

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICSCANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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MONTHLY INDEX OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORT PRICES - APRIL, 1961

1. This Statistical Bulletin contains two series of index numbers - one using fixed weights and the other using changing weights. Each takes account of 20 items which normally constitute about 80 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise and silver together with gold production.
2. In general the index numbers show price changes in the predominant market or markets for each commodity, but average prices realized for exports are used for some commodities.

I. THE SIMPLE AGGREGATIVE INDEX : FIXED WEIGHTS

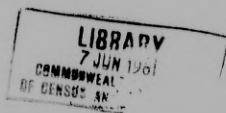
3. The weights are based on average annual exports (production in the case of gold) during the years 1933-34 to 1935-36.
4. Indexes are given for individual commodities and certain groups thereof. The percentage distribution of these groups in the aggregate of the "All Groups" Index for the base period (1936-37 to 1938-39) is shown at the head of the table on page 2.

Recent Trends

5. The following table shows, for certain commodity and group indexes, the percentage variation of the month of April, 1961 from the months of March, 1961 and April, 1960 and from the year ended June, 1960.

Commodity or Group	Percentage Variation of April, 1961, from :-		
	March, 1961	April, 1960	Year ended June, 1960
Wool	+ 8	Nil	+ 1
Wheat	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1
Butter	+ 1	-15	-33
Metals	+ 1	-10	- 8
Sugar	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2
Dried Fruits	Nil	Nil	- 3
Tallow	Nil	+20	+12
Hides	- 4	- 8	-19
Gold	Nil	Nil	Nil
All Groups	+ 5	- 2	- 3

6. Group indexes in the table on page 2 hereof show the great fluctuations and the wide dispersion of prices of export commodities in recent years. In particular, very great movements upwards and downwards have occurred in the price of wool. Since wool is a predominant export, and comprises 46 per cent. of the base aggregate of the index, fluctuations in wool prices obscure the effect on the "All Groups" Index of movements in prices of the other components. For this reason "Wool" and "All Groups Excluding Wool" are shown separately on page 3. The movement of the weighted average index of prices of "All Groups Excluding Wool" contrasts with the pronounced fluctuations in prices of wool.



EXPORT PRICE INDEX

INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, GROUPS, AND ALL GROUPS COMBINED

(Base of each Index : Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

Period	Wool	Wheat	Butter	Metals (a)	Meats (b)	Sugar	Dried Fruits (c)	Tallow	Hides (d)	Gold	All Groups
Percentage Distribution (e)	45.63	17.06	11.36	6.83	6.63	2.40	1.81	0.64	0.66	6.98	100.00
1936-37	122	123	92	120	98	104	103	122	113	99	115
1937-38	99	111	107	96	106	92	103	100	100	98	102
1938-39	79	66	101	84	96	104	94	78	87	103	83
1945-46	117	213	147	196	123	213	137	161	152	122	146
1946-47	173	305	173	308	139	264	152	361	334	122	203
1947-48	287	420	193	372	146	320	157	436	364	122	283
1948-49	365	413	233	478	171	343	162	499	421	122	332
1949-50	473	400	250	421	196	369	176	400	479	164	383
1950-51	999	432	271	689	209	410	226	356	752	176	654
1951-52	564	436	291	811	263	464	302	451	486	184	473
1952-53	616	445	313	504	314	501	297	358	369	186	483
1953-54	615	411	325	450	338	479	287	321	336	179	471
1954-55	538	357	313	511	344	445	267	349	218	178	431
1955-56	464	324	320	562	355	450	286	353	238	178	397
1956-57	578	327	250	545	368	501	319	357	240	178	444
1957-58	471	357	218	398	333	518	341	368	240	178	385
1958-59	362	350	230	386	394	475	383	367	335	178	339
1959-60	425	333	315	428	432	452	p348	302	365	178	p378
1958-59											
April	415	337	249	382	393	473	389	348	521	178	364
May	415	339	262	396	402	477	390	347	456	178	367
June	400	336	287	401	429	458	390	341	452	178	364
1959-60											
July	(f)407	332	312	402	439	437	390	327	464	178	370
August	445	340	336	418	411	461	367	324	461	178	390
September	430	331	350	420	376	438	362	309	440	178	380
October	430	330	359	431	388	440	361	307	395	178	382
November	422	333	367	437	374	458	360	304	312	178	380
December	437	333	367	436	411	458	359	307	334	178	389
January	437	333	355	435	444	455	329	300	345	178	389
February	415	331	310	427	459	448	332	293	346	178	374
March	415	331	276	432	465	458	335	279	345	178	371
April	430	333	248	438	475	454	338	283	322	178	376
May	415	332	248	437	463	461	327	286	316	178	368
June	415	337	255	426	479	453	p310	300	303	178	p369
1960-61											
July	392	335	269	422	477	447	p305	311	280	178	p360
August	362	330	252	417	469	455	p318	311	274	178	p342
September	366	338	235	412	460	466	p331	327	304	178	p343
October	362	339	245	408	(g)	469	p333	338	308	179	p342
November	377	339	239	409	(g)	450	p338	333	310	180	p346
December	373	334	235	390	(g)	455	p342	317	302	179	p341
January	377	330	225	376	(g)	447	p337	308	307	180	p338
February	392	331	215	386	(g)	451	p336	317	300	178	p346
March	p400	333	208	391	(g)	450	p339	338	308	178	p351
April	p430	p337	210	393	(g)	462	p339	339	296	178	p367

(a) Silver, copper, tin, zinc, lead.

(b) Beef, lamb, mutton, pork. Guaranteed minimum prices are used when operative.

(c) Sultanias, raisins, currants.

(d) Cattle hides, calf skins.

(e) Percentage distribution of base aggregate (1936-37 to 1938-39).

(f) Nominal.

(g) Actual prices realized not yet fully known; provisional series are included in "All Groups" Indexes.

p - Preliminary, subject to revision.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX
WOOL AND "OTHER GROUPS"

(Base of each Index : Average of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100)

Period	Wool	All Groups			All Groups
		Excluding Wool	Excluding Gold	Excluding Gold and Wool	
1936-37	122	108	116	110	115
1937-38	99	105	102	106	102
1938-39	79	87	82	84	83
1939-40	98	98	96	95	98
1940-41	101	106	103	104	104
1941-42	101	110	105	108	106
1942-43	117	112	114	111	114
1943-44	117	118	117	117	117
1944-45	117	141	130	144	130
1945-46	117	171	148	178	146
1946-47	173	228	209	243	203
1947-48	287	280	296	303	283
1948-49	365	305	348	332	332
1949-50	473	308	399	329	383
1950-51	999	365	690	393	654
1951-52	564	397	495	428	473
1952-53	616	371	505	399	483
1953-54	615	356	496	383	474
1954-55	538	342	450	366	431
1955-56	464	342	414	366	397
1956-57	578	331	464	353	444
1957-58	471	313	400	332	385
1958-59	362	320	351	341	339
1959-60	425	p339	p393	p363	p378
<u>1958-59</u>					
April	415	321	378	342	364
May	415	327	381	349	367
June	400	334	378	357	364
<u>1959-60</u>					
July	(a)407	338	384	362	370
August	445	345	406	369	390
September	430	339	396	363	380
October	430	343	398	367	382
November	422	344	395	369	380
December	437	349	405	374	389
January	437	349	405	374	389
February	415	340	389	364	374
March	415	334	386	358	371
April	430	331	391	353	376
May	415	329	382	351	368
June	415	p331	p384	p354	p369
<u>1960-61</u>					
July	392	p332	p373	p355	p360
August	362	p326	p355	p348	p342
September	366	p325	p356	p347	p343
October	362	p324	p354	p346	p342
November	377	p320	p358	p341	p346
December	373	p315	p354	p335	p341
January	377	p306	p350	p324	p338
February	p392	p308	p359	p327	p346
March	p400	p310	p364	p330	p351
April	p430	p315	p381	p335	p367

(a) Nominal.

p - Preliminary, subject to revision.

II. THE CHANGING WEIGHTS INDEX : CORRESPONDING MONTHS AND PERIODS OF TRADE YEAR

7. Australian export products are not marketed regularly throughout the year. Wool and wheat are obvious examples of commodities marketed in relatively large quantities at certain periods of the year. In consequence, while the "fixed weights" index numbers indicate satisfactorily the general trend of export prices, they do not take account of the relative quantities actually sold at the prices ruling in particular months. The "changing weights" index numbers, shown below, take account of this factor.

8. The "changing weights" index is designed to compare the level of export prices in any one month (or period of a trade year) with that in the corresponding month (or period) of the previous year, having regard to variations in the proportion of the different kinds of exports. The weights used in its construction are the quantities exported (sold, in some cases) in these two corresponding months (or periods). A full description of the method of computation is given on pages 503-4 in Part VI of Official Year Book No. 46, 1960. A summary of movements in this index follows.

CHANGING WEIGHTS INDEX

(Base : Corresponding month (or period) of preceding year = 100)

Month	Month stated compared with same month of preceding year		Period of trade year ending in month stated compared with same period of preceding year	
	All Groups Excluding Wool	All Groups (a)	All Groups Excluding Wool	All Groups (a)
1958-59 : April	112	107	104	84
May	112	108	104	86
June	112	104	105	87
1959-60 : July	114	113	114	113
August	111	117	113	115
September	111	117	112	116
October	109	120	111	118
November	107	117	110	118
December	109	122	110	118
January	105	122	109	119
February	107	116	109	118
March	106	114	109	118
April	104	104	108	117
May	101	100	108	115
June	p 98	p 102	p 107	p 114
1960-61 : July	p 96	p 96	p 96	p 96
August	p 95	p 89	p 95	p 92
September	p 97	p 89	p 96	p 91
October	p 96	p 89	p 96	p 90
November	p 95	p 91	p 96	p 90
December	p 93	p 89	p 95	p 90
January	p 92	p 89	p 95	p 90
February	p 94	p 95	p 95	p 90
March	p 95	p 96	p 95	p 91
April	p 98	p 98	p 95	p 92

(a) For certain months a nominal price is used for wool as indicated on pages 2 and 3.
p - preliminary, subject to revision;

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