

PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA JANUARY 1980

INQUIRIES

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

NOTE: This issue contains, for the first time, separate index numbers for zinc and silver and for 'All groups excluding silver' (see paragraph 2 below).

Introduction

The two sets of monthly price indexes in this publication relate to important metallic materials used in selected activities of manufacturing industry. These indexes are the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* (see Table 1) and the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* (see Table 2). A detailed description of these indexes is contained in *Labour Report No. 57, 1972*.

2. Because the 'All groups' index included in Table 1 is significantly affected by rapidly increasing prices for silver, a special grouping 'All groups excluding silver' is included in order to more accurately indicate the general trend in prices for metallic materials. Also, it is no longer meaningful to continue to publish the 'other metallic materials' index, and separate index numbers for the 2 components of this index, zinc and silver, are shown instead.

3. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

Items and weights

4. The indexes are fixed weights indexes.

5. The items included in the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* are important metallic materials whose prices are combined in accordance with a weighting pattern representing the value of usage as reported in the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, for establishments classified to the Fabricated Metal Products Subdivision of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification - Subdivision 31).

6. The items and weights used in the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* were based on information, provided by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia and the Australian Electrical Manufacturers' Association, about the relative importance of various materials used in the manufacture of electrical equipment. The five different electrical equipment

indexes are each compiled from prices of the same four basic materials (busbar, paper covered strip, polyvinyl chloride cable and enamelled winding wire); the weights used for each index are appropriate to the equipment concerned.

Prices

7. Most of the prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of the month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers of the basic materials to the manufacturers of fabricated metal products and electrical equipment for materials delivered into store. Price series relate to goods of fixed specifications with the aim of incorporating in the index, price changes for representative materials of constant quality.

Interpretation of the indexes

8. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods, because short term movements may reflect irregular fluctuations in metal prices.

Related publications

9. Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications which are available on request:

Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry (6412.0)

Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industry (6411.0)

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building (6407.0)

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building (6408.0)

Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials (6409.0)

10. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- nil or less than half the final digit shown.

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TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX OF METALLIC MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS GROUP AND ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGES
(Base of each index : Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

	<i>Iron and steel</i>	<i>Aluminium</i>	<i>Copper and brass</i>	<i>Zinc</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding silver</i>
<i>Value weight (%) (a)</i>	<i>83.2%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	
1976-77	227.8	176.9	158.1	259.8	222.5	219.4	219.3
1977-78	248.9	193.7	153.9	237.9	246.8	238.5	238.3
1978-79	264.9	208.9	179.2	291.3	327.4	256.2	255.0
1978-79							
December	259.4	203.0	168.2	291.0	291.9	249.9	249.2
January	267.1	206.8	173.4	291.0	296.8	257.0	256.3
February	271.0	212.0	191.5	305.9	351.4	262.8	261.2
March	271.0	212.0	198.8	325.6	363.0	263.5	261.7
April	271.3	213.5	206.1	325.6	377.9	264.5	262.5
May	271.8	220.0	204.9	325.6	423.3	266.2	263.5
June	272.4	226.1	193.4	351.9	432.7	266.9	264.0
1979-80							
July	282.8	228.5	193.2	351.9	452.3	276.1	273.0
August	283.6	228.5	196.6	318.6	447.6	276.7	273.7
September	284.5	239.2	206.6	318.6	613.7	281.8	276.1
October	284.6	239.2	214.4	318.6	872.0	286.7	276.6
November	284.3	240.4	205.2	318.6	837.3	285.4	275.9
December	295.5	240.4	213.3	329.7	1,055.6	298.9	285.9
January p	298.5	250.9	224.2	329.7	1,965.5	318.5	290.0
Percentage change between -							
Jan. 1979 and Jan. 1980	+11.8	+21.3	+29.3	+13.3	+562.2	+23.9	+13.1
Dec. 1979 and Jan. 1980	+1.0	+4.4	+5.1	-	+86.2	+6.5	+1.4

(a) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraph 5 of explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index : Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

	<i>Copper materials used in the manufacture of -</i>				
	<i>Electric motor and motor control equipment</i>	<i>High voltage and low voltage switchgear</i>	<i>Distribution transformers</i>	<i>Power transformers</i>	<i>General transformers</i>
1976-77	156.7	167.3	145.6	144.3	153.4
1977-78	153.1	163.0	140.0	138.9	148.0
1978-79	173.9	194.6	159.1	167.3	169.3
1978-79					
December	165.4	181.8	151.6	157.0	160.6
January	169.8	188.9	154.6	161.7	164.6
February	182.9	207.9	167.8	179.6	178.7
March	189.2	216.2	174.8	189.6	185.5
April	195.9	224.7	180.5	197.2	191.6
May	193.3	226.5	176.5	192.4	190.0
June	184.2	209.4	168.7	181.5	179.5
1979-80					
July	184.8	212.0	167.6	179.4	180.0
August	187.1	212.0	169.4	182.8	180.6
September	195.8	225.4	177.7	193.8	190.1
October	203.8	234.2	185.0	203.3	197.4
November	196.7	223.7	178.3	196.6	189.2
December	203.8	232.1	185.7	206.2	196.4
January	212.6	248.3	191.2	213.9	205.1