

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXDECEMBER QUARTER, 1964

Variations in retail prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the six State capital cities and Canberra are shown herein. (The initial publication of index numbers and descriptive material for Canberra was made in Statistical Bulletin S.B. 29 of 4th September, 1964).

2. Compared with the previous quarter, the All Groups Consumer Price Index for December Quarter, 1964, increased by 1.2% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.9%, Melbourne +1.7%, Brisbane +1.1%, Adelaide +1.3%, Perth no change, Hobart +1.3%, Canberra +1.1%.

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

Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1962 December	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	..	+ 0.1	..	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.2
1963 March	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.4
June	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
September	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
December	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.2
1964 March	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
June	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
September	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.3	+ 1.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.2	+ 1.2
December	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	..	+ 1.3	+ 1.1

4. The All Groups index number for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 4.0% over the year ended December Quarter, 1964. Recent quarterly changes in each of the groups of this index have been as follows:-

Quarter	Weighted Average of Six State 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 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
June	+ 2.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
September	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.6	+ 2.1	+ 1.2
December	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	+ 1.2

5. A description of the Consumer Price Index is contained in Labour Report No. 49, 1961. For periods after December Quarter, 1963, reference should also be made to the appendix of the statistical bulletin on the Consumer Price Index for the March Quarter, 1964 (S.B. 426).

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Table 1 on page 4 of this Bulletin shows Consumer Price Index numbers for each fiscal year from 1948-49 to 1963-64 and for each quarter from September Quarter, 1961. Table 2 on page 5 shows Group Index numbers quarterly from September Quarter, 1963 to December Quarter, 1964.

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Movement from September Quarter, 1964 to December Quarter, 1964

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

Group	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Index Points (a)	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	+ 0.2	..	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Potatoes	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	..	+ 0.5	..	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
Other	..	..	..	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1
Clothing and Drapery	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Housing	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
Household Supplies and Equipment	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	..	..	..	+ 0.1
Miscellaneous	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Total Change (Index Points)	+ 1.5	+ 1.1	+ 2.2	+ 1.5	+ 1.7	..	+ 1.7	+ 1.4

(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 : September Quarter, 1964, 127.3; December Quarter, 1964, 128.4; difference of +1.1 index points). The dissection in this table shows the approximate amount each group has contributed to this total movement.

10. A summary of the movements of the various group indexes, together with the main quarterly price changes which affected the index between September Quarter, 1964 and December 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 the price of these items in each city are shown in the table in paragraph 9 on page 2 of this and preceding bulletins.

The price of eggs decreased in all cities and the price of milk increased in Melbourne and Adelaide.

The food group of the index (weighted average of the six State capital cities) showed a quarterly increase of 1.1%.

Clothing and Drapery Group

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

Housing Group

There were increases in most sections of this group, with the index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showing a quarterly increase of 0.9%.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The price of gas increased in Melbourne. Prices of a number of items in the "Other Household Articles" section increased in all cities.

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

Miscellaneous Group

Fares increased in Melbourne, and prices of newspapers increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. The prices of telephone rental and of television licences increased in all cities.

The index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities showed a quarterly increase of 2.6%.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 20TH JANUARY, 1965

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 376 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

TABLE 1.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL GROUPS

SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :
Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Period	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							Canberra
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Year ended June -								
1949	60.9	60.5	61.0	62.1	61.6	60.6	60.7	60.4
1950	66.0	65.6	66.2	67.1	66.2	66.2	64.7	65.1
1951	74.6	74.5	74.6	75.1	74.7	74.4	73.3	74.0
1952	91.4	91.9	91.0	91.8	91.4	90.4	90.4	91.1
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	102.0	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.9
1955	102.6	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	104.2
1956	106.9	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	107.8
1957	113.1	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.3
1958	114.2	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.0
1959	116.0	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	115.4
1960	118.9	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	117.8
1961	123.8	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	121.4
1962	124.3	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	123.1
1963	124.5	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	123.4
1964	125.7	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	124.3
Quarter -								
1961 - September	124.8	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	122.1
December	124.3	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.0
1962 - March	124.1	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	123.3
June	124.0	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	123.1
September	124.3	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	123.4
December	124.4	123.2	126.2	127.6	121.9	121.7	128.2	123.7
1963 - March	124.5	123.3	126.0	127.8	121.9	122.3	128.0	123.2
June	124.9	123.7	126.4	127.9	122.5	122.8	128.2	123.4
September	125.1	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	124.1
December	125.0	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	123.8
1964 - March	125.8	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	124.2
June	127.0	125.8	128.3	130.2	125.1	125.3	130.1	125.1
September	128.5	127.3	129.6	131.9	126.9	126.6	131.7	126.6
December	130.0	128.4	131.8	133.4	128.6	126.6	133.4	128.0

(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 STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA

(Base of Each Group Index for Each City and for Six State Capital Cities combined :
Year 1952-53 = 100.0) (a)

Quarter	State Capital Cities - Separately and Combined							
	Weighted Average of Six State Capital Cities	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
FOOD GROUP								
1963 - September	125.0	121.2	126.7	131.5	128.0	124.6	128.7	122.6
December	124.5	121.4	125.7	131.0	127.0	123.7	127.9	122.1
1964 - March	126.0	122.7	127.0	133.6	129.1	125.0	129.1	123.2
June	128.5	125.0	129.5	136.1	132.4	128.3	129.5	124.8
September	130.7	127.5	131.6	138.0	133.6	130.3	131.6	127.2
December	132.1	128.5	133.5	140.3	136.6	128.4	134.2	128.7
CLOTHING AND DRAPERY GROUP								
1963 - September	113.7	112.3	114.9	117.4	112.4	112.6	115.0	111.3
December	113.7	112.3	114.9	117.6	112.5	112.6	114.9	111.3
1964 - March	113.8	112.4	115.0	117.7	112.6	112.8	114.9	111.4
June	114.6	113.1	115.8	118.4	113.6	113.2	115.7	112.1
September	115.0	113.6	116.3	118.8	113.8	113.6	116.1	112.5
December	115.4	113.9	116.6	119.2	114.2	113.9	116.4	112.9
HOUSING GROUP								
1963 - September	157.9	157.4	163.7	145.1	156.5	153.3	170.7	162.2
December	159.0	159.3	163.8	145.0	158.2	155.7	173.6	162.4
1964 - March	159.9	160.4	164.6	145.2	158.9	156.8	175.7	162.7
June	161.7	163.3	166.0	145.4	160.3	157.8	175.9	162.9
September	163.0	165.0	166.9	147.2	161.9	158.1	176.4	163.3
December	164.4	166.2	167.9	148.7	164.5	159.9	180.9	164.4
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT GROUP								
1963 - September	110.6	111.0	112.1	111.2	104.0	105.0	123.4	113.1
December	110.8	111.2	112.4	111.5	104.3	104.9	123.7	112.7
1964 - March	111.1	111.6	112.7	111.7	104.5	105.2	123.8	112.3
June	111.4	111.5	113.2	112.3	104.8	105.7	124.1	113.1
September	110.7	110.3	112.6	112.3	104.7	105.8	124.4	113.0
December	111.3	110.8	113.5	112.8	104.6	106.2	124.3	113.5
MISCELLANEOUS GROUP								
1963 - September	129.7	130.0	130.7	135.2	122.2	126.2	127.3	124.4
December	129.5	129.6	130.3	135.0	121.8	128.2	127.9	123.7
1964 - March	130.1	130.1	131.0	135.4	122.4	130.3	128.7	124.0
June	130.3	130.4	131.2	135.3	122.9	129.3	128.8	124.1
September	133.1	133.1	133.5	138.6	128.0	131.5	131.8	126.8
December	136.5	135.5	139.4	140.7	130.0	133.2	133.5	129.6
ALL GROUPS								
1963 - September	125.1	123.7	126.7	128.4	122.8	122.7	128.8	124.1
December	125.0	123.9	126.4	128.2	122.7	123.1	129.0	123.8
1964 - March	125.8	124.6	127.1	129.2	123.5	124.2	129.8	124.2
June	127.0	125.8	128.3	130.2	125.1	125.3	130.1	125.1
September	128.5	127.3	129.6	131.9	126.9	126.6	131.7	126.6
December	130.0	128.4	131.8	133.4	128.6	126.6	133.4	128.0

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