

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1977

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics –

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### MAIN FEATURES

- The estimate of average weekly earnings per employed male unit for the December quarter 1977 is \$212.60.
- In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate is \$204.70, 10 cents higher than in the September quarter and 9.2 per cent above the figure for the December quarter last year.
- Average earnings for the quarter were affected by the loss of wages in the electricity supply dispute in Victoria. Also, the National Wage Case increase was not payable until very near the end of the quarter.

### Introduction

This publication presents estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian male wage and salary earners for Australia, States and Territories. Preliminary estimates for Australia for the December quarter 1977 were published in a statement issued on 20 February (6301.0).

### Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages shown in Tables 1 and 2 comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of managerial and executive staff, and of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

3. Earnings figures used in calculating the averages shown in Table 3 comprise earnings as defined in the previous paragraph, with the exception of overtime earnings and the earnings of part-time employees, juniors and managerial, executive, etc., staff.

### Method of estimation

4. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published

monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (6213.0). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

5. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

### Male units

6. 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 derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings are used for individual States, based on information from regular surveys of weekly earnings and hours and other sources. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows: New South Wales 68 per cent, Victoria 68, Queensland 66, South Australia 66, Western Australia 62, Tasmania 64, the Northern Territory 62, and the Australian Capital Territory 64. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States and Territories, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State and Territory ratios is approximately 67 per cent. Changes in these ratios may be necessary from one quarter to the next to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio is understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of \$200 would be overstated by about 70 cents.

### Seasonally adjusted estimates

7. Quarterly figures 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 are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters, (with the exception of Australian Government pay-days in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, for which special adjustments have been made in the original series). Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for all series shown in the tables.

8. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retain the effect of the major award, etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0).

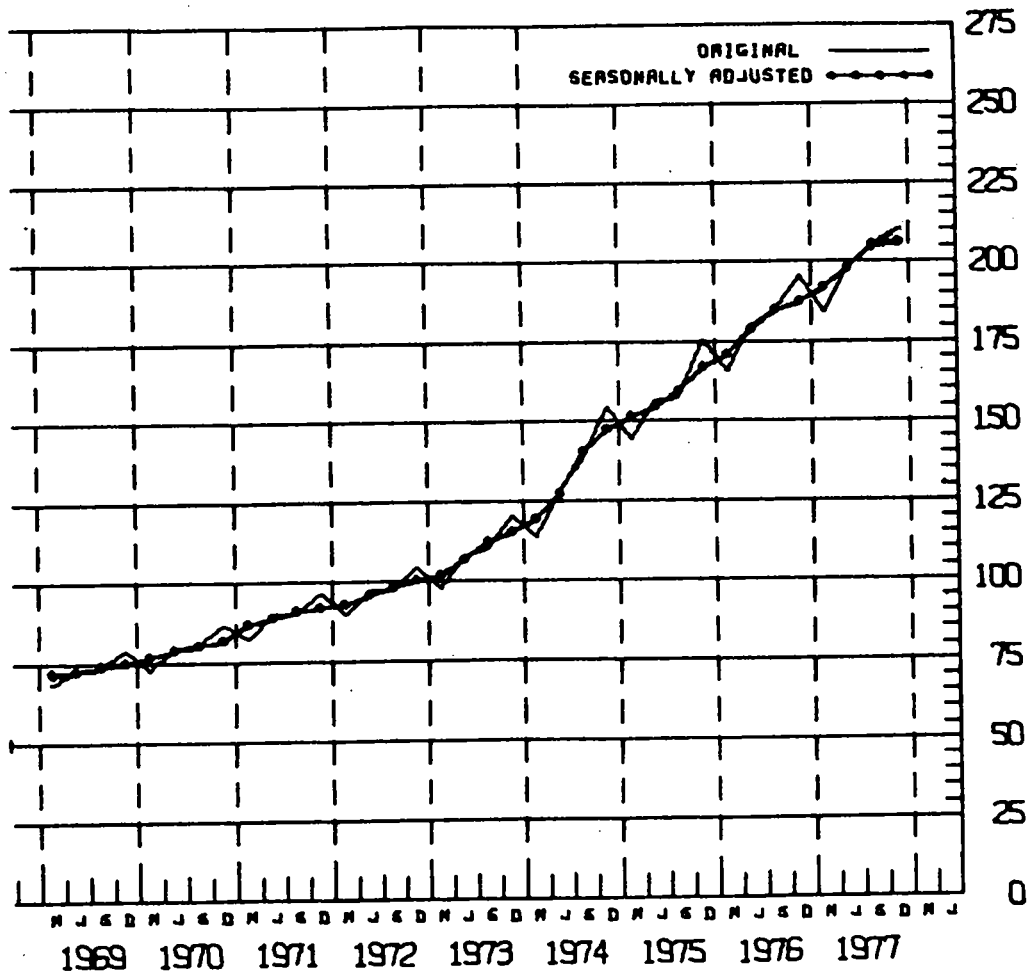
#### Revisions to the estimates

9. For a number of reasons estimates in these series are subject to revision. The seasonally adjusted estimates generally need to be revised following annual reanalysis of the series. The original estimates are revised whenever the employment series on which they are based is revised, for example, after the incorporation of new benchmarks following a population census. The surveys of earnings and hours, conducted in May and October, generally provide information about the ratio of female to male earnings, overtime earnings and hours and so on, which make it necessary to revise the average weekly earnings estimates. Other revisions are made from time to time as new or revised data become available.

#### ABS publications

10. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) AUSTRALIA  
(\$)



(a) For explanation see paragraph 6 on page 1.

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

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1971 -					1975 -				
September	90.50	90.80	+ 2.1	+12.8	March	143.80	151.50	+2.6	+27.0
December	96.50	92.10	+ 1.4	+12.0	June	156.40	154.70	+2.1	+21.5
1972 -					September	157.60	159.40	+3.0	+13.5
March	89.50	93.20	+ 1.2	+ 7.4	December	175.70	166.90	+4.7	+13.0
June	97.20	96.00	+ 3.0	+ 8.0	1976 -				
September	97.10	98.30	+ 2.4	+ 8.3	March	165.30	171.10	+2.5	+12.9
December	104.40	100.50	+ 2.2	+ 9.1	June	179.80	178.80	+4.5	+15.6
1973 -					September	184.80	184.90	+3.4	+16.0
March	97.40	102.00	+ 1.5	+ 9.4	December	195.50	187.40	+1.4	+12.3
June	108.20	107.10	+ 5.0	+11.6	1977 -				
September	110.60	112.40	+ 4.9	+14.3	March	183.80	192.10	+2.5	+12.3
December	120.40	115.40	+ 2.7	+14.8	June	199.00	198.40	+3.3	+11.0
1974 -					September	204.20	204.60	+3.1	+10.7
March	113.30	119.30	+ 3.4	+17.0	December	212.60	204.70	..	+ 9.2
June	128.70	127.30	+ 6.7	+18.9					
September	138.40	140.50	+10.4	+25.0					
December	154.40	147.70	+ 5.1	+28.0					

(a) See paragraph 6 on page 1. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 on page 2. (c) Percentage change over previous quarter in the seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series.

TABLE 2. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES (\$)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (b)	A.C.T. (b)	Australia
1971-72	96.30	93.90	87.40	86.00	93.60	87.50	..	..	93.40
1972-73	104.60	102.80	97.10	93.40	98.80	95.20	..	..	101.80
1973-74	121.20	118.80	113.50	110.40	115.00	110.50	..	..	118.30
1974-75	152.10	147.80	142.50	138.60	145.60	140.20	168.50	184.30	148.30
1975-76	172.70	170.50	163.50	158.50	169.10	157.80	190.00	209.00	169.60
1976-77	193.60	191.20	184.50	179.50	190.80	181.30	216.80	237.70	190.80

## Original Series

Quarter -									
1976 -									
March	168.50	165.50	158.20	154.40	164.80	151.20	185.50	208.30	165.30
June	183.60	180.70	175.00	167.60	178.80	165.10	199.60	221.90	179.80
September	187.30	183.00	182.00	175.00	184.00	175.60	209.30	230.00	184.80
December	197.90	197.40	189.80	182.80	194.50	188.70	220.00	243.90	195.50
1977 -									
March	187.30	183.60	174.00	172.90	186.60	175.20	212.20	231.00	183.80
June	201.80	200.80	192.30	187.40	198.20	185.50	225.60	245.80	199.00
September	207.30	205.10	195.60	195.90	206.10	196.50	228.70	251.10	204.20
December	217.10	211.90	206.80	200.10	211.10	205.40	245.40	263.10	212.60

## Seasonally Adjusted Series (c)

Quarter -									
1976 -									
March	173.80	170.60	164.90	158.00	169.30	156.30	187.90	214.60	171.10
June	183.20	182.50	174.20	168.00	177.30	165.90	199.60	216.30	178.80
September	187.00	182.80	183.00	173.60	182.80	177.20	208.60	233.10	184.90
December	190.20	187.90	179.60	177.60	189.10	178.80	213.40	238.50	187.40
1977 -									
March	194.00	191.10	184.90	177.30	193.70	184.00	215.70	240.30	192.10
June	202.80	203.00	189.60	190.60	197.10	185.00	226.30	243.70	198.40
September	208.10	205.70	197.40	194.10	205.60	196.90	232.40	251.40	204.60
December	209.20	201.50	197.40	195.00	206.00	196.80	237.30	259.20	204.70

(a) See paragraph 6 on page 1. (b) Original series estimates for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have been calculated on a basis which excludes the effects of varying numbers of Australian Government pay-days in each quarter. Estimates for periods prior to 1974-75 are not available. (c) See paragraphs 7 and 8 on page 2.

TABLE 3. AVERAGE WEEKLY ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS,  
FULL-TIME ADULT MALE NON-MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES, AUSTRALIA (a)

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Original</i> \$	<i>Seasonally</i> <i>adjusted (b)</i> \$	<i>Annual</i> <i>change (c)</i> %
1973 -			
December	104.50	100.50	13.6
1974 -			
March	98.00	103.50	16.3
June	113.00	111.50	18.6
September	121.00	123.00	25.5
December	137.50	131.50	30.8
1975 -			
March	130.50	137.00	32.4
June	142.50	141.00	26.5
September	144.50	146.50	19.1
December	160.00	152.00	15.6
1976 -			
March	150.00	155.50	13.5
June	164.50	163.50	16.0
September	169.00	169.00	15.4
December	179.00	171.50	12.8
1977 -			
March	167.50	175.00	12.5
June	182.00	181.50	11.0
September r	186.00	186.50	10.4
December p	192.50	185.50	8.2

(a) See paragraph 3 on page 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8 on page 2. (c) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series. r - revised p - provisional.

R. J. CAMERON  
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