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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX, DECEMBER 1967

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. 51, 1964.
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 take 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 here, in the main, been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants. With a few important exceptions, they are from Melbourne sources.
5. The index is constructed on the aggregative fixed weights formula. 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 validity of the weighting and the representativeness of the index have become increasingly affected by changes in usage and in industrial structure.
6. Work is proceeding on the preparation of new series of wholesale price index numbers relating to materials used and articles produced by sectors of industry. The aim is for the first of these new series to be published in 1968 and to relate to materials used in the building industry and in manufacturing industry. To a considerable extent, these first series will constitute a currently representative replacement for the present Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Wholesale Price Index. In the interim, the existing index will continue to be compiled and published mainly to meet the needs of those who require it for special purposes. It should be noted that the groups of the existing index relate primarily to a commodity type classification and have never purported to represent the materials used or articles produced by defined sectors of industry.
7. Table 1 below shows for each index the percentage change of the index number for the month of December 1967, from the preceding month (November 1967) and from the corresponding month of the previous year (December 1966).

TABLE 1. - WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS
DECEMBER 1967

Percentage change from previous periods

| Percentage change between | Basic materials | | | | | | | Food-stuffs and tobacco | Basic materials and foodstuffs | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | Metals and coal | Oils, fats and waxes | Tex-tiles | Chemicals | Rubber and hides | Build-ing materials | Total | | Goods principally imported (a) | Goods principally home produced | Total all groups |
| Nov. 1967 and Dec. 1967 | +0.8 | .. | +1.3 | .. | - 8.9 | .. | .. | .. | -0.3 | +0.2 | .. |
| Dec. 1966 and Dec. 1967 | .. | +3.2 | -5.5 | +4.2 | -30.8 | -0.4 | -0.8 | -0.8 | +1.4 | -1.2 | -0.5 |

(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 |
| 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 |
| 1964-65 | 391 | 207 | 427 | 286 | 242 | 503 | 345 | 364 | 277 | 388 | 355 |
| 1965-66 | 390 | 218 | 432 | 325 | 306 | 507 | 355 | 385 | 280 | 409 | 371 |
| 1966-67 | 396 | 220 | 419 | 381 | 281 | 511 | 362 | 401 | 283 | 425 | 383 |
| 1965-66 - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 390 | 219 | 449 | 348 | 353 | 507 | 361 | 393 | 283 | 418 | 378 |
| May | 387 | 219 | 448 | 348 | 337 | 507 | 359 | 389 | 282 | 414 | 375 |
| June | 389 | 219 | 449 | 348 | 304 | 507 | 358 | 387 | 281 | 413 | 374 |
| 1966-67 - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 389 | 220 | 448 | 369 | 303 | 507 | 360 | 395 | 282 | 420 | 379 |
| August | 395 | 220 | 443 | 385 | 309 | 508 | 364 | 403 | 283 | 428 | 385 |
| September | 396 | 221 | 430 | 382 | 295 | 511 | 363 | 402 | 282 | 428 | 385 |
| October | 395 | 220 | 417 | 382 | 273 | 513 | 362 | 400 | 283 | 424 | 382 |
| November | 397 | 220 | 417 | 382 | 280 | 513 | 362 | 400 | 283 | 425 | 383 |
| December | 398 | 218 | 415 | 382 | 295 | 513 | 363 | 399 | 283 | 424 | 382 |
| January | 400 | 218 | 409 | 382 | 280 | 513 | 363 | 397 | 283 | 423 | 382 |
| February | 400 | 219 | 414 | 382 | 269 | 512 | 362 | 396 | 285 | 421 | 381 |
| March | 398 | 219 | 408 | 382 | 277 | 512 | 362 | 402 | 285 | 425 | 384 |
| April | 397 | 219 | 408 | 382 | 278 | 512 | 361 | 400 | 283 | 424 | 382 |
| May | 395 | 220 | 414 | 382 | 268 | 512 | 361 | 402 | 284 | 425 | 383 |
| June | 395 | 220 | 407 | 382 | 241 | 507 | 358 | 418 | 283 | 436 | 391 |
| 1967-68 - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 394 | 220 | 400 | 388 | 227 | 509 | 358 | 427 | 284 | 442 | 395 |
| August | 394 | 220 | 381 | 398 | 221 | 510 | 358 | 432 | 284 | 446 | 398 |
| September | 394 | 226 | 380 | 398 | 223 | 510 | 360 | 422 | 287 | 438 | 393 |
| October | p394 | 226 | 380 | 398 | 232 | 511 | p360 | p397 | p287 | p419 | p380 |
| November | p395 | 225 | p387 | 398 | 224 | 511 | p360 | p396 | p286 | p418 | p380 |
| December | p398 | 225 | p392 | 398 | 204 | 511 | p360 | p396 | p287 | p419 | p380 |

(a) The special purpose index number for the "Metals and coal" group excluding coal and briquettes for December 1967 is 501. (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.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1966.

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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.