

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 (%)	↑ 0.7	↑ 0.9
Annual change (%)	↑ 3.7	↑ 3.4

In the September quarter 2009, the Territory's WPI increased by 0.7%, compared to an increase of 0.9% nationally.

In comparison to the September quarter 2008:

- The WPI increased by 3.7% in the Territory compared to 3.4% nationally;
- The private sector component of the Territory's WPI increased by 3.4%, compared to 3.1% nationally; and
- The public sector component of the Territory's WPI increased by 4.2%, compared to 4.6% nationally.

In year on year terms, growth in the Territory's WPI moderated to 4.3% in September 2009 (see Chart 1) and to 3.9% nationally. In the Territory, growth in the public sector WPI strengthened to 4.5%, while growth in the private sector WPI moderated to 4.3% over this period.

The moderation in growth in the WPI nationally reflects a weaker labour market and the decision by the Fair Pay Commission to leave the minimum wage unchanged in 2009. The industries that experienced the largest moderation in growth in wages through the year were mining, manufacturing, financial and insurance services.

Average Weekly Full-Time Earnings

	NT	Australia
Change in the quarter (%)	↑ 1.5	↑ 0.9
Annual change (%)	↑ 3.1	↑ 4.6

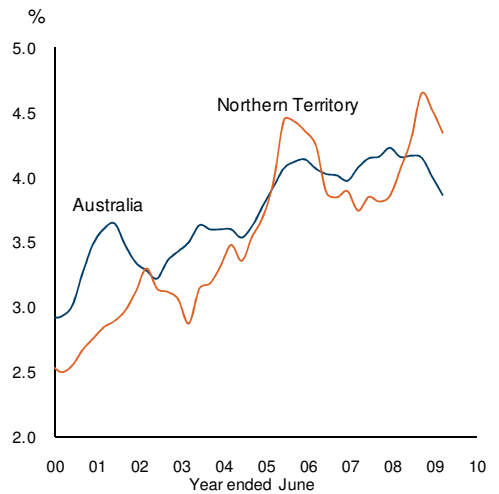
Average weekly full time adult earnings (AWFTE) data should be viewed with caution. The measure is influenced by compositional changes in the survey sample. In addition the small sample size in the Territory results in substantial volatility and high standard errors.

In the August quarter 2009, seasonally adjusted Territory AWFTE increased by 1.5% to \$1211.30, compared to a national increase of 0.9% to \$1248.20. AWFTE in the Territory was the third lowest of the jurisdictions in the August quarter 2009 (see Chart 2).

In annual terms, seasonally adjusted AWFTE (which includes overtime and bonus payments) increased by 3.1% in the Territory and 4.6% nationally.

In year on year terms, growth in AWFTE in the Territory moderated to 3.5% and to 5.0% nationally (see Chart 3).

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



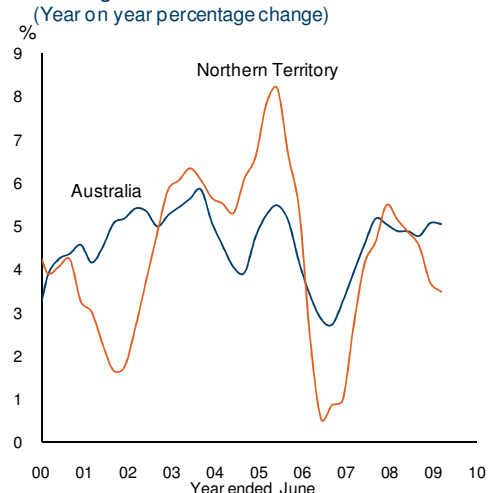
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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)

	September Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory	101.9	100.9	0.7%	3.7%	4.3%
public	102.2	101.0	0.9%	4.2%	4.5%
private	101.7	100.8	0.5%	3.4%	4.3%
Australia	102.0	100.9	0.9%	3.4%	3.9%
public	102.8	101.2	1.4%	4.6%	4.4%
private	101.8	100.8	0.8%	3.1%	3.7%

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

	August Quarter		change		
	quarter	year average	quarterly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
original	1 212	1 195	1.1%	3.2%	3.5%
seasonally adjusted	1 211	1 195	1.5%	3.1%	3.5%
Australia (original)	1 250	1 230	1.2%	4.6%	5.0%
New South Wales	1 265	1 246	0.9%	4.8%	4.1%
Victoria	1 213	1 196	0.6%	3.9%	4.5%
Queensland	1 236	1 204	2.9%	4.8%	6.5%
South Australia	1 155	1 148	0.0%	4.3%	5.8%
Western Australia	1 378	1 356	0.9%	5.6%	6.4%
Tasmania	1 078	1 042	4.3%	8.0%	4.7%
ACT	1 381	1 369	1.6%	3.2%	4.7%

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.