



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1981

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MAIN FEATURES

IMPORTANT NOTE. *The basis of this series will change for future quarters and estimates compiled from payroll tax and other returns will no longer be available—see paragraph 9.*

The estimate for the September quarter 1981 of the average weekly earnings (exclusive of overtime pay) of adult male full-time employees, excluding managerial and executive staff, is \$277.50.

In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate is \$274.00, an increase of 10.7 per cent over the figure for the September quarter 1980.

The estimate of average weekly earnings per employed male unit in seasonally adjusted terms, is \$301.10. (This is a seasonally adjusted 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 of *earnings* should not be confused with the weighted average minimum weekly *wage rates*, published in *Wage Rates, Australia* (6312.0), for which the figure for adult males at the end of September 1981 was \$201.62. 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 comprised 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 were derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 85 per cent of the estimated total of wage and salary earners in these industries. Estimates were made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector are approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings were estimated from other sources and were included in the calculations.

5. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings were 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 were 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 67 per cent, Victoria 67, Queensland 66, South Australia 66, Western Australia 62, Tasmania 64, the Northern Territory 63, and the Australian Capital Territory 66. 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 was not used, but the weighted average of the State and Territory ratios is approximately 66 per cent.

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, Australia* (1308.0).

Changes in the series

9. This publication contains the last estimates of the current series based on payroll tax returns and returns collected from government and other bodies. A survey to provide a replacement series based on information obtained from a sample of employers was introduced in September quarter 1981. The new series is based on different concepts, sources and methods which will make direct comparison between the old and new series difficult. An Information Paper (6336.0) dealing with the decision to discontinue ABS processing of payroll tax returns for statistical use and the comparison of the characteristics of the new and old average weekly earnings collections will shortly be despatched to individuals and organisations on the mailing list for this publication. The publication containing the new series will also be sent to all units on the current mailing list.

Related publications

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

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

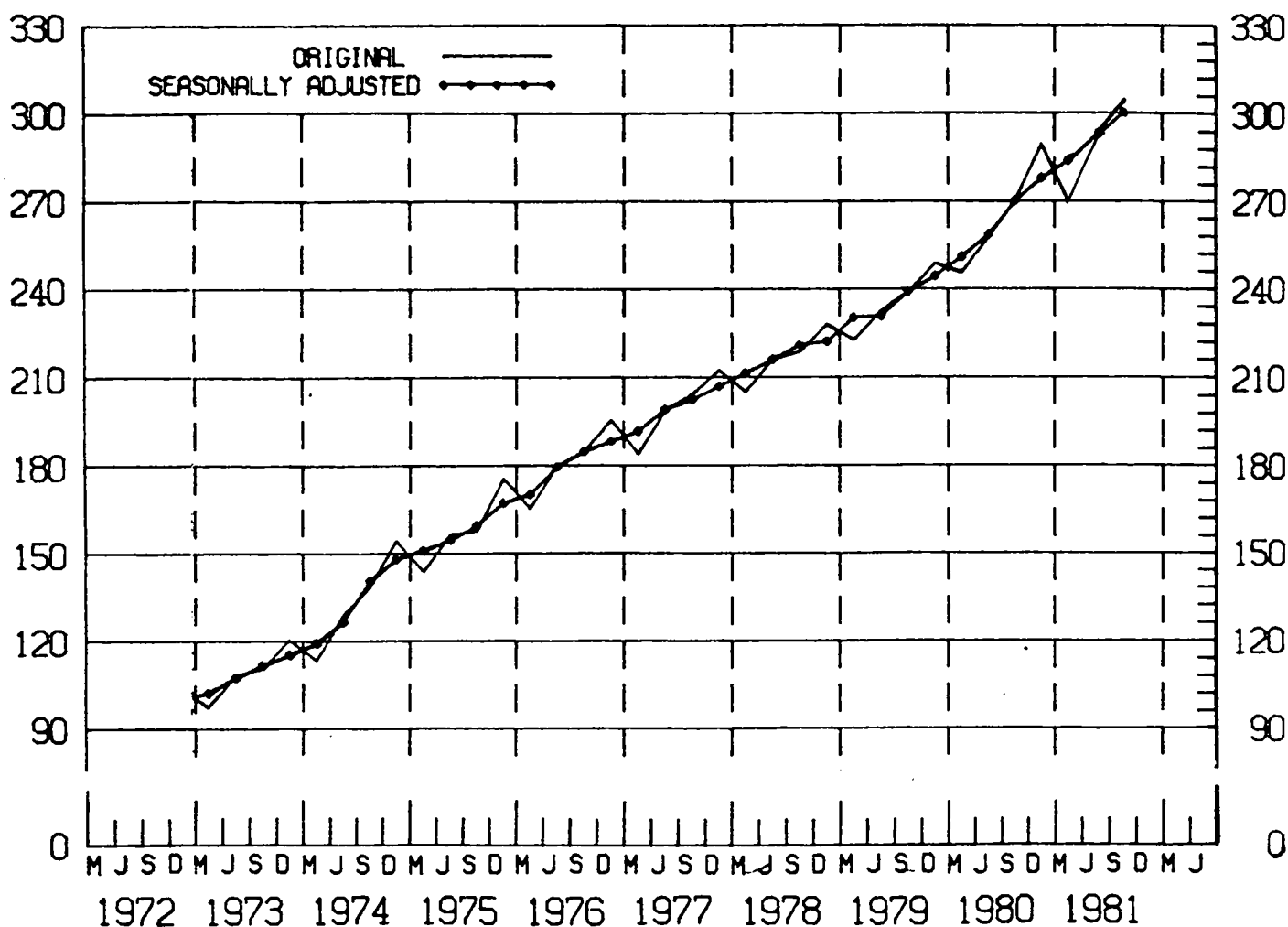


TABLE 1. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT(a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted(b) \$	Quarterly change(c) %	Annual change(d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted(b) \$	Quarterly change(c) %	Annual change(d) %
1976—					1979—				
March	165.30	170.10	+1.7	+12.6	March	222.80	230.40	+3.7	+9.0
June	179.80	179.40	+5.5	+16.0	June	232.60	230.90	+0.2	+6.9
September	184.80	184.60	+2.9	+15.8	September	238.90	239.10	+3.6	+8.2
December	195.40	188.10	+1.9	+12.5	December	248.90	244.30	+2.2	+9.9
1977—					1980—				
March	183.80	191.50	+1.8	+12.6	March	245.70	250.90	+2.7	+8.9
June	198.70	199.10	+4.0	+11.0	June	257.90	258.60	+3.1	+12.0
September	204.10	202.40	+1.7	+9.6	September	270.40	270.20	+4.5	+13.0
December	212.50	206.90	+2.2	+10.0	December	289.70	278.10	+2.9	+13.8
1978—					1981—				
March	205.10	211.40	+2.2	+10.4	March	270.60	283.90	+2.1	+13.2
June	216.30	216.00	+2.2	+8.5	June r	294.30	294.30	+3.7	+13.8
September	218.90	220.90	+2.3	+9.1	September	304.00	301.10	+2.3	+11.4
December	228.20	222.20	+0.6	+7.4					

(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
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	237.10	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	217.40	210.30	223.30	211.60	259.60	279.50	225.60
1979-80	254.40	248.80	234.40	230.30	245.30	237.90	290.10	303.00	247.90
1980-81	r287.80	280.60	269.80	262.10	279.10	271.00	344.10	337.50	r281.30
ORIGINAL SERIES									
1979—									
September qtr	244.80	239.70	226.10	223.50	233.70	229.30	274.00	293.20	238.90
December qtr	254.70	253.20	235.10	229.10	244.30	239.70	290.50	303.10	248.90
1980—									
March qtr	251.80	245.20	231.90	229.50	244.60	235.40	289.30	306.00	245.70
June qtr	266.20	256.90	244.60	238.90	258.60	247.30	306.50	309.60	257.90
September qtr	278.70	268.40	255.70	252.00	266.10	262.10	324.50	324.70	270.40
December qtr	295.60	288.80	280.80	269.30	283.10	288.00	351.00	345.00	289.70
1981—									
March qtr	276.20	269.30	260.70	253.00	273.50	255.30	342.70	334.10	270.60
June qtr	r300.80	296.00	281.90	273.90	293.70	278.40	r359.80	346.10	r294.30
September qtr	308.90	304.80	291.40	283.50	301.10	293.80	359.40	378.00	304.00
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES (c)									
1979—									
September qtr	244.60	241.30	227.10	221.00	233.30	228.30	277.80	292.00	239.10
December qtr	249.40	246.80	230.70	225.90	241.10	232.00	283.90	298.30	244.30
1980—									
March qtr	258.00	251.40	239.20	235.30	248.10	242.50	291.80	309.90	250.90
June qtr	267.50	256.90	241.20	240.80	259.80	251.60	308.20	313.80	258.60
September qtr	278.10	270.20	256.20	248.20	265.60	260.40	326.10	324.40	270.20
December qtr	282.50	275.60	272.00	261.00	275.60	267.20	339.20	337.00	278.10
1981—									
March qtr	291.20	283.60	273.70	265.20	283.10	274.80	348.50	340.70	283.90
June qtr	r301.50	295.00	279.80	275.90	295.00	280.40	361.30	348.60	r294.30
September qtr	305.20	303.70	288.70	276.60	297.30	290.10	363.70	376.70	301.10

(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. (c) See paragraphs 7 and 8.

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

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Original \$</i>	<i>Seasonally adjusted(b) \$</i>	<i>Annual change(c) %</i>
<i>1974—</i>			
December	137.50	131.50	+31.5
<i>1975—</i>			
March	130.50	137.00	+32.4
June	142.50	141.00	+27.0
September	144.50	146.00	+18.7
December	160.00	152.00	+15.6
<i>1976—</i>			
March	150.00	155.00	+13.1
June	164.50	164.00	+16.3
September	169.00	168.50	+15.4
December	179.00	172.00	+13.2
<i>1977—</i>			
March	166.50	174.50	+12.6
June	181.00	180.50	+10.1
September	186.00	184.00	+9.2
December	192.50	187.00	+8.7
<i>1978—</i>			
March	186.50	193.50	+10.9
June	198.50	198.00	+9.7
September	200.00	201.50	+9.5
December	207.50	201.50	+7.8
<i>1979—</i>			
March	203.00	211.50	+9.3
June	212.00	211.50	+6.8
September	217.00	216.50	+7.4
December	225.00	220.50	+9.4
<i>1980—</i>			
March	223.00	229.00	+8.3
June	234.50	234.50	+10.9
September	248.50	247.50	+14.3
December	264.50	253.50	+15.0
<i>1981—</i>			
March	245.50	259.00	+13.1
June	269.00	268.00	+14.3
September	277.50	274.00	+10.7

(a) See paragraph 3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents.
the seasonally adjusted series.

(b) See paragraphs 7 and 8.

(c) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in