

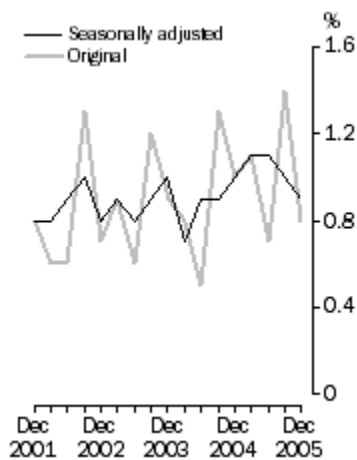
Labour Price Index, Australia, Dec 2005

Source: ABS February 2006

DECEMBER KEY FIGURES

	Sep Qtr 2005 to Dec Qtr 2005 % change	Dec Qtr 2004 to Dec Qtr 2005 % change
Wage Price Index (WPI)		
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses		
Seasonally Adjusted		
Australia	0.9	4.2
Sector		
Private	0.9	4.0
Public	1.0	4.4
Original		
Australia	0.8	4.1
Sector		
Private	0.9	4.0
Public	0.8	4.4

WPI-Quarterly changes, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses



WPI-Annual change: original, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses - For selected industries



DECEMBER KEY POINTS

TOTAL HOURLY RATES OF PAY EXCLUDING BONUSES

QUARTERLY CHANGES (SEP QTR 2005 TO DEC QTR 2005)

- The index for all employee jobs in Australia increased by 0.9%, seasonally adjusted.
- The increases in indexes (in original terms) at the industry level ranged from 0.6% for each of Wholesale trade, Property and business services, Education, and Cultural and recreational services to 1.3% for Communication services.
- Increases in the indexes (in original terms) at the occupation level ranged from 0.5% for Managers and administrators to 1.1% for Tradespersons and related workers.

ANNUAL CHANGES (DEC QTR 2004 TO DEC QTR 2005)

- The seasonally adjusted increase through the year to December 2005 for all employee jobs in Australia was 4.2% (in trend terms, also 4.2%).
- Increases in the original indexes through the year to December 2005 at the industry level ranged from 3.4% for Property and business services to 5.0% for Health and community services, compared with 4.1% for all industries.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

March 2006

June 2006

Release Date

17 May 2006

16 August 2006

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Original indexes are compiled for various combinations of state/territory, sector (private/public), broad industry group and broad occupation group. Seasonally adjusted and trend indexes are only compiled for total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses for the private sector, public sector and all sectors. Indexes not included in this publication may be made available on request by telephoning David Taylor on Perth (08) 9360 5151.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More detailed information on the Labour Price Index (LPI) is available in **Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods, Australia** (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001).

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or David Taylor on Perth (08) 9360 5151.

COMMENTARY

SAFETY NET REVIEW (SNR)

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission handed down its latest SNR decision on 7 June 2005. As indicated in the September quarter 2005 issue of this publication (Labour Price index, Australia), all states and territories handed down decisions to pass on the same increase to workers being paid under the relevant awards within their jurisdictions. The date of effect varied across the states and territories but was sufficiently early to be passed on by some employers in time to be recorded in the September quarter 2005 wage price index. Pay increases under the SNR have continued to flow on in the December quarter 2005 in all states and territories, in particular Queensland which was the last state to ratify the increase.

It is not possible for the ABS to determine the relative contribution of the SNR to the increase in the wage price index in either the September or December quarters 2005.