

Wage Price Index — September Quarter 2011

WAGE PRICE INDEX UP IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER 2011

Main Features

In the September quarter 2011, in original terms, the Wage Price Index (WPI) increased by 1.3% in the ACT. Nationally, it increased by 1.2%. Compared to the September quarter 2010, the WPI for the ACT rose by 2.9%, while it increased by 3.6% nationally.

Commentary

ACT Data — In the September quarter 2011, the public sector WPI rose by 1%, while the private sector WPI rose by 1.7%. Compared to the September quarter 2010, the public sector WPI rose by 2.5%, while the private sector WPI rose by 3.6%. Note that some public sector enterprise agreements that usually impact the September quarter will occur later than usual as new agreements are implemented.

National Data — In the September quarter 2011, the largest rise in original terms in the WPI at the industry level was for *Other services and Accommodation & food services* (both up 2.2%), followed by *Professional, scientific & technical services* (up 2%), *Information media & telecommunications* (up 1.7%), *Rental, hiring and real estate services* (up 1.5%) and *Administrative & support services and Arts & recreation services* (both up 1.4%). Compared to the September quarter 2010, the largest rise in the index was recorded by *Other services* (up 4.5%), followed by *Wholesale trade* (up 4.4%), *Mining* (up 4.2%), *Professional, scientific & technical services* (up 4.1%) and *Education & training and Construction* (both up 3.9%).

In seasonally adjusted terms (national only) quarterly growth for the September quarter 2011 was 0.7%, compared to an increase of 0.9% in the previous quarter. The annual growth rate was 3.6% in the September quarter 2011, in seasonally adjusted terms.

State and Territory Comparisons — All States and Territories recorded increases in the WPI in the September quarter 2011. The largest quarterly increase was recorded in Queensland (up 1.5%), followed by Western Australia (up 1.4%) and the ACT and Tasmania (both up 1.3%). Victoria recorded the lowest quarterly increase (up 1%).

Compared to the September quarter 2010, the largest increase in the WPI was recorded in Western Australia (up 4%), followed by Tasmania (up 3.9%), the Northern Territory (up 3.8%), Queensland (up 3.7%) and New South Wales and Victoria (both up 3.5%). The ACT recorded the lowest annual growth of 2.9%.

Definition — The WPI is a price index which measures changes over time in wages and salaries for employee jobs, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed. Changes in wages and salaries resulting from changes in the composition of the labour market are excluded from the WPI movements.

The WPI for broad occupational groups are no longer produced since the December quarter 2008.

Note: The title of this publication has changed from Wage Cost Index, Australia, to Labour Price Index, Australia, to reflect the inclusion in the new publication of non-wage price indices (e.g. payroll tax). All index numbers have been released on a reference base of 2008-09 = 100.0.

WPI — Total Hourly Rate of Pay Excluding Bonuses, Original data

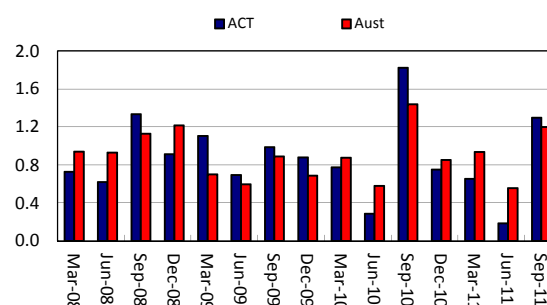
	Sep-11 Value	Change	
		Quarterly	Annual (a)
ACT			
Private	108.9	1.7%	3.6%
Public	109.6	1.0%	2.5%
Total	109.3	1.3%	2.9%
Australia			
Private	109.3	1.4%	3.7%
Public	110.4	1.0%	3.3%
Total	109.5	1.2%	3.6%

Note: Base for the WPI is 100.0 in 2008-09.

(a) Change from corresponding quarter of previous year.

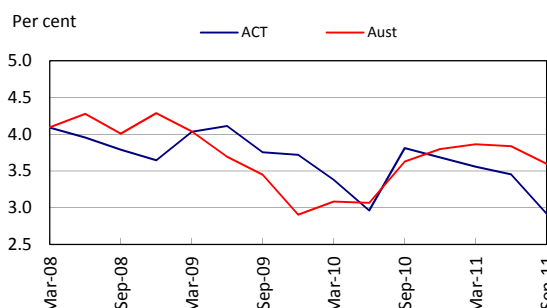
Source: ABS Catalogue no. 6345.0

Quarterly % Change in Wage Price Index



Source: ABS Catalogue no. 6345.0

Annual % Change in Wage Price Index



Source: ABS Catalogue no. 6345.0

Changes in the Wage Price Index State/Territory Comparisons

State/Territory	Sep-11 Value	Change	
		Quarterly	Annual (a)
New South Wales	109.5	1.2%	3.5%
Victoria	109.0	1.0%	3.5%
Queensland	110.0	1.5%	3.7%
South Australia	108.6	1.2%	3.3%
Western Australia	110.2	1.4%	4.0%
Tasmania	110.0	1.3%	3.9%
Northern Territory	109.9	1.1%	3.8%
ACT	109.3	1.3%	2.9%
Australia	109.5	1.2%	3.6%

Source: ABS Catalogue no. 6345.0

(a) Change from corresponding quarter of previous year.