



Reference No. 9.9

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES

PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING
MARCH 1974



This bulletin contains index numbers of the Price Index of Materials used in House Building (base : Year 1966-67 = 100.0). A detailed description of the index is contained in Labour Report No. 57, 1972 (pp. 59-71). A Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building is published in a separate bulletin (Reference No. 9.6).

2. Index numbers for the current month and the previous month are preliminary and subject to revision.
3. The index measures changes in prices of selected materials used in the construction of houses. Its composition is in accordance with the usage of materials in actual houses which were selected as representative for the purpose. The index does not purport to represent buildings of any kind other than houses. The house building construction types included are those which use brick, brick veneer, timber or asbestos cement sheeting as the principal material for the outer walls.
4. The index is a fixed weights index and is calculated by the method known as "the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives". The items and weights used in the index were derived from reported values of each material used in selected representative houses constructed in or about 1968-69 in each State capital city. Each State capital city has an individual weighting pattern which reflects the difference in the estimated relative importance of given items as between cities. In all cases the selection of materials was based on local usage. The weighting pattern for each capital city is applied to local price measures in calculating indexes for that city.
5. Price series used relate to specified standards of each commodity with the aim of incorporating in the index price changes for representative materials of constant quality. In general the point of pricing is "delivered on site", but in some cases it has been necessary to use the nearest realistic price available, e.g. that for "supplied and fixed". The price series are obtained in all State capital cities from representative suppliers of materials used in house building. In the main they are collected as at the mid-point of the month to which the index refers, or as near thereto as practicable. As far as possible, actual transaction prices are used in the index as distinct from "list" prices. Thus measures of special or other discounts are sought where these are believed to be significant. To the extent that they can be determined, significant changes in special discounts are incorporated in the index but this may sometimes be on a partly estimated basis, and may sometimes necessitate revisions.
6. The index has been compiled for each month from July 1966, and for the financial years from 1966-67. Index numbers for each State capital city and for the weighted average of the six capitals are given for each group of items and for all groups combined in Tables 3 and 4.
7. The separate city indexes measure price movements within each capital city individually. They enable comparisons to be drawn between capitals as to differences in degree of price movement from period to period, but not as to differences in price level.
8. In interpreting movements in the index, particularly those from month to month, it should be noted that changes frequently occur in an uneven fashion both over time and also, between separate capital cities, at the same points of time. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.
9. Table 1 below shows, for the six State capital cities separately and combined, the percentage change for the all groups index number for the month of March 1974 from the preceding month (February 1974) and the percentage change for the month of March 1974 from the corresponding month of the previous year (March 1973).

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, ALL GROUPS

Percentage change between -		Percentage change from previous periods						Weighted average six State capital cities
		State capital cities						
		Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
February 1974	and March 1974	+0.3	+1.2	+0.6	+1.5	+1.9	+0.3	+0.9
March 1973	and March 1974	+14.7	+16.8	+12.8	+16.6	+12.2	+10.0	+14.8

10. Table 2 shows corresponding changes for the individual groups and all groups of the index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities.

TABLE 2. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING GROUPS AND ALL GROUPS - WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES

Percentage change between -		Percentage change from previous periods	
		February 1974 and March 1974	March 1973 and March 1974
Group			
Concrete mix, cement and sand		+1.5	+ 8.1
Cement products		+0.9	+ 9.5
Bricks, tiles, etc.		+1.7	+14.0
Timber, board and joinery		+0.8	+22.0
Steel products		+1.3	+11.6
Other metal products		+0.6	+14.9
Plumbing fixtures, etc.		+0.5	+ 7.9
Electrical installation materials		+0.4	+16.5
Installed appliances		+0.5	+ 8.5
Plaster and plaster products		+2.6	+ 4.0
Miscellaneous materials		+0.3	+ 6.5
All groups		+0.9	+14.8

TABLE 3. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS - SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES (Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	State capital cities						Weighted average of six State capital cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
1970-71	119.8	112.3	115.2	116.7	113.9	114.3	115.7
1971-72	126.1	118.9	124.8	124.8	121.1	120.7	122.7
1972-73	135.6	126.5	133.8	134.8	126.9	130.8	131.1
1972-73							
February	136.2	127.5	132.7				
March	139.3	128.3	136.4	136.6	126.6	133.2	131.6
April	141.2	129.7	137.4	137.7	128.9	133.8	133.7
May	141.7	131.6	137.9	138.7	129.9	134.3	135.1
June	144.7	134.9	139.3	140.8	130.4	134.5	136.2
1973-74				141.9	132.7	136.0	138.8
July	146.7	137.6	143.4	145.9	133.8	137.8	141.3
August	149.2	138.9	145.0	147.8	135.4	138.9	143.1
September	152.3	140.2	146.0	149.4	136.5	139.6	144.9
October	154.6	140.2	147.2	149.5	137.3	139.7	145.9
November	155.2	141.8	147.8	150.9	138.5	140.4	146.9
December	157.0	145.0	150.1	155.2	139.7	144.4	149.4
January	158.6	146.2	152.3	156.8	140.5	145.5	150.8
February p	159.3	148.2	153.0	158.1	141.9	146.7	152.1
March p	159.8	149.9	153.9	160.5	144.6	147.2	153.5

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number.

p - preliminary, subject to revision. r - revised.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
SYDNEY												
1970-71	119.3	121.7	117.5	126.7	116.9	115.4	117.0	114.7	107.0	108.3	112.4	119.8
1971-72	125.1	135.1	119.7	131.8	131.0	119.5	127.3	120.3	114.8	118.6	116.7	126.1
1972-73	134.2	145.4	123.3	146.4	141.1	128.5	131.3	126.1	114.0	120.6	126.6	135.6
1972-73												
February	138.6	149.8	123.9	147.0	139.3	127.2	130.8	124.1	113.2	120.8	126.8	136.2
March	144.5	149.7	123.9	152.4	142.8	132.4	131.7	124.1	113.2	120.8	129.2	139.3
April	143.6	149.8	124.8	155.8	145.5	132.2	131.6	124.1	113.2	120.8	129.7	141.2
May	143.6	150.7	124.8	156.4	146.0	136.0	132.4	132.6	113.2	120.8	131.8	141.7
June	143.7	151.0	125.8	162.8	146.6	137.8	136.3	132.6	113.2	120.8	132.2	144.7
1973-74												
July	144.7	151.6	128.5	165.2	148.2	140.6	138.1	135.6	117.4	120.9	132.4	146.7
August	144.3	152.6	129.3	169.0	150.9	146.1	142.4	142.9	118.4	121.1	132.9	149.2
September	144.5	152.5	129.3	177.2	151.1	145.2	142.4	140.2	118.4	121.1	132.9	152.3
October	144.9	152.6	139.2	179.4	150.8	145.2	142.6	139.4	119.1	121.5	133.4	154.6
November	144.5	152.6	139.2	180.2	152.8	145.3	142.6	142.0	119.6	121.5	134.2	155.2
December	145.4	152.7	144.4	182.3	153.8	146.2	142.6	144.5	120.0	121.5	134.6	157.0
January	149.1	153.7	145.4	184.4	155.7	147.6	142.6	142.8	124.0	122.6	135.1	158.6
February p	151.0	153.7	146.6	185.0	156.3	148.4	142.9	144.5	124.0	122.7	135.2	159.3
March p	151.7	154.4	146.8	185.2	157.4	148.4	144.1	145.0	124.6	126.5	135.9	159.8
MELBOURNE												
1970-71	110.4	129.9	115.7	109.2	113.9	114.0	110.9	114.7	102.7	111.6	111.4	112.3
1971-72	122.0	138.2	123.5	114.5	126.4	119.4	120.5	119.6	104.3	119.2	116.5	118.9
1972-73	127.2	141.5	132.0	125.3	135.3	124.8	131.2	125.3	106.8	120.4	124.7	126.5
1972-73												
February	127.2	141.3	132.4	127.5	135.1	123.2	130.2	123.4	107.1	120.5	127.9	127.5
March	127.4	142.5	134.0	128.1	138.2	125.3	134.4	123.4	107.1	120.5	125.6	128.3
April	127.8	142.9	134.3	130.5	138.8	127.8	134.4	130.4	107.1	120.5	127.1	129.7
May	127.7	142.9	142.9	132.5	140.5	127.4	135.0	131.4	107.1	120.5	128.9	131.6
June	127.8	142.8	143.3	139.7	141.6	132.6	137.8	131.4	107.5	120.5	129.4	134.9
1973-74												
July	128.1	151.2	145.2	141.9	143.9	138.9	140.9	134.8	107.8	120.7	131.9	137.6
August	128.7	153.3	146.8	142.0	147.7	143.5	141.9	142.4	110.3	120.8	133.0	138.9
September	129.5	153.4	146.8	145.6	147.5	141.6	142.7	140.4	110.5	120.8	133.2	140.2
October	128.9	153.4	146.8	145.6	148.3	141.8	142.7	140.3	110.5	120.8	133.2	140.2
November	128.9	153.4	146.8	148.8	149.3	143.4	143.6	142.1	111.8	120.8	133.9	141.8
December	130.0	153.4	148.1	155.8	150.5	146.3	143.6	143.2	112.6	121.1	134.2	145.0
January	130.8	155.2	148.1	158.3	151.8	145.7	143.6	140.7	113.1	121.1	134.3	146.2
February p	134.1	160.8	148.1	161.6	152.0	145.2	143.6	143.2	114.1	121.1	135.5	148.2
March p	136.5	162.5	148.1	164.0	155.5	147.6	143.6	143.2	114.3	124.2	135.2	149.9

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
BRISBANE												
1970-71	113.1	114.5	121.3	123.8	112.4	98.6	114.5	115.7	100.3	106.8	106.6	115.2
1971-72	118.9	127.0	131.1	135.6	123.9	110.6	122.8	121.4	98.6	111.8	111.7	124.8
1972-73	116.5	141.7	137.8	150.2	133.0	115.8	129.0	127.2	94.2	112.7	116.0	133.8
1972-73												
February	117.1	142.5	137.3	147.8	133.3	114.4	128.3	125.9	94.5	112.5	114.7	132.7
March	117.1	143.0	137.3	155.6	135.3	118.7	129.4	125.9	94.5	112.8	118.0	136.4
April	117.1	144.7	140.5	156.1	137.6	119.0	129.4	133.5	94.5	112.8	118.0	137.4
May	123.3	144.7	141.6	156.1	137.6	119.6	130.1	133.5	95.1	113.0	118.0	137.9
June	126.7	152.3	142.2	156.6	138.6	120.0	133.4	133.5	96.0	112.3	118.1	139.3
1973-74												
July	126.3	152.4	142.8	166.2	140.4	123.5	135.5	136.3	97.7	112.3	118.5	143.4
August	123.8	152.8	142.8	167.5	143.4	128.7	139.5	143.5	102.0	113.6	119.3	145.0
September	124.6	152.7	147.7	167.8	143.8	133.3	139.5	141.7	102.0	113.6	119.3	146.0
October	134.0	152.9	150.4	168.2	144.7	134.9	141.2	139.7	102.8	113.5	119.6	147.2
November	136.0	153.0	152.1	168.5	144.9	134.7	141.2	142.7	104.4	113.5	120.9	147.8
December	136.2	153.6	155.7	172.5	148.5	135.2	140.8	143.3	106.3	113.7	122.1	150.1
January	138.6	154.0	157.1	177.5	149.2	135.3	141.2	142.0	106.5	113.7	122.3	152.3
February p	139.5	154.4	157.7	178.6	149.7	136.2	141.3	144.1	107.6	113.4	122.4	153.0
March p	139.8	155.6	158.1	179.1	151.4	136.5	143.4	144.1	110.7	116.1	122.6	153.9
ADELAIDE												
1970-71	110.0	120.3	121.1	119.9	116.4	111.8	117.5	114.7	105.9	104.8	113.8	116.7
1971-72	119.1	127.9	128.6	127.5	128.9	122.3	127.7	118.8	110.2	115.1	119.6	124.8
1972-73	127.5	135.0	137.5	142.3	136.2	128.8	135.4	124.4	112.3	118.9	129.1	134.8
1972-73												
February	129.0	135.3	138.6	146.5	135.3	126.9	133.9	122.5	112.4	118.9	132.5	136.6
March	129.0	135.3	139.2	147.7	138.2	131.6	137.8	122.5	112.1	118.9	132.5	137.7
April	129.0	135.9	139.2	148.9	140.1	135.2	137.6	129.3	112.8	118.9	132.5	138.7
May	129.0	135.9	139.2	154.3	140.2	135.2	137.8	130.3	114.3	119.0	133.1	140.8
June	129.3	136.3	139.6	156.4	140.8	136.5	141.0	130.3	114.3	119.6	133.8	141.9
1973-74												
July	129.8	150.3	139.9	161.7	142.7	143.7	144.1	133.9	117.6	119.6	134.1	145.9
August	129.8	151.0	139.9	164.5	146.3	148.0	144.2	142.1	118.2	119.6	137.0	147.8
September	130.1	151.0	139.9	169.4	146.0	146.4	144.2	136.8	119.4	119.6	136.8	149.4
October	130.2	151.0	139.9	169.6	146.2	146.4	144.4	138.7	119.6	119.6	136.8	149.5
November	130.2	151.0	139.9	173.2	148.3	145.4	144.4	141.1	119.7	119.6	136.9	150.9
December	131.4	151.0	143.4	181.8	151.4	148.1	144.5	142.2	120.2	121.5	138.0	155.2
January	132.5	153.6	144.7	183.1	151.9	147.0	144.7	140.6	119.6	124.2	146.7	156.8
February p	133.4	154.2	146.1	184.0	153.5	149.6	147.5	142.2	120.7	128.4	147.0	158.1
March p	134.5	155.1	146.1	189.3	154.7	149.9	148.4	142.2	120.8	132.5	147.7	160.5

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joiners	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
PERTH												
1970-71	110.6	113.8	118.5	115.5	115.5	115.4	109.0	115.5	102.8	109.8	110.2	113.9
1971-72	117.2	121.9	129.5	121.3	128.8	119.7	114.6	120.7	107.5	110.6	117.7	121.1
1972-73	121.7	127.7	135.1	126.9	136.6	124.8	121.9	128.1	110.7	113.1	126.7	126.9
1972-73												
February	123.7	127.2	137.4	124.5	135.4	123.5	122.2	127.6	110.6	113.3	127.8	126.6
March	123.7	127.7	138.8	129.5	139.0	126.0	123.3	127.6	110.6	113.3	128.8	128.9
April	123.7	130.4	138.8	130.7	139.2	128.4	123.3	137.1	110.8	113.3	129.3	129.9
May	123.7	130.4	138.9	131.4	139.5	130.2	123.3	137.1	110.6	114.4	130.5	130.4
June	123.7	130.4	139.7	137.2	140.5	132.0	125.5	137.1	110.6	114.6	131.1	132.7
1973-74												
July	123.6	130.4	139.7	139.6	141.5	135.8	125.6	137.9	111.6	115.0	131.7	133.8
August	123.6	130.8	141.9	140.0	143.7	142.2	127.4	148.4	112.1	115.0	132.7	135.4
September	123.6	130.8	147.5	141.2	143.7	141.2	127.6	145.0	112.9	115.0	132.3	136.5
October	123.6	136.2	147.7	141.2	145.1	141.1	128.0	146.3	115.2	115.0	133.0	137.3
November	123.6	136.3	147.7	144.0	149.1	143.1	128.4	147.4	115.2	115.0	133.0	138.5
December	123.6	136.3	147.7	146.2	151.0	145.4	128.6	147.4	115.2	115.0	134.9	139.7
January	126.0	139.0	148.3	r147.3	152.6	144.8	128.6	145.9	115.3	115.3	134.9	r140.5
February p	132.0	r139.6	r148.6	r148.1	153.9	r146.5	129.7	147.9	116.4	115.3	136.9	r141.9
March p	137.3	141.6	160.7	148.1	154.7	146.5	129.7	150.4	116.4	115.6	137.7	144.6
HOBART												
1970-71	116.0	114.6	120.6	113.9	116.5	113.7	123.8	115.9	102.5	108.1	115.5	114.3
1971-72	123.6	124.2	123.8	120.3	129.2	117.1	132.8	120.9	105.8	113.5	123.3	120.7
1972-73	130.7	137.2	140.2	134.6	135.9	118.1	136.8	126.0	107.6	114.2	132.5	130.8
1972-73												
February	130.8	137.3	147.2	139.0	134.9	117.5	136.6	124.5	107.1	114.2	135.7	133.2
March	130.8	137.3	147.2	139.9	136.6	118.2	137.2	124.5	107.9	114.2	135.7	133.8
April	130.8	137.3	147.2	140.1	138.8	120.5	137.3	130.1	108.4	114.2	135.6	134.3
May	130.7	137.4	147.2	140.2	140.6	120.5	137.4	131.3	108.4	114.2	135.7	134.5
June	138.8	137.4	149.9	141.6	141.5	121.2	138.0	131.3	108.4	114.5	135.7	136.0
1973-74												
July	139.4	143.8	155.2	141.7	142.2	126.3	140.1	134.8	109.3	114.4	137.1	137.8
August	139.4	145.7	155.3	142.4	144.5	126.5	142.5	143.9	111.7	115.2	137.4	138.9
September	139.4	145.7	155.5	143.5	144.6	127.0	142.5	142.7	113.4	115.2	139.3	139.6
October	139.4	145.7	155.5	143.5	146.3	126.9	142.5	142.7	113.4	115.2	139.7	139.7
November	139.4	145.7	155.5	144.9	146.2	127.4	142.5	143.8	114.9	115.2	139.9	140.4
December	139.4	145.7	157.4	154.2	146.3	128.1	142.5	145.0	114.9	119.4	140.0	144.4
January	139.4	145.7	158.6	156.5	148.4	127.5	142.5	144.4	115.0	119.4	140.0	145.5
February p	139.8	145.7	159.3	157.9	150.2	r130.1	143.5	144.9	115.3	119.4	142.6	r146.7
March p	139.7	146.0	159.3	157.9	153.8	130.1	143.5	146.4	115.3	124.1	142.6	147.2

For footnote and symbols see end of table.

TABLE 4. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS - continued
(Base of each Index : Year 1966-67 = 100.0) (a)

Period	Concrete mix, cement and sand	Cement products	Clay bricks, tiles, etc.	Timber, board and joinery	Steel products	Other metal products	Plumbing fixtures, etc.	Electrical installation materials	Installed appliances	Plaster and plaster products	Miscellaneous materials	All groups
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES												
1970-71	113.4	121.8	118.0	118.5	115.0	112.4	113.6	115.0	103.8	109.4	111.0	115.7
1971-72	121.2	132.0	124.5	124.8	127.9	118.5	122.6	120.2	107.4	116.9	116.4	122.7
1972-73	127.0	139.9	130.7	137.0	136.8	124.9	129.6	126.2	108.3	118.7	124.9	131.1
1972-73												
February	128.9	141.1	131.6	137.8	136.0	123.5	129.0	124.6	108.3	118.7	126.2	131.6
March	130.7	141.7	132.4	141.5	139.0	127.1	131.1	124.6	108.3	118.8	126.9	133.7
April	130.5	142.5	133.1	143.7	140.6	129.5	131.2	132.2	108.4	118.8	127.6	135.1
May	131.2	142.8	135.3	145.0	141.3	130.0	131.6	132.9	108.5	118.9	129.0	136.2
June	131.8	144.1	136.1	150.5	142.2	132.5	134.7	132.9	108.8	118.9	129.4	138.8
1973-74												
July	132.2	148.0	137.6	153.9	143.9	136.9	136.6	135.7	110.6	119.0	130.4	141.3
August	132.0	149.2	138.8	155.6	147.0	142.1	139.2	143.7	112.5	119.3	131.4	143.1
September	132.3	149.2	140.3	160.1	147.0	141.6	139.4	141.1	112.8	119.3	131.4	144.9
October	133.3	150.1	144.1	160.9	147.6	141.9	139.8	140.9	113.3	119.4	131.7	145.9
November	133.4	150.1	144.2	162.9	149.3	142.6	140.1	143.0	114.2	119.4	132.3	146.9
December	134.1	150.3	147.1	167.5	151.1	144.4	140.1	144.3	114.9	119.7	133.2	149.4
January	136.3	151.8	147.8	169.8	152.5	144.4	140.2	142.4	116.2	120.3	134.0	150.8
February p	139.2	153.8	148.5	171.4	153.2	145.2	140.7	144.5	116.9	120.5	134.8	152.1
March p	141.3	155.1	151.0	172.7	155.1	146.0	141.4	145.1	117.5	123.6	135.2	153.5

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number.

p - preliminary, subject to revision. r - revised.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

J. G. MILLER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. Collins on 63 9111 extension 2053 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.