



MARCH QUARTER 1999

6410.0

PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 23 APR 1999

MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

<i>Price indexes of copper materials</i>	% change	
	<i>Dec Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Mar Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</i>
Industrial electric motors	-7.0	-9.6
Distribution transformers	-9.5	-9.7
Power transformers	-8.2	-16.4

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains index numbers for copper materials used in the manufacture of three types of electrical equipment: Industrial electric motors, Distribution transformers, and Power transformers.

INDEX NUMBERS

Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers. 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. Each index is presented on a reference base of 1983-84 = 100.0.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

. . not applicable
r revised.

FORTHCOMING ISSUE

The June Quarter 1999 issue is expected to be released on 23 July 1999.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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Acting Australian Statistician

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on Canberra 02 6252 5348, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Period	INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC MOTORS.....			DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS.....			POWER TRANSFORMERS.....		
	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period	Index numbers(a)	% change from corresponding period of previous year	% change from previous period
1994-1995	195.5	..	17.5	186.4	..	17.5	217.4	..	12.2
1995-1996	196.7	..	0.6	185.4	..	-0.5	218.7	..	0.6
1996-1997	173.4	..	-11.8	162.0	..	-12.6	196.9	..	-10.0
1997-1998	173.4	..	0.0	160.2	..	-1.1	193.3	..	-1.8
1995									
March	201.0	22.9	4.3	192.1	23.4	4.1	223.1	16.0	3.9
June	205.0	20.0	2.0	193.9	18.4	0.9	225.2	14.7	0.9
September	208.1	13.6	1.5	196.2	12.0	1.2	227.5	10.2	1.0
December	201.9	4.7	-3.0	190.8	3.4	-2.8	223.4	4.1	-1.8
1996									
March	192.1	-4.4	-4.9	181.1	-5.7	-5.1	215.0	-3.6	-3.8
June	184.8	-9.9	-3.8	173.6	-10.5	-4.1	208.7	-7.3	-2.9
September	164.4	-21.0	-11.0	153.6	-21.7	-11.5	191.5	-15.8	-8.2
December	167.5	-17.0	1.9	155.7	-18.4	1.4	191.7	-14.2	0.1
1997									
March	178.8	-6.9	6.7	167.6	-7.5	7.6	200.5	-6.7	4.6
June	182.9	-1.0	2.3	171.1	-1.4	2.1	203.7	-2.4	1.6
September	183.9	11.9	0.5	171.5	11.7	0.2	208.0	8.6	2.1
December	174.8	4.4	-4.9	162.3	4.2	-5.4	198.9	3.8	-4.4
1998									
March	165.2	-7.6	-5.5	151.7	-9.5	-6.5	190.8	-4.8	-4.1
June	169.8	-7.2	2.8	155.2	-9.3	2.3	175.6	-13.8	-8.0
September	165.8	-9.8	-2.4	155.1	-9.6	-0.1	177.7	-14.6	1.2
December	160.5	-8.2	-3.2	151.4	-6.7	-2.4	173.7	-12.7	-2.3
1999									
March	149.3	-9.6	-7.0	137.0	-9.7	-9.5	159.5	-16.4	-8.2

(a) Base of each index: 1983-84 = 100.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

1 These indexes are fixed weights indexes. The items included in the indexes were allocated weights in accordance with the estimated average values of copper material used in the manufacture of each type of equipment in 1982–83. The weights do not necessarily reflect the relative values of materials used by particular manufacturers.

PRICES

2 Prices are those charged by major manufacturers or distributors of copper materials to electrical equipment manufacturers for materials delivered into store. The prices used relate to materials of fixed specifications.

3 The index for Industrial electric motors is intended to measure price movements of copper materials used in electric motors for industrial applications only. This index does not necessarily reflect the price movements of copper used in the manufacture of other smaller types of electric motors, such as those used as components in white goods or other domestic appliances.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX CHANGES

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

5 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:

Industrial electric motors index numbers –		
March Qtr 1999	149.3	(see Table 1)
less March Qtr 1998	165.2	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	–15.9	
Percentage change	$\frac{-15.9}{165.2}$	x 100 = –9.6

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

6 Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications:

- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 6412.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6411.0)
- *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Australia* (Cat. no. 6415.0)
- *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).

7 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. Contact details for each ABS office are shown on the back cover.

FURTHER INFORMATION

8 A detailed description of these indexes was shown in the Appendix to the June 1984 issue of this publication and is available from the contact officer.

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.
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