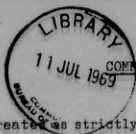


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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, APRIL 1969

This bulletin contains particulars of selected groups and "All Groups" of the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) index from 1936-37 to the present time.

2. 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 index 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 (publication Ref. No. 9.6), was issued on 23 April 1969. Work continues on the preparation of two further measures, relating to materials used in house building and in manufacturing industry respectively. Taken together, these first three series will, to a considerable extent, constitute a currently representative replacement for the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index, which in the meantime will continue to be published in the form shown in this bulletin. This is to meet the needs of those who, for special purposes, require the particular indexes included. However, it should be noted that the Building Materials group has been largely superseded by the Wholesale Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building, referred to above.

3. A list of the commodities and other information concerning the Wholesale price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index is set out in Labour Report No. 52, 1965 and 1966.

4. 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.

5. The prices used have, in the main, been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants. With a few important exceptions, they are from Melbourne sources.

6. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula.

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 Total all groups (c)
	Metals and coal (a)	Building materials (b)	Total (b) (c)		
1936-37	96	99	99	98	99
1937-38	101	104	102	102	101
1938-39	103	97	99	101	100
1953-59	392	423	340	332	336
1959-60	395	431	347	348	348
1960-61	399	439	346	372	360
1961-62	392	439	340	332	336
1962-63	388	439	336	342	340
1963-64	383	473	339	352	346
1964-65	391	503	345	364	355
1965-66	390	507	355	385	371
1966-67	396	511	362	401	383
1967-68	397	514	361	411	388
1967-68 -					
August	394	510	358	432	398
September	394	510	360	422	393
October	394	511	360	397	380
November	395	511	360	396	380
December	398	511	360	396	380
January	398	511	361	396	380
February	398	513	362	396	380
March	399	515	363	400	383
April	400	519	364	419	394
May	399	519	364	428	399
June	396	523	364	428	399
1968-69 -					
July	394	524	364	425	397
August	395	525	363	412	390
September	397	528	364	407	387
October	400	532	367	401	385
November	403	533	368	396	383
December	402	533	367	396	383
January	408	534	369	397	384
February	411	541	372	p399	p387
March	411	543	p373	p406	p391
April	p416	550	p377	p409	p394

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for April 1969 is 517. (b) See page 1, para. 2. (c) In addition to the groups shown, includes Oils, fats and waxes; Textiles; Chemicals; and Rubber and hides. p - preliminary, subject to revision.

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3 JULY 1969

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.