

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
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MONTHLY INDEX OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORT PRICES - SEPTEMBER, 1961

1. This Statistical Bulletin contains two series of index numbers - one using fixed weights and the other using changing weights. Each takes account of 20 items which normally constitute about 80 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver together with gold production.

2. In general, the index numbers show price changes in the predominant market or markets for each commodity, but average prices realized for exports are used for some commodities.

I. THE SIMPLE AGGREGATIVE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS

3. The weights are based on average annual exports (production in the case of gold) during the years 1933-34 to 1935-36.

4. Indexes are given for individual commodities and certain groups thereof. The percentage distribution of these groups in the aggregate of the "All Groups" Index for the base period (1936-37 to 1938-39) is shown at the head of the table on page 2.

Recent Trends

5. The following table shows, for certain commodity and group indexes, the percentage variation of the month of September, 1961, from the months of August, 1961, September, 1960 and the year ended June, 1961.

Commodity or Group	Percentage Variation of September, 1961, from :-		
	August, 1961	September, 1960	Year ended June, 1961
Wool	- 2	+13	+ 6
Wheat	Nil	+ 1	+ 2
Butter	Nil	-12	-10
Metals	- 3	-11	- 8
Sugar	- 6	- 7	- 6
Dried Fruits	- 1	- 3	- 4
Tallow	- 7	-14	-13
Hides	+ 1	+ 5	+ 8
Gold	Nil	Nil	- 1
All Groups	- 2	+ 3	+ 1

6. Group indexes in the table on page 2 hereof show the great fluctuations and the wide dispersion of prices of export commodities in recent years. In particular, very great movements upwards and downwards have occurred in the price of wool. Since wool is a predominant export, and comprises 46 per cent. of the base aggregate of the index, fluctuations in wool prices obscure the effect on the "All Groups" Index of movements in prices of the other components. For this reason, "Wool" and "All Groups Excluding Wool" are shown separately on page 3. The movement of the weighted average index of prices of "All Groups Excluding Wool" contrasts with the pronounced fluctuations in prices of wool.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX

INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, GROUPS, AND ALL GROUPS COMBINED

(Base of each Index : Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

Period	Wool	Wheat	Butter	Metals (a)	Meats (b)	Sugar	Dried Fruits (c)	Tallow	Hides (d)	Gold	All Groups
Percentage Distribution (e)	45.63	17.06	11.36	6.83	6.63	2.40	1.81	0.64	0.66	6.98	100.00
1936-37	122	123	92	120	98	104	103	122	113	99	115
1937-38	99	111	107	96	106	92	103	100	100	98	102
1938-39	79	66	101	84	96	104	94	78	87	103	83
1946-47	173	305	173	308	139	264	152	361	334	122	203
1947-48	287	420	193	372	146	320	157	436	364	122	283
1948-49	365	413	233	478	171	343	162	499	421	122	332
1949-50	473	400	250	421	196	369	176	400	479	164	383
1950-51	999	432	271	689	209	410	226	356	752	176	654
1951-52	564	436	291	811	263	464	302	451	486	184	473
1952-53	616	445	313	504	314	501	297	358	369	186	483
1953-54	615	411	325	450	338	479	287	321	336	179	474
1954-55	538	357	313	511	344	445	267	349	218	178	431
1955-56	464	324	320	562	355	450	286	353	238	178	397
1956-57	578	327	250	545	368	501	319	357	240	178	444
1957-58	471	357	218	398	333	518	341	368	240	178	385
1958-59	362	350	230	386	394	475	383	367	335	178	339
1959-60	425	333	315	428	432	452	349	302	365	178	378
1960-61	390	335	229	398	(f)	461	p342	324	296	179	p351
<u>1959-60</u>											
September	430	331	350	420	376	438	362	309	440	178	380
October	430	330	359	431	388	440	361	307	395	178	382
November	422	333	267	437	374	458	360	304	312	178	380
December	437	333	367	436	411	458	359	307	334	178	389
January	437	333	355	435	444	455	329	300	345	178	389
February	415	331	310	427	459	448	332	293	346	178	374
March	415	331	276	432	465	458	335	279	345	178	371
April	430	333	248	438	475	454	338	283	322	178	376
May	415	332	248	437	463	461	327	286	316	178	368
June	415	337	255	426	479	453	324	300	303	178	370
<u>1960-61</u>											
July	392	335	269	422	477	447	326	311	280	178	360
August	362	330	252	417	469	455	329	311	274	178	342
September	366	338	235	412	460	466	338	327	304	178	344
October	362	339	245	408	(f)	469	341	338	308	179	p342
November	377	339	239	409	(f)	450	345	333	310	180	p346
December	373	334	235	390	(f)	455	348	317	302	179	p342
January	377	330	225	376	(f)	447	346	308	307	180	p338
February	392	331	215	386	(f)	451	346	317	300	178	p346
March	400	333	208	391	(f)	450	347	338	308	178	p351
April	430	337	210	393	(f)	462	347	339	296	178	p367
May	430	336	209	392	(f)	458	p347	325	283	178	p366
June	422	335	209	384	(f)	525	p346	320	275	178	p364
<u>1961-62</u>											
July	(g)422	341	209	382	(f)	499	p343	299	306	179	p363
August	p422	344	208	381	(f)	464	p330	302	318	178	p362
September	p415	p343	207	368	(f)	434	p328	282	320	178	p356

(a) Silver, copper, tin, zinc, lead.

(b) Beef, lamb, mutton, pork. Guaranteed minimum prices are used when operative.

(c) Sultanas, raisins, currants.

(d) Cattle hides, calf skins.

(e) Percentage distribution of base aggregate (1936-37 to 1938-39).

(f) Actual prices realized not yet fully known; provisional series are included in "All Groups" indexes.

(g) Nominal.

p - Preliminary, subject to revision.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX
WOOL AND "OTHER GROUPS"

(Base of each Index : Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

Period	Wool	All Groups			All Groups
		Excluding Wool	Excluding Gold	Excluding Gold and Wool	
1936-37	122	108	116	110	115
1937-38	99	105	102	106	102
1938-39	79	87	82	84	83
1939-40	98	98	96	95	98
1940-41	101	106	103	104	104
1941-42	101	110	105	108	106
1942-43	117	112	114	111	114
1943-44	117	118	117	117	117
1944-45	117	141	130	144	130
1945-46	117	171	148	178	146
1946-47	173	228	209	243	203
1947-48	287	280	296	303	283
1948-49	365	305	348	332	332
1949-50	473	308	399	329	383
1950-51	999	365	690	393	654
1951-52	564	397	495	428	473
1952-53	616	371	505	399	483
1953-54	615	356	496	383	474
1954-55	538	342	450	366	431
1955-56	464	342	414	366	397
1956-57	578	331	464	353	444
1957-58	471	313	400	332	385
1958-59	362	320	351	341	339
1959-60	425	339	393	363	378
1960-61	390	p318	p364	p338	p351
<u>1959-60</u>					
September	430	339	396	363	380
October	430	343	398	367	382
November	422	344	395	369	380
December	437	349	405	374	389
January	437	349	405	374	389
February	415	340	389	364	374
March	415	334	386	358	371
April	430	331	391	353	376
May	415	329	382	351	368
June	415	332	384	354	370
<u>1960-61</u>					
July	392	333	374	356	360
August	362	326	355	348	342
September	366	325	356	347	344
October	362	p325	p354	p346	p342
November	377	p320	p359	p341	p346
December	373	p315	p354	p335	p342
January	377	p306	p350	p325	p338
February	392	p308	p359	p327	p346
March	400	p311	p364	p330	p351
April	430	p315	p382	p335	p367
May	430	p313	p381	p333	p366
June	422	p315	p378	p335	p364
<u>1961-62</u>					
July	(a)422	p313	p377	p333	p363
August	p422	p311	p375	p330	p362
September	p415	p307	p369	p326	p356

(a) Nominal.

p - Preliminary, subject to revision.

II. THE CHANGING WEIGHTS INDEX : CORRESPONDING MONTHS AND PERIODS OF TRADE YEAR

7. Australian export products are not marketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and wheat are obvious examples of commodities marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weights" index numbers indicate satisfactorily the general trend of export prices, they do not take account of the relative quantities actually sold at the prices ruling in particular months. The "changing weights" index numbers, shown below, take account of this factor.

8. The "changing weights" index is designed to compare the level of export prices in any one month (or period of a trade year) with that in the corresponding month (or period) of the previous year, having regard to variations in the proportion of the different kinds of exports. The weights used in its construction are the quantities exported (sold, in some cases) in these two corresponding months (or periods). A full description of the method of computation is given on pages 503-4 in Part VI of Official Year Book No. 46, 1960. A summary of movements in this index follows.

CHANGING WEIGHTS INDEX

(Base : Corresponding month (or period) of preceding year = 100)

Month	Month stated compared with same month of preceding year		Period of trade year ending in month stated compared with same period of preceding year	
	All Groups Excluding Wool	All Groups (a)	All Groups Excluding Wool	All Groups (a)
1959-60 : September	111	117	112	116
October	109	120	111	118
November	107	117	110	118
December	109	122	110	118
January	105	122	109	119
February	107	116	109	118
March	106	114	109	118
April	104	104	108	117
May	101	100	108	115
June	98	102	107	114
1960-61 : July	96	96	96	96
August	95	89	96	92
September	97	89	96	91
October	p96	p88	p96	p90
November	p95	p91	p96	p90
December	p94	p89	p95	p90
January	p92	p89	p95	p90
February	p94	p94	p95	p90
March	p95	p96	p95	p91
April	p98	p98	p95	p92
May	p98	p102	p95	p93
June	p98	p100	p96	p93
1961-62 : July	p98	p100	p98	p100
August	p99	p105	p98	p103
September	p96	p105	p97	p104

(a) For certain months a nominal price is used for wool as indicated on pages 2 and 3.

p - Preliminary, subject to revision.

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