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MONTHLY INDEX OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORT PRICES - JUNE, 1955

1. Two series of index numbers are provided herein - one on fixed weights, the other on changing weights. Each takes account of 20 items, which normally constitute about 80 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver together with gold production.
2. All export parities are calculated from price quotations from the most reliable and representative sources available. In most cases the prices used are those at which current sales are being effected. For some metals, however, the prices are the average value of current realizations in various markets and hence show some irregularity.
3. For wheat, from July, 1945, to September, 1951, the export prices used in the index were average actual realizations for current shipments. From October, 1951, to July, 1953, the prices used were the estimated average realizations after weighting prices of quota and non-quota wheat. Prices adopted for months since August, 1953 are derived from available information of current sales.

I. THE SIMPLE AGGREGATIVE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS

4. From 1928 to 1936 the weights were the average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the five years 1928-29 to 1932-33. Since June, 1936, the weights have been based on average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36.
5. Indexes are given for individual commodities and certain groups thereof. The percentage distribution of these groups in the aggregates of the "All Groups" indexes for the base period (1936-37 to 1938-39) is shown at the head of the table.

RECENT TRENDS

6. Compared with the year 1953-54 the combined index (including gold) for June, 1955, decreased by 12 per cent., and is 402 per cent. higher than for the year 1938-39.
7. Individual group indexes for June, 1955, compared with group indexes for the year 1953-54 show percentage changes as follows:- Wool -18; Wheat -14; Butter -4; Metals +17; Meats +2; Sugar -9; Dried Fruits -3; Tallow +7; Hides -37 and Gold -1.
8. Reference to the group indexes in the table on page 3 hereof shows the great fluctuations and the wide dispersion of prices of export commodities in recent years. In particular, very great movements upwards and downwards have occurred in the price of wool. Since wool is a predominant export (and comprises 46 per cent. of the Base Aggregate of the index) fluctuations in wool prices obscure the movement affecting the other components in the All Groups index. For purposes of comparison "wool" and "other groups" are shown separately on page 2.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

WOOL AND "OTHER GROUPS"

(Base of each Section - Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

| Period | Group | | | Period | Group | | |
|----------------|--------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------|--------------|------------|
| | Wool | Other Groups | All Groups | | Wool | Other Groups | All Groups |
| 1943-44 .. | 117 | 118 | 117 | <u>1952-53</u> | | | |
| 1944-45 .. | 117 | 141 | 130 | July .. | (b)566 | 381 | 465 |
| 1945-46 .. | 117 | 171 | 146 | August .. | (b)566 | 380 | 465 |
| 1946-47 .. | 173 | 228 | 203 | September .. | 551 | 379 | 457 |
| 1947-48 .. | 287 | 280 | 283 | October .. | 588 | 370 | 469 |
| 1948-49 .. | 365 | 305 | 332 | November .. | 588 | 368 | 469 |
| 1949-50 .. | 473 | 308 | 383 | December .. | 618 | 376 | 486 |
| 1950-51 .. | 999 | 365 | 654 | January .. | 618 | 376 | 486 |
| 1951-52 .. | 564 | 397 | 473 | February .. | 626 | 371 | 487 |
| 1952-53 .. | 616 | 371 | 483 | March .. | 656 | 369 | 500 |
| 1953-54 .. | 615 | (a)356 | (a)474 | April .. | 671 | 363 | 503 |
| 1954-55 .. | (a)538 | (a)342 | (a)431 | May .. | 701 | 361 | 516 |
| | | | | June .. | 641 | 363 | 490 |
| <u>1950-51</u> | | | | <u>1953-54</u> | | | |
| July .. | (b)592 | 333 | 451 | July .. | (b)641 | 369 | 493 |
| August .. | 864 | 340 | 579 | August .. | (b)634 | 367 | 488 |
| September .. | 890 | 355 | 599 | September .. | 626 | 365 | 484 |
| October .. | 890 | 360 | 602 | October .. | 634 | 363 | 486 |
| November .. | 965 | 366 | 639 | November .. | 634 | 360 | 485 |
| December .. | 973 | 366 | 643 | December .. | 611 | 358 | 473 |
| January .. | 1252 | 368 | 771 | January .. | 603 | 354 | 468 |
| February .. | 1339 | 369 | 811 | February .. | 581 | 350 | 455 |
| March .. | 1437 | 377 | 860 | March .. | 581 | (a)351 | (a)456 |
| April .. | 1094 | 384 | 708 | April .. | (b)596 | (a)348 | (a)461 |
| May .. | 973 | 385 | 653 | May .. | 618 | (a)346 | (a)470 |
| June .. | 717 | 383 | 535 | June .. | 622 | (a)346 | (a)472 |
| <u>1951-52</u> | | | | <u>1954-55</u> | | | |
| July .. | (b)717 | 400 | 544 | July .. | (b)622 | (a)338 | (a)468 |
| August .. | 551 | 400 | 468 | August .. | 566 | (a)338 | (a)442 |
| September .. | 498 | 400 | 445 | September .. | 566 | (a)339 | (a)442 |
| October .. | 686 | 403 | 532 | October .. | 536 | (a)344 | (a)431 |
| November .. | 603 | 398 | 492 | November .. | 513 | (a)343 | (a)421 |
| December .. | 581 | 403 | 484 | December .. | 532 | (a)348 | (a)432 |
| January .. | 566 | 402 | 477 | January .. | 520 | (a)346 | (a)426 |
| February .. | 520 | 402 | 456 | February .. | 528 | (a)343 | (a)427 |
| March .. | 460 | 400 | 427 | March .. | 528 | (a)341 | (a)426 |
| April .. | 475 | 397 | 432 | April .. | 520 | (a)340 | (a)422 |
| May .. | 543 | 385 | 457 | May .. | 520 | (a)340 | (a)422 |
| June .. | 566 | 376 | 463 | June .. | (a)505 | (a)343 | (a)417 |

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Nominal.

Taken together, in base year proportions, prices of exports other than wool have shown relatively little rise over recent years, and have fallen since 1951-52. The level of export price of wool is 38 per cent. above that of 1948-49. The level of export prices of groups other than wool is 12 per cent. above that of 1948-49. The comparative steadiness of the weighted average index of prices of these "Other Groups" contrasts with the pronounced fluctuations in prices of wool.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, GROUPS, AND ALL GROUPS COMBINED

(Base of each Section - Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

| Period | Wool | Wheat (a) | Butt- er | Metals (b) | Meats (c) | Sugar | Dried Fruits (d) | Tall- ow | Hides (e) | Gold (f) | All Groups | |
|---------|--------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Excl. Gold | Incl. Gold |
| (g) = | 45.63 | 17.06 | 11.36 | 6.83 | 6.63 | 2.40 | 1.81 | .64 | .66 | 6.98 | - | 100.00 |
| (h) = | 49.05 | 18.34 | 12.21 | 7.34 | 7.13 | 2.58 | 1.94 | .69 | .72 | - | 100.00 | - |
| 1936-37 | 122 | 123 | 92 | 120 | 98 | 104 | 103 | 122 | 113 | 99 | 116 | 115 |
| 1937-38 | 99 | 111 | 107 | 96 | 106 | 92 | 103 | 100 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 102 |
| 1938-39 | 79 | 66 | 101 | 84 | 96 | 104 | 94 | 78 | 87 | 103 | 82 | 83 |
| 1939-40 | 98 | 82 | 108 | 92 | 102 | 126 | 94 | 76 | 120 | 118 | 96 | 98 |
| 1940-41 | 101 | 102 | 110 | 95 | 103 | 137 | 95 | 82 | 98 | 121 | 103 | 104 |
| 1941-42 | 101 | 105 | 110 | 101 | 109 | 137 | 106 | 114 | 133 | 120 | 105 | 106 |
| 1942-43 | 117 | 106 | 114 | 100 | 112 | 152 | 112 | 119 | 145 | 119 | 114 | 114 |
| 1943-44 | 117 | 116 | 114 | 113 | 113 | 159 | 121 | 123 | 151 | 119 | 117 | 117 |
| 1944-45 | 117 | 154 | 147 | 129 | 122 | 172 | 128 | 153 | 147 | 120 | 130 | 130 |
| 1945-46 | 117 | 213 | 147 | 196 | 123 | 213 | 137 | 161 | 152 | 122 | 148 | 146 |
| 1946-47 | 173 | 305 | 173 | 308 | 139 | 264 | 152 | 361 | 334 | 122 | 209 | 203 |
| 1947-48 | 287 | 420 | 193 | 372 | 146 | 320 | 157 | 436 | 364 | 122 | 296 | 283 |
| 1948-49 | 365 | 413 | 233 | 478 | 171 | 343 | 162 | 499 | 421 | 122 | 348 | 332 |
| 1949-50 | 473 | 400 | 250 | 421 | 196 | 369 | 176 | 400 | 479 | 164 | 399 | 383 |
| 1950-51 | 999 | 432 | 271 | 689 | 209 | 410 | 226 | 356 | 752 | 176 | 690 | 654 |
| 1951-52 | 564 | 436 | 291 | 811 | 263 | 464 | 302 | 451 | 486 | 184 | 495 | 473 |
| 1952-53 | 616 | 445 | 313 | 504 | 314 | 501 | 297 | 358 | 369 | 186 | 505 | 483 |
| 1953-54 | 615 | (k)411 | 325 | 450 | 338 | 479 | 287 | 321 | 336 | 179 | (k)496 | (k)474 |
| 1954-55 | (k)538 | (k)357 | 313 | 511 | (k)345 | (k)445 | (k)267 | (k)349 | 218 | 178 | (k)450 | (k)431 |
| 1952-53 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June | 641 | 454 | 313 | 429 | 321 | 500 | 290 | 249 | 326 | 181 | 513 | 490 |
| 1953-54 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | (j)641 | 454 | 325 | 446 | 331 | 500 | 290 | 244 | 319 | 183 | 516 | 493 |
| August | (j)634 | 446 | 325 | 450 | 331 | 500 | 290 | 251 | 321 | 182 | 511 | 488 |
| Sept. | 626 | 443 | 325 | 438 | 331 | 500 | 290 | 260 | 336 | 182 | 506 | 484 |
| Oct. | 634 | 428 | 325 | 450 | 340 | 500 | 290 | 269 | 374 | 181 | 509 | 486 |
| Nov. | 634 | 414 | 325 | 458 | 340 | 500 | 290 | 301 | 383 | 176 | 508 | 485 |
| Dec. | 611 | 413 | 325 | 442 | 340 | 500 | 290 | 341 | 377 | 177 | 495 | 473 |
| Jan. | 603 | 411 | 325 | 427 | 340 | 461 | 290 | 369 | 377 | 176 | 489 | 468 |
| Feb. | 581 | 402 | 325 | 423 | 340 | 461 | 290 | 368 | 353 | 177 | 475 | 455 |
| March | 581 | 399 | 325 | 440 | 340 | 461 | (k)281 | 355 | 327 | 176 | (k)476 | (k)456 |
| April | (j)596 | 381 | 325 | 467 | 340 | 461 | (k)281 | 364 | 300 | 176 | (k)482 | (k)461 |
| May | 618 | 372 | 325 | 474 | 340 | 461 | (k)281 | 369 | 281 | 178 | (k)492 | (k)470 |
| June | 622 | (k)369 | 325 | 484 | 340 | 448 | (k)281 | 359 | 278 | 178 | (k)494 | (k)472 |
| 1954-55 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | (j)622 | (k)359 | 313 | 475 | 340 | 448 | (k)278 | 354 | 264 | 178 | (k)490 | (k)468 |
| August | 566 | (k)358 | 313 | 475 | 340 | 448 | (k)262 | 350 | 254 | 178 | (k)461 | (k)442 |
| Sept. | 566 | (k)355 | 313 | 498 | 340 | 448 | (k)261 | 350 | 224 | 178 | (k)462 | (k)442 |
| Oct. | 536 | (k)356 | 313 | 524 | 340 | (k)468 | (k)260 | (k)350 | 216 | 178 | (k)450 | (k)431 |
| Nov. | 513 | (k)358 | 313 | 518 | 340 | (k)468 | (k)261 | (k)350 | 204 | 179 | (k)439 | (k)421 |
| Dec. | 532 | (k)359 | 313 | 512 | 385 | (k)468 | (k)263 | (k)350 | 197 | 178 | (k)451 | (k)432 |
| Jan. | 520 | (k)360 | 313 | 516 | (k)371 | (k)430 | (k)266 | (k)350 | 200 | 178 | (k)444 | (k)426 |
| Feb. | 528 | (k)356 | 313 | 522 | (k)349 | (k)430 | (k)267 | (k)350 | 200 | 178 | (k)446 | (k)427 |
| March | 528 | (k)356 | 313 | 523 | (k)329 | (k)430 | (k)269 | (k)350 | 212 | 178 | (k)445 | (k)426 |
| April | 520 | (k)354 | 313 | 525 | (k)326 | (k)434 | (k)270 | (k)350 | 223 | 178 | (k)441 | (k)422 |
| May | 520 | (k)354 | 313 | 520 | (k)334 | (k)434 | (k)267 | (k)345 | 216 | 178 | (k)441 | (k)422 |
| June | (k)505 | (k)355 | 313 | 528 | (k)345 | (k)434 | (k)277 | (k)342 | 212 | 178 | (k)435 | (k)417 |

(a) See paragraph 3 on page 1. (b) Silver, Copper, Tin, Zinc, Lead. (c) Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Pork. (d) Sultanas, Lexias, Currants. (e) Cattle Hides, Calf Skins. (f) Where Australian gold has been sold on the oversea premium markets such price has been used in the index. (g) Percentage distribution of Base Aggregate for "All Groups (including Gold)" - applicable from 1936-37. (h) Percentage distribution of Base Aggregate for "All Groups (excluding Gold)" - applicable from 1936-37. (j) Nominal. (k) Subject to revision.

II. THE MONTH-TO-MONTH INDEX : CHANGING WEIGHTS

9. Australian export products are not marketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and wheat are obvious examples of commodities which are marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weights" index indicates satisfactorily the trends of export prices, it does not take account of the relative quantities actually sold at the different prices ruling during each month. The impact of the price movements on current sales is indicated more directly by the index numbers below. In computing these, the "quantity multipliers" are the quantities actually exported in the months (or periods) to which the index numbers relate.

10. This index is designed to compare prices in any one month (or period of a trade year) with those in the corresponding month (or period) of the previous year. The weights used in its construction are the quantities exported in these two corresponding months (or periods). A full description of the method of computation can be found on page 213 of the Official Year Book of the Commonwealth, No. 40, 1954. A summary of movements in this index follows. Columns marked A show the movements in the index for groups other than wool and columns marked B the movements in the index for all groups including wool.

(Base : Weighted Average Price Level in corresponding months
(or periods) of preceding year = 100)

| Period | <u>Month Stated</u> compared with same month of preceding year | | <u>Period of trade year</u> <u>ending in month stated</u> compared with same period of preceding year | |
|----------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| | A | B | A | B |
| | Excluding Wool | Including Wool | Excluding Wool | Including Wool |
| <u>1952-53</u> | | | | |
| June .. | 97 | 108 | 95 | 105 |
| <u>1953-54</u> | | | | |
| July .. | 98 | 108 | 98 | 108 |
| August .. | 98 | 104 | 98 | 106 |
| September .. | 95 | 105 | 97 | 106 |
| October .. | 99 | 105 | 98 | 106 |
| November .. | 99 | 105 | 98 | 106 |
| December .. | 97 | 98 | 98 | 104 |
| January .. | 94 | 96 | 97 | 103 |
| February .. | 94 | 93 | 97 | 102 |
| March .. | (a) 94 | (a) 90 | (a) 97 | (a) 100 |
| April .. | (a) 95 | (a) 90 | (a) 97 | (a) 99 |
| May .. | (a) 93 | (a) 90 | (a) 96 | (a) 98 |
| June .. | (a) 93 | (a) 96 | (a) 96 | (a) 98 |
| <u>1954-55</u> | | | | |
| July .. | (a) 92 | (a) 95 | (a) 92 | (a) 95 |
| August .. | (a) 94 | (a) 93 | (a) 93 | (a) 94 |
| September .. | (a) 96 | (a) 93 | (a) 94 | (a) 94 |
| October .. | (a) 97 | (a) 88 | (a) 95 | (a) 92 |
| November .. | (a) 97 | (a) 86 | (a) 95 | (a) 90 |
| December .. | (a) 99 | (a) 91 | (a) 96 | (a) 90 |
| January .. | (a) 98 | (a) 91 | (a) 96 | (a) 90 |
| February .. | (a) 99 | (a) 94 | (a) 96 | (a) 91 |
| March .. | (a) 100 | (a) 94 | (a) 97 | (a) 91 |
| April .. | (a) 98 | (a) 90 | (a) 97 | (a) 91 |
| May .. | (a) 99 | (a) 89 | (a) 97 | (a) 91 |
| June .. | (a) 100 | (a) 87 | (a) 97 | (a) 91 |

(a) Subject to revision.

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