



Reference No. 9.11

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX NUMBERS, FEBRUARY 1976

This bulletin contains monthly Consumer Price Index numbers for the Food Group and its component sub-groups. The Food Group is the only group of the index for which prices are collected monthly. Quarterly index numbers for the All Groups Consumer Price Index and its groups and sub-groups (including the Food Group) are contained in the quarterly bulletin *Consumer Price Index* (Reference No. 9.1). Detailed information about the Consumer Price Index can be found in that bulletin and in *Labour Report No. 58, 1973* (Reference No. 6.7).

2. Compared with the previous month, the Food Group index increased by 1.6% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney +1.7%, Melbourne +1.7%, Brisbane +1.1%, Adelaide +1.9%, Perth +1.5%, Hobart +1.6%, Canberra +1.6%.

3. Recent monthly changes in the Food Group index have been as follows :

Percentage Change from Preceding Month

Month	Six Capitals (a)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1974-75 -								
February	+0.6	+0.4	+0.6	+0.6	+0.8	+1.5	+0.1	+1.0
March	+1.3	+1.5	+0.8	+2.0	+1.2	+2.3	+0.7	+2.1
April	+1.6	+0.8	+2.4	+1.5	+2.4	+1.4	+1.6	+2.4
May	+0.7	+0.7	+0.7	-0.2	+0.5	+0.8	+1.2	+0.6
June	+0.4	..	+1.0	+0.2	+0.5	+0.8	+0.7	-0.2
1975-76 -								
July	+0.3	+0.6	+0.3	+0.5	-0.1	-1.0	+0.9	+1.0
August	+0.7	+0.5	+0.9	+0.4	+0.4	+0.8	+2.0	+1.1
September	+1.1	+1.2	+1.6	+0.6	+0.6	+0.4	+0.9	+0.8
October	+1.3	+1.9	+0.8	+1.6	+1.0	+0.5	+1.5	+2.5
November	+0.7	+0.3	+0.7	+1.6	+0.9	+1.1	+0.4	+1.0
December	+1.1	+1.1	+1.0	+1.4	+1.2	+0.7	+1.4	+1.1
January	+3.0	+3.0	+2.5	+4.4	+3.1	+2.4	+1.6	+2.6
February	+1.6	+1.7	+1.7	+1.1	+1.9	+1.5	+1.6	+1.6

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

4. The main changes in the index for this month were increases in meat and potato prices in all cities and milk prices in Perth. There were increases in all other sub-groups of the index.

5. Between February 1975 and February 1976 the Food Group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 14.7%. Increases in individual cities during this twelve month period were : Sydney 14.3%, Melbourne 15.4%, Brisbane 15.9%, Adelaide 14.5%, Perth 12.3%, Hobart 15.5%, Canberra 17.8%.

6. As at September quarter 1974 the Food Group contributed 27.930 per cent to the total Consumer Price Index aggregate for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. This is the only group for which prices are collected each month, the complete All Groups price index being prepared quarterly. For potatoes and onions, weekly prices are collected and averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices for other food items are collected as at the middle of each month.

7. In analysing trends in food prices it should be remembered that some food prices are subject to significant irregular fluctuations as a result of seasonality of supply and demand and other factors. These fluctuations frequently cause disparate movements in the index numbers for the various cities. Also, if these fluctuations occur in combination with significant changes in quantities consumed, index numbers at aggregative levels, which are calculated with relative weights reflecting a normal pattern of consumption, are likely to be less reliable as general indicators of month-to-month movements during the relevant period.

8. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

9. Users of figures in Table I should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts.

TABLE 1. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS
JANUARY 1976 AND FEBRUARY 1976

Group and sub-group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67=100.0)(a)			Contribution of Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (b) expressed as All Groups Index Points (quarterly basis) (c)		
	January 1976	February 1976	Percentage change since January %	January 1976	February 1976	Change in All Groups Index Points since January
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES						
Cereal products	214.6	216.6	+0.9	6.35	6.41	+0.06
Dairy products	170.2	171.4	+0.7	9.01	9.07	+0.06
Preserved fruit and vegetables	162.3	163.7	+0.9	2.38	2.40	+0.02
Potatoes and onions	307.6	341.2	+10.9	2.47	2.74	+0.27
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	219.4	220.7	+0.6	8.23	8.28	+0.05
Meat	168.8	171.8	+1.8	16.45	16.73	+0.28
Beef	142.5	144.4	+1.3	5.50	5.58	+0.08
Mutton	164.4	167.4	+1.8	0.59	0.61	+0.02
Lamb	177.9	183.7	+3.3	3.20	3.31	+0.11
Pork	200.8	202.8	+1.0	1.73	1.74	+0.02
Processed meat (d)	167.3	169.8	+1.5	5.43	5.51	+0.08
Snacks, take away food (e)	(136.5)	(138.7)	+1.6	1.81	1.84	+0.03
Other food	155.0	157.4	+1.5	4.72	4.80	+0.08
Food Group	183.9	186.9	+1.6	51.42	52.27	+0.85
SYDNEY						
Cereal products	215.0	218.0	+1.4	6.59	6.68	+0.09
Dairy products	172.6	173.3	+0.4	9.55	9.58	+0.03
Preserved fruit and vegetables	155.0	157.3	+1.5	2.29	2.33	+0.04
Potatoes and onions	314.0	345.3	+10.0	2.47	2.72	+0.25
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	216.5	218.1	+0.7	8.10	8.16	+0.06
Meat	176.2	179.6	+1.9	16.66	16.98	+0.32
Beef	154.8	156.7	+1.2	5.87	5.94	+0.07
Mutton	169.3	172.5	+1.9	0.59	0.61	+0.02
Lamb	187.2	192.7	+2.9	3.21	3.31	+0.10
Pork	192.4	194.8	+1.2	1.67	1.69	+0.02
Processed meat (d)	165.2	168.8	+2.2	5.31	5.43	+0.12
Snacks, take away food (e)	(129.8)	(132.1)	+1.8	1.71	1.74	+0.03
Other food	153.9	156.4	+1.6	4.65	4.73	+0.08
Food Group	186.0	189.2	+1.7	52.03	52.92	+0.89
MELBOURNE						
Cereal products	215.4	216.1	+0.3	6.47	6.49	+0.02
Dairy products	166.1	166.9	+0.5	8.31	8.35	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	169.2	169.6	+0.2	2.33	2.34	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	298.4	352.0	+18.0	2.36	2.79	+0.43
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	226.7	228.2	+0.7	8.28	8.33	+0.05
Meat	159.8	161.9	+1.3	15.38	15.58	+0.20
Beef	128.6	129.3	+0.5	4.95	4.97	+0.02
Mutton	156.2	159.3	+2.0	0.51	0.52	+0.01
Lamb	163.1	170.2	+4.4	2.69	2.81	+0.12
Pork	201.4	201.1	-0.1	1.66	1.65	-0.01
Processed meat (d)	170.5	171.9	+0.8	5.58	5.62	+0.04
Snacks, take away food (e)	(135.2)	(138.6)	+2.5	1.74	1.78	+0.04
Other food	155.5	157.3	+1.2	4.62	4.67	+0.05
Food Group	181.2	184.3	+1.7	49.48	50.32	+0.84
BRISBANE						
Cereal products	207.2	209.5	+1.1	5.66	5.73	+0.07
Dairy products	177.2	177.9	+0.4	9.37	9.41	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	162.7	164.3	+1.0	2.54	2.56	+0.02
Potatoes and onions	380.4	394.7	+3.8	3.14	3.26	+0.12
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	207.3	207.6	+0.1	8.11	8.12	+0.01
Meat	173.7	176.3	+1.5	17.80	18.07	+0.27
Beef	158.9	161.2	+1.4	5.91	5.99	+0.08
Mutton	150.1	149.1	-0.7	0.69	0.69	-
Lamb	182.7	187.3	+2.5	3.90	4.00	+0.10
Pork	204.5	203.9	-0.3	1.77	1.76	-0.01
Processed meat (d)	156.9	159.7	+1.8	5.53	5.63	+0.10
Snacks, take away food (e)	(142.3)	(143.1)	+0.6	1.97	1.98	+0.01
Other food	154.8	156.8	+1.3	5.02	5.08	+0.06
Food Group	186.9	189.0	+1.1	55.61	56.21	+0.60

For footnotes see page 5.

TABLE 1. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - continued
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS
JANUARY 1976 AND FEBRUARY 1976

Group and sub-group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67=100.0)(a)			Contribution of Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (b) expressed as All Groups Index Points (quarterly basis) (c)		
	January 1976	February 1976	Percentage change since January %	January 1976	February 1976	Change in All Groups Index Points since January
ADELAIDE						
Cereal products	215.6	216.1	+1.2	5.97	6.03	+0.06
Dairy products	169.2	170.7	+0.9	8.91	8.98	+0.07
Preserved fruit and vegetables	160.3	161.8	+0.9	2.47	2.50	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	314.3	334.7	+6.5	2.52	2.68	+0.16
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	218.1	219.3	+0.6	8.38	8.43	+0.05
Meat	168.0	172.6	+2.7	17.69	18.18	+0.49
Beef	134.7	137.9	+2.4	5.85	5.99	+0.14
Mutton	175.0	181.2	+3.5	0.72	0.74	+0.02
Lamb	175.0	182.0	+4.0	3.58	3.72	+0.14
Pork	219.6	228.5	+4.1	1.97	2.05	+0.08
Processed meat (d)	175.0	178.2	+1.8	5.57	5.67	+0.10
Snacks, take away food (e)	(152.0)	(152.9)	+0.6	2.07	2.09	+0.02
Other food	183.1	187.0	+2.5	4.74	4.86	+0.12
Food Group	183.4	186.9	+1.9	52.74	53.74	+1.00
PERTH						
Cereal products	217.3	218.0	+0.3	6.17	6.19	+0.02
Dairy products	166.7	171.4	+2.8	8.98	9.23	+0.25
Preserved fruit and vegetables	171.6	171.7	+0.1	2.61	2.62	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	219.3	233.3	+6.4	2.03	2.16	+0.13
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	222.8	223.5	+0.3	8.52	8.55	+0.03
Meat	165.7	168.3	+1.6	16.14	16.40	+0.26
Beef	127.0	131.2	+3.3	5.07	5.34	+0.17
Mutton	176.9	180.9	+2.3	0.65	0.67	+0.02
Lamb	198.7	200.2	+0.8	3.81	3.84	+0.03
Pork	210.0	213.5	+1.7	1.74	1.77	+0.03
Processed meat (d)	166.3	166.8	+0.3	4.87	4.88	+0.01
Snacks, take away food (e)	(140.1)	(141.7)	+1.1	1.87	1.89	+0.02
Other food	189.3	192.7	+2.1	4.90	5.01	+0.11
Food Group	181.1	185.9	+2.5	51.22	52.03	+0.81
HOBART						
Cereal products	217.4	219.4	+0.9	6.40	6.46	+0.06
Dairy products	168.5	169.0	+0.3	9.01	9.04	+0.03
Preserved fruit and vegetables	161.6	163.6	+1.2	2.63	2.67	+0.04
Potatoes and onions	248.9	252.3	+2.6	2.14	2.19	+0.05
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	214.1	216.7	+0.7	8.35	8.31	+0.04
Meat	162.1	166.8	+2.9	17.12	17.62	+0.50
Beef	145.3	148.4	+2.3	5.77	5.90	+0.13
Mutton	136.4	136.4	..	0.83	0.83	..
Lamb	149.4	160.6	+7.5	3.08	3.31	+0.23
Pork	203.7	207.0	+1.6	1.84	1.87	+0.03
Processed meat (d)	172.3	176.4	+1.9	5.90	6.01	+0.11
Snacks, take away food (e)	(147.8)	(148.3)	+0.3	1.98	1.99	+0.01
Other food	189.4	191.7	+1.4	5.28	5.36	+0.08
Food Group	179.3	182.2	+1.6	52.81	53.63	+0.82
CANBERRA						
Cereal products	205.7	207.9	+1.1	6.09	6.15	+0.06
Dairy products	159.3	160.1	+0.5	8.42	8.46	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	148.7	150.7	+1.3	2.27	2.30	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	336.2	367.8	+8.7	3.69	3.92	+0.23
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	216.2	216.9	+0.3	8.25	8.28	+0.03
Meat	182.3	186.3	+1.6	17.29	17.57	+0.28
Beef	162.8	164.8	+1.2	7.17	7.26	+0.09
Lamb	187.1	191.1	+2.1	3.49	3.87	+0.08
Pork	216.2	223.8	+3.5	1.74	1.80	+0.06
Processed meat (d)	162.0	162.9	+1.2	4.88	4.94	+0.06
Snacks, take away food (e)	(143.1)	(146.8)	+1.9	1.77	1.80	+0.03
Other food	181.8	185.5	+2.4	4.84	4.63	+0.11
Food Group	183.4	186.4	+1.6	51.32	52.14	+0.82

For footnotes see page 5.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOOD GROUP INDEXES - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA
(Base of index for each city and for six State capital cities combined : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Six Capitals (f)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
1973 -								
February	127.9	129.3	127.8	130.1	125.0	124.6	122.3	127.8
March	130.6	130.8	132.5	131.7	126.9	127.5	123.6	128.7
April	132.8	132.6	134.6	135.1	129.7	128.8	124.4	131.2
May	133.8	133.6	134.9	136.4	132.2	131.7	124.6	132.1
June	133.3	134.5	136.5	137.3	134.4	134.1	125.6	132.5
July	137.6	138.3	137.6	140.4	136.5	134.4	128.0	136.5
August	141.5	142.5	141.4	145.4	140.5	134.8	132.0	139.9
September	145.1	146.9	144.4	148.3	145.0	136.2	135.8	144.0
October	145.9	148.7	144.7	149.3	144.8	137.1	136.3	144.5
November	147.1	150.1	146.2	149.8	145.0	136.3	141.6	145.9
December	147.9	151.1	146.7	150.9	145.5	137.7	141.2	147.6
1974 -								
January	150.4	153.4	149.0	154.3	147.2	142.0	143.0	150.1
February	152.0	154.1	150.8	155.3	150.4	145.2	144.7	152.1
March	153.5	155.4	152.5	157.4	151.4	147.3	145.0	152.7
April	155.2	156.7	154.9	157.5	154.5	147.9	147.4	154.2
May	158.1	159.3	157.8	160.5	159.3	149.8	149.6	157.1
June	159.4	161.0	158.9	161.1	159.7	151.5	152.1	158.8
July	158.6	160.4	158.2	160.8	158.6	149.9	152.6	158.4
August	163.0	165.7	162.4	166.3	160.6	152.4	155.1	161.3
September	164.0	166.8	162.6	168.1	161.6	154.4	157.7	162.3
October	163.5	166.2	162.2	165.0	162.8	154.9	159.3	161.1
November	160.9	163.8	158.8	160.3	161.1	155.7	157.7	157.9
December	160.3	163.5	157.7	158.9	159.8	157.8	156.9	155.4
1975 -								
January	162.1	165.0	158.7	162.2	161.9	161.3	157.7	158.3
February	163.0	165.6	159.7	163.1	163.2	163.7	157.8	159.9
March	165.2	168.1	161.0	166.4	165.1	167.5	158.9	163.2
April	167.9	169.5	164.8	168.9	169.1	169.9	161.4	167.1
May	169.0	170.7	166.0	168.5	170.0	171.2	163.4	168.1
June	169.7	170.7	167.7	168.8	170.8	172.5	164.5	167.8
July	170.2	171.8	168.2	169.7	170.7	170.8	166.0	169.4
August	171.4	172.7	169.7	170.3	171.4	172.1	169.4	171.2
September	173.3	174.7	172.4	171.3	172.5	172.8	171.0	172.6
October	175.5	178.0	173.7	174.0	173.3	173.7	173.5	177.0
November	176.7	178.5	174.9	176.7	175.8	175.6	174.2	178.7
December	178.6	180.5	176.7	179.1	177.9	176.9	176.7	180.7
1976 -								
January	183.9	186.0	181.2	186.9	183.4	181.1	179.5	185.4
February	186.9	189.2	184.3	189.0	186.9	183.9	182.3	188.4

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOOD GROUP : CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX (c)(g)
(in terms of All Groups Index Points)

Period	Six Capitals (f)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
October 1975	49.08	49.80	47.44	49.91	50.13	49.14	51.04	48.98
November 1975	49.41	49.92	47.77	50.71	50.56	49.69	51.25	49.46
December 1975	49.94	50.48	48.25	51.38	51.16	50.03	51.96	50.07
December quarter 1975	49.48	50.07	47.82	50.67	50.62	49.62	51.42	49.49
January 1976	51.42	52.03	49.48	53.61	52.74	51.22	52.81	51.32
February 1976	52.27	52.92	50.32	54.21	53.74	52.03	53.63	52.14

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons monthly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points. (c) These figures are on the basis of the current linked series and are not comparable with index points contributions published for the previous series. (d) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968 and sausages as from December quarter 1973 (previously included in Beef sub-group). (e) Cooked chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches. Base: December quarter 1973 = 100.0. (f) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (g) Figures contained herein for months are expressed on a quarterly basis. Figures shown for quarters are the actual quarterly amounts, which therefore correspond to the average of the three relevant months.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr T. Travers on 52 6251 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.