



Fair Work
Commission

Research reference list: Annual Wage Review 2026

Economic Analysis Team
Fair Work Commission



Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. Australian research.....	4
1.1 The national economy	4
1.1.1. Economic indicators.....	4
1.1.2 Labour market indicators	6
1.2. Social inclusion through increased workforce participation.....	7
1.3. Relative living standards and the needs of the low paid.....	7
1.4. The need to achieve gender equality	7
1.5. Junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply and employees with disability	8
1.6. The need to encourage collective bargaining.....	9
1.7. The need to improve access to secure work	9
2. International research	10



Fair Work
Commission

Research reference list— Annual Wage Review 2026

Introduction

In a Statement issued by the Expert Panel on 30 September 2014, the Expert Panel directed that a ‘Research reference list’ be undertaken by staff of the Fair Work Commission (Commission) for future annual wage reviews:

“This report, undertaken by staff of the Commission, will be published at the same time as the Statistical Report and will list Australian and international literature such as working papers, journal articles or other types of published reports relevant to the minimum wages and modern awards objectives. The report will only encompass relevant literature published in the year to March 2015 and will be updated periodically throughout the annual wage review process as with the Statistical Report.”¹

The Research reference list is published as a central depository of references to research papers that parties may choose to draw on in their submissions to the annual wage review. The papers selected for publication in the Research reference list have been compiled by staff of the Commission and do not reflect the views of the Expert Panel for annual wage reviews on the quality or relevance of the references published. The Research reference list should not be considered to be exhaustive and additional research papers may be referenced by parties in their submissions to the annual wage review. The papers referenced, however, remain the responsibility of the authors of those papers.

¹ [2014] FWCFB 6846 (30 September 2014), p. 5.



Fair Work
Commission

1. Australian research

1.1 The national economy

1.1.1. Economic indicators

ABS (2025), [*9 facts about the economy from the March quarter*](#), 11 June.

ABS (2025), [*A primer on labour productivity*](#), 3 September.

ABS (2025), [*7 Facts about the Australian economy from the June quarter 2025*](#), 10 September.

ABS (2025), [*10 things that happened in the Australian economy during September quarter 2025*](#), 10 December.

ABS (2026), [*7 Facts about our work week*](#), 30 January.

ABS (2026), [*Spotlight - Data Centres in Economic Statistics*](#), 26 February.

ABS (2026), [*A history of automotive fuel prices*](#), 29 April.

ABS (2026), [*Understanding ABS productivity statistics*](#), 5 May.

Australian Securities & Investment Commission (2025), [*Review of small business restructuring process: 2022–24*](#), Report 810, 27 June.

Bullock M (2025), [*The RBA's dual mandate – inflation and employment*](#), address to Anika Foundation Fundraising Lunch, Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, 24 July.

Bullock M (2025), [*Opening statement to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics*](#), Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, Canberra, 22 September.

Bullock M (2026), [*Listening to Australians, interpreting the data and setting monetary policy*](#), speech at The Australian Financial Review Business Summit, Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, 3 March.

Commonwealth of Australia (2026), [*Select Committee on Productivity in Australia*](#), Senate, Hansard, 22 April.



Fair Work
Commission

Greenwood-Nimmo M, Nguyen V H, Robinson T & Tsiaplias S (2026), 'The Australian economy in 2025–26: domestic challenges in an uncertain international policy environment', *Australian Economic Review*, Vol 59, Issue 1, pp. 5-15, 2 March.

Harvey N, Lai S & Spiller J (2025), [*Small business economic and financial conditions*](#), Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin, October.

Hauser A (2025), [*On the rail or off to the races? The outlook for the Australian economy*](#), speech at the UBS Australasia Conference, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, 10 November.

Hunter S (2025), [*Why productivity matters for central bankers*](#), speech at the Citi Australia & New Zealand Investment Conference 2025, Assistant Governor (Economic), Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, 15 October.

Hunter S (2026), [*Recent refinements to the dual mandate and navigating back to target*](#), speech at Norges Bank Monetary Policy Mandate Conference, Assistant Governor (Economic), Reserve Bank of Australia, Oslo, Norway, 2 March.

Lee R, Rankin E & Vass L (2025), [*The young and the restless: the contribution of young firms to the economy*](#), e61 Micro Note, No. 28, 1 October.

Maltman M & Rankin E (2025), [*5 ways Australia's economy is exceptional—why policymakers and researchers should care*](#), e61 Policy Paper, 2 July.

OECD (2026), [*OECD Economic Surveys: Australia 2026*](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, 21 January.

Plumb M (2026), [*Recent developments in inflation and the economic outlook*](#), speech at 2026 ABE Annual Forecasting Conference, Head of Economic Analysis Department, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, 24 February.

Productivity Commission (2025), [*Quarterly productivity bulletin – June 2025*](#), PC productivity insights, 19 June.

Productivity Commission (2025), [*Quarterly productivity bulletin – September 2025*](#), PC productivity insights, 18 September.

Productivity Commission (2025), [*Quarterly productivity bulletin – December 2025*](#), PC productivity insights, 11 December.

Productivity Commission (2026), [*Annual productivity bulletin 2026*](#), PC productivity insights, 19 February.



Fair Work
Commission

Productivity Commission (2026), [Quarterly productivity bulletin – March 2026](#), PC productivity insights, 25 March.

Xero (2026), [Australia Update – January - March 2026](#), Xero Small Business Insights, 30 April.

1.1.2 Labour market indicators

ABS (2026), [Monthly employee jobs: new insights on wages and salaries growth](#), 25 February.

ABS (2026), [Insights into job attachment, January 2026](#), 26 February.

ABS (2026), [Underemployment and underutilisation: Introducing the 'u-series'](#), 19 March.

ABS (2026), [How the ABS quality assures Labour Force data during times of change](#), 16 April.

Borland J (2026), 'Decline to boom to slowdown: Australia's labour market in the COVID-19 era', *Australian Economic Review*, Vol. 59, pp. 20–58, 11 March.

Hunter S (2026), [Defining full employment and its intertwined relationship with inflation](#), CEDA: In Conversation series, Assistant Governor (Economic), Reserve Bank of Australia, Perth, 12 February.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [Occupation Shortage Report – March 2025](#), 12 June.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [Labour Market Update – March 2025](#), 30 June.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [Occupation Shortage Report – June 2025](#), 15 September.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [Occupation Shortage Report – September 2025](#), 15 December.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2026), [Occupation Shortage Report – December 2025](#), 12 March.

La Cava G (2025), [Deconstructing the labour share of income](#), plus61, e61 Institute, 26 September.

Laß I, Botha F, Peyton K & Wilkins R (2025), [The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: selected findings from waves 1 to 23](#), Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne.

Maltman M (2025), [How the care economy is reshaping the labour market](#), e61 Research Note, No. 30, 19 September.



Fair Work
Commission

Tan J (2025), [*A new measure of job searchers for Australia*](#), Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin, October.

Wilkins R (2026), 'Labour market and income trajectories of award-reliant workers: evidence from the HILDA Survey', *Australian Economic Review*, 15 April.

1.2. Social inclusion through increased workforce participation

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2025), [*Generation Z: life after COVID*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 30 October.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [*Connecting for impact: aligning productivity, participation and skills*](#), Jobs and Skills Report 2025, 4 November.

1.3. Relative living standards and the needs of the low paid

ABS (2026), [*Insights on advantaged and disadvantaged households with children*](#), 27 February.

Budría S & García-Gómez C (2025), *Persisting disadvantages: a study of the dynamics of cumulative deprivation*, NBER Working Paper 17908, May.

Cigdem-Bayram M, Nolan C, Rama I & Bieske N (2025), 'Monetary and multidimensional poverty in Australia: a dual measurement approach', *Australian Economic Review*, Vol. 58, pp. 72–85, 20 August.

1.4. The need to achieve gender equality

Doan T, Leach L, & Strazdins L (2025), 'The economic costs of men's long work hours for women: evidence on the gender wage earnings gap from Australia and Germany', *Social Indicators Research*, Vol. 179, pp. 1073–1100, July.

Duncan AS, Sotirakopoulos P & Vu L (2025), [*Gender Equity Insights 2025: The power of balance*](#), BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Series, Issue #10, October 2025.

Financy (2025), [*Women's Index, September quarter 2025*](#), Financy women's index.

Financy (2026), [*Women's Index, December quarter 2025*](#), Financy women's index.



Fair Work
Commission

Inglesi-Lotz R, Bohlmann J, Oosthuizen AM, Chitiga-Mabugu M, Bohlmann H, Njokwe G, Cabalu H, Inchauspe J, Suenaga H & Truong NTK (2025), 'Tailored paths towards gender equality: insights from South Africa and Australia', *Australian Economic Papers*, Vol. 64, Issue 4, December.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [*New perspectives on old problems: gendered jobs, work and pay*](#), Gender Economic Equality Study Paper 1, 7 August.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [*Education and training divides: gendered skills, pathways and outcomes*](#), Gender Economic Equality Study Paper 2, 10 September.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2025), [*Speeding up progress towards gender economic equality*](#), Gender Economic Equality Study Paper 3, 29 October.

Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2025), [*Australia's Gender Equality Scorecard*](#), November.

Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2026), [*Employer gender pay gaps report 2024-25*](#), March.

1.5. Junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply and employees with disability

Churchill B (2025), 'Underemployment and job quality among young Australians: a gendered analysis using the HILDA Survey (2009–2022)', *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 02 July.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2026), [*Employer attitudes toward disability inclusion in the Australian workforce*](#), JSA Insights, 30 March.

Jobs and Skills Australia (2026), [*Employment and disability in Australia*](#), JSA Insights, 30 March.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2025), [*Apprentices and trainees: 2024 December quarter*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 19 June.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2025), [*Apprentices and trainees: 2025 March quarter*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 25 September.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2025), [*Apprentices and trainees: 2025 June quarter*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 18 December.



Fair Work
Commission

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2026), [*Apprentice and trainee outcomes 2025*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 25 March.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) (2026), [*Apprentices and trainees: 2025 September quarter*](#), NCVER, Adelaide, 30 March.

1.6. The need to encourage collective bargaining

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (2025), [*Trends in federal enterprise bargaining report: March quarter 2025*](#), 27 June.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (2025), [*Trends in federal enterprise bargaining report: June quarter 2025*](#), 25 September.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (2025), [*Trends in federal enterprise bargaining report: September quarter 2025*](#), 23 December.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (2026), [*Trends in federal enterprise bargaining report: December quarter 2025*](#), 20 March.

1.7. The need to improve access to secure work

Ablaza C, Gatta A, Stambe R, & Marston G (2025), 'Non-standard contingent employment and job satisfaction: the mediating role of job characteristics', *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, Vol. 63, Issue 4, pp. 650–664, December.



Fair Work
Commission

2. International research

Blau FD, Cohen I, Comey M, Kahn LM & Boboshko N (2025), [*The minimum wage and inequality between groups*](#), IZA Discussion paper No. 18345, December.

Bossler M, Liang Y & Schank T (2026), 'The devil is in the details: Heterogeneous effects of the German minimum wage on working hours and minijobs', *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol. 253, 105540, January.

Brynjolfsson E, Li F, Miranda J, Seamans R & Wang A (2026), *Minimum wages and rise of the robots*, NBER Working Paper 34895, February.

Chen Y & Yao J (2025), [*Minimum wage and employment sectoral and regional perspectives*](#), Working Paper No. 2025/241, International Monetary Fund, November.

Chiswick BR, Corman H, Dave DM, & Reichman NE (2025), [*Effects of the minimum wage on employment of young adults with cognitive disabilities*](#), IZA Discussion Paper No. 18021, July.

Clemens J, Edwards O, Meer J & Nguyen J (2026), *The effects of California's \$20 fast food minimum wage on prices*, NBER Working Paper 34990, March.

Clemens J, Edwards O & Meer J (2025), *Did California's fast food minimum wage reduce employment*, NBER Working Paper 34033, July.

Clemens JP & Strain MR (2025), [*The heterogeneous effects of large and small minimum wage changes on hours worked: evidence using a partially pre-committed analysis plan*](#), IZA Discussion paper No. 17913, May.

Emanuel N & Harrington E (2026), [*The payoffs of higher pay: Labor supply and productivity responses to a voluntary firm minimum wage*](#), Federal Reserve Bank of New York Staff Report, No. 1182, February.

Faia E, Lochner B & Schoefer B (2026), *Monopsony, Markdowns, and Minimum Wages*, NBER Working Paper 34699, January.

Frontier Economics (2025), [*The impact of the National Living Wage on prices*](#), a report for the Low Pay Commission, 20 November.



Fair Work
Commission

Ganguli I & Murciano-Goroff R (2025), *Exposure to Science and Scientific Careers: Evidence from Minimum Wage Increases and University Lab Employment*, NBER Working Paper 34244, September.

International Labour Organization (2026), *Employment and Social Trends 2026*, International Labour Office, Geneva, 14 January.

International Monetary Fund (2025), *World Economic Outlook Update: Global Economy: Tenuous Resilience amid Persistent Uncertainty*, IMF, Washington, D.C, July.

International Monetary Fund (2025), *World Economic Outlook: Global Economy in Flux, Prospects Remain Dim*, IMF, Washington, D.C, October.

International Monetary Fund (2026), *World Economic Outlook Update: Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces*, IMF, Washington, D.C, January.

International Monetary Fund (2026), *World Economic Outlook: Global Economy in the Shadow of War*, IMF, Washington, D.C, April.

Jha P, Kala J, Neumark D & Rodriguez-Lopez A (2025), *City size, monopsony, and the employment effects of minimum wages*, NBER Working Paper 33862, December.

London Economics (2025), *Assessing the impact of the minimum wage on young people using Longitudinal Education Outcomes data*, a report for the Low Pay Commission, December.

Mizen P, Bunn P & Yotzov I (2025), *Impact of NLW upratings on businesses using the Decision Maker Panel*, interim report for the Low Pay Commission, December.

Nagler M & Winkler E (2026), *Minimum wages and work pressure*, IZA Discussion Paper No. 18398, February.

Neumark D & Wohl E (2026), 'Do higher tipped minimum wages reduce race, ethnic, or gender earnings gaps for restaurant workers?' *Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society*, Vol. 65, Issue 2, pp. 176–199, April.

OECD (2025), *OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 1: Tackling Uncertainty, Reviving Growth*, OECD Publishing, Paris, 3 June.

OECD (2025), *OECD Employment Outlook 2025: Can We Get Through the Demographic Crunch?*, OECD Publishing, Paris, 9 July.



Fair Work
Commission

OECD (2025), [*OECD Compendium of Productivity Indicators 2025*](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, 10 July.

OECD (2025), [*OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2025: Finding the Right Balance in Uncertain Times*](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, 23 September.

OECD (2025), [*OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 2: Resilient Growth but with Increasing Fragilities*](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, 2 December.

Pandit H (2026), 'Simply can't wait: evaluating the effect of California's fast-food minimum wage increase', *Applied Economics Letters*, March, DOI: 10.1080/13504851.2026.2641130.

Rao NL & Risch M (2026), 'Who's Afraid of the Minimum Wage? Measuring the Impacts on Independent Businesses Using Matched U.S. Tax Returns', *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 141, Issue 1, pp. 373–427, February.