

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
29TH AND 30TH MAY 2006
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: W137-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Please provide real calculations for real wage growth from March 1996 to March 1997, March 1998, March 1999, March 2000, March 2001, March 2002, March 2003, March 2004, March 2005 and March 2006. Please include the real wage growth for the 12 months prior to each of these dates, and the change in real wage growth from year to year.

Answer:

The following calculations are performed using data from the ABS *Australian National Accounts* publication (Cat. No. 5206.0), tables 12 and 41 as at the March quarter 2006. Data in these tables are seasonally adjusted and are subject to revision in subsequent quarters. While tables 12 and 41 of the ABS *Australian National Accounts* publication provide the latest quarterly figures for household final consumption expenditure and average non-farm compensation per employee, the time-series of these data are contained in ABS AusStats time-series spreadsheets with the corresponding table numbers. These spreadsheets are only available online from the ABS website and are revised with each quarterly publication release.

Consequently, the calculations in each of the following tables are only valid until the release of the June quarter 2006 data.

Table 1: Real wage growth from March 1996 to March 1997, March 1998, March 1999, March 2000, March 2001, March 2002, March 2003, March 2004, March 2005 and March 2006.

	Real wage growth (per cent)
Mar.1996-Mar.1997	2.2
Mar.1996-Mar.1998	3.1
Mar.1996-Mar.1999	6.4
Mar.1996-Mar.2000	9.9
Mar.1996-Mar.2001	8.7
Mar.1996-Mar.2002	9.3
Mar.1996-Mar.2003	9.0
Mar.1996-Mar.2004	12.5
Mar.1996-Mar.2005	14.5
Mar.1996-Mar.2006	16.8

Source: ABS, AusStats (Cat No 5206.0, tables 12 and 41).

Table 2: Real wage growth for the 12 months prior to each year between March 1996 and March 2006 and the percentage point change in real wage growth from year to year.

	Real wage growth (per cent)	Percentage point change in real wage growth from the previous year
12 months to Mar.1996	2.1	-
12 months to Mar.1997	2.2	0.1
12 months to Mar.1998	0.9	-1.3
12 months to Mar.1999	3.2	2.3
12 months to Mar.2000	3.3	0.1
12 months to Mar.2001	-1.1	-4.4
12 months to Mar.2002	0.5	1.6
12 months to Mar.2003	-0.3	-0.8
12 months to Mar.2004	3.2	3.4
12 months to Mar.2005	1.8	-1.4
12 months to Mar.2006	2.0	0.2

Source: ABS, AusStats (Cat No 5206.0, tables 12 and 41).