

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, AUGUST 1967

This bulletin contains particulars of the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index from 1936-37 to the present time.

2. A list of the commodities and other information concerning the index is set out in Labour Report No. 51, 1964.
3. Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the Australian price structure. The prices of imported goods, for instance, are on an ex-bond or into factory basis.
4. The prices used have, in the main, been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants. With a few important exceptions, they are from Melbourne sources.
5. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula. The weights are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35. Work is proceeding on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers. Meanwhile, the present series continue to be compiled on their existing basis, which has become increasingly affected by changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home produced" for some commodities, and changes in industrial structure.
6. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index number for the month of August 1967, from the preceding month (July 1967) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (August 1966). It also shows the percentage change of the average of the index numbers for the two months ended August 1967, from the average of the index numbers for the two months ended August 1966.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS

AUGUST 1967

Percentage change from previous periods

Percentage change between	Basic materials							Food-stuffs and tobacco	Basic materials and foodstuffs		
	Metals and coal	Oils, fats and waxes	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and hides	Building materials	Total		Goods principally imported (a)	Goods principally home produced	Total all groups
July 1967 and August 1967	..	..	-4.8	+2.6	-2.6	+0.2	..	+1.2	..	+0.9	+0.8
August 1966 and August 1967	-0.3	..	-14.0	+3.4	-28.5	+0.4	-1.6	+7.2	+0.4	+4.2	+3.4
2 months ended August 1966 and 2 months ended August 1967	+0.5	..	-12.3	+4.2	-26.8	+0.4	-1.1	+7.6	+0.5	+4.7	+3.8

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

TABLE 2. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index : Average of 3 years ended June 1939 = 100)

Period	Basic materials							Food-stuffs and tobacco	Basic materials and foodstuffs		
	Metals and coal (a)	Oils, fats and waxes	Textiles	Chemicals	Rubber and hides	Building materials	Total		Goods principally imported (b)	Goods principally home produced	Total all groups
1936-37	96	99	118	99	111	99	99	98	99	98	99
1937-38	101	101	100	100	97	104	102	102	102	101	101
1938-39	103	100	82	101	92	97	99	101	99	100	100
1957-58	398	238	437	349	280	453	355	325	301	355	339
1958-59	392	231	362	327	293	423	340	332	283	358	336
1959-60	395	225	403	331	379	431	347	348	281	375	348
1960-61	399	222	387	331	341	439	346	372	278	394	360
1961-62	392	212	400	333	302	439	340	332	270	363	336
1962-63	388	209	432	317	262	439	336	342	272	368	340
1963-64	383	207	484	286	221	473	339	352	275	376	346
1964-65	391	207	427	286	242	503	345	364	277	388	355
1965-66	390	218	432	325	306	507	355	385	280	409	371
1966-67	p396	r220	419	381	281	511	p362	401	283	p425	p383
1965-66- December	390	219	436	326	301	505	355	373	280	400	365
January	389	221	436	326	311	505	356	371	281	399	364
February	391	221	437	337	326	506	359	377	282	405	369
March	391	220	443	348	356	507	361	396	282	421	380
April	390	219	449	348	353	507	361	393	283	418	378
May	387	219	448	348	337	507	359	389	282	414	375
June	389	219	449	348	304	507	358	387	281	413	374
1966-67- July	389	220	448	369	303	507	360	395	282	420	379
August	395	220	443	385	309	508	364	403	283	428	385
September	396	221	430	382	295	511	363	402	282	428	385
October	395	220	417	382	273	513	362	400	283	424	382
November	397	220	417	382	280	513	362	400	282	425	383
December	398	218	415	382	295	513	363	399	283	424	382
January	400	218	409	382	280	513	363	397	283	423	382
February	400	219	414	382	269	512	362	396	285	421	381
March	398	219	408	382	277	512	362	402	285	425	384
April	397	219	408	382	278	512	361	400	283	424	382
May	p395	r220	414	382	268	512	p361	402	284	p425	p383
June	p395	r220	407	382	241	507	p358	418	283	p436	p391
1967-68- July	p394	r220	p400	388	227	509	rp358	p427	rp284	p442	p395
August	p394	220	p381	398	221	510	p358	p432	p284	p446	p398

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for August 1967 is 490. (b) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports. p - preliminary, subject to revision. r - revised.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1966.

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 Extension 2053 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.