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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, OCTOBER 1968

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. 52, 1965 and 1966.
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 continues on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers relating to materials used and articles produced by sectors of industry. Preparation of the first of these, relating to materials inputs to Building other than House Building, has now reached a stage where publication is expected to take place early in 1969. Other measures in connection with building and with manufacturing industry will follow progressively thereafter. 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 1968, from the preceding month (September 1968) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (October 1967).

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

OCTOBER 1968

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. 1968 and Oct. 1968	+0.3	..	+3.2	..	+2.5	+0.8	+0.5	-1.5	..	-0.9	-0.5
Oct. 1967 and Oct. 1968	+1.0	-1.8	+9.2	-2.0	+5.2	+4.1	+1.7	+1.0	+1.4	+1.2	+1.3

(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
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
1967-68	p397	225	392	397	222	514	p361	411	287	p431	p388
1966-67 -											
February	400	219	414	362	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	394	220	400	388	227	509	358	427	284	442	395
August	394	220	381	398	221	510	358	432	284	446	398
September	394	226	380	398	223	510	360	422	287	438	393
October	394	226	380	398	232	511	360	397	287	419	380
November	395	225	387	398	224	511	360	396	288	418	380
December	398	225	392	398	204	511	360	396	287	419	380
January	398	225	393	398	205	511	361	396	287	419	380
February	398	227	399	398	207	513	362	396	287	420	380
March	399	227	399	398	218	515	363	400	287	423	383
April	400	227	399	398	231	519	364	419	288	439	394
May	p399	227	399	398	233	519	p364	428	288	p445	p399
June	p396	226	400	399	235	523	p364	428	289	p445	p399
1968-69 -											
July	p394	225	395	402	236	524	p364	p425	p289	p442	p397
August	p395	225	396	390	234	525	p363	p412	p289	p432	p390
September	p397	222	402	390	238	528	p364	p407	p291	p428	p387
October	p398	222	p415	390	244	532	p365	p401	p291	p424	p385

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for October 1968 is 493. (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. 2600 11 DECEMBER 1968

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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.