

INQUIRIES

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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1971 TO MARCH QUARTER 1977

(Revised Series)

MAIN FEATURES

Average weekly earnings per employed male unit for the March quarter 1977 were \$183.60.

Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings were \$191.90. This was 2.4 per cent higher than for the previous quarter and 12.2 per cent higher than for the March quarter 1976.

It is estimated that in the March quarter 1977 average weekly earnings, excluding overtime, of full-time adult male non-managerial wage and salary earners were \$167.00. (See Table 3.)

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.

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

Male units

7. 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 are shown in the table on page 2. The Australian ratio is the weighted average of the State and Territory ratios. 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 \$190 would be overstated by about 70 cents.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

8. 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.

9. 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*, (Reference No. 1.10).

ABS publications

10. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8).

Introduction

This publication contains estimates of average weekly earnings per employed male unit (see paragraph 7), approximating the average earnings of civilian male employees. Estimates are shown for Australia and each State for each quarter from September quarter 1971, together with financial year averages for the period 1971-72 to 1975-76. Estimates for the Territories are shown for each quarter from December quarter 1973 and for the years 1974-75 and 1975-76.

As foreshadowed in the preliminary statement (Reference No. 6.48) issued on 30 May 1977, all estimates from September quarter 1971 have been revised, as a result of the incorporation of a revised series of employment estimates, changes to the ratio of female to male average earnings and some amendments to the allowance made for earnings from second jobs. The seasonally adjusted series have also been reanalysed. The ratios of female to male average earnings for each quarter from September quarter 1973 are shown on page 2. No change has been made to ratios for earlier periods.

Definition of earnings

The earnings figures used in the calculation for 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 in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

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 and managerial, executive, etc., staff.

Method of estimation

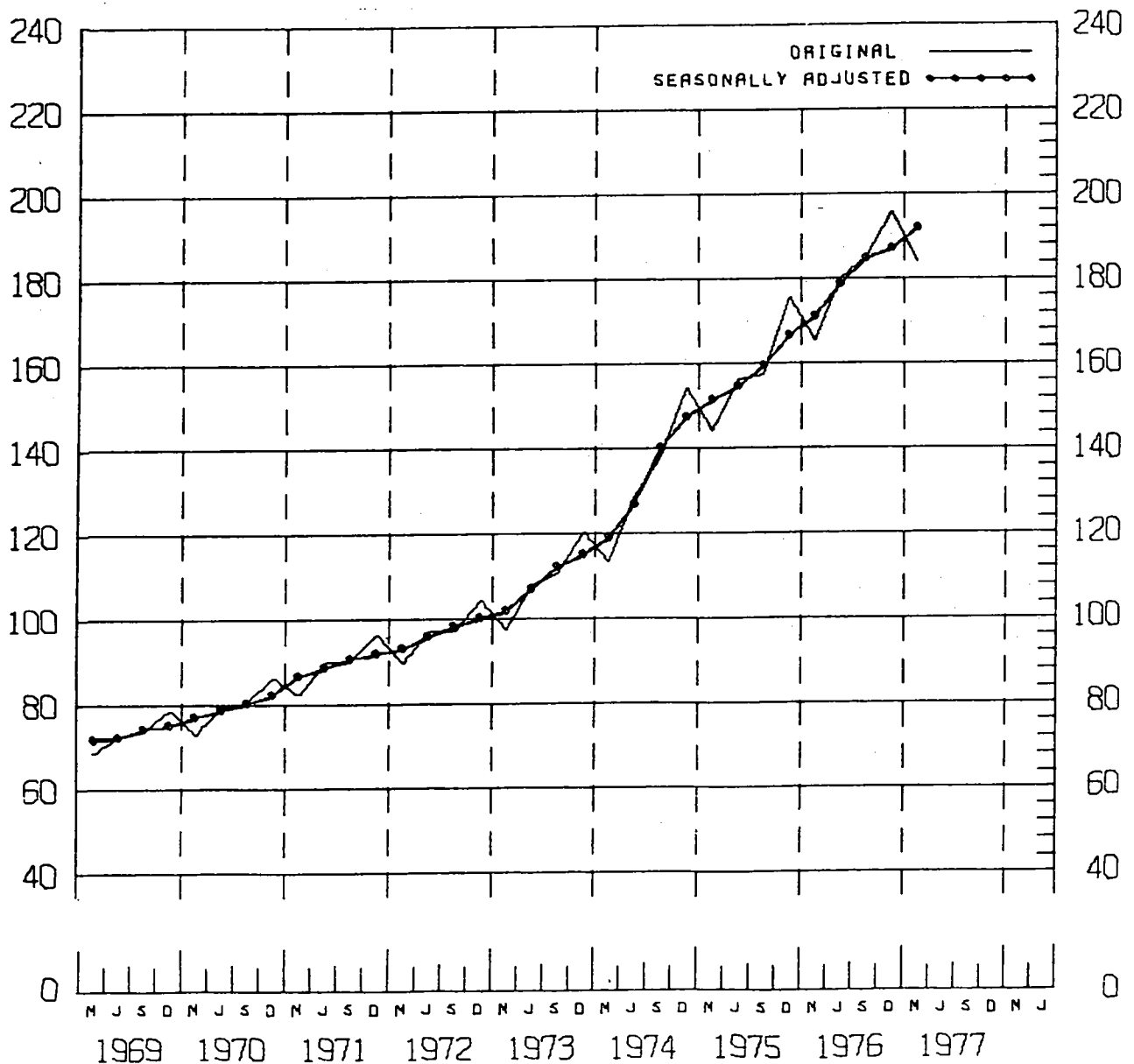
For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4).

**RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE AVERAGE EARNINGS**  
(Per cent)

Quarter	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia (a)
1973 -									
September	59	59	55	54	52	56	..	..	58
December	60	60	56	55	53	57	60	59	59
1974 -									
March	62	62	58	58	55	60	60	59	61
June	62	62	59	60	57	62	60	59	61
September	63	63	60	62	58	63	60	60	62
December	63	64	61	63	58	63	61	60	63
1975 -									
March	64	65	63	63	59	64	62	60	64
June	64	66	64	64	59	64	63	61	64
September	65	67	65	64	60	65	64	61	65
December	65	67	65	64	61	65	64	61	65
1976 -									
March	65	67	65	65	62	65	64	62	65
June	66	67	65	65	62	65	63	63	66
September	67	67	65	66	62	64	62	63	66
December	67	67	66	66	62	64	62	64	66
1977 -									
March	67	67	66	66	62	64	62	64	66

(a) Weighted average of the State and Territory ratios.

**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 r

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	183.60	191.90	+2.4	+12.2
December	120.40	115.40	+ 2.7	+14.8					
1974 -									
March	113.30	119.30	+ 3.4	+17.0					
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 7 on page 1. (b) See paragraphs 8 and 9 on page 1. (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. r - revised; see paragraph 2.

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

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

## Original Series

1971 -									
Sept. qtr	92.80	91.60	83.60	84.50	92.50	82.70	..	..	90.50
Dec. qtr	99.70	96.80	89.80	88.00	96.30	91.10	..	..	96.50
1972 -									
Mar. qtr	92.60	89.10	84.20	82.50	90.70	84.20	..	..	89.50
June qtr	100.20	97.90	91.80	88.80	94.70	92.00	..	..	97.20
Sept. qtr	99.00	99.30	92.90	88.70	95.00	90.80	..	..	97.10
Dec. qtr	107.70	105.90	99.20	95.00	99.00	99.30	..	..	104.40
1973 -									
Mar. qtr	100.40	97.80	92.80	90.30	96.30	88.70	..	..	97.40
June qtr	111.40	108.20	103.60	99.50	105.00	102.00	..	..	108.20
Sept. qtr	112.30	112.80	105.50	104.20	108.70	102.40	..	..	110.60
Dec. qtr	123.40	121.20	115.60	110.40	115.00	117.20	134.30	142.50	120.40
1974 -									
Mar. qtr	117.10	112.90	108.90	106.10	111.10	101.60	136.30	145.50	113.30
June qtr	132.10	128.30	124.00	120.80	125.30	120.60	137.50	156.90	128.70
Sept. qtr	141.50	139.10	133.00	129.80	135.10	127.30	159.20	174.00	138.40
Dec. qtr	138.70	155.20	150.00	141.80	147.40	146.70	160.80	182.70	154.40
1975 -									
Mar. qtr	147.30	142.80	136.50	137.40	143.90	135.30	172.20	189.40	143.80
June qtr	160.70	154.20	150.40	145.30	156.00	151.40	181.60	191.10	156.40
Sept. qtr	160.60	157.70	150.80	148.10	159.00	150.30	186.30	200.50	157.60
Dec. qtr	158.70	178.00	169.90	163.70	173.70	164.70	188.70	205.20	175.70
1976 -									
Mar. qtr	168.50	165.50	158.20	154.40	164.80	151.20	185.50	208.30	165.30
June qtr	183.60	180.70	175.00	167.60	178.80	165.10	199.60	221.90	179.80
Sept. qtr	187.30	183.00	182.00	175.00	184.00	175.60	209.30	230.00	184.80
Dec. qtr	197.90	197.40	189.80	182.80	194.50	188.70	220.00	243.90	195.50
1977 -									
Mar. qtr	187.00	183.40	173.90	172.70	186.20	174.90	210.50	231.00	183.60

For footnotes, see next page.

TABLE 2. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES r - continued

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (b)	A.C.T. (b)	Australia
Seasonally Adjusted Series (c)									
1971 -									
Sept. qtr	93.70	91.80	83.60	84.10	91.80	84.90	..	..	90.80
Dec. qtr	94.70	92.00	85.50	84.40	93.30	85.20	..	..	92.10
1972 -									
Mar. qtr	96.70	93.70	88.20	85.90	94.10	89.50	..	..	93.20
June qtr	98.40	96.60	90.50	87.40	93.10	89.30	..	..	96.00
Sept. qtr	101.10	100.40	94.10	89.60	95.40	93.90	..	..	98.30
Dec. qtr	103.30	101.40	95.30	92.50	97.20	93.70	..	..	100.50
1973 -									
Mar. qtr	105.40	102.70	97.40	93.80	100.00	94.50	..	..	102.00
June qtr	109.90	107.70	102.70	98.60	103.60	100.00	..	..	107.10
Sept. qtr	114.40	113.90	106.40	105.30	109.20	105.00	..	..	112.40
Dec. qtr	118.10	115.50	110.70	107.30	112.50	110.80	133.10	141.50	115.40
1974 -									
Mar. qtr	122.80	118.90	114.60	110.30	115.50	108.10	135.90	150.00	119.30
June qtr	130.90	128.10	123.60	120.20	124.10	119.00	142.30	157.80	127.30
Sept. qtr	144.10	140.40	134.50	130.30	135.40	130.70	155.50	174.40	140.50
Dec. qtr	151.60	148.20	142.90	138.20	144.40	138.00	159.10	180.40	147.70
1975 -									
Mar. qtr	154.80	149.50	144.50	141.80	149.40	144.40	170.30	193.10	151.50
June qtr	159.10	154.60	148.80	145.70	154.30	148.90	184.30	190.60	154.70
Sept. qtr	163.00	159.00	153.30	148.40	160.20	152.20	185.40	197.10	159.40
Dec. qtr	168.80	168.20	160.60	157.20	168.20	154.80	188.90	205.30	166.90
1976 -									
Mar. qtr	173.80	170.60	164.90	158.00	169.30	156.30	187.90	214.60	171.10
June qtr	183.20	182.50	174.20	168.00	177.30	165.90	199.60	216.30	178.80
Sept. qtr	187.00	182.80	183.00	173.60	182.80	177.20	208.60	233.10	184.90
Dec. qtr	190.20	187.90	179.60	177.60	189.10	178.80	213.40	238.50	187.40
1977 -									
Mar. qtr	193.80	190.90	184.70	177.10	193.30	183.80	214.50	240.30	191.90

(a) See paragraph 7 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 8 and 9 on page 1. r - revised; see paragraph 2.

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

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Annual change (c) %
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 p	167.00	174.50	12.2

(a) See paragraph 4 on page 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents (b) See paragraphs 8 and 9 on page 1. (c) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series. r - revised; see paragraph 2. p - provisional.

R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician

S/T 1980