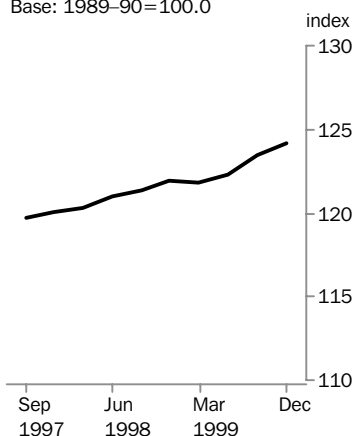


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 28 JAN 2000

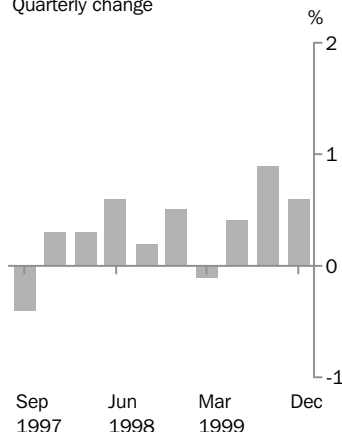
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Steve Whennan on Canberra 02 6252 6251, or Client Services in any ABS Office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Sep Qtr 1999 to Dec Qtr 1999	% change Dec Qtr 1998 to Dec Qtr 1999
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	0.3	2.3
Clothing	-0.9	-1.6
Housing	1.5	4.3
Household equipment and operation	0.3	-0.7
Transportation	-0.4	3.7
Alcohol and tobacco	2.0	3.8
Health and personal care	0.1	-5.2
Recreation and education	0.5	1.9
All groups	0.6	1.8
All groups excluding housing	0.2	1.2

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.6% in the December quarter 1999, down from 0.9% in the September quarter 1999.
- rose 1.8% between the December quarters 1998 and 1999.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were rises in the cost of house purchase (+3.2%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+5.7%), cigarettes and tobacco (+4.1%), take away and fast foods (+1.3%), restaurant meals (+1.3%), vehicle insurance (+5.2%) and privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.6%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in fresh fruit (-6.5%), motor vehicle repair and servicing (-3.5%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-7.7%), motor vehicles (-1.6%), pharmaceuticals (-4.0%) and women's outerwear (-1.6%).
- contributing most to the annual increase were rises in the cost of house purchase (+7.9%), automotive fuel (+12.2%), cigarettes and tobacco (+7.4%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+9.2%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+2.6%), take away and fast foods (4.5%) and domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+4.3%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in the cost of hospital and medical services (-15.0%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-18.3%), fresh vegetables (-14.3%), communication services (-7.6%) and motor vehicles (-1.8%).

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

March 2000

28 April 2000

June 2000

26 July 2000

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The series 'All groups excluding Housing' for Hong Kong, shown in the International Comparisons Tables 9 and 10, has been revised. Following a recommendation from the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong, the series, which was previously based on a CPI relating to about 50% of households in Hong Kong, has been replaced in this issue with a series based on a CPI which relates to about 90% of all households.

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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.

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Dennis Trewin
Acting Australian Statistician

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

HOUSING: +1.5%

The quarterly increase in the Housing group was mainly due to increases in the cost of house purchase (+3.2%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.6%), electricity (+1.2%) and house insurance (+8.8%). There were no significant offsets.

Annually, the housing index rose 4.3%. This was mainly due to increases in house purchase (+7.9%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+2.6%), property rates and charges (+5.2%) and house insurance (+13.5%).

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO: +2.0%

This rise was mainly due to increases in the cost of cigarettes and tobacco (+4.1%) and beer (+1.2%). The increase in the cost of cigarettes and tobacco resulted mainly from the introduction of the per-stick rate of duty on tobacco products (Australian Customs Notice No. 99/67) from 1 November 1999.

On an annual basis, cigarettes and tobacco (+7.4%), beer (+2.0%), spirits (+1.3%) and wine (+0.7%) all increased in price.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +0.5%

The increase in recreation and education costs this quarter was mainly attributable to the seasonal increase in domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+5.7%) and an increase in the cost of sports participation (+1.6%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in the cost of audio, visual and computing equipment (−7.7%) and toys, games and hobbies (−4.3%).

On an annual basis, the cost of recreation and education rose 1.9%. Increases in overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+9.2%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+4.3%), other recreational activities (+4.8%), education (+4.4%) and sports participation (+5.1%) were partially offset by a significant fall in audio, visual and computing equipment (−18.3%).

FOOD: +0.3%

The rise in food prices this quarter was due to increases in the cost of take away and fast foods (+1.3%), restaurant meals (+1.3%), milk and cream (+2.4%), fresh vegetables (+2.0%) and fish and other seafood (+3.3%). The only significant offset was a fall in the cost of fresh fruit (−6.5%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1999, food prices increased by 2.3%. This was largely due to increases in the price of take away and fast foods (+4.5%), restaurant meals (+3.7%), bread (+6.4%), milk and cream (+4.9%) and fresh fruit (+3.8%). The only significant offset was a fall in the cost of fresh vegetables (−14.3%).

TRANSPORTATION: −0.4%

The fall in transportation prices this quarter was due to decreases in the cost of motor vehicle repair and servicing (−3.5%) and motor vehicles (−1.6%). Partially offsetting these falls were increases in the cost of vehicle insurance (+5.2%), automotive fuel (+0.6%) and urban transport fares (+1.7%). Petrol prices rose 7.3%, 5.3% and 1.3% in July, August and September respectively, fell in October (−2.8%) and rose in November (+0.6%) and December (+1.7%).

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1999, the cost of transportation rose 3.7%. This was mainly due to increases in the price of petrol (+12.2%), vehicle insurance (+9.8%) and urban transport fares (+5.2%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in the cost of motor vehicles (−1.8%) and motor vehicle repair and servicing (−1.9%).

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

CLOTHING: -0.9%

The decrease in clothing prices this quarter was mainly attributable to falls in the cost of women's outerwear (-1.6%) and clothing accessories (-3.2%). Most other clothing prices recorded small falls.

Over the 12 months to December quarter 1999, clothing prices decreased 1.6%. This was mainly due to falls in the cost of women's outerwear (-2.8%), men's outerwear (-0.7%), clothing accessories (-2.0%) and women's footwear (-2.4%). There were no significant offsets.

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

	INDEX NUMBER(a)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN	
		<i>Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Dec Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1999</i>
Sydney	124.7	0.5	1.9
Melbourne	123.5	0.7	2.2
Brisbane	124.1	0.1	0.9
Adelaide	125.7	0.5	1.7
Perth	122.7	0.7	2.1
Hobart	124.0	0.6	1.1
Darwin	123.6	0.6	0.7
Canberra	123.7	1.1	1.6
Weighted average of eight capital cities	124.1	0.6	1.8

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

ALL GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
1995-1996	118.7	118.4	119.1	121.2	116.7	119.6	119.5	120.3	118.7
1996-1997	120.4	119.9	121.0	122.3	118.3	121.4	121.6	121.2	120.3
1997-1998	120.5	119.8	121.6	121.6	118.0	121.3	121.3	120.4	120.3
1998-1999	122.5	120.9	122.9	123.2	120.1	122.5	122.4	121.5	121.8
1995									
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
1999									
March	122.6	121.0	122.8	122.7	119.8	122.1	122.1	121.4	121.8
June	123.0	121.5	123.1	123.6	120.8	122.5	122.7	121.5	122.3
September	124.1	122.7	124.0	125.1	121.9	123.3	122.9	122.4	123.4
December	124.7	123.5	124.1	125.7	122.7	124.0	123.6	123.7	124.1

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

ALL GROUPS, Percentage Changes

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)									
1995-1996	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.2
1996-1997	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.3
1997-1998	0.1	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
1998-1999	1.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1995									
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
1999									
March	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.2
June	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.6	0.4	0.7	0.2	1.1
September	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.7	1.9	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.7
December	1.9	2.2	0.9	1.7	2.1	1.1	0.7	1.6	1.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1995									
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
1999									
March	0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1
June	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4
September	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.9
December	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.6

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>
1995-1996	116.0	107.0	105.9	111.7	122.6	156.1	141.8	117.7	118.7
1996-1997	119.7	107.3	101.6	113.5	124.3	161.4	149.1	119.7	120.3
1997-1998	121.8	107.4	94.5	113.8	123.5	164.6	153.6	123.6	120.3
1998-1999	126.5	106.7	95.8	113.7	122.1	168.7	153.7	126.2	121.8
1995									
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
1999									
March	127.5	106.3	96.2	113.0	121.2	169.2	148.2	127.3	121.8
June	127.8	106.7	96.6	113.6	122.9	170.3	149.0	127.0	122.3
September	128.5	106.2	98.1	113.0	126.9	170.8	150.1	127.6	123.4
December	128.9	105.2	99.6	113.3	126.4	174.2	150.2	128.2	124.1

(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)									
1995-1996	3.5	0.3	5.9	2.3	4.3	10.7	4.6	2.7	4.2
1996-1997	3.2	0.3	-4.1	1.6	1.4	3.4	5.1	1.7	1.3
1997-1998	1.8	0.1	-7.0	0.3	-0.6	2.0	3.0	3.3	0.0
1998-1999	3.9	-0.7	1.4	-0.1	-1.1	2.5	0.1	2.1	1.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)									
1995									
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
1999									
March	4.4	-1.0	3.0	-0.7	-1.4	2.3	-4.3	1.9	1.2
June	3.8	-0.6	2.2	-0.4	0.1	2.2	-5.6	1.5	1.1
September	3.0	-0.7	3.5	-0.8	3.8	2.0	-5.7	2.3	1.7
December	2.3	-1.6	4.3	-0.7	3.7	3.8	-5.2	1.9	1.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1995									
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
1999									
March	1.2	-0.6	0.7	-1.0	-0.6	0.8	-6.4	1.2	-0.1
June	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.5	-0.2	0.4
September	0.5	-0.5	1.6	-0.5	3.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.9
December	0.3	-0.9	1.5	0.3	-0.4	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.6

CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD									
1998									
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
1999									
March	129.1	125.8	126.4	128.0	128.4	125.5	125.6	129.0	127.5
June	128.7	126.7	126.3	128.8	129.6	126.8	126.7	128.3	127.8
September	129.4	127.8	127.0	129.7	129.4	126.3	124.3	127.7	128.5
December	129.6	128.6	126.4	130.4	129.3	127.5	125.9	130.9	128.9
CLOTHING									
1998									
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
1999									
March	106.9	107.5	104.6	103.7	104.6	104.7	103.7	107.2	106.3
June	106.7	107.8	105.2	105.7	105.3	104.6	102.8	107.2	106.7
September	106.1	107.5	104.7	104.8	105.1	104.5	103.3	107.2	106.2
December	105.2	107.1	103.2	102.5	103.6	103.9	103.0	106.2	105.2
HOUSING									
1998									
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
1999									
March	103.8	87.3	101.6	92.2	90.6	95.8	116.0	94.3	96.2
June	104.3	87.5	102.0	92.8	91.3	95.9	116.9	94.7	96.6
September	105.8	88.8	102.8	95.0	93.1	96.9	117.4	96.0	98.1
December	107.3	90.4	103.9	96.9	95.1	97.4	117.8	97.2	99.6
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
1998									
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
1999									
March	110.4	114.7	116.0	112.3	112.7	119.5	105.3	115.4	113.0
June	111.2	115.1	115.8	113.2	113.3	119.4	105.9	116.3	113.6
September	110.7	114.3	115.2	112.5	113.0	119.3	105.7	115.7	113.0
December	111.2	114.4	114.9	112.7	113.5	119.1	106.7	116.9	113.3
TRANSPORTATION									
1998									
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
1999									
March	122.5	119.9	120.5	120.9	121.1	118.4	119.1	126.5	121.2
June	124.2	121.6	121.8	122.4	123.2	120.4	119.3	128.2	122.9
September	127.9	125.9	125.5	127.8	127.4	123.1	122.6	131.6	126.9
December	127.3	125.2	124.8	127.4	127.0	123.8	123.2	131.4	126.4

CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a) *continued*

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO									
1998									
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
1999									
March	173.9	167.6	169.5	171.8	159.4	161.5	162.1	164.2	169.2
June	175.0	169.1	169.8	173.3	161.5	160.0	163.0	163.2	170.3
September	175.4	169.4	170.6	174.4	161.8	158.1	163.2	162.9	170.8
December	178.5	173.7	173.4	177.8	164.6	163.3	166.6	165.1	174.2
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE									
1998									
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
1999									
March	141.1	155.7	144.2	156.6	145.0	154.4	140.6	145.2	148.2
June	141.8	156.6	144.6	157.5	145.6	154.9	141.8	146.9	149.0
September	143.5	157.0	145.3	157.6	147.5	160.7	142.9	148.5	150.1
December	143.8	157.0	145.1	157.1	147.4	160.0	143.3	148.8	150.2
RECREATION AND EDUCATION									
1998									
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
1999									
March	125.4	131.0	128.8	128.6	122.0	125.2	112.7	123.2	127.3
June	125.4	129.8	128.7	128.9	122.4	124.9	112.6	121.8	127.0
September	126.0	130.7	128.9	129.8	122.3	125.6	113.1	123.0	127.6
December	127.0	131.0	129.3	129.8	123.7	125.6	111.7	124.2	128.2

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

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES—Dec Qtr 1999(a)

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.04	0.15	-0.09	0.14	-0.03	0.21	0.31	0.56	0.08
Dairy and related products	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	—	—	0.02	0.03
Milk and cream	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03
Cheese	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—
Other dairy products	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Cereal products	-0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.08	-0.01	0.07	-0.02	0.04	0.01
Bread	-0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.04	—	—	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	-0.01	0.01	-0.03	0.02	-0.03	0.05	-0.01	0.03	—
Breakfast cereals	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01
Other cereal products	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat and seafoods	0.06	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.07	0.05
Beef and veal	—	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01
Lamb and mutton	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01
Pork	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Poultry	—	-0.02	0.02	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01
Bacon and ham	0.02	0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01
Processed meat	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Fish and other seafood	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.03	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Fresh fruit and vegetables	-0.07	-0.06	-0.27	0.02	-0.10	—	0.09	0.16	-0.07
Fresh fruit	-0.09	-0.09	-0.24	-0.10	-0.09	-0.07	0.02	0.10	-0.11
Fresh vegetables	0.03	0.04	-0.03	0.12	-0.01	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.03
Processed fruit and vegetables	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	—	0.02	-0.01
Processed fruit	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Processed vegetables	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.03	—	-0.01	—
Fruit and vegetable juices	—	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	—	0.02	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	—	0.02	-0.03	-0.03	—	0.03	0.02	0.05	—
Soft drinks and cordials	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.05	-0.01
Meals out and take away foods	0.06	0.12	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.12	0.08
Restaurant meals	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	—	0.04	0.04	0.04
Take away and fast foods	0.01	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.05
Other food	-0.03	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.04	0.07	0.05	0.06	-0.01
Eggs	—	—	-0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	-0.01
Food additives and condiments	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	—	-0.01
Fats and oils	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Food n.e.c.	—	0.04	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01
Clothing	-0.06	-0.03	-0.10	-0.15	-0.09	-0.04	-0.01	-0.07	-0.07
Men's clothing	—	—	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.04	0.01	—	—
Men's outerwear	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Men's shirts	—	—	—	—	0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—
Women's clothing	-0.04	-0.02	-0.04	-0.09	-0.09	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.04
Women's outerwear	-0.03	-0.02	-0.05	-0.08	-0.09	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.04
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	—	—	—	-0.02	0.01	—	—	—	—
Children's and infants' clothing	—	—	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Boys' clothing	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	0.02	0.01	—	—
Girls' clothing	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Footwear	-0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Men's footwear	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Women's footwear	—	0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Children's footwear	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01
Clothing accessories	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	—	—	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
Housing	0.35	0.47	0.25	0.42	0.49	0.12	0.11	0.29	0.38
Rents	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.01	-0.06	0.06	0.05
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.08	0.05	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	0.01	—	0.04	—	0.02	0.02	—	—
Utilities	0.01	0.07	—	0.04	0.02	-0.01	—	—	0.03
Electricity	—	0.09	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.03
Gas	—	-0.01	—	0.04	—	0.01	0.01	—	—
Other household fuel	—	—	—	—	—	-0.04	—	-0.02	—
Water and sewerage	0.01	—	—	—	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.01
Other housing	0.26	0.36	0.23	0.33	0.45	0.12	0.17	0.23	0.31
House purchase	0.22	0.34	0.19	0.26	0.43	0.08	0.14	0.19	0.28
Property rates and charges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House repairs and maintenance	—	—	0.01	0.03	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
House insurance	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02
Household Equipment and Operation	0.07	0.01	-0.03	0.02	0.08	-0.01	0.13	0.16	0.04
Furniture and floor coverings	0.04	-0.01	0.04	0.09	0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.04	0.02
Furniture	0.05	-0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	-0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02
Floor coverings	—	0.02	—	0.04	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Household textiles	0.01	—	-0.03	—	0.02	—	—	—	—
Bedding	0.01	—	-0.03	-0.01	0.02	—	—	—	-0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—
Household appliances, utensils and tools	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.07	-0.02	-0.01	—	0.02	-0.02
Appliances	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.02
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	-0.03	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Household utensils	0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	0.01	0.01
Tools	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Household supplies	0.01	0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.08	0.02
Household cleaning agents	—	-0.02	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	0.01	0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.05	0.01
Other household supplies	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01
Household services	0.02	0.03	0.02	—	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.03
Pet services including veterinary	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House contents insurance	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
Repairs to household durables	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic services	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.03	—	0.07	—	0.01
Postal and communication services	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01
Postal services	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	0.01
Communication services	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02
Transportation	-0.08	-0.10	-0.12	-0.04	-0.05	0.09	0.07	-0.02	-0.08
Private motoring	-0.13	-0.10	-0.13	-0.05	-0.04	0.08	0.03	-0.02	-0.09
Motor vehicles	-0.10	-0.08	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04	-0.01	-0.10	-0.11	-0.07
Automotive fuel	0.07	—	-0.02	0.01	0.03	0.13	0.20	0.16	0.03
Vehicle insurance	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.04
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	-0.12	-0.13	-0.10	-0.09	-0.10	-0.07	-0.06	-0.13	-0.11
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	0.01	—	—	0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.05	-0.01	—
Other motoring charges	0.01	0.04	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01
Urban transport fares	0.06	—	0.02	—	-0.01	—	0.04	—	0.02
Alcohol and tobacco	0.18	0.24	0.18	0.22	0.19	0.35	0.29	0.11	0.20
Alcoholic drinks	0.02	0.08	—	0.02	0.03	0.13	0.02	—	0.04
Beer	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.17	0.03	-0.01	0.03
Wine	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.02	-0.01	—	—
Spirits	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—	0.01	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.27	0.11	0.16

Group, sub-group and expenditure class									Weighted average of eight capital cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	
Health and personal care	0.01	—	−0.01	−0.03	—	−0.04	0.02	0.02	—
Health services	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04
Hospital and medical services	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02
Optical services	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.02	—
Dental services	0.02	0.01	0.03	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.02
Personal care products	−0.02	−0.05	−0.07	−0.05	−0.05	−0.05	−0.04	−0.03	−0.04
Pharmaceuticals	−0.04	−0.06	−0.06	−0.05	−0.05	−0.06	−0.03	−0.04	−0.05
Toiletries and personal products	0.02	—	−0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	0.01
Hairdressing and personal care services	—	—	0.02	—	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Recreation and education	0.12	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.17	0.01	−0.20	0.19	0.09
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	−0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.02	—	0.04	0.01
Books	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	0.02	—
Newspapers and magazines	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.02	—
Stationery	—	—	—	—	0.04	—	—	—	0.01
Recreation	−0.07	−0.10	−0.07	−0.16	−0.10	−0.13	−0.12	−0.14	−0.09
Audio, visual and computing equipment	−0.10	−0.11	−0.09	−0.12	−0.10	−0.13	−0.13	−0.13	−0.10
Audio, visual and computing media and services	−0.01	—	0.01	—	—	0.02	—	−0.04	—
Sports and recreational equipment	−0.01	−0.02	−0.01	—	—	−0.01	−0.01	—	−0.01
Toys, games and hobbies	−0.02	−0.02	−0.01	−0.06	−0.02	−0.01	−0.03	−0.01	−0.02
Repairs to recreational goods	0.01	—	—	−0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Sports participation	0.03	—	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	—	0.02
Other recreational activities	0.03	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	0.04	0.03	0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation	0.20	0.12	0.10	0.15	0.22	0.11	−0.08	0.28	0.16
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	0.23	0.06	0.11	0.18	0.18	0.15	−0.05	0.28	0.16
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	−0.02	0.05	−0.01	−0.02	0.05	−0.03	−0.02	0.01	—
Education and child care	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child care	—	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
All groups	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.7

(a) All groups index points.

GROUP, SUB-GROUP & EXPENDITURE CLASS, Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999 and	Dec Qtr 1998 and	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Change between Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999
				Dec Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999			
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Food	126.0	128.5	128.9	0.3	2.3	24.23	24.31	0.08
Dairy and related products	134.7	139.1	141.4	1.7	5.0	1.84	1.87	0.03
Milk and cream	150.2	153.9	157.6	2.4	4.9	1.11	1.14	0.03
Cheese	112.9	116.3	115.8	-0.4	2.6	0.42	0.42	—
Other dairy products	125.8	133.6	135.9	1.7	8.0	0.31	0.32	0.01
Cereal products	138.0	142.6	143.0	0.3	3.6	3.07	3.08	0.01
Bread	155.6	164.3	165.5	0.7	6.4	1.33	1.34	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	127.4	130.7	129.9	-0.6	2.0	1.17	1.17	—
Breakfast cereals	125.1	121.0	122.7	1.4	-1.9	0.30	0.31	0.01
Other cereal products	120.9	125.0	125.5	0.4	3.8	0.27	0.27	—
Meat and seafoods	109.5	112.8	114.2	1.2	4.3	3.52	3.57	0.05
Beef and veal	103.5	108.0	108.7	0.6	5.0	0.79	0.80	0.01
Lamb and mutton	120.7	126.6	125.1	-1.2	3.6	0.40	0.39	-0.01
Pork	109.7	116.0	123.1	6.1	12.2	0.21	0.22	0.01
Poultry	94.5	95.9	95.6	-0.3	1.2	0.59	0.58	-0.01
Bacon and ham	112.2	111.8	116.2	3.9	3.6	0.35	0.36	0.01
Processed meat	115.4	119.5	119.9	0.3	3.9	0.65	0.66	0.01
Fish and other seafood	110.9	112.6	116.3	3.3	4.9	0.54	0.56	0.02
Fresh fruit and vegetables	121.8	117.6	114.6	-2.6	-5.9	3.05	2.98	-0.07
Fresh fruit	130.7	145.2	135.7	-6.5	3.8	1.63	1.52	-0.11
Fresh vegetables	116.8	98.1	100.1	2.0	-14.3	1.43	1.46	0.03
Processed fruit and vegetables	119.3	121.9	121.3	-0.5	1.7	0.95	0.94	-0.01
Processed fruit	126.5	132.9	132.8	-0.1	5.0	0.19	0.19	—
Processed vegetables	105.5	112.3	110.2	-1.9	4.5	0.32	0.32	—
Fruit and vegetable juices	127.2	124.7	125.2	0.4	-1.6	0.44	0.44	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	140.0	142.7	142.7	—	1.9	3.04	3.04	—
Soft drinks and cordials	132.9	134.0	133.8	-0.1	0.7	1.24	1.24	—
Ice cream and ice confectionery	151.5	156.0	158.1	1.3	4.4	0.41	0.41	—
Sweet and savoury snacks	144.4	148.1	147.8	-0.2	2.4	1.40	1.39	-0.01
Meals out and take away foods	122.9	126.3	128.0	1.3	4.1	6.56	6.64	0.08
Restaurant meals	124.9	127.8	129.5	1.3	3.7	2.99	3.03	0.04
Take away and fast foods	122.7	126.6	128.2	1.3	4.5	3.56	3.61	0.05
Other food	127.8	131.4	130.6	-0.6	2.2	2.20	2.19	-0.01
Eggs	142.8	154.0	152.3	-1.1	6.7	0.20	0.20	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	139.6	143.8	144.0	0.1	3.2	0.21	0.21	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	137.4	139.1	135.4	-2.7	-1.5	0.46	0.45	-0.01
Food additives and condiments	121.9	125.3	122.7	-2.1	0.7	0.39	0.38	-0.01
Fats and oils	117.6	119.4	118.8	-0.5	1.0	0.32	0.32	—
Food n.e.c.	123.3	127.1	129.4	1.8	4.9	0.62	0.63	0.01
Clothing	106.9	106.2	105.2	-0.9	-1.6	6.85	6.78	-0.07
Men's clothing	108.8	108.2	107.9	-0.3	-0.8	1.40	1.40	—
Men's outerwear	108.1	106.7	107.3	0.6	-0.7	0.76	0.76	—
Men's shirts	108.2	108.0	108.2	0.2	—	0.40	0.40	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	112.0	113.4	109.5	-3.4	-2.2	0.24	0.24	—
Women's clothing	108.8	107.8	106.2	-1.5	-2.4	2.82	2.78	-0.04
Women's outerwear	104.7	103.5	101.8	-1.6	-2.8	2.33	2.29	-0.04
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	124.5	124.5	123.7	-0.6	-0.6	0.49	0.49	—
Children's and infant's clothing	110.7	110.4	109.5	-0.8	-1.1	0.63	0.63	—
Boys' clothing	113.1	112.7	112.0	-0.6	-1.0	0.37	0.37	—
Girls' clothing	107.7	107.6	106.3	-1.2	-1.3	0.26	0.26	—
Footwear	97.0	95.4	95.3	-0.1	-1.8	1.04	1.04	—
Men's footwear	92.9	91.9	91.7	-0.2	-1.3	0.25	0.25	—
Women's footwear	101.1	98.7	98.7	—	-2.4	0.60	0.60	—
Children's footwear	96.8	96.6	96.1	-0.5	-0.7	0.19	0.19	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (b)	100.1	100.7	99.3	-1.4	-0.8	0.95	0.94	-0.01
Clothing accessories (b)	99.3	100.5	97.3	-3.2	-2.0	0.48	0.47	-0.01
Fabrics and knitting wool	99.9	99.3	98.8	-0.5	-1.1	0.20	0.20	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	135.8	136.4	138.0	1.2	1.6	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 1998	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Change between Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999
Housing	95.5	98.1	99.6	1.5	4.3	24.30	24.68	0.38
Rents	121.5	123.9	124.7	0.6	2.6	7.24	7.29	0.05
Privately-owned dwelling rents	121.0	123.4	124.2	0.6	2.6	6.41	6.45	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	126.1	128.2	129.0	0.6	2.3	0.84	0.84	—
Utilities	121.3	121.7	122.5	0.7	1.0	4.28	4.31	0.03
Electricity	116.0	115.9	117.3	1.2	1.1	2.08	2.11	0.03
Gas	131.2	127.0	127.0	—	-3.2	0.80	0.80	—
Other household fuel	114.9	119.5	118.5	-0.8	3.1	0.17	0.17	—
Water and sewerage (b)	102.6	105.8	106.2	0.4	3.5	1.22	1.23	0.01
Other housing	85.7	89.1	91.2	2.4	6.4	12.77	13.08	0.31
House purchase (b)	101.5	106.1	109.5	3.2	7.9	8.83	9.11	0.28
Property rates and charges (b)	103.4	108.8	108.8	—	5.2	1.56	1.56	—
House repairs and maintenance	122.4	123.2	123.6	0.3	1.0	2.11	2.12	0.01
House insurance	162.5	169.5	184.5	8.8	13.5	0.28	0.30	0.02
Household equipment and operation	114.1	113.0	113.3	0.3	-0.7	15.07	15.11	0.04
Furniture and floor coverings	120.5	119.9	120.6	0.6	0.1	4.35	4.37	0.02
Furniture	123.1	122.5	123.2	0.6	0.1	3.49	3.51	0.02
Floor coverings	113.3	112.2	113.3	1.0	—	0.86	0.86	—
Household textiles	121.4	120.8	120.8	—	-0.5	0.60	0.60	—
Bedding	121.7	120.2	119.6	-0.5	-1.7	0.32	0.31	-0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	122.3	122.8	123.4	0.5	0.9	0.28	0.28	—
Household appliances, utensils and tools	106.8	107.5	106.9	-0.6	0.1	3.36	3.34	-0.02
Appliances	106.5	106.7	105.9	-0.7	-0.6	1.91	1.89	-0.02
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	100.9	101.9	99.3	-2.6	-1.6	0.31	0.30	-0.01
Household utensils	106.6	107.5	108.2	0.7	1.5	0.46	0.47	0.01
Tools	110.9	113.1	112.9	-0.2	1.8	0.68	0.67	-0.01
Household supplies	124.0	123.0	123.6	0.5	-0.3	2.97	2.99	0.02
Household cleaning agents	120.1	122.2	121.4	-0.7	1.1	0.74	0.74	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	132.4	125.4	127.1	1.4	-4.0	0.83	0.84	0.01
Other household supplies	122.5	123.4	124.3	0.7	1.5	1.40	1.41	0.01
Household services	152.0	155.4	158.0	1.7	3.9	1.54	1.57	0.03
Pet services including veterinary	147.9	150.2	151.4	0.8	2.4	0.27	0.27	—
House contents insurance	161.0	160.1	171.6	7.2	6.6	0.26	0.28	0.02
Repairs to household durables	140.2	146.9	146.0	-0.6	4.1	0.38	0.38	—
Domestic services (b)	101.5	103.8	104.9	1.1	3.3	0.63	0.64	0.01
Postal and communication services	104.1	97.7	97.3	-0.4	-6.5	2.26	2.25	-0.01
Postal services	111.5	111.5	115.9	3.9	3.9	0.22	0.23	0.01
Communication services	103.2	96.2	95.4	-0.8	-7.6	2.04	2.02	-0.02
Transportation	121.9	126.9	126.4	-0.4	3.7	17.66	17.58	-0.08
Private motoring	119.8	124.8	124.1	-0.6	3.6	16.51	16.42	-0.09
Motor vehicles	106.0	105.8	104.1	-1.6	-1.8	4.55	4.48	-0.07
Automotive fuel	113.7	126.8	127.6	0.6	12.2	5.25	5.28	0.03
Vehicle insurance	154.5	161.3	169.7	5.2	9.8	0.75	0.79	0.04
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	121.7	123.7	119.4	-3.5	-1.9	3.25	3.14	-0.11
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	107.0	107.9	107.9	—	0.8	1.38	1.38	—
Other motoring charges	157.6	161.1	162.9	1.1	3.4	1.33	1.34	0.01
Urban transport fares	155.7	161.0	163.8	1.7	5.2	1.15	1.17	0.02
Alcohol and tobacco	167.9	170.8	174.2	2.0	3.8	10.10	10.30	0.20
Alcoholic drinks	134.5	135.6	136.5	0.7	1.5	6.21	6.25	0.04
Beer	135.5	136.6	138.2	1.2	2.0	3.29	3.32	0.03
Wine	129.8	130.5	130.7	0.2	0.7	1.68	1.68	—
Spirits	136.2	137.6	138.0	0.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	247.2	255.2	265.6	4.1	7.4	3.89	4.05	0.16

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Dec Qtr 1998	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Dec Qtr 1999	Change between Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999
Health and personal care	158.4	150.1	150.2	0.1	-5.2	8.03	8.03	—
Health services	183.4	161.1	162.7	1.0	-11.3	4.13	4.17	0.04
Hospital and medical services	197.0	166.2	167.5	0.8	-15.0	3.21	3.23	0.02
Optical services	124.3	125.4	125.8	0.3	1.2	0.22	0.22	—
Dental services	150.0	154.4	157.6	2.1	5.1	0.70	0.72	0.02
Personal care products	126.4	131.0	129.0	-1.5	2.1	2.93	2.89	-0.04
Pharmaceuticals	124.8	131.9	126.6	-4.0	1.4	1.28	1.23	-0.05
Toiletries and personal products	128.5	131.1	131.6	0.4	2.4	1.65	1.66	0.01
Hairdressing and personal care services	133.1	137.1	137.7	0.4	3.5	0.97	0.97	—
Recreation and education	125.8	127.6	128.2	0.5	1.9	17.20	17.29	0.09
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	151.4	155.3	156.1	0.5	3.1	2.44	2.45	0.01
Books (b)	102.4	103.5	103.9	0.4	1.5	0.75	0.75	—
Newspapers and magazines (b)	102.8	107.3	107.7	0.4	4.8	0.99	0.99	—
Stationery	126.8	129.1	130.1	0.8	2.6	0.70	0.71	0.01
Recreation	117.5	116.1	114.5	-1.4	-2.6	6.91	6.82	-0.09
Audio, visual and computing equipment	70.5	62.4	57.6	-7.7	-18.3	1.35	1.25	-0.10
Audio, visual and computing media and services	109.2	105.8	105.7	-0.1	-3.2	0.87	0.87	—
Sports and recreational equipment (b)	101.7	100.5	99.3	-1.2	-2.4	0.71	0.70	-0.01
Toys, games and hobbies (b)	97.8	99.1	94.8	-4.3	-3.1	0.42	0.40	-0.02
Repairs to recreational goods	126.7	127.0	126.3	-0.6	-0.3	0.16	0.16	—
Sports participation (b)	100.5	103.9	105.6	1.6	5.1	1.06	1.08	0.02
Other recreational activities (b)	101.2	105.2	106.1	0.9	4.8	2.34	2.35	0.01
Holiday travel and accommodation	108.3	111.5	115.2	3.3	6.4	4.91	5.07	0.16
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	115.1	113.6	120.1	5.7	4.3	2.72	2.88	0.16
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	100.0	108.8	109.2	0.4	9.2	2.19	2.19	—
Education and child care	161.5	168.3	168.6	0.2	4.4	2.94	2.95	0.01
Education	170.3	177.8	177.8	—	4.4	2.30	2.30	—
Child care	139.0	144.0	145.1	0.8	4.4	0.64	0.64	—
All groups	121.9	123.4	124.1	0.6	1.8	123.4	124.1	0.7

(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 1998</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Dec Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Dec Qtr 1998 and Dec Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Dec Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Change between Sep Qtr 1999 and Dec Qtr 1999</i>
All groups	121.9	123.4	124.1	0.6	1.8	123.4	124.1	0.7
Selected components								
Goods component (b)	123.7	125.8	126.3	0.4	2.1	82.21	82.50	0.29
Services component (b)	119.2	119.8	120.8	0.8	1.3	41.22	41.57	0.35
Tradables component(b)(c)	100.2	101.7	101.5	-0.2	1.3	58.95	58.81	-0.14
Non-tradables component(b)(c)	101.2	102.3	103.5	1.2	2.3	64.49	65.27	0.78
All groups excluding								
Food	121.0	122.3	123.0	0.6	1.7	99.20	99.77	0.57
Clothing	122.9	124.6	125.4	0.6	2.0	116.59	117.30	0.71
Housing	127.1	128.3	128.6	0.2	1.2	99.14	99.39	0.25
Household equipment and operation	123.6	125.6	126.3	0.6	2.2	108.37	108.97	0.60
Transportation	121.9	122.9	123.7	0.7	1.5	105.78	106.50	0.72
Alcohol and tobacco	118.4	119.8	120.3	0.4	1.6	113.34	113.78	0.44
Health and personal care	119.6	121.7	122.4	0.6	2.3	115.41	116.05	0.64
Recreation and education	121.5	123.0	123.6	0.5	1.7	106.23	106.79	0.56
Hospital and medical services	119.9	122.1	122.8	0.6	2.4	120.23	120.84	0.61

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes for
a description of this series.

(c) Base: June quarter 1998 = 100.0

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

Period	Australia	New Zealand	Hong Kong(c)	Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Singapore	Taiwan	Canada	United States of America	Germany	United Kingdom
1995-1996	121.1	111.9	159.5	163.7	107.3	144.4	116.0	122.5	116.0	120.9	117.0	128.3
1996-1997	123.9	113.7	166.8	174.1	108.2	151.3	118.1	125.7	118.8	124.3	118.2	131.5
1997-1998	125.4	114.9	173.0	232.7	112.4	162.1	119.4	127.2	120.6	125.8	120.3	134.6
1998-1999	126.9	116.9	171.2	368.3	112.4	169.0	118.5	128.2	122.0	127.2	120.7	137.2
1995												
December	120.8	111.6	158.6	161.6	107.3	142.3	115.6	122.0	115.3	120.2	116.3	127.7
1996												
March	121.5	112.0	159.3	167.0	106.9	145.2	116.3	122.3	116.0	121.2	117.2	128.5
June	122.3	112.8	162.8	168.1	107.8	148.1	116.8	124.3	117.3	122.6	117.6	130.0
September	122.7	113.0	163.7	168.5	107.3	149.6	117.3	126.1	117.5	123.1	117.9	130.3
December	123.6	113.8	166.6	173.1	107.5	149.5	117.7	126.3	118.5	124.1	117.5	131.2
1997												
March	124.5	113.9	167.2	177.1	107.2	152.4	118.4	124.7	119.2	124.7	118.7	131.6
June	124.8	114.1	169.8	177.7	110.7	153.8	118.8	125.7	119.8	125.1	118.8	132.8
September	124.4	114.5	171.2	183.3	112.3	155.4	119.9	127.6	120.3	125.3	120.3	133.5
December	125.2	114.9	172.8	195.7	112.5	157.9	120.0	125.7	120.1	125.9	119.9	134.3
1998												
March	125.7	115.0	172.9	254.5	112.0	167.3	119.1	127.1	120.9	125.6	120.2	134.5
June	126.3	115.3	175.1	297.4	112.6	167.7	118.7	128.2	121.2	126.3	120.7	136.1
September	126.6	116.4	174.3	360.6	111.9	167.8	118.3	128.0	121.4	126.4	121.0	136.1
December	127.1	116.5	172.8	363.2	113.2	168.9	117.8	129.9	121.4	126.8	120.5	136.9
1999												
March	126.7	117.1	169.2	377.9	111.9	169.2	118.4	127.5	121.7	127.1	120.4	137.1
June	127.3	117.6	168.5	371.3	112.4	169.9	119.3	127.5	123.4	128.4	120.9	138.6
September	128.3	117.8	166.8	360.3	111.9	170.1	120.2	128.4	124.4	129.2	121.3	138.4
December	128.6	118.2	166.5	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	129.6	124.5	130.2	121.2	n.y.a.

(a) Base of each index: 1989–1990 = 100.0

(b) Refer to paragraphs 14–16 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Series revised, refer to *Changes in this Issue* on Page 2 for further information.

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

Period	Australia	New Zealand	Hong Kong(b)	Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Singapore	Taiwan	Canada	United States of America	Germany	United Kingdom
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)												
1995-1996	3.9	1.3	5.8	8.9	-0.5	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.8
1996-1997	2.3	1.6	4.6	6.4	0.8	4.8	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.8	1.0	2.5
1997-1998	1.2	1.1	3.7	33.7	3.9	7.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.4
1998-1999	1.2	1.7	-1.0	58.3	0.0	4.3	-0.8	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.3	1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)												
1995												
December	4.4	1.1	6.2	9.6	-0.8	4.5	1.1	4.1	2.6	2.4	1.0	3.1
1996												
March	3.9	1.3	4.9	9.4	-0.5	4.9	1.6	2.9	1.8	2.5	1.0	2.7
June	3.4	1.3	5.0	7.8	0.0	5.3	1.3	2.7	1.9	2.7	1.0	2.7
September	2.4	1.6	4.2	6.7	0.0	5.5	1.6	3.9	1.9	2.8	1.0	2.6
December	2.3	2.0	5.0	7.1	0.2	5.1	1.8	3.5	2.8	3.2	1.0	2.7
1997												
March	2.5	1.7	5.0	6.0	0.3	5.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.9	1.3	2.4
June	2.0	1.2	4.3	5.7	2.7	3.8	1.7	1.1	2.1	2.0	1.0	2.2
September	1.4	1.3	4.6	8.8	4.7	3.9	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.5
December	1.3	1.0	3.7	13.1	4.7	5.6	2.0	-0.5	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.4
1998												
March	1.0	1.0	3.4	43.7	4.5	9.8	0.6	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.3	2.2
June	1.2	1.1	3.1	67.4	1.7	9.0	-0.1	2.0	1.2	1.0	1.6	2.5
September	1.8	1.7	1.8	96.7	-0.4	8.0	-1.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.9
December	1.5	1.4	0.0	85.6	0.6	7.0	-1.8	3.3	1.1	0.7	0.5	1.9
1999												
March	0.8	1.8	-2.1	48.5	-0.1	1.1	-0.6	0.3	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.9
June	0.8	2.0	-3.8	24.8	-0.2	1.3	0.5	-0.5	1.8	1.7	0.2	1.8
September	1.3	1.2	-4.3	-0.1	0.0	1.4	1.6	0.3	2.5	2.2	0.2	1.7
December	1.2	1.5	-3.6	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-0.2	2.6	2.7	0.6	n.y.a.
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1995												
December	0.8	0.4	1.0	2.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4	-0.3	0.6
1996												
March	0.6	0.4	0.4	3.3	-0.4	2.0	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6
June	0.7	0.7	2.2	0.7	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.3	1.2
September	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	-0.5	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
December	0.7	0.7	1.8	2.7	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.8	-0.3	0.7
1997												
March	0.7	0.1	0.4	2.3	-0.3	1.9	0.6	-1.3	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3
June	0.2	0.2	1.6	0.3	3.3	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9
September	-0.3	0.4	0.8	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.5
December	0.6	0.3	0.9	6.8	0.2	1.6	0.1	-1.5	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.6
1998												
March	0.4	0.1	0.1	30.0	-0.4	6.0	-0.8	1.1	0.7	-0.2	0.3	0.1
June	0.5	0.3	1.3	16.9	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.2
September	0.2	1.0	-0.5	21.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
December	0.4	0.1	-0.9	0.7	1.2	0.7	-0.4	1.5	0.0	0.3	-0.4	0.6
1999												
March	-0.3	0.5	-2.1	4.0	-1.1	0.2	0.5	-1.8	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1
June	0.5	0.4	-0.4	-1.7	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	1.0	0.4	1.1
September	0.8	0.2	-1.0	-3.0	-0.4	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	-0.1
December	0.2	0.3	-0.2	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.9	0.1	0.8	-0.1	n.y.a.

(a) Refer to paragraphs 14–16 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Series revised, refer to *Changes in this Issue* on Page 2 for further information.

ANALYTICAL SERIES, Index Numbers(a)(b)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding Housing</i>	<i>All Groups excluding 'volatile items'</i>	<i>Goods</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Tradables(c)</i>	<i>Non-tradables(c)</i>
Index Numbers								
1995-1996	118.7	121.1	122.4	120.6	118.6	120.1	..	..
1996-1997	120.3	123.9	125.2	122.5	122.1	122.4	..	..
1997-1998	120.3	125.4	127.2	123.5	126.1	124.2	..	..
1998-1999	121.8	126.9	129.0	124.9	129.4	126.1	100.4	101.0
Index Numbers								
1995								
December	118.5	120.8	122.1	120.3	118.4	119.9	..	..
1996								
March	119.0	121.5	122.8	120.8	119.7	120.5	..	..
June	119.8	122.3	123.5	121.9	119.6	121.3	..	..
September	120.1	122.7	124.1	122.2	120.4	121.7	..	..
December	120.3	123.6	124.8	122.5	121.6	122.3	..	..
1997								
March	120.5	124.5	125.6	122.6	122.8	122.7	..	..
June	120.2	124.8	126.1	122.8	123.4	123.0	..	..
September	119.7	124.4	126.1	122.8	124.7	123.3	..	..
December	120.0	125.2	126.9	123.3	125.6	123.9	..	..
1998								
March	120.3	125.7	127.6	123.8	126.7	124.5	..	..
June	121.0	126.3	128.2	124.0	127.4	124.9	100.0	100.0
September	121.3	126.6	128.6	124.3	127.7	125.2	100.1	100.5
December	121.9	127.1	129.0	124.5	129.0	125.7	100.2	101.2
1999								
March	121.8	126.7	129.0	125.1	130.1	126.4	100.2	101.0
June	122.3	127.3	129.4	125.7	130.6	126.9	101.0	101.2
September	123.4	128.3	130.2	126.1	132.1	127.7	101.7	102.3
December	124.1	128.6	131.0	126.8	133.4	128.5	101.5	103.5

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

(b) Refer to paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of these series.

(c) Base: June quarter 1998 = 100.0.

ANALYTICAL SERIES, Percentage Changes(a)

PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS
AND SERVICES.....

Period	All groups	All groups excluding Housing	All Groups excluding 'volatile items'	Goods	Services	Total	Tradables	Non-tradables
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous financial year)								
1995-1996	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	..	..
1996-1997	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.6	3.0	1.9	..	..
1997-1998	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.8	3.3	1.5	..	..
1998-1999	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	2.6	1.5	0.4	1.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)								
1995								
December	5.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	..	..
1996								
March	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.8	4.1	..	..
June	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	..	..
September	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	3.1	2.5	..	..
December	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.0	..	..
1997								
March	1.3	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.6	1.8	..	..
June	0.3	2.0	2.1	0.7	3.2	1.4	..	..
September	-0.3	1.4	1.6	0.5	3.6	1.3	..	..
December	-0.2	1.3	1.7	0.7	3.3	1.3	..	..
1998								
March	-0.2	1.0	1.6	1.0	3.2	1.5	..	..
June	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.0	3.2	1.5	..	..
September	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.2	2.4	1.5	..	..
December	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.0	2.7	1.5	..	..
1999								
March	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.1	2.7	1.5	..	..
June	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.4	2.5	1.6	1.0	1.2
September	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.4	3.4	2.0	1.6	1.8
December	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.8	3.4	2.2	1.3	2.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)								
1995								
December	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.0	..	..
1996								
March	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5	..	..
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.7	..	..
September	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	..	..
December	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.5	..	..
1997								
March	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.3	..	..
June	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	..	..
September	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2	..	..
December	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	..	..
1998								
March	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.5	..	..
June	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3	..	..
September	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5
December	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.7
1999								
March	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.0	-0.2
June	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2
September	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.1
December	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.6	-0.2	1.2

(a) Refer to paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes for a description of these 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 Further information about the CPI is contained in a booklet entitled *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index, 13th Series* (Cat. No. 6440.0) which is available on the ABS Website at www.abs.gov.au, or from the ABS on request.

PRICES

4 The frequency of price collection by item varies as necessary to obtain reliable price measures. Prices of some items are volatile (i.e. their prices may vary many times each quarter) and for these items frequent price observations are necessary to obtain a reliable measure of the average price for the quarter. Each month prices are collected at regular intervals for goods such as milk, bread, fresh meat and seafood, fresh fruit and vegetables, petrol, alcohol and tobacco and holiday travel and accommodation. For most other items, price volatility is not a problem and prices are collected once a quarter. There are a few items where prices are changed at infrequent intervals, for example education fees where prices are set once a year. In these cases, the frequency of price collection is modified accordingly.

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 1999 124.1 (see Table 1)

less September Quarter 1999 123.4 (see Table 1)

Change in index points 0.7

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{0.7}{123.4} \times 100 = 0.6\%$$

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 1.87 index points to the total All groups index number of 124.1 for December Quarter 1999. The final column shows contributions to the change in All Groups index points by each group, sub-group and expenditure class.

SPECIAL SERIES

11 Various series are presented in Tables 8, 11 and 12 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, subgroups and expenditure classes is contained in Tables 6 and 7.)

12 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, the Utilities sub-group, 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, tradables component: comprises all items whose prices are largely determined on the world market.

All groups, non-tradables component: comprises all items not included in the 'All groups, tradables 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.

13 A detailed description of 'tradables' and 'non-tradables' is published in the Appendix to this publication.

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 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.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

17 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.

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

- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index, 13th Series* (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

19 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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<i>CPI INFOLDING</i>	For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
<i>DIAL-A-STATISTIC</i>	For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 75c per minute).
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2640100012992
ISSN 1442-3987

RRP \$17.50