



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX, DARWIN MAY 1981

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MAIN FEATURES

The Darwin Food Group Index for May 1981 decreased by 0.1% from the index for April 1981.

Main price changes between April 1981 and May 1981:

- Prices of beef and poultry decreased.
- Fresh fruit and vegetable prices increased.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly index numbers of retail prices of food in Darwin. Index numbers are shown for the Food group and component subgroups of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Food group is the only group of the CPI for which price indexes are compiled for Darwin.

2. This publication also contains average retail prices, for March quarter 1981 and other recent quarters, for selected items of food included in the Food group index (see Table 3).

Collection of prices

3. Prices are collected as at the middle of each month, except in the case of some fresh items (fruit, vegetables and fish) where prices are collected more frequently and averaged to obtain monthly prices.

Weighting pattern

4. The Food group consists of 34 expenditure classes which are combined into seven subgroups: dairy produce; cereal products; meat and seafoods; fruit and vegetables; soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery; meals out and take-away food; and other food. Each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance within the Food group. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

5. The weighting pattern of the Darwin Food group index is based on expenditures on food reported by Darwin households included in the 1975-76 Household

Expenditure Survey. These weights are fixed but from time to time the index will be reviewed and new fixed weights will be introduced to reflect up-to-date expenditure patterns. The relative importance of each expenditure class, expressed in terms of percentage contributions to the total Food group in June quarter 1978, was shown in Table 5 of the first issue of this publication which was released on 12 October 1978.

Index points and percentage changes

6. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as percentage changes or as changes in 'index points'. The difference between these two methods of describing movements in indexes is shown by the following example:

Food group: Meat and Seafoods

(Base: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

Index numbers:

May 1981 172.3

Less: April 1981 175.1

Change in index points -2.8

Percentage change = $\frac{-2.8}{175.1} \times 100 = -1.6\%$.

Interpretation of results

7. The index numbers measure changes in retail food prices in Darwin over time. They do not provide a basis for comparing price levels in Darwin with those in other capital cities.

8. When comparing price movements in Darwin with those published for the other capital cities (see *Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6402.0)), it should be noted that fluctuations in fresh food prices are frequently the main cause of disparate movements in the indexes for various cities. When comparing the Darwin indexes with those for other cities, it should also be noted that the Darwin indexes have a different reference base: for Darwin the base period is June quarter 1978 = 100.0 whereas the indexes for the other capital cities have a base period of 1966-67 = 100.0. Thus comparisons of movements for Darwin with movements for other cities are best made in terms of percentage changes. Because prices of fresh food items are subject to large short term fluctuations, month-to-month price changes should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.

9. Table 2 provides a detailed analysis of recent price movements in the Food group index for Darwin. It shows index numbers and percentage changes for subgroups and other groupings within the Food group. Table 2 also shows the *contribution* which each subgroup makes to the total Food group. These are expressed in terms of *Food group index points*. For instance, in May 1981 the Dairy produce subgroup contributed 10.42 index points out of the total Food group index of 142.6. The final column indicates the contribution to the change in Food group index points by each of the subgroups and groupings. It should be noted that this is a different presentation from that used to show index points contributions for other capital cities (published in 6402.0). For the other cities these contributions relate to *All groups index points* (that is, contributions made by each subgroup to the total CPI).

10. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in Table 2 are due to rounding. For similar reasons, monthly movements shown by subgroup index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with the changes shown in index points.

Historical series

11. Indexes for periods extending back to February 1975 were included in the first issue of this publication which was released on 12 October 1978.

Average retail prices

12. Table 3 contains average retail prices for selected items in the Food group for March quarter 1981 and other recent quarters. The items and varieties shown do not comprise *all* of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food group. The average prices shown in Table 3 are quarterly averages of the monthly average prices.

13. Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers. The specified grades, etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative for the purpose of measuring price changes over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual average prices for all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned.

Related publications

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

Consumer Price Index (6401.0)—issued quarterly

Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6402.0)—issued monthly

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6403.0)—issued quarterly

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index.

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable

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TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : FOOD GROUP : DARWIN
(Base of index: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

	Index numbers	Percentage change from previous month	Percentage change from corresponding month of previous year	Percentage change from previous year
1977-78	96.7	..	..	+10.8
1978-79	106.0	..	..	+9.6
1979-80	123.7	..	..	+16.7
1979-80—				
April	128.7	+0.8	+15.4	..
May	129.9	+0.9	+15.2	..
June	129.7	-0.2	+12.1	..
1980-81—				
July	129.9	+0.2	+11.4	..
August	131.2	+1.0	+11.8	..
September	133.1	+1.4	+12.9	..
October	133.8	+0.5	+11.9	..
November	134.7	+0.7	+10.9	..
December	135.8	+0.8	+10.1	..
January	137.4	+1.2	+9.5	..
February	139.8	+1.7	+10.3	..
March	140.5	+0.5	+10.0	..
April	142.7	+1.6	+10.9	..
May	142.6	-0.1	+9.8	..

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX : FOOD GROUP AND COMPONENT SUBGROUPS : DARWIN
(Base of each index: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

	Index numbers		Change between		Contribution to total Food group (expressed as Food group index points)			Change between April 1981 and May 1981
	April 1981	May 1981	April 1981	May 1980	April 1981	May 1981		
			and May 1981 %	and May 1981 %				
Dairy produce	134.5	134.5	—	+15.6	10.42	10.42	—	
Cereal products	133.6	134.0	+0.3	+13.9	10.22	10.25	+0.03	
Meat and seafoods	175.1	172.3	-1.6	+4.2	38.27	37.67	-0.60	
Beef and veal	225.7	219.3	-2.8	+3.0	19.56	19.00	-0.56	
Lamb and mutton	144.4	144.8	+0.3	+6.0	4.57	4.58	+0.01	
Pork	135.1	137.2	+1.6	-2.1	1.96	1.99	+0.03	
Poultry	132.9	127.2	-4.3	+8.7	3.21	3.07	-0.14	
Other meat	157.0	158.2	+0.8	+10.7	5.63	5.67	+0.04	
Fish	129.6	130.0	+0.3	-0.6	3.34	3.35	+0.01	
Fruit and vegetables	135.9	138.4	+1.8	+15.7	23.85	24.30	+0.45	
Fresh fruit and vegetables	144.5	147.9	+2.4	+17.8	16.67	17.06	+0.39	
Processed fruit and vegetables	119.3	120.3	+0.8	+11.5	7.18	7.24	+0.06	
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	130.6	131.0	+0.3	+9.4	16.31	16.36	+0.05	
Meals out and take-away food	138.1	138.3	+0.1	+10.9	32.88	32.92	+0.04	
Other food	120.6	120.6	—	+5.8	10.70	10.71	+0.01	
Food group	142.7	142.6	-0.1	+9.8	142.7	142.6	-0.1	

TABLE 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, DARWIN
(Cents)

Item	Unit	Quarter				1981 March
		1980				
		March	June	September	December	
<i>Dairy produce—</i>						
Milk, cartoned	600 ml	29	29	33	33	35
Milk, powdered	300 g can	94	99	108	111	115
Cheese, processed	250 g	68	70	73	75	76
Butter	500 g	117	119	124	126	131
<i>Cereal products—</i>						
Bread, white, sliced supermarket sales	680 g	70	71	73	75	79
Biscuits, dry	225 g	51	52	55	(a)57	(a)58
Breakfast cereal, corn based	500 g	81	89	93	96	98
Flour, self-raising	1 kg	59	61	62	63	70
Rice, short grain	500 g	43	42	42	46	48
<i>Meat and seafoods—</i>						
<i>Beef—</i>						
Rib, without bone	1 kg	421	406	433	410	413
Rump steak	1 kg	687	716	664	669	722
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	636	652	647	660	664
Chuck steak	1 kg	422	440	418	454	414
Silverside, corned	1 kg	442	475	454	488	483
Sausages	1 kg	302	309	320	306	323
<i>Lamb—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	417	415	416	420	422
Loin chops	1 kg	420	430	433	435	430
Forequarter chops	1 kg	406	404	408	390	414
<i>Pork—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	518	517	513	498	516
Loin chops	1 kg	516	516	506	528	536
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	224	234	243	259	273
Bacon	250 g pkt	174	172	180	178	190
Beef, corned	340 g can	163	166	166	161	162
Salmon, pink	220 g can	117	121	121	121	124
<i>Fruit and vegetables—</i>						
Oranges	1 kg	102	103	95	98	107
Bananas	1 kg	106	103	111	107	120
Potatoes	1 kg	73	76	74	86	100
Tomatoes	1 kg	212	202	174	174	227
Carrots	1 kg	113	115	110	117	125
Onions	1 kg	99	95	101	105	113
Peaches	825 g can	81	85	88	89	90
Pineapple, pieces	450 g can	51	52	54	53	55
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	79	78	78	80	82
<i>Confectionery—</i>						
Chocolate, milk, block	200 g	117	124	123	125	124
<i>Other food—</i>						
Eggs	55 g, 1 dozen	147	157	157	158	166
Sugar, white	2 kg	93	96	95	99	100
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	107	110	110	114	117
Tea	250 g	79	83	79	81	81
Coffee, instant	100 g jar	220	229	228	229	227
Tomato sauce	600 ml	77	78	82	84	88
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	95	102	104	112	111
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	450 g	44	46	46	(b)44	(b)46
Baby food	125 g can	21	23	23	22	23

(a) Price shown is for a 250 g packet. (b) Price shown is for a 440 g can.