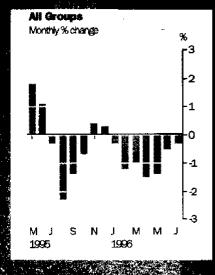


Index numbers Base: 1989-90 = 100.0 index 130 -120 -110 Jul Jul Jut Jul Jul 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996



INQUIRIES

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

IMPORT PRICE INDEX

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM THURS 19 SEPTEMBER 1996

JULY KEY FIGURES

	% change Jun 96 to Jul 96	% change Jul 95 to Jul 96
All groups	-0.3	-9.7
Food and live animals	0.5	-9.1
Beverages and tobacco	0.4	0.1
Crude materials	-1.3	-14.8
Mineral fuels, etc.	-0.7	-0.4
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	0.3	5.8
Chemical products	-0.1	-10.4
Manufactured goods, by material	-1.0	-5.6
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.5	-13.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.7	-4.6
Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	-0.2	8.2

JULY KEY POINTS

ALL GROUPS INDEX

• The value of the Australian dollar rose slightly against all major currencies except the Japanese yen, leading to a small decrease in the index.

MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- Prices for road vehicles, paper products and some metal products fell during the month.
- The decreases were partly offset by small increases in a range of other products, including printed matter and aircraft equipment.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

August 1996

17 October 1996

September 1996

15 November 1996

October 1996

16 December 1996

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

W. McLennan

Australian Statistician



IMPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

Period	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding month of previous year	% change from previous period
A • > • * * * * * * * * * * * * *	> • • • • * • * • * • • • • • • * * * *		
1993-94	115 .6		3.1
1994-95	114.8		-0.7
1995-96	115.0		0.2
1995			
May	120.1	6.0	1.8
June	121.4	7.8	1.1
July	121.0	6.4	-0.3
August	118.2	4.4	-2.3
September	116.5	2.9	-1.4
October	1.15.7	2.0	-0.7
November	116.2	3.1	0.4
December	11 6.5	5.3	0.3
1996			
January	116.1	4.3	-0.3
February	11 4.7	0.9	-1.2
March	11 3.5	-2.3	-1.0
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



Categ	gory	June 1996	July 1996	Change
All g	roups	109.6	109.3	-0.3
• • •				********
	SITC SECTIONS: Contribution to Al	II Groups Inc	dex (index points)	
O	Food and live animals chiefly for food	4.02	4.04	0.02
1	Beverages and tobacco	0.88	0.89	0.01
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	3.77	3.72	-0.05
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	4.82	4.79	-0.03
4 .	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.45	0.45	0.00
5	Chemicals and related products n.e.s.	11.68	11.67	-0.01
	Manufactured goods classified by material	18.93	18.74	-0.19
7	Machinery and transport equipment	50.18	49.95	-0.23
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14.45	14.55	0.10
9	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.45	0.45	0.00
	SITC DIVISIONS: Contribution to A	II Groups In	dex (index points)	
03	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	1.11	1.11	0.00
24	Cork and wood	1.79	1.79	0,00
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4.82	4.79	-0.03
51	Organic chemicals	2.31	2.27	-0,04
52	Inorganic chemicals	1.31	1.33	0.02
59	Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	1.75	1.77	0.02
64	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper			
	and paperboard	3.06	2.92	-0.14
	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s. and related products	4,49	4.51	0.02
	Manufactures of metals n.e.s.	3.24	3.18	-0.06
	Power generating machinery and equipment	3.35	3.34	-0.01
	Machinery specialised for particular industries	6.35	6.38	0.03
	General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	7.21	7.18	-0.03
	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	4.66	4.66	0.00
75		3.42	3.39	-0.03
75	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment			
75 76	Telecommunications and sound recording equipment Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	5.54	5.50	-0.04
75 76 77	9 , ,	5.54 14.83	5.50 14.67	
75 76 77 78 79	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s. Road vehicles Other transport equipment			-0.16
75 76 77 78 79	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s. Road vehicles Other transport equipment Professional, scientific and controlling instruments	14.83 4.81	14.67 4.84	-0.16 0.03
75 76 77 78 79 87	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s. Road vehicles Other transport equipment Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s.	14.83 4.81 2.91	14.67 4.84 2.93	-0.04 -0.16 0.03 0.02
75 76 77 78 79 87	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s. Road vehicles Other transport equipment Professional, scientific and controlling instruments	14.83 4.81	14.67 4.84	-0.16 0.03



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)
1993-94	106.8	111.5	116.3	93.5	120.9	103.3	112.1	123.1	117.0	110.4
1994-95	116.6	106.6	121.9	90.1	140.4	108.8	110.4	121.1	113.4	104.4
1995-96	115.9	109.8	125.8	89.8	170.1	115.1	115.7	117.4	114.2	103.7
1995										
May	122.4	108.3	131.0	93.9	157.3	119.9	114,0	126.3	115.7	106.8
June	123.6	109.8	133.8	94.3	171.1	121 .3	115.7	127.4	11 7.1	108.5
July	122.6	109.6	131.8	90.7	163.0	122.1	117.1	126.5	117.2	106.5
August	121.1	109.1	130.1	84.2	165.4	118.2	117.3	122.9	114.7	104.7
September	119.5	110.1	129.4	84.3	160.7	118.3	117.1	119.7	114.2	102.6
October	11 7.6	110.1	127.4	83.1	164.1	115.7	117.3	1.18.7	114.7	101.9
November	117.6	110.6	128.4	86.2	168.4	116.6	117.3	118.6	115.9	104.4
December	11 7.6	109.8	129.2	89.7	171.3	116.3	117.5	118.8	116.0	105.2
1996										
January	115.4	110.1	129.3	94.4	174.1	116.1	116.5	118.0	115.7	109.0
February	1 13.9	109.8	129.1	92.8	173.4	113.9	115.6	116.5	114.4	108.5
March	112.4	110.7	123.7	94.2	178.4	112.3	115.4	114.8	113.8	103.5
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

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



IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Division

	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	Organic chemicals	Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper	Textile yarn, fabrics, and related products	Power generating machinery and equipment	Machinery specialised for particular industries
Period	(33)	(51)	(64)	(6 5)	(71)	(72)
* * * * * • • • • •	. «		**********			
1993-94	93.5	98.1	99.6	110.7	132.8	122.2
1994-95	90.1	111.6	97.6	110.2	131.5	120.0
1995-96	89.8	105.1	116.8	113.2	131.1	120.2
1995						
May	93.9	121.8	102.0	113.8	137.6	124.6
June	94.3	123.5	106.1	115.5	137.4	127.0
July	90.7	123.6	112.9	115.9	137.5	126.3
August	84.2	112.7	114.8	115,1	135.5	122 .7
September	84.3	112.6	117.1	116.1	134.2	121.4
October	83.1	102.3	120.1	115.3	133.2	121.0
November	86.2	103.8	120.4	115.6	134.2	121.7
December	89.7	103.9	119.8	116.0	131.5	122.1
19 96						
January	94.4	103.4	118.8	113.8	131.8	121 .5
February	92.8	99.2	118.2	112.1	131.6	119.5
March	94.2	99.2	117.9	111.1	128.5	118.6
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

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



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)
	< > · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4 > 4 > 4 > 4 + 4 + 4 +	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		* * * * 4 * * * * * *	· · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1993-94	130.0	88.7	110.4	112.3	145.4	124.9
1994-95	127.4	82.9	104.7	109.5	149.8	118 .5
1995-96	126.8	70.1	99.1	107.3	147.3	116.8
1995						
May	133.7	84.6	105.5	112.0	160.9	121.6
June	135.2	84.7	106.4	114.7	161.1	122.9
July	134.5	83.6	105.7	113.9	159.8	121.9
August	131.5	77. 1	104.9	111.2	155.8	119.3
September	128.7	76.4	101.9	109.2	147.9	117.7
October	127.7	71.3	101.6	109.0	148.7	117.0
November	128.0	70.3	100.9	109.9	147.3	119.0
December	128.0	69.6	101.2	109.4	148.6	120.3
1996						
January	127.0	69.2	100.8	108.0	147.1	120.1
February	125.3	67.4	99.4	106.1	146.7	118.0
March	125.0	66.1	95.8	105.3	144.2	115.5
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

⁽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)
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		·	* / * / > > > *					a s * * * * * a ;		* * * * * * * * * *
1993-94	108.7	101.2	99.2	111.4	98.0	109.5	110.5	110.5	140.2	125.9
1994-95	110.9	98.9	103.9	114.1	98.0	108.4	108.2	106.3	141.9	124.9
1995-96	114.6	98.9	109.9	120.5	113.8	109.4	113.5	101.5	139.3	125.4
1995										
May	116.7	103.3	114.6	119.6	101.6	111.8	112.1	109.0	151.0	130.5
June	118.1	103.6	115.4	122.4	106.2	113.0	113.6	110.2	151.5	131.9
July	118.1	99.9	115.8	124.2	110.4	113.1	114 .0	109.5	150.1	131.5
August	117.2	92.8	112.2	123.3	111.7	112.2	115.0	106.2	146.3	127.8
September	116.6	93.6	111.5	123.3	113.7	111.9	115.3	104.6	140.0	125.8
October	116.1	92.4	109.6	122.5	116.5	111.0	116.1	102.6	140.4	127.1
November	116.2	95.7	110.4	123.2	116.9	111.3	114.8	102.9	140.0	127.3
December	115.9	99.1	110.6	122.3	118.9	111.5	115.2	102.5	141.2	127.5
1996										
January	114.7	103.9	110.1	121.9	118.2	110.0	114. 0	102.0	140.1	127.1
February	114.2	101.9	109.5	120.4	117.4	108.7	113.4	100.3	139.1	124.8
March	113.2	102.7	108.7	118.1	115.2	107.7	113.6	99.0	136.7	123.5
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

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



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

	Agriculture, forestry		
	and fishing	Mining	Manufacturing
Period	(A)	(B)	(C)
* * * * · · · · · · · · ·		~ <i>~ ~ • ~ • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •</i>	0 8 0 8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1993-94	107.3	97.8	115.5
1994-95	1 41.7	102.5	113.8
1995-96	136.3	104.5	113.5
1995			
May	153.5	111.7	118.4
June	157.1	111.1	119.8
July	151.7	104.4	119.5
August	147.0	99.2	116.8
September	140.1	101.3	115.1
October	134.0	99.8	114.4
November	139.3	100.2	114.8
December	139.9	105.1	114.9
1996			
January	136.2	112.2	114.4
February	133.9	106.4	113.2
March	131.3	106.0	112.0
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
	(a) Base of each inde	ex: 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)
e x - * * * * * * * . *	*****		• * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * *			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1993-94	107.3	98.6	109.5	109.2	109.5	113.0	116.2
1994-95	141.6	102.8	112.9	110.9	103.8	110.4	111.4
1995-96	136.1	103.5	117.8	114.6	102.1	119.9	114.9
1995							
May	153.3	112.7	119.0	116.6	104.8	113.3	113.9
June	156.9	112.2	120.9	118.0	105.1	116.8	114.8
July	151.5	104.3	120.6	1 18 .4	104.6	119.7	115.2
August	146.8	98.5	119.7	117.2	102.9	121.5	113.8
September	139.9	99.3	119.1	117.4	102.0	122.1	113.2
October	133.9	97.6	119.0	116.3	101.7	122.9	115.7
November	139.1	97.9	118.6	116.5	102.6	123.3	116.3
December	139.8	103.9	118.4	116.9	102.8	123.3	117.0
1996							
January	136.0	112.4	118.0	115.2	102.9	122.6	116.7
February	133.7	105.8	117.5	114.0	102.0	121.9	115.6
March	131.2	105.7	117.1	112.8	101.9	119.3	116.7
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
	(a) Base of e	ach index: 1989-9	00 = 100.0				



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

Period	Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)	Non-metallic mineral products (26)	Basic metal products (271-273)	Fabricated metal products (274-276)	Transport equipment (281-282)	Other machinery and equipment (283-286)	Other manufacturing (29)
« « « • • • • « « . « »			>	* * * * * * * * * * * *	• • • • • • • • • •	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	K A . R . R . S . S . S . S . S
1993-94	104.0	117.9	101.7	123.6	136.8	111.3	114.4
1994-95	104.8	116.5	100.3	117.2	137.9	107.4	111.3
1995-96	109.2	117.2	106.5	117.3	136.0	102.7	111.2
1995							
May	111.3	120.6	104.9	117.5	146.4	110.4	113.8
June	112.9	122.5	106.7	119.4	147.0	111.6	115.0
July	113.5	121.9	106.7	119.4	145.8	110.9	114.2
August	110.2	118.4	106.0	120.1	142.4	107.2	111.7
September	109.7	117.5	107.0	119.2	136.7	105.6	110.7
October	108.2	117.1	107.8	118.5	137.0	103.9	110.4
November	109.9	118.1	108.8	116.9	136.7	104.1	112.3
December	110.1	118.2	108.8	117.7	137.8	103.7	112.5
1996							
January	110.0	119.4	108.4	117.3	136.8	103.3	112.6
February	109.2	118.0	108.2	116.4	136.0	101.6	111.4
March	108.9	116.1	106.3	117.9	133.6	100.2	110.6
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
	f=1 === = 4 ===+= 1 ==	- 4000.00 400					

(a) Base of each index: 1.989-90 = 100.0

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IMPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By BEC Category

Period	Food and beverages	industrial supplies n.e.s.	Fuels and lubricants	Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof	Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof	Consumer goods n.e.s.
* 4 * * * * * * * *				>		
1993-94	107.8	105.0	95.4	114.0	135.9	117.7
1994-95	119.5	106.6	93.0	110.0	136.8	114.0
1995-96	119.8	113.4	90.7	104.0	135.1	114.1
1995						
May	125.9	113.6	97.3	113.2	144.8	116.0
June	127.8	115.1	97.9	114.3	145.5	117.4
July	126.2	116.2	93.7	113.6	144.4	117.2
August	124.9	115.2	85.3	109.4	141.6	114.9
September	123.1	115.2	84.9	107.6	13 5.9	114.6
October	121.4	114.6	83.7	105.3	136.1	114.5
November	121.6	115.1	87.2	105.3	135.8	115.3
December	121.6	115.2	91.1	104.9	136.8	115.4
1996						
January	119.3	114.5	96.8	104.3	135.8	115.4
February	117.5	113.7	93.8	102.3	135.0	114.3
March	116.6	112.4	94.0	101.0	132.8	113.8
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

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

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

Period	Capital goods	Intermediate goods	Consumption goods
		» + » • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	- 1 - 1 - 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 +
1993- 9 4	122.8	106.6	121.1
1994-9 5	119.8	107.6	119.2
1995- 96	116.0	109.2	119.6
1995			
May	124.0	113.8	122.9
June	125.1	115.1	124.2
July	124.1	115.2	123.7
August	120.4	112.6	12 1.5
September	117.8	111.3	120.1
October	117.8	109.3	120.2
November	117.8	110.0	120.6
December	117.6	110.5	121.0
1996			
January	116.9	110.2	120.6
February	115.3	108.8	. 119.8
March	113.5	107.7	119.0
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

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 ninety five per cent 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 per cent 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 —

July 1996	109.3	(see Table 1)
less July 1995	121.0	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	-11.7	
Percentage change =	-11.7	0.7
_	——— x 100 121.0	= -7./

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 14.67 index points to the All groups index number of 109.3 for July 1996 and -0.16 index points to the net change of -0.3 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

ATSN Combined Australian Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature
ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification

BEC Classification by Broad Economic Categories SITC Standard International Trade Classification

f.o.b. free on board

n.e.s. not elsewhere specified or included

r figure or series revised since previous issue





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