

INFORMATION BRIEF  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**MARCH QTR 2007**

ABS 6401.0

Released: 24 April 2007, 11:30am (AEST)

**Summary**

**Headline<sup>1</sup> CPI inflation change (quarterly):**

Brisbane	0.4%
Australia <sup>2</sup>	0.1%

**Headline CPI inflation change (annual):**

Brisbane	2.9%
Australia	2.4%

**Market sector goods and services (core CPI) inflation change (Australia):**

Quarter	0.3%
Annual	2.2%

<sup>1</sup> Headline CPI refers to All Groups.

<sup>2</sup> Australia refers to the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

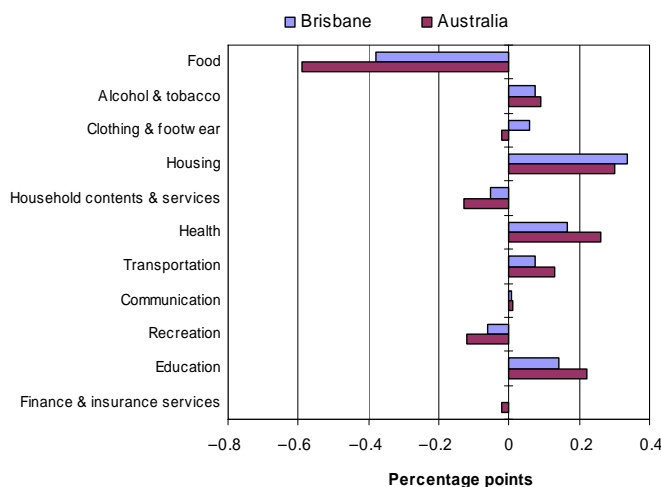
**Commentary**

- Brisbane's headline consumer price index (CPI) increased 0.4% in March quarter 2007, remaining 2.9% higher over the year. Hobart recorded the highest increase in headline consumer prices in the March quarter 2007 (0.5%), while Adelaide recorded the largest decline (-0.3%) (Table 1).
- The increase in Brisbane's headline consumer price index in the March quarter 2007 follows the decline in the December quarter 2006 price index, which was the first quarterly decline recorded since the March quarter 1999.
- Compared with the Australian average, Brisbane recorded stronger positive contribution to the CPI in *Clothing and Footwear* and *Housing* for the quarter. No groups in Brisbane for March quarter 2007 recorded larger negative contribution to the CPI than Australia (Figure 1).
- In the March quarter 2007, the *Housing* group made the largest positive contribution to growth in the quarter (0.3 percentage point). Within this category, *House Purchases* increased by 3.3% in the quarter.
- In the March quarter 2007, the *Food* group made the largest negative contribution to growth in the quarter (-0.4 percentage point). Within this category, *Fruit* decreased by 36.4% in the quarter.
- Australia's price index for market sector goods and services, which excludes more volatile items, rose 0.3% in the March quarter, with annual growth increasing to be 2.2%. Lower growth in this underlying inflation measure was explained by the fact that price rises in non-core CPI items (such as vegetables, petrol, pharmaceuticals and education) were largely responsible for higher headline price inflation in the March quarter.

**Table 1: Percentage change in the CPI**

Capital City	March quarter 2007		December quarter 2006	
	Quarterly	Yearly	Quarterly	Yearly
Sydney	-0.1	2.2	-0.2	3.2
Melbourne	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.9
<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Adelaide	-0.3	1.8	-0.3	3.0
Perth	0.2	3.5	0.4	4.4
Hobart	0.5	2.1	-0.3	2.5
Darwin	0.0	4.0	0.5	5.0
Canberra	0.2	2.4	-0.3	3.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>

**Figure 1: Quarterly CPI contributions, by group, March quarter 2007**



**Figure 2: CPI annual change, quarterly, Australia**

