

**PRICE INDEX
OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING
OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING,
SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES
Catalogue No. 6407.0**

AUGUST 1980



PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AUGUST 1980

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Graeme Groves on Canberra (062) 52 5556 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra (062) 52 6627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

	Change between—	
	July 80 and Aug. 80	Aug. 79 and Aug. 80
All groups index	%	%
Sydney	+1.7	+15.7
Melbourne	+1.4	+15.8
Brisbane	+1.7	+15.3
Adelaide	+1.8	+16.8
Perth	+1.0	+14.5
Hobart	+1.0	+13.7
Weighted average of six State capital cities	+1.5	+15.6

The All groups index for the weighted average of six State capital cities increased by 1.5% in August 1980. Almost half of this increase was caused by higher prices for structural steel, reinforcing rods, ready-mixed concrete, hardwood and mechanical services components.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains index numbers of the Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building. A detailed description of the index is contained in *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973 (Ref. No. 6.7) (pp. 43-56). A Price Index of Materials Used in House Building is published in a separate publication (6408.0). Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.

Scope and composition

2. The index measures changes in prices of selected materials used in the construction of buildings other than houses and low-rise flats (in general, those up to three storeys). It includes 72 items, combined in eleven groups, in addition to an All groups index. Although the selected

materials (or many of them) are also used in house (and low-rise flat) building, in building repair, maintenance and alteration work, and in engineering construction work (e.g. projects such as roads, dams, bridges and the like), the weighting pattern of the index, being designed for the specific purpose mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph, is not applicable to these other activities of the construction industry. In addition, since the weights are based on an average materials usage over a range of types of building within the defined area (building other than house building), the index is not necessarily applicable to any specific building or type of building included in that area.

Items and weights

3. The index is a fixed weights index. The items and weights were derived from reported values of materials used in selected representative buildings constructed in or about 1966-67. The single weighting pattern relates to the whole of Australia and is applied (with minor exceptions) in calculating indexes for each State capital city. The weights for groups of items are shown in Table 2. Further details concerning the weighting pattern are contained in *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973 (Ref. No. 6.7). The reference base of the index is the year 1966-67 = 100.0.

Prices

4. Prices are collected as at the mid-point of the month to which the index refers, or as near thereto as practicable. They relate to specified standards of each commodity and are obtained from representative suppliers of materials used in building. In general the point of pricing is delivered on site but in some cases it has been necessary to use the nearest realistic price available, e.g. that for supplied and fixed. Local prices are used in the indexes for each capital city, with the main exception being that for the whole of the group 'Electrical installation materials' and the majority of the items in the group 'Mechanical services components'. Sydney and Melbourne price series are used. As far as possible, actual transaction prices are used in the index as distinct from list prices. Thus measures of special or other discounts are sought where these are believed to be significant. To the extent that they can be determined, significant changes in special discounts are incorporated in the index but this may sometimes be on a partly estimated basis and may sometimes necessitate revisions.

Index numbers

5. The index has been compiled for each month from July 1966 and for the financial years from 1966-67. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers. Index numbers for each State capital city and for the weighted average of the six capitals are given for all groups combined in Table 1 and for each group of items in Table 2. The separate city indexes measure price movements within each capital city individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn between cities as to differences in degree of price movement from period to period, but not as to the differences in price level.

Percentage changes

6. Tables 1 and 3 show price movements expressed in terms of percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating percentage changes, with reference to Table 1.

Weighted average of six State capital cities—

Index number as at January 1980	304.9
Index number as at December 1979	299.3

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{304.9 - 299.3}{299.3} \times 100 = +1.9\%$$

Special purpose index

7. Index numbers for the special purpose index for all groups excluding 'Electrical installation materials' and 'Mechanical services components' are shown for each capital city and the weighted average of the six capitals in the second column from the right in Table 2.

Index numbers for selected items

8. Thirty-four index number series for selected items or combinations of items are shown in Table 4 of this publication. These index numbers represent selected components of each of the published groups shown in Table 2. They relate either to single items or to combinations of items as shown in the weighting pattern for this index published on pages 46 and 47 of *Labour Report No. 58*, 1973 (Ref. No. 6.7).

9. A supplement containing monthly item index numbers corresponding to those in Table 4 has been prepared for the period July 1972 to June 1977 and is available, free of charge, on application to the ABS.

10. It has not been possible to include in Table 4 indexes for all of the items which comprise the total index because for some items the available price series are regarded as not sufficiently representative to permit publication at that level. In addition item indexes have not generally been published for items of relatively low importance in the index.

11. The series shown in Table 4 can only be published for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. It is not possible to publish in this detail for each city separately because insufficient price series are available in some instances or because of confidentiality restrictions.

Interpretation

12. In interpreting movements in the index, particularly those from month to month, it should be noted that changes frequently occur in an uneven fashion, both over time and between separate capital cities, at the same points of time. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.

Related publications

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

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6408.0)—issued monthly

Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6411.0)—issued monthly

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

Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials, Australia (6409.0)—issued monthly

Price Indexes of Metallic Materials, Australia (6410.0)—issued monthly

14. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Wage Rates Indexes, Australia, Preliminary (6311.0)—issued monthly

Wage Rates, Australia (6312.0)—issued monthly

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (6302.0)—issued quarterly

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

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figures subject to revision.
- r figures revised since previous issue.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—ALL GROUPS

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted average of six State capital cities
INDEX NUMBERS							
(Base of each index = Year 1966-67 = 100.0)							
1977-78	239.9	254.4	260.9	254.2	258.3	253.7	249.7
1978-79	259.2	271.4	278.6	274.4	276.8	270.5	268.1
1979-80	293.4	306.6	313.4	314.3	309.7	301.8	303.0
1979-80—							
July	275.0	289.8	296.1	294.9	291.8	284.3	285.2
August	278.8	292.3	299.1	298.4	296.1	288.6	288.5
September	280.5	294.2	300.6	300.7	297.0	291.3	290.2
October	282.9	295.5	302.2	302.9	299.0	292.9	292.2
November	284.1	297.1	304.9	304.8	300.7	295.2	293.8
December	289.6	303.1	309.4	310.1	306.7	298.4	299.3
January	294.8	309.2	315.1	317.3	311.3	302.0	304.9
February	302.2	314.4	320.9	322.7	317.7	306.9	311.1
March	305.0	317.5	323.9	326.5	319.2	311.5	314.1
April	306.9	318.5	325.6	327.3	321.6	314.6	315.7
May	308.3	320.5	327.7	329.4	324.1	315.5	317.5
June	312.8	327.4	335.6	336.8	330.6	320.0	323.6
1980-81—							
July p	317.2	333.9	339.1	342.5	335.7	324.8	328.6
August p	322.6	338.6	344.8	348.6	338.9	328.2	333.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGES							
Change from previous year—							
1977-78	+8.3	+8.3	+8.2	+8.5	+9.7	+8.0	+8.4
1978-79	+8.0	+6.7	+6.8	+7.9	+7.2	+6.6	+7.4
1979-80	+13.2	+13.0	+12.5	+14.5	+11.9	+11.6	+13.0
Change from corresponding month of previous year—							
1979-80—							
July	+10.1	+10.9	+9.7	+12.1	+9.0	+8.6	+10.3
August	+11.3	+11.6	+10.5	+13.4	+10.0	+9.8	+11.2
September	+11.4	+12.2	+10.8	+14.4	+10.1	+10.6	+11.7
October	+12.0	+12.1	+11.2	+15.1	+10.4	+10.9	+12.0
November	+11.7	+11.9	+11.6	+15.3	+10.5	+11.0	+11.9
December	+13.3	+13.1	+12.4	+15.2	+12.4	+11.5	+13.2
January	+13.4	+14.1	+13.3	+15.5	+12.6	+12.7	+13.6
February	+14.4	+13.4	+13.2	+14.6	+13.1	+11.8	+13.8
March	+14.8	+13.9	+13.7	+15.0	+12.8	+12.5	+14.2
April	+14.7	+13.3	+13.4	+13.6	+12.7	+12.9	+13.8
May	+14.8	+13.4	+13.7	+13.9	+13.1	+12.3	+14.0
June	+16.0	+15.6	+16.1	+16.3	+15.2	+13.6	+15.9
1980-81—							
July p	+15.3	+15.2	+14.5	+16.1	+15.0	+14.2	+15.2
August p	+15.7	+15.8	+15.3	+16.8	+14.5	+13.7	+15.6
Change from previous month—							
1979-80—							
July	+2.0	+2.3	+2.5	+1.8	+1.7	+0.9	+2.1
August	+1.4	+0.9	+1.0	+1.2	+1.5	+1.5	+1.2
September	+0.6	+0.7	+0.5	+0.8	+0.3	+0.9	+0.6
October	+0.9	+0.4	+0.5	+0.7	+0.7	+0.5	+0.7
November	+0.4	+0.5	+0.9	+0.6	+0.6	+0.8	+0.5
December	+1.9	+2.0	+1.5	+1.7	+2.0	+1.1	+1.9
January	+1.8	+2.0	+1.8	+2.3	+1.5	+1.2	+1.9
February	+2.5	+1.7	+1.8	+1.7	+2.1	+1.6	+2.0
March	+0.9	+1.0	+0.9	+1.2	+0.5	+1.5	+1.0
April	+0.6	+0.3	+0.5	+0.2	+0.8	+1.0	+0.5
May	+0.5	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	+0.8	+0.3	+0.6
June	+1.5	+2.2	+2.4	+2.2	+2.0	+1.4	+1.9
1980-81—							
July p	+1.4	+2.0	+1.0	+1.7	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5
August p	+1.7	+1.4	+1.7	+1.8	+1.0	+1.0	+1.5

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index : Year 1964-67 : 100.0)

	Concrete, cement, sand, etc.	Cement products	Bricks, stone, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel and iron products	Aluminium products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures	Miscellaneous materials	Electrical installation materials (a)	Mechanical services components	Special purpose index (b)	All groups
Value weight (c)	10.41%	3.64%	5.28%	11.90%	30.58%	6.01%	2.59%	1.19%	7.09%	8.61%	12.70%	78.69%	100.00%
SYDNEY													
1977-78	243.9	263.6	338.7	249.2	241.5	232.2	211.5	266.0	230.5	215.3	246.4	241.5	239.9
1978-79	270.1	277.0	252.4	266.7	260.5	246.0	246.8	253.8	242.9	242.6	267.6	259.7	259.2
1979-80	300.9	311.6	284.8	302.1	292.2	283.7	308.7	291.1	275.6	285.4	297.6	293.6	293.4
1979-80—													
July	289.2	291.9	267.0	283.2	276.4	258.7	272.0	273.2	250.5	261.9	282.1	275.3	275.0
August	289.6	294.5	274.9	287.2	279.7	265.8	278.8	273.2	256.1	266.2	285.3	279.2	278.8
September	291.3	294.5	275.5	288.7	280.3	270.2	287.5	278.7	258.1	271.0	285.2	280.8	280.5
October	293.6	305.7	276.5	290.9	280.8	270.7	300.5	280.2	261.1	277.1	286.0	283.0	282.9
November	293.8	306.0	276.5	292.0	282.6	271.3	295.3	280.3	265.9	275.3	289.6	284.2	284.1
December	293.8	306.2	276.6	295.1	292.0	276.5	304.6	281.1	270.3	282.8	294.9	289.4	289.6
January	298.6	313.2	278.1	304.5	295.5	285.0	310.0	289.9	272.2	288.9	301.5	294.3	294.8
February	309.8	316.0	290.0	310.5	298.3	290.5	351.5	304.4	279.2	305.2	304.8	301.4	302.2
March	310.9	320.2	296.5	316.1	301.6	292.0	343.5	307.4	285.3	304.9	306.0	304.8	305.0
April	311.5	322.1	300.4	317.3	302.1	306.3	325.4	308.1	297.8	297.8	310.9	307.3	306.9
May	311.5	333.8	302.0	318.9	303.0	308.7	319.3	308.6	303.7	296.9	311.9	309.0	308.3
June	316.9	334.6	303.7	320.4	313.6	308.7	316.3	308.6	307.1	297.2	313.5	314.4	312.8
1980-81—													
July p	324.2	334.9	305.3	324.7	318.8	309.2	316.9	316.7	309.4	305.8	316.7	318.5	317.2
August p	334.7	341.0	309.4	332.0	322.4	314.8	318.7	320.1	314.1	310.2	322.2	324.0	322.6
MELBOURNE													
1977-78	235.9	261.0	221.2	256.7	296.3	235.5	185.3	270.0	216.4	215.3	247.3	259.8	254.4
1978-79	248.5	280.9	237.0	268.5	314.1	250.6	217.4	275.5	225.0	242.6	268.1	275.1	271.4
1979-80	300.5	314.8	262.9	302.8	347.9	280.8	273.4	318.5	245.8	285.4	298.1	310.3	306.6
1979-80—													
July	291.5	297.1	250.9	283.6	331.0	263.2	243.8	300.2	231.4	261.9	282.4	294.1	289.8
August	291.9	298.5	253.3	285.4	334.0	265.6	248.1	300.2	232.4	266.2	285.6	296.2	292.3
September	292.1	302.8	258.0	288.0	334.1	269.6	255.2	304.7	235.7	271.0	285.5	298.1	294.2
October	292.1	306.7	255.3	289.8	334.1	269.8	262.4	305.1	238.9	277.1	286.4	298.9	295.5
November	291.2	308.1	255.3	292.6	337.1	271.3	260.7	305.9	240.5	275.3	289.9	300.7	297.1
December	300.7	308.4	255.3	293.4	347.5	271.0	267.7	305.9	241.6	282.8	295.3	306.5	303.1
January	301.3	317.5	261.0	303.8	353.5	280.1	274.2	319.9	243.9	288.9	302.0	312.6	309.2
February	301.7	320.1	268.2	308.3	354.8	287.1	315.2	328.4	248.1	305.2	304.8	316.9	314.4
March	307.1	323.6	268.2	316.3	357.8	290.2	306.9	337.2	253.3	304.9	306.6	320.7	317.5
April	309.1	323.8	268.2	319.0	358.1	286.2	287.0	337.4	260.5	297.1	311.3	321.9	318.5
May	309.5	333.7	278.2	323.7	359.1	301.8	281.7	338.5	261.7	296.9	312.3	324.5	320.5
June	315.5	337.7	287.0	329.7	374.1	303.7	278.3	338.5	261.8	297.2	313.9	332.9	327.4
1980-81—													
July p	332.0	341.0	289.6	333.6	382.5	305.2	273.0	349.5	265.0	305.8	317.1	339.7	333.9
August p	337.5	350.5	293.4	336.3	387.9	307.6	274.1	363.3	269.2	310.2	322.4	344.4	338.6

For footnotes see page 7

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—GROUP INDEX NUMBERS—continued
(Base of each index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

	Concrete mix, cement, sand, etc.	Cement products	Bricks, stone, etc.	Timber, board and joiners	Steel and iron products	Aluminium products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures	Miscel- laneous materials	Electrical installation materials (a)	Mechanical services components	Special purpose index (b)	All groups
Value weight (c)	10.41%	3.64%	5.28%	11.90%	30.58%	6.01%	2.59%	1.19%	7.09%	8.61%	12.70%	78.69%	100.00%
BRISBANE													
1977-78	225.0	290.6	247.2	292.5	304.6	224.7	189.3	269.2	200.1	215.3	248.5	267.9	260.9
1978-79	246.0	309.8	262.2	306.0	322.7	233.4	202.9	261.0	214.0	242.6	269.8	278.6	278.6
1979-80	284.9	342.1	302.3	341.4	357.6	265.8	242.1	296.6	238.3	285.4	300.3	318.6	313.4
1979-80—													
July	271.0	325.2	278.8	323.7	341.6	246.0	217.9	281.6	225.7	261.9	284.1	301.8	296.1
August	279.1	325.7	285.3	324.4	342.9	251.4	217.0	281.8	227.5	266.2	287.4	304.6	299.1
September	277.0	326.4	294.7	326.2	344.6	249.1	220.2	285.2	228.3	271.0	287.4	305.9	300.6
October	275.9	335.1	297.2	328.7	345.0	249.1	224.5	286.3	229.9	277.1	288.7	307.2	302.2
November	279.9	335.1	298.5	333.0	347.4	256.3	227.7	287.0	232.6	275.3	292.2	310.3	304.9
December	279.2	337.0	298.7	334.3	356.4	256.7	226.5	287.0	235.0	282.8	297.4	314.2	309.4
January	283.4	342.9	301.1	337.4	362.9	267.3	237.0	294.7	237.4	288.9	304.3	319.7	315.1
February	288.8	345.6	309.8	346.0	364.7	273.6	258.3	308.0	241.5	305.2	307.8	324.7	320.9
March	291.1	354.3	314.9	353.4	365.9	274.3	276.0	310.9	244.4	304.9	308.9	328.4	323.9
April	292.8	355.8	315.3	354.3	366.6	286.2	275.5	312.1	249.4	297.8	314.1	330.5	325.6
May	298.4	358.8	316.3	363.4	368.1	287.9	259.0	312.1	250.3	296.9	315.1	333.1	327.7
June	301.6	363.0	316.9	372.4	385.3	291.5	265.3	313.0	257.1	297.2	316.6	342.9	335.6
1980-81													
July p	301.2	363.9	320.3	377.3	389.5	294.8	258.8	323.1	258.7	305.8	319.9	345.8	339.1
August p	305.5	370.4	329.3	385.3	396.8	295.3	256.7	329.9	262.5	310.2	325.2	351.7	344.8
ADELAIDE													
1977-78	232.2	291.8	264.3	291.0	271.9	223.3	202.4	270.8	224.4	215.3	247.0	259.6	254.2
1978-79	250.0	314.7	286.5	312.0	289.6	244.9	236.3	271.2	241.7	242.6	267.8	278.9	274.4
1979-80	311.6	352.2	330.3	351.7	325.0	284.1	301.9	319.0	272.8	285.4	297.6	320.2	314.3
1979-80—													
July	294.1	336.5	306.7	331.9	306.9	258.5	269.8	301.9	254.3	261.9	282.1	300.6	294.9
August	296.9	337.0	314.6	332.2	310.6	267.5	274.3	305.7	256.2	266.2	285.3	304.1	298.4
September	297.0	337.6	314.6	342.8	311.0	268.8	281.7	308.5	258.7	271.0	285.1	306.5	300.7
October	300.7	344.0	314.6	346.7	311.5	268.8	292.2	307.3	260.2	277.1	286.0	308.5	302.9
November	299.0	345.8	317.2	347.2	315.8	269.4	290.7	307.3	262.9	275.3	289.5	310.5	304.8
December	299.8	346.8	323.3	349.5	324.0	277.2	299.5	307.3	263.7	282.8	295.0	315.5	310.1
January	311.1	353.2	335.6	350.9	330.7	282.5	306.3	327.4	274.7	288.9	301.6	323.0	317.3
February	315.8	360.5	340.9	353.7	332.9	284.7	347.6	332.5	277.8	305.2	304.8	327.5	322.7
March	330.5	362.0	343.2	359.0	334.1	296.9	333.4	332.5	286.5	304.9	306.1	332.1	326.5
April	330.5	362.0	344.7	361.7	334.5	303.9	312.4	332.5	292.5	297.8	310.8	333.2	327.7
May	331.1	366.8	349.1	370.1	335.1	313.2	307.1	332.5	292.9	296.9	311.8	335.8	329.4
June	333.1	374.6	359.6	374.1	352.6	317.9	307.5	332.5	293.0	297.2	313.4	344.9	336.8
1980-81—													
July p	345.5	380.0	360.1	379.8	359.3	317.9	307.1	346.5	295.5	305.8	316.6	350.7	342.5
August p	363.4	385.1	366.7	384.9	364.4	318.1	303.3	352.8	301.5	310.2	322.1	357.1	348.6

For footnotes see page 7

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—GROUP INDEX NUMBERS—continued
(Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

	Concrete mix, cement, sand, etc.	Cement products	Bricks, stone, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel and iron products	Aluminium products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures	Miscellaneous materials	Electrical installation materials (a)	Mechanical services components	Special purpose index (b)	All groups
Value weight (c)	10.41%	3.64%	5.28%	11.90%	30.58%	6.01%	2.59%	1.19%	7.09%	8.61%	12.70%	78.69%	100.00%
PERTH													
1977-78	216.1	258.3	264.2	274.0	302.5	230.5	180.7	215.0	228.2	215.3	247.9	264.6	258.3
1978-79	227.8	270.3	280.2	288.9	324.6	241.2	204.2	224.7	244.2	242.6	269.0	281.8	276.8
1979-80	r249.0	302.5	311.9	313.7	358.7	287.9	258.3	260.0	276.6	285.4	298.7	314.1	309.7
1979-80—													
July	239.2	279.0	289.4	299.6	342.7	260.7	229.7	244.7	253.3	261.9	283.1	296.5	291.8
August	238.8	283.3	305.4	303.5	345.4	274.3	233.9	245.1	256.6	266.2	286.4	300.9	296.1
September	239.0	283.4	307.4	303.9	345.1	274.5	239.2	251.3	261.9	271.0	286.2	301.6	297.0
October	239.2	298.5	307.4	304.8	345.2	274.5	248.9	251.9	266.0	277.1	287.1	303.3	299.0
November	245.1	300.5	307.4	305.7	347.0	274.5	245.0	252.8	269.5	275.3	290.6	305.2	300.7
December	244.3	300.6	307.4	309.5	359.9	274.5	252.8	252.8	270.1	282.8	295.9	310.9	306.7
January	245.9	305.5	307.5	310.8	365.1	282.1	256.4	257.0	277.6	288.9	302.5	315.1	311.3
February	249.4	311.6	318.9	318.3	365.8	297.6	291.1	269.8	283.4	305.2	305.7	321.0	317.7
March	250.1	312.7	319.0	322.5	367.0	299.4	288.5	272.3	286.6	304.9	307.1	322.6	319.2
April	261.5	312.8	319.0	324.6	368.1	310.4	273.8	292.2	292.2	297.8	311.8	325.8	321.6
May	267.2	317.5	326.3	328.9	368.2	316.2	267.4	273.8	299.7	296.9	312.8	328.9	324.1
June	r267.9	324.0	327.9	332.5	385.2	316.2	273.3	274.6	301.7	297.2	314.6	r336.9	r330.6
1980-81—													
July p	r263.5	324.2	331.7	342.2	394.0	316.8	268.7	285.2	303.9	305.8	317.9	r341.8	r335.7
August p	259.6	329.4	332.0	347.4	397.6	317.5	273.1	290.8	311.0	310.2	323.4	344.6	338.9
HOBART													
1977-78	220.9	258.8	290.6	269.8	282.1	218.4	206.3	259.0	225.5	215.3	247.8	258.9	253.7
1978-79	230.6	277.4	310.1	286.5	297.3	229.2	231.3	268.6	241.6	242.6	268.5	274.0	270.5
1979-80	252.6	298.4	336.5	316.3	327.5	268.7	290.2	304.9	272.4	285.4	298.3	304.1	301.8
1979-80—													
July	241.3	284.6	321.1	302.2	310.2	240.9	260.9	284.8	253.9	261.9	282.7	287.0	284.3
August	243.8	285.2	321.1	303.0	317.6	253.2	260.9	284.8	256.5	266.2	285.9	291.5	288.6
September	247.2	285.4	337.0	305.7	318.3	254.8	264.2	288.4	259.8	271.0	285.8	294.4	291.3
October	246.8	290.1	337.0	308.1	318.4	254.8	272.7	293.4	262.4	277.1	286.7	295.6	292.9
November	248.2	298.3	337.0	310.8	321.2	257.2	280.0	293.4	264.9	275.3	290.2	298.3	295.2
December	251.0	299.7	337.0	312.1	324.9	257.2	281.0	293.4	267.2	282.8	295.6	300.6	298.4
January	251.0	304.3	337.6	314.0	327.9	265.6	285.1	302.3	270.5	288.9	302.3	303.4	302.0
February	252.0	304.3	338.3	316.4	333.3	265.6	310.0	318.2	273.3	305.2	305.4	307.4	306.9
March	258.7	305.2	342.9	320.3	336.1	282.9	322.9	321.2	281.2	304.9	306.8	312.9	311.5
April	261.9	306.8	342.9	329.7	336.7	293.5	330.3	326.1	290.8	297.8	311.5	317.0	314.6
May	261.9	308.7	347.9	333.3	338.2	296.8	309.2	326.1	293.9	296.9	312.5	318.1	315.5
June	267.4	308.7	343.0	339.9	346.8	303.3	305.3	326.1	294.6	297.2	314.1	323.5	320.0
1980-81—													
July p	271.3	316.5	345.6	341.0	355.4	303.6	301.4	344.0	293.1	305.8	317.3	328.2	324.8
August p	269.4	323.3	345.8	342.8	361.0	303.7	299.2	349.8	297.0	310.2	322.8	331.1	328.2

For footnotes see page 7.

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—GROUP INDEX NUMBERS—continued
(Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

	Concrete mix, sand, etc.	Cement products	Bricks, stone, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel and iron products	Aluminium products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures	Miscel- laneous materials	Electrical installation materials (a)	Mechanical services components	Special purpose index (b)	All groups
Value weight (c)	10.41%	3.64%	5.28%	11.90%	30.58%	6.01%	2.59%	1.19%	7.09%	8.61%	12.70%	78.69%	100.00%
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES													
1977-78	235.3	268.4	241.0	263.2	271.4	230.8	198.1	263.7	221.9	215.3	247.2	253.9	249.7
1978-79	254.8	285.2	256.6	278.8	291.9	244.6	228.4	260.2	234.2	242.6	268.2	270.9	268.1
1979-80	294.1	319.0	289.0	313.2	325.1	280.5	285.3	299.6	262.4	285.4	298.2	305.7	303.0
1979-80—													
July	282.5	300.4	271.2	294.8	308.8	257.9	253.4	282.1	242.7	261.9	282.5	288.3	285.2
August	284.1	302.3	277.8	297.4	311.8	264.3	257.9	282.7	246.1	266.2	285.8	291.4	288.5
September	284.8	303.6	280.5	300.0	312.2	267.0	265.0	287.3	248.5	271.0	285.6	293.1	290.2
October	285.8	312.3	281.2	302.2	312.6	267.3	274.6	288.3	251.4	277.1	286.6	294.7	292.2
November	286.5	313.3	281.6	304.1	315.0	269.0	272.3	288.7	254.7	275.3	290.1	296.5	293.8
December	289.1	313.8	282.2	306.3	324.7	271.8	279.2	289.0	257.4	282.8	295.4	301.7	299.3
1980-81—													
January	292.9	320.9	285.8	313.6	329.6	280.4	285.5	299.7	260.7	288.9	302.1	307.0	304.9
February	298.8	324.3	295.3	319.2	331.8	286.7	311.4	265.9	305.2	305.4	312.6	311.1	312.6
March	302.8	328.3	298.6	325.6	334.3	289.9	318.9	315.7	271.4	304.9	306.6	316.2	314.1
April	304.8	329.3	300.4	327.5	334.8	300.6	303.4	316.5	280.3	297.8	311.5	318.4	315.7
May	306.0	337.9	304.6	331.9	335.8	304.7	295.7	317.0	283.8	296.9	312.5	320.6	317.5
June	310.6	341.1	309.1	336.1	349.5	306.3	294.8	317.2	286.3	297.2	314.1	327.9	323.6
1980-81—													
July p	318.8	342.9	311.3	340.8	355.9	307.5	292.3	327.4	288.7	305.8	317.3	332.9	328.6
August p	326.3	349.9	315.8	346.4	360.7	310.5	293.0	334.5	293.4	310.2	322.8	337.9	333.6

TABLE 3. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—PERCENTAGE CHANGES
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

	Concrete mix, sand, etc.	Cement products	Bricks, stone, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel and iron products	Aluminium products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures	Miscel- laneous materials	Electrical installation materials (a)	Mechanical services components	Special purpose index (b)	All groups
Value weight (c)	10.41%	3.64%	5.28%	11.90%	30.58%	6.01%	2.59%	1.19%	7.09%	8.61%	12.70%	78.69%	100.00%
Change from corresponding month of previous year—													
1979-80—													
March	+14.4	+13.4	+14.1	+15.1	+11.8	+16.7	+27.9	+19.9	+14.8	+19.5	+11.8	+14.0	+14.2
April	+13.0	+13.4	+14.0	+14.4	+11.9	+20.9	+16.9	+16.0	+17.5	+14.7	+13.0	+13.9	+13.8
May	+12.0	+15.5	+15.0	+15.4	+11.9	+20.6	+14.1	+15.5	+18.8	+14.7	+12.9	+14.1	+14.0
June	+13.4	+15.5	+16.2	+15.7	+16.3	+19.9	+16.2	+15.4	+19.4	+15.4	+13.4	+16.2	+15.9
1980-81—													
July p	+12.8	+14.1	+14.8	+15.6	+15.3	+19.2	+15.4	+16.1	+19.0	+16.8	+12.3	+15.5	+15.2
August p	+14.9	+15.7	+13.7	+16.5	+15.7	+17.5	+13.6	+18.3	+19.2	+16.5	+12.9	+16.0	+15.6
Change from previous month—													
1979-80—													
March	+1.3	+1.2	+1.2	+2.0	+0.8	+1.1	1.3	+1.4	+2.1	0.1	+0.4	+1.2	+1.0
April	+0.7	+0.3	+0.6	+0.6	+0.1	+3.7	4.9	+0.3	+3.3	2.3	+1.6	+0.7	+0.5
May	+0.4	+2.6	+1.4	+1.3	+0.3	+1.4	2.5	+0.2	+1.2	0.3	+0.3	+0.7	+0.6
June	+1.5	+0.9	+1.5	+1.3	+4.1	+0.5	0.3	+0.1	+0.9	+0.1	+0.5	+2.3	+1.9
1980-81—													
July p	+2.6	+0.5	+0.7	+1.4	+1.8	+0.4	0.8	+3.2	+0.8	+2.9	+1.0	+1.5	+1.5
August p	+2.4	+2.0	+1.4	+1.6	+1.3	+1.0	+0.2	+2.2	+1.6	+1.4	+1.7	+1.5	+1.5

(a) The Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials is used as the indicator for this group.
at reference base year; see paragraph 3, explanatory notes. (b) All groups excluding 'Electrical installation materials' and 'Mechanical services components' (c) Composition and weighting pattern as

TABLE 4. PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING OTHER THAN HOUSE BUILDING—INDEXES FOR SELECTED ITEMS
(Base of each index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Items or combinations of items	1979-80	1980—					
		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July p	Aug. p
Concrete ready mixed	291.9	300.5	302.6	303.6	307.9	316.2	323.6
Cement	275.8	282.5	282.6	284.3	287.0	297.2	297.8
Sand and aggregate	325.7	337.9	340.2	342.6	352.4	358.7	375.0
Asbestos cement sheets	338.7	347.6	347.8	362.8	364.8	364.9	376.0
Concrete masonry blocks	303.0	313.7	313.6	324.8	329.2	331.7	337.6
Pre-cast concrete panels and other pre-cast concrete products (a)	315.8	324.1	327.1	327.2	330.4	333.1	337.2
Clay bricks	296.7	306.6	308.9	312.7	317.4	318.7	322.8
Earthenware pipes and fittings	241.8	252.1	252.3	258.8	261.9	265.7	274.8
Hardwood timber	325.7	342.2	343.9	345.2	348.9	355.8	366.8
Softwood timber	370.8	381.1	384.7	386.4	388.9	391.9	393.8
Plywood, hardboard, softboard	277.9	285.7	289.2	291.8	296.9	300.7	301.8
Partitions, ready made doors and other joinery	300.3	312.2	313.4	320.7	325.5	329.6	334.6
Structural steel	343.5	354.0	354.4	355.5	371.3	376.7	381.4
Reinforcing rods and reinforcing fabric	296.3	302.6	302.8	302.8	319.0	323.0	330.3
Other steel products (b)	339.5	352.4	352.8	353.9	361.1	368.3	374.2
Galvanised steel decking and cladding, sheet and sheet products	274.2	278.2	278.1	278.1	291.1	302.1	302.6
Cast iron pipes and other cast iron products	308.0	317.1	319.1	326.9	336.4	343.6	351.6
Hinges, catches, handles, bolts, etc.	343.4	356.3	359.4	361.4	366.8	369.5	377.1
Aluminium window frames	280.2	289.5	296.7	299.9	301.8	302.4	306.5
Aluminium decking and cladding, downpipe and guttering	292.1	299.9	321.7	328.1	328.6	329.7	329.7
Copper pipes	247.3	284.2	255.6	243.6	242.7	243.3	245.7
Toilet suites and pans, urinals	275.7	289.9	290.9	291.5	291.6	300.9	305.6
Hand basins, sinks, baths	324.0	342.0	342.6	343.0	343.2	354.3	364.0
Paint	268.7	277.2	294.5	294.5	296.2	300.7	312.6
Glass	375.3	375.4	398.8	404.2	410.2	410.4	413.2
Plaster and plaster products	272.2	282.8	285.1	286.6	286.9	288.3	300.3
Ceramic tiles	224.0	232.5	237.1	237.8	237.9	238.3	243.0
Vinyl tiles	219.2	229.4	231.2	229.8	229.6	233.6	234.7
Conductors (c)	239.7	262.0	246.0	242.1	239.8	244.8	251.5
Conduit and accessories (c)	309.8	322.1	322.4	324.4	326.3	341.2	343.0
Switchboard and switchgear material (c)	324.0	344.2	343.8	344.6	347.3	355.9	359.0
Air conditioning	293.5	299.9	306.0	307.8	310.2	311.8	314.9
Heating systems	265.0	273.7	277.5	275.3	275.4	275.4	284.4
Fire protection installations	255.3	261.9	264.3	264.3	264.5	267.5	278.2

(a) Other pre-cast concrete products includes beams, slabs, pipes and fittings. (b) Includes steel doors and frames, steel window frames, steel louvre frames and screens, steel roller shutters and grilles, steel balustrading, steel angles and sections and steel suspended ceilings. (c) These items are published as groups in *Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials* (6409.0) on the reference base 1959-60 = 100.0. For the purposes of this publication the index numbers have been rebased to the reference base 1966-67 = 100.0.