

**PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS
USED IN COAL MINING**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 22 JAN 2001

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

<i>Price indexes of materials used in coal mining</i>	<i>% change Sep Qtr 2000 to Dec Qtr 2000</i>	<i>% change Dec Qtr 1999 to Dec Qtr 2000</i>
Open cut mining	5.5	9.7
Underground mining	1.1	3.1

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 March Quarter 2001 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 20 April 2001.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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Australian Statistician

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Peter Sturgeon on Canberra 02 6252 5348, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

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
1996-1997	121.9	..	1.8	129.6	..	2.5
1997-1998	120.4	..	-1.2	129.8	..	0.2
1998-1999	118.9	..	-1.2	131.8	..	1.5
1999-2000	128.4	..	8.0	131.2	..	-0.5
1996						
December	123.2	3.3	2.8	129.4	2.7	-0.4
1997						
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
1998						
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
1999						
March	118.0	-3.6	-0.7	131.7	1.2	0.0
June	119.8	2.1	1.5	131.6	1.3	-0.1
September	120.6	1.3	0.7	130.2	-1.4	-1.1
December	126.9	6.8	5.2	130.4	-1.0	0.2
2000						
March	131.2	11.2	3.4	131.2	-0.4	0.6
June	134.8	12.5	2.7	133.0	1.1	1.4
September	132.0	9.5	-2.1	132.9	2.1	-0.1
December	139.2	9.7	5.5	134.4	3.1	1.1

(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, ‘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 –

December Qtr 2000	139.2	(see Table 1)
less December Qtr 1999	126.9	(see Table 1)
Change in index points	12.3	
Percentage change	12.3	x 100 = 9.7
	126.9	

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)
- *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0).
- *Producer Price Indexes for Selected Service Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 6423.0).

FURTHER INFORMATION

7 For details regarding the effect of the new tax system, see *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System 2000* (Cat. no. 6425.0).

8 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.

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- 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.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
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