



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANBERRA

FOR RELEASE 11 A.M. 29 APRIL 1976

Reference No. 9.5

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION MATERIALS
MARCH 1976

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	Percentage change between —	
	Feb. 76 and Mar. 76	Mar. 75 and Mar. 76
Conductors	+3.2	+8.5
Conduit and accessories	+0.2	+13.1
Switchboard and switchgear material	+1.2	+18.1
All groups	+1.6	+13.4

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This bulletin contains index numbers of the *Price Index of Electrical Installation Materials*. The index provides comparisons of the overall price changes occurring for a combination of materials, fixed as to quantity and quality. Information on the construction of the index is contained in *Labour Report No. 56*, 1971.

Base period and method of calculation

2. This index is compiled on the reference base : year 1959-60 = 100.0 using the method known as the *weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives*.

Weights

3. In general, the weights for the index were derived from information relating to the values of materials used in selected representative projects in Sydney and Melbourne during the three years 1960-61 to 1962-63. The projects selected for this purpose had a minimum electrical materials and labour content of \$10,000.

Composition

4. The items in this index have been selected as representative of materials used in electrical installation in structures such as hospitals, schools, factories and multi-storeyed commercial buildings and flats.

Prices

5. The items are priced as at the middle of the month for which index numbers are published. The basis of pricing is the price to electrical contractors, delivered on site or into store, Sydney and Melbourne. The price series used relate to specific standards for each item and in some cases are combinations of prices for different makes, types, etc.

Interpretation of the index

6. In interpreting movements in the index, particularly those from month to month, it should be noted that changes frequently occur in an uneven fashion over time. In particular, the prices of some major components in this index are affected by fluctuations in the price of copper. Changes in index numbers for individual months, therefore, do not necessarily indicate changes in trend; they should not be interpreted in isolation and without reference to changes over longer periods.

Index Numbers

7. Index numbers for three groupings of items and for the All groups combination are given in Table 1.

8. The annual index numbers for the years 1959-60 to 1968-69 are simple averages of index numbers for the months of August, November, February and May in each year while those for following years are simple averages of the twelve monthly index numbers for each year.

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
PRICE INDEX OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION MATERIALS
GROUPS AND ALL GROUPS
(Base of each index : Year 1959-60 = 100.0) (a)

Value weight (%) (b)	Conductors	Conduit and accessories	Switchboard and switchgear material	All groups
	40%	25%	35%	100%
1965-66	105.8	104.2		
1966-67	120.2	105.8	106.6	105.7
1967-68	119.9	106.0	109.2	112.8
1968-69	119.5	107.3	112.5	113.8
1969-70	142.1	109.6	115.3	115.0
1970-71	128.4	112.8	120.1	126.2
1971-72	126.7	120.9	129.2	124.8
1972-73	133.5	126.8	137.7	129.1
1973-74	165.1	138.5	144.2	135.5
1974-75	168.2	169.6	156.5	155.5
			192.3	177.0
1973-74 -				
February	164.9	136.5		
March	165.9	139.6	154.8	154.3
April	173.0	146.2	157.9	156.5
May	175.1	148.3	159.4	161.5
June	180.5	152.7	164.1	164.5
			177.4	172.5
1974-75 -				
July	183.1			
August	178.4	154.1	178.5	174.3
September	165.3	157.4	180.9	174.1
October	166.6	157.7	182.2	169.3
November	170.3	165.3	183.5	172.2
December	166.4	167.3	190.4	176.6
		169.1	194.0	176.8
January	162.3	171.1		
February	160.6	174.8	195.1	176.0
March	165.5	178.3	197.1	176.9
April	167.8	179.6	198.2	180.1
May	166.0	179.6	200.4	182.2
June	165.6	180.7	201.9	182.0
			205.2	183.2
1975-76 -				
July	167.8			
August	171.5	183.8	207.2	185.6
September	173.6	188.5	209.4	187.1
October	172.4	189.0	209.9	190.2
November	171.8	189.7	211.5	190.4
December	172.3	197.0	214.9	193.2
		197.3	228.2	198.2
January	173.7	199.1		
February	174.0	201.2	229.6	199.6
March p	179.6	201.6	231.3	200.9
			234.1	204.2

(a) Figures are shown to one decimal place to avoid distortions that would occur in rounding off the index numbers to the nearest whole number. (b) Composition and weighting pattern as at reference base year; see paragraphs 3 and 4. p - preliminary, subject to revision.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Paul Curran on 52 6248 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.