

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 6413.0

NOON 3 DECEMBER 1980

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY FOOD GROUP INDEX, DARWIN OCTOBER 1980

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Peter Petryk on Canberra (062) 52 6252 or Mr Barry Messer on Darwin (089) 80 2758, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra (062) 52 6627, or Darwin Office.

MAIN FEATURES

The Darwin Food Group Index for October 1980 increased by 0.5% from the index for September 1980.

Main price changes between September 1980 and October 1980:

Prices for fresh fruit and vegetables, meals out and take-away food increased. Beef prices decreased.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly index numbers of retail prices of food in Darwin. Index numbers are shown for the Food group and component subgroups of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Food group is the only group of the CPI for which price indexes are compiled for Darwin.

2. This publication also contains average retail prices, for September quarter 1980 and other recent quarters, for selected items of food included in the Food group index (see Table 3).

Collection of prices

3. Prices are collected as at the middle of each month, except in the case of some fresh items (fruit, vegetables and fish) where prices are collected more frequently and averaged to obtain monthly prices.

Weighting pattern

4. The Food group consists of 34 expenditure classes which are combined into seven subgroups: dairy produce; cereal products; meat and seafoods; fruit and vegetables; soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery; meals out and take-away food; and other food. Each expenditure class has its own weight, or measure of relative importance within the Food group. In calculating the index, price changes for the various expenditure classes are combined using these weights.

5. The weighting pattern of the Darwin Food group index is based on expenditures on food reported by Darwin households included in the 1975-76 Household Expenditure Survey. These weights are fixed but from time to time the index will be reviewed and new fixed weights will be introduced to reflect up-to-date expenditure patterns. The relative importance of each expenditure class, expressed in terms of percentage contributions to the total Food group in June quarter 1978, was shown in Table 5 of the first issue of this publication which was released on 12 October 1978.

Index points and percentage changes

6. Movements in indexes from one period to another can be expressed either as percentage changes or as changes in 'index points'. The difference between these two methods of describing movements in indexes is shown by the following example:

Food group: Beef and veal

(Base: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

Index numbers:	
October 1980	208.0
Less: September 1980	211.6
Change in index points	-3.6

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{-3.6}{211.6} \times 100 = -1.7\%$$

Interpretation of results

7. The index numbers measure changes in retail food prices in Darwin over time. They do not provide a basis for comparing price levels in Darwin with those in other capital cities.

8. When comparing price movements in Darwin with those published for the other capital cities (see 6402.0), it should be noted that fluctuations in fresh food prices are frequently the main cause of disparate movements in the indexes for various cities. When comparing the Darwin indexes with those for other cities, it should also be noted that the Darwin indexes have a different reference base: for Darwin the base period is June quarter 1978 = 100.0 whereas the indexes for the other capital cities have a base period of 1966-67 = 100.0. Thus comparisons of movements for Darwin with movements for other cities are best made in terms of percentage changes. Because prices of fresh food items are subject to large short term fluctuations, month-to-month price changes should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.

9. Table 2 provides a detailed analysis of recent price movements in the Food group index for Darwin. It shows index numbers and percentage changes for subgroups and other groupings within the Food group. Table 2 also shows the *contribution* which each subgroup makes to the total Food group. These are expressed in terms of *Food group index points*. For instance, in October 1980 the Dairy produce subgroup contributed 9.68 index points out of the total Food group index of 133.8. The final column indicates the contribution to the change in Food group index points by each of the subgroups and groupings. It should be noted that this is a different presentation from that used to show index points contributions for other capital cities (published in 6402.0). For the other cities these contributions relate to *All groups index points* (that is, contributions made by each subgroup to the total CPI).

10. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in Table 2 are due to rounding. For similar reasons, monthly movements shown by subgroup index numbers do not necessarily correspond exactly with the changes shown in index points.

Historical series

11. Indexes for periods extending back to February 1975 were included in the first issue of this publication which was released on 12 October 1978.

Average retail prices

12. Table 3 contains average retail prices for selected items in the Food group for September quarter 1980 and other recent quarters. The items and varieties shown do not comprise *all* of the items and varieties which are incorporated in the Food group. The average prices shown in Table 3 are quarterly averages of the monthly average prices.

13. Prices shown are the averages of prices for specified grades, qualities, brands, etc. charged by a number of selected retailers. The specified grades, etc. and the retailers have been selected as representative for the purpose of measuring price changes over time. Thus the prices do not purport to be the actual average prices for all retail sales of these items. They should be regarded as no more than approximate indicators of price levels and price changes for the items concerned.

Related publications

14. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

Consumer Price Index (6401.0)—issued quarterly
Consumer Price Index, Monthly Food Group Index, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6402.0)—issued monthly

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6403.0)—issued quarterly

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index.

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero.
- .. not applicable.

A. R. BAGNALL
 Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: FOOD GROUP: DARWIN
(Base of index: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

	Index numbers	Percentage change from previous month	Percentage change from corresponding month of previous year	Percentage change from previous year
1977-78	96.7	..	..	+10.8
1978-79	106.0	..	..	+9.6
1979-80	123.7	..	..	+16.7
1979-80—				
September	117.9	+0.4	+18.3	..
October	119.6	+1.4	+16.9	..
November	121.5	+1.6	+17.5	..
December	123.3	+1.5	+17.7	..
January	125.5	+1.8	+17.2	..
February	126.7	+1.0	+15.8	..
March	127.7	+0.8	+15.2	..
April	128.7	+0.8	+15.4	..
May	129.9	+0.9	+15.2	..
June	129.7	-0.2	+12.1	..
1980-81—				
July	129.9	+0.2	+11.4	..
August	131.2	+1.0	+11.8	..
September	133.1	+1.4	+12.9	..
October	133.8	+0.5	+11.9	..

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: FOOD GROUP AND COMPONENT SUBGROUPS: DARWIN
(Base of each index: June quarter 1978 = 100.0)

	Index numbers		Change between		Contribution to total Food group (expressed as Food group index points)		
	September 1980	October 1980	September 1980 and October 1980	October 1979 and October 1980	September 1980	October 1980	Change between September 1980 and October 1980
			%	%			
Dairy produce	125.6	124.9	-0.6	+15.5	9.74	9.68	-0.06
Cereal products	122.1	122.5	+0.3	+15.7	9.34	9.36	+0.02
Meat and seafoods	165.2	163.7	-0.9	+7.2	36.12	35.79	-0.33
Beef and veal	211.6	208.0	-1.7	+8.2	18.33	18.02	-0.31
Lamb and mutton	138.0	138.1	+0.1	+10.4	4.37	4.37	—
Pork	139.2	140.9	+1.2	+5.6	2.02	2.05	+0.03
Poultry	116.9	120.9	+3.4	+8.3	2.82	2.92	+0.10
Other meat	146.8	142.4	-3.0	+1.9	5.27	5.11	-0.16
Fish	128.2	129.0	+0.6	+6.2	3.31	3.33	+0.02
Fruit and vegetables	119.8	122.7	+2.4	+14.1	21.03	21.55	+0.52
Fresh fruit and vegetables	125.1	128.9	+3.0	+16.4	14.44	14.88	+0.44
Processed fruit and vegetables	109.6	110.8	+1.1	+9.3	6.60	6.67	+0.07
Soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery	125.6	127.7	+1.7	+17.6	15.68	15.95	+0.27
Meals out and take-away food	130.1	131.4	+1.0	+12.3	30.98	31.29	+0.31
Other food	115.0	114.9	-0.1	+7.7	10.21	10.20	-0.01
Food group	133.1	133.8	+0.5	+11.9	133.1	133.8	+0.7

TABLE 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, DARWIN
(Cents)

Item	Unit	Quarter				
		1979		1980		
		September	December	March	June	September
<i>Dairy produce—</i>						
Milk, cartoned	600 ml	27	28	29	29	33
Milk, powdered	300g can	91	93	94	99	108
Cheese, processed	250 g	64	66	68	70	73
Butter	500 g	112	114	117	119	124
<i>Cereal products—</i>						
Bread, white, sliced, supermarket sales	750 g	63	(a)66	(b)70	(b)71	(b)73
Biscuits, dry	225 g	47	48	51	52	55
Breakfast cereal, corn based	500 g	74	79	81	89	93
Flour, self-raising	1 kg	55	55	59	61	62
Rice, short grain	500 g	43	43	43	42	42
<i>Meat and seafoods—</i>						
<i>Beef—</i>						
Rib, without bone	1 kg	401	409	421	406	433
Rump steak	1 kg	646	658	687	716	664
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	608	613	636	652	647
Chuck steak	1 kg	388	414	422	440	418
Silverside, corned	1 kg	409	419	442	475	454
Sausages	1 kg	275	280	302	309	320
<i>Lamb—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	384	384	417	415	416
Loin chops	1 kg	391	399	420	430	433
Forequarter chops	1 kg	384	384	406	404	408
<i>Pork—</i>						
Leg	1 kg	490	483	518	517	513
Loin chops	1 kg	490	499	516	516	506
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	222	225	224	234	243
Bacon	250 g pkt	167	171	174	172	180
Beef, corned	340 g can	132	145	163	166	166
Salmon, pink	220 g can	105	111	117	121	121
<i>Fruit and vegetables—</i>						
Oranges	1 kg	85	92	102	103	95
Bananas	1 kg	117	109	106	103	111
Potatoes	1 kg	68	74	73	76	74
Tomatoes	1 kg	130	160	212	202	174
Carrots	1 kg	105	106	113	115	110
Onions	1 kg	100	100	99	95	101
Peaches	825 g can	81	82	81	85	88
Pineapple, pieces	450 g can	48	49	51	52	54
Peas, frozen	500 g pkt	79	75	79	78	78
<i>Confectionery—</i>						
Chocolate, milk, block	200 g	94	105	117	124	123
<i>Other food—</i>						
Eggs	55 g, 1 dozen	132	144	147	157	157
Sugar, white	2 kg	93	93	93	96	95
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	103	106	107	110	110
Tea	250 g	78	79	79	83	79
Coffee, instant	100 g jar	209	216	220	229	228
Tomato sauce	600 ml	75	77	77	78	82
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	91	92	95	102	104
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	450 g	41	43	44	46	46
Baby food	125 g can	21	21	21	23	23

(a) Average price relates to the months of October and November only; production of this loaf size was discontinued in December. (b) Price shown is for a 680 g loaf.