

**EXPORT PRICE INDEX**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 19 JAN 2001

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

	% change Sep Qtr 2000 to Dec Qtr 2000	% change Dec Qtr 1999 to Dec Qtr 2000
All groups	7.3	21.4
Live animals, animal products	6.4	18.2
Vegetable products	8.3	18.0
Prepared foodstuffs	4.5	7.3
Mineral products	11.0	31.2
Products of chemical or allied industries	6.6	27.2
Wool and cotton fibres	3.3	15.8
Gold, diamonds and coin	5.7	14.3
Base metals and articles of base metals	7.2	24.4
Machinery and mechanical appliances	3.4	5.3
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	5.8	14.8

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS**ALL GROUPS INDEX**

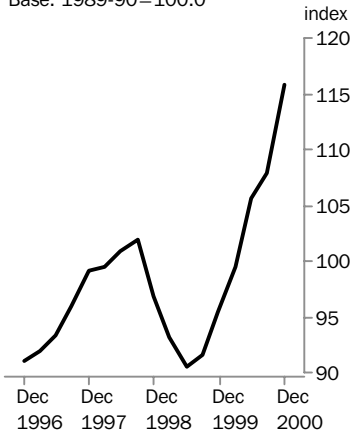
- The Export Price Index increased by 7.3% in the December quarter, the largest quarterly increase since June quarter 1985. The depreciation of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies was the main contributor to the increase.

MAJOR MOVEMENTS

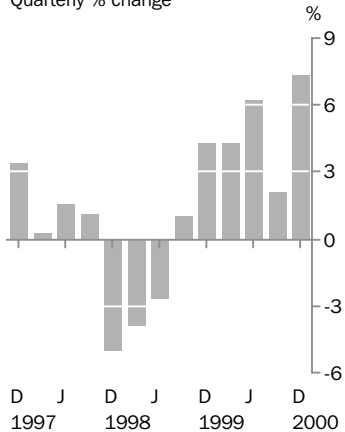
- Prices for alumina and mineral fuels and oils increased in line with world market movements.

All groups

Base: 1989-90=100.0

**All groups**

Quarterly % change



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Jim Armstrong on Canberra 02 6252 5457, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

March 2001

19 April 2001



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



Dennis Trewin
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>
1996-1997	92.4		-3.9
1997-1998	98.9		7.0
1998-1999	95.7		-3.2
1999-2000	98.0		2.4
1996			
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
1998			
March	99.4	8.0	0.2
June	100.9	8.0	1.5
September	102.0	6.4	1.1
December	96.9	-2.3	-5.0
1999			
March	93.1	-6.3	-3.9
June	90.6	-10.2	-2.7
September	91.5	-10.3	1.0
December	95.4	-1.5	4.3
2000			
March	99.5	6.9	4.3
June	105.7	16.7	6.2
September	107.9	17.9	2.1
December	115.8	21.4	7.3

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

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

Category	September Qtr 2000	December Qtr 2000	Change
All groups index	107.9	115.8	7.9
SELECTED AHECC SECTIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Live animals, animal products	10.15	10.81	0.66
02 Vegetable products	8.47	9.18	0.71
04 Prepared foodstuffs	4.62	4.82	0.20
05 Mineral products	30.14	33.45	3.31
06 Products of chemical or allied industries	8.83	9.40	0.57
11 Wool and cotton fibres	6.14	6.34	0.20
14 Gold, diamonds and coin	8.25	8.71	0.46
15 Base metals and articles of base metals	11.97	12.84	0.87
16 Machinery and mechanical appliances	7.72	7.98	0.26
17 Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	4.85	5.13	0.28
SELECTED ANZSIC SUBDIVISIONS: Contribution to All Groups Index (index points)			
01 Agriculture	16.06	17.12	1.06
11 Coal mining	9.33	10.09	0.76
13 Metal ore mining	8.60	9.25	0.65
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	13.02	13.73	0.71
25 Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products	12.04	12.98	0.94
27 Metal products	11.97	12.84	0.87
28 Machinery and equipment	4.85	5.13	0.28

(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)
1996-1997	92.7	98.1	99.8	103.0	86.9	67.6	92.1	86.1	88.5	103.6
1997-1998	100.0	96.3	109.7	113.7	94.9	75.8	89.8	94.1	89.1	110.0
1998-1999	100.7	90.9	102.8	114.6	95.6	61.4	93.1	85.6	90.3	113.0
1999-2000	107.8	83.9	94.9	117.0	101.5	62.5	93.5	99.3	90.9	113.2
1996										
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
1998										
March	102.2	97.2	112.0	114.5	97.6	75.9	88.5	92.7	89.3	111.4
June	100.5	101.0	112.7	118.5	100.0	72.3	95.4	91.0	89.7	113.9
September	103.7	100.2	109.5	122.4	100.7	67.6	98.0	93.3	90.8	117.1
December	100.9	90.9	104.4	117.8	98.5	59.2	95.8	86.1	90.3	112.9
1999										
March	99.6	88.6	103.3	110.8	93.5	58.8	92.5	80.6	90.9	111.6
June	98.5	83.9	94.0	107.4	89.8	60.0	86.2	82.3	89.3	110.2
September	102.7	80.8	93.1	108.3	93.2	60.5	83.1	87.3	89.3	110.5
December	105.0	83.4	95.3	112.6	96.3	62.1	94.4	94.0	90.5	111.5
2000										
March	107.8	83.1	95.9	119.9	104.2	60.2	96.0	105.5	90.7	112.4
June	115.6	88.1	95.4	127.3	112.4	67.3	100.5	110.3	93.1	118.4
September	116.6	90.9	97.9	133.1	114.9	69.6	102.1	109.0	92.2	121.0
December	124.1	98.4	102.3	147.7	122.5	71.9	107.9	116.9	95.3	128.0

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

EXPORT PRICE INDEX(a), By Selected SITC Section

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food and live animals (0)</i>	<i>Crude materials (2)</i>	<i>Mineral fuels (3)</i>	<i>Chemicals and related products (5)</i>	<i>Manufactured goods by material (6)</i>	<i>Machinery and transport equipment (7)</i>	<i>Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)</i>
1996-1997	95.6	81.8	110.8	88.6	86.5	93.4	103.2
1997-1998	99.6	90.3	121.8	96.0	93.7	95.9	108.2
1998-1999	96.6	84.0	119.7	96.2	86.8	97.7	111.7
1999-2000	95.7	82.6	127.1	102.5	101.0	98.8	112.5
1996							
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
1998							
March	101.4	90.2	123.4	98.2	92.3	96.5	109.1
June	102.1	91.4	125.6	100.7	91.2	97.6	110.7
September	102.8	90.9	128.6	101.0	93.9	99.4	114.1
December	96.9	84.4	123.8	99.4	87.2	97.7	109.6
1999							
March	95.3	81.7	113.8	93.8	82.3	97.7	112.7
June	91.3	79.1	112.5	90.4	83.7	96.1	110.2
September	91.5	79.2	114.5	93.5	88.6	96.3	110.0
December	94.8	81.2	121.2	97.2	95.7	98.2	111.5
2000							
March	95.9	81.8	131.9	105.3	106.6	98.6	112.0
June	100.7	88.3	140.8	114.1	113.0	102.2	116.6
September	101.4	89.2	148.3	114.8	111.6	100.8	113.1
December	108.3	94.7	166.7	122.1	119.5	105.1	120.3

(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)
1996-1997	80.6	102.9	94.9	101.3	90.2	107.1	92.5
1997-1998	84.8	116.9	105.2	112.7	98.7	114.0	97.7
1998-1999	73.8	116.4	110.4	114.4	98.3	112.6	95.6
1999-2000	72.6	102.2	105.7	113.1	98.2	129.0	102.2
1996							
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	86.0	117.0	103.4	112.1	97.8	114.7	98.0
1998							
March	84.5	119.3	104.8	113.8	102.3	115.1	98.3
June	83.8	123.3	111.8	118.1	101.9	117.8	99.4
September	81.3	128.8	116.8	122.9	102.0	117.1	100.4
December	72.6	122.4	112.4	117.5	99.3	115.9	97.2
1999							
March	71.3	110.9	109.5	111.0	98.1	109.0	93.4
June	70.0	103.4	103.0	106.2	93.9	108.5	91.5
September	69.6	99.5	102.3	105.7	95.7	115.2	93.8
December	72.3	100.6	103.4	110.0	96.4	120.4	98.8
2000							
March	71.4	102.5	105.8	115.1	97.7	134.1	104.9
June	77.2	106.0	111.4	121.4	103.0	146.1	111.1
September	80.3	107.0	114.6	125.3	103.2	151.3	110.6
December	85.6	115.7	123.3	138.8	108.9	163.1	117.3

(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 Commencing with the September quarter 2000, the index is annually reweighted and chained. The commodities directly represented in the index (the index items), were selected on the basis of their export values in recent years. The selected items were allocated weights in accordance with the average value of exports for each item in 1998–99 and 1999–2000. These weights were then revalued to reflect link period (June quarter 2000) 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 selected items constituted approximately 95% of the value of exports of merchandise from Australia during the weighting period. The weighting pattern of the Export Price Index, i.e. the percentage contributions for index items and groups, is shown in the September quarter 2000 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. Note that exports are exempt from indirect tax.

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 2000	115.8	(see Table 1)
less December Quarter 1999	95.4	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	20.4	
Percentage change	$\frac{20.4}{95.4}$	x 100 = 21.4

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 33.45 index points to the All groups index number of 115.8 for December Quarter 2000 and 3.31 index points to the net change of 7.9 index points.

FURTHER INFORMATION

14 The September 1990 issue of this publication contains a more detailed description of the index prior to the introduction of chaining and annual reweighting.

15 Further information on recent price index developments in the ABS is presented in the following publications:

- *Information Paper: An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia* (Cat. no. 6421.0)
- *Information Paper: Producer Price Index Developments* (Cat. no. 6422.0) (Comprises detailed discussion of Stage of Production concept and detail of selected Service Industries indexes.)
- *Information Paper: Review of the Import Price Index and Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6424.0)
- *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System 2000* (Cat. no. 6425.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

FURTHER INFORMATION *continued*

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.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6408.0)
- *Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Australia* (Cat. no. 6410.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials used in Coal Mining, Australia* (Cat. no. 6415.0)
- *Producer Price Indexes for Selected Service Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6423.0)
- *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0).

18 Other ABS publications that may be of interest include:

- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0)
- *Consumer Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6401.0)
- *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6345.0)
- *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (Cat. no. 6302.0)
- *Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables* (Cat. no. 5209.0)

19 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.

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 Jim Armstrong on 02 6252 5457 or any ABS office.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* 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 77c per minute).

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