

## Wage Price Index (WPI) (Index in the quarter, annual % change)

Northern Territory	117.0	↑ 3.6%
Australia	117.6	↑ 4.1%

The WPI measures changes in the cost of employing a constant quantity and quality of labour.

In the March quarter 2008, the WPI increased by 0.8% in the Territory, marginally below the national increase 0.9%.

Compared to the March quarter 2007:

- Territory WPI increased by 3.6% and by 4.1% nationally.
- The private sector component increased by 5.1% in the Territory, above the national increase of 4.2%.
- The public sector component increased by 1.8% in the Territory, less than the national increase of 3.9%. The lower increase in the Territory public sector WPI, reflects EBA negotiations for the general NTPS (representing around 9500 public servants) not being completed prior to the ABS data collection cut-off date. The effect on the public sector WPI is expected to be reported in the June quarter.
- In the year to March 2008, the WPI increased by 3.8% in the Territory, and by 4.1% nationally. In year on year terms, growth in Territory WPI has been relatively constant for the past five quarters following its peak of 4.5% in calendar year 2005 (see Chart 1).

## Average Weekly Earnings (value in the quarter, annual % change, s.a.)

Northern Territory	\$1 136.90	↑ 4.4%
Australia	\$1 174.10	↑ 4.9%

Average weekly full time adult earnings (AWE) and average weekly ordinary time earnings (AWOTE) data should be viewed with caution. Both measures are influenced by compositional changes in the survey sample. In addition the small sample size in the Territory results in substantial volatility and high standard errors.

In the February quarter 2008, Territory AWE was \$1136.90, below the national level, and fifth highest of the jurisdictions (see Chart 2).

In annual terms, seasonally adjusted AWE (which includes overtime and bonus payments) increased by 4.4% in the Territory, compared to an increase of 4.9% nationally. AWOTE (which excludes overtime and bonus payments), increased by 4.3% in the Territory and by 4.8% nationally.

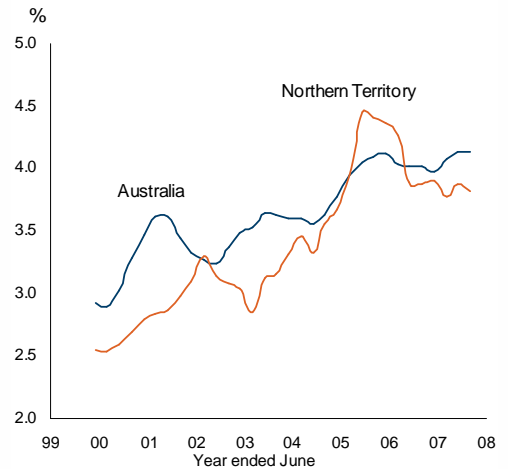
In the year to March 2008, Territory AWE increased by 2.2% compared to a 4.7% increase nationally (see Chart 3).

In the year to March 2008, AWOTE increased by 2.3% in the Territory and 4.8% nationally.

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**Chart 1: Wage Price Index**  
(year on year percentage change)



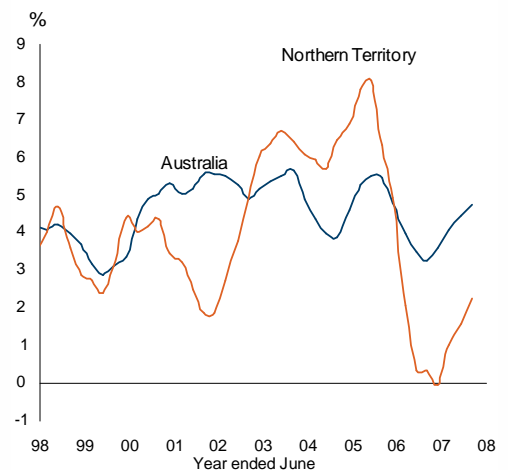
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

**Chart 2: Average Weekly Earnings**  
(seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6302.0

**Chart 3: Average Weekly Earnings**  
(year on year percentage change)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6302.0



### Wage Price Index (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	March Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>115.6</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
public	115.4	114.5	0.5%	1.8%	2.2%
private	118.1	116.3	0.9%	5.1%	5.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>115.9</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
public	118.8	117.1	0.8%	3.9%	4.1%
private	117.2	115.4	0.9%	4.2%	4.2%

### Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (\$, excluding overtime)

	February Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
original	1 087	1 064	1.8%	4.4%	2.3%
seasonally adj	1 087	1 064	1.8%	4.3%	
<b>Australia</b>					
original	1 125	1 107	1.5%	4.7%	4.8%
seasonally adj	1 124	1 107	1.1%	4.8%	

### Average Weekly Earnings (\$, total earnings of full time adults)

	February Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
original	1 130	1 112	1.2%	4.4%	2.2%
seasonally adjusted	1 137	1 112	2.0%	4.4%	2.3%
<b>Australia (original)</b>	<b>1 175</b>	<b>1 156</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
New South Wales	1 204	1 190	0.8%	4.1%	4.5%
Victoria	1 150	1 135	1.5%	4.7%	4.5%
Queensland	1 098	1 088	0.8%	3.5%	4.0%
South Australia	1 083	1 073	-0.2%	2.2%	2.9%
Western Australia	1 326	1 269	3.7%	11.3%	8.6%
Tasmania	1 071	1 056	1.2%	4.4%	6.0%
ACT	1 321	1 314	-0.9%	2.2%	3.8%

<sup>1</sup> compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter

<sup>2</sup> compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year

<sup>3</sup> compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period

Caution is advised when using quarterly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6302.0, 6345.0

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

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