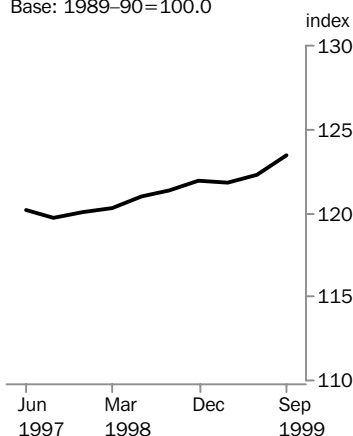


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 27 OCT 1999

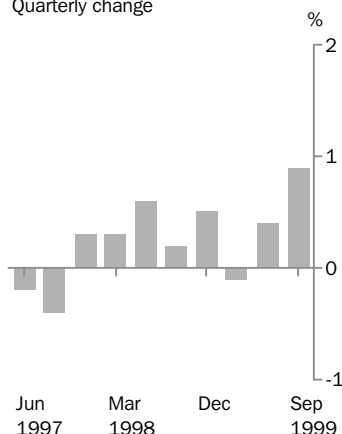
All Groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0



All Groups

Quarterly change



SEPTEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Jun Qtr 1999 to Sep Qtr 1999	% change Sep Qtr 1998 to Sep Qtr 1999
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	0.5	3.0
Clothing	-0.5	-0.7
Housing	1.6	3.5
Household equipment and operation	-0.5	-0.8
Transportation	3.3	3.8
Alcohol and tobacco	0.3	2.0
Health and personal care	0.7	-5.7
Recreation and education	0.5	2.3
All groups	0.9	1.7
All groups excluding housing	0.8	1.3

SEPTEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- rose 0.9% in the September quarter 1999, up from 0.4% in June quarter 1999.
- rose 1.7% between the September quarters 1998 and 1999.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were rises in the cost of automotive fuel (+8.8%), house purchase (+2.0), hospital and medical services (+2.3%), property rates and charges (+5.2%), fresh fruit (+4.2%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+2.3%) and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+2.2%).
- partially offsetting the above were falls in audio, visual and computing equipment (-5.9%), fresh vegetables (-6.1%), communication services (-3.5%) and pharmaceuticals (-2.0%).
- contributing most to the annual increase were rises in the cost of automotive fuel (+9.9%), house purchase (+5.5%), fresh fruit (+25.3%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+2.5%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+7.6%) and cigarettes and tobacco (+3.4%). Partially offsetting these increases were falls in the cost of hospital and medical services (-15.4%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-13.0%), communication services (-7.9%), fresh vegetables (-11.0%) and motor vehicles (-1.0%).

- 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.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

December 1999

March 2000

RELEASE DATE

28 January 2000

28 April 2000

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

As foreshadowed in the June quarter 1999 issue, the Treasury Measure of Underlying Inflation is no longer published by the ABS.

Commencing with this issue, the special series in Table 8 and the analytical series in Tables 11 and 12 have been enhanced to include new indexes for "Tradables" and "Non-tradables". These indexes decompose the CPI, at the expenditure class level, into items whose prices are largely determined on the world market (tradables), or not (non-tradables). The decision to produce these indexes to replace the price index of imported items was announced in the Information Paper, *Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997* (Cat. No. 6453.0), paragraph 69. The compilation of the tradables and non-tradables indexes is described in the Appendix on pages 25-27 of this publication.

The Explanatory Notes have been updated to incorporate these changes.

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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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T.J. Skinner

Acting Australian Statistician

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

TRANSPORTATION: +3.3%

The rise in transportation costs this quarter has been caused mainly by a sharp increase in petrol prices (+8.8%) originating with a rise in April (+6.8%), falls in May (–1.1%) and in June (–3.2%), then rises in July, August and September of 7.3%, 5.3% and 1.3% respectively. Adding to increases in petrol prices were rises in the cost of motor vehicles (+0.7%), urban transport fares (+2.3%), other motoring charges (+2.0%), and vehicle insurance premiums (+4.3%). The rise in petrol prices is the largest since December quarter 1990. The rise in motor vehicle prices is the first in six quarters.

Over the 12 months to September quarter 1999, the cost of transportation rose 3.8%. This was mainly due to increases in the price of petrol (+9.9%), motor vehicle repair and servicing (+2.5%) and vehicle insurance (+7.3%). All other transportation costs have shown relatively small increases except for motor vehicles, the prices of which fell 1.0%.

HOUSING: +1.6%

The quarterly increase in the Housing group was mainly due to increases in the cost of house purchase (+2.0%), property rates and charges (+5.2%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+0.6%) and water and sewerage (+3.1%). There was a minor offset resulting from a fall in the price of electricity (–0.3%) due to the continuation of the Winter Energy Concession in Melbourne.

Annually, the housing index rose 3.5%. This was mainly due to increases in house purchase (+5.5%), privately-owned dwelling rents (+2.5%) and property rates and charges (+5.5%).

FOOD: +0.5%

The increase in food prices this quarter was due to increases in fresh fruit (+4.2%), take away and fast foods (+1.0%), restaurant meals (+0.8%) and cakes and biscuits (+2.1%). These increases were partially offset by a fall in the price of fresh vegetables (–6.1%).

Over the 12 months to September quarter 1999, food prices increased by 3.0%. This was largely due to increases in the price of fresh fruit (+25.3%), take away and fast foods (3.4%), restaurant meals (+2.6%) and bread (+5.3%). A decrease in the price of fresh vegetables (–11.0%) provided the only significant offset.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION: +0.5%

The increase in recreation and education costs this quarter was mainly attributable to increases in domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+2.3%), overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+2.2%) and other recreational activities (+1.1%). The most significant offset was a fifth consecutive quarterly fall in the price of audio, visual and computing equipment (–5.9%).

On an annual basis, the cost of recreation and education rose 2.3%, which was comparable with the annual increase to September quarter 1998. Increases in overseas holiday travel and accommodation (+7.6%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (+4.6%), other recreational activities (+4.6%) and education (+4.4%) were partially offset by a fall in audio, visual and computing equipment (–13.0%).

ANALYSES AND COMMENTS

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE *continued*

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION: -0.5%

The decrease in household equipment and operation costs this quarter was largely due to price falls in communication services (-3.5%), furniture (-0.6%) and pet foods, pets and supplies (-1.6%). There were no significant offsets.

Annually, household equipment and operation costs decreased by 0.8%, mainly due to a fall in the price of communication services (-7.9%), most notably national and international long distance telephone calls.

HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE: +0.7%

The increase in health and personal care costs this quarter is predominantly due to a rise in hospital and medical services (+2.3%), as a result of an increase in the price of health fund premiums, and hairdressing and personal care services (+1.5%). This increase was partially offset by a fall in the price of pharmaceuticals (-2.0%), due largely to the cyclical effects of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's safety net.

Annually, health and personal care costs fell 5.7%. This was due to a fall in the cost of hospital and medical services (-15.4%) as a result of the introduction of the Federal Government's 30% rebate on private health insurance from 1 January 1999.

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

	INDEX NUMBER(a)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN	
	Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1999
Sydney	124.1	0.9	1.8
Melbourne	122.7	1.0	1.9
Brisbane	124.0	0.7	1.2
Adelaide	125.1	1.2	1.7
Perth	121.9	0.9	1.9
Hobart	123.3	0.7	0.4
Darwin	122.9	0.2	0.7
Canberra	122.4	0.7	0.9
Weighted average of eight capital cities	123.4	0.9	1.7

(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>
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									
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
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

(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									
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
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1995									
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
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

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									
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
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

(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									
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
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)									
1995									
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
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

CPI GROUPS, Index Numbers(a)

Quarters	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
FOOD									
1998									
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
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
CLOTHING									
1998									
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
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
HOUSING									
1998									
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
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
HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION									
1998									
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
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
TRANSPORTATION									
1998									
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
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

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									
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
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
HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE									
1998									
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
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
RECREATION AND EDUCATION									
1998									
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
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

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

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

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
Food	0.14	0.22	0.11	0.16	-0.04	-0.09	-0.47	-0.10	0.12
Dairy and related products	—	—	—	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01
Milk and cream	—	—	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.02	—	0.01
Cheese	—	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	—	—	—
Other dairy products	—	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Cereal products	0.05	0.04	0.04	-0.02	0.02	-0.07	—	-0.02	0.03
Bread	0.04	0.01	-0.02	-0.03	0.02	-0.04	—	—	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	0.02	0.03	0.06	—	0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.02
Breakfast cereals	-0.01	—	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Other cereal products	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	0.01	-0.01	—
Meat and seafoods	-0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	-0.05	-0.03	—	—
Beef and veal	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.03	-0.03	—	—
Lamb and mutton	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	-0.01
Pork	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	0.01
Poultry	-0.02	0.02	-0.03	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	0.01	—
Bacon and ham	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	0.02	—	-0.02	0.01
Processed meat	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Fish and other seafood	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	—	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	—	0.04	—	-0.05	-0.24	0.03	-0.35	-0.05	-0.03
Fresh fruit	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.04	-0.14	0.09	-0.14	—	0.07
Fresh vegetables	-0.11	-0.06	-0.11	-0.09	-0.11	-0.06	-0.20	-0.05	-0.09
Processed fruit and vegetables	—	0.01	-0.02	—	0.01	—	-0.02	-0.02	—
Processed fruit	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Processed vegetables	-0.01	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Fruit and vegetable juices	—	-0.01	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	0.01	0.02	-0.01	—	0.08	-0.02	-0.07	-0.03	0.01
Soft drinks and cordials	0.01	0.02	-0.02	-0.04	0.02	-0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.01
Ice cream and ice confectionery	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	0.01
Sweet and savoury snacks	—	—	0.01	0.04	0.04	—	—	-0.03	0.01
Meals out and take away foods	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.02	0.06	-0.03	0.05	0.06
Restaurant meals	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.05	—	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.02
Take away and fast foods	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.03	-0.04	0.02	0.03
Other food	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04	-0.05	—	-0.02	0.03
Eggs	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	—	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	-0.02	—	-0.02	—
Food additives and condiments	—	0.01	-0.01	0.02	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Fats and oils	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01
Food n.e.c.	0.03	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.03	0.01	-0.02	0.02
Clothing	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.06	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.01	-0.03
Men's clothing	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Men's outerwear	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	—	—	-0.02	—	-0.01	-0.01
Men's shirts	—	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Women's clothing	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.02	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01
Women's outerwear	-0.01	-0.02	—	-0.02	0.01	—	0.01	—	-0.01
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—
Children's and infants' clothing	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boys' clothing	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Girls' clothing	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Footwear	-0.01	—	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	-0.01
Men's footwear	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Women's footwear	—	—	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	—	0.01	—
Children's footwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services	—	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Clothing accessories	—	—	0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	—	—	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	—	—	-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	0.37	0.34	0.19	0.52	0.45	0.24	0.12	0.32	0.36
Rents	0.05	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	0.05	0.04	—	0.02	0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	0.01
Utilities	0.04	-0.02	0.08	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.11	0.03
Electricity	—	-0.04	—	0.05	—	—	—	0.07	-0.01
Gas	-0.02	0.02	—	—	—	0.01	—	-0.01	—
Other household fuel	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	—	0.01	—
Water and sewerage	0.06	—	0.07	0.04	0.02	-0.01	—	0.03	0.03
Other housing	0.28	0.30	0.10	0.41	0.39	0.19	0.12	0.19	0.28
House purchase	0.18	0.21	0.03	0.11	0.36	0.04	0.06	0.14	0.18
Property rates and charges	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.31	0.03	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.08
House repairs and maintenance	0.03	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01
House insurance	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Household Equipment and Operation	-0.06	-0.09	-0.08	-0.10	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.07	-0.08
Furniture and floor coverings	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.07	0.01	0.03	—	—	-0.02
Furniture	-0.04	0.02	-0.04	-0.07	-0.03	0.03	-0.02	—	-0.02
Floor coverings	0.02	-0.03	0.02	—	0.04	—	0.02	—	0.01
Household textiles	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	—	—
Bedding	-0.01	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	-0.01	0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	-0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools	0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.01	-0.01	—	—
Appliances	-0.01	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.02	—	—	—
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	0.03	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—
Household utensils	-0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	0.01	—	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Tools	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	0.01	0.01
Household supplies	0.01	0.01	—	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.06	-0.05	—
Household cleaning agents	0.01	—	-0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	0.01	-0.01	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	-0.02	—	—	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.05	-0.02
Other household supplies	0.02	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Household services	0.03	0.01	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.02
Pet services including veterinary	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House contents insurance	0.01	0.01	—	-0.02	0.01	0.01	—	—	—
Repairs to household durables	0.02	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	0.03	0.01
Domestic services	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.02	—
Postal and communication services	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07	-0.05	-0.08	-0.05	-0.09	-0.06	-0.07
Postal services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communication services	-0.08	-0.08	-0.06	-0.06	-0.09	-0.05	-0.09	-0.07	-0.07
Transportation	0.50	0.60	0.56	0.75	0.60	0.35	0.41	0.53	0.56
Private motoring	0.43	0.59	0.57	0.75	0.59	0.35	0.41	0.52	0.54
Motor vehicles	0.01	0.06	-0.04	0.03	0.10	-0.04	0.07	-0.02	0.03
Automotive fuel	0.37	0.46	0.50	0.49	0.41	0.33	0.26	0.41	0.43
Vehicle insurance	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.03
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.02
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	-0.01	0.03	—	—	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.01
Other motoring charges	0.01	—	—	0.20	0.03	—	0.01	0.01	0.03
Urban transport fares	0.06	0.01	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	0.03
Alcohol and tobacco	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.03	-0.12	0.02	-0.01	0.03
Alcoholic drinks	—	-0.03	0.04	-0.03	—	-0.14	0.03	-0.03	-0.01
Beer	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.13	0.01	—	-0.01
Wine	—	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	—	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	—
Spirits	0.01	—	-0.01	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.11	0.03	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.04

CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE IN ALL GROUPS INDEXES—Sep Qtr 1999(a) *continued*

Group, sub-group and expenditure class									Weighted average of eight capital
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra cities	
Health and personal care	0.10	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.10	0.32	0.05	0.07	0.06
Health services	0.11	0.02	0.09	0.03	0.10	0.30	0.03	0.11	0.08
Hospital and medical services	0.11	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.09	0.30	0.02	0.11	0.08
Optical services	—	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—
Dental services	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.01	—
Personal care products	-0.04	-0.02	-0.06	—	-0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.03	-0.03
Pharmaceuticals	-0.02	-0.03	-0.06	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	—	-0.03	-0.03
Toiletries and personal products	-0.02	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.03	0.01	-0.02	—
Hairdressing and personal care services	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Recreation and education	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.12	-0.01	0.09	0.07	0.18	0.08
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	—	0.03
Books	—	—	-0.02	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	—
Newspapers and magazines	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	—	—	0.02
Stationery	0.01	—	0.03	-0.01	0.01	—	0.03	—	0.01
Recreation	-0.05	-0.03	-0.12	-0.07	-0.08	-0.12	-0.08	-0.03	-0.06
Audio, visual and computing equipment	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.09	-0.08	-0.11	-0.10	-0.11	-0.09
Audio, visual and computing media and services	0.01	—	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	—	-0.01
Sports and recreational equipment	—	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	-0.01
Toys, games and hobbies	—	—	—	-0.01	—	—	-0.01	—	—
Repairs to recreational goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	—
Sports participation	0.02	0.02	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.02
Other recreational activities	0.02	0.05	—	0.04	—	—	—	0.06	0.03
Holiday travel and accommodation	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.05	0.20	0.10	0.21	0.11
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.06
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.08	0.05
Education and child care	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.01	—
Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child care	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—	0.02	0.01	0.01
All groups	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.9	1.1

(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)		
	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999 and	Sep Qtr 1998 and	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Change between Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999
				Sep Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999			
Food	124.7	127.8	128.5	0.5	3.0	24.11	24.23	0.12
Dairy and related products	134.5	138.4	139.1	0.5	3.4	1.83	1.84	0.01
Milk and cream	149.1	152.6	153.9	0.9	3.2	1.10	1.11	0.01
Cheese	112.5	116.0	116.3	0.3	3.4	0.42	0.42	—
Other dairy products	128.6	134.6	133.6	-0.7	3.9	0.31	0.31	—
Cereal products	138.8	141.1	142.6	1.1	2.7	3.04	3.07	0.03
Bread	156.1	162.9	164.3	0.9	5.3	1.32	1.33	0.01
Cakes and biscuits	126.3	128.0	130.7	2.1	3.5	1.15	1.17	0.02
Breakfast cereals	130.7	122.7	121.0	-1.4	-7.4	0.31	0.30	-0.01
Other cereal products	125.5	125.2	125.0	-0.2	-0.4	0.27	0.27	—
Meat and seafoods	109.4	112.6	112.8	0.2	3.1	3.52	3.52	—
Beef and veal	104.3	107.8	108.0	0.2	3.5	0.79	0.79	—
Lamb and mutton	122.0	129.6	126.6	-2.3	3.8	0.41	0.40	-0.01
Pork	110.7	113.3	116.0	2.4	4.8	0.20	0.21	0.01
Poultry	93.9	96.7	95.9	-0.8	2.1	0.59	0.59	—
Bacon and ham	112.2	110.5	111.8	1.2	-0.4	0.34	0.35	0.01
Processed meat	115.9	117.8	119.5	1.4	3.1	0.64	0.65	0.01
Fish and other seafood	107.8	112.5	112.6	0.1	4.5	0.54	0.54	—
Fresh fruit and vegetables	111.7	118.7	117.6	-0.9	5.3	3.08	3.05	-0.03
Fresh fruit	115.9	139.3	145.2	4.2	25.3	1.56	1.63	0.07
Fresh vegetables	110.2	104.5	98.1	-6.1	-11.0	1.52	1.43	-0.09
Processed fruit and vegetables	118.9	121.9	121.9	—	2.5	0.95	0.95	—
Processed fruit	127.5	131.2	132.9	1.3	4.2	0.18	0.19	0.01
Processed vegetables	106.7	111.9	112.3	0.4	5.2	0.32	0.32	—
Fruit and vegetable juices	124.9	125.7	124.7	-0.8	-0.2	0.44	0.44	—
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	141.1	142.0	142.7	0.5	1.1	3.03	3.04	0.01
Soft drinks and cordials	135.3	133.6	134.0	0.3	-1.0	1.23	1.24	0.01
Ice cream and ice confectionery	150.9	155.6	156.0	0.3	3.4	0.40	0.41	0.01
Sweet and savoury snacks	144.8	147.2	148.1	0.6	2.3	1.39	1.40	0.01
Meals out and take away foods	122.6	125.2	126.3	0.9	3.0	6.50	6.56	0.06
Restaurant meals	124.6	126.8	127.8	0.8	2.6	2.97	2.99	0.02
Take away and fast foods	122.4	125.4	126.6	1.0	3.4	3.53	3.56	0.03
Other food	127.8	129.3	131.4	1.6	2.8	2.17	2.20	0.03
Eggs	145.6	149.8	154.0	2.8	5.8	0.20	0.20	—
Jams, honey and sandwich spreads	140.1	141.3	143.8	1.8	2.6	0.21	0.21	—
Tea, coffee and food drinks	139.0	138.7	139.1	0.3	0.1	0.46	0.46	—
Food additives and condiments	122.5	124.4	125.3	0.7	2.3	0.39	0.39	—
Fats and oils	119.0	116.7	119.4	2.3	0.3	0.31	0.32	0.01
Food n.e.c.	120.0	124.1	127.1	2.4	5.9	0.60	0.62	0.02
Clothing	107.0	106.7	106.2	-0.5	-0.7	6.88	6.85	-0.03
Men's clothing	110.9	108.9	108.2	-0.6	-2.4	1.41	1.40	-0.01
Men's outerwear	110.2	108.2	106.7	-1.4	-3.2	0.77	0.76	-0.01
Men's shirts	110.2	108.4	108.0	-0.4	-2.0	0.40	0.40	—
Men's underwear, nightwear and socks	114.4	112.2	113.4	1.1	-0.9	0.24	0.24	—
Women's clothing	108.4	108.2	107.8	-0.4	-0.6	2.83	2.82	-0.01
Women's outerwear	104.7	103.9	103.5	-0.4	-1.1	2.34	2.33	-0.01
Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery	121.2	124.7	124.5	-0.2	2.7	0.49	0.49	—
Children's and infant's clothing	110.6	109.7	110.4	0.6	-0.2	0.63	0.63	—
Boys' clothing	112.6	111.8	112.7	0.8	0.1	0.37	0.37	—
Girls' clothing	108.2	107.2	107.6	0.4	-0.6	0.26	0.26	—
Footwear	95.8	96.4	95.4	-1.0	-0.4	1.05	1.04	-0.01
Men's footwear	93.1	92.8	91.9	-1.0	-1.3	0.25	0.25	—
Women's footwear	99.0	99.8	98.7	-1.1	-0.3	0.60	0.60	—
Children's footwear	96.2	97.1	96.6	-0.5	0.4	0.19	0.19	—
Clothing accessories, supplies and services (b)	100.3	101.2	100.7	-0.5	0.4	0.95	0.95	—
Clothing accessories (b)	100.1	101.3	100.5	-0.8	0.4	0.48	0.48	—
Fabrics and knitting wool	100.0	99.9	99.3	-0.6	-0.7	0.20	0.20	—
Clothing services and shoe repair	134.9	136.1	136.4	0.2	1.1	0.27	0.27	—

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Change between Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999
Housing	94.8	96.6	98.1	1.6	3.5	23.94	24.30	0.36
Rents	121.0	123.1	123.9	0.6	2.4	7.20	7.24	0.04
Privately-owned dwelling rents	120.4	122.7	123.4	0.6	2.5	6.37	6.41	0.04
Government-owned dwelling rents	126.2	126.8	128.2	1.1	1.6	0.83	0.84	0.01
Utilities	120.3	120.8	121.7	0.7	1.2	4.25	4.28	0.03
Electricity	115.4	116.2	115.9	-0.3	0.4	2.09	2.08	-0.01
Gas	128.0	127.2	127.0	-0.2	-0.8	0.80	0.80	—
Other household fuel	117.1	118.4	119.5	0.9	2.0	0.17	0.17	—
Water and sewerage (b)	101.9	102.6	105.8	3.1	3.8	1.19	1.22	0.03
Other housing	85.1	87.2	89.1	2.2	4.7	12.49	12.77	0.28
House purchase (b)	100.6	104.0	106.1	2.0	5.5	8.65	8.83	0.18
Property rates and charges (b)	103.1	103.4	108.8	5.2	5.5	1.48	1.56	0.08
House repairs and maintenance	122.0	122.4	123.2	0.7	1.0	2.10	2.11	0.01
House insurance	161.1	163.4	169.5	3.7	5.2	0.27	0.28	0.01
Household equipment and operation	113.9	113.6	113.0	-0.5	-0.8	15.15	15.07	-0.08
Furniture and floor coverings	119.1	120.4	119.9	-0.4	0.7	4.37	4.35	-0.02
Furniture	121.5	123.3	122.5	-0.6	0.8	3.51	3.49	-0.02
Floor coverings	112.4	111.8	112.2	0.4	-0.2	0.85	0.86	0.01
Household textiles	120.7	121.2	120.8	-0.3	0.1	0.60	0.60	—
Bedding	121.4	119.3	120.2	0.8	-1.0	0.31	0.32	0.01
Towels, linen and curtains	121.2	124.6	122.8	-1.4	1.3	0.29	0.28	-0.01
Household appliances, utensils and tools	107.3	107.6	107.5	-0.1	0.2	3.36	3.36	—
Appliances	108.1	106.7	106.7	—	-1.3	1.91	1.91	—
Tableware, glassware and cutlery	99.3	102.7	101.9	-0.8	2.6	0.31	0.31	—
Household utensils	105.0	108.3	107.5	-0.7	2.4	0.47	0.46	-0.01
Tools	110.9	112.6	113.1	0.4	2.0	0.67	0.68	0.01
Household supplies	123.9	122.8	123.0	0.2	-0.7	2.97	2.97	—
Household cleaning agents	121.5	121.6	122.2	0.5	0.6	0.74	0.74	—
Pet foods, pets and supplies	130.3	127.5	125.4	-1.6	-3.8	0.85	0.83	-0.02
Other household supplies	123.0	122.2	123.4	1.0	0.3	1.39	1.40	0.01
Household services	151.1	153.5	155.4	1.2	2.8	1.52	1.54	0.02
Pet services including veterinary	147.1	149.3	150.2	0.6	2.1	0.27	0.27	—
House contents insurance	160.5	157.4	160.1	1.7	-0.2	0.26	0.26	—
Repairs to household durables	140.2	142.8	146.9	2.9	4.8	0.37	0.38	0.01
Domestic services (b)	100.4	103.4	103.8	0.4	3.4	0.63	0.63	—
Postal and communication services	105.2	100.9	97.7	-3.2	-7.1	2.33	2.26	-0.07
Postal services	111.4	111.5	111.5	—	0.1	0.22	0.22	—
Communication services	104.4	99.7	96.2	-3.5	-7.9	2.11	2.04	-0.07
Transportation	122.3	122.9	126.9	3.3	3.8	17.10	17.66	0.56
Private motoring	120.2	120.7	124.8	3.4	3.8	15.97	16.51	0.54
Motor vehicles	106.9	105.1	105.8	0.7	-1.0	4.52	4.55	0.03
Automotive fuel	115.4	116.5	126.8	8.8	9.9	4.82	5.25	0.43
Vehicle insurance	150.3	154.7	161.3	4.3	7.3	0.72	0.75	0.03
Motor vehicle repair and servicing	120.7	123.0	123.7	0.6	2.5	3.23	3.25	0.02
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	105.8	107.2	107.9	0.7	2.0	1.37	1.38	0.01
Other motoring charges	157.4	158.0	161.1	2.0	2.4	1.30	1.33	0.03
Urban transport fares	156.0	157.4	161.0	2.3	3.2	1.12	1.15	0.03
Alcohol and tobacco	167.5	170.3	170.8	0.3	2.0	10.07	10.10	0.03
Alcoholic drinks	134.1	135.9	135.6	-0.2	1.1	6.22	6.21	-0.01
Beer	134.7	137.1	136.6	-0.4	1.4	3.30	3.29	-0.01
Wine	130.4	130.9	130.5	-0.3	0.1	1.68	1.68	—
Spirits	135.7	137.5	137.6	0.1	1.4	1.24	1.24	—
Cigarettes and tobacco	246.9	252.7	255.2	1.0	3.4	3.85	3.89	0.04

Group, sub-group and expenditure class	INDEX NUMBERS(a).....			PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN.....		CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTAL CPI (ALL GROUPS INDEX POINTS)		
	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Change between Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999
Health and personal care	159.1	149.0	150.1	0.7	-5.7	7.97	8.03	0.06
Health services	182.9	158.0	161.1	2.0	-11.9	4.05	4.13	0.08
Hospital and medical services	196.4	162.4	166.2	2.3	-15.4	3.13	3.21	0.08
Optical services	123.9	124.7	125.4	0.6	1.2	0.22	0.22	—
Dental services	149.5	153.4	154.4	0.7	3.3	0.70	0.70	—
Personal care products	128.9	132.3	131.0	-1.0	1.6	2.96	2.93	-0.03
Pharmaceuticals	130.3	134.6	131.9	-2.0	1.2	1.31	1.28	-0.03
Toiletries and personal products	128.5	131.3	131.1	-0.2	2.0	1.65	1.65	—
Hairdressing and personal care services	132.2	135.1	137.1	1.5	3.7	0.95	0.97	0.02
Recreation and education	124.7	127.0	127.6	0.5	2.3	17.12	17.20	0.08
Books, newspapers, magazines and stationery	150.4	153.8	155.3	1.0	3.3	2.41	2.44	0.03
Books (b)	101.9	103.6	103.5	-0.1	1.6	0.75	0.75	—
Newspapers and magazines (b)	102.2	105.3	107.3	1.9	5.0	0.97	0.99	0.02
Stationery	125.5	127.8	129.1	1.0	2.9	0.69	0.70	0.01
Recreation	117.4	117.1	116.1	-0.9	-1.1	6.97	6.91	-0.06
Audio, visual and computing equipment	71.7	66.3	62.4	-5.9	-13.0	1.44	1.35	-0.09
Audio, visual and computing media and services	107.2	106.5	105.8	-0.7	-1.3	0.88	0.87	-0.01
Sports and recreational equipment (b)	101.0	101.0	100.5	-0.5	-0.5	0.72	0.71	-0.01
Toys, games and hobbies (b)	99.6	100.2	99.1	-1.1	-0.5	0.42	0.42	—
Repairs to recreational goods	126.3	126.8	127.0	0.2	0.6	0.16	0.16	—
Sports participation (b)	100.2	102.2	103.9	1.7	3.7	1.04	1.06	0.02
Other recreational activities (b)	100.6	104.1	105.2	1.1	4.6	2.31	2.34	0.03
Holiday travel and accommodation	105.3	109.1	111.5	2.2	5.9	4.80	4.91	0.11
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation	108.6	111.1	113.6	2.3	4.6	2.66	2.72	0.06
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation	101.1	106.5	108.8	2.2	7.6	2.14	2.19	0.05
Education and child care	161.4	167.9	168.3	0.2	4.3	2.94	2.94	—
Education	170.3	177.8	177.8	—	4.4	2.30	2.30	—
Child care	138.8	142.4	144.0	1.1	3.7	0.63	0.64	0.01
All groups	121.3	122.3	123.4	0.9	1.7	122.3	123.4	1.1

(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)		
	Sep Qtr 1998	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1998 and Sep Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1999	Change between Jun Qtr 1999 and Sep Qtr 1999
All groups	121.3	122.3	123.4	0.9	1.7	122.3	123.4	1.1
Selected components								
Goods component (b)	123.3	124.8	125.8	0.8	2.0	81.56	82.21	0.65
Services component (b)	118.5	118.4	119.8	1.2	1.1	40.76	41.22	0.46
Tradables component(b)(c)	100.1	101.0	101.7	0.7	1.6	58.53	58.95	0.42
Non-tradables component(b)(c)	100.5	101.2	102.3	1.1	1.8	63.79	64.49	0.70
All groups excluding								
Food	120.6	121.1	122.3	1.0	1.4	98.21	99.20	0.99
Clothing	122.3	123.4	124.6	1.0	1.9	115.45	116.59	1.14
Housing	126.6	127.3	128.3	0.8	1.3	98.38	99.14	0.76
Household equipment and operation	123.0	124.2	125.6	1.1	2.1	107.18	108.37	1.19
Transportation	121.2	122.2	122.9	0.6	1.4	105.23	105.78	0.55
Alcohol and tobacco	117.8	118.7	119.8	0.9	1.7	112.25	113.34	1.09
Health and personal care	119.0	120.6	121.7	0.9	2.3	114.36	115.41	1.05
Recreation and education	121.0	121.8	123.0	1.0	1.7	105.20	106.23	1.03
Hospital and medical services	119.4	121.1	122.1	0.8	2.3	119.19	120.23	1.04

(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	Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Singapore	Taiwan	Canada	United States of America	Germany	United Kingdom
1995-1996	121.1	111.9	160.8	163.7	107.3	144.4	116.0	122.5	116.0	120.9	117.0	128.3
1996-1997	123.9	113.7	168.2	174.1	108.2	151.3	118.1	125.7	118.8	124.3	118.2	131.5
1997-1998	125.4	114.9	175.1	232.7	112.4	162.1	119.4	127.2	120.6	125.8	120.3	134.6
1998-1999	126.9	116.9	174.0	368.3	112.4	169.0	118.5	128.2	122.0	127.2	120.7	137.2
1995												
September	119.8	111.2	158.6	157.9	107.3	141.8	115.4	121.4	115.3	119.7	116.7	127.0
December	120.8	111.6	159.6	161.6	107.3	142.3	115.6	122.0	115.3	120.2	116.3	127.7
1996												
March	121.5	112.0	160.7	167.0	106.9	145.2	116.3	122.3	116.0	121.2	117.2	128.5
June	122.3	112.8	164.1	168.1	107.8	148.1	116.8	124.3	117.3	122.6	117.6	130.0
September	122.7	113.0	165.5	168.5	107.3	149.6	117.3	126.1	117.5	123.1	117.9	130.3
December	123.6	113.8	167.4	173.1	107.5	149.5	117.7	126.3	118.5	124.1	117.5	131.2
1997												
March	124.5	113.9	168.9	177.1	107.2	152.4	118.4	124.7	119.2	124.7	118.7	131.6
June	124.8	114.1	170.8	177.7	110.7	153.8	118.8	125.7	119.8	125.1	118.8	132.8
September	124.4	114.5	173.7	183.3	112.3	155.4	119.9	127.6	120.3	125.3	120.3	133.5
December	125.2	114.9	174.2	195.7	112.5	157.9	120.0	125.7	120.1	125.9	119.9	134.3
1998												
March	125.7	115.0	175.7	254.5	112.0	167.3	119.1	127.1	120.9	125.6	120.2	134.5
June	126.3	115.3	176.9	297.4	112.6	167.7	118.7	128.2	121.2	126.3	120.7	136.1
September	126.6	116.4	176.6	360.6	111.9	167.8	118.3	128.0	121.4	126.4	121.0	136.1
December	127.1	116.5	175.1	363.2	113.2	168.9	117.8	129.9	121.4	126.8	120.5	136.9
1999												
March	126.7	117.1	172.8	377.9	111.9	169.2	118.4	127.5	121.7	127.1	120.4	137.1
June	127.3	117.6	171.4	371.3	112.4	169.9	119.3	127.5	123.4	128.4	120.9	138.6
September	128.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	360.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	128.4	124.4	129.2	n.y.a.	138.4

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

(b) Refer to paragraphs 14–16 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)												
1995-1996	3.9	1.3	6.2	8.9	-0.5	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.8
1996-1997	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	4.1	33.7	3.9	7.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.4
1998-1999	1.2	1.7	-0.6	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												
September	4.1	1.3	7.5	8.7	-0.4	3.8	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.1	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	1.0	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	1.0	2.7
1997												
March	2.5	1.7	5.1	6.0	0.3	5.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.9	1.3	2.4
June	2.0	1.2	4.1	5.7	2.7	3.8	1.7	1.1	2.1	2.0	1.0	2.2
September	1.4	1.3	5.0	8.8	4.7	3.9	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.5
December	1.3	1.0	4.1	13.1	4.7	5.6	2.0	-0.5	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.4
1998												
March	1.0	1.0	4.0	43.7	4.5	9.8	0.6	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.3	2.2
June	1.2	1.1	3.6	67.4	1.7	9.0	-0.1	2.0	1.2	1.0	1.6	2.5
September	1.8	1.7	1.7	96.7	-0.4	8.0	-1.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.9
December	1.5	1.4	0.5	85.6	0.6	7.0	-1.8	3.3	1.1	0.7	0.5	1.9
1999												
March	0.8	1.8	-1.7	48.5	-0.1	1.1	-0.6	0.3	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.9
June	0.8	2.0	-3.1	24.8	-0.2	1.3	0.5	-0.5	1.8	1.7	0.2	1.8
September	1.3	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-0.1	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.3	2.5	2.2	n.y.a.	1.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)												
1995												
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	0.8	0.6
June	0.7	0.7	2.1	0.7	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.3	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	-0.3	0.7
1997												
March	0.7	0.1	0.9	2.3	-0.3	1.9	0.6	-1.3	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3
June	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.3	3.3	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9
September	-0.3	0.4	1.7	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.2	1.3	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	0.3	0.1
June	0.5	0.3	0.7	16.9	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.2
September	0.2	1.0	-0.2	21.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
December	0.4	0.1	-0.8	0.7	1.2	0.7	-0.4	1.5	0.0	0.3	-0.4	0.6
1999												
March	-0.3	0.5	-1.3	4.0	-1.1	0.2	0.5	-1.8	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1
June	0.5	0.4	-0.8	-1.7	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	1.0	0.4	1.1
September	0.8	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	-3.0	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	0.7	0.8	0.6	n.y.a.	-0.1

(a) Refer to paragraphs 14–16 of the Explanatory Notes 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								
September	117.6	119.8	121.0	119.4	116.8	118.7	..	..
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

(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each year 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	..	..
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)								
1995								
September	5.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	..	..
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
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (from previous quarter)								
1995								
September	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	..	..
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

(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:		
September Quarter 1999	123.4	(see Table 1)	
less June Quarter 1999	122.3	(see Table 1)	
Change in index points	1.1		
Percentage change	$= \frac{1.1}{122.3} \times 100 = 0.9\%$		

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 1.84 index points to the total All groups index number of 123.4 for September 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

APPENDIX

TRADABLES AND NON-TRADABLES

INTRODUCTION

Commencing in this issue, the number of analytical series has been expanded to include series that decompose the CPI into *tradable* and *non-tradable* items.

This appendix provides a brief introduction to the concept of tradable and non-tradable items and outlines the methodology used to assign CPI expenditure classes to these categories.

CONCEPTS

In an open economy it is generally accepted that while the prices of some items are determined by domestic considerations, prices of other items are largely determined by prices on the world market. Those items whose prices are largely determined on the world market are referred to as *Tradables* while all other items are *Non-tradables*.

Tradable items are either exported into world markets or face strong import competition in the domestic market (and include imported items for which there is no domestic production). In either case, it is argued that the sellers of tradable items are constrained in their ability to adjust prices in response to changes in domestic cost pressures alone.

The compilation of price indexes that decompose the CPI into tradable and non-tradable components is seen as being of particular use in analysing domestically sourced versus internationally sourced price pressures.

METHODOLOGY

While the notion of describing an item as either tradable or not is intuitively straightforward, there is no universally accepted practical procedure for unambiguously determining, at a broad level of aggregation, whether an item is tradable or not. Recent Australian studies on this topic by Dwyer (1992) and Knight and Johnson (1997) adopted a decision rule that classified an item as tradable if:

- imports represent at least ten per cent of total usage of the item; or
- exports represent at least ten per cent of the total supply of the item.

The ABS has used a slightly modified version of this decision rule to classify each CPI expenditure class as either tradable or non-tradable. The modified decision rule involves assessing imports as a percentage of total supply (rather than usage). The 'ten per cent' threshold has been preserved.

Total supply of an item is defined as domestic production plus imports. Data on imports, exports and total supply has been sourced from 1993-94 and 1994-95 input-output tables. For each input-output commodity, the ratio of imports to supply and the ratio of exports to supply was calculated. In converting from input-output commodities (at the eight digit level) to CPI expenditure classes, these ratios were weighted together using household final consumption expenditures as weights.

The use of input-output data spanning a couple of years is intended to minimise the likelihood of items being classified on the basis of aberrant single-year data. Items that have been assessed as being close to the threshold or appear to have been classified in a counter intuitive way have been subject to further examination. Recourse to more recent and/or detailed trade data and adjustments for *exports* to tourists visiting Australia, has resulted in a small number of expenditure classes being re-classified.

The classification of CPI expenditure classes will be reassessed periodically to ensure they remain representative of current trading conditions.

APPENDIX

TRADABLES AND NON-TRADABLES

CLASSIFICATION OF CPI EXPENDITURE CLASSES

The following table shows, for each CPI group, which expenditure classes have been classified as tradable and which have been classified as non-tradable. In aggregate 59 expenditure classes, accounting for approximately 48 per cent of the CPI by weight, have been classified as tradable. The remaining 42 expenditure classes, accounting for approximately 52 per cent of the CPI by weight, have been classified as non-tradable.

TRADABLES

Food

- Cheese
- Other dairy products
- Other cereal products
- Beef and veal
- Lamb and mutton
- Pork
- Processed meat
- Fish and other seafood
- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Processed fruit
- Processed vegetables
- Fruit and vegetable juices
- Soft drinks and cordials
- Sweet and savoury snacks
- Tea, coffee and food drinks
- Food additives and condiments
- Fats and oils
- Food n.e.c.

Clothing

- Men's outerwear
- Men's shirts
- Men's underwear, nightwear and socks
- Women's outerwear
- Women's underwear, nightwear and hosiery
- Boys' clothing
- Girls' clothing
- Men's footwear
- Women's footwear
- Children's footwear
- Clothing accessories
- Fabrics and knitting wool

Housing

- Other household fuel

Household equipment and operation

- Furniture
- Floor coverings
- Bedding
- Towels, linen and curtains
- Appliances
- Tableware, glassware and cutlery
- Household utensils
- Tools
- Household cleaning agents
- Pet foods, pets and supplies
- Other household supplies

NON-TRADABLES

Food

- Milk and cream
- Bread
- Cakes and Biscuits
- Breakfast cereals
- Poultry
- Bacon and ham
- Ice cream and ice confectionery
- Restaurant meals
- Take away and fast foods
- Eggs
- Jams, honey and sandwich spreads

Clothing

- Clothing services and shoe repair

Housing

- Privately-owned dwelling rents
- Government-owned dwelling rents
- Electricity
- Gas
- Water and sewerage
- House purchase
- Property rates and charges
- House repairs and maintenance
- House insurance

Household equipment and operation

- Pet services including veterinary
- House contents insurance
- Repairs to household durables
- Domestic services
- Postal services
- Communication services

APPENDIX

TRADABLES AND NON-TRADABLES

CLASSIFICATION OF CPI

EXPENDITURE CLASSES *continued*

TRADABLES

Transportation

Motor vehicles
Automotive fuel
Motor vehicle parts and accessories

Alcohol and tobacco

Wine
Spirits
Cigarettes and tobacco

Health and personal care

Pharmaceuticals
Toiletries and personal products

Recreation and education

Books
Newspapers and magazines
Stationery
Audio, visual and computing equipment
Audio, visual and computing media and services
Sports and recreational equipment
Toys, games and hobbies
Overseas holiday travel and accommodation

NON-TRADABLES

Transportation

Vehicle insurance
Motor vehicle repair and servicing
Other motoring charges
Urban transport fares

Alcohol and tobacco

Beer

Health and personal care

Hospital and medical services
Optical services
Dental services
Hairdressing and personal care services

Recreation and education

Repairs to recreational goods
Sports participation
Other recreational activities
Domestic holiday travel and accommodation
Education
Child care

PRESENTATION OF THE INDEXES

The tradables and non-tradables indexes are presented in tables 8, 11 and 12 of this publication, along with other analytical series. While most other indexes presented in this publication have a reference base period of 1989-90 = 100.0, practical difficulties associated with the introduction of the 13th Series CPI have meant that the tradables and non-tradables indexes have a reference base period of June quarter 1998 = 100.0.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about tradables and non-tradables, please contact Mr Keith Woolford on 02 6252 6673 or Mr Brent Perkins on 02 6252 5503.

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SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

<i>CPI INFOLINE</i>	For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
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	Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
	Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
	Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
	Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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