

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published, broadcast or cabled before 6 P.M. on FRIDAY 9 AUGUST 1968

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, JUNE 1968

This bulletin contains particulars of the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index from 1936-37 to the present time.

2. A list of the commodities and other information concerning the index is set out in Labour Report No. 51, 1964.
3. Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the Australian price structure. The prices of imported goods, for instance, are on an ex-bond or into factory basis.
4. The prices used have, in the main, been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants. With a few important exceptions, they are from Melbourne sources.
5. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula. The weights are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35. The validity of the weighting and the representativeness of the index have become increasingly affected by changes in usage and in industrial structure.
6. Work is proceeding on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers relating to materials used and articles produced by sectors of industry. The aim is for the first of these new series to be published in 1968 and to relate to materials used in the building industry and in manufacturing industry. To a considerable extent, these first series will constitute a currently representative replacement for the present Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Wholesale Price Index. In the interim, the existing index will continue to be compiled and published mainly to meet the needs of those who require it for special purposes. It should be noted that the groups of the existing index relate primarily to a commodity type classification and have never purported to represent the materials used or articles produced by defined sectors of industry.
7. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index number for the month of June 1968, from the preceding month (May 1968) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (June 1967).

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS

JUNE 1968

Percentage change from previous periods

Percentage change between	Basic materials							Food-stuffs and tobacco	Basic materials and foodstuffs		
	Metals and coal	Oils, fats and waxes	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and hides	Building materials	Total		Goods principally imported (a)	Goods principally home produced	Total all groups
May 1968 and June 1968	-0.8	-0.4	+0.3	+0.3	+0.9	+0.8	..	..	+0.3	..	..
June 1967 and June 1968	+0.3	+2.7	-1.7	+4.5	-2.5	+3.2	+1.7	+2.4	+2.1	+2.1	+2.0

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

TABLE 2. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of each index : Average of 3 years ended June 1939 = 100)

Period	Basic materials							Food- stuffs and tobacco	Basic materials and foodstuffs		
	Metals and coal (a)	Oils, fats and waxes	Tex- tiles	Chemi- cals	Rubber and hides	Build- ing materi- als	Total		Goods princi- pally im- ported (b)	Goods princi- pally home pro- duced	Total all groups
1936-37	96	99	118	99	111	99	99	98	99	98	99
1937-38	101	101	100	100	97	104	102	102	102	101	101
1938-39	103	100	82	101	92	97	99	101	99	100	100
1958-59	392	231	362	327	293	423	340	332	283	358	336
1959-60	395	225	403	331	379	431	347	348	281	375	348
1960-61	399	222	387	331	341	439	346	372	278	394	360
1961-62	392	212	400	333	302	439	340	332	270	363	336
1962-63	388	209	432	317	262	439	336	342	272	368	340
1963-64	383	207	484	286	221	473	339	352	275	376	346
1964-65	391	207	427	286	242	503	345	364	277	388	355
1965-66	390	218	432	325	306	507	355	385	280	409	371
1966-67	396	220	419	381	281	511	362	401	283	425	383
1967-68	p397	225	p392	397	222	514	p361	p411	p287	p431	p388
1966-67 - October	395	220	417	382	273	513	362	400	283	424	382
November	397	220	417	382	280	513	362	400	283	425	383
December	398	218	415	382	295	513	363	399	283	424	382
January	400	218	409	382	280	513	363	397	283	423	382
February	400	219	414	382	269	512	362	396	285	421	381
March	398	219	408	382	277	512	362	402	285	425	384
April	397	219	408	382	278	512	361	400	283	424	382
May	395	220	414	382	268	512	361	402	284	425	383
June	395	220	407	382	241	507	358	418	283	436	391
1967-68 - July	394	220	400	388	227	509	358	427	284	442	395
August	394	220	381	398	221	510	358	432	284	446	398
September	394	226	380	398	223	510	360	422	287	438	393
October	394	226	380	396	232	511	360	397	287	419	380
November	395	225	387	398	224	511	360	396	288	418	380
December	398	225	392	398	204	511	360	396	287	419	380
January	p398	225	393	398	205	511	p361	396	287	p419	p380
February	p398	227	399	398	207	513	p362	396	287	p420	p380
March	p399	227	399	398	218	515	p363	400	287	p423	p383
April	p400	227	p399	398	231	519	p364	p419	p288	p439	p394
May	p399	227	p399	398	233	519	p364	p428	p288	p445	p399
June	p396	226	p400	399	235	523	p364	p428	p289	p445	p399

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for June 1968 is 495. (b) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports. p - preliminary, subject to revision.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1966.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

9 AUGUST 1968

K. M. ARCHER

COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 Extension 2053 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.