



PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA MAY 1985

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains index numbers for the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* (Table 1) and the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* (Table 2).

Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products

Item and weights

2. This index is a fixed weights index. The prices of the individual metallic materials are combined using weights representing the value of usage reported in the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, for establishments classified to the Fabricated Metal Products Subdivision of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification—Subdivision 31).

Prices

3. Most of the prices used in this index relate to the mid-point of each month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers or distributors of metallic materials to the manufacturers of fabricated metal products for materials delivered into store. Prices used in the index relate to materials of fixed specifications.

4. Because the 'All groups' index included in Table 1 sometimes is significantly affected by rapidly changing prices for silver, the special series 'All groups excluding silver' is included in order to indicate more accurately the general trend in prices for metallic materials.

5. A detailed description of this index was contained in *Labour Report No. 57, 1972*.

Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment

6. Table 2 contains index numbers for copper materials used in three types of electrical equipment (namely *Industrial electric motors*; *Distribution transformers*; and *Power transformers*). Each of these indexes is a fixed weights index. The items included in each index have been allocated weights in accordance with the estimated

average values of copper materials used in the manufacture of each type of equipment in the year 1982-83. The weights attributed to each item in each index reflect the average usage by industry in 1982-83 and, as such, do not necessarily reflect the relative values of materials used by particular manufacturers.

Prices

7. The prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of each month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers or distributors of copper materials to electrical equipment manufacturers for materials delivered into store. Price series used in the index relate to materials of fixed specifications.

8. The index for *Industrial electric motors* in Table 2 is intended to measure price movements of copper materials used in electric motors for industrial applications only. As a result, this index does not necessarily reflect the price movements of copper materials used in the manufacture of other smaller types of electric motors, such as those used as components in white goods or other domestic appliances.

9. A detailed description of these indexes was contained in the Appendix to the June 1984 issue of this publication.

Interpretation

10. For any of the price index series shown in this publication, changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods, because short term movements may be heavily influenced by temporary fluctuations in metal prices.

11. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of monthly index numbers.

12. Index numbers for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary from time to time to revise index numbers for earlier periods if incorrect prices for those periods are detected or if the sample of prices used to compile the indexes is found to be unsatisfactory.

Related publications

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

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

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

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Darwin (6407.0)—issued monthly

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

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

- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- nil or rounded to zero
- n.a. not available

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TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX OF METALLIC MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS GROUP AND ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGES
(Base of each index: Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

Value weight (%Ka)	Iron and steel 83.2%	Aluminium 8.9%	Copper and brass 5.7%	Zinc 0.5%	Silver 1.7%	All groups 100.0%	All groups excluding silver
1981-82	370.2	291.2	210.0	373.8	406.3	354.7	353.7
1982-83	407.7	312.2	231.1	400.3	624.6	392.8	388.7
1983-84	437.9	360.4	239.9	483.1	607.4	422.9	419.6
1983-84—							
March	441.4	374.5	232.8	498.8	566.9	426.0	423.5
April	446.1	374.5	242.0	514.3	559.5	430.4	428.1
May	446.0	374.8	239.6	530.3	551.9	430.1	428.0
June	446.0	374.9	238.9	537.4	554.6	430.2	428.0
1984-85—							
July	449.0	375.0	238.1	537.4	502.5	431.7	430.5
August	449.9	374.9	240.6	545.6	503.4	432.7	431.4
September	450.2	373.8	240.6	544.0	487.0	432.5	431.6
October	451.1	373.7	238.6	536.4	488.4	433.2	432.2
November	451.1	372.6	239.3	526.0	488.9	433.1	432.0
December	453.7	372.4	238.5	522.4	448.6	434.5	434.2
January	453.7	372.5	241.4	526.6	417.6	434.1	434.4
February	453.9	372.5	254.2	527.1	459.8	435.7	435.3
March	453.9	372.9	265.0	557.5	475.2	436.8	436.1
April	458.2	373.5	273.7	557.5	549.9	442.2	440.3
May p	458.7	377.3	295.9	603.9	520.0	443.9	442.6
Percentage change between—							
May 1984 and May 1985	+2.8	+0.7	+23.5	+13.9	-5.8	+3.2	+3.4
April 1985 and May 1985	+0.1	+1.0	+8.1	+8.3	-5.4	+0.4	+0.5

(a) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1983-84 = 100.0)

	Copper materials used in the manufacture of—		
	Industrial electric motors	Distribution transformers	Power transformers
1981-82	n.a.	(a)88.3	(a)87.1
1982-83	n.a.	(a)98.0	(a)97.0
1983-84	100.0	100.0	100.0
1983-84—			
March	97.1	97.2	96.6
April	100.6	100.5	101.8
May	98.9	99.3	100.4
June	99.6	99.5	100.6
1984-85—			
July	99.1	99.0	100.4
August	100.2	100.1	101.7
September	100.2	100.1	101.4
October	98.6	98.4	99.7
November	99.6	99.5	100.6
December	99.1	99.0	100.5
January	99.6	100.9	103.7
February	105.0	106.1	110.3
March	110.5	111.0	113.1
April	114.0	114.9	117.0
May p	121.5	122.0	126.0

(a) Previous series of index numbers on reference base 1968-69 = 100.0 were linked to the new series at August 1983 (see paragraph 8 of Appendix to the June 1984 issue).