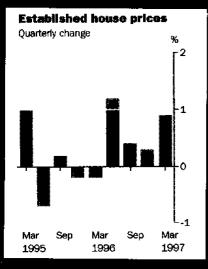


Established house prices Base of each index 1989-90 = 100.0 index 120 -115 Mar Sep Mar Sep Mar 1995 1996 1997



INQUIRIES

 For further information about these and related statistics, contact
 Sue Lewis on
 06 252 5754, or any
 ABS Office.

HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 5 JUN 1997

MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES	% change Dec Qtr 96 to Mar Qtr 97	% change Mar Qtr 96 to Mar Qtr 97
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.9	2.8
Sydney	1.2	3.5
Melbourne	0.1	4.3
Brisbane	-0.1	-0.1
Adelaide	2.4	1.5
Perth	2.7	2.7
Hobart	1.5	0.5
Darwin	1.7	4.4
Canberra	-1.8	-2.1

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES

QUARTERLY CHANGES

- The price index of established houses in Australia rose 0.9 per cent between the December quarter 1996 and the March quarter 1997.
- The price rises in Perth (2.7%), Adelaide (2.4%), Darwin (1.7%), Hobart (1.5%), Sydney (1.2%) and Melbourne (0.1%), offset the falls in Canberra (-1.8%) and Brisbane (-0.1%).

ANNUAL CHANGES

- Over the year to the March quarter 1997 the established house price index rose 2.8 per cent.
- The price increases in Darwin (4.4%), Melbourne (4.3%), Sydney (3.5%), Perth (2.7%), Adelaide (1.5%) and Hobart (0.5%), outweighed the falls in Canberra (-2.1%) and Brisbane (-0.1%).

FORTHCOMING ISSUES	ISSUE (Quarter)	RELEASE DATE
101011100111111111111111111111111111111	June 1997	4 September 1997
	September 1997	4 December 1997
		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE	There are no changes in this issue.	
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	Dennis Trewin	

Acting Australian Statistician



ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE INDEX NUMBERS(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Pe rth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capita cities

1993-94	108.8	95.2	138.0	109.1	104.7	122.5	155.7	134.4	109.1
1994-95	113.7	97.9	139.3	111.7	109.0	129.0	178.1	130.4	112.6
1995-96	115.8	97.6	136.8	108.3	108.2	129.8	188.0	127.8	112.7
1993									
September	107.4	93.9	136.0	108.2	101.0	119.7	146.9	133.4	107.4
December	107.1	95.9	137.5	107.6	103.7	121.4	154.5	135.3	108.4
1994									
March	109.3	94.8	139.3	109.8	107.7	123.0	156.7	134.9	109.6
June	111.4	96.3	139.3	110.6	106.4	126.0	164.5	1.33.8	110.9
September	114.3	97.2	139.3	113.3	108.0	128.2	173.0	132.3	112.6
December	112.4	97.9	140.0	110.8	109.1	128.2	177.1	130.5	112.1
1995					;				
March	114.9	98.0	140.2	111.6	109.1	129.4	179.1	130.8	113.2
June	113.2	98.6	137.7	111.2	109.7	130.1	183.0	128.1	112.4
September	115.8	96.9	137.0	110.0	108.6	129.2	184.2	128.0	112.6
December	115.2	97,3	137.0	107.5	108.3	129.1	187.9	128.6	112.4
1996									
March	115.4	97.1	136.2	107.7	107.5	129.8	190.0	127.0	112.2
June	116.7	99.1	137.1	107.9	108.2	131.2	190.0	127.4	113.6
September	11 7.5	99.4	137.5	107.8	108.0	130.2	191.8	127.2	114.0
December	118.0	101.2	136.1	106.7	107.5	128.5	195.1	126.6	114.3
1997									
March	119.4	101.3	136.0	109.3	110,4	130.4	198.4	124.3	115.3
	(a) Base of	each index 1989-9	0 = 100.0						



ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE INDEXES, Percentage Changes

1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1993 September December	3.3 4.5 1.8	2.3 2.8 -0.3 PERCENT	2.3 0.9 -1.8	Adelaide AGE CHANGE -0.9 2.4 -3.0	Perth (from previo 6.4 4.1 -0.7	5.1	Darwin	Canberra	cities
1994-95 1995-96 1993 September	4.5 1.8	2.8 0.3 PERCENT	2,3 0,9 -1.8	0.9 2.4 3.0	6.4 4.1	5.1	16.5		
1994-95 1995-96 1993 September	4.5 1.8	2.8 0.3 PERCENT	0,9 -1.8	2.4 -3.0	4.1		16.5		
1995-961993 September	3.6	-0.3 PERCENT	-1.8	-3.0				0.1	2.9
1993 September	3.6	PERCENT			0.7	5.3	14.4	-3.0	3.2
September					-0.1	0.6	5.6	-2.0	0.1
September			AGE CHANGE	- 18					
September		2.2		: (Trom corres	ponding qua	rter of previou	s year)		
•		11	1.2	0.6	4.2	5.0	16.1	0.4	2.7
DOCUMENT	2.7	1.9	3.0	1.3	5.4	4.7	19.5	1.7	2.7
1994		4.₩	5.0	1.0	0.1	7.1	20.0	2	2.,
March	2.5	2.3	2.9	-0.5	8.7	4.3	17.3	-1,4	2.8
June	4.8	2.7	2.3	-5.0	7.2	6.1	13.5	0.0	3.4
	4.0 6.4	3.5	2.4	-3.0 4.7	6.9	7.1	17.8	-0.8	4.8
September	6.4 4.9	3.5 2.1	2.4 1.8	3.0	5.2	5. 6	14.6	-3.5	3.4
December	4.9	2.1	1.6	3.0	5.2	5.0	14.0	-3.5	3.4
1995	E 4	3.4	0.6	1.6	1.3	5.2	14.3	-3.0	3.3
March	5.1				3.1	3.3	11.2	-3.0 -4.3	1,4
June	1.6	2.4	-1.1	0.5	0.6		6.5		0.0
September	1.3	-0.3	-1.7	-2.9		0.8		-3.3 4.5	
December	2.5	-0.6	-2.1	-3.0	-0.7	0.7	6.1	-1.5	0.3
1996							~ .		
March	0.4	-0.9	-2.9	-3.5	-1.5	0.3	6.1	-2.9	-0.9
June	3.1	0.5	-0.4	-3.0	-1.4	8.0	3.8	-0.5	1.1
September	1.5	2.6	0.4	-2.0	-0.6	0.8	4.1	-0.6	1.2
December	2.4	4.0	-O.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.5	3.8	-1.6	1.7
19 9 7									
March	3.5	4.3	-0.1	1.5	2.7	0.5	4.4	-2.1	2.8
,	******						• • • • • • • • •		
			PERCENTA	GE CHANGE (from previou	s quarter)			
1993									
September	1.0	0.1	-0.1	-7.0	1.7	0.8	1.4	-0.3	0.1
December	-0.3	2.1	1.1	-0.6	2.7	1.4	5.2	1.4	0.9
1994									
March	2.1	-1.1	1.3	2.0	3.9	1.3	1.4	-0.3	1.1
June	1.9	1.6	0.0	0.7	-1.2	2.4	5.0	-0.8	1.2
September	2.6	0.9	0.0	2.4	1.5	1.7	5.2	-1.1	1.5
December	-1.7	0.7	0.5	-2.2	1.0	0.0	2.4	-1.4	-0.4
19 9 5									
March	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.0	9.0	1.1	0.2	1.0
June	-1.5	0.6	-1.8	-0.4	0.5	0.5	2.2	-2.1	-0.7
September	2.3	-1.7	-0.5	-1.1	-1.0	-0 .7	0.7	-0.1	0.2
December	-0.5	0.4	0.0	-2.3	-0.3	-0.1	2.0	0.5	-0.2
1996		-							
March	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	0.2	-0. 7	0.5	1,1	-1.2	-0.2
June	1.1	2.1	0.7	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.3	1.2
September	0.7	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8	0.9	-0.2	0.4
December	0.4	1.8	-1.0	-1.0	-0.5	-1.3	1.7	-0.5	0.3
1997	-	•							
March	1.2	0.1	-0.1	2.4	2.7	1.5	1.7	-1.8	0.9



PROJECT HOME PRICE INDEX NUMBERS(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
4 % \$ 4 K 0 + K # # # 1						******	****		*****
1993-94	105.8	103.9	110.1	111.4	96.2	117.7	118.6	132.7	105.8
1994-95	107.9	105.8	112.5	114.6	100.0	121.3	125.2	129.2	108.1
1995-96	110.2	107.3	113.7	112.8	101.6	123.4	129.9	124.7	109.5
1993									
September	105.5	103.8	110.0	109.6	94.5	116.8	113.8	133.5	105.4
December	105.2	103.7	109.5	110.9	95.2	116.9	117.6	133.0	105.3
1994									
March	105.9	103.1	110.0	112.6	96.2	117.8	121.3	132.3	105.7
June	106.6	105.0	110.8	112.3	98.8	119.4	121.5	131.9	106.9
September	107.1	105.0	111.8	114.3	99.0	120.1	123.7	130.9	107.4
December	108.5	105.8	112.4	115.0	99.6	120.5	124.7	129.9	108.3
1995					;				
March	107.1	105.9	112.8	114.4	100.4	121.6	125.1	128.8	108.0
June	108.7	106.4	112.9	114.6	100.8	123.1	127.3	127.2	108.7
September	110.2	107.3	113.4	113.2	102.2	123.5	129.6	126.4	109.6
December	109.9	107.1	113.8	112.7	101.6	123.5	129.7	124.6	109.4
1996									
March	110.3	107.2	113.8	113.1	101.3	123.3	130.0	123.8	109.5
June	110.4	107.4	113.9	112.1	101.4	123.3	130.4	123.9	109.6
September	109.5	107.3	113. 9	111.3	101.5	123.3	134.4	123.8	109.4
December	110.3	107.7	112.4	107.3	101.4	123.3	135.1	123.7	109.1
19 9 7									
March	110.4	107.9	112.6	107.7	101.2	123.3	136.8	123.6	109.2

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



Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
	******							• • • • • • • • • •	• • • > > • • •
			PERCENT	AGE CHANGE	(from previou	us year)			
1993-94	2.1	3.5	1.2	5.7	3.7	3.2	6.5	0.7	2.7
1994-95	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.9	4.0	3.1	5.6	-2.6	2.2
1 9 95-96	2.1	1.4	1.1	-1.6	1.6	1.7	3.8	-3.5	1.3
	******							• • • • • • • • •	
1000		PERCENT	AGE CHANGE	(from corres	ponding quar	ter of previous	s year)		
1993		2.6	4.0	4.0	3.1	4.1	3.6	2.6	2.8
September	2.3	3.6	1.8						
December	1.4	3.3	0.8	5.5	2.7	3.5	5.2	1.1	2.2
1994									
March	2.4	2.5	0.9	7. 2	3.3	2.4	8.5	-0.2	2.5
June	2.4	4.6	1.3	5.9	; 5.3	2.7	8.5	0.7	3.3
September	1.5	1.2	1.6	4.3	4.8	2.8	8.7	-1.9	1. 9
December	3.1	2.0	2.6	3.7	4.6	3.1	6.0	-2.3	2.8
1995									
March	1.1	2.7	2.5	1.6	4.4	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.2
June	2.0	1.3	1.9	2.0	2.0	3.1	4.8	-3.6	1.7
September	2.9	2.2	1.4	-1.0	3.2	2.8	4.8	-3.4	2.0
December	1.3	1.2	1.2	-2.0	2.0	2.5	4.0	-4.1	1.0
1996	1.0	1.1		2.0	2.0				
March	3.0	1.2	0.9	-1.1	0.9	1.4	3.9	-3. 9	1.4
		0.9	0.9	-2.2	0.6	0.2	2.4	-2.6	0.8
June	1.6						3.7	-2.1	-0.2
September	-0.6	0.0	0.4	-1.7	-0.7	0.2			
December	0.4	0.6	-1.2	-4.8	-0.2	-0.2	4.2	-0.7	-0.3
19 9 7									
March	0.1	0.7	-1.1	-4.8	-0.1	0.0	5.2	-0.2	-0.3

1993			PERCENTA	GE CHANGE (from previous	s quarter)			
	1.3	3.4	0.5	3.4	0.7	0.4	1.6	0.5	1.8
September			-0.5	1.2	0.7	0.1	3,3	-0.4	-0.1
December	-0.3	-0.1	-0.5	1.2	0.7	0.1	9,5	-0.4	-0.1
1994	0.7	0.6	0.5	1 5	1.1	0.8	3.1	-0.5	0.4
March	0.7	-0.6	0.5	1.5	1.1				
June	0.7	1.8	0.7	-0.3	2.7	1.4	0.2	-0.3	1.1
September	0.5	0.0	0.9	1.8	0.2	0.6	1.8	-0.8	0.5
December	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.8	-0.8	0.8
1995									
March	-1.3	0.1	0.4	−0.5	0.8	0.9	0.3	-0.8	-0.3
June	1.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.2	1.8	-1.2	0,6
September	1.4	0.8	0.4	-1.2	1.4	0.3	1.8	-0.6	0.8
December	-0.3	-0.2	0.4	-0.4	0.6	0.0	0.1	-1.4	-0.2
1996		-							
March	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.4	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	-0.6	0.1
June	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.9	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1
September	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	-0.7	0.1	0.0	3.1	-0.1	-0.2
December	0.7	0.4	-1.3	-3.6	-0.1	0.0	0.5	-0.1	-0.3
	U. 1	• • •	2.0						
1997 March	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	-0.2	0.0	1.3	-0.1	0.1
March	0.1	V.2	J.2	U, -4	-V.Z	0.0	1.0	U. 1	0.1



SELECTED HOUSING PRICE INDEX NUMBER SERIES(a), Australia

Period	Established houses	Project homes	Materials used in house building	Award rates of pay construction industry	accounts housing investmen deflator
					* * * * * * * * * *
1993-94	109.1	105.8	112.0	109.3	107.5
1994-95	112.6	108.1	115.4	111.0	110.2
1995-96	112.7	109.5	115 .7	112.9	112.1
1993					
September	107.4	105.4	110.7	108.5	106.3
December	108.4	105.3	111.7	108.7	107.2
1 9 94					
March	109.6	105.7	112.4	109.7	108.0
June	110.9	106.9	113.3	110.3	108.3
September	112.6	107.4	114.1	110.5	109.2
December	112.1	108.3	115.2	110.6	109.9
1995					
March	113.2	108.0	115.9	111.0	110.7
June	112.4	108.7	116.5	112.0	111.1
September	112.6	109.6	116.2	112.5	111.4
December	112.4	109.4	115.7	112.6	112.1
1996					
March	112.2	109.5	115.3	113.0	112.4
June	113.6	109.6	115.5	113.8	112.6
September	114.0	109.4	115.6	114.2	112.7
December	114.3	109.1	115.8	114.3	112.6
1997					
March	115.3	109.2	116.1	114.5	112.4



Period	Established houses	Project homes	Materials used in house building	Award rates of pay construction industry	National accounts housing investmen deflator
* = * * * * * * * * * * *		RCENTAGE CHANGE (1		, , 4 4 5 4 5 7 4 5 4 4 4 5	
1993-94	2.9	2.7	4.8	1.2	1.9
1994-95	3.2	2.2	3.0	1.6	2.5
1 9 95-96	0.1	1.3	0.3	1.7	1.7
		HANGE (from correspo			
L 9 93	PERCENTAGE C	MANGE (Holli correspo	anding quarter or pre	vious year,	
September	2.7	2.8	4.8	0.6	1.2
December	2.7	2.2	5.5	0.8	1.9
1994					
March	2,8	2.5	5.0	1.4	2.2
June	3.4	3.3	3.8	1.9	2.2
September	3.4 4.8	1.9	3.1	1.8	2.7
December	3.4	2.8	3.1	1.7	2.5
=	J.4	2.6	3.1	1.1	2.5
L 995 March	2.2	2.2	3.1	1.2	2.5
	3.3		2.8		
June	1.4	1.7		1.5	2.6
September	0.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.0
December	0.3	1.0	0.4	1.8	2.0
L996					
March	-0.9	1.4	-0.5	1.8	1.5
June	1.1	0.8	-0.9	1.6	1.4
September	1.2	-0.2	-0.5	1,5	1.2
December	1.7	-0.3	0.1	1.5	0.4
1997					
March	2.8	-0.3	0.7	1.3	0.0
		CENTAGE CHANGE (fr			*******
1993	1 211	DEITTAGE OTTATIGE (II	om provious quartery		
September	0.1	1.8	1.4	0.3	0.3
December	0.9	-0.1	0.9	0.2	0.8
1994					
March	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.7
June	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.3
September	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.8
December	-0.4	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.6
1995	. 017	5.5		V-4	
March	1.0	-0.3	0.6	0.4	0.7
June	-0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.4
	0.2	0.8	-0.3	0.4	0.3
September December	-0.2 -0.2	-0.2	-0.3 -0.4	0.1	0.6
	- ∪.∠ .	-√.∠	¬ ∨. →	V.1 .	0.0
1996	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3
March	-0.2	0.1	-0.3	0.4	0.3
June	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2
September	0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1
December	0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.1
L997					
March	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.2

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This publication provides estimates of changes in house prices for each of the eight capital cities of Australia. The information is presented in the form of price indexes constructed separately for Established Houses and for Project Homes (see below for definitions). It is calculated on the reference base 1989-90 = 100.0 for the eight capital cities. The capital city indexes measure price movements over time in each city individually. They do not measure differences in price levels between cities.
- 2 The house price indexes are compiled by the ABS for use in calculating the Mortgage Interest Charges component of the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI). These series are being published separately in recognition of the widespread interest in information specifically relating to housing. Users requiring more information about how these series are used in the CPI are referred to an information paper The Australian Consumer Price Index: Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges (6442.0). For detailed information about the CPI itself see The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0).
- **3** To assist in the analysis of housing price movements at the national level, Australian series have also been compiled and are presented in tables 5 and 6 along with series for prices of building materials, wages in the construction industry and the housing investment deflator (from the Australian National Accounts). For information on the derivation of series in these tables see paragraph 14.

DEFINITIONS

ESTABLISHED HOUSES 4 Detached residential dwellings on their own block of land regardless of age (i.e. including new houses sold as a house/land package as well as second-hand houses). Price changes therefore relate to changes in the total price of dwelling and land.

PROJECT HOMES 5 Dwellings available for construction on a client's block of land. Price changes therefore relate only to the price of the dwelling (excluding land).

PRICE INDEXES

- 6 A price index is concerned with measuring pure price change that is, it is concerned with isolating and measuring that element of price change which is not brought about by any change to either the quantity or the quality of the goods or services for which the index is required.
- 7 The techniques used to construct a price index for project homes are similar to those used for most other goods. A representative sample of project home models is selected in each city, prices obtained each quarter and the price movements for each model weighted together. Constant quality is preserved by calculating price movements on a matched sample basis (i.e. the price movements between adjacent quarters are based on the same models in each quarter). If the specification of an individual model changes substantially or a price is unable to be obtained then that model is excluded from the calculation of price movement. Adjustments are made to raw prices to compensate for any minor changes in specifications.

PRICE INDEXES (continued)

- **8** The construction of a price index for established houses, on the other hand, poses a number of problems. First, in addition to the physical characteristics of a dwelling (such as outer-wall construction, total overall size and number of rooms) its geographical location is a significant component of quality. Second, the only price data available relates to sales that have actually taken place during each quarter. Movements in the average price derived from total sales data in each period would not provide a measure of pure price change as the measure would be influenced by compositional changes (i.e. the prices from one period to the next would relate to houses of different quality).
- **9** In order to minimise the effects of compositional change on these indexes, the raw sales price data is stratified by geographic area and physical characteristics of dwelling. The overall movement in the index is calculated by weighting together the price movements in individual strata. To reduce costs, this procedure is carried out for a sample of Local Government Areas in each city.
- **10** Price information for project homes is obtained at the end of each quarter from a sample of project home builders in each city. Sale prices of established houses are obtained from real estate organisations and government agencies and relate to actual sales transacted during the quarter.

LIMITATIONS OF HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

- **11** As these indexes are designed specifically for use in the CPI (see paragraph 2), their scope is restricted to only those houses likely to be purchased by CPI population group households (i.e. metropolitan wage and salary earner households).
- **12** The reliability of each index is largely dependent upon the availability of sufficient pricing information each quarter. While not a problem for project homes, difficulties are sometimes encountered when compiling the indexes for established houses as the number of price observations available across the range of dwelling types depends on market activity in each quarter.
- **13** The series most affected by limited market scope is the Darwin established house price index. Rather than suppress publication, the series is included here because it is believed that the long term trend is reliable. However, because of limitations in the reliability of individual quarter to quarter movements users are advised to exercise due caution when analysing such movements.

NATIONAL HOUSE PRICE AND _ OTHER INDEXES **14** These series are presented to facilitate analysis of price movements at a national level. Although coverage is not, in all cases, strictly national, this is not believed to significantly impair their usefulness. The derivation or source of each series is as follows:

Established bouses: This series is derived by weighting together the indexes for each of the eight capital cities according to the value of secured finance commitments to individuals in each of the States and Territories for the purchase of newly erected and established houses in 1985–86 until June quarter 1996, and thereafter commitments in 1994–95. The source of weighting information is unpublished data from the ABS survey of Housing Finance for Owner Occupation.

Project homes: This series is derived by weighting together the indexes for each of the eight capital cities according to the value of secured finance commitments to individuals in each of the States and Territories for the construction of houses in 1985–86 until June quarter 1996, and thereafter commitments in 1994–95. The source of weighting information is unpublished data from the ABS survey of Housing Finance for Owner Occupation.

NATIONAL HOUSE PRICE AND OTHER INDEXES (continued)

Materials used in bouse building: The series included here have been constructed from the monthly series for the weighted average of the six State capital cities (Materials Used in House Building, Australia (6408.0)). Quarterly series were derived as the arithmetic average of the relevant monthly index numbers and then rebased to 1989-90 = 100.0.

Award rates of pay for the construction industry: This series has been constructed from published monthly data for Australia in a similar way to that in which the materials used in house building series has been derived for this publication. The original monthly series (Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0)) used to derive the quarterly series are constructed by weighting weekly award rates of pay indexes (full-time adult employees: Australia) for selected classifications in the construction industry. Wage variations from enterprise bargaining awards and agreements are generally excluded from award rates of pay indexes.

Housing investment deflator: This series is the fixed weighted deflator for private capital expenditure (houses), as used (but not separately published) in *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (5206.0), on a base of 1989–90 = 100.0.

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN INDEX NUMBERS

- **15** The indexes presented in this publication are calculated on a quarterly basis with a reference base of 1989-90 = 100.0. In compiling these indexes quarterly, the objective is to measure the change between average price levels during one quarter and average price levels during the next quarter.
- **16** Index numbers are also presented for financial years where the index numbers for financial years are simple (arithmetic) averages of the quarterly index numbers. Index numbers for calendar years may be derived in the same way.
- **17** 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:

Established houses: Sydney index numbers —

March Quarter 1997 119.4 (see Table 1) less December Quarter 1996 118.0 (see Table 1) Change in index points: 1.4

Percentage change =
$$\frac{1.4}{118.0}$$
 x 100 = 1.2%

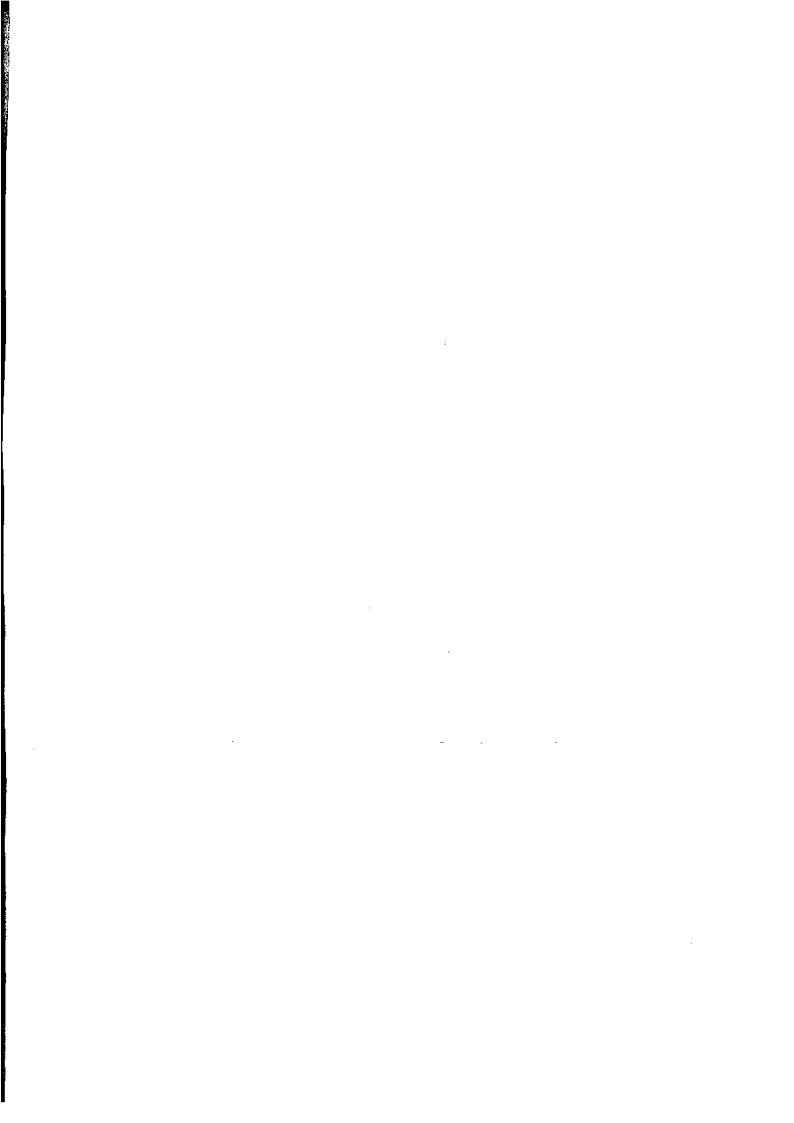
- **18** In this publication, percentage changes are calculated to illustrate three different kinds of movements in index numbers:
- movements between consecutive financial years (change between average price levels during one financial year and average price levels during the next financial year)
- movements between corresponding quarters of consecutive years
- movements between consecutive quarters.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- **19** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:
- Consumer Price Index (6401.0) issued quarterly
- Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index, Treatment of Mortgage Interest Charges (6442.0)
- The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0) issued monthly
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6408.0) — issued monthly
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0) issued monthly
- Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (5206.0) — issued quarterly
- Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0)—issued monthly
- Building Activity, Australia (8750.0)—issue monthly
- **20** Current publications issued 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.









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