

Reference No. 9.5

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION MATERIALS
MAY 1975

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Percentage change between —

	Apr. 1975 and May 1975	May 1974 and May 1975
Conductors	-1.1	-5.2
Conduit and accessories	..	+21.1
Switchboard and switchgear material	+0.7	+23.0
All groups	-0.1	+10.6

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This bulletin contains index numbers of the *Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials*. The index provides comparisons of the overall price changes occurring for a combination of materials, fixed as to quantity and quality. Information on the construction of the index is contained in *Labour Report No. 56, 1971*.

Base period and method of calculation

2. This index is compiled on the reference base : year 1959-60 = 100.0 using the method known as the *weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives*. The annual index numbers for the years 1959-60 to 1968-69 are simple averages of index numbers for the months of August, November, February and May in each year while those for following years are simple averages of the twelve monthly index numbers for each year.

Weights

3. In general, the weights for the index were derived from information relating to the values of materials used in selected representative projects in Sydney and Melbourne during the three years 1960-61 to 1962-63. The projects selected for this purpose had a minimum electrical materials and labour content of \$10,000.

Composition

4. The items in this index have been selected as representative of materials used in electrical installation in structures such as hospitals, schools, factories and multi-storeyed commercial buildings and flats.

Prices

5. The items are priced as at the middle of the month for which index numbers are published. The basis of pricing is the price to electrical contractors, delivered on site or into store, Sydney and Melbourne. The price series used relate to specific standards for each item and in some cases are combinations of prices for different makes, types, etc.

Interpretation of the index

6. In interpreting movements in the index, particularly those from month to month, it should be noted that changes frequently occur in an uneven fashion over time. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.

Index Numbers

7. Index numbers for three groupings of items and for the All Groups combination are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION MATERIALS
GROUPS AND ALL GROUPS
(Base of each index : Year 1959-60 = 100.0) (a)

Value weight (%)	Conductors 40%	Conduit and accessories 25%	Switchboard and switchgear material 35%	All groups
Year (b)				
1964-65	110.6	104.6	105.2	107.2
1965-66	105.8	104.2	106.6	105.7
1966-67	120.2	105.8	109.2	112.8
1967-68	119.9	106.0	112.5	113.8
1968-69	119.5	107.3	115.3	115.0
1969-70	142.1	109.6	120.1	126.2
1970-71	128.4	112.8	129.2	124.8
1971-72	126.7	120.9	137.7	129.1
1972-73	133.5	126.8	144.2	135.5
1973-74	165.1	138.5	156.6	155.5
Month (c)				
1972-73				
April	140.2	129.0	147.2	139.9
May	142.6	129.0	147.5	140.9
June	143.5	129.7	147.5	141.4
1973-74				
July	152.3	130.3	149.7	145.9
August	166.3	134.2	151.7	153.2
September	158.4	134.2	152.3	150.2
October	156.5	134.3	152.5	149.6
November	163.5	134.3	152.7	152.4
December	164.8	135.5	153.5	153.5
January	159.9	136.3	153.6	151.8
February	164.9	136.5	154.8	154.3
March	165.9	139.6	157.9	156.5
April	173.0	146.2	159.4	161.5
May	175.1	148.3	164.1	164.5
June	180.5	152.7	177.4	172.5
1974-75				
July	183.1	154.1	178.5	174.3
August	178.4	157.4	180.9	174.1
September	165.3	157.7	182.2	169.3
October	166.6	165.3	183.5	172.2
November	170.3	167.3	190.4	176.6
December	166.4	169.1	194.0	176.8
January	162.3	171.1	195.1	176.0
February	160.6	174.8	197.1	176.9
March	165.5	178.3	198.2	180.1
April	167.8	179.6	200.4	182.2
May p	166.0	179.6	201.9	182.0

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number. (b) See page 1, paragraph 2 for a description of the method used to derive annual index numbers. (c) As a mid-point of month, p - preliminary, subject to revision.

J. G. MILLER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr P. Curran on 63 9111 extension 2078 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.