

**WAGE RATES INDEXES
(PRELIMINARY)
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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS **Canberra**

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WAGE RATES INDEXES, FEBRUARY 1978 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

- In February 1978 weighted average minimum weekly wage rates increased by \$2.20 (1.5 per cent) for adult males and \$2.05 (1.5 per cent) for adult females.
- Indexation decisions affecting federal and state awards accounted for almost all of these increases.
- In the year ended February 1978 the adult male wage rate index rose by 11.4 per cent, 97 per cent of the rise being attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figures were 11.7 per cent and 99 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates* (6312.0) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to

measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month of the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES: ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)
1977 -										
February	135.63	7.9	480.2	338.56	478.5	126.11	8.9	633.5	317.89	633.6
March	141.10	12.2	499.6	352.39	497.9	131.61	13.6	661.1	331.77	661.3
April	141.26	12.2	500.2	352.70	498.5	131.64	13.2	661.2	331.82	661.4
May	143.90	11.1	509.5	359.30	507.8	134.11	11.9	673.7	338.07	673.9
June	143.91	11.0	509.5	359.31	507.9	134.12	11.4	673.7	338.08	673.9
July	143.92	10.9	509.6	359.34	507.9	134.13	11.4	673.8	338.11	673.9
August	146.68	10.8	519.4	366.22	517.6	136.79	11.2	687.1	344.81	687.3
September	146.78	10.9	519.7	366.48	518.0	136.79	11.2	687.1	344.81	687.3
October	146.79	10.9	519.7	366.72	518.3	136.80	11.2	687.2	344.85	687.4
November	146.79	8.5	519.8	366.73	518.3	136.80	8.8	687.2	344.85	687.4
December	148.92	10.1	527.3	372.05	525.9	138.83	10.4	697.4	349.97	697.6
1978 -										
January	148.93	10.0	527.3	372.08	525.9	138.87	10.4	697.5	350.05	697.7
February	151.13	11.4	535.1	377.58	533.7	140.92	11.7	707.8	355.22	708.0

(a) See explanatory notes above. (b) Base: Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 28 FEBRUARY 1978 (b)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (b)	209.66	146.32	189.10	142.33	150.16	162.03	188.76	11.1	668.4
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	138.51	144.28	150.80	142.45	143.46	142.69	141.99	11.8	502.8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	138.56	139.41	141.83	138.19	142.58	134.73	139.16	11.9	492.7
Food, drink and tobacco	147.17	147.99	151.08	142.51	151.81	146.09	148.04	11.7	524.2
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	145.20	137.95	150.01	137.67	144.51	137.19	143.45	11.4	507.9
Paper, printing, etc.	147.07	155.37	164.59	153.19	157.02	147.42	152.31	11.3	539.3
Other manufacturing groups	145.54	145.39	146.82	144.40	143.78	138.95	145.24	11.5	514.3
Building and construction	161.80	144.66	150.66	142.83	145.41	142.14	143.93	11.7	509.6
Railway services	137.33	132.20	154.34	137.52	126.01	137.73	139.45	12.1	493.8
Road and air transport	153.71	145.11	144.79	144.84	149.07	148.10	148.97	11.6	527.5
Shipping and stevedoring (c)	184.04	184.37	176.55	174.57	185.66	181.02	181.66	10.5	643.2
Communication	178.95	179.86	178.54	177.53	179.53	174.21	178.91	11.2	633.5
Wholesale and retail trade	150.80	152.50	151.94	147.25	148.09	152.30	150.91	11.3	534.4
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	155.87	152.63	158.25	144.46	150.08	165.37	154.18	11.0	545.9
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	143.26	139.27	141.53	135.79	131.53	134.02	140.09	11.9	496.0
All industry groups (a)	152.08	149.61	155.02	147.70	149.36	149.62	151.13	11.4	535.1

For footnotes see Table below.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 28 FEBRUARY 1978 (a)

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
Wage rates (cents)							
Mining and quarrying (b)	586.50	365.79	499.20	355.81	393.46	414.20	509.36
Manufacturing —							
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	346.40	360.98	377.23	356.13	358.97	356.73	355.14
Textiles, clothing and footwear	346.39	348.52	354.57	345.46	356.46	336.81	347.89
Food, drink and tobacco	368.43	369.99	377.71	356.27	379.51	365.21	370.27
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	363.00	344.88	375.04	344.18	361.28	342.97	358.63
Paper, printing, etc.	367.67	388.99	411.46	382.98	400.49	368.56	381.27
Other manufacturing groups	363.85	363.80	367.04	361.85	358.63	347.66	363.25
Building and construction	354.62	361.87	376.74	357.29	363.81	355.38	359.99
Railway services	417.84	412.79	383.33	399.98	401.59	376.77	405.60
Road and air transport	343.32	330.85	385.85	343.81	315.01	344.33	348.69
Communication	384.28	362.77	361.97	362.10	372.69	370.24	372.41
Wholesale and retail trade	468.80	469.94	466.50	470.07	469.07	456.38	468.49
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	376.99	381.24	379.85	368.13	370.23	380.74	377.28
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	397.34	392.02	400.39	368.24	379.19	419.85	392.80
	358.14	348.17	353.83	339.48	328.83	335.04	350.21
All industry groups (a)	381.02	373.10	387.49	367.70	372.82	370.50	377.58
Index numbers (Base : Weighted average hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100)							
Mining and quarrying (b)	829.0	517.0	705.6	502.9	556.1	585.4	719.9
Manufacturing —							
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	489.6	510.2	533.2	503.4	507.4	504.2	502.0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	489.6	492.6	501.2	488.3	503.8	476.1	491.7
Food, drink and tobacco	520.7	522.9	533.9	503.6	536.4	516.2	523.3
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	513.1	487.5	530.1	486.5	510.6	484.8	506.9
Paper, printing, etc.	519.7	549.8	581.6	541.3	566.1	520.9	538.9
Other manufacturing groups	514.3	514.2	518.8	511.4	506.9	491.4	513.4
Building and construction	501.2	511.5	532.5	505.0	514.2	502.3	508.8
Railway services	590.6	583.5	541.8	565.3	567.6	532.5	573.3
Road and air transport	485.3	467.6	545.4	486.0	445.2	486.7	492.8
Communication	543.1	512.8	511.6	511.8	526.8	523.3	526.4
Wholesale and retail trade	662.6	664.2	659.4	664.4	663.0	645.1	662.2
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	532.9	538.9	536.9	520.3	523.3	538.1	533.3
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	561.6	554.1	565.9	520.5	536.0	593.4	555.2
	506.2	492.1	500.1	479.8	464.8	473.6	495.0
All industry groups (a)	538.5	527.4	547.7	519.7	527.0	523.7	533.7

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (c) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 28 FEBRUARY 1978 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)						Annual Index Nos. change (a) (Base 1954 = % 100) (b)	
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing -								
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc.	135.49	142.72	137.86	136.61	139.32	137.34	138.17	11.9 694.1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	133.50	132.51	133.02	135.03	134.55	129.80	133.02	12.2 668.2
Food, drink and tobacco	140.05	140.06	141.99	138.44	127.65	135.19	139.35	11.8 700.0
Other manufacturing	137.38	139.57	141.06	136.16	136.45	132.51	138.23	12.0 694.4
All manufacturing groups	135.62	136.16	137.19	136.40	133.95	132.71	135.90	12.0 682.7
Transport and communication	142.09	144.25	148.79	147.42	140.90	149.88	144.32	11.6 724.9
Wholesale and retail trade	148.64	152.63	149.52	148.12	146.03	141.06	149.35	11.3 750.2
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	147.87	147.96	145.69	141.53	142.51	145.87	146.79	11.3 737.3
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	138.27	135.29	133.69	131.88	125.19	129.58	135.28	11.2 679.5
All industry groups (a)	140.78	141.04	142.84	140.98	138.98	136.93	140.92	11.7 707.8

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (5)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (a)									
1977 -									
February	136.28	134.11	139.14	132.24	136.26	134.14	135.99	135.20	135.63
March	142.07	139.82	144.89	137.96	138.04	139.88	141.73	140.34	141.10
April	142.14	139.85	144.91	137.96	139.72	139.93	141.75	140.67	141.26
May	144.86	142.47	147.63	140.53	141.97	142.50	144.40	143.30	143.90
June	144.85	142.47	147.63	140.63	141.97	142.50	144.40	143.31	143.91
July	144.86	142.47	147.63	140.65	142.00	142.50	144.40	143.34	143.92
August	147.66	145.30	150.53	143.41	143.98	145.35	147.23	146.01	146.68
September	147.63	145.30	150.53	143.39	145.56	145.35	147.23	146.23	146.78
October	147.63	145.32	150.54	143.41	145.59	145.35	147.24	146.24	146.79
November	147.64	145.32	150.54	143.41	145.60	145.35	147.24	146.24	146.79
December	149.80	147.44	152.76	145.54	147.48	147.46	149.37	148.38	148.92
1978 -									
January	149.81	147.44	152.76	145.54	147.55	147.46	149.37	148.40	148.93
February	152.08	149.61	155.02	147.70	149.36	149.62	151.58	150.58	151.13
ADULT FEMALES (a)									
1977 -									
February	125.78	126.05	127.71	125.84	127.87	122.15	119.37	131.96	126.11
March	131.52	131.77	133.41	131.68	129.29	127.85	125.07	137.30	131.61
April	131.52	131.77	133.41	131.68	129.66	127.85	125.07	137.34	131.64
May	134.01	134.26	135.94	134.17	131.85	130.28	127.44	139.91	134.11
June	134.01	134.26	135.94	134.20	131.85	130.28	127.44	139.91	134.12
July	134.01	134.26	135.94	134.20	132.13	130.28	127.44	139.94	134.13
August	136.68	136.92	138.66	136.87	134.46	132.90	129.98	142.70	136.79
September	136.68	136.92	138.66	136.87	134.46	132.90	129.98	142.70	136.79
October	136.68	136.92	138.66	136.87	134.75	132.90	129.98	142.72	136.80
November	136.68	136.92	138.66	136.87	134.75	132.90	129.98	142.72	136.80
December	138.72	138.97	140.73	138.91	136.54	134.91	131.92	144.83	138.83
1978 -									
January	138.72	138.97	140.73	138.91	137.19	134.91	131.92	144.90	138.87
February	140.78	141.04	142.84	140.98	138.98	136.93	133.89	147.02	140.92

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, FEBRUARY 1978 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) -	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 110.00	..	..	..	..	1.0	..	0.1
110.00 to 114.99	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.9	3.1	0.3	0.8
115.00 to 119.99	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.8	3.8	1.5	1.4
120.00 to 124.99	7.4	8.5	1.3	8.9	6.9	1.9	6.8
125.00 to 129.99	8.0	6.4	5.9	6.3	9.7	9.3	7.3
130.00 to 134.99	5.7	8.3	6.1	7.2	5.4	13.3	6.8
135.00 to 139.99	8.5	7.0	5.1	9.4	5.3	10.9	7.6
140.00 to 144.99	7.6	9.9	19.8	14.6	6.6	7.8	10.5
145.00 to 149.99	12.4	25.0	6.4	19.3	17.7	12.6	16.1
150.00 to 154.99	14.3	5.7	9.5	6.3	6.0	15.0	10.0
155.00 to 159.99	5.7	8.7	7.6	6.7	5.8	3.5	6.8
160.00 to 164.99	4.3	1.4	9.3	1.0	2.4	1.1	3.6
165.00 to 169.99	4.0	2.3	5.3	3.3	8.6	5.2	4.0
170.00 to 174.99	4.1	2.5	3.0	5.1	2.5	2.5	3.4
175.00 to 179.99	2.3	2.9	3.7	1.9	1.3	2.1	2.5
180.00 to 189.99	3.6	3.4	10.7	7.2	10.4	10.8	5.5
190.00 to 199.99	4.1	4.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.0
200.00 and over	5.5	2.7	3.6	0.9	3.2	1.9	3.8
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	152.08	149.61	155.02	147.70	149.36	149.62	151.13
Median (\$) (b)	146.90	145.25	151.72	145.60	147.30	146.20	146.70
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	..	0.3	..	0.2	..	0.4	0.1
State awards, etc.	1.3	*	2.4	2.4	1.5	0.4	1.4
All awards, etc.	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.7
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) -	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 110.00	..	..	..	..	0.6	..	*
110.00 to 114.99	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.7	..	..	1.0
115.00 to 119.99	1.5	1.3	..	3.3	4.8	2.8	1.6
120.00 to 124.99	6.3	6.2	4.9	8.8	8.8	8.3	6.5
125.00 to 129.99	6.4	11.0	6.7	9.3	9.8	23.3	8.7
130.00 to 134.99	29.1	30.2	20.8	11.4	14.1	22.5	26.4
135.00 to 139.99	4.7	4.2	4.8	6.0	2.8	7.9	4.6
140.00 to 144.99	8.2	7.7	20.6	7.3	27.6	3.5	10.2
145.00 to 149.99	3.9	12.2	9.7	33.7	28.1	5.7	10.7
150.00 to 154.99	24.3	1.0	1.6	15.6	1.6	23.6	12.4
155.00 to 159.99	13.7	12.2	27.0	0.4	0.8	0.4	12.6
160.00 to 164.99	0.8	11.4	2.4	1.3	0.6	0.8	4.5
165.00 and over	0.4	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.4	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	140.78	141.04	142.84	140.98	138.98	136.93	140.92
Median (\$) (b)	141.70	133.20	144.13	145.90	144.10	133.50	141.50
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	..	1.0	..	..	1.0
State awards, etc.	0.9	..	1.5	1.2	..	2.8	0.7
All awards, etc.	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	..	1.4	0.9

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for December 1977 may be found in the December 1977 issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates equal to or above the median and the other having rates equal to or below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights. * Less than 0.05 per cent. .. Nil.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0).