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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX, DARWIN FEBRUARY 1982

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MAIN FEATURES

The Darwin Food Group Index for February 1982 increased by 0.7% from the index for January 1982.

Main price changes between January 1982 and February 1982:

- Prices of meals out and take away food increased.
- Beef and lamb prices increased.
- Prices of fresh vegetables decreased.

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 December 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)

<i>Index numbers:</i>	
February 1982	181.1
Less: January 1982	179.9
Change in index points	+1.2

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{+1.2}{179.9} \times 100 = +0.7\%$$

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 February 1982 the Dairy produce subgroup contributed 11.31 index points out of the total Food group index of 152.9. 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.

Average retail prices

11. Table 3 contains average retail prices for selected items in the Food group for December 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.

12. 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

13. 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.

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available

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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
1978-79	106.0	..	..	+9.6
1979-80	123.7	..	..	+16.7
1980-81	137.1	..	..	+10.8
1980-81 —				
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	..
June	143.1	+0.4	+10.3	..
1981-82 —				
July	145.1	+1.4	+11.7	..
August	147.7	+1.8	+12.6	..
September	149.7	+1.4	+12.5	..
October	151.1	+0.9	+12.9	..
November	152.1	+0.7	+12.9	..
December	152.0	-0.1	+11.9	..
January	151.9	-0.1	+10.6	..
February	152.9	+0.7	+9.4	..

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 January 1982 and February 1982
			January 1982 and February 1982 %	February 1981 and February 1982 %	January 1982	February 1982	
	January 1982	February 1982					
Dairy produce	145.2	146.0	+0.6	+10.5	11.25	11.31	+0.06
Cereal products	144.4	146.4	+1.4	+11.6	11.05	11.19	+0.14
Meat and seafoods	179.9	181.1	+0.7	+5.6	39.33	39.59	+0.26
Beef and veal	229.6	232.9	+1.4	+6.7	19.89	20.18	+0.29
Lamb and mutton	143.2	145.0	+1.3	+2.8	4.54	4.59	+0.05
Pork	162.7	165.2	+1.5	+13.8	2.37	2.40	+0.03
Poultry	138.2	134.7	-2.5	+4.3	3.33	3.25	-0.08
Other meat	165.0	163.3	-1.0	+4.6	5.92	5.86	-0.06
Fish	127.3	128.0	+0.5	-0.1	3.28	3.30	+0.02
Fruit and vegetables	145.9	145.7	-0.1	+9.3	25.62	25.58	-0.04
Fresh fruit and vegetables	156.4	155.5	-0.6	+9.2	18.04	17.95	-0.09
Processed fruit and vegetables	125.9	126.8	+0.7	+9.5	7.58	7.63	+0.05
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	143.3	144.0	+0.5	+11.6	17.90	17.99	+0.09
Meals out and take-away food	149.6	150.9	+0.9	+11.9	35.63	35.94	+0.31
Other food	125.4	127.7	+1.8	+8.4	11.14	11.34	+0.20
Food group	151.9	152.9	+0.7	+9.4	151.9	152.9	+1.0

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

Item	Unit	Quarter				
		1980	1981			
		December	March	June	September	December
<i>Dairy produce—</i>						
Milk, cartoned	600 ml	33	35	36	36	37
Milk, powdered	300g can	111	115	124	127	(a)367
Cheese, processed	250 g	75	76	80	82	(b)155
Butter	500 g	126	131	136	142	148
<i>Cereal products—</i>						
Bread, white, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	75	79	83	85	85
Biscuits, dry	250 g	57	58	60	61	63
Breakfast cereal, corn based	500 g	96	98	100	96	105
Flour, self-raising	1 kg	63	70	69	69	71
Rice, short grain	500 g	46	48	50	48	(c)86
<i>Meat and seafoods—</i>						
<i>Beef—</i>						
Rib, without bone	1 kg	410	413	438	428	459
Rump steak	1 kg	669	722	709	725	779
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	660	664	687	677	726
Chuck steak	1 kg	454	414	477	472	491
Silverside, corned	1 kg	488	483	462	506	474
Sausages	1 kg	306	323	327	330	340
<i>Lamb—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	420	422	440	443	455
Loin chops	1 kg	435	430	437	442	462
Forequarter chops	1 kg	390	414	397	396	434
<i>Pork—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	498	516	493	539	536
Loin chops	1 kg	528	536	528	573	569
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	259	273	273	272	292
Bacon	250 g pkt	178	190	202	210	205
Beef, corned	340 g can	161	162	162	164	158
Salmon, pink	220 g can	121	124	126	130	128
<i>Fruit and vegetables—</i>						
Oranges	1 kg	98	107	107	116	108
Bananas	1 kg	107	120	117	113	124
Potatoes	1 kg	86	100	106	109	108
Tomatoes	1 kg	174	227	265	245	258
Carrots	1 kg	117	125	128	145	151
Onions	1 kg	105	113	152	279	178
Peaches	825 g can	89	90	95	98	98
Pineapple, sliced	450 g can	53	55	57	59	60
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	80	82	86	92	n.a.
<i>Confectionery—</i>						
Chocolate, milk, block	200 g	125	124	123	127	132
<i>Other food—</i>						
Eggs	55 g, 1 dozen	158	166	171	179	180
Sugar, white	2 kg	99	100	101	105	115
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	114	117	116	115	121
Tea	250 g	81	81	80	82	83
Coffee, instant	100 g jar	229	227	226	219	(d)316
Tomato sauce	600 ml	84	88	87	86	86
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	112	111	114	119	113
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	440 g	44	46	46	51	54
Baby food	125 g can	22	23	23	25	26

(a) Price shown is for a 1 kg can. (b) Price shown is for a 500 g packet. (c) Price shown is for a 1 kg packet. (d) Price shown is for a 150 g jar.