

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published, broadcast or cabled before 6 P.M. on THURSDAY 6 APRIL 1967

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEXFEBRUARY 1967

This bulletin contains particulars of the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index from 1936-37 to the present time.

2. A list of the commodities and other information concerning the index is set out in Labour Report No. 51, 1964.

3. Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the Australian price structure. The prices of imported goods, for instance, are on an ex-bond or into factory basis.

4. The prices used have, in the main, been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants. With a few important exceptions, they are from Melbourne sources.

5. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula. The weights are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35. Work is proceeding on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers. Meanwhile, the present series continue to be compiled on their existing basis, which has become increasingly affected by changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home produced" for some commodities, and changes in industrial structure.

6. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index number for the month of February 1967, from the preceding month (January 1967) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (February 1966). It also shows the percentage change of the average of the index numbers for the eight months ended February 1967, from the average of the index numbers for the eight months ended February 1966.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERSFEBRUARY 1967

Change from Previous Periods

(Per cent)

Percentage change between	Basic Materials							Food-stuffs and Tobacco	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs		
	Metals and Coal	Oils, Fats and Wares	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and Hides	Building Materials	Total		Goods Principally Imported (a)	Goods Principally Home Produced	Total All Groups
Jan. 1967 and Feb. 1967	..	+0.5	+1.2	..	-3.6	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	+0.7	-0.5	-0.3
Feb. 1966 and Feb. 1967	+2.3	-0.9	-5.3	+13.4	-17.2	+1.2	+0.8	+5.0	+1.1	+4.0	+3.3
8 months ended Feb. 1966 and 8 months ended Feb. 1967	+1.4	+1.2	..	+21.6	-0.9	+0.8	+2.6	+4.6	+1.3	+4.5	+3.8

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

TABLE 2. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of each Index : Average of 3 years ended June 1939 = 100)

Period	Basic Materials							Food-stuffs and Tobacco	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs		
	Metals and Coal (a)	Oils, Fats and Waxes	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and Hides	Building Materials	Total		Goods Principally Imported (b)	Goods Principally Home Produced	Total All Groups
1936-37	96	99	118	99	111	99	99	98	99	98	99
1937-38	101	101	100	100	97	104	102	102	102	101	101
1938-39	103	100	82	101	92	97	99	101	99	100	100
1956-57	409	241	520	344	302	463	367	324	311	357	344
1957-58	398	238	437	349	280	453	355	325	301	355	339
1958-59	392	231	362	327	293	423	340	332	283	358	336
1959-60	395	225	403	331	379	431	347	348	281	375	348
1960-61	399	222	387	331	341	439	346	372	278	394	360
1961-62	392	212	400	333	302	439	340	332	270	363	336
1962-63	388	209	432	317	262	439	336	342	272	368	340
1963-64	383	207	484	286	221	473	339	352	275	376	346
1964-65	391	207	427	286	242	503	345	364	277	388	355
1965-66	390	218	432	325	306	507	355	385	280	409	371
1964-65 - June	396	207	403	288	250	505	346	375	275	398	362
1965-66 - July	394	208	407	288	256	508	347	384	274	406	367
August	392	208	406	288	271	508	347	400	275	419	376
September	393	220	412	288	282	509	352	394	281	414	375
October	389	219	425	326	286	508	354	379	281	404	367
November	390	219	434	326	292	508	355	372	281	399	364
December	390	219	436	326	301	505	355	373	280	400	365
January	389	221	436	326	311	505	356	371	281	399	364
February	391	221	437	337	326	506	359	377	282	405	369
March	391	220	443	348	356	507	361	396	282	421	380
April	390	219	449	348	353	507	361	393	283	418	378
May	387	219	448	348	337	507	359	389	282	414	375
June	389	219	449	348	304	507	358	387	281	413	374
1966-67 - July	389	220	448	369	303	507	360	395	282	420	379
August	395	220	443	385	309	508	364	403	283	428	385
September	396	221	430	382	295	511	363	402	282	428	385
October	395	220	417	382	273	513	362	400	283	424	382
November	397	220	417	382	280	513	362	400	283	425	383
December	p398	218	p415	382	295	513	p363	399	283	p424	p382
January	p400	218	p409	382	280	513	p363	p397	p283	p423	p382
February	p400	219	p414	382	270	512	p362	p396	p285	p421	p381

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and Coal" group excluding Coal and Briquettes for February 1967 is 501.

(b) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

p - preliminary, subject to revision.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1966.

K. M. ARCHER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

6 APRIL 1967

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 Extension 2053, or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.