

**WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES**  
**PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION MATERIALS**  
**OCTOBER 1974**

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

Percentage change between —

| Sept. 1974<br>and<br>Oct. 1974 | Oct. 1973<br>and<br>Oct. 1974 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|

|                                     |      |       |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Conductors                          | +0.8 | +6.5  |
| Conduit and accessories             | +4.8 | +23.1 |
| Switchboard and switchgear material | +0.7 | +20.3 |
| All groups                          | +1.7 | +15.1 |

**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.

**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.

**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)

| Period    | Conductors | Conduit and accessories | Switchboard and switchgear material | 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   | 135.5      | 126.8                   | 144.2                               | 135.5      |
| 1973-74   | 165.1      | 138.5                   | 156.6                               | 155.5      |
| Month (c) |            |                         |                                     |            |
| 1972-73   |            |                         |                                     |            |
| September | 129.8      | 125.2                   | 140.9                               | 132.5      |
| October   | 130.8      | 125.2                   | 140.9                               | 132.9      |
| November  | 130.8      | 125.2                   | 143.8                               | 133.9      |
| December  | 130.8      | 126.7                   | 143.8                               | 134.3      |
| January   | 131.0      | 126.7                   | 144.7                               | 134.7      |
| February  | 131.1      | 126.7                   | 145.7                               | 135.1      |
| March     | 131.7      | 128.5                   | 146.5                               | 136.1      |
| 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 p | 166.6      | 165.3                   | 183.5                               | 172.2      |

(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 at mid-point of month p: preliminary, subject to revision.

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

J. G. MILLER  
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. Collins on 63 9111 extension 2053 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.