

Reference No. 9.11

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX NUMBERS, FEBRUARY 1974

This bulletin contains monthly Consumer Price Index numbers for the Food Group and its component sub-groups. The Food Group is the only group of the index for which prices are collected monthly. Quarterly index numbers for the All Groups Consumer Price Index and its groups and sub-groups (including the Food Group) are contained in the quarterly bulletin *Consumer Price Index* (Reference No. 9.1). Detailed information about the Consumer Price Index can be found in that bulletin and in *Labour Report No. 56, 1971* (Reference No. 6.7).

2. Compared with the previous month, the Food Group index increased by 1.3% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were: Sydney +0.3%, Melbourne +2.0%, Brisbane +0.6%, Adelaide +2.2%, Perth +2.4%, Hobart +1.3%, Canberra +1.3%.

3. Recent monthly changes in the Food Group index have been as follows:

Percentage Change from Preceding Month

Month	Six Capitals (a)							
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra	
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	
1972-73 -								
February	+4.7	+5.5	+5.2	+3.5	+4.3	+1.8	+3.3	
March	+2.1	+1.2	+3.7	+1.2	+1.5	+2.3	+1.1	
April	+1.7	+1.4	+1.6	+2.6	+2.2	+1.0	+0.6	
May	+0.8	+0.8	+0.2	+1.0	+1.9	+2.3	+0.2	
June	+1.1	+0.7	+1.2	+0.7	+1.7	+1.8	+0.8	
1973-74 -								
July	+1.7	+2.8	+0.8	+2.3	+1.6	+0.2	+1.9	
August	+2.8	+3.0	+2.8	+3.6	+2.9	+0.3	+3.1	
September	+2.5	+3.1	+2.1	+2.0	+3.2	+2.9	+2.9	
October	+0.6	+1.2	+0.2	+0.7	-0.1	+0.7	+0.4	
November	+0.8	+0.9	+1.0	+0.3	+0.1	-0.6	+3.9	
December	+0.5	+0.7	+0.3	+0.7	+0.3	+1.0	-0.3	
January	+1.6	+1.6	+1.2	+2.0	+1.2	+2.9	+0.4	
February	+1.3	+0.3	+2.0	+0.6	+2.2	+2.4	+1.3	

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

4. For the weighted average of the six State capital cities increases in the price of meat in all cities and decreases in the price of potatoes in all cities except Perth were the main features of this month's total food index. The price of chocolate confectionery increased in all cities. The price of bread increased in Adelaide and Hobart.

5. Between February 1973 and February 1974 the Food Group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 18.9%. Changes in individual cities during this twelve month period were: Sydney +19.1%, Melbourne +18.5%, Brisbane +19.1%, Adelaide +20.5%, Perth +16.5%, Hobart +17.4%, Canberra +18.8%.

6. At the last link, December quarter 1968, the Food Group contributed 31.248 per cent to the total Consumer Price Index aggregate for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. This is the only group for which prices are collected each month, the complete All Groups price index being prepared quarterly. For potatoes and onions, weekly prices are collected and averaged to arrive at monthly prices. Prices for other food items are collected as at the middle of each month.

7. In analysing trends in food prices it should be remembered that some food prices are subject to significant irregular fluctuations as a result of seasonality of supply and demand and other factors. These fluctuations frequently cause disparate movements in the index numbers for the various cities. Also, if these fluctuations occur in combination with significant changes in quantities consumed, index numbers at aggregate levels, which are calculated with relative weights reflecting a normal pattern of consumption, are likely to be less reliable as general indicators of month-to-month movements during the relevant period.

8. The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city.

9. Users of Figures in Table 1 should bear in mind that the Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the proportionate change in retail prices as combined in the five major groups and more particularly the total of the groups. For sub-groups or particular items, the index does not necessarily provide comprehensive and valid measures of price changes in those particular fields. Nor does it necessarily measure the relative influences of those classes of items in aggregate variations in prices. The Consumer Price Index is essentially a combination of selected items under various headings and not a dissection of total household expenditure into its component parts.

TABLE 1. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS  
JANUARY 1974 AND FEBRUARY 1974

Group and sub-Group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index: Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)			All Groups Index Points Contributed by Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (b)		
	January 1974	February 1974	Percentage change since January %	January 1974	February 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since January
<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES</b>						
Cereal products	148.4	150.1	+ 1.1	5.81	5.88	+0.07
Dairy produce	126.9	127.3	+ 0.3	7.94	7.96	+0.02
Preserved fruit and vegetables	114.3	114.4	+ 0.1	1.69	1.69	..
Potatoes and onions	262.7	223.6	-14.9	2.27	1.93	-0.34
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	153.9	157.2	+ 2.1	6.29	6.42	+0.13
Other food (except meat)	117.8	118.4	+ 0.5	3.93	3.95	+0.02
Meat	167.9	173.9	+ 3.6	19.11	19.79	+0.68
Beef	169.2	172.3	+ 1.8	7.88	8.03	+0.15
Mutton	197.0	208.3	+ 5.7	2.78	2.94	+0.16
Lamb	185.2	198.5	+ 7.2	3.72	3.99	+0.27
Pork	151.1	155.6	+ 3.0	1.17	1.20	+0.03
Processed meat (c)	139.6	142.5	+ 2.1	3.55	3.63	+0.08
<i>Food Group</i>	<i>156.2</i>	<i>152.1</i>	<i>+ 1.3</i>	<i>47.05</i>	<i>47.63</i>	<i>+0.58</i>
<b>SYDNEY</b>						
Cereal products	150.7	151.5	+ 0.5	5.96	5.99	+0.03
Dairy produce	127.8	127.7	- 0.1	8.33	8.33	..
Preserved fruit and vegetables	109.5	109.9	+ 0.4	1.65	1.66	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	283.6	249.0	-12.2	2.40	2.11	-0.29
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	156.3	158.9	+ 1.7	6.17	6.28	+0.11
Other food (except meat)	116.8	117.0	+ 0.2	3.88	3.89	+0.01
Meat	176.0	178.7	+ 1.5	19.48	19.78	+0.30
Beef	180.0	180.9	+ 0.5	7.88	7.92	+0.04
Mutton	221.8	223.0	+ 0.5	3.14	3.15	+0.01
Lamb	195.0	202.7	+ 3.9	3.81	3.96	+0.15
Pork	151.3	154.4	+ 2.0	1.21	1.23	+0.02
Processed meat (c)	136.5	139.1	+ 1.9	3.45	3.51	+0.06
<i>Food Group</i>	<i>153.5</i>	<i>154.0</i>	<i>+ 0.3</i>	<i>47.88</i>	<i>48.03</i>	<i>+0.15</i>
<b>MELBOURNE</b>						
Cereal products	147.8	149.0	+ 0.8	5.74	5.79	+0.05
Dairy produce	124.4	125.0	+ 0.5	7.40	7.44	+0.04
Preserved fruit and vegetables	118.9	118.2	- 0.6	1.67	1.66	-0.01
Potatoes and onions	272.3	220.7	-18.9	2.32	1.88	-0.44
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	153.6	157.3	+ 2.4	6.15	6.30	+0.15
Other food (except meat)	118.3	119.0	+ 0.6	3.88	3.90	+0.02
Meat	162.7	172.4	+ 6.0	18.12	19.20	+1.08
Beef	159.7	165.3	+ 3.5	7.27	7.52	+0.25
Mutton	181.3	207.7	+14.6	2.46	2.82	+0.36
Lamb	183.9	202.2	+10.0	3.51	3.86	+0.35
Pork	152.5	158.7	+ 4.1	1.17	1.22	+0.05
Processed meat (c)	144.2	147.0	+ 1.9	3.71	3.78	+0.07
<i>Food Group</i>	<i>148.5</i>	<i>151.4</i>	<i>+ 2.0</i>	<i>45.28</i>	<i>46.17</i>	<i>+0.89</i>
<b>BRISBANE</b>						
Cereal products	147.2	148.3	+ 0.7	5.59	5.63	+0.04
Dairy produce	135.1	135.3	+ 0.1	8.33	8.34	+0.01
Preserved fruit and vegetables	115.1	115.6	+ 0.4	1.84	1.85	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	300.6	237.6	-21.0	2.60	2.05	-0.55
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	145.5	149.5	+ 2.7	6.06	6.22	+0.16
Other food (except meat)	118.1	119.1	+ 0.8	4.11	4.14	+0.03
Meat	173.1	178.3	+ 3.0	21.02	21.65	+0.63
Beef	186.4	189.5	+ 1.7	10.61	10.79	+0.18
Mutton	177.7	186.9	+ 5.2	2.39	2.52	+0.13
Lamb	180.0	192.6	+ 6.6	3.50	3.73	+0.23
Pork	158.0	161.0	+ 1.9	0.87	0.89	+0.02
Processed meat (c)	137.3	140.0	+ 2.0	3.66	3.73	+0.07
<i>Food Group</i>	<i>153.9</i>	<i>154.9</i>	<i>+ 0.6</i>	<i>49.54</i>	<i>49.88</i>	<i>+0.34</i>

For footnotes see page 4.

TABLE 1. - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - continued  
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS  
JANUARY 1974 AND FEBRUARY 1974

Group and sub-Group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)			All Groups Index Points Contributed by Sub-Groups, etc to Total (b)		
	January 1974	February 1974	Percentage change since January %	January 1974	February 1974	Change in All Groups Index Points since January
<b>ADELAIDE</b>						
Cereal products	144.4	151.1	+ 4.6	5.64	5.90	+0.26
Dairy produce	123.4	124.8	+ 1.1	7.66	7.75	+0.09
Preserved fruit and vegetables	113.6	114.7	+ 1.0	1.69	1.71	+0.02
Potatoes and onions	223.4	193.8	-13.2	1.92	1.67	-0.25
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	154.9	158.3	+ 2.2	6.88	7.03	+0.15
Other food (except meat)	118.5	119.3	+ 0.7	4.01	4.04	+0.03
Meat	164.2	170.7	+ 4.0	20.05	20.85	+0.80
Beef	157.5	161.0	+ 2.2	7.88	8.05	+0.17
Mutton	193.1	199.3	+ 3.2	3.13	3.23	+0.10
Lamb	181.6	195.8	+ 7.8	4.17	4.50	+0.33
Pork	153.6	159.8	+ 4.0	1.24	1.29	+0.05
Processed meat (c)	144.1	149.7	+ 3.9	3.63	3.78	+0.15
Food Group	147.3	150.6	+ 2.2	47.86	48.94	+1.08
<b>PERTH</b>						
Cereal products	145.9	147.9	+ 1.4	5.86	5.95	+0.09
Dairy produce	127.4	128.0	+ 0.5	8.22	8.25	+0.03
Preserved fruit and vegetables	119.3	119.3	..	1.78	1.78	..
Potatoes and onions	150.7	153.1	+ 1.6	1.51	1.53	+0.02
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	156.4	159.3	+ 1.9	7.15	7.28	+0.13
Other food (except meat)	119.2	119.8	+ 0.5	4.02	4.04	+0.02
Meat	152.3	159.4	+ 4.7	17.61	18.44	+0.83
Beef	146.8	149.8	+ 2.0	6.87	7.01	+0.14
Mutton	180.8	192.6	+ 6.5	2.68	2.85	+0.17
Lamb	173.6	193.7	+11.6	3.87	4.32	+0.45
Pork	136.5	140.7	+ 3.1	1.07	1.10	+0.03
Processed meat (c)	133.7	135.0	+ 1.0	3.13	3.16	+0.03
Food Group	141.7	145.1	+ 2.4	46.15	47.27	+1.12
<b>HOBART</b>						
Cereal products	148.6	153.2	+ 3.1	6.09	6.27	+0.18
Dairy produce	123.6	123.8	+ 0.2	7.67	7.67	..
Preserved fruit and vegetables	112.4	112.7	+ 0.3	1.73	1.74	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	199.6	182.7	- 8.5	1.81	1.65	-0.16
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	146.5	151.7	+ 3.5	5.60	5.79	+0.19
Other food (except meat)	118.5	118.8	+ 0.3	4.11	4.12	+0.01
Meat	153.3	156.1	+ 1.8	18.48	18.82	+0.34
Beef	168.1	170.2	+ 1.2	7.14	7.23	+0.09
Mutton	162.9	159.8	- 1.9	2.01	1.97	-0.04
Lamb	149.5	160.3	+ 7.2	3.86	4.14	+0.28
Pork	148.4	149.5	+ 0.7	1.82	1.83	+0.01
Processed meat (c)	133.2	133.0	- 0.2	3.64	3.64	..
Food Group	141.8	143.6	+ 1.3	45.47	46.07	+0.60
<b>CANBERRA</b>						
Cereal products	147.1	147.5	+ 0.3	5.86	5.88	+0.02
Dairy produce	118.7	118.8	+ 0.1	7.58	7.58	..
Preserved fruit and vegetables	108.0	108.4	+ 0.4	1.68	1.69	+0.01
Potatoes and onions	296.4	277.4	- 6.4	2.61	2.44	-0.17
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	152.8	155.9	+ 2.0	6.20	6.33	+0.13
Other food (except meat)	115.4	115.7	+ 0.3	3.83	3.84	+0.01
Meat	171.5	176.7	+ 3.0	19.85	20.46	+0.61
Beef	168.5	173.9	+ 3.2	7.85	8.10	+0.25
Mutton (d)	213.5	214.7	+ 0.6	3.34	3.36	+0.02
Lamb	182.6	196.2	+ 7.4	4.03	4.33	+0.30
Pork	170.1	173.4	+ 1.9	1.33	1.36	+0.03
Processed meat (c)	136.5	137.1	+ 0.4	3.31	3.32	+0.01
Food Group	149.9	151.8	+ 1.3	47.62	48.22	+0.60

For footnotes see page 4.

TABLE 2.  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
PARTICULARS FOR FOOD GROUP - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND CANBERRA  
(BASE OF INDEX FOR EACH CITY AND FOR SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED: YEAR 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Six Capitals (e)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
1971 -								
March	112.6	113.3	112.2	114.3	109.2	113.6	109.4	110.5
April	113.7	114.5	112.8	116.4	110.8	114.7	110.0	111.4
May	114.7	115.3	114.1	117.0	112.3	115.2	110.6	112.6
June	114.7	115.5	114.1	116.9	111.4	115.0	109.9	113.2
July	114.5	115.2	114.2	117.1	111.6	114.2	109.8	113.1
August	115.8	116.7	115.5	117.7	112.9	114.7	111.6	114.7
September	116.6	117.7	115.9	119.4	113.7	114.8	112.6	115.4
October	116.7	117.8	116.3	118.9	113.1	115.5	113.3	115.2
November	116.5	117.5	116.6	117.6	113.3	115.1	113.4	114.9
December	116.8	117.8	116.7	118.4	113.2	115.9	112.3	114.4
1972 -								
January	117.5	118.2	117.7	119.6	113.7	116.6	113.0	114.5
February	117.6	118.2	117.4	119.7	114.7	116.9	113.8	115.6
March	117.5	117.6	117.6	119.7	115.1	117.5	113.6	114.8
April	117.2	117.1	117.7	119.7	114.0	117.6	113.4	114.3
May	117.5	118.0	117.6	119.7	113.8	118.3	114.1	115.7
June	117.7	117.9	117.8	119.6	114.3	119.6	114.4	115.7
July	118.9	119.5	118.6	119.8	116.4	120.2	115.1	116.2
August	120.2	120.9	120.1	120.5	117.3	121.8	115.9	118.5
September	121.1	122.1	120.7	121.4	118.7	121.4	116.6	119.5
October	121.6	122.8	120.8	122.9	119.0	121.1	117.6	120.0
November	121.7	122.6	121.3	124.3	119.0	120.3	117.9	119.7
December	121.4	122.1	121.2	124.1	118.0	120.3	118.3	119.9
1973 -								
January	122.2	122.6	121.5	125.7	119.8	122.4	118.4	120.5
February	127.9	129.3	127.8	130.1	125.0	124.6	122.3	127.8
March	130.6	130.8	132.5	131.7	126.9	127.5	123.6	128.7
April	132.8	132.6	134.6	135.1	129.7	128.8	124.4	131.2
May	133.8	133.6	134.9	136.4	132.2	131.7	124.6	132.1
June	135.3	134.5	136.5	137.3	134.4	134.1	125.6	132.5
July	137.6	138.3	137.6	140.4	136.5	134.4	128.0	136.5
August	141.5	142.5	141.4	145.4	140.5	134.8	132.0	139.9
September	145.1	146.9	144.4	148.3	145.0	136.2	135.8	144.0
October	145.9	148.7	144.7	149.3	144.8	137.1	136.3	144.5
November	147.1	150.1	146.2	149.8	145.0	136.3	141.6	145.9
December	147.9	151.1	146.7	150.9	145.5	137.7	141.2	147.6
1974 -								
January	150.2	153.5	148.5	153.9	147.3	141.7	141.8	149.9
February	152.1	154.0	151.4	154.9	150.6	145.1	143.6	151.8
POINTS CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX								
October 1973	45.72	46.38	44.11	48.07	47.04	44.66	43.71	45.93
November 1973	46.08	46.83	44.58	48.22	47.12	44.38	45.40	46.35
December 1973	46.33	47.13	44.73	48.58	47.28	44.86	45.29	46.90
December quarter 1973(f)	46.04	46.78	44.47	48.29	47.15	44.63	44.80	46.39
January 1974	47.05	47.88	45.28	49.54	47.86	46.15	45.47	47.62
February 1974	47.63	48.03	46.17	49.88	48.94	47.27	46.07	48.22

(a) Figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted to avoid the distortions that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in this table are due to rounding. For similar reasons monthly movements shown by sub-group or group index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with those shown by the relevant index points. (c) Includes poultry as from December quarter 1968. (d) Figures incorporate imputation of Sydney mutton price movements since March 1973. (e) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (f) Average of three months.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Sims on 63 9111 extension 2054 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.