



MARCH QUARTER 1999

6415.0

# PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN COAL MINING

AUSTRALIA

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

## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

<i>Price indexes of materials used in coal mining</i>	% change	
	<i>Dec Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</i>	<i>Mar Qtr 1998 to Mar Qtr 1999</i>
Open cut mining	-0.7	-3.6
Underground mining	0.0	1.2

## NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

This publication contains price indexes relating to materials used in the mining of coal in Australia. Separate indexes show movements in prices of materials used in open cut and underground coal mining operations.

### 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 1987-88=100.0.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

. . not applicable  
r revised

### FORTHCOMING ISSUE

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

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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- 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.

## PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN COAL MINING

Period	OPEN CUT.....			UNDERGROUND.....		
	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
<b>1994-1995</b>	116.8	..	0.5	122.7	..	1.0
<b>1995-1996</b>	119.8	..	2.6	126.4	..	3.0
<b>1996-1997</b>	121.9	..	1.8	129.6	..	2.5
<b>1997-1998</b>	120.4	..	-1.2	129.8	..	0.2
<b>1995</b>						
March	117.1	0.3	0.3	123.3	1.7	0.7
June	117.7	0.9	0.5	124.0	2.4	0.6
September	118.9	2.8	1.0	125.7	4.1	1.4
December	119.3	2.1	0.3	126.0	2.9	0.2
<b>1996</b>						
March	120.7	3.1	1.2	126.6	2.7	0.5
June	120.4	2.3	-0.2	127.2	2.6	0.5
September	119.8	0.8	-0.5	129.9	3.3	2.1
December	123.2	3.3	2.8	129.4	2.7	-0.4
<b>1997</b>						
March	123.5	2.3	0.2	129.5	2.3	0.1
June	120.9	0.4	-2.1	129.7	2.0	0.2
September	120.3	0.4	-0.5	129.6	-0.2	-0.1
December	121.7	-1.2	1.2	129.6	0.2	0.0
<b>1998</b>						
March	122.4	-0.9	0.6	130.1	0.5	0.4
June	117.3	-3.0	-4.2	129.9	0.2	-0.2
September	119.0	-1.1	1.4	132.0	1.9	1.6
December	118.8	-2.4	-0.2	131.7	1.6	-0.2
<b>1999</b>						
March	118.0	-3.6	-0.7	131.7	1.2	0.0

(a) Base of each index: 1987-88 = 100.0

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### ITEMS AND WEIGHTS

**1** These indexes are fixed weights indexes. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of the estimated average values of materials used in the operation of open cut and underground coal mines in Australia during the three years ended June 1987.

### PRICES

**2** The point of pricing is delivered on mine site or to the primary storage area for a group of mines. Prices are obtained from representative suppliers of the materials used in coal mining.

**3** As far as possible, actual transactions prices are used—that is, the prices actually paid by coal mines to suppliers for materials delivered on mine sites. The actual price paid for anything can, of course, be described in various ways. Instead of being described as a single price (as usually happens in retail shops), a price for a mining material may be described in terms of the components that make up the price—for instance, 'list price plus sales tax', 'supplier's price plus freight', 'basic price less (particular types of) discount', and so on. It is these net prices that buyers pay to sellers in exchange for materials that the ABS aims to use in compiling these indexes.

### 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:

Open cut mining index numbers –

March Qtr 1999	118.0	(see Table 1)
less March Qtr 1998	122.4	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	–4.4	
Percentage change	–4.4	x 100 = –3.6
	122.4	

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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

- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6407.0)
- *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)
- *Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6405.0)
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