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CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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THE "C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX
DECEMBER QUARTER, 1958

- Particulars concerning variations in retail prices as measured by the "C" Series Retail Price Index for thirty-four cities and towns of Australia are given herein. The base of the index is: Weighted average of six capital cities in 1923-27.
- Seasonal fluctuations in prices of potatoes and onions materially affect the movement of the Aggregate All Groups Index. An All Groups Index which excludes the effects of price changes of potatoes and onions is shown in paragraph 3 and on page 4 hereof in comparison with the Aggregate All Groups Index calculated in the customary manner.
- An approximate analysis for each capital city is shown hereunder and a corresponding analysis for the weighted average of the six capital cities is shown on page 2.

Quarter	"C" Series Index Points (Movement between quarters is shown in brackets)								
	Excluding Potatoes and Onions	Movement due to Potatoes and Onions	Aggregate All Groups	Excluding Potatoes and Onions	Movement due to Potatoes and Onions	Aggregate All Groups	Excluding Potatoes and Onions	Movement due to Potatoes and Onions	Aggregate All Groups
	SYDNEY			MELBOURNE			BRISBANE		
1956-June	2,501 (+ 58)	+ 55a (+ 51)	2,556 (+109)	2,497 (+ 9)	+ 58a (+ 64)	2,555 (+ 73)	2,263 (+ 24)	+ 36a (+ 47)	2,299 (+ 71)
Sept.	2,559 (+ 19)	+ 106a (- 60)	2,665 (- 41)	2,506 (+ 13)	+ 250a (- 38)	2,628 (- 25)	2,287 (+ 18)	+ 83a (- 53)	2,370 (- 35)
Dec.	2,578 (+ 24)	+ 46a (- 44)	2,624 (- 20)	2,519 (+ 17)	+ 84a (- 74)	2,603 (- 57)	2,305 (+ 25)	+ 30a (- 39)	2,335 (- 14)
1957-March	2,602 (+ 9)	+ 2a (+ 5)	2,604 (+ 14)	2,536 (+ 22)	+ 10a (+ 5)	2,546 (+ 27)	2,330 (+ 19)	- 9a (- 3)	2,321 (+ 16)
June	2,611 (+ 17)	+ 7a (- 13)	2,618 (+ 4)	2,558 (+ 9)	+ 15a (- 14)	2,573 (- 5)	2,349 (+ 13)	- 12a (- 7)	2,337 (+ 6)
Sept.	2,628 (+ 2)	- 6a (- 11)	2,622 (- 9)	2,567 (- 8)	+ 1a (- ..)	2,568 (- 8)	2,362 (+ 40)	- 19a (- 12)	2,343 (+ 28)
Dec.	2,630 (+ 47)	- 17a (+ 5)	2,613 (+ 52)	2,559 (- 7)	+ 1a (- 3)	2,560 (+ 4)	2,402 (+ 30)	- 31a (+ 10)	2,371 (+ 40)
1958-March	2,677 (- 1)	- 12a (- 3)	2,665 (- 4)	2,566 (+ 15)	- 2a (- 5)	2,564 (+ 10)	2,432 (+ 60)	- 21a (- 9)	2,411 (+ 51)
June	2,676 (- 5)	- 15a (- 2)	2,661 (- 7)	2,581 (+ 16)	- 7a (- 2)	2,574 (+ 14)	2,492 (+ 16)	- 30a (+ 6)	2,462 (+ 22)
Sept.	2,671 (+ 11)	- 17a (+ 8)	2,654 (+ 19)	2,597 (+ 37)	- 9a (+ 10)	2,588 (+ 47)	2,508 (+ 39)	- 24a (+ 2)	2,484 (+ 41)
Dec.	2,682	- 9a	2,673	2,634	+ 1a	2,635	2,547	- 22a	2,525
	ADELAIDE			PERTH			ROBART		
1956-June	2,413 (+ 13)	+ 39a (+ 61)	2,452 (+ 74)	2,646 (+ 25)	+ ..a (+ 9)	2,646 (+ 34)	2,616 (+ 29)	+ 23a (+ 35)	2,639 (+ 64)
Sept.	2,426 (- 2)	+ 100a (- 27)	2,526 (- 29)	2,671 (+ 10)	+ 9a (- ..)	2,680 (+ 10)	2,645 (+ 14)	+ 58a (- 5)	2,703 (+ 9)
Dec.	2,424 (+ 10)	+ 73a (- 75)	2,497 (- 65)	2,681 (+ 27)	+ 9a (- 3)	2,690 (+ 24)	2,659 (+ 26)	+ 53a (- 50)	2,712 (- 24)
1957-March	2,434 (+ 32)	- 2a (+ 6)	2,432 (+ 38)	2,708 (+ 38)	+ 6a (- 2)	2,714 (+ 36)	2,685 (+ 19)	+ 3a (- ..)	2,688 (+ 19)
June	2,466 (+ 26)	+ 4a (- 11)	2,470 (+ 15)	2,746 (- 5)	+ 4a (+ 1)	2,750 (- 4)	2,704 (- 5)	+ 3a (- 21)	2,707 (- 26)
Sept.	2,492 (- 19)	- 7a (- 1)	2,485 (- 20)	2,741 (- 33)	+ 5a (- 6)	2,746 (- 39)	2,699 (+ 8)	- 18a (- 5)	2,681 (+ 3)
Dec.	2,473 (- 1)	- 8a (+ 2)	2,465 (+ 1)	2,708 (- 5)	- 1a (+ 10)	2,707 (- 5)	2,707 (+ 9)	- 23a (+ 14)	2,684 (+ 23)
1958-March	2,472 (+ 65)	- 6a (- 9)	2,466 (+ 56)	2,718 (+ 35)	- 6a (- ..)	2,712 (+ 35)	2,716 (+ 19)	- 9a (- 14)	2,707 (+ 5)
June	2,537 (+ 40)	- 15a (+ 1)	2,522 (+ 41)	2,753 (+ 11)	- 6a (- ..)	2,747 (+ 11)	2,735 (+ 20)	- 23a (- 5)	2,712 (+ 15)
Sept.	2,577 (+ 16)	- 14a (+ 12)	2,563 (+ 28)	2,764 (- 6)	+ 6a (+ 3)	2,758 (- 3)	2,755 (+ 33)	- 28a (+ 7)	2,727 (+ 40)
Dec.	2,593	- 2a	2,591	2,758	- 3a	2,755	2,788	- 21a	2,767

a. Cumulative from (and including) Sept. Quarter, 1955. (+) Denotes increase, (-) decrease.

3. (continued)

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES

Quarter	"C" Series Index Points (Movement between quarters is shown in brackets)		
	Excluding Potatoes and Onions	Movement due to Potatoes and Onions	Aggregate All Groups
1955 - September	2,394	+ 17a	2,411
	(+ 19)	(+ 5)	(+ 24)
December	2,413	+ 22a	2,435
	(+ 24)	(+ 6)	(+ 30)
1956 - March	2,437	+ 28a	2,465
	(+ 43)	(+ 20)	(+ 63)
June	2,480	+ 48a	2,528
	(+ 31)	(+ 53)	(+ 84)
September	2,511	+ 101a	2,612
	(+ 15)	(- 44)	(- 29)
December	2,526	+ 57a	2,583
	(+ 21)	(- 54)	(- 33)
1957 - March	2,547	+ 3a	2,550
	(+ 18)	(+ 4)	(+ 22)
June	2,565	+ 7a	2,572
	(+ 13)	(- 11)	(+ 2)
September	2,578	- 4a	2,574
	(- 2)	(- 7)	(- 9)
December	2,576	- 11a	2,565
	(+ 25)	(+ 2)	(+ 27)
1958 - March	2,601	- 9a	2,592
	(+ 19)	(- 4)	(+ 15)
June	2,620	- 13a	2,607
	(+ 10)	(- 1)	(+ 9)
September	2,630	- 14a	2,616
	(+ 22)	(+ 8)	(+ 30)
December	2,652	- 6a	2,646

a. Cumulative from (and including) September Quarter, 1955.

(+) Denotes increase.

(-) Denotes decrease.

4. Comparative average retail prices of potatoes for the six capital cities are shown hereunder:-

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF POTATOES

Pence per 7 lbs.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average of Six Capitals
December Quarter, 1952	34	24	23	24	28	29	28
" " 1953	61	53	58	52	29	65	55
" " 1954	29	18	30	23	29	29	25
" " 1955	56	56	46	54	33	60	53
" " 1956	81	99	76	88	44	88	85
March " 1957	47	41	45	30	44	52	43
June " "	50	47	41	36	43	52	46
September " "	40	34	37	28	43	34	37
December " "	33	34	30	26	38	31	33
March " 1958	37	33	40	28	35	43	35
June " "	35	29	32	22	35	32	31
September " "	34	28	39	23	35	28	31
December " "	40	37	41	34	38	35	38
Month of December, 1958	38	41	37	38	39	36	39

5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index is based on pre-war weights and components. It is compiled without significant change in the principles and procedures followed in pre-war years. These are set out in "Labour Report" No. 41 (1952) published by this Bureau.

6. In March, 1954, an Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 base year) was instituted with post-war weights and components. This index is published quarterly and is described in "Labour Report" No. 45 (1957). For December Quarter, 1958, it is published in a separate document containing an analysis similar to that made herein.

7. The observations in these Statistical Bulletins are made, as is customary, to assist public understanding of the trends in retail prices within the definition of the respective indexes.

8. Tribunals and other authorities concerned with wage adjustment and other purposes decide in the light of their own requirements what price index (if any) is relevant to their purposes and how it shall be applied. The Statistician's function is to supply indexes and information thereon as required by those authorities. The Statistician expresses no view as to the merits or demerits of the use of price indexes in this connection.

9. The main movements in average quarterly prices affecting the "C" Series retail price index number for the six capital cities from September Quarter, 1958 to December Quarter, 1958 were:-

In the food and groceries group, prices of potatoes increased in each capital city. Meat prices also increased in all capital cities except Perth where there was a decrease. The food and groceries group of the index (average of six capital cities) showed an overall quarterly increase of 1.4% including potatoes and onions and of 0.7% excluding potatoes and onions.

The index of prices of the clothing group for the six capitals was virtually unchanged showing a quarterly increase of 0.1%.

In the miscellaneous group, fares increased substantially in Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart but were unchanged in other capital cities. Prices of gas and electricity increased in Melbourne. The overall quarterly movement of prices in the miscellaneous group (average of six capital cities) was an increase of 2.1%.

Rents in the index showed increases in each of the capital cities. The weighted average increase in the rent group for the six capital cities was 1.3%.

10. The rental component used in these retail price indexes has been continued on the basis described on pages 2 and 10 of "Labour Report" No. 41 (1952). Analysis of data of the Census of 1954 and recent surveys show that in all cities the numbers of houses privately rented have diminished substantially and that rents of the residual houses (alone) are no longer sufficiently representative as the housing component of the retail price indexes. The housing component is under consideration.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

23RD JANUARY, 1959

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX FOR QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1958
Food, Groceries, Rents, Clothing and Miscellaneous Household Expenditure
(BASE : Weighted average of six capital cities in 1923-27 = 1,000)

1. INDIVIDUAL TOWNS

Town	Aggregate - All Groups					All Groups EXCLUDING price move- ment of Potatoes and Onions (b)				
	1957					1958				
	Dec. Qtr.	March Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	March Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.
<u>NEW SOUTH WALES</u>										
Sydney	2613	2665	2661	2654	2673	2630	2677	2676	2671	2682
Newcastle	2573	2618	2613	2598	2595	2597	2638	2638	2622	2616
Broken Hill	2634	2637	2632	2627	2660	2643	2656	2661	2656	2678
Goulburn	2634	2653	2662	2653	2676	2642	2661	2660	2676	2683
Bathurst	2577	2600	2601	2582	2590	2593	2610	2620	2612	2612
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2610	2660	2657	2649	2666	2628	2673	2673	2667	2677
<u>VICTORIA</u>										
Melbourne	2560	2564	2574	2588	2635	2559	2566	2581	2597	2634
Ballarat	2524	2526	2543	2570	2605	2537	2537	2559	2586	2616
Bendigo	2560	2565	2583	2593	2637	2568	2574	2597	2607	2642
Geelong	2526	2529	2549	2561	2605	2540	2543	2568	2580	2609
Warrnambool	2585	2588	2594	2600	2645	2595	2600	2609	2615	2655
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2557	2562	2573	2587	2633	2558	2564	2580	2596	2633
<u>QUEENSLAND</u>										
Brisbane	2371	2411	2462	2484	2525	2402	2432	2492	2508	2547
Toowoomba	2389	2430	2439	2440	2488	2419	2450	2468	2466	2508
Rockhampton	2389	2420	2436	2456	2510	2422	2440	2465	2481	2533
Townsville	2480	2519	2547	2561	2629	2517	2543	2578	2594	2660
Bundaberg	2356	2402	2440	2465	2498	2387	2420	2469	2494	2519
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2380	2420	2464	2483	2527	2412	2441	2493	2508	2550
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>										
Adelaide	2465	2466	2522	2563	2591	2473	2472	2537	2577	2593
Kadina, etc.	2343	2344	2377	2402	2408	2351	2350	2392	2416	2409
Port Pirie	2415	2418	2440	2475	2503	2425	2427	2458	2493	2501
Mount Gambier	2421	2418	2445	2460	2479	2427	2423	2459	2474	2474
Peterborough	2419	2429	2465	2488	2495	2423	2435	2480	2503	2493
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2458	2459	2513	2552	2579	2466	2466	2528	2567	2581
<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>										
Perth, etc.	2707	2712	2747	2758	2755	2708	2718	2753	2764	2758
Kalgoorlie, etc.	2617	2630	2647	2663	2670	2620	2630	2648	2665	2669
Northam	2686	2693	2708	2716	2711	2687	2698	2713	2721	2713
Bunbury	2765	2782	2806	2786	2785	2766	2787	2811	2792	2788
Geraldton	2926	2931	2953	2962	2974	2928	2937	2960	2968	2977
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2706	2712	2744	2756	2753	2708	2717	2750	2761	2756
<u>TASMANIA</u>										
Hobart	2684	2707	2712	2727	2767	2707	2716	2735	2755	2788
Launceston	2662	2651	2651	2652	2684	2666	2658	2665	2668	2688
Burnie	2610	2626	2617	2630	2645	2619	2628	2624	2640	2654
Devonport	2637	2638	2643	2643	2702	2631	2638	2650	2658	2705
Queenstown	2544	2552	2560	2586	2628	2553	2559	2569	2600	2637
FIVE TOWNS (a)	2668	2678	2682	2692	2729	2682	2686	2700	2714	2743
THIRTY TOWNS (a)	2562	2588	2602	2611	2640	2574	2597	2617	2626	2647
SIX CAPITALS (a)	2565	2592	2607	2616	2646	2576	2601	2620	2630	2652
<u>SPECIAL TOWNS (NOT INCLUDED IN WEIGHTED AVERAGES ABOVE)</u>										
Warwick (Queensland)	2351	2378	2401	2430	2456	2377	2396	2427	2454	2469
Port Augusta (South Aust.)	2403	2402	2432	2473	2495	2407	2408	2444	2485	2496
Whyalla (South Australia)	2512	2503	2544	2572	2597	2510	2507	2556	2581	2589
Canberra (A.C.T.)	2680	2706	2704	2701	2721	2689	2716	2723	2725	2731

(a) Weighted Average. (b) Cumulative from (and including) September Quarter, 1955.

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