



Reference No. 9.11

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX NUMBERS, MAY 1974

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. 57, 1972* (Reference No. 6.7).

2. In accordance with established practice the sixth link in the Consumer Price Index series was effected as at December quarter 1973. A description of this link was contained in the appendix to the bulletin (Reference No. 9.1) for March quarter 1974. Because links are effected as at the whole of a quarterly period, there will be some distortion in comparisons of the food group and sub-group index numbers for October, November and December 1973 with those for subsequent months. Such distortions do not however apply in comparisons of December quarter 1973 index numbers with those for subsequent months.

3. Compared with the previous month, the Food Group index increased by 1.9% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +1.7%, Melbourne +1.9%, Brisbane +1.9%, Adelaide +3.1%, Perth +1.3%, Hobart +1.5%, Canberra +1.9%.

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

Month	Percentage Change from Preceding 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
1972-73 -								
May	+0.8	+0.8	+0.2	+1.0	+1.9	+2.3	+0.2	+0.7
June	+1.1	+0.7	+1.2	+0.7	+1.7	+1.8	+0.8	+0.3
1973-74 -								
July	+1.7	+2.8	+0.8	+2.3	+1.6	+0.2	+1.9	+3.0
August	+2.8	+3.0	+2.8	+3.6	+2.9	+0.3	+3.1	+2.5
September	+2.5	+3.1	+2.1	+2.0	+3.2	+1.0	+2.9	+2.9
October	+0.6	+1.2	+0.2	+0.7	-0.1	+0.7	+0.4	+0.3
November	+0.8	+0.9	+1.0	+0.3	+0.1	-0.6	+3.9	+1.0
December	+0.5	+0.7	+0.3	+0.7	+0.3	+1.0	-0.3	+1.2
January	+1.7	+1.6	+1.6	+2.1	+1.2	+3.0	+1.3	+1.6
February	+1.1	+0.5	+1.2	+0.6	+2.2	+2.3	+1.2	+1.3
March	+1.0	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4	+0.7	+1.4	+0.2	+0.4
April	+1.1	+0.8	+1.6	+0.1	+2.0	+0.4	+1.7	+1.0
May	+1.9	+1.7	+1.9	+1.9	+3.1	+1.3	+1.5	+1.9

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

5. Increases in the prices of potatoes and onions in all cities contributed approximately one half to the total increase in this month's food group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. There were also increases in the prices of soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery in all cities and in the price of bread in Sydney and milk in Adelaide.

6. Between May 1973 and May 1974 the Food Group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 18.2%. Changes in individual cities during this twelve month period were: Sydney +19.2%, Melbourne +17.0%, Brisbane +17.7%, Adelaide +20.5%, Perth +13.7%, Hobart +20.1%, Canberra +18.9%.

7. As at December quarter 1973 the Food Group contributed 28.326 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Users of figures in Table 1 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
APRIL 1974 AND MAY 1974

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)		
	April 1974	May 1974	Percentage change since April %	April 1974	May 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since April
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES						
Cereal products	153.6	156.2	+ 1.7	4.83	4.61	+0.08
Dairy produce	130.8	132.2	+ 1.1	6.90	6.97	+0.07
Preserved fruit and vegetables	121.2	122.1	+ 0.7	1.77	1.79	+0.02
Potatoes and onions	245.3	298.3	+21.6	1.96	2.39	+0.43
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	159.3	161.5	+ 1.4			
Meat	175.1	175.7	+ 0.3	5.96	6.04	+0.08
Beef	170.5	169.6	- 0.5	6.57	6.53	-0.04
Mutton	204.7	207.1	+ 1.2	0.74	0.75	+0.01
Lamb	194.6	196.1	+ 0.8	3.49	3.52	+0.03
Pork	160.9	163.6	+ 1.7	1.37	1.40	+0.03
Processed meat (d)	149.7	150.4	+ 0.6	4.84	4.87	+0.03
Snacks, take away food (e)	(106.4)	(109.0)	+ 2.4			
Other food	122.4	124.2	+ 1.5	1.40	1.44	+0.04
Food Group	155.2	158.1	+ 1.9	43.25	44.06	+0.81
SYDNEY						
Cereal products	154.1	160.0	+ 3.8	4.71	4.88	+0.17
Dairy produce	130.7	131.2	+ 0.4	7.21	7.23	+0.02
Preserved fruit and vegetables	114.6	116.5	+ 1.7	1.69	1.72	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	253.4	308.0	+21.5	1.99	2.42	+0.43
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	160.7	162.8	+ 1.3			
Meat	181.0	180.2	- 0.4	6.00	6.07	+0.07
Beef	179.4	177.2	- 1.2	17.06	16.99	-0.07
Mutton	226.5	219.5	- 3.1	6.78	6.70	-0.08
Lamb	201.4	202.5	+ 0.5	0.79	0.77	-0.02
Pork	154.3	156.1	+ 1.2	1.34	1.35	+0.01
Processed meat (d)	146.5	146.7	+ 0.1	4.70	4.70	
Snacks, take away food (e)	(104.8)	(106.6)	+ 1.7			
Other food	121.8	123.2	+ 1.1	1.38	1.40	+0.02
Food Group	156.7	159.3	+ 1.7	43.70	44.43	+0.73
MELBOURNE						
Cereal products	152.7	153.4	+ 0.5	4.57	4.59	+0.02
Dairy produce	130.2	131.7	+ 1.2	6.49	6.56	+0.07
Preserved fruit and vegetables	127.1	128.4	+ 1.2	1.75	1.73	-0.02
Potatoes and onions	260.0	315.0	+21.2	2.05	2.49	+0.44
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	159.9	161.7	+ 1.1			
Meat	172.3	173.3	+ 0.6	5.82	5.89	+0.07
Beef	163.2	162.9	- 0.2	16.53	16.63	+0.10
Mutton	195.8	200.7	+ 4.0	6.26	6.24	-0.02
Lamb	198.3	197.7	- 0.3	0.64	0.66	+0.02
Pork	164.1	166.0	+ 1.2	3.26	3.25	-0.01
Processed meat (d)	154.2	156.7	+ 1.6	1.34	1.36	+0.02
Snacks, take away food (e)	(105.4)	(108.5)	+ 2.9	5.03	5.11	+0.08
Other food	121.8	124.2	+ 2.0	1.35	1.39	+0.04
Food Group	154.9	157.8	+ 1.9	42.16	42.95	+0.79
BRISBANE						
Cereal products	153.8	154.5	+ 0.5	4.19	4.21	+0.02
Dairy produce	138.1	138.8	+ 0.5	7.28	7.32	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	123.1	124.7	+ 1.3	1.91	1.94	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	278.9	330.1	+18.4	2.29	2.72	+0.43
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	151.1	152.5	+ 0.9			
Meat	176.0	178.0	+ 1.1	5.89	5.95	+0.06
Beef	177.7	177.0	- 0.4	17.98	18.18	+0.20
Mutton	178.1	187.6	+ 5.3	6.58	6.56	-0.02
Lamb	187.8	195.5	+ 4.1	0.82	0.86	+0.04
Pork	167.1	174.8	+ 4.6	4.00	4.16	+0.16
Processed meat (d)	146.2	145.0	- 0.8	1.44	1.51	+0.07
Snacks, take away food (e)	(106.8)	(110.8)	+ 3.7	5.14	5.10	-0.04
Other food	124.6	125.9	+ 1.0	1.47	1.52	+0.05
Food Group	157.5	160.5	+ 1.9	43.03	43.90	+0.87

For footnotes see page 5.

TABLE 1. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - *continued*
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS
APRIL 1974 AND MAY 1974

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)		
	April 1974	May 1974	Percentage change since April %	April 1974	May 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since April
ADELAIDE						
Cereal products	154.7	155.4	+ 0.5	4.26	4.28	+0.02
Dairy produce	126.5	132.1	+ 4.4	6.64	6.93	+0.29
Preserved fruit and vegetables	121.2	122.6	+ 1.2	1.86	1.88	+0.02
Potatoes and onions	224.7	306.7	+36.5	1.79	2.45	+0.66
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	160.5	165.5	+ 3.1	6.15	6.34	+0.19
Meat	174.1	175.0	+ 0.5	18.26	18.37	+0.11
Beef	164.2	162.2	- 1.2	7.11	7.02	-0.09
Mutton	199.5	210.1	+ 5.3	0.81	0.86	+0.05
Lamb	185.5	189.2	+ 2.0	3.78	3.86	+0.08
Pork	175.7	177.4	+ 1.0	1.57	1.58	+0.01
Processed meat (d)	157.3	159.1	+ 1.1	4.99	5.05	+0.06
Snacks, take away food (e)	(113.6)	(116.1)	+ 2.2	1.54	1.58	+0.04
Other food	121.9	124.2	+ 1.9	3.76	3.83	+0.07
Food Group	154.5	159.3	+ 3.1	44.27	45.66	+1.39
PERTH						
Cereal products	153.1	153.7	+ 0.4	4.33	4.35	+0.02
Dairy produce	126.6	130.1	+ 1.2	6.90	6.96	+0.06
Preserved fruit and vegetables	127.0	130.3	+ 2.6	1.93	1.98	+0.05
Potatoes and onions	150.1	166.4	+10.9	1.38	1.53	+0.15
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	161.3	162.9	+ 1.0	6.15	6.21	+0.06
Meat	162.0	163.3	+ 0.8	15.73	15.86	+0.13
Beef	152.5	155.5	+ 2.0	6.07	6.19	+0.12
Mutton	191.8	192.3	+ 0.3	0.71	0.71	..
Lamb	188.5	187.0	- 0.8	3.60	3.57	-0.03
Pork	155.2	159.7	+ 2.9	1.28	1.32	+0.04
Processed meat (d)	139.7	139.5	- 0.1	4.07	4.07	..
Snacks, take away food (e)	(107.0)	(108.4)	+ 1.3	1.42	1.44	+0.02
Other food	125.1	126.8	+ 1.4	3.84	3.89	+0.05
Food Group	147.9	149.8	+ 1.3	41.69	42.24	+0.55
HOBART						
Cereal products	156.8	157.8	+ 0.6	4.60	4.63	+0.03
Dairy produce	130.7	131.4	+ 0.5	6.96	7.00	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	118.0	121.4	+ 2.9	1.92	1.97	+0.05
Potatoes and onions	170.4	181.8	+ 6.7	1.48	1.57	+0.09
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	152.1	156.8	+ 3.1	5.84	6.02	+0.16
Meat	160.4	161.9	+ 0.9	16.88	17.05	+0.17
Beef	163.4	163.9	+ 0.3	6.46	6.48	+0.02
Mutton	162.3	162.3	..	0.63	0.63	..
Lamb	162.9	166.5	+ 2.2	3.35	3.42	+0.07
Pork	153.4	157.2	+ 2.5	1.38	1.41	+0.03
Processed meat (d)	148.2	149.4	+ 0.8	5.06	5.10	+0.04
Snacks, take away food (e)	(110.2)	(113.1)	+ 2.6	1.47	1.51	+0.04
Other food	122.9	124.0	+ 0.9	4.06	4.10	+0.04
Food Group	147.4	149.6	+ 1.5	43.21	43.86	+0.65
CANBERRA						
Cereal products	153.7	154.6	+ 0.6	4.53	4.56	+0.03
Dairy produce	120.2	120.5	+ 0.2	6.33	6.35	+0.02
Preserved fruit and vegetables	112.2	114.6	+ 2.1	1.71	1.74	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	289.3	315.5	+ 9.1	2.29	2.50	+0.21
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	157.2	160.7	+ 2.2	5.98	6.11	+0.13
Meat	178.0	180.6	+ 1.5	16.83	17.07	+0.24
Beef	169.7	171.6	+ 1.1	7.45	7.54	+0.09
Lamb	192.6	198.0	+ 2.8	3.58	3.68	+0.10
Pork	171.7	173.6	+ 1.1	1.38	1.39	+0.01
Processed meat (d)	146.8	148.4	+ 1.1	4.41	4.46	+0.05
Snacks, take away food (e)	(106.2)	(109.1)	+ 2.7	1.31	1.35	+0.04
Other food	119.9	122.5	+ 2.2	3.57	3.65	+0.08
Food Group	154.2	157.1	+ 1.9	42.56	43.34	+0.78

For footnotes see page 5.

TABLE 2.
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
1971 -								
May	114.7	115.3	114.1	117.0	112.3	115.2	110.6	112.6
June	114.7	115.5	114.1	116.9	111.4	115.0	109.9	113.2
July	114.5	115.2	114.2	117.1	111.6	114.2	109.8	113.1
August	115.8	116.7	115.5	117.7	112.9	114.7	111.6	114.7
September	116.6	117.7	115.9	119.4	113.7	114.8	112.6	115.4
October	116.7	117.3	116.3	118.9	113.1	115.5	113.3	115.2
November	116.5	117.5	116.6	117.6	113.3	115.1	113.4	114.9
December	116.8	117.8	116.7	118.4	113.2	115.9	112.3	114.4
1972 -								
January	117.3	118.2	117.7	119.6	113.7	116.6	113.0	114.5
February	117.6	118.2	117.4	119.7	114.7	116.9	113.8	115.6
March	117.5	117.6	117.6	119.7	115.1	117.5	113.6	114.8
April	117.2	117.1	117.7	119.7	114.0	117.6	113.4	114.3
May	117.5	118.0	117.6	119.7	113.8	118.3	114.1	115.7
June	117.7	117.9	117.8	119.6	114.3	119.6	114.4	115.7
July	118.9	119.5	118.6	119.8	116.4	120.2	115.1	116.2
August	120.2	120.9	120.1	120.5	117.3	121.8	115.9	118.5
September	121.1	122.1	120.7	121.4	118.7	121.4	116.6	119.5
October	121.6	122.8	120.8	122.9	119.0	121.1	117.6	120.0
November	121.7	122.6	121.3	124.3	119.0	120.3	117.9	119.7
December	121.4	122.1	121.2	124.1	118.0	120.3	118.3	119.9
1973 -								
January	122.2	122.6	121.5	125.7	119.8	122.4	118.4	120.5
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	135.3	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

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

Period	Six Capitals (f)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
January 1974	41.92	42.79	40.55	44.11	42.19	40.02	41.92	41.41
February 1974	42.36	42.97	41.06	44.40	43.12	40.94	42.42	41.97
March 1974	42.79	43.33	41.52	45.01	43.40	41.54	42.50	42.14
March quarter 1974	42.36	43.03	41.05	44.51	42.91	40.83	42.28	41.84
April 1974	43.25	43.70	42.16	45.05	44.27	41.69	43.21	42.56
May 1974	44.06	44.43	42.95	45.90	45.66	42.24	43.86	43.34

(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 of 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 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.