

Reference No. 9.11

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX NUMBERS, DECEMBER 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. 57, 1972* (Reference No. 6.7).

2. In accordance with established practice the sixth link in the Consumer Price Index series was effected as at December quarter 1973. A description of this link was contained in the appendix to the bulletin (Reference No. 9.1) for March quarter 1974. Because links are effected as at the whole of a quarterly period, there will be some distortion in comparisons of the food group and sub-group index numbers for October, November and December 1973 with those for subsequent months. Such distortions do not however apply in comparisons of December quarter 1973 index numbers with those for subsequent months.

3. Compared with the previous month, the Food Group index decreased by 0.4% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. Changes in individual cities were : Sydney -0.2%, Melbourne -0.7%, Brisbane -0.9%, Adelaide -0.8%, Perth +1.3%, Hobart -0.5%, Canberra -1.6%.

4. 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	Per cent
1973-74								
December	+0.5	+0.7	+0.3	+0.7	+0.3	+1.0	-0.3	+1.2
January	+1.7	+1.6	+1.6	+2.1	+1.2	+3.0	+1.3	+1.6
February	+1.1	+0.5	+1.2	+0.6	+2.2	+2.3	+1.2	+1.3
March	+1.0	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4	+0.7	+1.4	+0.2	+0.4
April	+1.1	+0.8	+1.6	+0.1	+2.0	+0.4	+1.7	+1.0
May	+1.9	+1.7	+1.9	+1.9	+3.1	+1.3	+1.5	+1.9
June	+0.8	+1.1	+0.7	+0.4	+0.3	+1.1	+1.7	+1.1
1974-75								
July	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.7	-1.1	+0.3	-0.3
August	+2.8	+3.3	+2.7	+3.4	+1.3	+1.7	+1.6	+1.8
September	+0.6	+0.7	+0.1	+1.1	+0.6	+1.3	+1.7	+0.6
October	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2	-1.8	+0.7	+0.3	+1.0	-0.7
November	-1.6	-1.4	-2.1	-2.8	-1.0	+0.5	-1.0	-2.0
December	-0.4	-0.2	-0.7	-0.9	-0.8	+1.3	-0.5	-1.6

(a) Weighted average of six State capital cities.

5. The decrease this month in the index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities occurred mainly as a result of further large decreases in potato prices (with a smaller decrease in Perth) and further decreases in most cities in meat prices being such as to more than offset increases in most cities in the cereal products, dairy produce, and soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery sub-groups. The index incorporates the effect of some price cutting for a range of items including eggs, sugar, frozen chicken and bread. For individual items the main price rises included: butter (in all cities except Sydney), powdered milk (in all cities except Canberra), bread (in Melbourne, Brisbane, and Hobart), and milk in Sydney.

6. Between December 1973 and December 1974 the Food Group index for the weighted average of the six State capital cities increased by 8.4%. Increases in individual cities during this twelve month period were : Sydney 8.2%, Melbourne 7.5%, Brisbane 5.3%, Adelaide 9.8%, Perth 14.6%, Hobart 11.1%, Canberra 5.3%.

7. As at December quarter 1973 the Food Group contributed 28.326 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.

8. 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 aggregative 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.

9. 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.

10. 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
NOVEMBER 1974 AND DECEMBER 1974

Contribution of Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (b) expressed
as All Groups Index Points (quarterly basis)

NOTE: These figures are on the basis of the current series
excluding the item radio and television licences and
are therefore not comparable with index
points contributions previously published. For further
details see December quarter issue of Reference No. 9.1

Group and sub-group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index: Year 1966-67=100.0)(a)			Percentage change since November			Change in All Group Index Points since November	
	November 1974	December 1974		November 1974	December 1974			
WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES								
Cereal products	181.9	185.0	+1.7	5.38	5.48		+0.10	
Dairy produce	147.2	152.1	+3.3	7.79	8.05		+0.26	
Preserved fruit and vegetables	138.8	139.1	+0.2	2.04	2.04		..	
Potatoes and onions	251.2	196.2	-21.9	2.02	1.57		-0.45	
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	184.4	185.9	+0.8	6.92	6.98		+0.06	
Meat	154.5	152.7	-1.2	15.04	14.87		-0.17	
Beef	139.0	137.7	-0.9	5.37	5.32		-0.05	
Mutton	160.0	153.0	-4.4	0.58	0.55		-0.03	
Lamb	148.3	146.4	-1.3	2.67	2.64		-0.03	
Pork	172.4	176.0	+2.1	1.48	1.51		+0.03	
Processed meat (c)	152.7	150.0	-1.8	4.95	4.86		-0.09	
Snacks, take away food (d)	(119.5)	(120.3)	+0.8	1.58	1.59		+0.01	
Other food	138.1	138.8	+0.5	4.21	4.23		+0.02	
Food Group	160.9	160.3	-0.4	44.98	44.82		-0.16	
SYDNEY								
Cereal products	188.9	189.5	+0.3	5.79	5.80		+0.01	
Dairy produce	145.9	155.9	+6.9	8.07	8.62		+0.55	
Preserved fruit and vegetables	133.1	133.0	-0.1	1.97	1.97		..	
Potatoes and onions	233.7	185.9	-20.5	1.84	1.46		-0.38	
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	185.4	186.2	+0.4	6.94	6.97		+0.03	
Meat	164.3	160.8	-2.1	15.53	15.21		-0.32	
Beef	150.5	148.5	-1.3	5.71	5.63		-0.08	
Mutton	169.7	163.1	-3.9	0.60	0.57		-0.03	
Lamb	164.2	157.7	-4.0	2.82	2.71		-0.11	
Pork	168.1	172.8	+2.8	1.46	1.50		+0.04	
Processed meat (c)	153.8	149.0	-3.1	4.95	4.79		-0.16	
Snacks, take away food (d)	(115.1)	(117.1)	+1.7	1.52	1.55		+0.03	
Other food	137.8	137.7	-0.1	4.17	4.16		-0.01	
Food Group	163.8	163.5	-0.2	45.52	45.74		-0.08	
MELBOURNE								
Cereal products	175.5	183.0	+4.3	5.27	5.50		+0.23	
Dairy produce	146.9	149.1	+1.5	7.35	7.45		+0.10	
Preserved fruit and vegetables	144.6	143.9	-0.5	1.99	1.98		-0.01	
Potatoes and onions	281.8	209.7	-25.6	2.23	1.66		-0.57	
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	185.5	188.5	+1.6	6.77	6.88		+0.11	
Meat	146.2	144.4	-1.2	14.07	13.89		-0.18	
Beef	128.7	127.8	-0.7	4.95	4.91		-0.04	
Mutton	154.9	137.0	-11.6	0.51	0.45		-0.06	
Lamb	131.6	129.9	-1.3	2.17	2.14		-0.03	
Pork	174.0	177.3	+1.9	1.43	1.46		+0.02	
Processed meat (c)	153.3	148.8	-3.6	5.01	4.93		-0.08	
Snacks, take away food (d)	(120.1)	(121.1)	+0.8	1.55	1.56		+0.01	
Other food	138.8	139.6	+0.6	4.12	4.15		+0.03	
Food Group	158.8	157.7	-0.7	43.35	43.07		-0.28	
BRISBANE								
Cereal products	175.7	180.2	+2.6	4.80	4.92		+0.12	
Dairy produce	159.0	159.3	+0.2	8.41	8.42		+0.01	
Preserved fruit and vegetables	138.9	140.0	+0.8	2.17	2.18		+0.01	
Potatoes and onions	187.5	138.3	-26.2	1.55	1.14		-0.41	
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	174.5	174.2	-0.2	6.83	6.81		-0.02	
Meat	157.0	154.9	-1.3	16.09	15.87		-0.22	
Beef	144.7	141.3	-2.3	5.38	5.25		-0.13	
Mutton	147.7	147.7	..	0.68	0.68		..	
Lamb	152.9	150.8	-1.4	3.26	3.22		-0.04	
Pork	183.4	183.3	-0.1	1.59	1.59		..	
Processed meat (c)	146.8	145.5	-0.9	5.18	5.13		-0.05	
Snacks, take away food (d)	(124.0)	(124.0)	..	1.71	1.71		..	
Other food	136.8	138.9	+1.6	4.44	4.50		+0.06	
Food Group	160.3	158.9	-0.9	43.99	43.58		-0.41	

For footnotes see page 5.

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

Contribution of Sub-Groups, etc. to Total (b) expressed
as All Groups Index Points (quarterly basis)

NOTE. These figures are on the basis of the current series
excluding the item radio and television licences and
are therefore not comparable with index
points contributions previously published. For further
details see December quarter issue of Reference No. 9.1

Group and sub-group	Index Numbers (Base of each Index: Year 1966-67=100.0)(a)			Change in All Group Index Points since November		
	November 1974	December 1974	Percentage change since November %	November 1974	December 1974	Change in All Group Index Points since November
ADELAIDE						
Cereal products	188.5	185.9	-1.4	5.21	5.14	-0.07
Dairy products	146.6	149.3	+1.8	7.72	7.86	+0.14
Preserved fruit and vegetables	138.3	140.3	+1.4	2.13	2.16	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	287.7	217.8	-24.3	2.30	1.74	-0.56
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	186.6	186.6	..	7.17	7.17	..
Meat	150.1	150.6	+0.3	15.80	15.86	+0.06
Beef	129.8	128.9	-0.7	5.64	5.60	-0.04
Mutton	158.0	163.9	+3.7	0.65	0.67	+0.02
Lamb	134.9	138.3	+2.5	2.76	2.83	+0.07
Pork	185.5	190.6	+2.7	1.66	1.71	+0.05
Processed meat (c)	160.0	158.7	-0.8	5.09	5.05	-0.04
Snacks, take away food (d)	(126.8)	(126.8)	..	1.73	1.73	..
Other food	137.7	138.2	+0.4	4.27	4.28	+0.01
Food Group	161.1	159.8	-0.8	46.34	45.95	-0.39
PERTH						
Cereal products	175.9	176.8	+0.5	4.99	5.02	+0.03
Dairy products	139.5	141.4	+1.4	7.51	7.61	+0.10
Preserved fruit and vegetables	143.7	145.6	+1.3	2.19	2.22	+0.03
Potatoes and onions	215.1	208.0	-3.3	1.99	1.92	-0.07
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	187.8	190.8	+1.6	7.18	7.30	+0.12
Meat	146.7	150.0	+2.2	14.29	14.62	+0.33
Beef	128.4	130.2	+1.4	5.12	5.20	+0.08
Mutton	158.0	158.7	+0.4	0.58	0.59	+0.01
Lamb	159.9	169.7	+6.1	3.06	3.25	+0.19
Pork	159.8	163.3	+2.2	1.33	1.36	+0.03
Processed meat (c)	143.3	144.2	+0.6	4.19	4.22	+0.03
Snacks, take away food (d)	(119.0)	(119.1)	+0.1	1.59	1.59	..
Other food	139.8	141.7	+1.4	4.30	4.36	+0.06
Food Group	155.7	157.8	+1.3	44.05	44.64	+0.59
HOBART						
Cereal products	180.1	189.5	+5.2	5.30	5.58	+0.28
Dairy products	144.1	145.5	+1.0	7.71	7.78	+0.07
Preserved fruit and vegetables	134.7	137.4	+2.0	2.20	2.24	+0.04
Potatoes and onions	322.9	246.4	-23.7	2.81	2.14	-0.67
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	176.8	180.3	+2.0	6.81	6.95	+0.14
Meat	145.4	143.1	-1.6	15.36	15.12	-0.24
Beef	135.6	133.2	-1.8	5.38	5.29	-0.09
Mutton	127.5	117.4	-7.9	0.50	0.46	-0.04
Lamb	135.0	130.7	-3.2	2.79	2.70	-0.09
Pork	165.7	164.2	-0.9	1.49	1.48	-0.01
Processed meat (c)	151.7	151.6	-0.1	5.20	5.20	..
Snacks, take away food (d)	(127.0)	(127.7)	+0.6	1.70	1.71	+0.01
Other food	135.4	139.6	+3.1	4.49	4.62	+0.13
Food Group	157.7	156.9	-0.5	46.37	46.14	-0.23
CANBERRA						
Cereal products	176.1	175.9	-0.1	5.21	5.20	-0.01
Dairy products	135.9	135.4	-0.4	7.18	7.16	-0.02
Preserved fruit and vegetables	129.4	139.0	+7.2	1.98	1.97	-0.01
Potatoes and onions	253.7	186.2	-26.6	3.02	1.48	-0.54
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	184.1	185.7	+0.9	7.03	7.09	+0.06
Meat	155.0	152.6	-1.5	14.70	14.47	-0.23
Beef	136.7	133.9	-2.0	6.02	5.90	-0.12
Lamb	145.8	139.0	-4.7	2.72	2.59	-0.13
Pork	185.1	185.7	+0.3	1.49	1.49	..
Processed meat (c)	148.2	148.8	+0.4	4.47	4.49	+0.02
Snacks, take away food (d)	(127.7)	(128.5)	+0.6	1.58	1.59	+0.01
Other food	134.1	135.6	+1.1	4.01	4.06	+0.05
Food Group	157.9	155.4	-1.6	43.71	43.02	-0.69

For footnotes see page 5.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOOD GROUP INDEXES - 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 (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
1971 -								
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	117.4	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	120.0	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	150.4	153.4	149.0	154.3	147.2	142.0	143.0	150.1
February	152.0	154.1	150.8	155.3	150.4	145.2	144.7	152.1
March	153.5	155.4	152.5	157.4	151.4	147.3	145.0	152.7
April	155.2	156.7	154.9	157.5	154.5	147.9	147.4	154.2
May	158.1	159.3	157.8	160.5	159.3	149.8	149.6	157.1
June	159.4	161.0	158.9	161.1	159.7	151.5	152.1	158.8
July	158.6	160.4	158.2	160.8	158.6	149.9	152.6	158.4
August	163.0	165.7	162.4	166.3	160.6	152.4	155.1	161.3
September	164.0	166.8	162.6	168.1	161.6	154.4	157.7	162.3
October	163.5	166.2	162.2	165.0	162.8	154.9	159.3	161.1
November	160.9	163.8	158.8	160.3	161.1	155.7	157.7	157.9
December	160.3	163.5	157.7	158.9	159.8	157.8	156.9	155.4

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOOD GROUP : CONTRIBUTION TO ALL GROUPS INDEX (f) (g)
(in terms of All Groups Index Points)

Period	Six Capitals (c)	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Canberra
September quarter 1974	45.26	45.97	43.98	47.35	46.10	43.07	45.63	44.46
October 1974	45.71	46.49	44.29	47.34	46.82	43.83	46.86	44.59
November 1974	44.98	45.82	43.35	45.99	46.34	44.05	46.37	43.71
December 1974	44.82	45.74	43.07	45.58	45.95	44.64	46.14	43.02
December quarter 1974	45.17	46.02	43.57	46.30	46.37	44.17	46.46	43.77

(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 and sausages as from December quarter 1973 (previously included in Beef sub-group). (d) Cooked chicken, meat pies, hamburgers and sandwiches. Base December quarter 1973 = 100.0. (e) Weighted average of six State capital cities. (f) These figures are on the basis of the current linked series excluding the item radio and television licences and are therefore not comparable with index points contributions previously published. For further details see December quarter issue of Reference No. 9.1. (g) Figures contained herein for months are expressed on a quarterly basis. Figures shown for quarters are the actual quarterly amounts, which therefore correspond to the average of the three relevant months.

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