

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, OCTOBER 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. The validity of the weighting and the representativeness of the index have become increasingly affected by changes in usage and in industrial structure.
6. Work is proceeding on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers relating to materials used and articles produced by sectors of industry. The aim is for the first of these new series to be published in 1968 and to relate to materials used in the building industry and in manufacturing industry. To a considerable extent, these first series will constitute a currently representative replacement for the present Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Wholesale Price Index. In the interim, the existing index will continue to be compiled and published mainly to meet the needs of those who require it for special purposes. It should be noted that the groups of the existing index relate primarily to a commodity type classification and have never purported to represent the materials used or articles produced by defined sectors of industry.
7. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index number for the month of October 1967, from the preceding month (September 1967) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (October 1966).

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS  
OCTOBER 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
Sept. 1967 and Oct. 1967	..	..	..	..	+4.0	+0.2	..	-5.9	..	-4.3	-3.3
Oct. 1966 and Oct. 1967	-0.3	+2.7	-8.9	+4.2	-15.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	+1.4	-1.2	-0.5

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

Ref. no. 9.4

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	396	220	419	381	281	511	362	401	283	425	383
1965-66 -											
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	283	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	395	220	414	382	268	512	361	402	284	425	383
June	395	220	407	382	241	507	358	418	283	436	391
1967-68 -											
July	p394	220	400	388	227	509	p358	427	284	p442	p395
August	p394	220	p381	398	221	510	p358	432	284	p446	p398
September	p394	226	p380	398	223	510	p360	422	287	p438	p393
October	p394	226	p380	398	232	511	p360	p397	p287	p419	p380

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for October 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.

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.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

8 DECEMBER 1967

K.M. ARCHER  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

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.