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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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22 APR 1964

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH QUARTER, 1964

1. Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities of Australia are shown herein.

2. The Consumer Price Index consists of a series of short term retail price indexes linked to form one series with reference base year 1952-53 = 100.0. Up to December Quarter, 1963, there had been four such short term indexes. For March Quarter, 1964, the fifth of these short term indexes is introduced. The process of linking ensures that the series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index. Details of the link are set out in the Appendix attached to this bulletin.

3. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for March Quarter, 1964, increased by 0.6% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.6%, Melbourne +0.6%, Brisbane +0.8%, Adelaide +0.7%, Perth +0.9%, Hobart +0.6%.

4. Recent quarterly changes in the All Groups index have been as follows:

Quarter	Each Capital City and Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter						
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1962 March	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.2
June	- 0.1	..	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	- 0.1
September	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
December	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.1	..	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.1
1963 March	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1
June	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
September	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2
December	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.1
1964 March	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.6

5. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six capital cities increased by 1.0% over the year ended March Quarter, 1964. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1962 March	- 0.5	..	+ 0.3	..	- 0.2	- 0.2
June	- 0.8	..	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
September	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
December	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
1963 March	- 0.2	..	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
June	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
September	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	- 1.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
December	- 0.4	..	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1
1964 March	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.6

6. A full description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 49, 1961.

7. The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households in the aggregate. Changes in the pattern of this expenditure since 1950 have been such as to render it necessary to construct the index with additional items and changes in weighting patterns at intervals (rather than on the basis of a list of items and set of weights which remained unchanged throughout the period). Five series for short periods, viz.: September Quarter, 1948 to June Quarter, 1952; June Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1956; June Quarter 1956 to March Quarter, 1960; March Quarter, 1960 to December Quarter, 1963; and from December Quarter, 1963 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items (mainly ones that had become significant in household expenditure) were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting have remained unchanged.

8. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

9. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from the 1948-49 to 1962-63 and for each quarter from December Quarter, 1960. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from December Quarter, 1962 to March Quarter, 1964.

10. The following table is provided to assist interpretation of movements shown by the Consumer Price Index from December Quarter, 1963 to March Quarter, 1964.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from December Quarter, 1963 to March Quarter, 1964

Approximate Analysis in Terms of "All Groups" Index Points (a)

Group	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)	Index Points (a)
Food							
Meat	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Potatoes	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
Other	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Clothing and Drapery
Housing	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1
Miscellaneous	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Total Change (Index Points)	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.8

(a) For each city, the total change in index points since the preceding quarter is the arithmetical difference between the All Groups Index numbers for the last two quarters shown in Table 1, page 4 hereof (e.g. Sydney : December Quarter, 1963, 123.9; March Quarter, 1964, 124.6; difference of +0.7 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

11. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between December Quarter, 1963 and March Quarter, 1964 is shown below:-

Food Group

Changes in meat and potato prices are frequently the major cause of movements in the total index. The effects of changes in prices of these items in each capital city are shown in the table in paragraph 10 on page 2 of this and paragraph 9 of preceding bulletins.

In the current quarter there were increases in egg prices in all capital cities.

The food group of the index (average of the six capital cities) showed a quarterly increase of 1.2%.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.1%.

Housing Group

The rents of privately owned houses increased in all capital cities. The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.6%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.3%.

Miscellaneous Group

The price of public telephone calls increased in all capital cities. In Perth the prices of beer and third party insurance were increased.

The index for the weighted average of the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.5%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 21ST APRIL, 1964

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 455 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

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TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXALL GROUPS - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six Capitals : Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
Year ended June -							
1949	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.9
1950	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	66.0
1951	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.6
1952	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	101.6	102.0	102.0	101.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1955	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1956	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1957	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1958	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1959	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1960	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1961	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1962	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1963	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
Quarter -							
1960 - December	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3
1961 - March	122.5	126.1	126.7	123.4	121.9	128.3	124.2
June	123.4	127.1	126.1	124.3	122.4	128.9	125.0
September	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
December	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0
September	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	124.3
December	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	124.4
1963 - March	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	124.5
June	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	124.9
September	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	125.1
December	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	125.0
1964 - March	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	125.8

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.

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TABLE 2.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP INDEXES - SIX CAPITAL CITIES, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six Capital Cities :

Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities
FOOD GROUP							
1962 - December	121.4	126.1	129.5	125.7	122.8	128.0	124.3
1963 - March	121.1	125.5	130.3	125.7	123.7	127.2	124.1
June	121.3	125.8	130.2	126.8	124.4	127.0	124.5
September	121.2	126.7	131.5	128.0	124.6	128.7	125.0
December	121.4	125.7	131.0	127.0	123.7	127.9	124.5
1964 - March	122.7	127.0	133.6	129.1	125.0	129.1	126.0
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1962 - December	111.8	114.4	117.0	111.5	111.8	114.4	113.2
1963 - March	111.8	114.4	117.0	111.6	112.0	114.4	113.2
June	112.0	114.6	117.0	112.1	112.4	114.8	113.4
September	112.3	114.9	117.4	112.4	112.6	115.0	113.7
December	112.3	114.9	117.6	112.5	112.6	114.9	113.7
1964 - March	112.4	115.0	117.7	112.6	112.8	114.9	113.8
HOUSING GROUP							
1962 - December	152.8	160.8	144.1	154.7	150.9	168.7	154.7
1963 - March	153.8	161.3	144.2	154.7	151.2	169.4	155.3
June	155.9	162.7	144.5	156.0	152.6	170.3	156.8
September	157.4	163.7	145.1	156.5	153.3	170.7	157.9
December	159.3	163.8	145.0	158.2	155.7	173.6	159.0
1964 - March	160.4	164.6	145.2	158.9	156.8	175.7	159.9
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1962 - December	112.6	114.1	112.8	106.0	106.9	123.7	112.4
1963 - March	112.4	113.8	112.5	105.9	106.9	123.6	112.1
June	112.7	114.0	112.9	106.0	107.0	123.8	112.4
September	111.0	112.1	111.2	104.0	105.0	123.4	110.6
December	111.2	112.4	111.5	104.3	104.9	123.7	110.8
1964 - March	111.6	112.7	111.7	104.5	105.2	123.8	111.1
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1962 - December	129.1	129.5	134.4	121.5	124.9	126.9	128.7
1963 - March	129.8	129.6	134.3	121.6	126.0	127.1	129.0
June	129.8	130.1	134.4	121.7	126.1	127.2	129.2
September	130.0	130.7	135.2	122.2	126.2	127.3	129.7
December	129.6	130.3	135.0	121.8	128.2	127.9	129.5
1964 - March	130.1	131.0	135.4	122.4	130.3	128.7	130.1
ALL GROUPS							
1962 - December	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	124.4
1963 - March	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	124.5
June	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	124.9
September	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	125.1
December	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	125.0
1964 - March	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	125.8

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number.

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APPENDIX

1. The Consumer Price Index is a chain of "fixed weight aggregative" indexes, links having previously been effected at June Quarter, 1952, June Quarter, 1956, and March Quarter, 1960. A further link in the series has now been made as at December Quarter, 1963. Price change between December Quarter, 1963 and March Quarter, 1964, has thus been measured on the basis of the changed list of items and weights. The weighting of this fifth linked index has been derived from recently completed analyses of data from the Population Census of 1961, the Census of Retail Establishments of 1961-62 and recent statistics and estimates of production, consumption, etc.
2. During each period between links the items and weighting remain unchanged. At times of linking the weighting pattern is brought up-to-date and the list of items is reviewed. Under this method, in effect, average percentage price movements are assessed on one pattern up to the time of the link and on another pattern thereafter. The process of linking ensures that the series reflects only price variations and not differences in cost of the old and new combinations and lists of items. The introduction of new items and weights by linking does not, of itself, raise or lower the level of the index.
3. Table A attached shows, in sectional detail, the composition and weighting of the Consumer Price Index as from December Quarter, 1963. The weights shown are those comprised in the index for the six State capital cities combined. They indicate the relative influence given to the various components in measuring the degree of price change in the index from December Quarter, 1963 (i.e. from the beginning of the new linked series).
4. Changes from the previous (fourth) linked series are:-
 - (a) Weights of all items have been reviewed and, in general, are now based on the pattern of consumption of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62.
 - (b) The weights for fuel and light, fares and motoring are based on the pattern of consumption in 1961-62.
 - (c) For housing the weights take account of data derived from the Population Census of 1961.
 - (d) Furniture, frozen vegetables, packet soups, additional processed meat items, and Sunday newspapers and weekly magazines have been added to the list of items. Rentals of six-roomed privately owned houses are now included. Some other new items of less significance have been included and a few items of minor significance have been deleted.
5. The overall effect of these changes on the composition and weighting is illustrated in Table B attached. Corresponding changes at the preceding three points of linking are also shown. The table shows group and sub-group weighting patterns in the index at the beginning of each linked period together with their proportionate contribution at the end of each of the first four linked periods. The differences between the proportions at the beginning and end of each linked period reflect disparate price movements over that period. The differences in proportion between the end of one period and the beginning of the next reflect changes in composition or weighting.
6. For more detailed treatment of the nature etc. of the Consumer Price Index see Chapter One of Labour Report No. 49, 1961.

TABLE A.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

COMPOSITION AND WEIGHTING PATTERN AS AT DECEMBER QUARTER, 1963
FOR THE SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

Group, Section, etc.	Percentage Weight (a)	
	Section, etc.	Group
FOOD -		32.1
Cereal Products - Bread, flour, biscuits, rice, and breakfast foods	4.0	
Dairy Produce - Milk, cheese, butter and eggs ..	7.1	
Potatoes, Onions, Preserved Fruit and Vegetables -		
Potatoes and onions, canned and dried fruits, and canned and frozen vegetables	1.9	
Soft Drink, Ice Cream and Confectionery ..	4.0	
Other (except Meat) - Sugar, jam, margarine, tea, coffee, baby foods, and sundry canned and other foods ..	4.1	
Meat - Butcher's (Beef, mutton, lamb and pork) ..	9.1	
Processed (Bacon, smallgoods and canned meat) ..	1.9	
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY -		16.9
Men's Clothing ..	4.1	
Women's Clothing ..	6.5	
Boys' Clothing ..	0.6	
Girls' Clothing ..	1.0	
Piecegoods, etc. - Wool, cotton, and rayon cloth, nursery squares and knitting wool ..	1.0	
Footwear - Men's, women's and children's ..	2.7	
Household Drapery - Bedclothes, towels, tablecloth, etc. ..	1.0	
HOUSING -		12.6
Rent - Privately owned houses ..	2.8	
Government owned houses ..	0.8	
Home Ownership - House price ..	5.2	
Rates ..	2.6	
Repairs and Maintenance ..	1.2	
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT -		14.5
Fuel and Light - Electricity ..	2.4	
Gas ..	1.3	
Other (Firewood and kerosene) ..	0.9	
Household Appliances - Refrigerator, washing machine, stoves, radio set, television set, vacuum cleaner, electric iron, etc. ..	3.6	
Other Household Articles -		
Furniture and Floor Coverings ..	2.2	
Kitchen and Other Utensils, Gardening and Small Tools ..	0.9	
Household Sundries (Household soaps, etc.) ..	1.0	
Personal Requisites (Toilet soap, cosmetics, etc.) ..	1.1	
Proprietary Medicines ..	1.0	
School Requisites ..	0.1	
MISCELLANEOUS -		23.9
Transport - Fares - Train ..	1.2	
Tram and bus ..	1.9	
Private Motoring - Car purchase ..	3.0	
Car operation ..	4.4	
Tobacco and Cigarettes ..	3.9	
Beer ..	3.8	
Services - Hairdressing (Haircuts, wave, etc.) ..	0.7	
Drycleaning ..	0.5	
Shoe Repairs ..	0.3	
Postal and Telephone Services ..	0.9	
Other - Radio and Television operation ..	1.3	
Cinema Admission ..	0.7	
Newspapers and Weekly Magazines ..	1.3	
TOTAL ..	100.0	100.0

(a) Weights shown are in proportion to the estimated pattern of consumption, described in paragraph 4 of the Appendix, valued at relevant prices of December Quarter, 1963.

NOTE - The weights should not be regarded as dissecting total household expenditure into its component parts (see page 13 of Labour Report No. 49, 1961).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : ANALYSIS OF WEIGHTING IN THE FIVE LINKED SERIES

Group, etc.	Percentage Contribution to Total Index (Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities)									
	First Linked Series		Second Linked Series		Third Linked Series		Fourth Linked Series		Fifth Linked Series	
	June Quarter, 1949. (a)	June Quarter, 1952.	June Quarter, 1952.	June Quarter, 1956.	June Quarter, 1956.	March Quarter, 1960.	March Quarter, 1960.	December Quarter, 1963.	December Quarter, 1963.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Food Group ..	31.3	35.7	33.6	34.3	33.7	33.0	32.1	31.6	32.1	
Clothing and Drapery Group ..	22.8	23.0	21.6	20.0	19.7	19.5	19.0	18.8	16.9	
Housing Group -										
Home Ownership ..	5.4)	5.1)	6.5)	7.2)	7.8)	8.1)	7.8)	8.4)	9.0)	
Rent of Privately Owned Houses	5.7)11.4	3.9) 9.2	2.2) 9.4	2.5)10.5	1.8)10.5	2.0)11.0	2.0)10.7	2.7)12.0	2.8)	12.6
Rent of Government Owned Houses	0.3)	0.2)	0.7)	0.8)	0.9)	0.9)	0.9)	0.9)	0.8)	
Household Supplies and Equipment Group -										
Fuel and Light ..	3.5)	3.7)	3.8)	3.7)	4.3)	4.3)	4.2)	4.2)	4.6)	
Household Appliances ..	4.2)13.1	3.6)12.2	3.3)11.7	2.8)10.9	2.7)11.6	2.5)11.5	4.5)13.2	4.0)12.6	3.6)	14.5
Other Household Articles ..	5.4)	4.9)	4.6)	4.4)	4.6)	4.7)	4.5)	4.4)	6.3(c))	
Miscellaneous Group -										
Transport - Fares (rail, tram and bus)	6.3)	6.1)	4.4)	4.8)	3.7)	4.5)	4.4)	4.7)	3.1)	
Private Motoring ..	(b)	(b)	6.1)	5.8)	7.4)	7.1)	6.9)	6.6)	7.4)	
Tobacco and Cigarettes ..	5.6)	4.5)	4.2)	4.3)	4.2)	4.0)	3.9)	3.8)	3.9)	
Beer ..	4.6)21.4	4.2)19.9	4.0)23.7	4.5)24.3	4.4)24.5	4.2)25.0	4.1)25.0	4.1)25.0	3.8)	23.9
Services, Cinema, Radio and Television										
Licences, and Newspapers, etc.	4.9)	5.1)	5.0)	4.9)	4.8)	5.2)	5.7)	5.8)	5.7)	
TOTAL:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(a) Originally compiled as start of first linked series. This series subsequently taken back (on this basis) to September Quarter, 1948.

(b) Not included.

(c) Furniture included as from December quarter, 1963 with percentage contribution to total index of 1.7%.