

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER QUARTER 1979

### INQUIRIES

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### MAIN FEATURES

*NOTE.* These statistics represent the average earnings of male employees. They do not relate to average award rates, nor to the earnings of the 'average man'. See the first paragraph of the Explanatory Notes.

The estimate for the December quarter 1979 of the average weekly earnings (exclusive of overtime pay) of adult male full-time employees, excluding managerial and executive staff, is \$224.50.

In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate is \$220.00, an increase of 9.2 per cent over the figure for the December quarter 1978.

The estimate of average weekly earnings per employed male unit is \$248.00. (This is an estimate of the average earnings, before tax, of all male civilian employees in Australia, including the highest paid as well as the lowest.)

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

This publication contains estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian male wage and salary earners for Australia, States and Territories. These statistics should not be confused with average award wages, published in *Wage Rates* (6312.0); the average award wage for adult males at the end of November 1979 was \$168.72. As the data used in the compilation of these series are not obtained from individual employees it is not possible to derive a distribution of earnings.

#### 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 publication *Civilian Employees* (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 the 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 67, South Australia 65, Western Australia 62, Tasmania 65, the Northern Territory 65, and the Australian Capital Territory 62. 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.

#### Seasonal adjustment

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 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.

**Related publications**

10. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

**Symbols and other usages**

- p preliminary – figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue

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

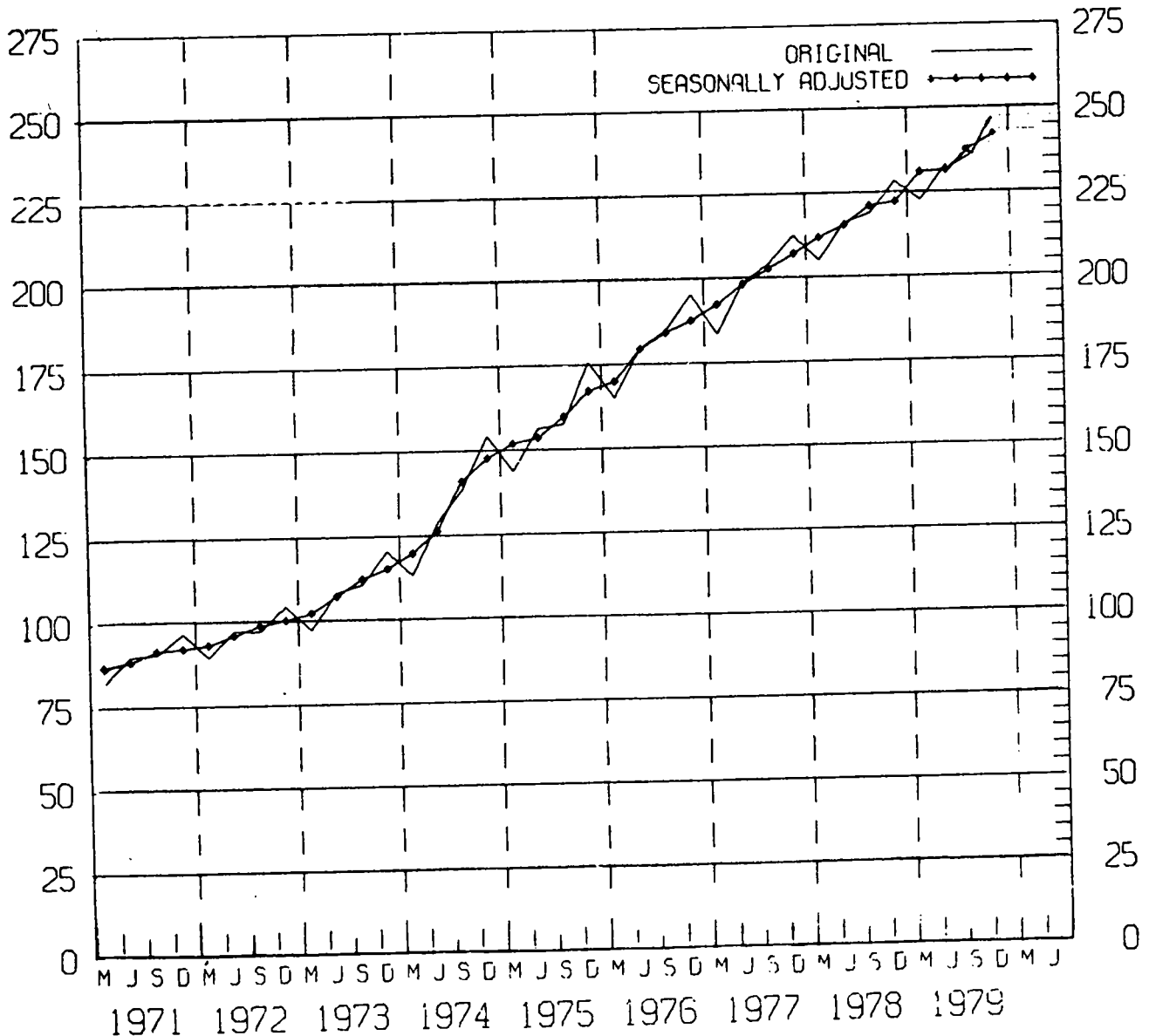


TABLE 1. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1974 -					1977 -				
March	113.30	119.70	+3.9	+17.0	March	183.80	192.30	+2.4	+13.2
June	128.70	126.40	+5.6	+17.9	June	198.70	198.40	+3.2	+10.5
September	138.40	141.10	+11.6	+25.8	September	204.10	202.90	+2.3	+10.0
December	154.40	147.80	+4.7	+28.3	December	212.50	206.90	+2.0	+10.2
1975 -					1978 -				
March	143.80	152.00	+2.8	+27.0	March	205.10	211.80	+2.4	+10.1
June	156.40	153.60	+1.1	+21.5	June	216.30	215.50	+1.7	+8.6
September	157.60	159.80	+4.0	+13.3	September	218.90	221.40	+2.7	+9.1
December	175.70	167.40	+4.8	+13.3	December	228.20	222.00	+0.3	+7.3
1976 -					1979 -				
March	165.30	169.90	+1.5	+11.8	March	222.80	231.00	+4.1	+9.1
June	179.80	179.50	+5.7	+16.9	June	232.80	231.40	+0.2	+7.4
September	184.80	184.40	+2.7	+15.4	September r	238.40	238.70	+3.2	+7.8
December	195.40	187.80	+1.8	+12.2	December	248.00	243.50	+2.0	+9.7

(a) See paragraph 6. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8. (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
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	191.10	184.50	179.50	190.80	181.20	216.70	237.70	190.70
1977-78	213.40	209.30	202.20	197.40	209.20	199.00	240.70	259.10	209.50
1978-79	230.20	226.60	217.80	210.30	223.30	211.60	259.30	279.50	225.70

## ORIGINAL SERIES

Quarter -									
1978 -									
March	209.80	204.80	195.30	190.20	205.70	194.00	238.30	255.10	205.10
June	219.40	217.90	211.20	203.90	213.90	201.10	250.50	266.90	216.30
September	223.10	218.60	209.20	206.90	218.60	205.50	250.80	271.70	218.90
December	232.80	231.30	219.70	211.70	223.50	214.50	265.10	282.40	228.20
1979 -									
March	228.50	220.80	213.70	207.20	222.90	208.50	255.80	279.70	222.80
June	236.30	235.70	228.70	215.50	228.30	217.80	265.50	284.20	232.80
September r	243.70	238.70	228.90	223.50	233.70	227.30	272.70	296.60	238.40
December	253.30	251.90	238.10	230.00	242.00	235.30	292.60	301.40	248.00

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES (c)

Quarter -									
1978 -									
March	215.60	212.50	204.10	195.70	212.80	201.80	243.40	261.60	211.80
June	219.10	217.10	208.90	204.10	213.10	203.80	250.30	266.20	215.50
September	226.40	222.70	211.30	207.40	219.30	206.20	254.90	271.10	221.40
December	226.40	222.40	212.80	207.50	218.60	206.00	258.60	279.30	222.00
1979 -									
March	235.90	229.90	224.90	213.90	228.30	217.80	261.40	285.40	231.00
June	235.40	234.10	225.20	215.30	226.80	219.60	264.50	285.20	231.40
September r	244.40	240.70	229.10	221.30	233.10	225.70	277.40	293.30	238.70
December	249.10	245.80	233.50	226.80	238.20	228.00	282.60	298.70	243.50

(a) See paragraph 6. (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 Government pay-days in each quarter. Estimates for periods before 1974-75 are not available. (c) See paragraphs 7 and 8.

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

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Original \$</i>	<i>Seasonally adjusted (b) \$</i>	<i>Annual change (c) %</i>
1974 -			
September	121.00	123.00	+26.2
December	137.50	131.00	+31.0
1975 -			
March	130.50	137.50	+32.9
June	142.50	140.50	+26.6
September	144.50	146.50	+19.1
December	160.00	152.00	+16.0
1976 -			
March	150.00	154.50	+12.4
June	164.50	164.50	+17.1
September	169.00	168.50	+15.0
December	179.00	171.50	+12.8
1977 -			
March	166.50	174.50	+12.9
June	181.00	181.50	+10.3
September	186.00	184.50	+9.5
December	192.50	187.00	+9.0
1978 -			
March	186.50	193.00	+10.6
June	198.50	198.50	+9.4
September	200.00	201.50	+9.2
December	207.50	201.50	+7.8
1979 -			
March	203.00	211.00	+9.3
June	212.50	211.50	+6.5
September	216.50	216.50	+7.4
December	224.50	220.00	+9.2

(a) See paragraph 3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8. (c) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series.