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EVENING PAPERS : MONDAY, 9TH OCTOBER, 1944.
MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 1944.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EXPORT PRICES : AUGUST, 1944.

1. The monthly price index-numbers for August, 1944, together with comparative figures for earlier periods have been issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

2. The index relates to 20 items, which constitute about 85 per cent of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver plus gold production. All export parities are calculated from actual price quotations from the most reliable and representative sources available.

THE SIMPLE AGGREGATE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS.

3. The "multipliers" used for this series for the period 1928-1936 were the average annual exports (or production, in the case of gold) during the five years 1928-29 to 1932-33. Since July, 1936, these multipliers have been recalculated on the basis of average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the five years 1928-29 to 1932-33. Since July, 1936, these multipliers have been recalculated on the basis of average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table:-

Base - Average 3 years ended June, 1939 = 1000.

Period	In terms of Australian Currency	In terms of British Currency
Average for year -		
1928-29 ..	1173	1164
1935-36 ..	946	755
1936-37 ..	1144	913
1937-38 ..	1022	816
1938-39 ..	834	666
1939-40 ..	980	782
1940-41 ..	1039	830
1941-42 ..	1059	846
1942-43 ..	1142	912
1943-44 ..	1171	935
1943-44 -		
July ..	1148	917
August ..	1157	924
September ..	1152	920
October ..	1159	925
November ..	1172	936
December ..	1175	938
January ..	1176	939
February ..	1175	938
March ..	1176	939
April ..	1178	941
May ..	1192	952
June ..	1196	955
1944-45 -		
July ..	1195	954
August ..	1195	954

THE MONTH-TO-MONTH INDEX : CHANGING WEIGHTS.

4. Australian products are not marketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and Wheat are obvious examples of commodities which are marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weight" index indicates satisfactorily the trend of the market, it does not, by itself, give an adequate indication of the significance of price movements as they actually affected current sales. This is shown much more clearly by the "Changing Weights" index given in the table below.

5. These index-numbers are designed merely for comparisons of current prices with those of the corresponding months, or periods of months of the preceding year. The simple month-to-month index-numbers are obtained by applying the "ideal formula" to prices and quantities exported in corresponding pairs of months. The index-numbers for periods of two or more months are obtained by combining the monthly aggregates in the manner described in the statement of method issued on 29th May, 1937. The full trade year corresponds to the financial year ending June. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table:-

Base - Weighted Average Price Level in Corresponding Months of the preceding year = 1000.

Year	Month stated compared with same month of preceding year	Period of trade year ending in month stated compared with same period of preceding year
1942-43 - March ..	1105	1076
April ..	1097	1079
May ..	1086	1080
June ..	1110	1083
1943-44 - July ..	1009	1009
August ..	1022	1014
September ..	1014	1014
October ..	1021	1016
November ..	1024	1017
December ..	1025	1019
January ..	1021	1019
February ..	1025	1020
March ..	1026	1021
April ..	1025	1021
May ..	1045	1023
June ..	1050	1025
1944-45 - July ..	1037	1037
August ..	1048	1042

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

CANBERRA. A.C.T. 9TH OCTOBER, 1944.