

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
15 FEBRUARY 2007
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W1228-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Real wages and gender pay gap With regards to W789-07, as requested, please provide the calculations for these real wage figures for each year from 1996 to current. Are these figures derived from ABS data?

Answer:

The real wage growth for each year from the March quarter 1996 to the March quarter 2006 are presented in the table below. The figures are calculated using time-series data (AusStats spreadsheet tables 2, 3 and 20) release along with the quarterly ABS *Australian National Accounts* (Cat. No. 5206.0) publication. W136-07 provides an explanation of the methodology used to calculate real wage growth between two time periods.

	Real wages growth for each year from March quarter 1996 (%)
Mar 1996 - Mar 1997	2.2
Mar 1997 - Mar 1998	1.0
Mar 1998 - Mar 1999	3.3
Mar 1999 - Mar 2000	3.6
Mar 2000 - Mar 2001	-1.2
Mar 2001 - Mar 2002	0.7
Mar 2002 - Mar 2003	-1.1
Mar 2003 - Mar 2004	3.8
Mar 2004 - Mar 2005	2.5
Mar 2005 - Mar 2006	2.1

Source: ABS *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (Cat. No. 5206.0), AusStats electronic spreadsheet tables 2, 3 and 20, seasonally adjusted, December quarter 2006 release.

Estimated cost: Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes at an estimated cost of \$49 to prepare this answer.