

PRICE INDEXES OF METALLIC MATERIALS JANUARY 1979

INQUIRIES

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The two sets of monthly price indexes in this bulletin relate to important metallic materials used in selected activities of manufacturing industry. These indexes are the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* (see Table 1) and the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* (see Table 2). A detailed description of these indexes is contained in *Labour Report No. 57, 1972*.

2. Index numbers for financial years are simple averages of the relevant monthly index numbers.

Items and weights

3. The indexes are fixed weights indexes.

4. The items included in the *Price Index of Metallic Materials Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products* are important metallic materials whose prices are combined in accordance with a weighting pattern representing the value of usage as reported in the 1968-69 Census of Manufacturing Establishments, for establishments classified to the Fabricated Metal Products Sub-division of Manufacturing Industry (Australian Standard Industrial Classification — Sub-division 31).

5. The items and weights used in the *Price Indexes of Copper Materials Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment* were based on information, provided by the Electricity Supply Association of Australia and the Australian Electrical Manufacturers' Association, about the relative importance of various materials used in the manufacture of electrical equipment. The five different electrical equipment indexes are each compiled from prices of the same four basic materials (busbar, paper covered strip, polyvinyl chloride cable and enamelled winding wire); the weights used for each index are appropriate to the equipment concerned.

Prices

6. Most of the prices used in these indexes relate to the mid-point of the month. Prices are those charged by major manufacturers of the basic materials to the manufacturers of fabricated metal products and electrical equipment for materials delivered into store. Price series relate to goods of fixed specifications with the aim of incorporating in the index, price changes for representative materials of constant quality.

Interpretation of the indexes

7. Changes in index numbers for individual months should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods, because short term movements may reflect irregular fluctuations in metal prices.

Related publications

8. Users may also wish to refer to the following price index publications which are available on request:

- *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry* (6412.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industry* (6411.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building* (6407.0)
- *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building* (6408.0)
- *Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials* (6409.0)

9. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary — figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- nil or less than half the final digit shown

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TABLE 1. PRICE INDEX OF METALLIC MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS GROUP AND ALL GROUPS INDEX NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGES
(Base of each index : Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

	<i>Iron and steel</i>	<i>Aluminium</i>	<i>Copper and brass</i>	<i>Other metallic materials</i>	<i>All groups</i>
<i>Value weight (%) (a)</i>	83.2%	8.9%	5.7%	2.2%	100.0%
1975-76	200.2	158.0	137.5	207.8	193.1
1976-77	227.8	176.9	158.1	231.2	219.4
1977-78	248.9	193.7	153.9	244.7	238.5
1977-78					
December	250.5	194.1	152.3	235.6	239.6
January	250.5	194.1	154.4	244.4	239.9
February	250.5	194.9	152.6	243.4	239.8
March	250.6	194.9	152.3	262.7	240.3
April	252.8	195.2	155.6	252.6	242.1
May	256.2	200.9	155.1	248.5	245.3
June	258.5	202.4	160.2	256.3	247.9
1978-79					
July	258.7	202.4	157.7	253.8	247.8
August	258.7	202.4	159.6	270.3	248.3
September	258.8	202.4	163.9	269.8	248.6
October	259.3	202.6	165.1	284.6	249.4
November	259.4	203.0	167.4	286.9	249.7
December	259.4	203.0	168.2	291.7	249.9
January p	267.1	206.8	173.4	295.4	257.0
Percentage change between -					
Jan. 1978 and Jan. 1979	+6.6%	+6.5%	+12.3%	+20.9%	+7.1%
Dec. 1978 and Jan. 1979	+3.0%	+1.9%	+3.1%	+1.3%	+2.8%

For footnotes see Table 2.

TABLE 2. PRICE INDEXES OF COPPER MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index : Year 1968-69 = 100.0)

<i>Copper materials used in the manufacture of -</i>					
	<i>Electric motors and motor control equipment</i>	<i>High voltage and low voltage switchgear</i>	<i>Distribution transformers</i>	<i>Power transformers</i>	<i>General transformers</i>
1975-76	139.7	145.3	128.1	122.4	135.3
1976-77	156.7	167.3	145.6	144.3	153.4
1977-78	153.1	163.0	140.0	138.9	148.0
1977-78					
December	152.0	160.7	138.6	136.9	146.4
January	154.2	164.0	140.4	139.4	148.6
February	152.4	161.4	139.1	138.3	146.7
March	152.4	161.4	139.1	138.3	146.7
April	155.1	164.3	142.0	142.3	149.4
May	154.7	164.7	141.3	141.8	149.0
June	159.2	170.4	146.0	147.9	153.7
1978-79					
July	156.4	169.2	142.2	143.2	151.2
August	159.3	172.9	144.9	146.8	154.0
September	162.2	177.5	148.1	151.6	157.3
October	163.9	178.4	149.6	152.7	158.6
November	164.7	181.6	150.0	154.1	159.8
December	165.4	181.8	151.6	157.0	160.6
January	169.8	188.9	154.6	161.7	164.6

(a) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraph 4.