

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1961 TO JUNE QUARTER 1971

(Revised Series—Preliminary Estimates)

Reference No. 6.18

This statement contains estimates of average weekly earnings per employed male unit for each State and Australia for the period September quarter 1966 to June quarter 1971, and for Australia only for the period September quarter 1961 to June quarter 1966. Figures to March quarter 1971, previously published in the quarterly statement "Average Weekly Earnings" (Reference No. 6.18), the "Wage Rates and Earnings" bulletin (Reference No. 6.15) and other publications, have been revised.

2. The estimates of average weekly earnings are derived from particulars of employment and wages and salaries recorded on payroll tax returns, from other direct collections and from estimates of the unrecorded balance. The figures relate to civilians only. In addition to salary and wage payments at award rates, the total earnings figures used in the calculation of average weekly earnings include the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, over-award and bonus payments, payments made in advance or retrospectively during the period, etc.
3. The employment series used in the calculation was revised during 1970 to incorporate new benchmarks derived from 1966 population census data, but the changes could not be introduced into the average weekly earnings series until investigation of a number of other aspects of the estimation method had been carried out. This has now been completed and the necessary revisions to the earnings series have been made.
4. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of male units, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being determined by the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings.
5. In the previous series the same ratio, namely 55 per cent, was used for Australia and for each State, because sufficient information was until recently not available to enable different ratios to be used for the several States. In the present revision, information from the annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours, from a sample survey carried out in November 1969 and from other sources has been used to estimate different percentages for individual States. The ratios used for the revised series from September quarter 1966 are as follows: New South Wales (including the Australian Capital Territory) 54 per cent, Victoria 53, Queensland 52, South Australia (including the Northern Territory) 50, Western Australia 49 and Tasmania 49. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States, a separate ratio for Australia as a whole is not used, but the weighted average of the State ratios is approximately 52.5 per cent.
6. The effect of using lower ratios is, in the absence of other factors, to increase the level of the average weekly earnings series. This change would therefore have tended to raise the estimated overall average and also to raise the averages for the smaller States, particularly South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, in comparison with those for New South Wales and Victoria. However, the opportunity has been taken to incorporate a number of other improvements to the method of estimation. For example, an analysis of data obtained through surveys carried out in 1966 and 1967 has enabled an explicit allowance to be made in the revised series for the effect of multiple jobholding and data from a survey in November 1969 have given a more accurate indication of average earnings in fields not covered by payroll tax returns and other direct collections. The total effect of these various factors has generally been to raise the level of the average weekly earnings series. The revised estimates for each State and Australia are shown in Table 1:

7. Because of the adoption of a new definition of the labour force at the June 1966 population census, which resulted in the inclusion of a larger number of part-time employees than formerly, there is a break in comparability between June and September quarters of 1966 in the employment series used in the calculation of average weekly earnings. For this and other reasons (in particular, the lack of precise information about the ratios of female to male earnings in the several States for 1965-66 and earlier years) it is not possible to make a comparable series of State estimates for periods prior to September quarter 1966. However, in order to provide a broad indication of trends over a longer period, estimates for Australia as a whole have been calculated for the period back to September quarter 1961 by methods and on a basis that are as nearly as possible comparable with those used for the current series. These estimates are shown in Table 2.

8. The quarterly figures in money terms are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures for all quarters are affected by the varying incidence of pay days in successive quarters. Allowance for the varying incidence of pay days and for seasonal factors has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates shown in the tables. It should also be noted that seasonal adjustment factors were estimated from a series adjusted to allow for the effects of major awards and determinations of Commonwealth and State industrial authorities. The effects of these awards and determinations are retained in the seasonally adjusted data. Seasonally adjusted estimates are now shown in money terms, the previously published index, based on the year 1953-54-100, having been discontinued. Particulars of the methods used in seasonally adjusting this series are available on request. A detailed description of the methods will be published in conjunction with the September quarter 1971 figures.

9. The seasonally adjusted index for the manufacturing industry, which was published up to June quarter 1970, has not been included in this statement. This index was based on the average earnings of male wage and salary earners employed in factories as disclosed by annual manufacturing censuses, estimates for periods subsequent to the most recent manufacturing census being based on payroll tax data. The 1968-69 census, unlike its predecessors, does not provide particulars of average earnings for males and females separately. When detailed results of this census become available the feasibility of republishing seasonally adjusted estimates for manufacturing will be examined.

TABLE 1. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a)

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Period	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	
							Original	Seasonally Adjusted
1966-67	63.50	63.90	57.10	57.60	59.20	58.40	61.70	..
1967-68	67.00	67.60	60.20	61.10	63.90	61.90	65.30	..
1968-69	72.70	72.10	64.30	65.20	68.70	65.60	70.20	..
1969-70	78.80	78.10	69.20	70.90	75.50	70.80	76.10	..
1970-71	87.90	86.20	77.80	78.40	84.60	78.70	84.70	..
1966 - Sept. qtr.	62.40	63.20	56.30	57.30	59.10	56.60	60.90	60.70
Dec. "	64.60	65.50	59.00	58.40	60.40	60.30	63.10	61.10
1967 - Mar. "	61.30	60.70	54.50	56.00	57.50	56.70	59.30	62.00
June "	65.40	66.00	58.60	58.60	59.90	60.00	63.50	63.20
Sept. "	65.70	66.80	59.10	60.30	62.20	60.20	64.20	64.20
Dec. "	68.10	69.80	62.30	62.00	64.80	64.30	66.90	64.90
1968 - Mar. "	65.20	64.40	57.40	59.60	62.20	60.10	63.00	65.50
June "	69.00	69.30	61.80	62.20	66.30	63.10	67.10	66.80
Sept. "	69.70	69.60	61.80	63.70	66.70	62.80	67.60	67.70
Dec. "	75.30	74.00	66.10	66.60	69.70	68.40	72.30	69.80
1969 - Mar. "	70.50	70.30	61.90	63.80	67.30	63.50	68.30	71.70
June "	75.20	74.60	67.30	66.60	71.20	67.50	72.60	72.20
Sept. "	76.20	76.00	67.60	69.30	73.30	68.80	73.90	73.60
Dec. "	81.60	80.80	71.50	72.90	78.00	73.90	78.70	75.00
1970 - Mar. "	74.90	74.30	65.90	68.10	72.70	66.30	72.50	77.10
June "	82.30	81.10	71.90	73.50	78.00	74.30	79.10	78.80
Sept. "	83.50	82.10	73.90	76.10	80.50	74.40	80.70	80.00
Dec. "	89.70	87.50	79.10	78.70	85.70	80.50	86.10	81.90
1971 - Mar. "	85.00	83.70	75.70	76.50	82.40	74.90	82.10	87.50
June "	93.10	91.50	82.60	82.20	89.40	84.90	89.70	88.50

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 4 and 5 on page 1. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the Northern Territory.

TABLE 2. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a), AUSTRALIA

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Period	Original	Seasonally Adjusted	Period	Original	Seasonally Adjusted
1961-62	47.60	..	1963 - Sept. qtr.	49.80	50.30
1962-63	48.90	..	Dec. "	54.10	51.60
1963-64	51.50	..			
1964-65	55.30	..	1964 - Mar. "	49.10	51.30
1965-66	57.90	..	June "	52.80	52.10
			Sept. "	54.10	53.80
1961 - Sept. qtr.	46.70	47.10	Dec. "	57.50	55.10
Dec. "	49.20	47.30			
			1965 - Mar. "	53.00	55.80
1962 - Mar. "	45.70	48.00	June "	56.60	56.40
June "	48.80	48.30	Sept. "	57.60	57.10
Sept. "	47.90	48.40	Dec. "	59.60	57.40
Dec. "	50.50	48.50			
			1966 - Mar. "	55.50	58.20
1963 - Mar. "	46.90	49.30	June "	58.70	58.40
June "	50.30	49.70			

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 4 and 5 on page 1.

J.P. O'NEILL  
 ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.