



PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS, AUSTRALIA JANUARY 1982

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Martin Holtsbaum on Canberra (062) 52 6248 or any of our State offices.
other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
- MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The two sets of monthly price indexes in this publication relate to important metallic materials used in selected activities of manufacturing industry. These indexes are the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* (see Table 1) and the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* (see Table 2). 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 Index 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 the Fabricated Metal Products Subdivision of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification—Subdivision 31).

6. The items and weights used in the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* were based on information, provided by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia and the Australian Electrical Manufacturers' Association, about the relative importance of various materials used in the manufacture of electrical equipment. The five different electrical equipment indexes are each compiled from prices of the same four basic materials (busbar, paper covered strip, polyvinyl chloride cable and enamelled winding wire); the weights used for each index are appropriate to the equipment concerned.

Prices

7. Most of the prices used in these indexes 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 and electrical equipment for materials delivered into store. 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

8. 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

9. 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 (6407.0)—issued monthly

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (6408.0)—issued monthly

10. 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
— nil or rounded to zero

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX 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)

Year weight (%)	Iron and steel	Aluminium	Copper and brass	Zinc	Silver	All groups	All groups excluding silver
	83.2%	8.9%	5.7%	0.5%	1.7%	100.0%	
1978-79	264.9	208.9	179.2	291.3	327.4	256.2	255.0
1979-80	294.4	251.5	216.6	329.5	957.3	297.6	286.2
1980-81	336.0	281.5	209.9	332.4	719.7	330.4	323.7
1980-81— December	331.6	278.7	210.8	330.5	790.6	327.8	319.8
January	337.5	278.7	205.0	330.5	706.1	330.9	324.4
February	339.5	278.7	206.1	330.5	628.8	331.4	326.2
March	340.4	287.8	204.6	333.9	590.9	332.2	327.7
April	341.2	287.8	209.0	342.9	559.8	332.6	328.7
May	341.2	287.8	206.8	344.4	531.3	332.0	328.6
June	352.3	288.1	208.2	361.7	495.3	340.9	338.1
1981-82— July	353.2	288.6	204.8	365.0	419.1	340.2	338.8
August	353.6	288.9	210.8	365.0	434.5	341.1	339.5
September	361.3	288.9	209.0	374.3	490.4	348.4	345.9
October	364.1	286.5	206.5	374.3	449.2	349.7	347.9
November	365.0	282.7	208.9	374.3	416.8	349.7	348.5
December	365.1	282.9	209.8	368.3	417.5	349.8	348.6
January p	366.0	282.9	210.4	369.5	397.0	350.3	349.4
Percentage change between—							
January 1981 and January 1982	+8.4	+1.5	+2.6	+11.8	-43.8	+5.9	+7.7
December 1981 and January 1982	+0.2	—	+0.3	+0.3	-4.9	+0.1	+0.2

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

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index: Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

	Copper materials used in the manufacture of—				
	Electric motors and motor control equipment	High voltage and low voltage switchgear	Distribution transformers	Power transformers	General transformers
1978-79	173.9	194.6	159.1	167.3	169.3
1979-80	204.6	236.9	185.1	205.4	197.8
1980-81	202.8	230.7	177.4	199.7	189.6
1980-81— December	203.5	233.3	177.5	201.7	190.2
January	200.9	224.9	175.7	197.0	186.6
February	200.9	224.1	173.8	194.6	185.1
March	199.0	222.6	172.0	192.7	183.5
April	203.7	231.6	175.8	197.7	188.9
May	201.0	229.4	173.0	194.2	186.5
June	200.8	230.2	172.0	193.1	186.2
1981-82— July	197.1	227.0	168.9	190.5	183.0
August	209.9	232.0	180.4	197.5	193.1
September	208.9	234.2	177.9	195.0	192.3
October	206.8	227.0	176.5	194.0	188.6
November	208.3	231.9	175.6	193.2	189.7
December	210.1	230.2	176.5	194.1	189.5
January	209.9	232.6	175.6	193.2	189.8