

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEXSEPTEMBER, 1966

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. 50, 1962 and 1963.
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 September, 1966, from the preceding month (August, 1966) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (September, 1965). It also shows the percentage change of the average of the index numbers for the three months ended September, 1966, from the average of the index numbers for the three months ended September, 1965.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERSSEPTEMBER, 1966Change from Previous Periods

(Per cent.)

Percentage change between	Basic Materials							Food-stuffs and Tobacco	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs		
	Metals and Coal	Oils, Fats and Waxes	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and Hides	Building Materials	Total		Goods Principally Imported (a)	Goods Principally Home Produced	Total All Groups
Aug., 1966 and Sept., 1966	+0.3	+0.5	-2.9	-0.8	-4.5	+0.6	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	..	..
Sept., 1965 and Sept., 1966	+1.5	+0.5	+4.4	+32.6	+4.6	+0.4	+3.4	+2.0	+0.4	+3.4	+2.7
3 months ended Sept., 1965 and 3 months ended Sept., 1966	+0.6	+3.9	+7.8	+31.5	+12.1	+0.1	+4.1	+1.9	+2.0	+3.0	+2.8

(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	57	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 -											
Jan.	392	207	412	285	245	505	345	362	278	386	354
Feb.	394	208	416	288	238	505	346	360	276	386	353
March	396	208	398	288	237	505	346	358	275	385	352
April	398	208	398	288	244	505	347	365	276	390	357
May	398	207	403	288	248	505	347	369	276	393	359
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
Sept.	393	220	412	288	282	509	352	394	281	414	375
Oct.	389	219	425	326	286	508	354	379	281	404	367
Nov.	390	219	434	326	292	508	355	372	281	399	364
Dec.	390	219	436	326	301	505	355	373	280	400	365
Jan.	389	221	436	326	311	505	356	371	281	399	364
Feb.	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	375
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	p389	220	p448	369	303	507	p360	p395	p282	p420	p379
August	p398	220	p443	385	309	508	p365	p403	p283	p428	p385
Sept.	p399	221	p430	382	295	511	p364	p402	p282	p428	p385

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and Coal" group excluding Coal and Briquettes for September, 1966 is 496.

(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 1905-1949.

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COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 7TH NOVEMBER, 1966.

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 639111 Extension 2053 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.