

### Quarterly changes in WPI in 1998-99

6. The first quarter (April-June) of fiscal 1998-99 registered a price rise of 1.9 per cent. The second quarter (July-September) registered the maximum growth of 2.8 per cent in prices. In the third quarter, prices rose by 1.3 per cent. The cumulative growth in prices during April - December was 6.2 per cent. (Table 5.4)

7. The wholesale prices of primary articles increased by 3.5 per cent in the first quarter and more sharply by 5.1 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year. The major part of the rise during the second quarter was contributed by the food articles reflecting in particular the unprecedented escalation in the prices of vegetables, especially onion and potato. The wholesale prices of primary articles rose by 3 per cent in the third quarter.

8. The price of manufactured products registered a rise of 1.4 per cent in the first quarter, followed by 2.0 per cent in the second quarter of the current year, and only 0.3 per cent rise in the third quarter.

9. The rise in the prices of seasonal items exhibited high growth (6.1 per cent) during the second quarter. Prices of administered items showed a negligible growth during the first and third quarter and a declining growth during the second quarter of the current financial year, in sharp contrast to the substantial price rise last year.

10. Total price rise from April to December was 11.3 per cent in the group of 30 essential commodities. The prices of 30 essential commodities rose by only 1.3 per cent in the first quarter. Sharp rise of 6.7 per cent was registered in the second quarter followed by 3.0 per cent in the third quarter of the current financial year.

**TABLE 5.4**  
**Quarterly Average Movement in the Wholesale Price Index**  
(Per cent change)

Commodity group	Weight	1997-98 Apr-Mar	1998-99			
			Qrt 1 Apr-Jun	Qrt 2 Jul-Sep	Qrt 3 Oct-Dec	Apr-Dec
All commodities	100.0	4.9	1.9	2.8	1.3	6.2
Primary articles	32.3	4.7	3.5	5.1	3.0	12.0
Fuel, power, light and Lubricants	10.7	11.2	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.5
Manufactured Products	57.0	3.8	1.4	2.0	0.3	3.8
Administered items	15.9	10.2	0.2	-0.7	0.2	-0.3
Seasonal items	34.4	5.4	3.5	6.1	2.4	12.5
Raw materials	14.9	7.4	1.2	3.5	0.9	5.7
<b>Essential commodities</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>