CBCS

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Reference No. 9.2

EXPORT PRICE INDEX
DECEMBER 1972

This bulletin contains Export Price Index numbers on the reference base : Year 1959-60 = 100. Figures contained herein for the months from July 1969 have been compiled on an interim basis which incorporates a re-weighting of the items contained in the previous series, and the inclusion of some additional items. This interim basis will apply until completion of the comprehensive review and rebasing of the index mentioned previously in successive issues of this publication.

2. The Export Price Index has been a fixed-weights index, the main purpose of which has been to provide comparisons over a limited period of the level of prices of selected major exports as grouped. Index numbers have been compiled and published for the period 1959-60 to 1968-69 on a basis described in detail in Commonwealth Year Book No. 57, 1971 (pages 238-240). The interim series was introduced in the July 1970 issue of this bulletin and incorporates some results of the work carried out in connection with the programme of review. It is a fixed-weights export price index compiled monthly as from June 1969, which has been linked to the previous index at June 1969 (at the then level of the previous index) for each group and the "All groups" combination. The weights of the items in the interim series are derived from the values of exports for the year 1969-70, and the group weights have been adjusted to reflect the proportion that the value of wool bore to the value of all exports in that year. In addition to the 29 items of the previous index, the interim series includes the 4 items iron ore, bauxite, alumina and mineral sands. Pending re-grouping in the final index these items are not attached to any of the previous single groups, whose item content is therefore unchanged. The 4 new items are incorporated in the "All groups" index number as from the link date, June 1969. The 33 items contained in the interim series constituted 74 per cent of the total value of Australian exports (merchandise and non-merchandise) in 1969-70.

3. Index numbers for each of the groups of the previous index and for "All groups" are shown in Table 2 on page 2 (linked as at June 1969). The yearly index numbers are simple averages of the twelve monthly index numbers in each year.

4. The price series used in these indexes relate generally to specified standards for each commodity and in most cases are combinations of prices of a number of representative grades, types, etc. For some commodities price movements in the predominant market, or markets, are used, while for other commodities average realisations in all export markets are used. As nearly as possible, prices used are on the basis f.o.b. at the main Australian ports of export.

5. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index numbers for the current month from the preceding month and from the corresponding month of the previous year.

TABLE 1. – EXPORT PRICE INDEX NUMBERS - DECEMBER 1972
Percentage change from previous periods

Percentage change between –	*Wool*	*Meats*	*Dairy produce*	*Cereals*	*Dried and canned fruits*	*Sugar*	*Hides and tallow*	*Metals and coal*	*Gold*	*All groups (a)*
November 1972 and December 1972	+8.5	+3.1	–6.3	..	..	–8.8	+1.3	+0.7	+2.4	+1.6
December 1971 and December 1972	+163.5	+19.1	–14.5	+9.4	–3.8	+26.4	+70.8	+2.2	+42.1	+30.0

(a) See footnote (c) on page 2.

TABLE 2. – EXPORT PRICE INDEX NUMBERS
(Base of each index : Year 1959-60 = 100)

Period	*Wool*	*Meats*	*Dairy produce*	*Cereals*	*Dried and canned fruits*	*Sugar*	*Hides and tallow*	*Metals and coal (a)*	*Gold*	*All groups*
1962-63	104	101	88	107	90	107	72	89	100	101
1963-64	120	105	93	107	98	175	73	101	100	114
1964-65	102	110	94	107	100	100	91	123	101	105
1965-66	107	120	86	107	102	84	107	122	101	107
1966-67	103	124	84	114	101	67	89	117	101	105
1967-68	95	125	79	109	95	67	67	120	104	100
1968-69	99	131	72	104	97	72	73	123	117	102
1969-70(b)	87	148	73	96	99	93	94	143	109	(c)103
1970-71	67	152	88	100	102	113	94	139	109	101
1971-72	72	147	135	99	103	127	96	138	126	104
	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
1970-71 –										
November	68	147	86	97	99	113	98	138	108	99
December	65	146	87	97	99	102	97	138	108	98
January	64	150	87	105	99	101	93	137	109	100
February	64	152	86	103	104	121	92	137	112	100
March	64	156	89	106	104	118	92	135	112	101
April	64	158	91	106	105	120	92	138	112	102
May	64	159	101	104	105	138	91	138	115	104
June	65	158	107	104	105	113	91	136	115	102
1971-72 –										
July	n65	155	113	104	103	113	90	141	116	103
August	63	152	115	104	103	120	90	138	123	102
September	63	146	121	101	103	109	92	136	118	100
October	63	140	125	100	103	104	91	133	120	99
November	63	143	132	98	104	111	91	132	119	100
December	63	141	138	96	104	106	89	135	121	100
January	66	143	144	98	104	123	92	135	122	102
February	77	144	146	96	104	132	92	139	129	105
March	77	147	148	96	102	148	96	142	133	108
April	82	150	145	95	102	152	104	143	134	109
May	87	150	146	98	103	148	108	141	141	110
June	97	156	142	96	103	157	112	141	n141	114
1972-73										
July	n100	157	132	98	p104	140	114	141	n141	p114
August	102	157	125	95	p101	142	125	140	n141	p113
September	120	161	126	98	p100	135	132	139	184	p118
October	167	162	126	106	p102	141	146	139	178	p131
November	153	163	r126	105	p100	147	150	137	168	p128
December	166	168	118	105	p100	134	152	138	172	p130

(a) Comprises coal, iron and steel, copper, zinc, lead and silver. Does not include iron ore, bauxite, alumina and mineral sands, which however have been included in the "All groups" index from July 1969 on. (b) Interim series linked as at June 1969 (see paragraph 2 on page 1). (c) Interim series includes, in addition to the specified groups, the 4 items iron ore, bauxite, alumina and mineral sands (see paragraph 2 on page 1). p – preliminary, subject to revision. n – nominal. r – revised.

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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.