

## **Australian inflation gauge eases 0.1 pct in Nov.**

SYDNEY, Dec. 3 (Xinhua) -- A private measure of Australian inflation showed on Monday that consumer prices eased in November for the first time in five months, led by falls in the price of vegetables and automotive fuel.

The TD Securities-Melbourne Institute monthly inflation gauge fell by 0.1 percent in November, following an increase of 0.1 percent in October, and 0.2 percent in September, TD Securities said.

The global wholesale banking arm of Toronto-Dominion Bank said in the year to November, the inflation gauge rose 2.5 percent, following the 2.4 percent rise over the 12 months to October.

The main price rises for the month were in bread and cereals, newspapers, books and stationery, and dairy products.

These were offset by falls in fruit and vegetables, automotive fuel, and holiday travel and accommodation.

Head of Asia-Pacific Research at TD Securities Annette Beacher said that while the price rises in the November report were soft, annual rates for inflation headline and underlying inflation remain firmly at the mid-point of the Reserve Bank of Australia's 2.0 to 3.0 percent target range.

"We highlight that November is a weak month for price rises in the gauge, which tends to be followed by a decent average seasonal pickup in December," Beacher said in a statement.

She added that inflation for the December quarter should rise by 0.2 percent, generating annual inflation of around 2.5 percent.

"Better global activity data continues to trickle through, especially from the United States and China, while underlying inflation appears set to remain mid-target, well away from the bottom of the range," she said.