

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEXFEBRUARY, 1965

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. 49, 1961.

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 weights are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERSFEBRUARY, 1965

Change from Previous Periods
(Per cent.)

Percent- age change between-	Basic Materials							Basic Materials and Foodstuffs			
	Metals and Coal	Oils, Fats and Waxes	Tex- tiles	Chem- icals	Rubber and Hides	Build- ing Mater- ials	Total	Food- stuffs and Tobacco	Goods Princi- pally Im- ported (a)	Goods Princi- pally Home Pro- duced	Total all Groups
(i) Jan., 1965 and Feb., 1965	+0.5	+0.5	+1.0	+1.1	-2.9	..	+0.3	-0.6	-0.7	..	-0.3
(ii) Feb., 1964 and Feb., 1965	+3.4	..	-18.6	+1.4	+8.2	+4.3	+1.2	+5.0	-0.4	+4.3	+2.9
(iii) 8 months ended Feb., 1964 and 8 months ended Feb., 1965	+1.1	-0.6	-9.4	-0.7	+10.1	+7.5	+1.8	+3.7	+0.9	+3.4	+2.8

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in prices of all imports.

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
1954-55	391	214	510	314	246	372	330	315	277	340	322
1955-56	404	220	456	317	328	415	345	325	292	352	334
1956-57	409	241	520	344	302	463	367	324	311	357	344
1957-58	398	238	437	349	280	453	355	325	301	355	339
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
1963-64 - July	385	209	468	316	227	449	338	359	271	382	349
August	383	209	458	283	223	462	336	359	274	380	348
Sept.	383	207	461	283	213	462	335	359	274	379	348
Oct.	385	207	476	283	210	468	338	351	276	374	345
Nov.	384	207	506	283	216	468	339	345	276	370	342
Dec.	383	207	501	283	219	469	339	339	276	366	339
Jan.	381	208	506	283	220	470	339	341	275	368	340
Feb.	381	208	511	284	220	484	342	343	277	370	343
March	382	208	512	284	220	486	343	350	277	376	347
April	385	207	488	284	223	486	342	355	276	380	349
May	384	207	458	284	229	486	340	362	276	384	352
June	382	205	463	284	230	486	340	365	275	386	353
1964-65 - July	386	205	463	285	233	496	343	367	279	389	356
August	389	206	464	285	236	498	345	367	278	390	357
Sept.	385	206	455	285	237	498	343	366	276	389	356
Oct.	385	206	447	285	238	501	344	361	276	385	353
Nov.	383	207	441	285	246	505	344	358	278	382	351
Dec.	385	207	422	285	251	505	344	359	277	383	352
Jan.	392	207	412	285	245	505	345	p362	p278	386	p354
Feb.	394	208	p416	288	p238	505	p346	p360	p276	p386	p353

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and Coal" group excluding Coal and Briquettes for February, 1965 is 490.

(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.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

6TH APRIL, 1965

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NOTE:- Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 366 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.