

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICSCANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXDECEMBER QUARTER, 1960

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

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups index for December Quarter, 1960 increased by 0.7% for the weighted average of the six capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.7%, Melbourne +0.5%, Brisbane +1.2%, Adelaide +0.7%, Perth +0.8%, Hobart + 1.0%.

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

Quarter	Change from Preceding Quarter						
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Six Capitals (a)
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1959 September	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
December	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
1960 March	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
June	+ 1.2	+ 2.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.5	+ 1.8
September	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.7

(a) Weighted average.

4. The weighted average retail price index for the six capital cities increased by 4½ per cent. in the year 1960. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Change from Preceding Quarter (a)					
	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1959 September	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
December	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
1960 March	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
June	+ 1.9	+ 0.9	+ 3.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	+ 1.8
September	+ 2.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
December	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 1.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7

(a) Weighted average six capital cities.

5. For current statistical purposes the Consumer Price Index replaces both the "C" Series Retail Price Index first compiled in 1921 and the Interim Retail Price Index constructed as a transitional index in 1954. The "C" Series Retail Price Index for December Quarter, 1960 has been sent to industrial tribunals and will be available, on request, to other bodies and persons after the release date, Friday, 20th January, at 3 p.m.

6. A brief account of the Consumer Price Index was given at the time of its first issue in Statistical Bulletin 837 of 12th August, 1960. A more comprehensive description is contained in a Statistical Bulletin issued in January, 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. 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 remain unchanged throughout the period). Four series for short periods viz., June Quarter, 1949 to June Quarter, 1952; June Quarter, 1952 to June Quarter, 1956; June Quarter, 1956 to March Quarter, 1960; and from March Quarter, 1960 have therefore been constructed and linked to form a continuous retail price index series (1949 to 1960) published herein as the Consumer Price Index. At times of linking the weighting pattern was altered and, in addition, new items that had become significant in household expenditure were introduced. In each period between links the items and weighting remain 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 1949-50 to 1959-60, for June quarters of each year from 1949 to 1958 and for subsequent quarters to December, 1960. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from September, 1959 to December, 1960.

10. The following analysis is provided to assist interpretation of movement shown by the Consumer Price Index from September Quarter, 1960 to December Quarter, 1960.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX POINTS (a)

Approximate Change, September Quarter, 1960 to December Quarter, 1960

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Brisbane</u>	<u>Adelaide</u>	<u>Perth</u>	<u>Hobart</u>	<u>Weighted Average of Six Capitals</u>
Food	+0.2	..	+0.9	+0.1	..	+1.1	+0.2
Clothing and Drapery	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2
Housing	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	+0.5	+0.4	+0.2	+0.2
Household Supplies and Equipment	+0.2	-0.1	+0.1
Miscellaneous	+0.1	+0.1	+0.3	..	+0.4	..	+0.1
Total Change (Index Points)	+0.8	+0.6	+1.5	+0.9	+1.0	+1.3	+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 two quarters (e.g. Sydney - September Quarter, 1960, 120.8, December Quarter, 1960 121.6 - difference of 0.8 index points). The dissection in this table shows how much each group has contributed to this total movement.

11. The main movements in average quarterly prices affecting group indexes are summarized below:-

In the food group, changes were:- increases in meat prices in Brisbane and Hobart and decreases in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth; increases in prices of potatoes in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and a decrease in Brisbane; increases in soft drink prices in each capital city other than Sydney and Melbourne; increases in prices of bread and milk in Brisbane. The food group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed a quarterly increase of 0.6%.

The index of prices of the clothing and drapery group for the six capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 0.7% mainly due to summer seasonal items.

In the housing group, there were increases in all capital cities in house price and rents of privately owned houses and increases in rates in five cities. The movement of the housing group as a whole was + 1.9% for the weighted average of the six capital cities.

In the household supplies and equipment group, the main change was an increase in prices of fuel and light in Sydney. For the weighted average of the six capital cities the overall group movement was an increase of 0.4%.

In the miscellaneous group, the main changes were increased fares in Brisbane and Perth. The overall group movement for the weighted average of the six capital cities was an increase of 0.4%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

19TH JANUARY, 1961

TABLE 1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXSIX 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	Six Capital Cities (b)
Year ended June -							
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	102.3	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
Quarter -							
1949 - June	62.6	62.9	63.8	63.2	63.1	62.8	62.9
1950 "	68.0	68.8	69.0	68.7	68.6	66.3	68.4
1951 "	80.7	80.7	80.5	81.2	80.3	79.6	80.7
1952 "	98.0	96.4	96.8	97.5	96.0	95.5	97.2
1953 "	101.2	101.6	100.9	101.4	101.7	102.3	101.4
1954 "	101.5	102.0	102.1	102.4	104.3	104.4	102.1
1955 "	103.0	103.1	103.9	104.7	106.6	105.9	103.6
1956 "	108.8	112.0	109.5	109.9	110.5	113.6	110.2
1957 "	113.7	114.2	112.6	111.3	114.2	117.5	113.7
1958 "	115.1	114.6	115.9	112.7	114.1	117.3	114.8
Sept.	114.8	114.9	116.7	113.5	114.4	117.7	114.9
Dec.	115.2	116.4	117.9	114.2	114.3	118.7	115.8
1959 - March	115.5	117.1	119.0	115.0	114.7	119.1	116.3
June	115.8	117.9	119.1	115.3	115.5	119.3	116.8
Sept.	116.3	118.2	120.2	116.3	115.9	119.7	117.3
Dec.	117.2	118.8	120.8	116.9	115.7	120.1	118.0
1960 - March	118.2	119.8	121.6	118.3	117.1	120.8	119.0
June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3

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

(b) Weighted average.

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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	Six Capital Cities (b)
FOOD GROUP							
1959 - Sept.	115.3	118.8	123.4	120.2	117.8	117.5	117.9
Dec.	116.7	119.2	123.4	120.2	115.7	117.2	118.4
1960 - March	118.4	120.8	124.6	123.7	118.4	117.8	120.3
June	119.7	124.2	125.3	128.1	121.6	121.4	122.6
Sept.	122.8	129.1	126.9	130.4	122.9	128.4	126.0
Dec.	123.5	129.2	130.0	130.6	122.9	131.7	126.7
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP							
1959 - Sept.	107.5	109.7	110.2	105.7	107.3	109.9	108.3
Dec.	108.4	110.6	111.4	106.5	107.7	110.4	109.2
1960 - March	108.6	110.9	112.2	107.0	108.0	110.8	109.5
June	109.4	111.6	113.9	108.1	109.6	111.6	110.5
Sept.	109.6	111.9	114.1	108.3	109.8	111.6	110.7
Dec.	110.2	112.7	115.0	109.5	110.8	112.3	111.5
HOUSING GROUP							
1959 - Sept.	131.7	131.5	131.5	138.7	131.5	144.7	132.5
Dec.	133.2	133.0	132.2	139.5	132.6	147.4	133.9
1960 - March	133.9	134.3	132.7	140.3	134.2	150.1	134.8
June	136.5	144.3	134.0	141.3	135.6	151.7	139.4
Sept.	138.0	147.2	136.1	143.4	137.0	153.7	141.4
Dec.	139.7	150.2	137.0	149.1	141.6	155.9	144.1
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP							
1959 - Sept.	109.4	110.2	110.1	105.7	106.8	117.5	109.4
Dec.	109.5	110.4	110.5	105.9	107.0	117.8	109.6
1960 - March	110.0	110.9	111.0	106.2	107.4	118.4	110.0
June	109.6	111.9	110.9	106.0	108.0	120.1	110.2
Sept.	110.2	112.3	110.6	106.0	107.4	121.3	110.6
Dec.	111.4	112.4	110.7	105.6	107.3	120.3	111.0
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP							
1959 - Sept.	122.6	123.6	124.7	117.2	118.8	122.8	122.3
Dec.	123.1	124.1	125.6	118.2	120.4	123.2	123.0
1960 - March	123.8	125.3	125.9	118.8	121.2	123.3	123.8
June	126.4	128.9	126.2	121.0	123.3	123.7	126.4
Sept.	126.5	128.9	128.3	121.2	123.7	125.7	126.7
Dec.	126.8	129.2	129.5	121.2	125.6	125.9	127.2
ALL GROUPS							
1959 - Sept.	116.3	118.2	120.2	116.3	115.9	119.7	117.3
Dec.	117.2	118.8	120.8	116.9	115.7	120.1	118.0
1960 - March	118.2	119.8	121.6	118.3	117.1	120.8	119.0
June	119.6	123.0	122.3	120.6	119.0	122.6	121.1
Sept.	120.8	124.9	123.6	121.5	119.8	125.8	122.5
Dec.	121.6	125.5	125.1	122.4	120.8	127.1	123.3

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