

Wage Price Index – March Quarter 2019

ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Publication Release Date: 15 May 2019 | Brief Release Date: 15 May 2019 | Next Brief Release Date: 14 August 2019

ACT Wage Price Index grew by 0.5 per cent in the March Quarter 2019

ACT (Original)¹

The Wage Price Index (WPI)² increased by 0.5 per cent in the March quarter 2019. Through the year³ to the March quarter 2019, WPI increased by 2.1 per cent.

In the March quarter 2019, public sector WPI increased by 0.5 per cent and private sector WPI increased by 0.5 per cent. Through the year to the March quarter 2019, public sector WPI increased by 1.9 per cent, while private sector WPI increased by 2.2 per cent.

National (Seasonally adjusted)

The Wage Price Index increased by 0.5 per cent in the March quarter 2019. Through the year to the March quarter 2019, WPI increased by 2.3 per cent.

In the March quarter 2019, public sector WPI increased by 0.4 per cent and private sector WPI increased by 0.5 per cent. Through the year to the March quarter 2019, public sector WPI increased by 2.4 per cent and private sector WPI also increased by 2.4 per cent.

Wage Price Index, ACT and Australia, March Quarter 2019

| | Index ^(a) | Change (%) | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| | | Quarterly | tty ³ |
| ACT — Original | | | |
| Private | 129.1 | 0.5 | 2.2 |
| Public | 129.2 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| Total | 129.3 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| Australia — Seasonally Adjusted | | | |
| Private | 130.4 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Public | 134.1 | 0.4 | 2.4 |
| Total | 131.2 | 0.5 | 2.3 |

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

Commentary

In the **March quarter 2019**, the ACT's WPI growth of 0.5 per cent was the equal highest of all jurisdictions along with Victoria, Northern Territory and Tasmania. This was partly due to ACT private sector WPI growth of 0.5 per cent and ACT public sector WPI growth of 0.5 per cent both being the equal second highest quarterly growth of all jurisdictions.

In **through the year terms**, the ACT's growth of 2.1 per cent was the equal second weakest result of any jurisdiction. ACT private sector WPI grew by 2.2 per cent through the year while ACT public sector WPI grew by 1.9 per cent. The through the year growth rate in ACT public sector WPI has been below the national through the year growth rate for over five years.

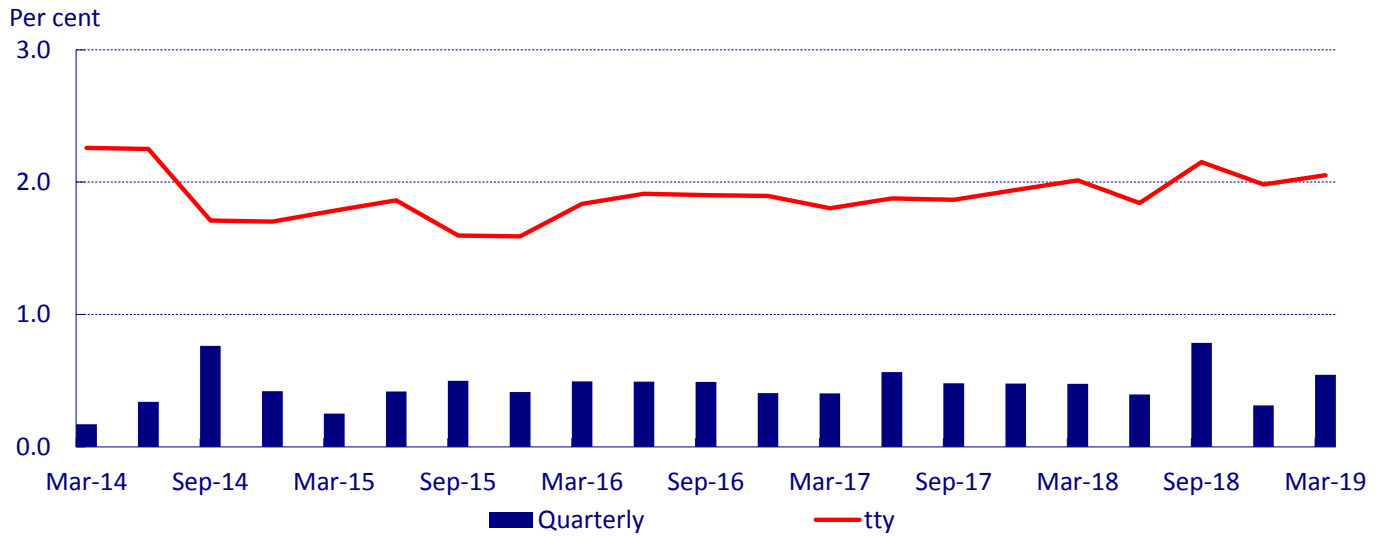
¹ Data for states and territories is available in original terms only; original data should be used with caution due to its volatility.

² Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.

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

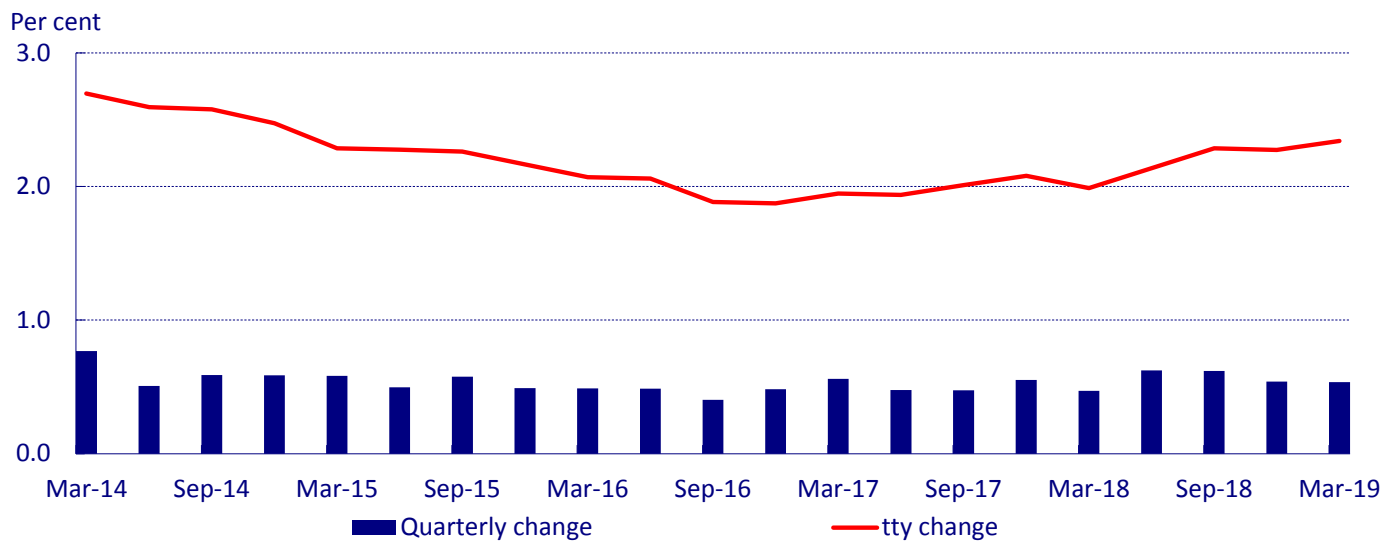
A key factor affecting wages growth in the ACT is that as of February 2018, new Commonwealth public sector wage agreements must limit wages growth to no higher than 2 per cent per annum.

Wage Price Index — ACT (Original Data)



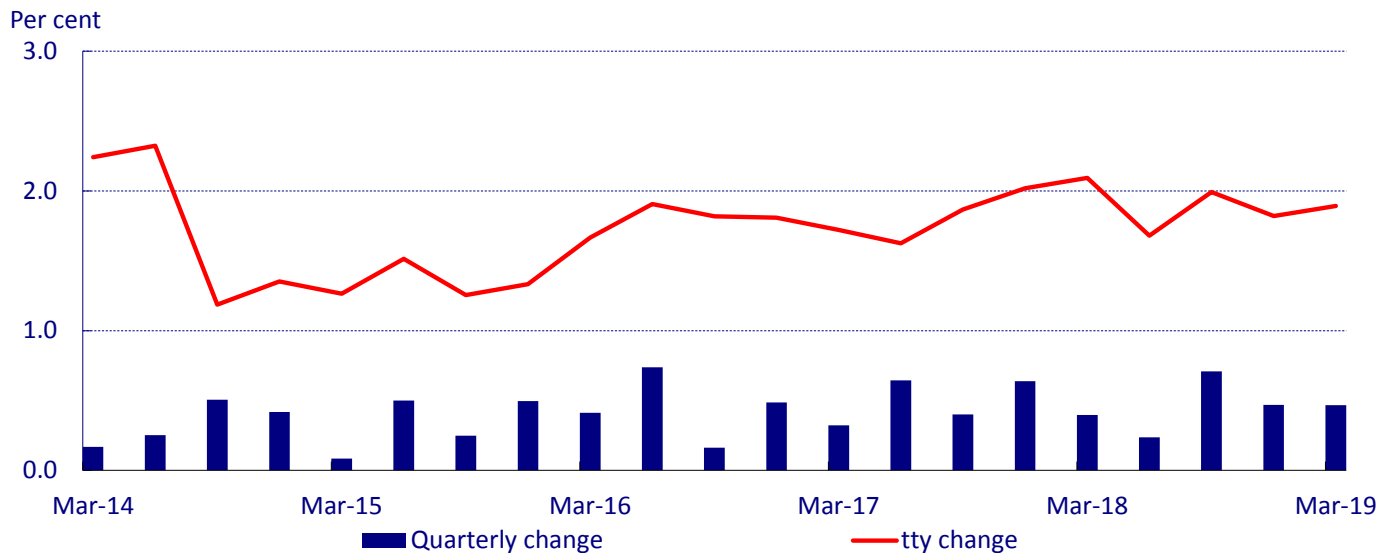
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Wage Price Index — Australia (Seasonally Adjusted Data)



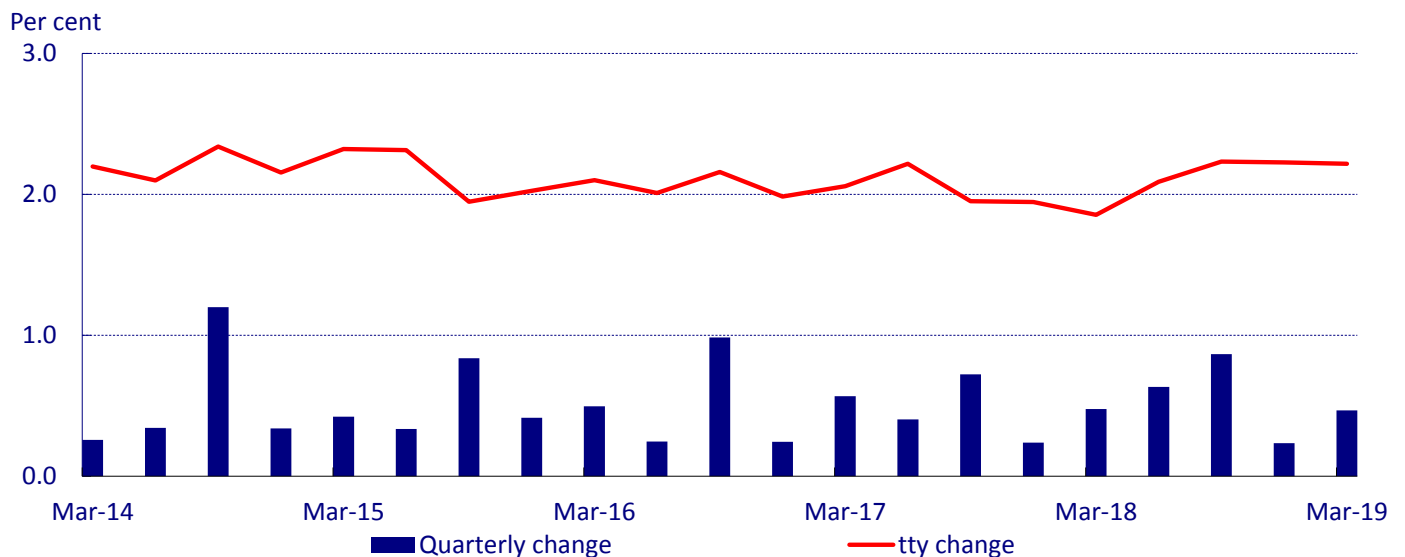
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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 2018 using expenditure on wages and salaries from the 2018 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours. The weighting data are adjusted for price change to represent current period values for each index.