

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS

EIGHT
CAPITAL
CITIES

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 12 MAY 1999

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains average prices for selected items which are included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the eight capital cities.

The CPI covers a wide range of goods and services arranged in eight groups which are in turn divided into subgroups. The selected items for which average prices are shown in this publication fall within the Food Group and the following non-food subgroups: household supplies; private motoring; alcoholic drinks; and personal care products.

The items and varieties selected, however, do not comprise all of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food Group or the specified subgroups of the CPI.

AVERAGE PRICES

Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers in each city. The specified grades etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative to measure price change over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual averages of all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned. Furthermore, the selected grades, brands, etc. for some items differ between cities and may also differ from one period to the next due to a change in product specification. Thus *the average prices for some items may not be comparable from city to city, nor from quarter to quarter*. Details of differences in specifications are provided in footnotes to the table.

Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables are collected weekly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for fresh milk, fresh meat, bread, fish, petrol and alcohol are collected monthly and averaged to obtain quarterly prices. Prices for all other items are collected during the mid month of each quarter (i.e. in August, November, February and May).

Commencing with the December quarter 1996, average retail prices are calculated using the geometric mean of the individual observations.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *Consumer Price Index* (6401.0)
- *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (6440.0)
- *The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods* (6461.0) available on CD-ROM *Statistical Concepts Reference Library* (1361.0).

FORTHCOMING ISSUE

The June quarter 1999 issue is expected to be released on 11 August 1999.

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Australian Statistician

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Steve Whennan on 02 6252 6251, or any ABS Office.

Item (Unit)	Sydney cents	Melbourne cents	Brisbane cents	Adelaide cents	Perth cents	Hobart cents	Darwin cents	Canberra cents
Dairy products								
Milk, carton, supermarket sales (1 litre)	122	139	119	136	141	130	130	115
Milk, powdered, full cream (750 g)	483	506	502	499	495	585	579	498
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped (500 g)	393	360	389	320	336	403	366	363
Butter (500 g) (a)	190	206	173	180	204	215	207	190
Cereal products								
Bread white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales (650 g) (b)	217	212	192	161	208	203	217	210
Biscuits, dry (250 g)	160	161	159	163	163	184	170	157
Breakfast cereal, corn based (550 g)	293	290	298	292	364	379	309	292
Flour, self raising (2 kg)	323	323	271	247	258	256	299	330
Rice, long grain (1 kg)	146	150	157	139	170	176	167	155
Meat and seafoods								
Beef								
Silverside roast (1 kg) (c)	770	773	714	739	828	698	874	750
Rump steak (1 kg)	1 180	1 059	1 066	1 193	1 091	1 001	1 190	1 142
T-bone steak, with fillet (1 kg)	1 169	1 069	958	1 122	1 110	955	1 248	1 110
Chuck steak (1 kg)	564	599	579	640	613	610	777	549
Silverside, corned (1 kg)	648	593	529	586	656	582	618	655
Lamb								
Leg (1 kg)	606	532	589	566	559	535	614	574
Loin chops (1 kg)	830	881	871	842	887	748	927	800
Forequarter chops (1 kg)	444	522	532	580	567	522	623	449
Pork								
Leg (1 kg)	531	534	496	589	584	641	688	571
Loin chops (1 kg)	890	827	802	829	852	808	882	904
Chicken, frozen (1 kg)	369	357	322	365	350	378	381	361
Bacon, middle rashers (250 g pkt)	343	312	338	287	383	345	387	306
Beef corned (340 g can)	269	289	291	275	298	318	286	272
Sausages (1 kg)	309	370	344	357	386	413	391	350
Salmon, pink (210 g can)	254	261	260	256	273	301	283	264
Fresh fruit and vegetables								
Oranges (1 kg)	296	210	236	127	297	129	361	250
Bananas (1 kg)	234	228	204	240	251	213	290	223
Potatoes (1 kg)	129	149	124	82	138	89	149	146
Tomatoes (1kg)	378	276	285	346	298	333	448	308
Carrots (1 kg)	189	145	159	157	131	145	212	176
Onions (1 kg)	130	103	96	125	117	127	174	121
Processed fruit and vegetables								
Peaches (825 g can)	200	187	192	199	217	226	229	198
Pineapple, sliced (450 g can)	117	116	113	111	121	124	118	113
Peas, frozen (500 g pkt)	126	112	125	121	133	156	158	131
Confectionery								
Chocolate, milk, block (250 g)	310	331	312	312	333	374	335	329
Other food								
Eggs (1 dozen) (d)	288	314	285	243	260	288	285	271
Sugar, white (2 kg)	238	225	219	207	268	261	216	213
Jam, strawberry (500 g jar)	245	242	254	226	257	260	254	253
Tea (250 g)	248	236	250	216	265	273	264	228
Coffee, instant (150 g jar)	627	634	584	556	643	588	589	535
Tomato sauce (600 ml)	173	183	183	171	202	202	204	170
Margarine, poly-unsaturated (500 g)	186	156	180	154	171	214	197	184
Baked beans, in tomato sauce (420 g)	94	96	96	98	101	104	107	94
Baby food (120 g can)	62	62	63	61	65	72	69	61

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, Mar Qtr 1999 *continued*

Item (Unit)	Sydney cents	Melbourne cents	Brisbane cents	Adelaide cents	Perth cents	Hobart cents	Darwin cents	Canberra cents
Household supplies								
Laundry detergent (1 kg)	448	444	507	442	461	501	459	478
Dishwashing detergent (500ml)	330	335	334	321	339	370	365	343
Facial tissues (pkt 224)	189	194	188	188	196	202	188	181
Toilet paper (4 x 270 sheet rolls)	344	322	340	318	322	347	324	345
Pet food (400 g)	100	96	106	97	112	110	99	100
Private motoring								
Petrol, super grade (1 litre)	68.7	66.8	60.2	68.3	68.9	74.1	75.7	72.0
Petrol, unleaded (1 litre)	66.4	64.6	57.9	65.9	66.7	72.1	73.7	69.7
Alcoholic drinks								
Beer, low alcohol (24 x 375 ml bottles)	2 054	1 665	2 321	2 080	2 416	2 304	2 345	1 929
Beer, full strength (24 x 375 ml bottles) (e)	2 690	2 699	2 672	2 702	2 654	2 778	2 949	2 531
Draught beer, full strength, public bar (285 ml glass) (e)	174	208	186	211	235	230	232	179
Draught beer, low alcohol, public bar (285 ml glass)	157	176	174	183	230	200	216	159
Scotch nip, public bar (30 ml)	329	318	269	358	389	264	330	273
Personal care products								
Toilet soap (4 x 125 g)	325	278	308	314	310	371	306	323
Toothpaste (140 g)	249	247	265	236	249	262	251	250

(a) Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra:
2 x 250 g.

(b) Bread white loaf Sydney, Melbourne,
Brisbane, Perth and Canberra formerly
680 g. Adelaide, Hobart and Darwin 680 g.

(c) Brisbane and Darwin prices relate to
topside roast. Adelaide price relates to
blade bolar roast.

(d) Eggs in Sydney and Canberra have a net
carton weight of 700 g per dozen. Eggs in
Melbourne (formerly 55 g) and Perth
(formerly 50 g) have a minimum net weight
of 61 g. Eggs in Brisbane and Hobart have
a minimum net weight of 52 g. Eggs in
Adelaide have a minimum net weight of
55 g. Eggs in Darwin have minimum net
weight of 54 g.

(e) Alcoholic content of full strength beer is
greater than 3.9%.

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

DIAL-A-STATISTIC For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074.
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.
These calls cost 75c per minute.

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Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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