



Reference No. 9.9

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES

PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 1973

This bulletin contains index numbers of the Price Index of Materials used in House Building (base : Year 1966-67 = 100.0). A detailed description of the index is contained in Labour Report No. 56, 1971 (pp. 63-87). A Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building is published in a separate bulletin (Reference No. 9.6).

2. Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.
3. The index measures changes in prices of selected materials used in the construction of houses. Its composition is in accordance with the usage of materials in actual houses which were selected as representative for the purpose. The index does not purport to represent buildings of any kind other than houses. The house building construction types included are those which use brick, brick veneer, timber or asbestos cement sheeting as the principal material for the outer walls.
4. The index is a fixed weights index and is calculated by the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives". The items and weights used in the index were derived from reported values of each material used in selected representative houses constructed in or about 1968-69 in each State capital city. Each State capital city has a unique weighting pattern which reflects the difference in the estimated relative importance of given items as between cities. In all cases the selection of materials was based on local usage. The weighting pattern for each capital city is applied to local price measures in calculating indexes for that city.
5. Price series used relate to specified standards of each commodity with the aim of incorporating in the index price changes for representative materials of constant quality. In general the point of pricing is "delivered on site", but in some cases it has been necessary to use the nearest realistic price available, e.g. that for "supplied and fixed". The price series are obtained in all State capital cities from representative suppliers of materials used in house building. In the main they are collected as at the mid-point of the month to which the index refers, or as near thereto as practicable. As far as possible, actual transaction prices are used in the index as distinct from "list" prices. Thus measures of special or other discounts are sought where these are believed to be significant. To the extent that they can be determined, significant changes in special discounts are incorporated in the index but this may sometimes be on a partly estimated basis, and may sometimes necessitate revisions.
6. The index has been compiled for each month from July 1966, and for the financial years from 1966-67. Index numbers for each State capital city and for the weighted average of the six capitals are given for each group of items and for all groups combined in Tables 3 and 4.
7. The separate city indexes measure price movements within each capital city individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn between capitals as to differences in degree of price movement from period to period, but not as to differences in price level.
8. In interpreting movements in the index, particularly those from month to month, it should be noted that changes frequently occur in an uneven fashion both over time and also, between separate capital cities, at the same points of time. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.
9. Table 1 below shows, for the six State capital cities separately and combined, the percentage change for the all groups index number for the month of September 1973 from the preceding month (August 1973), the percentage change for the month of September 1973 from the corresponding month of the previous year (September 1972), and the percentage change between the averages of the twelve months ended September 1972 and September 1973 respectively.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, ALL GROUPS
Percentage change from previous periods

Percentage change between -		State capital cities						Weighted average of six State capital cities
		Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
August 1973	and September 1973	+ 2.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.3
September 1972	and September 1973	+17.4	+14.1	+10.8	+14.2	+ 9.6	+ 9.7	+ 14.0
Average of 12 months to September 1972	Average of 12 months to September 1973	+10.4	+ 8.6	+ 7.5	+ 9.6	+ 5.8	+ 8.7	+ 8.8

10. Table 2 shows corresponding changes for the individual groups and all groups of the index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities.

TABLE 2. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING GROUPS AND ALL GROUPS - WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES
Percentage change from previous periods

Group	Percentage change between -		
	August 1973 and September 1973	September 1972 and September 1973	Average of 12 months to September 1972 and Average of 12 months to September 1973
Concrete mix, cement and sand	+ 0.2	+ 8.9	+ 6.2
Cement products	..	+ 8.4	+ 6.3
Bricks, tiles, etc.	+ 1.1	+ 9.4	+ 6.0
Timber, board and joinery	+ 3.0	+23.0	+13.7
Steel products	- 0.1	+ 9.1	+ 7.2
Other metal products	- 0.3	+15.9	+ 8.3
Plumbing fixtures, etc.	+ 0.2	+ 8.8	+ 5.3
Electrical installation materials	- 1.8	+13.9	+ 6.9
Installed appliances	+ 0.3	+ 4.3	+ 1.3
Plaster and plaster products	..	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Miscellaneous materials	..	+ 7.2	+ 7.6
All groups	+ 1.3	+14.0	+ 8.8

TABLE 3. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	State capital cities						Weighted average of six State capital cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
1970-71	119.8	112.3	115.2	116.7	113.9	114.3	115.7
1971-72	126.1	118.9	124.8	124.8	121.1	120.7	122.7
1972-73	135.6	126.5	133.8	134.8	126.9	130.8	131.1
1972-73							
August	128.9	122.7	131.2	130.1	124.3	127.2	126.6
September	129.6	123.0	131.8	130.8	124.5	127.2	127.1
October	133.2	123.2	131.8	131.3	124.7	127.2	128.4
November	133.3	124.1	131.7	131.5	124.8	127.3	128.7
December	134.8	125.0	131.9	133.6	124.8	128.5	129.7
January	135.1	125.8	132.2	134.4	126.4	132.8	130.5
February	136.2	127.5	132.7	136.6	126.6	133.2	131.6
March	139.3	128.3	136.4	137.7	128.9	133.8	133.7
April	141.2	129.7	137.4	138.7	129.9	134.3	135.1
May	141.7	131.6	137.9	140.8	130.4	134.5	136.2
June	144.7	134.9	139.3	141.9	132.7	136.0	138.8
1973-74							
July	146.7	r137.6	143.4	145.9	133.8	137.8	r141.3
August p	r149.1	r138.9	145.0	147.8	r135.3	138.8	r143.1
September p	152.1	140.4	146.0	149.4	136.5	139.5	144.9

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number.

p - preliminary, subject to revision. r - revised.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
SYDNEY												
1970-71	119.3	121.7	117.5	126.7	116.9	115.4	117.0	114.7	107.0	108.3	112.4	119.8
1971-72	125.1	135.1	119.7	131.8	131.0	119.5	127.3	120.3	114.8	118.6	116.7	126.1
1972-73	134.2	145.4	123.3	146.4	141.1	128.5	131.3	126.1	114.0	120.6	126.6	135.6
1972-73												
August	117.2	141.2	120.4	135.5	138.7	123.9	130.8	124.1	114.4	120.3	121.9	128.9
September	117.9	141.2	123.0	135.8	138.8	124.4	129.8	124.1	114.4	120.3	124.0	126.6
October	134.8	142.5	123.0	142.1	138.9	125.4	129.9	124.1	114.4	120.4	124.8	133.2
November	134.8	142.7	123.0	142.3	139.2	125.7	129.8	124.1	114.4	120.4	125.0	133.3
December	135.6	142.7	123.9	145.5	139.2	125.6	130.3	124.1	114.7	120.8	125.7	134.8
January	136.0	142.8	123.9	146.1	139.3	125.6	130.5	124.1	114.7	120.8	125.8	135.1
February	138.6	149.8	123.9	147.0	139.3	127.2	130.8	124.1	113.2	120.8	126.8	136.2
March	144.5	149.7	123.9	152.4	142.8	132.4	131.7	124.1	113.2	120.8	129.2	139.3
April	143.6	149.8	124.8	155.8	145.5	135.2	132.2	131.6	113.2	120.8	129.7	141.2
May	143.6	150.7	124.8	156.4	146.0	136.0	132.4	132.6	113.2	120.8	131.8	141.7
June	143.7	151.0	125.8	162.8	146.6	137.8	136.3	132.6	113.2	120.8	132.2	144.7
1973-74												
July	144.7	151.6	128.5	165.2	148.2	140.6	138.1	135.6	117.4	120.9	132.4	146.7
August p	144.3	152.2	129.3	169.0	149.9	145.6	141.3	142.9	118.4	121.1	132.9	149.1
September p	144.5	152.2	129.3	177.1	149.9	144.3	141.3	140.2	118.4	121.1	133.0	152.1
MELBOURNE												
1970-71	110.4	129.9	115.7	109.2	113.9	114.0	110.9	114.7	102.7	111.6	111.4	112.3
1971-72	122.0	138.2	123.5	114.5	126.4	119.4	120.5	119.6	104.3	119.2	116.5	118.9
1972-73	127.2	141.5	132.0	125.3	135.3	124.8	131.2	125.3	106.8	120.4	124.7	126.5
1972-73												
August	126.3	140.5	127.2	119.0	131.8	121.6	128.9	123.4	106.0	120.4	120.8	122.7
September	126.9	140.4	127.1	119.3	132.1	122.4	128.9	123.4	106.0	120.4	122.2	123.0
October	127.0	140.8	127.2	119.5	132.4	122.8	128.9	123.4	106.0	120.4	123.0	123.2
November	126.9	140.8	127.5	121.7	132.4	123.5	129.1	123.4	106.0	120.4	122.5	124.1
December	127.0	140.9	130.7	122.2	134.1	124.9	129.2	123.4	107.3	120.4	124.1	125.0
January	127.0	141.2	130.7	124.4	135.1	123.6	129.2	123.4	107.1	120.4	124.1	125.8
February	127.2	141.3	132.4	127.5	135.1	123.2	130.2	123.4	107.1	120.5	127.9	127.5
March	127.4	142.5	134.0	128.1	138.2	125.3	134.4	123.4	107.1	120.5	125.6	128.3
April	127.8	142.9	134.3	130.5	138.8	127.8	134.4	130.4	107.1	120.5	127.1	129.7
May	127.7	142.9	142.9	132.5	140.5	127.4	135.0	131.4	107.1	120.5	128.9	131.6
June	127.8	142.8	143.3	139.7	141.6	132.6	137.8	131.4	107.5	120.5	129.4	134.9
1973-74												
July	128.1	151.2	145.2	141.9	143.9	138.9	140.9	134.8	107.8	120.7	131.9	137.6
August p	128.7	153.6	146.8	141.9	147.7	143.5	141.9	142.4	110.3	120.8	133.0	138.9
September p	129.5	153.7	146.8	146.1	146.9	141.6	142.7	140.4	110.5	120.8	133.2	140.4

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
BRISBANE												
1970-71	113.1	114.5	121.3	123.8	112.4	98.6	114.5	115.7	100.3	106.8	106.6	115.2
1971-72	118.9	127.0	131.1	135.6	123.9	110.6	122.8	121.4	98.6	111.8	111.7	124.8
1972-73	116.5	141.7	137.8	150.2	133.0	115.8	129.0	127.2	94.2	112.7	116.0	133.8
1972-73												
August	116.6	136.1	136.5	147.3	129.3	113.4	128.3	124.9	93.5	112.8	113.4	131.2
September	116.6	138.6	136.5	147.3	130.1	114.1	128.3	124.9	93.5	112.8	115.5	131.8
October	112.8	139.8	136.7	147.3	130.7	114.1	128.3	124.9	93.5	112.8	115.6	131.8
November	109.9	139.8	137.1	147.3	130.5	114.4	128.3	124.9	93.5	112.8	115.9	131.7
December	111.5	139.9	137.3	147.3	131.4	114.5	128.3	124.9	94.0	112.8	116.2	131.9
January	111.1	142.4	137.3	147.4	133.1	114.4	128.3	124.9	94.5	112.4	114.7	132.2
February	117.1	142.5	137.3	147.8	133.3	114.4	128.3	125.9	94.5	112.5	114.7	132.7
March	117.1	143.0	137.3	155.6	135.3	118.7	129.4	125.9	94.5	112.8	118.0	136.4
April	117.1	144.7	140.5	156.1	137.6	119.0	129.4	133.5	94.5	112.8	118.0	137.4
May	123.3	144.7	141.6	156.1	137.6	119.6	130.1	133.5	95.1	113.0	118.0	137.9
June	126.7	152.3	142.2	156.6	138.6	120.0	133.4	133.5	96.0	112.3	118.1	139.3
1973-74												
July	126.3	152.4	142.8	166.2	140.4	123.5	135.5	136.3	97.7	112.3	118.5	143.4
August p	123.8	152.8	142.8	167.5	143.4	128.7	139.3	143.5	102.0	113.6	119.3	145.0
September p	124.6	152.7	147.7	167.8	143.8	133.4	139.3	141.7	102.0	113.6	119.3	146.0
ADELAIDE												
1970-71	110.0	120.3	121.1	119.9	116.4	111.8	117.5	114.7	105.9	104.8	113.8	116.7
1971-72	119.1	127.9	128.6	127.5	128.9	122.3	127.7	118.8	110.2	115.1	119.6	124.8
1972-73	127.5	135.0	137.5	142.3	136.2	128.8	135.4	124.4	112.3	118.9	129.1	134.8
1972-73												
August	125.1	134.1	136.0	132.9	133.4	125.0	133.8	122.5	111.4	118.8	125.0	130.1
September	125.1	134.1	136.0	134.6	134.5	125.0	133.9	122.5	111.4	118.8	125.4	130.8
October	125.5	134.7	136.0	135.4	134.6	125.7	133.9	122.5	111.4	118.8	126.3	131.3
November	126.1	134.7	136.0	135.5	134.7	126.4	133.9	122.5	111.6	118.8	127.5	131.5
December	129.0	134.7	136.0	140.5	134.7	126.9	133.9	122.5	112.3	118.8	128.0	135.6
January	129.0	135.3	138.4	141.6	134.9	126.9	133.9	122.5	112.4	118.8	128.0	134.4
February	129.0	135.3	138.6	146.5	135.3	126.9	133.9	122.5	112.4	118.9	132.5	136.6
March	129.0	135.3	139.2	147.7	138.2	131.6	137.8	122.5	112.1	118.9	132.5	137.7
April	129.0	135.9	139.2	148.9	140.1	135.2	137.6	129.3	112.8	118.9	132.5	138.7
May	129.0	135.9	139.2	154.3	140.2	135.2	137.8	130.3	114.3	119.0	133.1	140.8
June	129.3	136.3	139.6	156.4	140.8	136.5	141.0	130.3	114.3	119.6	133.8	141.9
1973-74												
July	129.8	150.3	139.9	161.7	142.7	143.7	144.1	133.9	117.6	119.6	134.1	145.9
August p	129.8	151.0	139.9	164.5	146.3	148.0	144.2	133.9	118.2	119.6	137.0	147.8
September p	130.1	151.0	139.9	169.4	146.0	146.4	144.2	136.8	119.4	119.6	136.8	149.4

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
PERTH												
1970-71	110.6	113.8	118.5	115.5	115.5	115.4	109.0	115.5	102.8	109.8	110.2	113.9
1971-72	117.2	121.9	129.5	121.3	128.8	119.7	114.6	120.7	107.5	110.6	117.7	121.1
1972-73	121.7	127.7	135.1	126.9	136.6	124.8	121.9	128.1	110.7	113.1	126.7	126.9
1972-73												
August	119.9	126.2	131.7	123.9	135.0	122.3	120.0	123.9	111.1	111.6	123.1	124.3
September	119.9	126.2	131.7	124.1	135.0	122.3	120.0	123.9	111.1	111.6	124.6	124.5
October	119.3	126.9	131.7	124.1	134.8	122.5	121.0	123.9	111.1	113.3	124.6	124.7
November	119.3	126.9	131.7	124.2	135.1	122.7	121.2	123.9	110.2	113.3	125.3	124.8
December	119.3	126.9	131.7	124.3	135.3	123.0	121.4	123.9	110.0	113.3	125.4	124.8
January	123.7	127.2	137.4	124.5	135.4	123.0	121.9	127.6	110.3	113.3	126.3	126.4
February	123.7	127.2	137.4	124.5	135.4	123.5	122.2	127.6	110.6	113.3	127.8	126.6
March	123.7	127.7	138.8	129.5	139.0	126.0	123.3	127.6	110.6	113.3	128.8	128.9
April	123.7	130.4	138.8	130.7	139.2	128.4	123.3	137.1	110.8	113.3	129.3	129.9
May	123.7	130.4	138.9	131.4	139.5	130.2	123.3	137.1	110.6	114.4	130.5	130.4
June	123.7	130.4	139.7	137.2	140.5	132.0	125.5	137.1	110.6	114.6	131.1	132.7
1973-74												
July	r123.6	130.4	139.7	139.6	141.5	135.8	125.6	137.9	111.6	115.0	131.7	133.8
August p	r123.6	130.8	r141.9	140.0	r143.7	141.8	r127.6	148.4	112.1	115.0	132.7	r135.3
September p	123.6	130.8	147.5	141.0	143.7	141.5	127.8	145.0	112.9	115.0	132.3	136.5
HOBART												
1970-71	116.0	114.6	120.6	113.9	116.5	113.7	123.8	115.9	102.5	108.1	115.5	114.3
1971-72	125.6	124.2	123.8	120.3	129.2	117.1	132.8	120.9	105.8	113.5	123.3	120.7
1972-73	130.7	137.2	140.2	134.6	135.9	118.1	136.8	126.0	107.6	114.2	132.5	130.8
1972-73												
August	129.5	137.3	131.1	129.1	133.7	116.7	140.1	123.9	107.2	114.2	128.9	127.2
September	129.5	137.3	131.1	129.3	133.8	116.7	133.1	124.5	107.2	114.2	130.0	127.2
October	129.5	137.3	131.1	129.3	133.9	116.7	133.1	124.5	107.2	114.2	130.7	127.2
November	129.5	137.3	131.1	129.3	133.9	116.7	136.2	124.5	107.2	114.2	130.8	127.3
December	129.5	137.3	141.5	129.4	134.7	117.5	136.6	124.5	107.2	114.2	131.1	128.5
January	129.5	137.3	146.8	130.0	134.9	117.5	136.6	124.5	107.7	114.2	131.8	132.8
February	130.8	137.3	147.2	139.0	134.9	117.5	136.6	124.5	107.1	114.2	135.7	133.2
March	130.8	137.3	147.2	139.9	136.6	118.2	137.2	124.5	107.9	114.2	135.7	133.8
April	130.8	137.3	147.2	140.1	138.8	120.5	137.3	130.1	108.4	114.2	135.6	134.3
May	130.7	137.4	147.2	140.2	140.6	120.5	137.4	131.3	108.4	114.2	135.7	134.5
June	138.8	137.4	149.9	141.6	141.5	121.2	138.0	131.3	108.4	114.5	135.7	136.0
1973-74												
July	r139.4	143.8	155.2	141.7	142.2	r126.3	140.1	134.8	109.3	114.4	137.1	137.8
August p	139.4	145.4	155.3	142.4	144.5	r126.7	142.5	143.9	111.7	115.2	r137.3	138.8
September p	139.4	145.4	155.5	143.5	144.6	127.1	142.5	142.6	113.4	115.2	139.2	139.5

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES												
1970-71	113.4	121.8	118.0	118.5	115.0	112.4	113.6	115.0	103.8	109.4	111.0	115.7
1971-72	121.2	132.0	124.5	124.8	127.9	118.5	122.6	120.2	107.4	116.9	116.4	122.7
1972-73	127.0	139.9	130.7	137.0	136.8	124.9	129.6	126.2	108.3	118.7	124.9	131.1
1972-73												
August	121.2	137.3	127.4	129.8	133.9	121.5	128.3	123.8	108.1	118.4	121.0	126.6
September	121.5	137.6	128.3	130.2	134.3	122.0	127.9	123.9	108.1	118.4	122.6	127.1
October	125.9	138.4	128.4	132.4	134.5	122.5	128.1	123.9	108.1	118.6	123.7	128.4
November	125.7	138.5	128.5	133.2	134.6	122.9	128.2	123.9	108.0	118.6	123.4	128.7
December	126.4	138.5	129.7	134.8	135.3	123.4	128.4	123.9	108.6	118.7	124.1	129.7
January	127.5	139.1	131.2	136.1	135.9	123.0	128.6	124.5	108.7	118.7	124.1	130.5
February	128.9	141.1	131.6	137.8	136.0	123.5	129.0	124.6	108.3	118.7	126.2	131.6
March	130.7	141.7	132.4	141.5	139.0	127.1	131.1	124.6	108.3	118.8	126.9	133.7
April	130.5	142.5	133.1	143.7	140.6	129.5	131.2	132.2	108.4	118.8	127.6	135.1
May	131.2	142.8	135.3	145.0	141.3	130.0	131.6	132.9	108.5	118.9	129.0	136.2
June	131.8	144.1	136.1	150.5	142.2	132.5	134.7	132.9	108.8	118.9	129.4	138.8
1973-74												
July	132.2	148.0	137.6	r153.9	r143.9	136.9	136.6	135.7	110.6	119.0	130.4	r141.3
August p	r132.0	149.2	r138.8	r155.6	r146.7	r141.9	r138.8	143.7	112.5	119.3	131.4	r143.1
September p	132.3	149.2	140.3	160.2	146.5	141.4	139.1	141.1	112.8	119.3	131.4	144.9

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number.

p - preliminary, subject to revision. r - revised.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600

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