

The wage price index (WPI) measures changes in the cost of employing a constant quantity and quality of labour.

Wage Price Index

	NT	Australia
Change in the quarter (%)	↑ 1.1	↑ 0.7
Annual change (%)	↑ 5.1	↑ 4.1

In the March quarter 2009, the Territory's WPI increased by 1.1%, compared to an increase of 0.7% nationally.

In comparison to the March quarter 2008:

- The WPI increased by 5.1% in the Territory compared to 4.1% nationally;
- The private sector component of the Territory's WPI increased by 4.8%, compared to 4.0% nationally; and
- The public sector component of the Territory's WPI increased by 5.5%, compared to 4.4% nationally.

In year on year terms, growth in the Territory's WPI strengthened to 4.6% in March 2009 (see Chart 1). Nationally the WPI increased by 4.2% in March 2009. Growth in the Territory's WPI was primarily driven by wages growth in the public sector, increasing by 1.4% in the quarter. This was primarily driven by backdating of salary payments to teachers in line with the negotiated EBA agreement, which was negotiated in December 2008.

Average Weekly Full-Time Earnings

	NT	Australia
Change in the quarter (%)	↑ 0.7	↑ 1.2
Annual change (%)	↑ 4.8	↑ 5.7

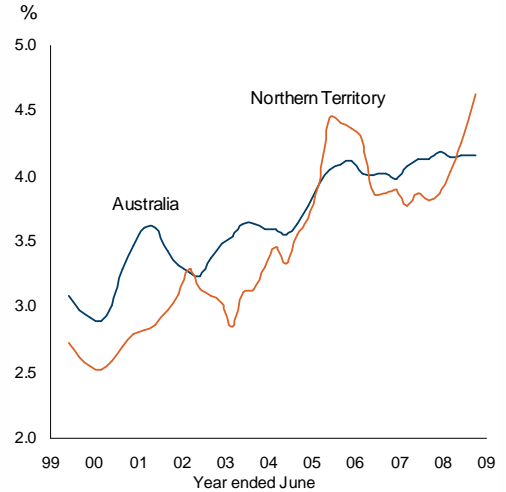
Average weekly full time adult earnings (AWFTE) data should be viewed with caution. The measure is influenced by compositional changes in the survey sample. In addition the small sample size in the Territory results in substantial volatility and high standard errors.

In the February quarter 2009, seasonally adjusted Territory AWFTE increased by 0.7% to \$1133.80, compared to the national increase of 1.2% to \$1181.60. AWFTE in the Territory was the third lowest of the jurisdictions in the February quarter 2009 (see Chart 2).

In annual terms, seasonally adjusted AWFTE (which includes overtime and bonus payments) increased by 4.3% in the Territory and 5.0% nationally.

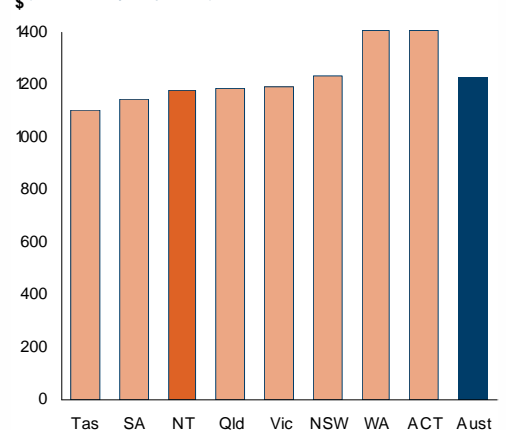
In year on year terms, Territory AWFTE increased by 4.8% the same as nationally (see Chart 3).

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



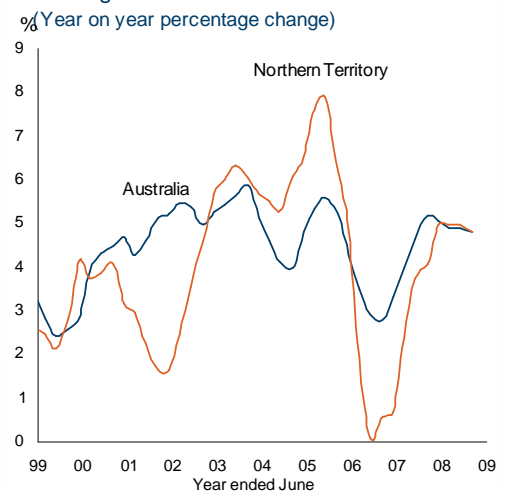
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Average Weekly Full-Time Earnings
(Seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6302.0

Chart 3: Average Weekly Full-Time 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 ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory	123.0	120.9	1.1%	5.1%	4.6%
public	121.7	119.4	1.4%	5.5%	4.3%
private	123.8	122.0	0.7%	4.8%	4.9%
Australia	122.4	120.7	0.7%	4.1%	4.2%
public	124.0	121.8	1.1%	4.4%	4.0%
private	121.9	120.3	0.7%	4.0%	4.2%

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

	February Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
original	1 173	1 160	0.9%	4.3%	4.8%
seasonally adjusted	1 177	1 160	1.0%	4.3%	4.8%
Australia (original)	1 229	1 206	1.0%	5.0%	4.8%
New South Wales	1 238	1 217	0.7%	2.9%	2.4%
Victoria	1 197	1 177	1.5%	4.7%	4.5%
Queensland	1 181	1 157	1.3%	8.2%	7.1%
South Australia	1 147	1 123	-0.1%	6.3%	5.1%
Western Australia	1 406	1 375	0.9%	6.1%	8.3%
Tasmania	1 106	1 080	0.7%	3.5%	2.4%
ACT	1 401	1 369	1.1%	7.5%	5.6%

¹ compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter

² compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year

³ 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.