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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX

DECEMBER 1970

SPECIAL NOTE. This is the last issue of this bulletin. Index numbers for months subsequent to December 1970 for the selected groups contained herein will henceforth be made available on special request to meet the needs of those who require them for an interim period for purposes such as applications under existing contracts. Such requests should be addressed to:

The Commonwealth Statistician,
G.P.O. Box 17,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

endorsed "Wholesale Price Index - Interim Service". To facilitate arrangements they should specify the nature of the need and indicate its estimated duration.

This bulletin contains particulars of selected groups and "All Groups" of the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index. The weighting system used in this index is based on estimates of the average annual consumption of included commodities in Australia from 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. New series of wholesale price numbers relating to materials used and articles produced by defined areas of the economy are being developed. The first of these indexes, the Wholesale Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building (Reference No. 9.6), and the Wholesale Price Index of Materials used in House Building (Reference No. 9.9) have now been issued, the latter first appearing on 27 November 1970. Work continues on the preparation of further measures which, taken together with the two already issued, will, to a considerable extent, constitute a currently representative replacement for the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

2. A list of the commodities and other information concerning the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index is set out in Labour Report No. 53, 1967.
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.



Reference No. 9.4

WHOLESALE-PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS

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

Period	Basic materials		Foodstuffs and tobacco	Basic materials and foodstuffs
	Metals and coal (a)	Total (b)		Total all groups (b)
1936-37	96	99	98	99
1937-38	101	102	102	101
1938-39	103	99	101	100
1960-61	399	346	372	360
1961-62	392	340	332	336
1962-63	388	336	342	340
1963-64	383	339	352	346
1964-65	391	345	364	355
1965-66	390	355	385	371
1966-67	396	362	401	383
1967-68	397	361	411	388
1968-69	407	370	405	389
1969-70	439	380	405	394
1968-69 - April	416	377	409	394
May	420	378	408	394
June	423	379	405	393
1969-70 - July	429	381	406	395
August	429	379	405	393
September	431	379	406	394
October	432	379	401	391
November	434	379	399	390
December	437	380	399	390
January	447	381	403	393
February	446	380	402	392
March	445	380	407	395
April	447	381	411	397
May	447	380	412	397
June	448	379	414	398
1970-71 - July	448	380	410	396
August	444	378	408	394
September	445	382	408	396
October	449	382	405	395
November	453	385	p402	p394
December	449	p382	p406	p395

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for December 1970 is 533.

(b) In addition to the groups shown, includes Oils, fats and waxes; Textiles; Chemicals; Rubber and hides; and Building materials.

p - preliminary, subject to revision.

J. P. O'NEILL

ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T., 2600

12 FEBRUARY 1971

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.