CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

MORNING PAPERS: WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1948
EVENING PAPERS: WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1948
BROADCASTING STATIONS: MIDNIGHT, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1948.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EXPORT PRICES : JULY, 1948.

1. The monthly export price index numbers for July, 1948, together with comparative figures for earlier periods, have been issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, (Mr. S.R. Carver).

2. The index relates to 20 items which constitute about 85 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver, and gold production. All export parities are calculated from actual price quotations from the most reliable and representative sources available.

3. The prices used are those at which current sales are being effected as distinct from the prices realised for goods being currently shipped. Normally there is a lapse of some weeks or months between date of sale and date of export and considerable fluctuations occur in prices between the two dates. In respect of wheat, however, it has become impossible to determine "prices at which current sales are being effected" because a very large proportion of exportable wheat is sold forward on long term contracts rangin up to five years in duration and between wide price limits. Accordingly, commencing with the June, 1948 issue of this statement, a new series of wheat prices has been substituted for the Australian Wheat Board's current "basic export price" formerly used. This new series is based on average actual realisations for current shipments and, for comparability, the price index of wheat and the aggregate index have been revised on this basis as from July, 1945.

In respect of wool "prices at which current sales are being effected" can be determined during the selling season, but complexity of the market due to great diversity of types renders if difficult to attain precision and recent prices are subject to possible revision in the light of investigations now proceeding.

I. THE SIMPLE AGGREGATIVE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS

4. The "quantity multipliers" used for this series for the period 1928-36 were the average annual exports (or production, in the case of gold) during the five years 1928-29 to 1932-33. Since July, 1936 these multipliers have been recalculated on the basis of average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table, the base of the index-numbers being the average of the three years ended June, 1939 = 1000.

Indexes are also given for individual commodities and certain groups thereof. The percentage distribution of these groups in the total aggregative value of the "All Groups" indexes for the base period (1936-37 to 1938-39) is shown at the head of the table, and represents the proportional contribution of each to the "All Groups" index for all periods from 1936-37. Thus, the equivalence in "points" of any percentage variation in the "group" etc. indexes, when multiplied by the percentage at the head of its column will give the number of "points" by which the "All Groups" indexes would be varied. Those of line (e) are applicable to the "All Groups (inclusive of Gold)" and of line (f) to the "All Groups (exclusive of Gold)" indexes.

During July, 1948, the index for all groups combined (including gold) decreased by 1.2 per cent. The percentage changes in individual groups were as follows:- Wool - 3.2, Wheat + 0.5, Metals + 3.3 and Hides - 7.1.

The combined index (including gold) for July, 1948 was 44.3 per cent higher than for July, 1947 and 292 per cent higher than for the year 1938-39.

The marked increase in the price of wool from September, 1946, followed the resumption of sales under "open market" conditions upon the termination of contracts with the British Government which embraced the whole clip over the seasons 1939-40 to 1945-46 inclusive.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, GROUPS, AND ALL GROUPS COMBINED

(Base of each Section = Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 1000)

Period	Wool	Wheat	Butter	Metals (a)	Meats (b)	Sugar	Dried Fruits (c)	Tallow	Hides (d)	Gold	All Groups Excl. Gold	All Groups Incl. Gold
(e) =	45.63	17.06	11.36	6.83	6.63	2.40	1.81	.64	.66	6.98	-	100.00
(f) =	49.05	18.34	12.21	7.34	7.13	2.58	1.94	.69	.72	-	100.00	-
1928-29	1244	1168	1263	1065	1051	1256	969	1409	1356	479	1205	1173
1936-37	1218	1234	915	1196	978	1035	1026	1217	1129	988	1155	1144
1937-38	989	1110	1074	962	1066	925	1034	1002	999	982	1024	1022
1938-39	793	656	1011	842	956	1040	940	781	872	1030	821	834
1939-40	978	819	1077	918	1022	1255	943	762	1202	1184	964	980
1940-41	1013	1016	1095	945	1032	1370	953	817	975	1214	1026	1039
1941-42	1013	1045	1095	1005	1092	1372	1058	1139	1325	1201	1047	1059
1942-43	1165	1055	1140	1004	1122	1519	1116	1192	1447	1188	1137	1142
1943-44	1165	1155	1140	1127	1132	1585	1207	1231	1514	1188	1169	1171
1944-45	1165	1536	1474	1286	1218	1715	1281	1447	1471	1204	1304	1298
1945-46	1165	2130	1474	1956	1234	2130	1374	1519	1519	1223	1476	1460
1946-47	1690	3046	1734	3076	1393	2644	1523	3038	3344	1223	2065	2007
1947-48	2901	(g)4192	1935	3723	1464	3203	1565	3607	3644	1223	(g)2969	(g)2848
<u>1945-46</u>-												
June	1165	2504	1474	2299	1234	2283	1508	1519	1562	1223	1576	1553
<u>1946-47</u>-												
July	1165	2516	1734	2552	1234	2283	1508	3038	2495	1223	1645	1617
August	1165	2605	1734	2623	1234	2283	1508	3038	2687	1223	1669	1638
September	1546	2653	1734	2717	1234	2283	1508	3038	3026	1223	1873	1829
October	1621	2720	1734	2833	1446	2283	1508	3038	3026	1223	1946	1897
November	1735	2762	1734	2911	1446	2283	1508	3038	3366	1223	2016	1963
December	1735	2876	1734	2955	1446	2283	1508	3038	3705	1223	2042	1987
January	1810	3071	1734	3166	1446	3004	1508	3038	3679	1223	2150	2086
February	1886	3346	1734	3151	1446	3004	1508	3038	4070	1223	2238	2169
March	1886	3463	1734	3263	1446	3004	1508	3038	3900	1223	2267	2195
April	1886	3527	1734	3580	1446	3004	1569	3038	3731	1223	2301	2228
May	1923	3471	1734	3630	1446	3004	1569	3038	3392	1223	2312	2237
June	1923	3545	1734	3525	1446	3004	1569	3038	3052	1223	2316	2241
<u>1947-48</u>-												
July	1923	3676	1734	3515	1446	3004	1569	3038	3221	1223	2339	2264
August	2376	3790	1734	3493	1446	3004	1569	3038	3366	1223	2582	2489
September	2451	3861	1734	3523	1446	3004	1569	3038	3366	1223	2634	2537
October	2564	3815	1734	3584	1446	3004	1569	3797	3679	1223	2692	2592
November	2866	3829	2035	3557	1446	3004	1569	3797	3679	1223	2877	2765
December	(h)2866	4013	2035	3589	1446	3004	1569	3797	3679	1223	2914	2798
January	3243	4274	2035	3685	1446	3402	1569	3797	3679	1223	3165	3033
February	3394	4461	2035	3621	1446	3402	1569	3797	4043	1223	3272	3131
March	(h)3168	4558	2035	3789	1446	3402	1557	3797	3873	1223	3190	3055
April	(j)3092	4597	2035	4021	1446	3402	1557	3797	3834	1223	3177	3043
May	(j)3281	4719	2035	4055	1554	3402	1557	3797	3652	1223	3300	3157
June	(j)3583	(g)4712	2035	4246	1554	3402	1557	3797	3652	1223	(g)3460	(g)3307
<u>1948-49</u>												
July	(j)3470	(j)4737	2035	4388	1554	3402	1557	3797	3391	1223	(j)3418	(j)3268

(a) Non-Ferrous - Silver, Copper, Tin, Spelter, Lead. (b) Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Pork (c) Sultanas, Lexias, Currants. (d) Cattle Hides, Calf Skins. (e) Percentage distribution of Base Aggregate for "All Groups (Incl. Gold)" - applicable from 1936-37. (f) Percentage distribution of Base Aggregate for "All Groups (Excl. Gold)" - Applicable from 1936-37. (g) Revised. (h) Nominal. (j) Subject to revision.

..../II. Month to Month Index

II. THE MONTH TO MONTH INDEX : CHANGING WEIGHTS

5. Australian products are not maketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and wheat are obvious examples of commodities which are marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weight" index indicates satisfactorily the trend of the market, it does not, by itself, give an adequate indication of the significance of price movements as they actually affect current sales. This is shown much more clearly by the "Changing Weights" index given in the table below.

6. These index-numbers are designed merely for comparison of current prices with those of the corresponding months, or periods of months, of the preceding year. The simple month-to-month index-numbers are obtained by applying the "Edgeworth-Marshall formula" to prices and quantities exported in corresponding pairs of months. The index-numbers for two periods of two or more months are obtained by combining the monthly aggregates in the manner described on page 371 of Official Year Book of the Commonwealth No. 36 - 1944 and 1945. The full trade year corresponds to the financial year ending June. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table:-

Year		Month stated compared with same month of preceding year	Period of Trade year ending in month stated compared with same period of preceding year
1945-46 -			
June	..	1113	1096
1946-47 -			
July	..	1107	1107
August	..	1158	1132
September	..	1320	1191
October	..	1354	1232
November	..	1387	1262
December	..	1364	1277
January	..	1424	1299
February	..	1487	1324
March	..	1513	1346
April	..	1486	1361
May	..	1493	1375
June	..	1495	1387
1947-48 -			
July	..	1458	1458
August	..	1607	1535
September	..	1441	1502
October	..	1433	1480
November	..	1462	1476
December	..	1462	1474
January	..	1553	1488
February	..	1551	1497
March	..	1499	1498
April	..	1422	1489
May	..	1487	1489
June	..	1529	1493
1948-49 -			
July	..	1507	1507

NOTE:- This index has been revised - see para. 3.

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CANBERRA, A. C. T.

14TH SEPTEMBER 1948