



Please note – This is a previous WA award summary and does not contain the current rates of pay

WA Award Summary

Building Trades Award

1 July 2017

About this Award Summary

This WA Award Summary is a summary of the state Building Trades Award and does not include all obligations required by the award. It is important that you also refer to the full Building Trades Award that is available on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au

Provisions of other employment legislation also apply to employees and have been included in this WA Award Summary where appropriate. You may need to refer to the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*, the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*, and the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* for full details.

This document is formatted for viewing on the Wageline website and contains web links to other relevant information. If you are using a printed copy in which links are not visible, all additional information can be found at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/wageline or by contacting Wageline on 1300 655 266.

How can we help?

- Pay rates
- Leave entitlements
- Long service leave
- Employment arrangements
- Record keeping obligations



Three Step Check: to make sure this WA Award Summary is relevant to you

<p>Step 1 Is the business in the state system?</p>	<p>This information applies to businesses in the state industrial relations system. It covers businesses which operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ sole traders (eg Jane Smith trading as Jane’s Manufacturing) ✓ unincorporated partnerships (eg Jane and Bob Smith trading as Jane’s Manufacturing) ✓ unincorporated trust arrangements (Jane and Bob Smith as trustees for Jane’s Manufacturing) <p>This information does not cover businesses and organisations in the national system which operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Pty Ltd businesses that are trading or financial corporations (eg Smith Pty Ltd trading as Jane’s Manufacturing) ✗ incorporated partnerships or incorporated trusts ✗ incorporated associations and other not-for-profit bodies (that are trading or financial corporations) <p>For more information visit the Guide to who is in the WA state system page. If the business or organisation is in the national system visit the Fair Work Ombudsman website www.fairwork.gov.au</p>
<p>Step 2 Is the business covered by the Building Trades Award 1968?</p>	<p>The Building Trades Award 1968 applies to building trades workers in a variety of businesses in the state industrial relations system.</p> <p>A complete list of types of businesses covered is available in Schedule B and a list of named employer respondents is in Schedule C in the full Building Trades Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au</p> <p>Wageline can assist in determine award coverage for this award – please contact Wageline on 1300 655 266.</p>
<p>Step 3 Is the employee’s job covered by the Building Trades Award?</p>	<p>The Building Trades Award sets pay rates, working hours and other employment arrangements for employees working in the occupations listed on page 3 in businesses that are covered by the award.</p>



Employers covered by this WA Award are legally required to keep employment records. Employers can be fined up to \$5,000 for not keeping employment records, for keeping inadequate or fraudulent records, or for not providing records to Industrial Inspectors when required to do so. Page 5 details record keeping requirements.

The Building Trades Award is a legal document that outlines the minimum wages and conditions of employment that must be provided to employees who are covered by the award. Employers and employees cannot agree to lesser conditions.

Industrial Inspectors at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety have statutory powers to investigate employee complaints about underpayment of wages or leave entitlements under this WA Award and state employment laws. The Department can prosecute employers in the Industrial Magistrates Court for not paying the rates of pay, including overtime, penalty rates and allowances required by this WA Award.



Rates of pay

All rates of pay are gross rates (before tax). Current rates applied from the first pay period on or after **1 July 2017**.



Adult rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2017 until end of last pay period commenced in June 2018 (new rates applied first pay period on or after 1 July 2018).

Classification	Weekly (includes special payment of \$40.78 per week)	Hourly	Casual (includes 20% loading)	Tool allowance (payable where an employer does not provide the employee with all necessary tools)
Bricklayers, Stone workers	\$805.40	\$21.19	\$25.43	\$15.60
Plasterer	\$805.40	\$21.19	\$25.43	\$18.20
Carpenter, Joiner	\$805.40	\$21.19	\$25.43	\$22.10
Joiner - Assembler A	\$770.00	\$20.26	\$24.32	\$11.10
Joiner - Assembler B	\$755.30	\$19.88	\$23.85	\$11.10
Plumber	\$805.40	\$21.19	\$25.43	\$22.10
Plumber - Registered	\$815.10	\$21.45	\$25.74	\$22.10
Painter, Glazier, Sign writer	\$805.40	\$21.19	\$25.43	\$5.40
Labourer Group 1*	\$786.50	\$20.70	\$24.84	N/A
Labourer Group 2*	\$770.40	\$20.27	\$24.33	N/A
Labourer Group 3*	\$758.40	\$19.96	\$23.95	N/A
Labourer Group 4*	\$749.70	\$19.73	\$23.67	N/A

* **Labourer Group 1** includes: Rigger, Drainer, Dogman; **Labourer Group 2** includes: Scaffolder, Powder Monkey, Hoist or Winch Driver, Concrete Finisher, Steel Fixer including Tack Welder and Operator Concrete Pump; **Labourer Group 3** includes: Bricklayer's Labourer, Plasterer's Labourer, Assistant Powder Monkey, Assistant Rigger, Demolition Worker (after 3 months experience), Gear Hand, Pile Driver, Tackle Hand, Jackhammer Hand, Mixer Driver (Concrete), Steel Erector, Aluminium Alloy Structural Erector, Gantry Hand or Crane Hand, Crane Chaser, Concrete Gang including Concrete Floater, Steel or Bar Bender to patter or plan, Concrete Formwork Stripper, Concrete Pump Hose Hand; **Labourer Group 4** includes: Builders' Labourers employed on work other than specified in Groups 1 – 3.



Junior rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2017 until end of last pay period commenced in June 2018 (new rates applied first pay period on or after 1 July 2018).

- Junior employees (19 and under) may only be employed in the classification of **Joiner - Assembler A**.
- Note the Building Trades Award also contains wage rates for employees who are 16 years of age or under.
- Under the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*, it is illegal to employ children under the age of 15 in this industry, except if the child is working as part of a school program or in a family business.

Juniors	Weekly (includes special payment of \$40.78 per week)	Hourly	Casual (includes 20% loading)	Tool allowance (payable where an employer does not provide the employee with all necessary tools)
17 years of age	\$425.30	\$11.19	\$13.43	\$11.10
18 years of age	\$562.10	\$14.79	\$17.75	\$11.10
19 years of age	\$677.60	\$17.83	\$21.40	\$11.10

Some of the junior pay rates in the Building Trades Award fall below the minimum wages set by the 2017 State Wage Order. In such instances the rates listed here are the legal minimum rate.



Apprentice rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2017 until end of last period commenced in June 2018 (new rates applied first pay period on or after 1 July 2018).

Adult Apprentices aged 21 and above receive the minimum adult wage of **\$607.60 per week** or the prescribed apprenticeship rate, whichever is the higher, for ordinary hours of work.

4 year term	3.5 year term	3 year term	% of relevant trades rate
1st Year	0-6 months		42%
2nd Year	7-18 months	1st Year	55%
3rd Year	19-30 months	2nd Year	75%
4th Year	31-42 months	3rd Year	88%

Apprentice tool allowance

Year of apprenticeship	1st year	2nd year	3rd/4th year
Proportion of Tradesperson Tool Allowance	One third	Two thirds	Full allowance



To receive email updates when WA Award pay rates change, subscribe to the Wageline Newsletter at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/wageline



Hours and overtime

Ordinary hours are:

- An average of 38 hours a week to be worked in one of the following arrangements:
 - 38 hours within a work cycle not exceeding seven consecutive days
 - 76 hours within a work cycle not exceeding fourteen consecutive days
 - 114 hours within a work cycle not exceeding twenty-one consecutive days
 - 152 hours within a work cycle not exceeding twenty-eight consecutive days
- worked Monday and Friday, between 6:30am and 6:00pm each day
- no more than eight hours each day (or ten hours each day by agreement of the employer and the majority of relevant employees)

In the case of emergency work an employee in the plumbing industry may be rostered to work on Saturday morning and such work may be counted as part of the 38 hours per week. The altered starting and finishing times necessitated by such an arrangement are to be agreed between the employee and the employer.

Overtime

- If an employee is required to work outside the hours specified above, they must be paid at overtime rates.
- A part time employee who works in excess of the hours fixed under the contract of employment must be paid overtime rates for any hours in excess.
- Overtime is paid at the rate of time and half for the first two hours and double time after that. Any hours worked on a Sunday are paid at the rate of double time.
- If an employee starts work between 12am and 6am, double time must be paid until usual starting time.
- If an employee works on a public holiday or substituted public holiday they must be paid at the rate of double time and one half.

Shift work

If an employee is required to work shift work, different ordinary hours and additional allowances apply. Please access a full version of the Building Trades Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website

www.wairc.wa.gov.au



Meal breaks

- A meal break of not less than 45 minutes must be allowed. The meal break or the spread of hours may be altered by agreement between the employer and employee. Where it is necessary for work to continue uninterrupted, a lunch break of not less than thirty minutes must be allowed between the hours of 11.15am and 1.30pm to employees engaged on such work.
- If an employee is required to work during the recognised meal break so that the commencement of the meal break is postponed for more than half an hour the employee must be paid at the rate of double time until the employee is released for their meal.



Employment records

- Employers are legally required to keep employment records which demonstrate that employees have been paid all entitlements under the Building Trades Award and relevant legislation.
- Employers must keep all employment records for at least seven years after they are made for both current and past employees. Records relating to long service leave must be kept for seven years from the date employment ends.
- Employers can be fined up to \$5,000 by the Industrial Magistrates Court for not keeping employment records or for keeping inadequate or fraudulent records. A common requirement that employers fail to observe is a lack of detail in keeping employment records.
- Employers must keep records that detail:
 - Employee's name
 - Date of birth if under 21 years of age
 - Date employee commenced with the employer
 - Total number of hours worked each week
 - The gross and net amounts paid to the employee
 - All information required to calculate long service leave entitlements and payment
 - All pay deductions and reasons for them
 - Name of WA Award that applies
 - Daily start and finish time and meal breaks taken
 - Employment status (full time, part time, casual)
 - Employee's classification under the award
 - All leave taken, whether paid, partly paid or unpaid
 - Any other information necessary to prove that the wages received by an employee comply with the requirements of the Building Trades Award, such as overtime hours worked and allowances paid.Contact [Wageline](#) or view the full Building Trades Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au for details.
- Employment records can be written or electronic as long as they are in a form that can be printed. Time and wage books can be used to keep employment records, however, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the time and wage book includes all of the required information.
- The records must be in English.
- Wageline's [record keeping templates](#) help small business employers meet their legal obligations for time and wages record keeping and keep accurate employee leave records.



Deductions from pay

An employer may only deduct from an employee's pay an amount which:

- the employer is authorised, in writing, by the employee to deduct and pay on behalf of the employee
- the employer is authorised to deduct and pay on behalf of the employee under the relevant WA Award or
- the employer is authorised or required to deduct by law or a court order.



Employment of children

- Under the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*, it is illegal to employ children under the age of 15 in this industry, except if the child is working as part of a school program or in a family business.
- School aged children must not be employed during school hours, unless participating in a school program.
- Visit the [When children can work in Western Australia](#) page for more information.



Allowances

Allowance	When allowance is paid	Rate
Leading Hand Allowance	An employee specifically appointed to be a leading hand must be paid in addition to the applicable weekly rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If in charge of 1 employee (excludes apprentices) • If in charge of between 2 and 5 employees • If in charge of between 6 and 10 other employees • If in charge of more than 10 other employees 	\$13.49 per week \$30.09 per week \$38.19 per week \$50.86 per week
Meal Money	If required to work for more than two hours beyond usual finish time and the employer does not supply a meal. This does not apply if the employee was notified the previous day or earlier that he/she would be required to work overtime.	Meal money of \$9.90 per occasion
Location Allowance	Where working in certain regional towns in Western Australia (paid on a proportionate basis to casual/part time employees and apprentices).	Visit the Location Allowance page for the amounts payable per town or Clause 24 of the award

Travel Allowance

- Where an employee is required to work away from their usual shop or depot, they must be paid fares in excess of those they would incur travelling between their home and their shop or depot.
- An employee is entitled to their ordinary rate of pay for travel time that exceeds normal travelling time from their home to the shop or depot if it is outside their normal hours of work.
- When an employee uses their own car to travel from their home to the shop or depot and the kilometres exceed what they would normally travel, they must receive 0.73 cents per additional kilometre if the employer requests they use their car. An employer may pay an allowance of \$13.30 per day to satisfy the above entitlements. An allowance of 0.69 cents per kilometre must be paid when an employee uses their own car during working hours at the employer's request or fares/expenses must be otherwise paid.

Other allowances

A range of other special rates and allowances apply in certain circumstances and when employees are undertaking particular tasks. View the Building Trades Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au for details.



Public holidays

- Full time employees are entitled to public holidays (or days substituted for public holidays) without deduction of pay. Part time employees are entitled to public holidays (or days substituted for public holidays) without deduction of pay if they would ordinarily be required to work on that day if it was not a public holiday.
- For the purposes of payment of public holiday rates under this award, if a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be considered to be the public holiday. However, if Boxing Day falls on a Sunday or Monday, the following Tuesday will be considered to be the public holiday. When a public holiday is substituted with another day, the public holiday itself is no longer considered a public holiday for the purposes of the WA Award.
- If an employee works on a public holiday or substituted public holiday they must be paid at the rate of double time and one half.
- Visit the [Public Holidays in Western Australia](#) page to view the public holiday dates.



Leave entitlements

Quick reference guide

Leave entitlement	Full time	Part time	Casual
Annual leave	✓	✓	✗
Sick and carer's leave	✓	✓	✗
Unpaid carer's leave	✓	✓	✓
Bereavement leave	✓	✓	✓
Unpaid parental leave	✓	✓	✓
Long service leave	✓	✓	✓

This WA Award summary covers the basic leave entitlements for employees covered by the Building Trades Award but does **not** include all details on leave obligations and entitlements. Full details of conditions are contained in the Building Trades Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au, the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* and the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*.



Parental leave

- Employees, including eligible casual employees, are entitled to the unpaid parental leave entitlements in the National Employment Standards of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, as well as a number of more beneficial conditions contained in the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* (a return to work after parental leave on a modified basis and a reversion to pre-parental leave working conditions). Visit the [Parental leave](#) page for more details.



Bereavement leave

- All employees, including casual employees, are entitled to two days paid bereavement leave on the death of a spouse, de facto partner, parent, step-parent, grandparent, child, step-child, grandchild, sibling or any other member of the employee's household. The two days need not be consecutive.
- Bereavement leave is a minimum entitlement from the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*.



Annual leave

- Full time employees are entitled to a minimum of four weeks of paid annual leave for each year of completed service, up to 152 hours. Part time employees are entitled to a minimum of annual leave of four weeks per year paid on a pro rata basis according to the number of hours they are required ordinarily to work in a four week period. Casual employees are not entitled to annual leave.
- Annual leave is a minimum entitlement in the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* and the Building Trades Award sets out additional requirements regarding annual leave and annual leave loading.
- Annual leave loading of 17.5% applies when employees take annual leave. Where the employee would have received any additional shift loadings for work performed in shift work, had they not been on leave during the relevant period and such shift loadings would have entitled them to a greater amount than the loading of 17.5%, and then shift loadings must be paid instead of the 17.5% loading.
- Annual leave accrues on a weekly basis:
 - a full time employee accrues 2.923 hours of annual leave for each completed week of work.
 - a part time employee accrues the relevant proportion of 2.923 hours annual leave for each completed week of work.
 - Visit Wageline's [Annual Leave Calculation Guide](#) to work out annual leave entitlements.
 - Wageline's [record keeping templates](#) include an annual leave record template.



Sick and carer's leave

- Sick and carer's leave entitles a full time or part time employee to paid time off work due to either illness or injury to themselves (sick leave), or because they have to care for an ill or injured family or household member (carer's leave).
- Full time and part time employees are entitled to paid sick and carer's leave equal to the number of hours they would ordinarily work in a two week period, up to 76 hours per year. Sick and carer's leave is a cumulative entitlement, and any leave not taken in one year can be carried over to the next year.
- Sick and carer's leave accrues on a weekly basis for full and part time employees.
- In the first year of employment, a full time or part time employee can use any paid sick and carer's leave that they have accrued to date for caring purposes.
- In the second and subsequent years of employment, a full time employee can only use a maximum of 76 hours of their accrued sick leave entitlement for caring purposes, or a part time employee the relevant proportion of 76 hours based on their ordinary hours of work.
- An employee is entitled to up to two days of unpaid carer's leave per occasion if an employee does not have sufficient paid leave accrued or has exceeded the maximum amount of carer's leave that can be taken in any 12 month period.
- Casual employees are not entitled to paid sick leave or paid carer's leave. Casual employees can access up to two day's unpaid carer's leave per occasion.
- Sick and carer's leave is a minimum entitlement from the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*.
- Wageline's [Sick Leave Calculation Guide](#) can assist with calculating sick and carer's leave entitlements.
- Wageline's [record keeping templates](#) include a sick and carer's leave record template.



Long service leave

- Full time, part time and casual employees are entitled to long service leave (LSL).
- Long service leave is an entitlement from the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*.
- The length of continuous employment for an employee's long service leave entitlement is based on the total time with the business, rather than any one employer. An employer who buys a business or part of a business will take on the long service leave obligations for existing employees if there has been a transmission of business. This applies regardless of anything written in the sale contract.

Amount of continuous employment with same business	Amount of leave
After 10 years of continuous employment	8 ^{2/3} weeks
For every 5 years of continuous employment after this initial 10 years	4 ^{1/3} weeks
When an employee is terminated (except for misconduct) or resigns after they have completed between 7 and 10 years continuous employment	The employee is entitled to be paid out for LSL on a proportionate basis. LSL payment is worked out on a pro-rata basis for the entire period of employment, including years, months and days
When an employee is terminated or resigns after they have worked continuously for 10 or more years	The employee is entitled to be paid out for LSL. LSL payment is worked out on completed years of service only

- An employee who has completed a full qualifying period of service (e.g. 10 years) is entitled to be paid out their full long service leave entitlement (e.g. 8^{2/3} weeks) on termination, regardless of the circumstances of the termination.
- Where an employee has a period of service that is less than the full qualifying period and they were terminated by their employer for serious misconduct, they are not entitled to **pro rata** LSL.
- Visit the [Long Service Leave](#) page for more details and a calculation guide.
- Wageline's [record keeping templates](#) include a long service leave record template.



Resignation, termination and redundancy

Resignation by the employee

- Full time and part time employees are required to provide one week's notice.
- A casual employee is required to provide one hour's notice to the employer.

Termination

- An employer is required to give a casual employee one hours' notice of termination.
- Except in cases of serious misconduct, an employer is required to give full time and part time employees the following period of notice of termination (or payment in lieu):

Period of continuous service	Notice period
Not more than 1 year	1 week
More than 1 year but not more than 3 years*	2 weeks
More than 3 years but not more than 5 years*	3 weeks
More than 5 years*	4 weeks

- *Employees over 45 years of age with two or more years of continuous service must receive an additional week's notice.
- These obligations are in the *Fair Work Act 2009* which applies rather than the notice provisions in the Building Trades Award.

Redundancy

- An employee is redundant when their employer has made a definite decision that they no longer wish the job the employee has been doing to be done by anyone.
- An employer has a number of obligations in redundancy situations and may be required to pay severance pay. Visit the [Redundancy](#) page for redundancy obligations.

Dismissal requirements

- Under State laws, employees cannot be dismissed if to do so would be harsh, unfair or oppressive. There must be a valid and fair reason for dismissal, such as:
 - consistent unsatisfactory work performance (which has been raised with the employee and the employee given further training and an opportunity to improve their work performance)
 - inappropriate behaviour or actions or
 - serious misconduct.
- The [Dismissal information](#) page outlines obligations and requirements when an employee is terminated.

Disclaimer

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has prepared this WA Award summary to provide information on pay rates and major award provisions. It is provided as a general guide only and is not designed to be comprehensive or to provide legal advice. The Department does not accept liability for any claim which may arise from any person acting on, or refraining from acting on, this information.