

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1971

Reference No. 6.18

The estimates of average weekly earnings shown below are derived from particulars of employment and wages and salaries recorded on pay-roll 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.

2. 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. Different ratios, based on information from the annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours, from a sample survey carried out in November 1969 and from other sources, have been used for individual States. The ratios 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.

3. 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 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 table.

4. Estimates for Australia for each quarter from September quarter 1961 to June quarter 1971 and for each State from September quarter 1966 were published in the June 1971 issue of this statement. Particulars of the method of seasonal adjustment were published in the September 1971 issue.

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

| Period               | N.S.W.<br>(b) | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A.<br>(c) | W.A.  | Tas.  | Australia |                        |
|----------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|------------------------|
|                      |               |       |       |             |       |       | Original  | Seasonally<br>Adjusted |
| 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     | ..                     |
| 1970 - Sept. quarter | 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 | 75.90 | 76.50       | 82.40 | 74.90 | 82.10     | 87.50                  |
| June "               | 93.20         | 91.50 | 82.70 | 82.20       | 89.50 | 85.00 | 89.80     | 88.60                  |
| Sept. "              | 92.70         | 91.40 | 83.10 | 85.00       | 92.30 | 82.30 | 90.00     | 90.10                  |
| Dec. "               | 99.60         | 96.40 | 89.00 | 88.50       | 95.40 | 90.00 | 95.60     | 91.20                  |

(a) See explanation in paragraph 2 above. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the Northern Territory.