.5	107.2	110.3	109.2	112.5	90.8

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



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division

Period	<i>Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (33)</i>	<i>Organic chemicals (51)</i>	<i>Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper (64)</i>	<i>Textile yarn, fabrics, and related products (65)</i>	<i>Power generating machinery and equipment (71)</i>	<i>Machinery specialised for particular industries (72)</i>
<b>1994-95</b>	90.1	111.6	97.6	110.2	131.5	120.0
<b>1995-96</b>	89.8	105.1	116.8	113.2	131.1	120.2
<b>1996-97</b>	98.1	100.7	100.3	108.7	120.6	115.5
<b>1996</b>						
April	94.4	99.9	116.4	109.8	126.0	116.8
May	92.5	100.1	113.3	108.6	125.0	115.1
June	90.9	100.9	111.7	108.4	123.7	115.2
July	90.3	99.2	106.7	108.9	123.2	115.7
August	91.8	98.6	104.6	108.4	122.4	117.3
September	94.6	100.2	103.0	107.3	120.7	115.6
October	99.3	99.8	100.8	107.0	120.7	116.0
November	102.3	98.8	100.8	108.2	120.4	115.8
December	101.4	98.4	100.0	107.9	119.9	114.3
<b>1997</b>						
January	106.4	98.7	98.4	109.0	119.1	114.6
February	107.8	101.0	98.4	110.1	122.1	114.5
March	97.6	101.0	98.3	108.5	118.8	113.0
April	95.8	102.3	97.5	108.9	118.9	114.7
May	93.5	103.3	97.1	109.3	119.6	116.2
June	96.7	106.5	97.9	110.6	121.2	118.1

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

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division *continued*

Period	General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (74)	Office machines and ADP machines (75)	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment (76)	Electrical machinery, etc. and parts thereof (77)	Road vehicles (78)	Other transport equipment (79)
<b>1994-95</b>	127.4	82.9	104.7	109.5	149.8	118.5
<b>1995-96</b>	126.8	70.1	99.1	107.3	147.3	116.8
<b>1996-97</b>	119.4	60.0	84.9	99.6	136.3	113.2
<b>1996</b>						
April	122.8	64.2	94.5	103.2	141.7	113.1
May	122.0	63.3	92.3	101.7	140.3	109.6
June	121.6	62.8	89.9	101.2	139.3	110.3
July	121.1	62.8	89.1	100.5	137.8	110.9
August	121.6	62.5	88.2	101.2	139.1	112.8
September	119.6	62.0	86.4	101.2	138.5	111.4
October	119.5	61.4	86.2	100.5	137.2	111.8
November	119.7	60.5	85.1	99.6	136.7	111.8
December	117.8	59.3	84.7	98.8	136.1	111.5
<b>1997</b>						
January	118.9	59.3	84.5	99.6	136.6	114.2
February	119.4	59.9	84.9	99.8	136.6	116.1
March	117.2	57.7	83.1	97.7	133.9	112.9
April	117.6	57.4	83.0	98.1	132.8	114.2
May	118.9	57.7	81.5	98.9	133.0	114.7
June	121.2	59.1	82.3	99.7	136.9	115.8

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

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a). By Selected ATSN Section

Period	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco (4)	Mineral products (5)	Chemical industry products (6)	Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (7)	Wood pulp, paper and paper products (10)	Textiles and textile articles (11)	Base metals and articles thereof (15)	Machinery and electrical equipment (16)	Transport equipment (17)	Instruments, clocks and watches, optical and photographic apparatus (18)
<b>1994-95</b>	110.9	98.9	103.9	114.1	98.0	108.4	108.2	106.3	141.9	124.9
<b>1995-96</b>	114.6	98.9	109.9	120.5	113.8	109.4	113.5	101.5	139.3	125.4
<b>1996-97</b>	112.8	106.3	103.0	114.1	100.3	104.1	107.9	93.1	130.3	119.3
<b>1996</b>										
April	110.9	103.5	107.7	116.9	113.1	106.2	110.9	97.1	134.2	121.0
May	111.0	101.3	106.6	115.9	107.9	105.0	110.2	95.8	132.3	119.9
June	111.0	99.8	106.5	113.8	105.7	104.7	109.5	95.1	131.7	120.9
July	111.1	99.3	106.2	114.0	103.4	104.6	108.9	94.9	130.8	121.2
August	111.4	101.0	106.4	114.1	102.5	104.2	108.9	95.1	132.2	122.2
September	111.5	103.8	104.7	113.4	100.9	103.1	108.1	94.0	131.4	121.3
October	110.9	106.9	103.5	113.3	100.7	102.9	108.3	93.8	130.6	120.1
November	112.3	109.8	103.4	114.1	100.8	103.4	108.5	93.3	130.2	119.3
December	112.4	108.9	103.3	113.1	100.1	103.0	108.4	92.3	129.7	118.6
<b>1997</b>										
January	112.4	114.1	103.2	113.9	99.8	104.2	108.1	92.6	130.8	119.1
February	112.6	115.9	102.3	114.3	100.0	105.3	108.6	93.2	131.2	118.8
March	113.0	105.4	101.1	114.2	99.1	103.5	106.0	91.1	128.4	117.0
April	112.7	103.8	100.8	114.7	98.6	104.1	106.2	91.5	128.0	117.1
May	115.1	101.6	99.7	114.4	98.4	104.5	106.1	91.9	128.4	118.0
June	117.8	105.2	101.4	115.5	99.8	106.0	108.2	93.4	131.4	118.5

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



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Division

Period	Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	Mining (B)	Manufacturing (C)
<b>1994-95</b>	141.7	102.5	113.8
<b>1995-96</b>	136.3	104.5	113.5
<b>1996-97</b>	128.0	115.5	106.8
<b>1996</b>			
April	129.5	109.0	110.2
May	127.6	106.5	108.7
June	125.2	103.7	108.2
July	124.6	106.9	107.8
August	125.1	109.5	108.2
September	124.6	113.7	107.3
October	122.2	117.2	107.0
November	121.8	121.4	106.9
December	124.3	119.5	106.2
<b>1997</b>			
January	123.7	124.5	106.9
February	130.2	126.5	107.2
March	129.9	114.3	105.3
April	135.1	111.4	105.4
May	135.0	107.3	105.6
June	139.1	114.3	107.3

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

## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Subdivision

Period	Agriculture (1)	Oil and gas extraction (12)	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Textiles (221-222)	Clothing, footwear and leather (223-226)	Wood and paper products (23)	Printing, publishing and recorded media (241-243)
<b>1994-95</b>	141.6	102.8	112.9	110.9	103.8	110.4	111.4
<b>1995-96</b>	136.1	103.5	117.8	114.6	102.1	119.9	114.9
<b>1996-97</b>	127.8	117.8	115.3	108.4	100.8	106.7	114.5
<b>1996</b>							
April	129.4	108.4	115.4	111.3	100.9	117.8	113.7
May	127.4	105.7	114.4	110.0	100.1	113.0	112.8
June	125.0	102.2	115.3	109.3	100.5	111.6	112.3
July	124.5	105.9	115.7	109.2	100.8	108.7	114.1
August	124.9	108.5	115.9	108.4	101.4	108.2	114.7
September	124.4	113.6	115.7	107.1	100.6	107.4	113.0
October	122.0	120.9	115.2	106.9	100.4	106.9	113.9
November	121.6	126.0	115.5	107.8	100.1	106.8	113.7
December	124.2	123.8	115.3	107.5	99.6	105.9	113.9
<b>1997</b>							
January	123.6	129.3	115.0	108.6	101.1	106.0	114.4
February	130.0	130.9	114.1	109.6	101.8	107.0	115.8
March	129.8	117.0	114.6	108.2	99.2	106.0	114.2
April	134.9	113.2	113.8	108.6	100.4	105.8	114.4
May'	134.9	108.3	115.2	108.7	101.2	105.3	114.8
June	138.9	115.9	117.6	109.8	103.4	106.6	116.7

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

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Subdivision *continued*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)</i>	<i>Non metallic mineral products (26)</i>	<i>Basic metal products (271-273)</i>	<i>Fabricated metal products (274-276)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (281-282)</i>	<i>Other machinery and equipment (283-286)</i>	<i>Other manufacturing (29)</i>
<b>1994-95</b>	104.8	116.5	100.3	117.2	137.9	107.4	111.3
<b>1995-96</b>	109.2	117.2	106.5	117.3	136.0	102.7	111.2
<b>1996-97</b>	104.8	115.9	100.5	111.7	127.2	94.5	109.7
<b>1996</b>							
April	107.7	116.0	104.1	114.7	131.1	98.3	109.5
May	106.6	112.7	103.3	114.7	129.3	96.9	109.3
June	105.9	113.4	102.1	114.9	128.6	96.4	109.1
July	104.9	114.1	102.0	112.5	127.8	96.4	109.7
August	105.4	116.3	102.7	112.2	129.0	96.8	110.1
September	104.5	116.6	102.0	110.8	128.2	95.6	109.8
October	104.6	117.0	101.6	111.8	127.5	95.3	109.3
November	105.3	117.1	101.4	111.8	127.1	94.7	108.9
December	104.8	116.7	101.2	111.2	126.7	93.7	108.7
<b>1997</b>							
January	106.0	117.3	99.5	113.1	127.5	94.2	110.1
February	106.1	115.5	99.8	113.7	128.3	94.4	110.4
March	104.0	115.0	98.3	110.0	125.4	92.5	108.7
April	103.9	114.7	97.9	111.0	125.1	92.9	109.4
May	103.3	114.2	98.3	110.1	125.5	93.3	109.9
June	104.6	115.8	100.7	112.2	128.4	94.7	111.8

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



## IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC Category

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food and beverages</i>	<i>Industrial supplies n.e.s.</i>	<i>Fuels and lubricants</i>	<i>Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof</i>	<i>Consumer goods n.e.s.</i>
<b>1994-95</b>	119.5	106.6	93.0	110.0	136.8	114.0
<b>1995-96</b>	119.8	113.4	90.7	104.0	135.1	114.1
<b>1996-97</b>	116.0	105.8	99.0	95.0	126.9	110.1
<b>1996</b>						
April	115.8	111.2	94.6	98.9	130.4	111.9
May	114.7	109.2	92.4	97.6	128.7	110.9
June	114.6	108.4	90.6	97.2	128.1	110.6
July	115.0	107.6	90.1	97.1	127.3	110.9
August	115.7	107.4	91.8	97.4	128.4	111.5
September	115.3	106.4	95.0	96.1	127.8	110.1
October	114.1	105.6	100.4	95.8	127.1	110.1
November	114.1	105.6	103.7	95.3	126.9	110.1
December	114.5	105.3	102.6	94.0	126.5	109.6
<b>1997</b>						
January	114.0	105.6	108.1	94.6	127.2	110.1
February	115.5	105.9	109.6	94.9	127.9	110.5
March	116.2	104.7	98.4	92.7	125.3	108.7
April	117.1	104.9	96.4	93.1	125.1	109.1
May	118.5	104.5	94.0	93.7	125.4	109.2
June*	121.7	106.4	97.6	95.1	128.0	110.8

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

IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC End Use Class

<i>Period</i>	<i>Capital goods</i>	<i>Intermediate goods</i>	<i>Consumption goods</i>
<b>1994-95</b>	119.8	107.6	119.2
<b>1995-96</b>	116.0	109.2	119.6
<b>1996-97</b>	107.7	102.5	115.2
<b>1996</b>			
April	111.3	106.4	116.9
May	109.7	104.6	116.1
June	109.2	103.8	115.8
July	109.2	103.0	115.9
August	109.8	103.3	116.5
September	108.7	102.7	115.6
October	108.4	102.4	115.3
November	108.0	102.6	115.2
December	106.9	102.2	114.8
<b>1997</b>			
January	107.5	103.1	115.2
February	107.9	103.7	115.5
March	105.7	101.1	114.0
April	105.9	101.2	114.1
May	106.3	101.1	114.3
June	107.9	103.3	116.2

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

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of imports of merchandise landed in Australia — the *Import Price Index*. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90 = 100.0.

**2** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.

## SCOPE

**3** The Import Price Index, either directly or indirectly, covers about 95% of merchandise imported during 1988–89 and 1989–90.

**4** The remaining imports are not represented because of the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality. These unrepresented items include:

- live animals (not for food)
- jewellery and other articles of precious metal n.e.s.
- military equipment
- special transactions
- commodities not classified according to kind
- works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques
- ships of various types.

**5** The index numbers for each month relate to prices of those imports of merchandise that are physically landed in Australia during that month.

## CLASSIFICATION

**6** Index numbers for sections and selected divisions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in tables 3 and 4, while index numbers for selected sections of the Combined Australian Customs Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature (ATSN) are provided in table 5.

**7** Tables 6 and 7 contain index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which the imported commodity would be classified as primarily produced had it been produced in Australia, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC.

**8** Table 8 contains index numbers for categories of the United Nations' Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). Table 9 contains index numbers for these categories rearranged to form the broader end use classes: Capital goods, Intermediate goods and Consumption goods. Each category has been allocated wholly to one of these classes except for:

- category 321, Motor spirit (which has been allocated in part to Intermediate goods and in part to Consumption goods)
- category 51, Passenger motor cars (which has been allocated in part to Capital goods and in part to Consumption goods).

## ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**9** The index is a fixed weights index. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their import values during 1988–89 and 1989–90. They constituted approximately 95% of the total value of imports of merchandise to Australia during these years. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of imports for each item during 1988–89 and 1989–90. These weights were then revalued to reflect 1989–90 price levels. Many of the items carry not only their own weight but also the weight of unpriced commodities whose prices are considered to move in a similar manner. The weighting pattern of the Import Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, was shown in the September 1991 issue of this publication.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

PRICE MEASUREMENT

**10** Prices of individual shipments are obtained from importers of the selected items and relate to the month in which the goods arrive in Australia. Imports are priced on a 'free on board' (f.o.b.), country of origin basis. Freight and insurance charges involved in shipping goods from foreign to Australian ports are therefore excluded from the prices used in the index, as are Australian import duties.

**11** As the prices used in the index are expressed in Australian currency, changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements for the many commodities that are bought in currencies other than Australian dollars. Prices reported in a foreign currency are converted to Australian dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the time of departure from the foreign port. Where imports are purchased at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* the forward exchange cover.

**12** The price series used relate to specified standards, grades, types, etc. of each commodity. The aim is to incorporate in the index price changes for imports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices from predominant countries of origin are used for each of the specified goods priced in order to lessen the impact of price variations attributable solely to changes, over time, in the mix of countries of origin. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between countries are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

INDEX NUMBERS

**13** Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of monthly index numbers.

REVISIONS

**14** Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision. From time to time index numbers for earlier months may also be revised. This will occur whenever the ABS obtains more complete information or discovers that incorrect prices have been used.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

**15** Care should be exercised when interpreting month-to-month movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

**16** 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 index numbers —

June 1997	109.2	(see Table 1)
-----------	-------	---------------

less June 1996	109.6	(see Table 1)
----------------	-------	---------------

Change in index points	-0.4	
------------------------	------	--

Percentage change =	$\frac{-0.4}{109.6} \times 100 =$	-0.4
---------------------	-----------------------------------	------

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

CONTINUED

**17** Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of imports make to the All groups index. For example, Road vehicles contributed 14.57 index points to the All groups index number of 109.2 for June 1997 and 0.42 index points to the net change of 1.9 index points.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**18** The September 1991 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index. A detailed description of the previous Import Price Index is contained in the December Quarter 1982 issue of this publication.

**19** Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6419.0).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**20** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0).

**21** Other ABS publications that may be of interest include *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5302.0).

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

### UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**23** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Peter Sturgeon on 06 252 5348 or to any ABS office.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
A'TSN	Combined Australian Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature
BEC	Classification by Broad Economic Categories
f.o.b.	free on board
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified or included
r	figures or series revised since previous issue
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification







## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our offices (see below).

### INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see below).

### ABS PRODUCTS

A large number of ABS products is available from the ABS Bookshops (see below). The ABS also provides a subscription service – you can telephone the ABS Subscription Service Australia wide toll free on 1800 0206 08.

### ELECTRONIC SERVICES

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 (see below) or e-mail us at:

- [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

### GENERAL SALES AND INQUIRIES

- Sydney 02 9268 4611      ■ Adelaide 08 8237 7100
  - Melbourne 03 9615 7755      ■ Hobart 03 6222 5800
  - Brisbane 07 3222 6351      ■ Darwin 08 8943 2111
  - Perth 08 9360 5140      ■ Canberra 02 6252 6627
- 
- Information Services, ABS  
PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616



2641400006971

ISSN 0812-7247

RRP \$16.00

© Commonwealth of Australia 1997

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics