

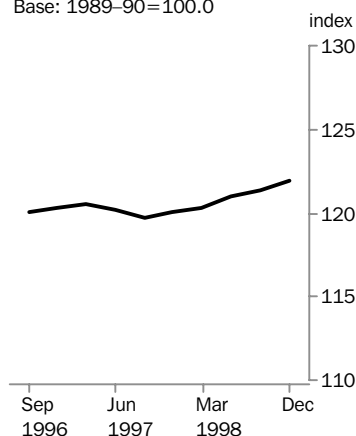


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 28 JAN 1999

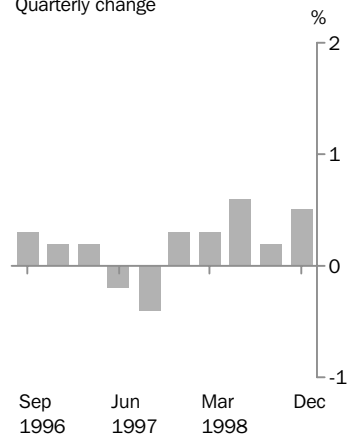
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Sep Qtr 1998 to Dec Qtr 1998	% change Dec Qtr 1997 to Dec Qtr 1998
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	1.0	4.0
Clothing	-0.1	-0.8
Housing	0.7	1.4
Household equipment and operation	0.2	0.3
Transportation	-0.3	-1.7
Alcohol and tobacco	0.2	2.2
Health and personal care	-0.4	3.5
Recreation and education	0.9	2.8
All groups	0.5	1.6
All groups excluding housing	0.4	1.5

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.5% in the December quarter 1998, up from 0.2% in the September quarter 1998.
- rose 1.6% between the December quarters 1997 and 1998.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were the cost of fresh fruit (+12.8%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+6.0%), fresh vegetables (+6.0%), house purchase (+0.9%), furniture (+1.3%), motor vehicle repair and service (+0.8%) and privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.5%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in the cost of automotive fuel (-1.5%), pharmaceuticals (-4.2%), motor vehicles (-0.8%) and audio, visual and computing equipment (-1.7%).

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Client Services on Canberra 02 6252 6627 or refer to the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
March 1999	28 April 1999
June 1999	28 July 1999



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

As foreshadowed in the September quarter 1998 issue, Treasury's Measure of Underlying Inflation is no longer presented on the front page of this publication. However, the series will continue to appear in Tables 11 and 12 on pages 20 and 21.



GUIDE TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The latest edition of *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6440.0) will be released on Wednesday 10 February 1999. This edition takes account of the changes resulting from the introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index in the September quarter 1998.

The Guide has been designed to promote understanding of the CPI among general users. It briefly covers such topics as: what is the CPI; to whom does the CPI relate; the composition of the CPI 'basket'; collecting the prices; how the CPI is calculated; and using the CPI. It also contains a table showing the weighting pattern of the 13th Series CPI and examples of the items priced for the CPI.

Copies of the Guide, which is priced at \$10.00, can be obtained by contacting any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.



ROUNDING

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



W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

FOOD: +1.0%

The increase in food prices this quarter is mainly due to increases in fresh fruit (+12.8%), fresh vegetables (+6.0%), food n.e.c. (+2.8%), restaurant meals (+0.2%) and milk and cream (+0.7%). For fresh vegetables, this is the fifth consecutive quarterly increase. Partially offsetting these increases were falls in soft drinks and cordials (-1.8%) and breakfast cereals (-4.3%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1998, food prices increased by 4.0%, the largest annual increase since December quarter 1995. The increase is largely due to the prices of fresh vegetables rising by 29.9% and fresh fruit by 15.1%.

HOUSING: +0.7%

The quarterly increase in the Housing group was due to increases in house purchase (+0.9%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.5%), gas (+2.5%), electricity (+0.5%) and water and sewerage (+0.7%). There were no significant offsets. This is the third consecutive quarterly increase in the Housing group index.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +0.9%

The increase in recreation and education costs this quarter is mainly attributable to seasonal increases in domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+6.0%) and increases in other recreational activities (+0.6%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in audio, visual and computing equipment (-1.7%) and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (-1.1%).

TRANSPORTATION: -0.3%

The fall in transportation costs this quarter has been caused by a combination of reductions in the prices of petrol (-1.5%) and motor vehicles (-0.8%). The reduction in petrol prices resulted from falls in July (-0.8%), in August (-1.5%), in September (-1.6%), then a rise in October (+2.2%), a fall in November (-1.6%) and again a fall in December (-2.9%). Offsetting these falls were increases in motor vehicle repair and servicing (+0.8%) and vehicle insurance (+2.8%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1998, the price of petrol fell 7.0% and the price of motor vehicles fell 4.1%. It is noteworthy that this is the first time since the December quarter 1976 (when 'Transportation' became a separate group in the CPI) that there have been 5 consecutive quarterly falls in transportation prices.

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE:
-0.4%

The main contributor to the decrease in health and personal care costs was a fall in the net cost of pharmaceuticals (-4.2%). This decrease is due to more consumers deriving benefit from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's safety net towards the end of the calendar year. Partially offsetting this fall was a rise in the cost of hospital and medical services (+0.3%).

Annually, health and personal care costs rose by 3.5%. This rise was mainly due to increases in the cost of hospital and medical services (+6.4%), in particular, the health insurance premiums component.

Note that the Federal Government's 30% rebate on private health insurance, which replaces the Private Health Insurance Incentives Scheme, was introduced from 1 January 1999. The rebate has significantly lowered the health insurance premium paid by all insured persons and therefore the price of health insurance. Within the CPI, health insurance premiums represent a significant proportion of expenditure in the expenditure class Hospital and medical services. This rebate will be factored into the CPI in the March quarter 1999.

CPI, All groups index numbers(a) and percentage changes

	INDEX NUMBER(a)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN	
		Sep Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1998	Dec Qtr 1997 and Dec Qtr 1998
Sydney	122.4	0.4	1.9
Melbourne	120.8	0.3	0.8
Brisbane	123.0	0.4	1.3
Adelaide	123.6	0.5	2.0
Perth	120.2	0.5	2.2
Hobart	122.7	-0.1	1.2
Darwin	122.7	0.5	1.6
Canberra	121.7	0.3	1.6
Weighted average of eight capital cities	121.9	0.5	1.6

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

ALL GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
1994-95	113.0	114.1	114.7	116.9	112.3	115.2	114.7	115.1	113.9
1995-96	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
1996-97	120.4	119.9	121.0	122.3	118.3	121.4	121.6	121.2	120.3
1997-98	120.5	119.8	121.6	121.6	118.0	121.3	121.3	120.4	120.3
1994									
December	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
1995									
March	113.7	115.0	115.8	117.8	113.0	116.1	115.3	116.3	114.7
June	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
September	117.3	117.6	117.9	120.1	115.6	118.4	118.0	119.1	117.6
December	118.3	118.5	118.6	121.1	116.3	119.2	119.2	120.0	118.5
1996									
March	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0
June	119.9	119.2	120.4	122.0	117.9	120.6	120.8	121.4	119.8
September	120.2	119.6	120.6	122.2	118.3	121.1	121.6	121.4	120.1
December	120.4	119.9	120.8	122.6	118.4	121.3	121.7	121.4	120.3
1997									
March	120.6	120.1	121.5	122.6	118.2	121.9	121.6	121.4	120.5
June	120.2	119.9	121.1	121.9	118.1	121.3	121.5	120.4	120.2
September	119.8	119.5	120.7	121.2	117.5	120.6	121.0	119.8	119.7
December	120.1	119.8	121.4	121.2	117.6	121.2	120.8	119.8	120.0
1998									
March	120.7	119.6	121.9	121.7	118.0	121.5	121.5	120.6	120.3
June	121.4	120.3	122.3	122.4	118.9	122.0	121.8	121.2	121.0
September	121.9	120.4	122.5	123.0	119.6	122.8	122.1	121.3	121.3
December	122.4	120.8	123.0	123.6	120.2	122.7	122.7	121.7	121.9

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

ALL GROUPS, Percentage Changes

<i>Period</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Canberra</i>	<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)									
1994-95	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
1995-96	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
1996-97	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.3
1997-98	0.1	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1994									
December	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.5
1995									
March	4.2	3.4	4.5	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.4	3.9
June	4.9	3.8	4.8	3.8	5.3	4.2	3.9	5.0	4.5
September	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.8	5.1
December	5.8	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.8	5.4	5.1
1996									
March	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7
June	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1
September	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	1.9	2.1
December	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.5
1997									
March	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.3
June	0.3	0.6	0.6	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	-0.8	0.3
September	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.5	-1.3	-0.3
December	-0.2	-0.1	0.5	-1.1	-0.7	-0.1	-0.7	-1.3	-0.2
1998									
March	0.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.7	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.7	-0.2
June	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.7
September	1.8	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	0.9	1.3	1.3
December	1.9	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1994									
December	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
1995									
March	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.7
June	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
September	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
December	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
1996									
March	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
June	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
September	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3
December	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
1997									
March	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.2
June	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2
September	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
December	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.3
1998									
March	0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.3
June	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.6
September	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
December	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5

CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities—Index Numbers(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Trans- portation</i>	<i>Alcohol and tobacco</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All groups</i>
1994-95	112.1	106.7	100.0	109.2	117.5	141.0	135.5	114.6	113.9
1995-96	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
1996-97	119.7	107.3	101.6	113.5	124.3	161.4	149.1	119.7	120.3
1997-98	121.8	107.4	94.5	113.8	123.5	164.6	153.6	123.6	120.3
1994									
December	110.9	106.8	97.5	108.9	116.8	139.1	133.7	114.1	112.8
1995									
March	113.2	106.2	102.8	109.3	117.3	141.1	136.5	115.3	114.7
June	113.7	107.2	104.7	110.2	118.8	146.4	138.5	115.9	116.2
September	115.4	106.7	105.4	111.0	122.0	151.4	139.0	116.1	117.6
December	115.7	107.1	106.1	111.6	122.3	155.3	140.8	117.3	118.5
1996									
March	115.9	106.8	105.7	111.6	122.4	157.8	143.5	119.2	119.0
June	117.1	107.4	106.3	112.5	123.8	159.8	143.7	118.2	119.8
September	118.3	107.2	106.1	113.1	123.4	160.4	145.0	118.2	120.1
December	119.4	107.5	103.2	113.6	124.5	161.2	146.7	118.8	120.3
1997									
March	120.2	107.0	100.2	113.5	125.2	161.7	150.6	121.0	120.5
June	120.8	107.3	96.9	113.9	123.9	162.1	154.0	120.9	120.2
September	120.8	107.1	95.9	113.4	124.4	161.9	148.6	122.0	119.7
December	121.1	107.8	94.2	113.8	124.0	164.3	153.0	122.4	120.0
1998									
March	122.1	107.4	93.4	113.8	122.9	165.4	154.8	124.9	120.3
June	123.1	107.3	94.5	114.0	122.8	166.7	157.9	125.1	121.0
September	124.7	107.0	94.8	113.9	122.3	167.5	159.1	124.7	121.3
December	126.0	106.9	95.5	114.1	121.9	167.9	158.4	125.8	121.9

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

CPI GROUPS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities—Percentage Changes

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Trans- portation</i>	<i>Alcohol and tobacco</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All groups</i>
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)									
1994-95	2.5	0.0	6.2	1.3	3.3	5.5	5.0	2.4	3.2
1995-96	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2
1996-97	3.2	0.3	-4.1	1.6	1.4	3.4	5.1	1.7	1.3
1997-98	1.8	0.1	-7.0	0.3	-0.6	2.0	3.0	3.3	0.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1994									
December	1.3	0.0	4.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	5.3	2.0	2.5
1995									
March	3.1	-0.1	9.7	1.3	3.6	4.9	4.4	2.9	3.9
June	3.8	0.8	10.9	1.8	3.1	7.5	5.0	2.6	4.5
September	4.5	0.1	11.1	2.6	4.3	10.2	4.2	2.8	5.1
December	4.3	0.3	8.8	2.5	4.7	11.6	5.3	2.8	5.1
1996									
March	2.4	0.6	2.8	2.1	4.3	11.8	5.1	3.4	3.7
June	3.0	0.2	1.5	2.1	4.2	9.2	3.8	2.0	3.1
September	2.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.1	5.9	4.3	1.8	2.1
December	3.2	0.4	-2.7	1.8	1.8	3.8	4.2	1.3	1.5
1997									
March	3.7	0.2	-5.2	1.7	2.3	2.5	4.9	1.5	1.3
June	3.2	-0.1	-8.8	1.2	0.1	1.4	7.2	2.3	0.3
September	2.1	-0.1	-9.6	0.3	0.8	0.9	2.5	3.2	-0.3
December	1.4	0.3	-8.7	0.2	-0.4	1.9	4.3	3.0	-0.2
1998									
March	1.6	0.4	-6.8	0.3	-1.8	2.3	2.8	3.2	-0.2
June	1.9	0.0	-2.5	0.1	-0.9	2.8	2.5	3.5	0.7
September	3.2	-0.1	-1.1	0.4	-1.7	3.5	7.1	2.2	1.3
December	4.0	-0.8	1.4	0.3	-1.7	2.2	3.5	2.8	1.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1994									
December	0.5	0.2	2.7	0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.8
1995									
March	2.1	-0.6	5.4	0.4	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.7
June	0.4	0.9	1.8	0.8	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.3
September	1.5	-0.5	0.7	0.7	2.7	3.4	0.4	0.2	1.2
December	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	2.6	1.3	1.0	0.8
1996									
March	0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.4
June	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7
September	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3
December	0.9	0.3	-2.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.2
1997									
March	0.7	-0.5	-2.9	-0.1	0.6	0.3	2.7	1.9	0.2
June	0.5	0.3	-3.3	0.4	-1.0	0.2	2.3	-0.1	-0.2
September	0.0	-0.2	-1.0	-0.4	0.4	-0.1	-3.5	0.9	-0.4
December	0.2	0.7	-1.8	0.4	-0.3	1.5	3.0	0.3	0.3
1998									
March	0.8	-0.4	-0.8	0.0	-0.9	0.7	1.2	2.0	0.3
June	0.8	-0.1	1.2	0.2	-0.1	0.8	2.0	0.2	0.6
September	1.3	-0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.5	0.8	-0.3	0.2
December	1.0	-0.1	0.7	0.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.4	0.9	0.5

CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD									
1997									
September	121.4	119.8	118.7	122.0	122.4	121.0	121.8	122.9	120.8
December	121.6	119.7	121.2	122.0	122.0	121.7	122.3	124.9	121.1
1998									
March	122.8	120.7	122.6	122.9	122.7	121.7	124.4	125.3	122.1
June	123.7	121.6	123.3	123.7	124.6	122.3	125.0	126.9	123.1
September	125.1	123.6	123.9	125.9	126.5	124.7	125.2	127.6	124.7
December	126.8	124.3	125.0	128.2	127.6	125.0	126.9	129.1	126.0
CLOTHING									
1997									
September	107.3	108.5	105.3	105.4	105.8	104.8	105.6	105.7	107.1
December	107.9	109.2	105.6	106.2	106.8	106.0	105.6	106.9	107.8
1998									
March	107.8	109.0	104.7	105.1	105.9	105.5	105.3	107.2	107.4
June	106.8	108.9	105.7	105.9	106.4	105.3	105.4	107.9	107.3
September	106.7	108.9	105.2	105.3	105.5	105.1	105.1	107.7	107.0
December	106.7	108.2	105.7	105.4	105.8	105.7	105.0	108.1	106.9
HOUSING									
1997									
September	101.3	88.7	102.4	92.2	90.4	97.7	113.6	97.0	95.9
December	100.1	86.9	100.2	90.2	88.8	95.5	111.3	93.7	94.2
1998									
March	100.3	84.1	100.0	89.9	88.5	95.3	111.6	93.3	93.4
June	101.3	86.2	100.3	90.3	88.9	95.5	112.2	93.4	94.5
September	102.5	85.3	101.0	91.2	89.6	95.6	113.9	93.8	94.8
December	102.6	86.6	101.3	91.9	90.4	95.4	114.5	93.9	95.5
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
1997									
September	111.0	114.6	115.6	113.6	113.1	119.7	107.7	114.1	113.4
December	111.5	115.4	115.8	113.6	113.6	119.7	107.5	114.2	113.8
1998									
March	111.7	115.1	115.8	113.7	113.7	119.4	107.6	114.5	113.8
June	111.7	115.1	116.4	113.9	114.2	119.5	107.2	115.5	114.0
September	111.5	115.3	116.3	113.7	114.0	120.4	107.3	115.5	113.9
December	111.7	115.3	116.4	113.9	114.3	120.8	107.5	116.0	114.1
TRANSPORTATION									
1997									
September	125.2	124.6	123.7	123.2	121.8	122.2	122.4	130.6	124.4
December	124.7	124.4	124.0	122.3	121.5	122.1	122.4	129.0	124.0
1998									
March	124.2	122.1	122.8	121.2	121.2	121.7	122.0	129.0	122.9
June	124.1	122.0	122.8	121.8	121.2	120.5	121.2	129.1	122.8
September	123.6	121.0	120.9	121.8	122.6	120.4	120.7	128.0	122.3
December	123.4	120.6	121.0	121.3	122.2	118.6	119.8	126.9	121.9

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO									
1997									
September	166.7	158.6	162.9	167.2	152.7	153.6	159.4	156.8	161.9
December	169.4	161.2	165.5	168.8	154.5	155.6	159.6	159.0	164.3
1998									
March	170.4	162.0	166.3	170.7	156.2	158.0	161.4	159.9	165.4
June	171.6	163.9	167.2	170.5	157.5	160.2	160.8	161.3	166.7
September	172.5	165.0	168.1	170.7	158.1	159.6	160.4	161.8	167.5
December	172.9	166.0	168.2	171.4	157.7	159.1	160.1	161.7	167.9
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE									
1997									
September	140.7	157.3	143.8	158.6	144.4	153.0	139.9	147.0	148.6
December	144.8	162.2	149.7	164.1	144.9	160.9	143.0	150.7	153.0
1998									
March	146.2	163.6	152.7	167.8	146.5	162.7	145.1	152.5	154.8
June	150.3	165.8	152.8	171.1	152.3	166.1	146.7	154.3	157.9
September	150.8	166.7	156.0	171.8	153.1	171.5	147.1	155.6	159.1
December	151.0	165.3	155.2	170.9	152.3	169.5	147.5	154.9	158.4
RECREATION AND EDUCATION									
1997									
September	119.6	126.0	122.8	123.7	117.4	119.2	111.0	116.6	122.0
December	120.4	126.2	123.1	123.6	118.4	120.6	111.4	117.6	122.4
1998									
March	122.3	129.4	126.1	125.5	119.7	121.7	110.9	121.7	124.9
June	123.5	128.8	125.8	126.1	119.2	122.6	112.5	121.0	125.1
September	122.8	128.4	126.1	125.9	119.1	122.5	112.5	120.8	124.7
December	124.2	129.0	127.6	126.5	120.8	124.2	113.4	122.2	125.8

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

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.34	0.12	0.19	0.42	0.20	0.07	0.33	0.25	0.24
Dairy and related products	—	0.01	-0.03	0.05	—	-0.02	—	—	—
Milk and cream	—	—	0.01	0.06	—	—	—	—	0.01
Cheese	—	0.01	-0.02	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—
Other dairy products	-0.02	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	—	-0.01
Cereal products	-0.05	0.02	—	—	-0.05	-0.04	—	-0.01	-0.02
Bread	-0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.01	-0.05	-0.03	0.02	—	—
Cakes and biscuits	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—
Breakfast cereals	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02
Other cereal products	-0.03	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Meat and seafoods	-0.02	0.01	0.03	0.06	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Beef and veal	-0.01	—	—	0.02	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Lamb and mutton	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.03	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	—
Pork	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—
Poultry	—	—	0.03	—	—	0.02	-0.02	-0.02	0.01
Bacon and ham	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.02	—
Processed meat	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	—
Fish and other seafood	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	0.39	0.13	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.41	0.26	0.26
Fresh fruit	0.25	0.08	0.16	0.12	0.17	0.05	0.17	0.14	0.17
Fresh vegetables	0.14	0.05	0.10	0.11	0.03	0.13	0.24	0.12	0.10
Processed fruit and vegetables	0.01	—	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.01	—	0.01
Processed fruit	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	—
Processed vegetables	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01
Fruit and vegetable juices	0.02	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	-0.01	-0.03	-0.08	0.01	—	-0.08	-0.11	-0.03	-0.03
Soft drinks and cordials	-0.01	-0.01	-0.07	0.01	-0.02	-0.08	-0.11	-0.01	-0.02
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.02	—
Meals out and take away foods	0.04	-0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	-0.03	0.06	—	0.02
Restaurant meals	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.02	-0.02	—	0.01	0.01
Take away and fast foods	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	—	0.05	—	0.01
Other food	-0.03	—	—	0.04	0.04	0.04	—	0.04	—
Eggs	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	-0.03	—	-0.01	—	0.03	0.02	—	—	—
Food additives and condiments	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—	—	—	—	—
Fats and oils	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.02	—
Food n.e.c.	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Clothing	—	-0.05	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.03	-0.01
Men's clothing	-0.03	-0.07	0.02	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.03
Men's outerwear	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01
Men's shirts	—	-0.02	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01
Women's clothing	0.02	0.02	0.01	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Women's outerwear	—	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	0.02	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.01
Children's and infants' clothing	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Boys' clothing	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	-0.01	—
Girls' clothing	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Footwear	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	—	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Men's footwear	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's footwear	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01
Children's footwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—
Clothing accessories	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Housing	0.04	0.36	0.06	0.16	0.20	-0.05	0.14	0.01	0.16
Rents	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.04	—	-0.01	0.03
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.01	—	—	0.03
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	—	—	—	—	-0.04	—	-0.01	—
Utilities	0.01	0.10	—	0.02	0.04	-0.04	—	-0.02	0.04
Electricity	—	0.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
Gas	—	0.06	—	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	0.02
Other household fuel	—	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.05	—	-0.02	—
Water and sewerage	—	—	—	—	0.06	—	—	—	0.01
Other housing	-0.02	0.23	0.04	0.12	0.14	0.04	0.14	0.06	0.09
House purchase	0.01	0.19	0.03	0.11	0.08	—	0.09	0.04	0.08
Property rates and charges	—	—	—	—	0.04	—	—	—	—
House repairs and maintenance	-0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.04	-0.01	—
House insurance	0.01	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.02	—
Household Equipment and Operation	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.02
Furniture and floor coverings	0.08	0.03	—	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.05
Furniture	0.08	0.03	—	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05
Floor coverings	0.01	—	—	0.03	0.01	—	0.02	—	—
Household textiles	—	0.01	-0.02	—	0.02	—	—	0.01	—
Bedding	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—	—
Towels, linen and curtains	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Household appliances, utensils and tools	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.05	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Appliances	-0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	—	—	0.02	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01
Household utensils	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	0.01
Tools	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Household supplies	-0.02	—	0.04	—	—	0.01	-0.01	0.03	—
Household cleaning agents	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01
Pet foods, pets and supplies	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.02	—	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Other household supplies	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	-0.01
Household services	0.01	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.03	0.01
Pet services including veterinary	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—
House contents insurance	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Repairs to household durables	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic services	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	0.01
Postal and communication services	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	—	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03
Postal services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communication services	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02
Transportation	-0.04	-0.06	0.01	-0.07	-0.06	-0.23	-0.11	-0.17	-0.04
Private motoring	-0.03	-0.05	0.01	-0.07	-0.06	-0.22	-0.11	-0.17	-0.04
Motor vehicles	-0.05	—	-0.03	-0.10	-0.03	-0.07	—	-0.14	-0.04
Automotive fuel	-0.07	-0.11	0.02	-0.10	-0.06	-0.18	-0.11	-0.07	-0.07
Vehicle insurance	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.02
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	0.06	0.02	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Other motoring charges	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.01
Urban transport fares	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcohol and tobacco	0.02	0.05	—	0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.02	-0.01	0.02
Alcoholic drinks	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.03	-0.04	-0.04	-0.01	0.02
Beer	—	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.02	-0.01	—	0.01	0.02
Wine	—	—	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01
Spirits	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	—	-0.02	—	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Health and personal care	0.01	-0.07	-0.04	-0.05	-0.04	-0.11	0.02	-0.03	-0.04
Health services	0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01	-0.03	0.06	—	0.01
Hospital and medical services	0.01	—	0.03	0.02	0.01	-0.03	0.05	-0.01	0.01
Optical services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dental services	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Personal care products	-0.03	-0.06	-0.07	-0.10	-0.05	-0.08	-0.04	-0.03	-0.05
Pharmaceuticals	-0.05	-0.05	-0.07	-0.07	-0.05	-0.07	-0.02	-0.04	-0.06
Toiletries and personal products	0.01	—	—	-0.03	—	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	—
Hairdressing and personal care services	0.02	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01
Recreation and education	0.18	0.08	0.20	0.10	0.21	0.24	0.13	0.22	0.15
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	—	—	0.11	—	0.01	-0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Books	—	—	0.03	0.01	—	-0.03	—	0.01	—
Newspapers and magazines	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01
Stationery	—	—	0.05	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01
Recreation	0.02	—	0.04	0.02	-0.04	0.06	-0.01	—	0.01
Audio, visual and computing equipment	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	-0.03
Audio, visual and computing media and services	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.01
Sports and recreational equipment	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	—
Toys, games and hobbies	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
Sports participation	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	0.04	0.01	—
Other recreational activities	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.03	—	—	0.01	0.02
Holiday travel and accommodation	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.24	0.21	0.12	0.20	0.13
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	0.17	0.17	0.05	0.10	0.21	0.27	0.03	0.27	0.16
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	—	-0.08	0.01	-0.02	0.03	-0.06	0.09	-0.07	-0.02
Education and child care	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	—
Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child care	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—
All groups	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	-0.10	0.60	0.40	0.6

(a) All groups index points.

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Change between
	1997	1998	1998	1998 and Dec Qtr 1998	1997 and Dec Qtr 1998	1998	1998	Sep Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1998
Food	121.1	124.7	126.0	1.0	4.0	23.53	23.77	0.24
Dairy and related products	132.3	134.5	134.7	0.1	1.8	1.78	1.78	—
Milk and cream	147.0	149.1	150.2	0.7	2.2	1.07	1.08	0.01
Cheese	110.2	112.5	112.9	0.4	2.5	0.41	0.41	—
Other dairy products	124.5	128.6	125.8	-2.2	1.0	0.30	0.29	-0.01
Cereal products	135.3	138.8	138.0	-0.6	2.0	2.99	2.97	-0.02
Bread	148.4	156.1	155.6	-0.3	4.9	1.26	1.26	—
Cakes and biscuits	125.7	126.3	127.4	0.9	1.4	1.14	1.14	—
Breakfast cereals	129.2	130.7	125.1	-4.3	-3.2	0.33	0.31	-0.02
Other cereal products	124.1	125.5	120.9	-3.7	-2.6	0.27	0.26	-0.01
Meat and seafoods	109.5	109.4	109.5	0.1	—	3.42	3.42	—
Beef and veal	104.3	104.3	103.5	-0.8	-0.8	0.77	0.76	-0.01
Lamb and mutton	121.7	122.0	120.7	-1.1	-0.8	0.38	0.38	—
Pork	114.8	110.7	109.7	-0.9	-4.4	0.20	0.20	—
Poultry	96.2	93.9	94.5	0.6	-1.8	0.57	0.58	0.01
Bacon and ham	113.4	112.2	112.2	—	-1.1	0.35	0.35	—
Processed meat	114.8	115.9	115.4	-0.4	0.5	0.63	0.63	—
Fish and other seafood	105.4	107.8	110.9	2.9	5.2	0.52	0.53	0.01
Fresh fruit and vegetables	99.5	111.7	121.8	9.0	22.4	2.90	3.16	0.26
Fresh fruit	113.6	115.9	130.7	12.8	15.1	1.30	1.47	0.17
Fresh vegetables	89.9	110.2	116.8	6.0	29.9	1.60	1.70	0.10
Processed fruit and vegetables	116.5	118.9	119.3	0.3	2.4	0.92	0.93	0.01
Processed fruit	119.7	127.5	126.5	-0.8	5.7	0.18	0.18	—
Processed vegetables	105.1	106.7	105.5	-1.1	0.4	0.31	0.30	-0.01
Fruit and vegetable juices	123.3	124.9	127.2	1.8	3.2	0.44	0.44	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	136.0	141.1	140.0	-0.8	2.9	3.01	2.98	-0.03
Soft drinks and cordials	130.4	135.3	132.9	-1.8	1.9	1.25	1.23	-0.02
Ice cream and ice confectionery	149.4	150.9	151.5	0.4	1.4	0.39	0.39	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	138.3	144.8	144.4	-0.3	4.4	1.36	1.36	—
Meals out and take away foods	120.2	122.6	122.9	0.2	2.2	6.36	6.38	0.02
Restaurant meals	122.5	124.6	124.9	0.2	2.0	2.92	2.93	0.01
Take away and fast foods	119.8	122.4	122.7	0.2	2.4	3.44	3.45	0.01
Other food	125.0	127.8	127.8	—	2.2	2.14	2.14	—
Eggs	145.9	145.6	142.8	-1.9	-2.1	0.19	0.19	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	140.7	140.1	139.6	-0.4	-0.8	0.20	0.20	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	135.9	139.0	137.4	-1.2	1.1	0.46	0.46	—
Food additives and condiments	113.9	122.5	121.9	-0.5	7.0	0.38	0.38	—
Fats and oils	111.3	119.0	117.6	-1.2	5.7	0.32	0.32	—
Food n.e.c.	121.7	120.0	123.3	2.8	1.3	0.58	0.60	0.02
Clothing	107.8	107.0	106.9	-0.1	-0.8	6.90	6.89	-0.01
Men's clothing	110.7	110.9	108.8	-1.9	-1.7	1.44	1.41	-0.03
Men's outerwear	110.9	110.2	108.1	-1.9	-2.5	0.78	0.77	-0.01
Men's shirts	108.5	110.2	108.2	-1.8	-0.3	0.41	0.40	-0.01
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	113.3	114.4	112.0	-2.1	-1.1	0.25	0.24	-0.01
Women's clothing	108.9	108.4	108.8	0.4	-0.1	2.84	2.85	0.01
Women's outerwear	105.1	104.7	104.7	—	-0.4	2.36	2.36	—
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	123.0	121.2	124.5	2.7	1.2	0.48	0.49	0.01
Children's and infant's clothing	111.7	110.6	110.7	0.1	-0.9	0.64	0.64	—
Boys' clothing	113.8	112.6	113.1	0.4	-0.6	0.37	0.37	—
Girls' clothing	109.2	108.2	107.7	-0.5	-1.4	0.26	0.26	—
Footwear	99.5	95.8	97.0	1.3	-2.5	1.04	1.06	0.02
Men's footwear	95.0	93.1	92.9	-0.2	-2.2	0.25	0.25	—
Women's footwear	103.6	99.0	101.1	2.1	-2.4	0.60	0.61	0.01
Children's footwear	99.0	96.2	96.8	0.6	-2.2	0.19	0.19	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (b)	..	100.3	100.1	-0.2	..	0.94	0.94	—
Accessories (b)	..	100.1	99.3	-0.8	..	0.48	0.48	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	99.2	100.0	99.9	-0.1	0.7	0.20	0.20	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	132.5	134.9	135.8	0.7	2.5	0.27	0.27	—

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Change between
	1997	1998	1998	1998 and	1997 and	1998	1998	Sep Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1998
Housing	94.2	94.8	95.5	0.7	1.4	23.50	23.66	0.16
Rents	118.1	121.0	121.5	0.4	2.9	7.08	7.11	0.03
Privately-owned dwelling rents	117.6	120.4	121.0	0.5	2.9	6.25	6.28	0.03
Government-owned dwelling rents	122.6	126.2	126.1	-0.1	2.9	0.82	0.82	—
Utilities	122.6	120.3	121.3	0.8	-1.1	4.23	4.27	0.04
Electricity	120.1	115.4	116.0	0.5	-3.4	2.07	2.08	0.01
Gas	131.5	128.0	131.2	2.5	-0.2	0.81	0.83	0.02
Other household fuel	113.4	117.1	114.9	-1.9	1.3	0.17	0.17	—
Water and sewerage (b)	..	101.9	102.6	0.7	..	1.18	1.19	0.01
Other housing	84.6	85.1	85.7	0.7	1.3	12.20	12.29	0.09
House purchase (b)	..	100.6	101.5	0.9	..	8.37	8.45	0.08
Property rates and charges (b)	..	103.1	103.4	0.3	..	1.48	1.48	—
House repairs and maintenance	120.5	122.0	122.4	0.3	1.6	2.09	2.09	—
House insurance	157.0	161.1	162.5	0.9	3.5	0.26	0.26	—
Household equipment and operation	113.8	113.9	114.1	0.2	0.3	15.19	15.21	0.02
Furniture and floor coverings	119.1	119.1	120.5	1.2	1.2	4.32	4.37	0.05
Furniture	122.1	121.5	123.1	1.3	0.8	3.46	3.51	0.05
Floor coverings	110.1	112.4	113.3	0.8	2.9	0.86	0.86	—
Household textiles	119.9	120.7	121.4	0.6	1.3	0.60	0.60	—
Bedding	123.3	121.4	121.7	0.2	-1.3	0.32	0.32	—
Towels, linen and curtains	117.7	121.2	122.3	0.9	3.9	0.28	0.28	—
Household appliances, utensils and tools	107.2	107.3	106.8	-0.5	-0.4	3.35	3.33	-0.02
Appliances	109.0	108.1	106.5	-1.5	-2.3	1.93	1.91	-0.02
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	96.8	99.3	100.9	1.6	4.2	0.30	0.31	0.01
Household utensils	105.7	105.0	106.6	1.5	0.9	0.45	0.46	0.01
Tools	108.2	110.9	110.9	—	2.5	0.66	0.66	—
Household supplies	122.4	123.9	124.0	0.1	1.3	3.00	3.00	—
Household cleaning agents	119.8	121.5	120.1	-1.2	0.3	0.74	0.73	-0.01
Pet foods, pets and supplies	131.4	130.3	132.4	1.6	0.8	0.86	0.88	0.02
Other household supplies	120.3	123.0	122.5	-0.4	1.8	1.40	1.39	-0.01
Household services	148.5	151.1	152.0	0.6	2.4	1.50	1.51	0.01
Pet services including veterinary	145.3	147.1	147.9	0.5	1.8	0.26	0.26	—
House contents insurance	156.2	160.5	161.0	0.3	3.1	0.26	0.26	—
Repairs to household durables	138.0	140.2	140.2	—	1.6	0.36	0.36	—
Domestic services (b)	..	100.4	101.5	1.1	..	0.61	0.62	0.01
Postal and communication services	106.8	105.2	104.1	-1.0	-2.5	2.43	2.40	-0.03
Postal services	111.3	111.4	111.5	0.1	0.2	0.22	0.22	—
Communication services	106.1	104.4	103.2	-1.1	-2.7	2.21	2.19	-0.02
Transportation	124.0	122.3	121.9	-0.3	-1.7	17.01	16.97	-0.04
Private motoring	122.2	120.2	119.8	-0.3	-2.0	15.90	15.86	-0.04
Motor vehicles	110.5	106.9	106.0	-0.8	-4.1	4.60	4.56	-0.04
Automotive fuel	122.3	115.4	113.7	-1.5	-7.0	4.78	4.71	-0.07
Vehicle insurance	144.7	150.3	154.5	2.8	6.8	0.70	0.72	0.02
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	118.7	120.7	121.7	0.8	2.5	3.17	3.20	0.03
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	105.9	105.8	107.0	1.1	1.0	1.36	1.37	0.01
Other motoring charges	148.9	157.4	157.6	0.1	5.8	1.29	1.30	0.01
Urban transport fares	153.7	156.0	155.7	-0.2	1.3	1.11	1.11	—
Alcohol and tobacco	164.3	167.5	167.9	0.2	2.2	9.90	9.92	0.02
Alcoholic drinks	132.7	134.1	134.5	0.3	1.4	6.14	6.16	0.02
Beer	133.7	134.7	135.5	0.6	1.3	3.24	3.26	0.02
Wine	128.3	130.4	129.8	-0.5	1.2	1.68	1.67	-0.01
Spirits	134.0	135.7	136.2	0.4	1.6	1.22	1.23	0.01
Cigarettes and tobacco	239.4	246.9	247.2	0.1	3.3	3.76	3.77	0.01

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Change between
	1997	1998	1998	1998 and Dec Qtr 1998	1997 and Dec Qtr 1998	1998	1998	Sep Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1998
Health and personal care	153.0	159.1	158.4	-0.4	3.5	8.51	8.47	-0.04
Health services	173.5	182.9	183.4	0.3	5.7	4.69	4.70	0.01
Hospital and medical services	185.2	196.4	197.0	0.3	6.4	3.79	3.80	0.01
Optical services	122.6	123.9	124.3	0.3	1.4	0.22	0.22	—
Dental services	145.2	149.5	150.0	0.3	3.3	0.68	0.68	—
Personal care products	125.8	128.9	126.4	-1.9	0.5	2.88	2.83	-0.05
Pharmaceuticals	124.7	130.3	124.8	-4.2	0.1	1.27	1.21	-0.06
Toiletries and personal products	126.5	128.5	128.5	—	1.6	1.62	1.62	—
Hairdressing and personal care services	129.8	132.2	133.1	0.7	2.5	0.93	0.94	0.01
Recreation and education	122.4	124.7	125.8	0.9	2.8	16.81	16.96	0.15
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	145.3	150.4	151.4	0.7	4.2	2.36	2.38	0.02
Books (b)	..	101.9	102.4	0.5	..	0.74	0.74	—
Newspapers and magazines (b)	..	102.2	102.8	0.6	..	0.94	0.95	0.01
Stationery	122.7	125.5	126.8	1.0	3.3	0.68	0.69	0.01
Recreation	116.6	117.4	117.5	0.1	0.8	6.99	7.00	0.01
Audio, visual and computing equipment	74.4	71.7	70.5	-1.7	-5.2	1.56	1.53	-0.03
Audio, visual and computing media and services	105.2	107.2	109.2	1.9	3.8	0.89	0.90	0.01
Sports and recreational equipment (b)	..	101.0	101.7	0.7	..	0.72	0.72	—
Toys, games and hobbies (b)	..	99.6	97.8	-1.8	..	0.42	0.41	-0.01
Repairs to recreational goods	124.4	126.3	126.7	0.3	1.8	0.16	0.16	—
Sports participation (b)	..	100.2	100.5	0.3	..	1.02	1.02	—
Other recreational activities (b)	..	100.6	101.2	0.6	..	2.23	2.25	0.02
Holiday travel and accommodation	105.7	105.3	108.3	2.8	2.5	4.63	4.76	0.13
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	109.2	108.6	115.1	6.0	5.4	2.60	2.76	0.16
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	101.4	101.1	100.0	-1.1	-1.4	2.03	2.01	-0.02
Education and child care	152.1	161.4	161.5	0.1	6.2	2.82	2.82	—
Education	160.8	170.3	170.3	—	5.9	2.21	2.21	—
Child care	130.0	138.8	139.0	0.1	6.9	0.62	0.62	—
All groups	120.0	121.3	121.9	0.5	1.6	121.3	121.9	0.6

(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

(b) Base: June quarter 1998 = 100.0

SPECIAL SERIES, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Sep Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Sep Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Sep Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Change between</i>
	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1998 and</i>	<i>1997 and</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1998</i>
			<i>Dec Qtr</i>	<i>Dec Qtr</i>				<i>and</i>
			<i>1998</i>	<i>1998</i>				<i>Dec Qtr 1998</i>
All groups	120.0	121.3	121.9	0.5	1.6	121.3	121.9	0.6
Selected components								
Goods component (b)	122.5	123.3	123.7	0.3	1.0	80.56	80.83	0.27
Services component (b)	116.3	118.5	119.2	0.6	2.5	40.78	41.04	0.26
All groups excluding								
Food	119.8	120.6	121.0	0.3	1.0	97.82	98.09	0.27
Clothing	120.9	122.3	122.9	0.5	1.7	114.44	114.97	0.53
Housing	125.2	126.6	127.1	0.4	1.5	97.84	98.20	0.36
Household equipment and operation	121.5	123.0	123.6	0.5	1.7	106.15	106.65	0.50
Transportation	119.3	121.2	121.9	0.6	2.2	104.33	104.90	0.57
Alcohol and tobacco	116.6	117.8	118.4	0.5	1.5	111.44	111.94	0.50
Health and personal care	118.0	119.0	119.6	0.5	1.4	112.84	113.39	0.55
Recreation and education	119.8	121.0	121.5	0.4	1.4	104.54	104.90	0.36
Hospital and medical services	118.3	119.4	119.9	0.4	1.4	117.55	118.06	0.51

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing—Index Numbers(a)(b)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Korea, Republic of</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Taiwan</i>	<i>Canada</i>	<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>
1994-95	116.5	110.5	151.4	150.3	107.8	138.0	114.5	119.1	113.4	118.0	115.2	124.8
1995-96	121.1	111.9	160.8	163.7	107.3	144.4	116.0	122.5	116.0	120.9	116.3	128.3
1996-97	123.9	113.7	168.2	174.1	108.2	151.3	118.1	125.7	118.8	124.3	117.7	131.5
1997-98	125.4	114.9	175.1	232.7	112.4	162.1	119.4	127.2	120.6	125.8	119.2	134.6
1994												
December	115.7	110.4	149.6	147.5	108.2	136.2	114.4	117.2	112.4	117.4	114.6	123.9
1995												
March	116.9	110.6	152.9	152.6	107.4	138.4	114.5	118.8	113.9	118.2	115.3	125.1
June	118.3	111.3	155.5	155.9	107.8	140.7	115.3	121.0	115.1	119.4	115.8	126.6
September	119.8	111.2	158.6	157.9	107.3	141.8	115.4	121.4	115.3	119.7	116.1	127.0
December	120.8	111.6	159.6	161.6	107.3	142.3	115.6	122.0	115.3	120.2	115.7	127.7
1996												
March	121.5	112.0	160.7	167.0	106.9	145.2	116.3	122.3	116.0	121.2	116.4	128.5
June	122.3	112.8	164.1	168.1	107.8	148.1	116.8	124.3	117.3	122.6	116.9	130.0
September	122.7	113.0	165.5	168.5	107.3	149.6	117.3	126.1	117.5	123.1	117.3	130.3
December	123.6	113.8	167.4	173.1	107.5	149.5	117.7	126.3	118.5	124.1	117.1	131.2
1997												
March	124.5	113.9	168.9	177.1	107.2	152.4	118.4	124.7	119.2	124.7	118.0	131.6
June	124.8	114.1	170.8	177.7	110.7	153.8	118.8	125.7	119.8	125.1	118.2	132.8
September	124.4	114.5	173.7	183.3	112.3	155.4	119.9	127.6	120.3	125.3	119.3	133.5
December	125.2	114.9	174.2	195.7	112.5	157.9	120.0	125.7	120.1	125.9	118.9	134.3
1998												
March	125.7	115.0	175.7	254.5	112.0	167.3	119.1	127.1	120.9	125.6	119.1	134.5
June	126.3	115.3	176.9	297.4	112.6	167.7	118.7	128.2	121.2	126.3	119.5	136.1
September	126.6	116.4	176.6	360.6	111.9	167.8	118.3	128.0	121.4	126.4	119.9	136.1
December	127.1	116.5	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	129.9	121.4	n.y.a.	119.2	136.9

(a) Base of each index: 1989-90 = 100

(b) Refer to paragraphs 14-18 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, All Groups Excluding Housing—Percentage Changes(a)

Period	Australia	New Zealand	Hong Kong	Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Singapore	Taiwan	Canada	United States of America	Germany	United Kingdom
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)												
1994-95	2.6	1.0	8.1	9.1	-0.1	5.8	3.2	4.3	1.3	2.8	1.8	2.3
1995-96	3.9	1.3	6.2	8.9	-0.5	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.8
1996-97	2.3	1.6	4.6	6.4	0.8	4.8	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.8	1.2	2.5
1997-98	1.2	1.1	4.1	33.7	3.9	7.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)												
1994												
December	2.2	0.9	7.4	9.3	0.6	6.2	3.7	3.4	-0.2	2.4	2.0	2.1
1995												
March	2.9	1.2	8.6	8.3	-0.3	4.7	2.8	3.8	1.9	2.7	1.5	2.7
June	3.4	1.6	8.2	10.1	-0.3	5.0	2.5	3.8	3.2	3.0	1.5	2.5
September	4.1	1.3	7.5	8.7	-0.4	3.8	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.0	2.9
December	4.4	1.1	6.7	9.6	-0.8	4.5	1.1	4.1	2.6	2.4	1.0	3.1
1996												
March	3.9	1.3	5.1	9.4	-0.5	4.9	1.6	2.9	1.8	2.5	1.0	2.7
June	3.4	1.3	5.5	7.8	0.0	5.3	1.3	2.7	1.9	2.7	0.9	2.7
September	2.4	1.6	4.4	6.7	0.0	5.5	1.6	3.9	1.9	2.8	1.0	2.6
December	2.3	2.0	4.9	7.1	0.2	5.1	1.8	3.5	2.8	3.2	1.2	2.7
1997												
March	2.5	1.7	5.1	6.0	0.3	5.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.9	1.4	2.4
June	2.0	1.2	4.1	5.7	2.7	3.8	1.7	1.1	2.1	2.0	1.1	2.2
September	1.4	1.3	5.0	8.8	4.7	3.9	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.8	1.7	2.5
December	1.3	1.0	4.1	13.1	4.7	5.6	2.0	-0.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	2.4
1998												
March	1.0	1.0	4.0	43.7	4.5	9.8	0.6	1.9	1.4	0.7	0.9	2.2
June	1.2	1.1	3.6	67.4	1.7	9.0	-0.1	2.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	2.5
September	1.8	1.7	1.7	96.7	-0.4	8.0	-1.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.9
December	1.5	1.4	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	3.3	1.1	n.y.a.	0.3	1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1994												
December	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.5	0.5	-0.3	0.6	-1.8	0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.4
1995												
March	1.0	0.2	2.2	3.5	-0.7	1.6	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.6	1.0
June	1.2	0.6	1.7	2.2	0.4	1.7	0.7	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.4	1.2
September	1.3	-0.1	2.0	1.3	-0.5	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
December	0.8	0.4	0.6	2.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4	-0.3	0.6
1996												
March	0.6	0.4	0.7	3.3	-0.4	2.0	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6
June	0.7	0.7	2.1	0.7	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.2
September	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.2	-0.5	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
December	0.7	0.7	1.1	2.7	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.8	-0.2	0.7
1997												
March	0.7	0.1	0.9	2.3	-0.3	1.9	0.6	-1.3	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3
June	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.3	3.3	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.9
September	-0.3	0.4	1.7	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.5
December	0.6	0.3	0.3	6.8	0.2	1.6	0.1	-1.5	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.6
1998												
March	0.4	0.1	0.9	30.0	-0.4	6.0	-0.8	1.1	0.7	-0.2	0.2	0.1
June	0.5	0.3	0.7	16.9	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.2
September	0.2	1.0	-0.2	21.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0
December	0.4	0.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	1.5	0.0	n.y.a.	-0.6	0.6

(a) Refer to paragraphs 14–18 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES(c).....

<i>Period</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding Housing</i>	<i>All groups excluding 'volatile items'(c)</i>	<i>Goods</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Treasury Underlying Rate(c)</i>
1994-95	113.9	116.5	118.1	116.2	114.0	115.7	115.1
1995-96	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	118.8
1996-97	120.3	123.9	125.2	122.5	122.1	122.4	121.2
1997-98	120.3	125.4	127.2	123.5	126.1	124.2	123.0
1994							
December	112.8	115.7	117.5	115.7	113.7	115.2	114.8
1995							
March	114.7	116.9	118.3	116.3	114.2	115.7	115.2
June	116.2	118.3	119.7	117.9	115.5	117.3	116.3
September	117.6	119.8	121.0	119.4	116.8	118.7	117.7
December	118.5	120.8	122.1	120.3	118.4	119.9	118.5
1996							
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	119.0
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	119.9
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	120.5
December	120.3	123.6	124.8	122.5	121.6	122.3	121.0
1997							
March	120.5	124.5	125.6	122.6	122.8	122.7	121.5
June	120.2	124.8	126.1	122.8	123.4	123.0	121.9
September	119.7	124.4	126.1	122.8	124.7	123.3	122.3
December	120.0	125.2	126.9	123.3	125.6	123.9	122.7
1998							
March	120.3	125.7	127.6	123.8	126.7	124.5	123.3
June	121.0	126.3	128.2	124.0	127.4	124.9	123.8
September	121.3	126.6	128.6	124.3	127.7	125.2	124.3
December	121.9	127.1	129.0	124.5	129.0	125.7	124.7

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

ANALYTICAL SERIES, Percentage Changes(a)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES(b).....

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All groups excluding 'volatile items'(b)	Goods	Services	Total	Treasury underlying rate(b)
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)							
1994-95	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1
1995-96	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.2
1996-97	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.6	3.0	1.9	2.0
1997-98	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.8	3.3	1.5	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)							
1994							
December	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.0	2.1
1995							
March	3.9	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.9
June	4.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.5
September	5.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.1
December	5.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.2
1996							
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.3
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4
December	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.1
1997							
March	1.3	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.6	1.8	2.1
June	0.3	2.0	2.1	0.7	3.2	1.4	1.7
September	-0.3	1.4	1.6	0.5	3.6	1.3	1.5
December	-0.2	1.3	1.7	0.7	3.3	1.3	1.4
1998							
March	-0.2	1.0	1.6	1.0	3.2	1.5	1.5
June	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.0	3.2	1.5	1.6
September	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.2	2.4	1.5	1.6
December	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.0	2.7	1.5	1.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)							
1994							
December	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
1995							
March	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
June	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.0
September	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
December	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.0	0.7
1996							
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	0.8
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5
December	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4
1997							
March	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.4
June	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
September	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2	0.3
December	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.3
1998							
March	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.5
June	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4
September	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
December	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.3

(a) Refer to paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of this series.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CPI

1 The Consumer Price Index (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 (i.e. metropolitan 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
- alcohol and tobacco
- health and personal care and recreation and education.

The inclusion in the CPI of a ninth group, financial services, has been announced, and it is expected to be introduced into the CPI during 2000.

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 In *Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat no. 6453.0), the purpose of the CPI is explained, while the current weighting pattern is given in *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6454.0).

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).

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 (i.e. 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); 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 101 expenditure classes (that is, groupings of like items) in the thirteenth 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 thirteen series of price indexes which have been linked to form a continuous series.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 changes in index points and percentage changes between any two periods:

All groups CPI: Weighted average of eight capital cities.

	Index numbers:		
December Quarter 1998	121.9	(see Table 1)	
less September Quarter 1998	121.3	(see Table 1)	
Change in index points	0.6		
Percentage change =	$\frac{0.6}{121.3}$	x 100 =	0.5%

9 Percentage changes are calculated to illustrate three 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 groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes. It also shows the contribution which each makes to the total CPI. For instance, the dairy and related products sub-group contributed 1.78 index points to the total All groups index number of 121.9 for December Quarter 1998. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group, sub-group and expenditure class.

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

SPECIAL SERIES

12 Various series are presented in this publication which are helpful for analytical purposes. These series are compiled by taking subsets of the CPI basket. A complete list of CPI groups, sub-groups and expenditure classes is contained in Tables 6 and 7.

13 Some of the compiled series are self explanatory, such as 'All groups, excluding food'. Other series and their composition are described below:

All Groups, goods component: comprises the Food group (except Restaurant meals), Clothing group (except Clothing services and shoe repair), Household equipment and operation group (except Household services and Postal and communication services), Alcohol and tobacco group, Utilities, House purchase, Motor vehicles, Automotive fuel, Motor Vehicle parts and accessories, Personal care products, Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery, Audio, visual and computing equipment, Audio, visual and computing media and services, Sports and recreational equipment and Toys, games and hobbies.

All Groups, services component: comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, goods component'.

All groups excluding 'volatile items': comprises the All groups CPI excluding: Fresh fruit and vegetables and Automotive fuel.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SPECIAL SERIES *continued*

Private sector goods and services: in addition to the items excluded from the series "All groups excluding 'volatile items'", also excludes: Government-owned dwelling rents, Utilities, Property rates and charges, Postal and communication services, Other motoring charges, Urban transport fares, Health services, Pharmaceuticals, and Education and child care.

Treasury underlying rate: excludes items from the CPI basket whose prices are highly volatile, exhibit marked seasonal patterns or are largely affected by policy decisions—in addition to the items excluded from the series 'Private sector goods and services', the Treasury underlying rate also excludes Meat and seafoods, Clothing group, Alcohol and tobacco group; and Holiday travel and accommodation; but includes Other motoring charges.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

14 In analysing price movements in Australia, an important consideration is Australia's performance relative to other countries. However, due to the many differences in the structure of the housing sector in different countries and in the way that housing is treated in their CPIs, a simple comparison of All groups (or headline) CPIs is often inappropriate. To provide a better basis for international comparisons, the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a resolution which called for countries to 'provide for dissemination at the international level of an index which excludes shelter, in addition to the all-items index'.

15 Table 9 presents indexes for selected countries on a basis consistent with the above resolution and comparable to the Australian series 'All groups excluding housing'. To facilitate comparisons all indexes in this table have, where necessary, been converted to a quarterly basis and re-referenced to a base of 1989–90 = 100.0.

16 The statistics for Germany refer to Western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) before the unification of Germany.

17 From March quarter 1994 the statistics for New Zealand refer to 'all groups excluding housing and credit services'.

18 From 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became part of China. It is now known as: The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is now officially referred to as: Taiwan (Province of China)

19 In producing Table 9, the ABS is grateful for the assistance of the relevant national statistical agencies which have either directly supplied indexes for all items excluding shelter or data to enable their derivation.

ANALYTICAL SERIES

20 Table 11 presents the All groups CPI, All groups excluding housing (the series recommended for international comparisons), and a number of other analytical series, including the Treasury measure of underlying inflation. A description of the Treasury 'underlying' inflation rate was published in the Appendix to the September quarter 1994 issue of this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

21 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

22 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6440.0)
- *Average Retail Prices of Selected Items Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6403.0)
- *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6416.0)
- *Information Paper: Issues to be Considered During the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat. no. 6451.0)
- *Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review* (Cat. no. 6453.0)
- *Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6454.0)

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 Steve Whennan on 02 6252 6251 or to any ABS office.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
- r revised
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

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