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PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1983

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics—contact Joan Goldberg on Canberra (062) 52 5541 or any of our State offices.*
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- MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.*

EXPLANATORY NOTES

NOTE: The *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment*, previously contained in Table 2 of this publication have been omitted from this issue. Serious deficiencies have been detected in the samples of prices used to compile those indexes. Urgent action is being taken to overcome these sample deficiencies and publication of the index numbers, incorporating revisions to previous periods as necessary, will be resumed as soon as possible.

Introduction

The *Price Indexes of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* relate to important metallic materials used in the Fabricated Metal Products Subdivision of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) Subdivision 31). A detailed description of these indexes is contained in *Labour Report No. 57, 1972*.

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

3. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

Items and weights

4. The indexes are fixed weights indexes.

5. The items included in the *Price Indexes of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* are important metallic materials whose prices are combined in accordance with a weighting pattern representing the value of usage as reported in the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, for establishments classified to ASIC Subdivision 31.

Prices

6. Most of the prices used in this index relate to the mid-point of the month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers of the basic materials to the manufacturers of fabricated metal products. Price series relate to goods of fixed specifications with the aim of incorporating in the index, price changes for representative materials of constant quality.

Interpretation of the indexes

7. 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 reflect irregular fluctuations in metal prices.

Related publications

8. Users may also wish to refer to the following price index 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

9. 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

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TABLE 1. PRICE INDEXES 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)

	<i>Iron and steel</i>	<i>Aluminium</i>	<i>Copper and brass</i>	<i>Zinc</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>All groups</i>	<i>All groups excluding silver</i>
<i>Value weight (%Ka)</i>	83.2%	8.9%	5.7%	0.5%	1.7%	100.0%	
1980-81	336.0	281.5	209.9	332.4	719.7	330.4	323.7
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
1982-83—							
November	407.7	313.2	227.0	397.8	580.9	391.9	388.6
December	411.3	313.2	223.8	397.8	607.7	395.2	391.4
January	411.9	313.2	225.7	394.2	694.8	397.2	392.0
February	411.9	313.0	230.8	396.4	810.9	399.5	392.3
March	412.3	313.0	239.0	402.2	676.1	398.0	393.2
April	412.3	315.9	246.6	417.4	745.3	400.0	393.9
May	419.9	317.7	257.6	421.5	816.4	408.3	401.2
June	422.6	330.0	256.4	423.0	754.7	410.5	404.5
1983-84—							
July	423.3	334.3	256.8	435.9	766.4	411.8	405.6
August	430.4	335.3	255.4	443.1	765.5	417.7	411.7
September	432.7	348.3	248.2	453.2	754.9	420.3	414.4
October	435.6	360.5	235.7	455.3	612.3	420.6	417.3
November	436.2	362.3	229.8	468.3	534.3	419.7	417.7
December p	438.7	361.0	233.7	476.8	573.2	422.6	419.9
Percentage change between—							
December 1982 and December 1983	+6.7	+15.3	+4.4	+19.9	-5.7	+6.9	+7.3
November 1983 and December 1983	+0.6	-0.4	+1.7	+1.8	+7.3	+0.7	+0.5

(a) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraph 5 of Explanatory notes.