

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 23 JAN 1998

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Sep Qtr 97 to Dec Qtr 97	% change Dec Qtr 96 to Dec Qtr 97
All groups	3.4	8.9
Live animals, animal products	4.8	9.8
Vegetable products	3.8	-2.1
Prepared foodstuffs	5.8	10.3
Mineral products	5.4	11.8
Products of chemical or allied industries	5.8	7.6
Wool and cotton fibres	-0.8	17.9
Gold, diamonds and coin	2.1	-5.7
Base metals and articles of base metals	0.8	20.0
Machinery and mechanical appliances	2.4	1.6
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	3.0	5.7

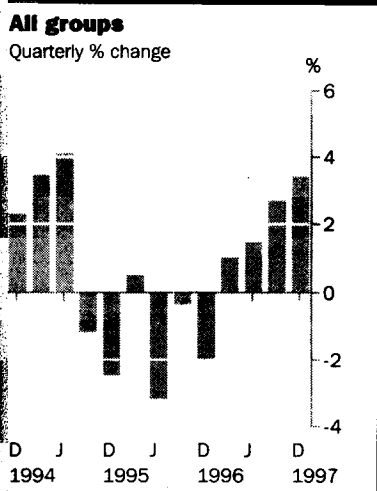
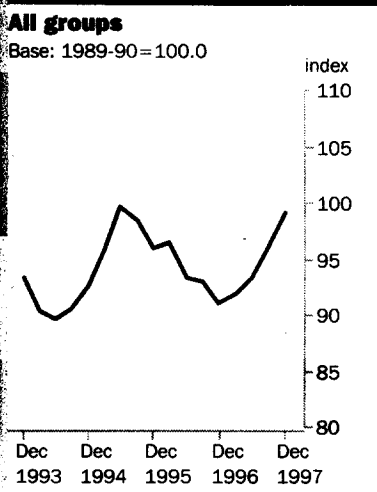
DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

ALL GROUPS INDEX

- The Export Price Index increased by 3.4% during the December quarter, the largest increase since June 1995. The depreciation of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies was a major contributor to the increase.

MAJOR MOVEMENTS

- Coal and iron ore prices increased during the quarter due to the depreciation of the Australian dollar.
- Prices for alumina increased.
- Partly offsetting these increases were price decreases for zinc ores and wool.



INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on 02 6252 5348, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

March 1998

21 April 1998

June 1998

20 July 1998

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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W. McLennan

Australian Statistician

EXPORT PRICE INDEX, All Groups

<i>Period</i>	<i>Index numbers(a)</i>	<i>% change from corresponding quarter of previous year</i>	<i>% change from previous period</i>
1993-94	91.8		-1.8
1994-95	94.7		3.2
1995-96	96.1		1.5
1996-97	92.4		-3.9
1993			
December	93.3	-1.2	-0.6
1994			
March	90.4	-4.4	-3.1
June	89.7	-2.3	-0.8
September	90.5	-3.6	0.9
December	92.6	-0.8	2.3
1995			
March	95.8	6.0	3.5
June	99.7	11.1	4.1
September	98.5	8.8	-1.2
December	96.0	3.7	-2.5
1996			
March	96.5	0.7	0.5
June	93.4	-6.3	-3.2
September	93.0	-5.6	-0.4
December	91.1	-5.1	-2.0
1997			
March	92.0	-4.7	1.0
June	93.4	0.0	1.5
September	95.9	3.1	2.7
December	99.2	8.9	3.4

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

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), AHECC and ANZSIC Contribution to All Groups Index

Category	September Qtr 1997	December Qtr 1997	Change
All groups index	95.9	99.2	3.3
SELECTED AHECC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Live animals, animal products	8.50	8.90	0.40
02 Vegetable products	8.04	8.34	0.30
04 Prepared foodstuffs	4.58	4.84	0.26
05 Mineral products	28.69	30.20	1.51
06 Products of chemical or allied industries	6.55	6.92	0.37
11 Wool and cotton fibres	10.43	10.35	-0.08
14 Gold, diamonds and coin	6.11	6.23	0.12
15 Base metals and articles of base metals	11.57	11.66	0.09
16 Machinery and mechanical appliances	3.81	3.90	0.09
17 Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	2.20	2.27	0.07
SELECTED ANZSIC SUBDIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Agriculture	19.36	20.05	0.69
11 Coal mining	11.77	12.72	0.95
13 Metal ore mining	10.75	10.70	-0.05
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	11.48	12.31	0.83
25 Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products	11.21	10.83	-0.38
27 Metal products	11.56	11.66	0.10
28 Machinery and equipment	2.20	2.27	0.07

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected AHECC Section

Period	Live animals, animal products (01)	Vegetable products (02)	Prepared foodstuffs (04)	Mineral products (05)	Products of chemical or allied industries (06)	Wool and cotton fibres (11)	Gold, diamonds and coin (14)	Base metals and articles of base metals (15)	Machinery and mechanical appliances (16)	Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels (17)
1993-94	110.3	88.6	102.3	100.9	87.5	59.0	110.4	76.3	97.6	109.3
1994-95	105.9	82.7	104.6	95.0	84.4	80.8	104.0	96.8	97.3	108.2
1995-96	98.8	101.2	101.3	100.9	89.5	72.7	102.3	97.0	95.8	107.3
1996-97	92.7	98.1	99.8	103.0	86.9	67.6	92.1	86.1	88.5	103.6
1993										
December	110.6	92.5	104.1	105.2	90.9	56.1	113.5	74.3	98.5	110.8
1994										
March	108.7	86.4	101.2	98.4	85.5	59.5	109.5	74.8	96.5	108.6
June	110.3	81.4	99.0	94.0	82.1	65.1	106.0	78.8	96.7	107.8
September	105.8	79.6	101.2	92.7	82.5	71.9	104.8	84.0	97.3	107.2
December	103.8	79.8	102.3	92.1	83.8	80.1	102.1	94.1	96.9	106.7
1995										
March	104.9	84.2	106.9	94.5	83.7	83.3	102.0	104.9	96.3	107.7
June	109.2	87.3	108.1	100.8	87.7	88.0	106.9	104.1	98.5	111.1
September	103.9	91.4	101.8	100.7	89.2	84.4	103.9	104.7	97.3	109.4
December	101.0	97.5	102.7	100.2	86.8	72.8	102.4	98.7	95.5	108.4
1996										
March	99.5	107.7	101.9	102.1	91.1	68.6	105.1	94.5	96.0	106.9
June	90.9	108.0	98.8	100.4	90.9	65.0	97.7	89.9	94.5	104.4
September	90.3	109.7	99.6	100.9	89.1	67.2	96.7	84.5	92.0	104.1
December	91.9	97.2	99.8	101.7	86.9	65.5	93.8	80.7	88.3	103.1
1997										
March	93.0	92.7	99.8	104.3	85.1	66.7	89.5	88.2	86.6	103.1
June	95.6	92.6	99.9	105.1	86.5	70.9	88.4	90.8	87.0	104.2
September	96.3	91.7	104.1	107.9	88.4	77.8	86.7	96.0	87.6	105.8
December	100.9	95.2	110.1	113.7	93.5	77.2	88.5	96.8	89.7	109.0

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

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Section

Period	Food and live animals (0)	Crude materials (2)	Mineral fuels (3)	Chemicals and related products (5)	Manufactured goods by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)
1993-94	100.1	75.9	108.0	86.3	79.6	101.4	111.3
1994-95	96.3	85.9	101.2	85.1	98.0	100.8	107.8
1995-96	100.3	83.4	108.0	91.0	97.4	99.6	106.2
1996-97	95.6	81.8	110.8	88.6	86.5	93.4	103.2
1993							
December	102.3	75.5	113.0	89.5	78.1	102.5	114.1
1994							
March	98.3	75.8	104.3	84.3	78.1	100.4	110.1
June	96.3	77.4	100.3	81.1	81.5	100.3	108.2
September	94.2	80.2	99.0	82.3	86.3	100.5	107.1
December	93.7	84.6	97.4	84.4	95.2	100.1	106.5
1995							
March	96.9	87.3	100.4	84.6	105.2	100.1	107.5
June	100.3	91.6	107.8	89.0	105.1	102.6	110.0
September	98.5	89.3	107.7	90.8	105.3	101.3	108.9
December	100.0	83.4	107.2	87.7	99.1	99.7	108.1
1996							
March	103.4	81.6	109.6	92.6	95.0	99.6	105.8
June	99.3	79.2	107.5	92.9	90.3	97.8	102.1
September	99.5	80.9	108.2	90.7	85.5	95.9	103.2
December	95.0	80.0	110.0	88.5	81.6	93.1	103.1
1997							
March	93.5	81.8	112.3	86.8	88.3	92.0	103.4
June	94.5	84.5	112.7	88.5	90.6	92.6	102.9
September	95.2	89.1	115.1	90.0	95.1	93.5	104.5
December	99.5	90.3	123.1	95.0	96.2	96.0	108.5

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

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected ANZSIC Industry of Origin Division and Subdivision

Period	Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	Coal mining (11)	Metallic ore mining (13)	Mining (B)	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)	Manufacturing (C)
1993-94	72.2	106.3	93.0	101.0	103.8	102.1	95.2
1994-95	83.4	96.1	88.6	94.2	99.5	101.4	98.6
1995-96	85.1	103.6	93.5	100.0	94.3	107.0	98.0
1996-97	80.6	102.9	94.9	101.3	90.2	107.1	92.5
1993							
December	71.9	111.8	96.2	105.5	104.8	105.6	96.1
1994							
March	71.7	104.6	92.3	99.2	102.2	98.0	93.4
June	73.3	97.3	87.2	93.6	101.8	97.5	94.0
September	77.5	95.0	85.8	92.1	97.6	98.1	94.4
December	81.6	92.8	86.7	91.3	97.7	100.2	96.9
1995							
March	85.1	94.3	88.5	93.6	100.2	101.1	100.4
June	89.3	102.4	93.4	99.9	102.6	106.2	102.8
September	88.9	104.3	93.3	100.4	96.5	105.8	100.7
December	83.7	105.2	93.1	100.2	96.6	102.5	98.2
1996							
March	85.0	103.3	94.3	100.3	95.4	110.8	98.7
June	82.7	101.4	93.4	99.1	88.8	109.0	94.4
September	84.7	102.9	93.4	99.8	88.5	107.1	92.6
December	78.9	101.5	92.9	99.4	90.0	108.5	91.7
1997							
March	78.0	103.0	95.9	102.5	90.7	106.2	92.4
June	80.8	104.3	97.3	103.6	91.6	106.6	93.2
September	84.7	108.1	100.8	106.7	92.9	108.5	94.9
December	106.5	112.1	106.3	112.1	106.7	107.6	98.0

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents index numbers measuring changes in the prices of exports of merchandise from Australia—the Export Price Index. It is calculated on a reference base of 1989–90=100.0

SCOPE

2 The Export Price Index includes re-exports of merchandise (that is, goods which are imported into Australia and exported at a later date without physical transformation). The index numbers for each quarter relate to prices of those exports of merchandise that are physically shipped from Australia during that quarter.

CLASSIFICATION

3 Index numbers for selected sections of the Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) are provided in Table 3 while index numbers for selected sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3 are provided in Table 4.

4 Table 5 contains index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which the exported commodity is primarily produced, determined in accordance with the classification rules of the ANZSIC. It is therefore not necessarily identical with the industry from which the export transactions are actually made. For instance, many exports are made by traders or by marketing authorities, but these exports are classified to the appropriate producing industries, rather than to the wholesale trading industries from which they are actually exported.

ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

5 The index is a fixed weights index. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their export values in 1988–89. They constituted approximately 95% of the total value of exports of merchandise from Australia that year. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of exports for each item in 1988–89. These weights were then revalued to reflect 1989–90 price levels. Many of the items carry not only their own weight but also the weight of unpriced commodities whose prices are considered to move in a similar manner. The weighting pattern of the Export Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, was shown in the September 1990 issue of this publication.

PRICE MEASUREMENT

6 In general, prices are obtained from major exporters of the selected items included in the index. The point of pricing for the Export Price Index is the point at which the goods physically leave Australia, i.e. prices are on 'free on board' basis (f.o.b.) at main Australian ports of export.

7 As the prices used in the index are expressed in Australian currency, changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements for the many commodities that are sold in currencies other than Australian dollars. Where exports are sold at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices in the index *exclude* forward exchange cover.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

PRICE MEASUREMENT

continued

8 The price series used relate to specified standards, grades, types, etc. of each commodity. The aim is to incorporate in the index, price changes for exports of representative goods of constant quality. Wherever possible, prices to predominant export markets are used for each of the specified goods priced, in order to lessen the impact of price variations attributable solely to changes, over time, in market destinations. In most cases prices are combined using fixed weights between markets. Weights between markets are reviewed from time to time and revised where necessary.

INDEX NUMBERS

9 Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of quarterly index numbers.

REVISIONS

10 In cases where more complete information is obtained after index numbers for a period have been published, or it is discovered that incorrect prices have been used in compiling the indexes, revisions to index numbers may occur in subsequent issues of this publication.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

11 Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter-to-quarter movements in the indexes as short-term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

12 Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in 'index points' or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods.

All groups index numbers—

December Quarter 1997	99.2	(see Table 1)
less December Quarter 1996	91.1	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	8.1	
Percentage change	$\frac{8.1}{91.1} \times 100 = 8.9$	

13 Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which selected categories of exports make to the All groups index. For example, Mineral products contributed 30.20 index points to the All groups index number of 99.2 for December Quarter 1997 and 1.51 index points to the net change of 3.3 index points.

FURTHER INFORMATION

14 The September 1990 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index.

15 Further information on the index is presented in the publication *Producer and Foreign Trade Price Indexes: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6419.0).

16 A detailed description of previous Export Price Indexes is contained in *Year Book Australia* No. 55, 1969, pages 256–7 and in *Year Book Australia* No. 58, 1972, pages 240–2 and in the July 1979 issue of this publication.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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RELATED PUBLICATIONS

17 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0).

18 Other ABS publications that may be of interest include *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5302.0).

19 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

20 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 Peter Sturgeon on 02 6252 5348 or any ABS office.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGE

AHECC	Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
f.o.b.	free on board
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
r	revised



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