

IMPORT PRICE INDEX, AUSTRALIA AUGUST 1992

MAIN FEATURES

SITC Section	Change between —	
	July 1992 and August 1992 %	August 1991 and August 1992 %
0 Food and live animals	1.5	4.5
1 Beverages and tobacco	0.1	7.0
2 Crude materials	0.9	2.1
3 Minerals fuels, etc	-0.2	5.4
4 Animal and vegetable oils, etc	2.1	28.6
5 Chemical products	3.0	4.8
6 Manufactured goods	1.7	5.0
7 Machinery and transport equipment	2.2	9.7
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2.2	10.0
9 Commodities and transactions n.e.s.	-0.8	8.6
All groups	2.1	7.9

The All groups index increased by 2.1 per cent in August 1992 (+2.2 index points). The index increased by 7.9 per cent between August 1991 and August 1992.

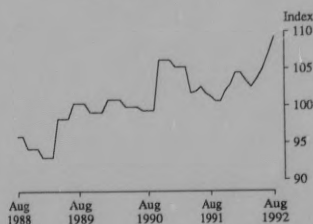
Prices increased for a wide range of items in the index. The main contributors to this movement were:

- Machinery specialised for particular industries (+3.3 per cent)
- General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (+3.0 per cent)
- Office machines and automatic data processing machines (+2.4 per cent)
- Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s. (+2.7 per cent).

The continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies in August also made a significant contribution to the increase in the index.

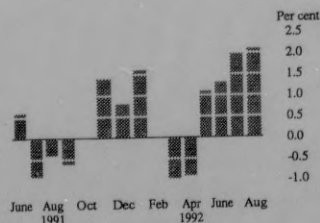
ALL GROUPS

Index numbers(a)
(Base: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)



(a) Quarterly index numbers prior to April 1991.

Percentage change from previous month



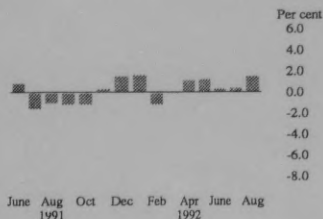
INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Geoff Brown on Canberra (06) 252 5348 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

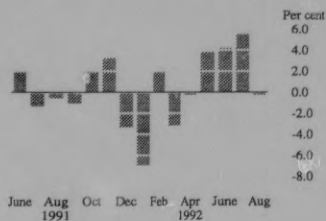
NOTE: Explanatory Notes are published at the back of this publication.

INDEX NUMBERS BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION
(Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)

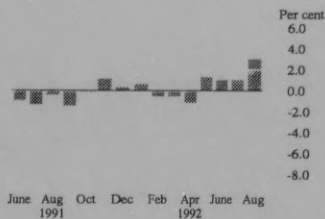
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS



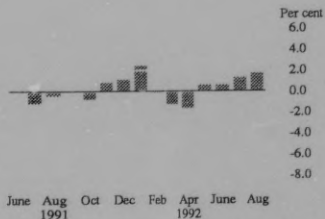
MINERAL FUELS, ETC



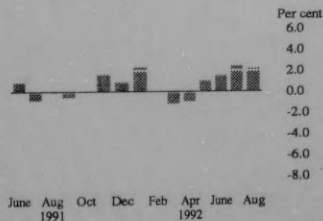
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS



MANUFACTURED GOODS



MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT



MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES

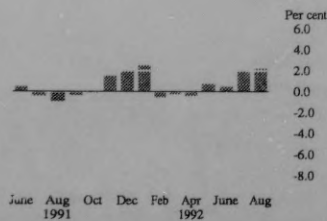


TABLE 1. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
ALL GROUPS
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Index numbers	Percentage change	
		Change from previous period	Change from corresponding month of previous year
1989-90	100.0	4.9	
1990-91	103.2	3.2	
1991-92	102.7	-0.5	
1990-91 —			
June	102.5	0.6	
1991-92 —			
July	101.6	-0.9	
August	101.2	-0.4	
September	100.6	-0.6	
October	100.6	—	(a)
November	102.0	1.4	
December	102.8	0.8	
January	104.4	1.6	
February	104.4	—	
March	103.4	-1.0	
April	102.5	-0.9	0.8
May	103.6	1.1	1.7
June	104.9	1.3	2.3
1992-93 —			
July p	107.0	2.0	5.3
August p	109.2	2.1	7.9

(a) Percentage changes from corresponding month of previous year can only be calculated from April 1992.

TABLE 2. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
CONTRIBUTION OF SECTIONS AND SELECTED DIVISIONS OF
THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) TO ALL GROUPS INDEX
(Expressed in terms of All groups index points) (a)

Category	July 1992 p	August 1992 p	Change
All groups	107.0	109.2	2.2
Contribution to All groups index (in index points) —			
SITC Sections			
0 Food and live animals chiefly for food	3.66	3.71	0.05
1 Beverages and tobacco	0.97	0.97	—
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	3.15	3.18	0.03
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	5.29	5.28	-0.01
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.34	0.35	0.01
5 Chemicals and related products n.e.s.	10.96	11.29	0.33
6 Manufactured goods classified by material	17.88	18.19	0.31
7 Machinery and transport equipment	50.14	51.23	1.09
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14.42	14.74	0.32
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0.44	0.44	—
Selected SITC Divisions			
51 Inorganic chemicals	2.15	2.25	0.09
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	1.84	1.92	0.08
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.	2.52	—	0.09
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	6.19	6.39	0.20
74 General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s.	6.92	7.13	0.21
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	6.41	6.57	0.16
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances n.e.s.	5.63	5.78	0.15
78 Road vehicles	12.69	12.80	0.11
79 Other transport equipment	4.97	5.10	0.13
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	5.64	5.75	0.11

(a) For an explanation of this table see paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
 BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
 SECTION INDEX NUMBERS
 (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	Beverages and tobacco (1)	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials (3)	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	98.7	107.2	94.6	119.0	96.3
1991-92	98.1	115.7	90.8	92.5	116.6
1990-91 — June	100.4	112.3	93.5	96.0	103.1
1991-92 — July	98.9	111.7	93.2	94.8	104.6
August	97.9	112.3	93.8	94.3	103.6
September	96.8	115.0	89.2	93.4	105.6
October	95.7	114.9	89.0	95.2	106.9
November	96.0	115.3	88.8	98.2	111.3
December	97.4	115.5	90.1	95.0	114.2
January	99.0	116.7	89.8	88.4	118.1
February	97.9	116.3	88.9	90.3	120.4
March	97.8	117.1	89.6	87.5	127.9
April	98.9	117.4	91.0	87.3	126.9
May	100.1	118.1	91.8	90.6	131.4
June	100.4	118.1	94.5	94.4	128.1
1992-93 — July p	100.8	120.1	94.9	99.6	130.5
August p	102.3	120.2	95.8	99.4	133.2

TABLE 3. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
 BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
 SECTION INDEX NUMBERS — continued
 (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6)	Machinery and transport equipment (7)	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere (9)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	100.4	102.1	102.6	103.0	96.0
1991-92	100.5	103.3	104.8	105.7	91.4
1990-91 — June	102.5	103.5	103.5	104.0	98.3
1991-92 — July	101.2	102.4	102.7	103.6	96.4
August	100.8	102.0	102.6	102.7	87.3
September	99.4	102.1	102.1	102.4	88.3
October	99.3	101.4	102.2	102.3	90.9
November	100.4	102.2	103.8	103.8	92.2
December	100.7	103.3	104.7	105.8	89.7
January	101.3	105.8	107.1	108.4	95.4
February	100.8	105.7	107.2	107.9	94.6
March	100.3	104.4	106.0	107.7	91.3
April	99.2	102.7	105.0	107.3	89.8
May	100.5	103.3	106.0	108.0	89.9
June	101.5	103.9	107.6	108.5	90.8
1992-93 — July p	102.5	105.3	110.2	110.6	95.6
August p	105.6	107.1	112.6	113.0	94.8

TABLE 4. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
SELECTED DIVISION INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (33)	Organic chemicals (51)	Paper, paperboard and articles made of paper (64)	Textile yarn, fabrics and related products (65)	Power generating machinery and equipment (71)	Machinery specialised for particular industries (72)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	119.0	98.7	100.2	103.1	106.3	103.4
1991-92	92.5	90.5	99.8	103.5	111.6	105.0
1990-91 — June	96.0	94.3	100.9	102.7	107.7	102.5
1991-92 — July	94.8	92.9	100.5	102.2	108.7	101.1
August	94.3	94.3	100.3	102.0	108.4	100.9
September	93.4	91.6	99.6	102.1	107.8	101.1
October	95.2	91.9	98.6	102.3	108.6	101.4
November	98.2	92.8	98.1	103.4	110.3	103.7
December	95.0	87.5	100.1	104.5	111.9	106.0
January	88.4	88.9	102.4	107.6	113.7	108.6
February	90.3	88.1	102.5	107.3	114.0	106.6
March	87.5	88.4	100.7	105.2	113.6	106.6
April	87.3	88.3	98.3	101.5	113.2	105.9
May	90.6	89.6	98.2	101.6	114.6	108.2
June	94.4	91.2	98.0	102.0	114.7	109.7
1992-93 — July p	99.6	92.4	98.6	102.0	116.6	113.2
August p	99.4	96.0	99.0	103.7	119.1	116.9

TABLE 4. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)
SELECTED DIVISION INDEX NUMBERS — continued
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	General industrial machinery, equipment and parts (74)	Office machines and ADP machines (75)	Tele- communications and sound recording equipment (76)	Electrical machinery, etc and parts thereof (77)	Road vehicles (78)	Other transport equipment (79)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	106.5	95.1	93.7	100.5	102.7	104.2
1991-92	109.5	89.6	95.3	100.1	110.5	109.1
1990-91 — June	106.8	95.6	93.9	99.8	105.2	109.1
1991-92 — July	105.4	95.0	93.8	99.0	104.6	107.8
August	105.3	94.1	93.6	98.6	105.5	107.1
September	105.5	93.4	93.1	97.5	105.1	106.1
October	106.0	91.1	93.4	97.9	106.0	106.1
November	108.2	91.9	94.2	99.4	108.0	107.5
December	109.5	89.8	95.3	100.7	109.5	108.7
January	113.0	87.6	97.8	102.1	114.6	111.7
February	112.2	87.5	97.4	101.9	117.2	110.4
March	111.6	86.7	96.5	101.0	114.1	109.7
April	110.6	86.0	95.8	100.2	112.2	109.0
May	112.0	85.9	96.2	100.8	112.7	111.6
June	114.1	86.0	96.8	101.5	116.2	113.2
1992-93 — July p	117.7	87.0	98.0	103.7	120.2	114.7
August p	121.2	89.1	99.7	106.5	121.2	117.8

TABLE 5. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON THE COMBINED AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF AND
STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURE (CUSTOMS HARMONISED TARIFF)
SECTION INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco (4)</i>	<i>Mineral products (5)</i>	<i>Chemical industry products (6)</i>	<i>Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (7)</i>	<i>Wood pulp, paper and paper products (10)</i>
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91			Not available		
1991-92	104.9	100.7	101.0	99.4	97.7
<i>1990-91 — June</i>	104.3	103.9	103.2	100.6	99.2
<i>1991-92 — July</i>	103.4	102.7	101.7	100.8	99.2
August	103.3	102.6	101.4	99.3	99.1
September	103.1	101.6	100.4	97.7	96.6
October	103.1	103.3	100.1	97.2	96.0
November	103.6	106.6	101.0	98.5	95.8
December	104.4	103.3	101.1	99.3	97.5
January	105.7	96.9	102.4	100.0	99.1
February	104.8	98.5	101.4	100.8	99.6
March	105.6	95.9	101.0	100.0	98.3
April	106.4	95.7	99.6	99.7	96.8
May	107.6	99.0	101.0	100.1	97.4
June	108.0	102.8	101.3	99.7	97.5
<i>1992-93 — July p</i>	109.4	108.0	102.2	100.9	98.2
August p	110.9	107.9	104.8	103.3	98.9

TABLE 5. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON THE COMBINED AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF AND
STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURE (CUSTOMS HARMONISED TARIFF)

SECTION INDEX NUMBERS — *continued*

(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Textiles and textile articles (11)</i>	<i>Base metals and articles thereof (15)</i>	<i>Machinery and electrical equipment (16)</i>	<i>Transport equipment (17)</i>	<i>Instruments, clocks and watches, optical and photographic apparatus (18)</i>
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91			Not available		
1991-92	101.2	103.1	99.4	110.3	105.0
<i>1990-91 — June</i>	99.6	103.6	99.9	106.5	102.3
<i>1991-92 — July</i>	99.2	102.4	99.3	105.6	101.2
August	98.7	102.5	98.8	106.1	100.3
September	99.4	102.1	98.3	105.5	100.0
October	99.6	101.4	97.9	106.2	100.7
November	100.3	101.9	99.3	108.1	102.9
December	101.8	102.4	99.6	109.5	104.5
January	104.4	104.7	100.7	114.1	108.3
February	104.0	105.3	99.9	115.6	108.4
March	103.2	104.4	99.5	113.1	108.0
April	100.9	102.6	98.8	111.4	107.0
May	101.3	103.5	99.7	112.6	108.5
June	101.5	104.1	100.4	115.6	109.8
<i>1992-93 — July p</i>	101.6	105.3	102.4	118.9	113.1
August p	103.3	106.8	105.1	120.4	116.1

TABLE 6. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
 BASED ON THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (ASIC)
 DIVISION INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN INDEX NUMBERS
 (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (A)</i>	<i>Mining (B)</i>	<i>Manufacturing (C)</i>
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	97.6	120.8	102.5
1991-92	99.7	105.5	102.6
<i>1990-91 — June</i>	100.4	103.0	102.6
<i>1991-92 —</i>			
July	99.2	103.0	101.7
August	100.2	104.8	101.3
September	98.0	104.8	100.7
October	96.6	108.2	100.5
November	99.9	113.6	101.8
December	100.7	109.7	102.6
January	101.9	100.3	104.5
February	99.2	104.3	104.3
March	98.9	102.2	103.4
April	100.8	101.6	102.5
May	101.0	104.0	103.5
June	99.9	109.8	104.6
<i>1992-93 —</i>			
July p	98.1	116.2	106.7
August p	99.6	116.4	108.8

TABLE 7. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
 BASED ON THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (ASIC)
 SUBDIVISION INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN INDEX NUMBERS
 (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Agriculture (1)	Oil and gas (13)	Food, beverages and tobacco (21)	Textiles (23)	Clothing and footwear (24)	Wood, wood products and furniture (25)	Paper, paper products, printing and publishing (26)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	97.6	126.7	101.3	102.5	99.0	99.2	100.6
1991-92	99.7	106.6	103.6	103.8	103.7	98.8	99.8
1990-91 — June	100.4	103.1	103.9	103.0	99.5	98.6	101.1
1991-92 — July	99.2	103.1	103.1	102.8	98.6	96.6	101.1
August	100.2	105.3	101.8	102.3	98.4	97.5	101.0
September	98.0	105.6	101.6	102.0	100.3	97.9	98.7
October	96.6	109.7	101.0	102.4	100.3	95.1	98.2
November	99.9	115.9	101.1	103.2	102.0	96.1	98.1
December	100.7	111.5	102.5	104.3	105.1	99.2	99.8
January	101.9	100.2	104.3	107.6	107.2	99.3	101.4
February	99.2	105.3	104.0	107.1	106.2	98.9	101.9
March	98.9	102.9	104.6	105.3	106.0	99.9	100.5
April	100.8	102.2	105.1	102.1	106.1	100.6	99.0
May	101.0	105.0	107.0	103.1	107.1	100.3	99.1
June	99.9	112.0	107.4	103.6	107.3	103.9	99.3
1992-93 — July p	98.1	119.6	109.2	103.6	108.9	106.6	100.0
August p	99.6	119.6	110.4	105.5	111.1	108.9	100.8

TABLE 7. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
 BASED ON THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (ASIC)
 SUBDIVISION INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN INDEX NUMBERS — continued
 (Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Chemical, petroleum and coal products (27)	Non-metallic mineral products (28)	Basic metal products (29)	Fabricated metal products (31)	Transport equipment (32)	Other machinery and equipment (33)	Miscellaneous manufacturing (34)
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	104.4	108.4	96.5	104.4	102.5	103.1	101.0
1991-92	93.9	110.7	96.6	108.4	108.6	103.1	101.2
1990-91 — June	97.7	106.8	100.3	106.0	105.0	103.5	102.0
1991-92 — July	96.0	105.5	99.0	105.1	104.3	102.7	101.6
August	95.3	105.0	97.4	104.7	104.6	102.3	100.2
September	93.9	106.6	96.6	105.4	104.0	101.8	99.2
October	93.8	106.9	96.4	105.1	104.8	101.3	98.8
November	95.0	109.6	97.0	106.4	106.6	102.7	99.9
December	94.4	113.2	95.9	107.7	107.9	103.3	100.7
January	94.1	115.4	98.6	110.5	112.2	104.6	102.6
February	93.2	114.3	98.6	110.4	113.6	103.9	102.7
March	92.1	110.7	97.0	110.7	111.3	103.5	102.5
April	91.4	110.7	93.9	110.7	109.8	102.8	101.9
May	93.1	113.0	94.4	111.9	110.9	103.6	102.4
June	94.0	117.1	94.9	112.6	113.6	104.5	102.3
1992-93 — July p	95.5	123.0	96.8	114.8	116.7	106.7	103.7
August p	97.6	128.0	97.5	117.2	118.4	109.4	105.7

TABLE 8. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES (BEC)
CATEGORY INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Food and beverages	Industrial supplies n.e.s.	Fuel: and lubricants	Capital goods, and parts and accessories thereof	Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof	Consumer goods n.e.s.
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	100.3	99.9	119.1	103.6	102.5	102.6
1991-92	102.1	98.8	94.7	102.3	108.5	106.0
1990-91 — June	102.7	100.7	96.4	103.4	105.1	104.6
1991-92 — July	101.6	99.8	95.3	102.4	104.5	103.9
August	100.9	99.1	96.0	101.9	104.7	103.4
September	100.5	98.0	95.1	101.5	104.2	103.1
October	99.6	97.5	97.0	100.9	104.8	103.1
November	100.4	98.2	100.9	102.3	106.6	104.4
December	101.5	98.6	97.6	102.6	107.8	106.4
January	103.0	100.0	90.4	103.5	111.8	108.9
February	102.1	99.9	92.5	102.8	113.1	108.2
March	102.8	99.1	90.0	102.3	111.0	107.6
April	103.5	98.0	89.9	101.6	109.6	107.1
May	104.7	98.6	93.5	102.5	110.6	107.9
June	104.9	99.2	97.6	103.4	113.2	108.5
1992-93 — July p	105.7	100.3	103.2	105.7	116.0	110.3
August p	106.7	102.1	103.4	108.4	117.7	112.8

TABLE 9. IMPORT PRICE INDEX
BASED ON BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES (BEC)
END USE CLASS INDEX NUMBERS (a)
(Base of each index: Year 1989-90 = 100.0)

Period	Capital goods	Intermediate goods	Consumption goods
1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.0
1990-91	103.7	102.9	103.4
1991-92	105.1	98.6	107.0
1990-91 — June	104.2	100.1	105.6
1991-92 — July	103.4	99.2	104.8
August	103.1	98.8	104.4
September	102.7	97.8	104.1
October	103.1	97.2	104.2
November	104.6	98.5	105.4
December	105.1	98.8	106.9
January	107.3	99.4	109.4
February	107.2	99.4	109.3
March	106.1	98.6	108.4
April	105.0	97.7	107.9
May	106.1	98.6	109.0
June	107.9	99.5	109.8
1992-93 — July p	110.7	101.2	111.9
August p	113.0	103.0	114.0

(a) Broad Economic Categories rearranged into end use classes. See paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains a set of price indexes relating to imports of merchandise landed in Australia during the month. Each index is presented on *reference base: Year 1989-90 = 100.0*.

2. Table 1 contains index numbers for total imports of merchandise landed in Australia — the *All groups* index.

3. Table 2 provides an analysis of the contributions which selected merchandise imports make to the total *All groups* index (see paragraph 26).

4. Tables 3 and 4 contain index numbers for Sections and selected Divisions of the *Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3*.

5. Table 5 contains index numbers for selected Sections of the *Combined Australian Customs Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature* (Customs Harmonised Tariff). This classification has some similarities to SITC, since both are broadly based on the international *Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)*.

6. Tables 6 and 7 contain index numbers for selected Divisions and Subdivisions, on an 'industry of origin' basis, of the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC)*. The 'industry of origin' is the industry in which, in accordance with the classification rules of the ASIC, the imported commodity would be classified as primarily produced had it been produced in Australia.

7. Tables 8 contains index numbers for categories of the United Nations' *Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)*. Table 9 contains index numbers for BEC categories rearranged to form the broader end use classes: Capital goods, Intermediate goods and Consumption goods. Each category has been allocated wholly to one of these classes except for:

- * category 321, Motor spirit (which has been allocated in part to Intermediate goods and in part to Consumption goods); and
- * category 51, Passenger motor cars (which has been allocated in part to Capital goods and in part to Consumption goods).

8. The Import Price Index is compiled for each month from April 1991. Previously, it had been compiled as a quarterly series, on *reference base: Year 1981-82 = 100.0* from September quarter 1981 until June quarter 1991.

9. Prior to the introduction of the ABS index, the Reserve Bank of Australia published an import price index on the reference base year of 1966-67 = 100.

10. Appendix A to the September 1991 issue of this publication provides information on the re-reference of the Import Price Index from *reference base: Year 1981-82 = 100.0* to *reference base: Year 1989-90 = 100.0*. Appendix B explains how to link the previous and current index series, and the *All groups* index of the previous ABS index to the *All items* index of the RBA import price index. Appendix C contains the link factors used to compile the linked indexes presented in this publication. Appendix D contains the weights used to compile the indexes according to each of the four classifications used.

Scope and composition

11. The Import Price Index measures changes in prices of merchandise imports landed in Australia during the month.

12. The index, either directly or indirectly, covers about ninety five per cent of merchandise imported during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

13. Approximately five per cent of all merchandise imported is neither directly nor indirectly represented because of the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality. These unrepresented items include:

- * live animals (not for food);
- * jewellery and other articles of precious metal n.e.s.;
- * military equipment;
- * special transactions;
- * commodities not classified according to kind;
- * works of art, collectors pieces, antiques; and
- * ships of various types.

Items and weights

14. These indexes are *fixed weights indexes*. The items included in the indexes were selected on the basis of the value of merchandise imports landed in Australia during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

15. Ninety three per cent of these imports are directly represented.

16. Two per cent of the items are not directly represented. However, these items are indirectly

represented as items whose prices are considered to move similarly to those of directly priced imports.

17. Relevant directly represented items therefore carry not only the weight of priced items but also the weight of these unpriced items.

Prices

18. Prices of individual shipments are obtained from importers of the selected items and relate to the month in which the goods arrive in Australia. Imports are priced on a *Free on board* (f.o.b.), country of origin basis. Freight and insurance charges involved in shipping goods from foreign to Australian ports are therefore *excluded* from the prices used in the index as are Australian import duties.

19. All prices used in the index are expressed in Australian dollars. As a result, changes in the relative values of the Australian dollar and overseas currencies can have a direct impact on price movements of imports purchased in currencies other than Australian dollars. Prices reported in a foreign currency are converted to Australian dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the time of departure from the foreign port. Where imports are purchased at prices expressed in terms of a foreign currency and forward exchange cover is used, the prices used in the index *exclude* the forward exchange cover.

20. The prices used relate to specific standards, grades, types, etc. of each item with the aim of incorporating in the index price changes for imports of representative goods of constant quality. In order to lessen the impact of price variation attributable solely to changes, over time, in the country of origin of imported goods, prices are obtained in respect of the predominant countries of origin for each of the specified goods priced. Prices are combined using fixed weights between countries of origin but these weights are reviewed periodically and revised where necessary.

Index numbers

21. Up to 1990-91, index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the quarterly index numbers. From 1991-92, index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the monthly index numbers.

22. Index numbers for the latest month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision. Revisions may occur if the ABS discovers that any prices previously reported by respondents are incorrect and corrected prices are obtained.

Analysis of index numbers

23. Care should be exercised when interpreting month to month movements in the indexes as short term movements do not necessarily indicate changes in trend.

24. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as changes in 'index points' or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating index points changes and percentage changes between any two periods.

All groups index numbers—

August 1992	109.2 (see Table 1)
less July 1992	107.0 (see Table 1)
Change in index points	2.2

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{2.2}{107.0} \times 100 = 2.1$$

25. In this publication percentage changes are shown in respect of movements between:

- consecutive financial years
- corresponding quarters of consecutive years (to March quarter 1991)
- corresponding month of consecutive years (from April 1992)
- consecutive quarters (to March quarter 1991)
- consecutive months (from May 1991).

26. Table 2 provides an analysis of the contribution which Sections and selected Divisions (of SITC) make to the *All groups* index. For example, Road vehicles contributed +12.80 index points to the *All Groups* index number of 109.2 for August 1992 and +0.11 index points to the net change of +2.2.

Related publications

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

Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0) — issued monthly

Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0) — issued monthly

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0) — issued monthly

Balance of Payments, Australia (5302.0) — issued quarterly

Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables (5433.0) — issued monthly

28. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The

Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Unpublished statistics

29. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS has a large range of other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be directed to the contact in the phone inquiries box at the front of this publication.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary — figures subject to revision.
- r figure or series revised since previous issue.
- nil or rounded to zero.
- n.e.s. not elsewhere specified.

Electronic services

DISCOVERY. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

PC-AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service. For further information phone

the PC-AUSSTATS Help Desk on (06) 252 6017.

TELESTATS.

This service provides:

- foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements. Further information is available on (06) 252 5404
- text and tables for selected Main Economic Indicator publications. Further information is available on (06) 252 5405.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (06) 252 6684.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

