

# Wage Price Index – March Quarter 2017

## ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Publication Release Date: 17 May 2017 | Brief Release Date: 17 May 2017 | Next Brief Release Date: 16 August 2017

### ACT Wage Price Index grew by 0.4 per cent in the March Quarter 2017

#### ACT (Original) <sup>1</sup>

The Wage Price Index (WPI)<sup>2</sup> increased by 0.4 per cent in the March quarter 2017. Through the year<sup>3</sup> to the March quarter 2017, WPI increased by 1.8 per cent.

In the March quarter 2017, the public sector WPI increased by 0.3 per cent and the private sector WPI increased by 0.6 per cent. Through the year to the March quarter 2017, the public sector WPI increased by 1.7 per cent, while the private sector WPI increased by 2.1 per cent.

#### National (Seasonally adjusted)

Wage Price Index increased by 0.5 per cent in the March quarter 2017. Through the year to the March quarter 2017, WPI increased by 1.9 per cent.

In the March quarter 2017, the public sector WPI increased by 0.6 per cent and the private sector WPI increased by 0.5 per cent. Through the year to the March quarter 2017, public sector WPI increased by 2.4 per cent and private sector WPI increased by 1.8 per cent.

### Wage Price Index, ACT and Australia, March Quarter 2017

	Index(a)	Change (%)	
		Quarterly	tty <sup>3</sup>
<b><u>ACT — Original</u></b>			
Private	124.0	0.6	2.1
Public	124.2	0.3	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b><u>Australia — Seasonally Adjusted</u></b>			
Private	125.0	0.5	1.8
Public	127.9	0.6	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>125.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0; (a) Reference period of each index is 2008-09 = 100.0

#### Commentary

In the March quarter 2017, the ACT (up 0.4 per cent) recorded the equal third highest overall WPI growth, along with New South Wales and South Australia. While the ACT (up 0.6 per cent) recorded the highest growth in the private sector WPI in the quarter, the growth in public sector wages (up 0.3 per cent) remained subdued as a result of the protracted enterprise bargaining in relation to a number of Commonwealth public sector agencies.

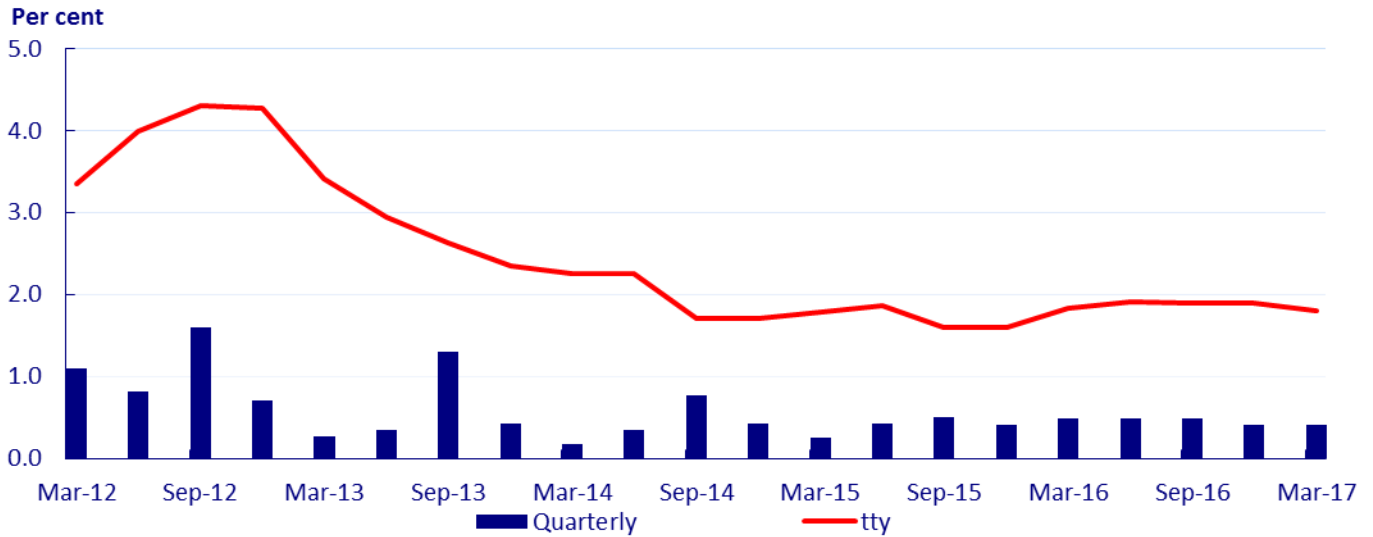
Through the year to the March quarter 2017, the ACT (up 1.7 per cent) recorded the weakest growth in the public sector WPI. The ACT's public sector WPI has been growing at a lower rate than the national average in through the year terms for the last 14 consecutive quarters.

<sup>1</sup> Data for states and territories is available in original terms only; original data should be used with caution due to its volatility.

<sup>2</sup> Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.

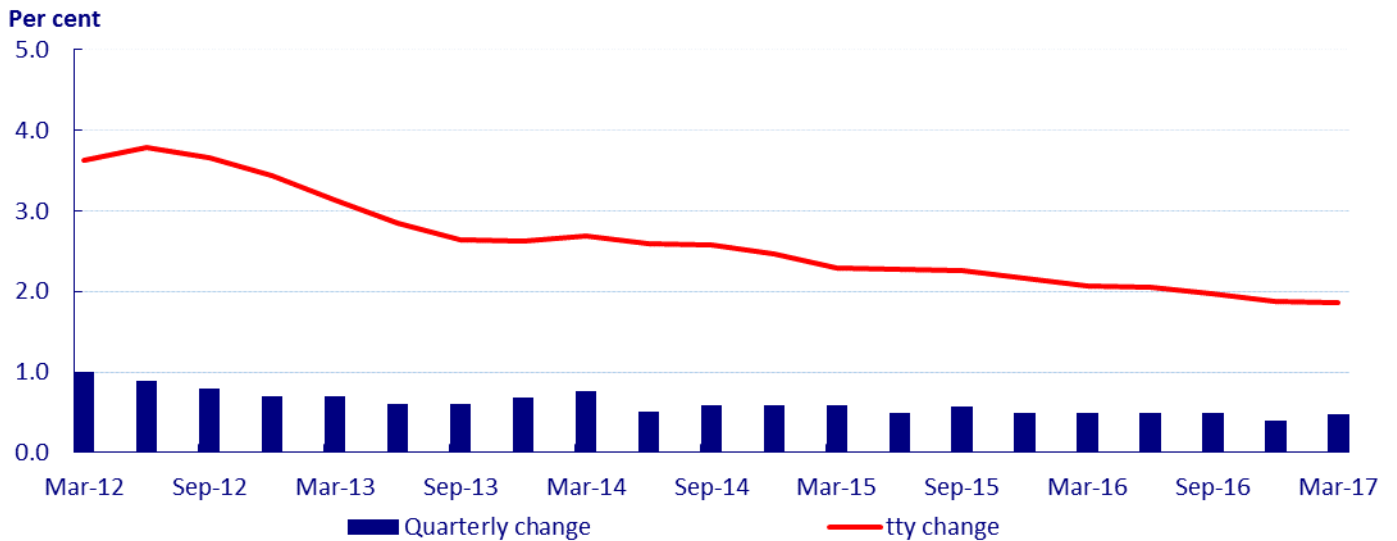
<sup>3</sup> Through the year (tty) is the percentage change from the same quarter in the previous year.

### Wage Price Index — ACT (Original Data)



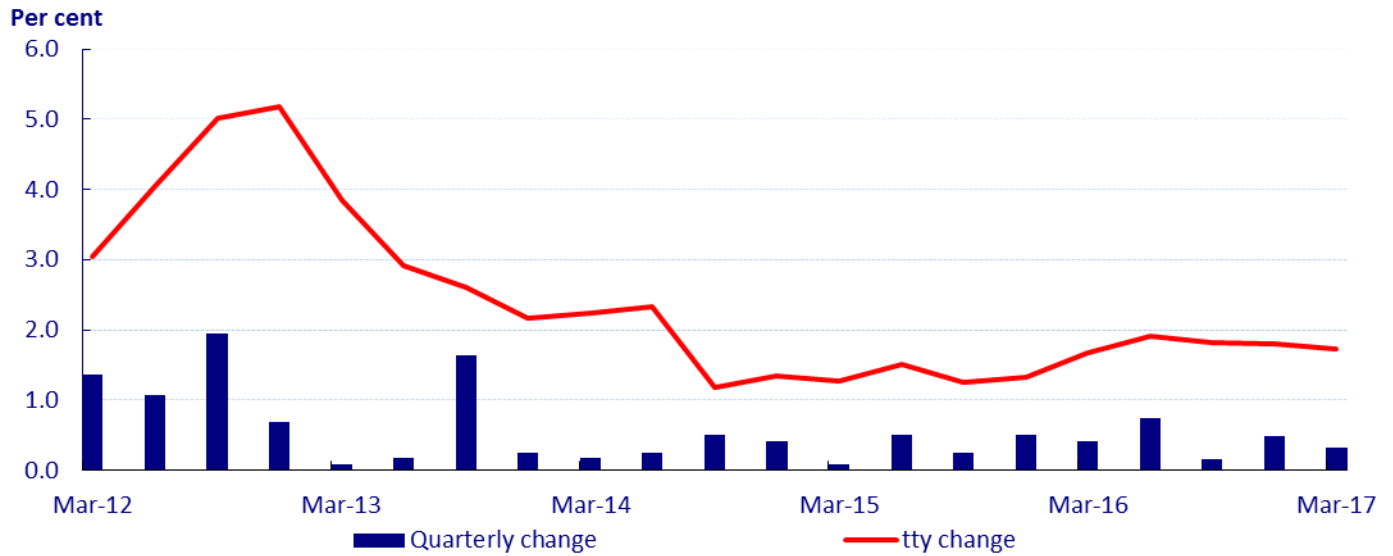
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

### Wage Price Index — Australia (Seasonally Adjusted Data)



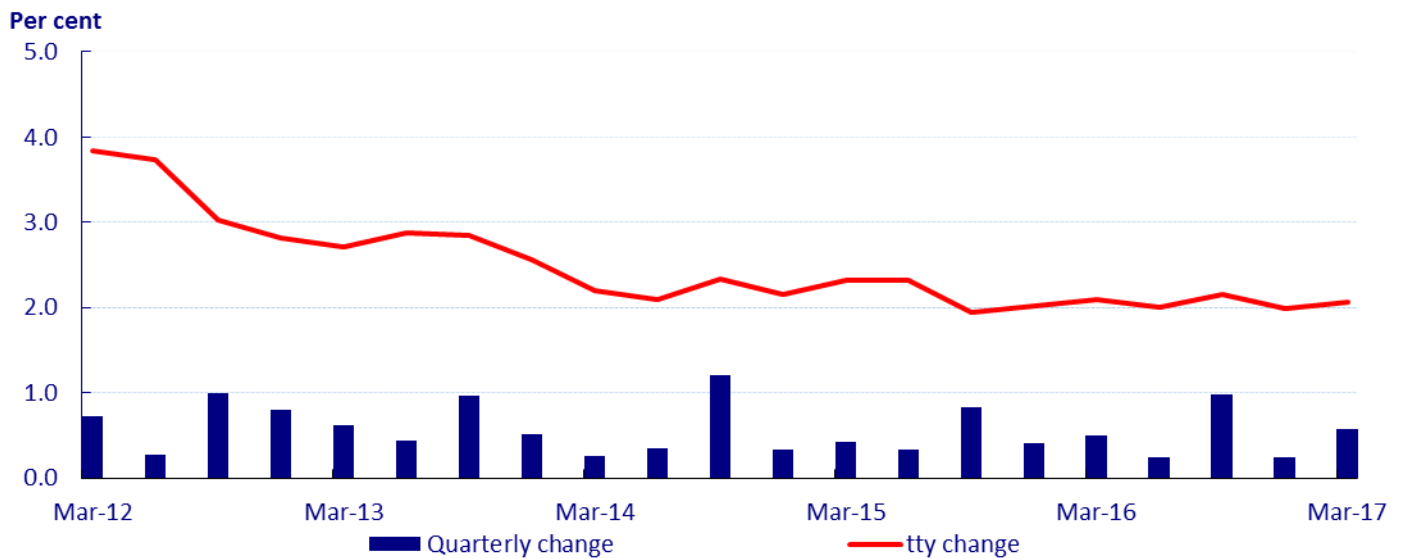
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

## ACT Wage Price Index — Public Sector (Original Data)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

## ACT Wage Price Index — Private Sector (Original Data)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

### 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.

### Weighting

The weights used to compile the WPI were updated in the December quarter 2016 using expenditure on wages and salaries from the 2016 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours. The weighting data are adjusted for price change to represent current period values.