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MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1946

EVENING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1946

MONTHLY INDEX OF EXPORT PRICES 1 AUGUST, 1946

1. The monthly export price index-numbers for August, 1946, together with comparative figures for earlier periods have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician.

2. The index relates to 20 items which constitute about 85 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver plus gold production. All export parities are calculated from actual price quotations from the most reliable and representative sources available.

THE SIMPLE AGGREGATIVE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS

3. The "multipliers" used for this series for the period 1928-36 were the average annual exports (or production, in the case of gold) during the five years 1928-29 to 1932-33. Since July, 1936, these multipliers have been recalculated on the basis of average annual exports (production, in the case of gold) during the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table, based upon the index numbers for the three years ended June, 1939 = 1000.

Base - Average 3 Years ended June, 1939 = 1000.

Period		Index
Average for Year:-		
1928-29	..	1173
1932-33	..	1144
1937-38	..	1022
1938-39	..	834
1939-40	..	980
1940-41	..	1029
1941-42	..	1059
1942-43	..	1142
1943-44	..	1171
1944-45	..	1298
1945-46	..	1459
1945-46:-		
August	..	1238
September	..	1355
October	..	1360
November	..	1360
December	..	1497
January	..	1506
February	..	1522
March	..	1552
April	..	1556
May	..	1561
June	..	1560
1946-47:-		
July	..	(a)1636
August	..	1670

(a) Revised.

The rise in the index for December, 1945 was almost entirely due to the increased price recorded for wheat in that month. From March to November, 1945 (inclusive) practically no Australian wheat was sold for export. In accordance with established practice in such cases, the index as tabulated included a nominal price of wheat at the level of the last recorded sale in February, 1945. In the interim, world parity price of wheat had risen substantially, but the rise did not become effective in relation to Australian exports until December, 1945, when new season's wheat became available and was actually sold.

The increase for July, 1946 was due to increased prices for butter, wheat, tallow, cattle hides, spelter and lead.

THE MONTH-TO-MONTH INDEX : CHANGING WEIGHTS

4. Australian products are not marketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and wheat are obvious examples of commodities which are marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weight" index indicates satisfactorily the trend of the market, it does not, by itself, give an adequate indication of the significance of price movements as they actually affect current sales. This is shown much more clearly by the "Changing Weights" index given in the table below.

5. These index-numbers are designed merely for comparison of current prices with those of the corresponding months, or periods of months of the preceding year. The simple month-to-month index numbers are obtained by applying the "ideal formula" to prices and quantities exported in corresponding pairs of months. The index-numbers for two periods of two or more months are obtained by combining the monthly aggregates in the manner described in the statement of method issued on 29th May, 1937. The full trade year corresponds to the financial year ending June. A summary of the movements in this index is given in the following table:-

Base - "Weighted Average Price Level in Corresponding Months
of the preceding year = 1000

Year	Month stated compared with same month of preceding year	Period of trade year ending in month stated compared with same period of preceding year
1943-44:-		
June ..	1050	1025
1944-45:-		
October ..	1152	1092
November ..	1118	1097
December ..	1111	1100
January ..	1105	1101
February ..	1091	1100
March ..	1112	1101
April ..	1109	1102
May ..	1078	1100
June ..	1078	1098
1945-46:-		
July ..	1073	1073
August ..	1080	1076
September ..	1063	1074
October ..	1052	1068
November ..	1032	1060
December ..	1093	1066
January ..	1092	1070
February ..	1089	1073
March ..	1111	1077
April ..	1130	1083
May ..	1123	1087
June ..	1117	1090
1946-47:-		
July ..	(a)1102	(a)1102
August ..	1180	1141

(a) Revised.

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