

# Average Weekly Earnings (ABS Cat No 6302.0)

Latest period: May 2017

Release date: 17 August 2017

Next release date: 22 February 2018

This is the eighth biannual release of this series. Previously, average weekly earnings data were released on a quarterly basis. As the quarterly and biannual trend time series data are not comparable, this limits historical analysis using trend data. Given this, historical charts are presented in year-average original terms, whilst current point-to-point estimates are presented in trend terms.

Tasmanian earnings series are volatile, particularly when compared with wage growth rates, as measured by the Wage Price Index. This partly reflects the effect of Tasmania's smaller sample size.

Movements in average weekly earnings can be affected by changes in the level of earnings per employed person and changes in the composition of the labour force (particularly changes in the proportions of full-time and part-time employed persons). As full-time average weekly ordinary time earnings (AWOTE) is based only on full-time employees, it is not affected by changes in the share of part-time workers in the sample, but is susceptible to changes in the occupation and skill levels of the workforce. For this reason, the [Wage Price Index](#) is preferred in most cases as a superior measure of wage growth.

## Recent performance

Tasmanian AWOTE were estimated to be \$1 353.90 per week in May 2017 in trend terms, an increase of 0.7 per cent compared with November 2016 and 1.4 per cent higher than May 2016. Nationally, AWOTE increased by 0.8 per cent compared with November 2016 and 1.8 per cent compared with May 2016.

The estimated level of the Tasmanian AWOTE in May 2017 remains the lowest of all jurisdictions and was 87.7 per cent of the national average level.

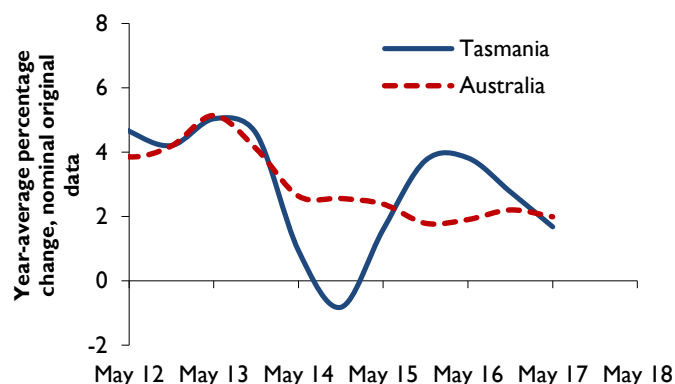
The estimated growth rate of Tasmanian earnings, measured through AWOTE and average weekly total earnings, slowed from mid-2011 to late 2014 (Charts 1 and 2). AWOTE has been increasing since that time.

Table 1: Full-time AWOTE by jurisdiction, May 2017, nominal trend data

Nominal trend	AWOTE (\$ per week)	Biannual % change	Annual % change
NSW	1 544.30	0.4	0.4
Vic	1 515.00	1.5	3.8
Qld	1 497.60	1.2	2.5
SA	1 452.00	0.8	2.6
WA	1 714.00	0.6	0.8
<b>Tas</b>	<b>1 353.90</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>
NT	1 625.00	0.1	2.9
ACT	1 774.60	1.6	2.7
<b>Aus</b>	<b>1 543.80</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>

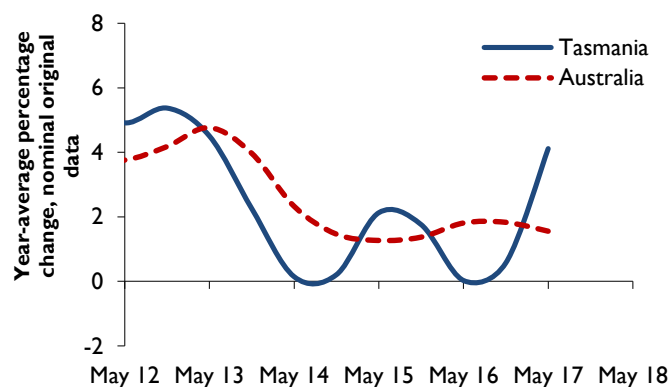
SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1, 11A-H

Chart 1: Full-time AWOTE, Tasmania and Australia, year-average percentage change, nominal original data



SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1, 11F

Chart 2: Average weekly total earnings, Tasmania and Australia, year-average percentage change, nominal original data



SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1, 11F

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**Table 2: Full-time AWOTE, Tasmania and Australia, nominal data**

Ordinary time earnings	Tasmania			Australia		
	May 16	Nov 16	May 17	May 16	Nov 16	May 17
<i>Nominal trend data</i>						
<b>Average weekly ordinary time earnings</b>						
<b>Biannual level (\$ per week)</b>	1 334.90	1 344.30	1 353.90	1 516.50	1 532.20	1 543.80
Biannual % change	1.4	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8
Annual % change	3.4	2.1	1.4	2.1	2.2	1.8
Tas as % of Aus	88.0	87.7	87.7			
<i>Nominal seasonally adjusted data</i>						
<b>Average weekly ordinary time earnings</b>						
<b>Biannual level (\$ per week)</b>	1 336.00	1 343.40	1 354.10	1 516.00	1 533.40	1 543.20
Biannual % change	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.6
Annual % change	3.5	2.0	1.4	2.2	2.2	1.8
Tas as % of Aus	88.1	87.6	87.7			
<i>Nominal original data</i>						
<b>Average weekly ordinary time earnings</b>						
<b>Year-average level (\$ per week)</b>	1 326.70	1 339.90	1 348.95	1 508.25	1 524.70	1 538.30
Year-average % change	3.8	2.8	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.0
Tas as % of Aus	88.0	87.9	87.7			

SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1-3, 11F, 12F, 13F

**Table 3: Average weekly total earnings, Tasmania and Australia, nominal data**

Total earnings	Tasmania			Australia		
	May 16	Nov 16	May 17	May 16	Nov 16	May 17
<i>Nominal trend data</i>						
<b>Average weekly earnings</b>						
<b>Biannual level (\$ per week)</b>	957.80	979.30	1 015.30	1 158.90	1 165.70	1 177.70
Biannual % change	-0.2	2.2	3.7	1.1	0.6	1.0
Annual % change	-0.3	2.1	6.0	2.0	1.6	1.6
Tas as % of Aus	82.6	84.0	86.2			
<i>Nominal seasonally adjusted data</i>						
<b>Average weekly earnings</b>						
<b>Biannual level (\$ per week)</b>	954.60	976.60	1 017.20	1 160.90	1 163.50	1 179.00
Biannual % change	-0.6	2.3	4.2	1.3	0.2	1.3
Annual % change	-0.6	1.7	6.6	2.1	1.6	1.6
Tas as % of Aus	82.2	83.9	86.3			
<i>Nominal original data</i>						
<b>Average weekly earnings</b>						
<b>Year-average level (\$ per week)</b>	957.80	966.00	997.20	1 153.30	1 162.20	1 171.25
Year-average % change	0.0	0.6	4.1	1.8	1.8	1.6
Tas as % of Aus	83.0	83.1	85.1			

SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1-3, 11F, 12F, 13F

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