

Average Weekly Earnings (ABS Cat No 6302.0)

Latest period: May 2018

Release date: 16 August 2018

Next release date: 21 February 2019

This is the thirteenth 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, while 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 \$1 377.30 per week in May 2018 in trend terms, an increase of 1.3 per cent compared with November 2017 and 1.9 per cent higher than May 2017. Nationally, AWOTE increased by 1.2 per cent compared with November 2017 and 2.6 per cent compared with May 2017.

The estimated level of the Tasmanian AWOTE in May 2018 remains the lowest of all jurisdictions and was 86.8 per cent of the national average level.

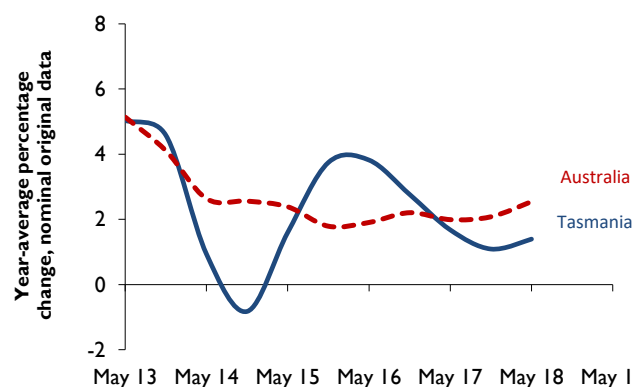
The estimated growth rate of Tasmanian earnings, measured through AWOTE and average weekly total earnings, have fluctuated since mid-2013 with AWOTE generally easing since late 2015. Average weekly total earnings growth accelerated from late 2016, but declined more recently (Charts 1 and 2).

Table 1: Full-time AWOTE by jurisdiction, May 2018, nominal trend data

Nominal trend	AWOTE (\$ per week)	Biannual % change	Annual % change
NSW	1 607.70	1.6	3.8
Vic	1 547.70	1.6	2.4
Qld	1 545.10	1.4	3.0
SA	1 447.80	0.3	0.0
WA	1 743.20	0.3	1.5
Tas	1 377.30	1.3	1.9
NT	1 669.30	1.5	2.7
ACT	1 813.40	0.8	2.1
Aus	1 586.20	1.2	2.6

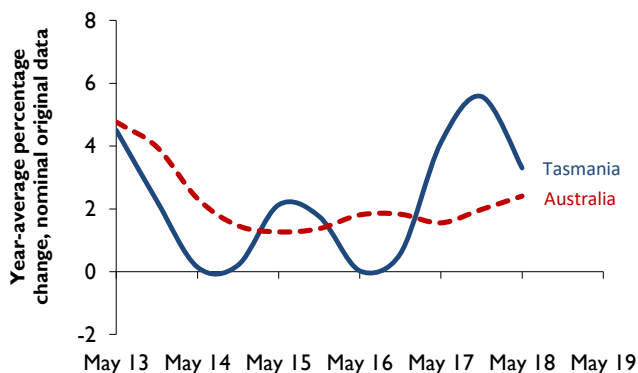
SOURCE: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, ABS CAT NO 6302.0: TABLES 1, 11A-H

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

	Tasmania			Australia		
	May 17	Nov 17	May 18	May 17	Nov 17	May 18
<i>Nominal trend data</i>						
Average weekly ordinary time earnings						
Biannual level (\$ per week)	1 351.90	1 359.30	1 377.30	1 545.70	1 567.70	1 586.20
Biannual % change	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.2
Annual % change	1.3	1.1	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.6
Tas as % of Aus	87.5	86.7	86.8			
<i>Nominal seasonally adjusted data</i>						
Average weekly ordinary time earnings						
Biannual level (\$ per week)	1 352.90	1 355.90	1 379.20	1 543.20	1 569.60	1 585.30
Biannual % change	0.6	0.2	1.7	0.6	1.7	1.0
Annual % change	1.3	0.8	1.9	1.8	2.4	2.7
Tas as % of Aus	87.7	86.4	87.0			
<i>Nominal original data</i>						
Average weekly ordinary time earnings						
Year-average level (\$ per week)	1 348.95	1 354.50	1 367.75	1 538.30	1 556.40	1 577.45
Year-average % change	1.7	1.1	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.5
Tas as % of Aus	87.7	87.0	86.7			

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

	Tasmania			Australia		
	May 17	Nov 17	May 18	May 17	Nov 17	May 18
<i>Nominal trend data</i>						
Average weekly earnings						
Biannual level (\$ per week)	1 012.10	1 024.90	1 036.20	1 178.20	1 192.10	1 206.90
Biannual % change	3.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Annual % change	5.7	4.6	2.4	1.7	2.3	2.4
Tas as % of Aus	85.9	86.0	85.9			
<i>Nominal seasonally adjusted data</i>						
Average weekly earnings						
Biannual level (\$ per week)	1 016.30	1 022.70	1 036.80	1 179.00	1 191.50	1 207.40
Biannual % change	4.0	0.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.3
Annual % change	6.6	4.6	2.0	1.6	2.4	2.4
Tas as % of Aus	86.2	85.8	85.9			
<i>Nominal original data</i>						
Average weekly earnings						
Year-average level (\$ per week)	997.20	1 019.90	1 030.15	1 171.25	1 185.25	1 199.45
Year-average % change	4.1	5.6	3.3	1.6	2.0	2.4
Tas as % of Aus	85.1	86.0	85.9			

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

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