



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

WA award summary

Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award

1 January 2021 – 30 June 2021

About this award summary

This WA award summary is a summary of the state Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award and does not include all obligations required by the award. It is important that you also refer to the full Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award 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.

The 2020 State Wage Order issued by the WAIRC in June 2020 granted an increase in pay rates under this award effective from the first pay period on or after 1 January 2021.

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 WA award summary applies to businesses in the state industrial relations system. It covers businesses which operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ sole traders (e.g. Jane Smith trading as Jane’s Cake Manufacturing) ✓ unincorporated partnerships (e.g. Jane and Bob Smith trading as Jane’s Cake Manufacturing) ✓ unincorporated trust arrangements (e.g. Jane and Bob Smith as trustees for Jane’s Cake Manufacturers) ✓ incorporated associations and other non-profit bodies that are not trading or financial corporations <p>This summary does not apply to businesses in the national industrial relations system which operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Pty Ltd businesses (e.g. Smith Pty Ltd trading as Jane’s Cake Manufacturers) ✗ incorporated partnerships or incorporated trusts ✗ incorporated associations and other non-profit bodies that are trading or financial corporations <p>For more information visit the Guide to who is in the WA state system page.</p> <p>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 Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award?</p>	<p>The Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award applies to businesses in the state industrial relations system which is undertaking food manufacturing or processing.</p> <p>An extensive list of types of businesses covered is available in <i>Clause 3 Scope</i>, in the full award at the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au</p>
<p>Step 3 Is the employee’s job covered by the Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award?</p>	<p>The Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award sets pay rates, working hours and other employment arrangements for employees working in food manufacturing businesses 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 6 details record keeping requirements.

The Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award is a legal document that outlines the minimum wages and condition 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.

Employees who believe that they have been underpaid, or wish to make an anonymous report of wage theft, should visit the [Making a complaint about underpayment of wages or entitlements](#) page for more information.



Rates of pay

All rates of pay are gross rates (before tax). The 2020 State Wage Order increased pay rates effective from the first pay period on or after **1 January 2021**. The tables below provide the rates that apply from the first pay period on or after **1 January 2021**.

For classification definitions of job roles at each level, see the separate Classifications publication on the [Food Industry \(Food Manufacturing or Processing\) award summary](#) page of the Wageline website.

Adult rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 January 2021 until end of last pay period commenced in June 2021

Classification	Weekly	Hourly	Casual (includes 20% loading)
Level 1	\$760.00	\$20.00	\$24.00
Level 1A	\$769.20	\$20.24	\$24.29
Level 2	\$778.40	\$20.48	\$24.58
Level 3	\$803.20	\$21.14	\$25.36
Level 4	\$826.30	\$21.74	\$26.09
Level 5	\$865.80	\$22.78	\$27.34

When an employee performs duties that carry a higher rate of pay for more than half a day or shift, the employee is entitled to be paid at the higher rate for the entire day or shift.

Junior rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 January 2021 until end of last pay period commenced in June 2021

Age	% of Level 1	Weekly	Hourly	Casual (includes 20% casual loading)
20 years	100%	\$760.00	\$20.00	\$24.00
19 years	90%	\$684.00	\$18.00	\$21.60
18 years	80%	\$608.00	\$16.00	\$19.20
17 years	70%	\$532.00	\$14.00	\$16.80
16 years	60%	\$456.00	\$12.00	\$14.40

- The award also has rates for under 16 year olds.
- 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.

Registered trainees

- Registered trainees are employees who are undertaking a traineeship registered with the [Apprenticeship Office](#) at the Department of Training and Workforce Development.
- Adult and junior employees undertaking a registered traineeship are covered by the Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award and the relevant pay rates are outlined in the tables below.
- An employer is required to pay a registered trainee for time spent at TAFE (or other off the job training) as normal working hours. An employer is not required to pay TAFE fees on behalf of the registered trainee.

Registered trainee rates of pay – applicable from the first pay period on or after 1 January 2021 until end of last pay period commenced in June 2021

Adult registered trainees

A registered trainee who is 21 years of age or older must be paid **\$588.00** per week.

Junior registered trainees

The pay rates for a registered trainee who is under 21 years of age are based on the highest level of schooling the registered trainee has completed, and how long they have been out of school. The rates on the next page apply to full time registered trainees working a 38 hour week.

School leaver	Highest Year of Schooling Completed		
	Year 10 and below Weekly	Year 11 Weekly	Year 12 Weekly
	\$277.00	\$331.00	\$384.00
Plus 1 year out of school	\$331.00	\$384.00	\$463.00
Plus 2 years	\$384.00	\$463.00	\$517.00
Plus 3 years	\$463.00	\$517.00	\$588.00
Plus 4 years	\$517.00	\$588.00	
Plus 5 years	\$588.00		



To receive email updates when WA award pay rates change, subscribe to [Wageline News](#).



Allowances

Allowance	When allowance is paid	Rate
Meal Money	An employee required to work overtime for more than two hours, without having been notified the previous day or earlier, must be supplied with a meal by the employer or be paid \$10.80 for a meal and, if owing to the amount of overtime worked, a second or subsequent meal is required the employee must be supplied with such meal paid \$7.35. If an employer has provided notice and the employee provides their own meal, but is then not required to work the overtime, the employee is entitled to have the meal allowance paid.	Meal money of \$10.80 per occasion, or \$7.35 for a second or subsequent meal.
Leading Hand Allowance	A leading hand must be paid a weekly allowance if placed in charge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 3 other employees • Not less than 3 and not more than 10 other employees • More than 10 other employees 	\$16.00 per week \$31.50 per week \$46.30 per week
Travel Allowance	Where an employee, (except for a shift employee) is detained at work until it is too late to travel home by public transport, the employer must provide free transport to the employee's home. This allowance does not apply to any employee who usually has their own means of transport.	



Meal breaks

- An employee must not be compelled to work for more than 5 hours without a meal break except where an alternative arrangement is entered into as a result of discussions between the employer and an employee and the majority of employees in the plant or work section concerned. The meal break is unpaid.
- An employer may postpone the time of taking a scheduled break for one hour if it is necessary to do so in order to meet a requirement for continuity of operations.



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 (e.g. work experience placement) 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.



Hours and overtime

- Ordinary hours are:
 - an average of 38 hours a week;
 - worked Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 6.00am and 6.00pm (except in poultry processing plants where the ordinary starting time may be 5.00am); and
 - worked on 5 days of the week on any one of the following cycles:
 - 38 hours within a work cycle not exceeding 7 consecutive work days;
 - 152 hours within a work cycle not exceeding 28 consecutive days; or
 - 1,976 hours within a work cycle of one calendar year provided that for each day in excess of 364 days in a calendar year, 7 hours and 36 minutes must be added to 1,976 hours.
- Where an employee (not being a shift employee) works any ordinary hours between 6.00pm and 6.00am before and after an enterprise's usual operating hours the employee must be paid 20% in addition to their ordinary rate for all such hours worked.
- The employer must give seven days of notice of the time at which they require the employee to commence and cease work unless otherwise agreed between the employer and the union.
- Alternative hours arrangements apply to shift workers, view Clause 17 of the award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au for details.

Overtime

- All time worked before the usual starting time or after the usual finishing time, or beyond 8 hours in any one day, is deemed overtime and be paid for at the rate of time and a half for the first two hours per day and double time after that.
- All work performed after 12 noon Saturday or on Sunday must be paid for at the rate of double time.
- Work done on any day prescribed as a holiday by this award must be paid for at the rate of double time and a half.



Public holidays

- Full time employees are entitled to public holidays without deduction of pay. Part time employees are entitled to public holidays without deduction of pay if they would ordinarily be required to work on that day if it was not a public holiday.
- If an employee works on a 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.



Deductions from pay

An employer may **only** make a deduction from an employee's pay if:

- the employee has agreed to the deduction in writing, (as part of a written employment contract or otherwise) and the deduction is on behalf of the employee;
- the employer is authorised by the WA award to make the deduction and the deduction is on behalf of the employee; or
- the employer is required by a court or a state or federal law to make the deduction (e.g. tax that must be withheld from the employee's pay).



Employment records

- Employers are legally required to keep employment records which demonstrate that employees have been paid all entitlements under the Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) 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. Employers often fail to keep sufficient detail in their 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 Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award, such as overtime hours worked and allowances paid. Contact [Wageline](#) or view the full Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) 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 [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication helps state system employers keep correct employment records. The publication features helpful step by step guides to record keeping and Wageline's new look [record keeping templates](#).



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 Food Industry (Manufacturing or Processing) Award but does **not** include all details on leave obligations and entitlements. Full details of conditions are contained in the Food Industry (Manufacturing or Processing) 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*.

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 four weeks of paid annual leave 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 Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award sets out additional requirements regarding annual leave and annual leave loading.
- During a period of annual leave an employee must be paid annual leave loading of 17.5%, unless they are a shift employee and would have received more for the leave in which case they must be paid what they would have been entitled to had they worked their ordinary rostered shift.
- Annual leave loading is not payable on any unused annual leave paid out on termination.
- 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.
 - Wageline's [Annual leave calculation guide](#) can assist with calculating annual leave entitlements.
- Wageline's [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication includes a 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 [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication includes a leave record template.

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.

Long service leave

- Long service leave is a paid leave entitlement for employees who have continuous employment with 'one and the same employer' for a specified period. Full time, part time and casual employees are entitled to long service leave under the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*.
- To be entitled to long service leave an employee's employment with their employer must be continuous. The amount of their long service leave is determined by the employee's period of continuous employment.
- There are a range of paid and unpaid absences or interruptions to an employee's employment that count towards the employee's period of employment for the purposes of accruing long service leave. Some other types of absences do not break an employee's continuous employment, but do not count towards an employee's period of employment for the purposes of accruing long service leave. See the [Long service leave – What is continuous employment](#) page for more information.
- 'The one and the same employer' also includes employers who previously owned a business, where there has been a transmission of business. This means an employer who buys or otherwise acquires 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 a sale of business contract.

Taking long service leave	
<p>The long service leave entitlement for full time, part time and casual employees is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after 10 years of continuous employment with the one and the same employer – $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks of leave on ordinary pay; and • for every 5 years of continuous employment with the one and the same employer after the initial 10 years – $4^{1/3}$ (4.333) weeks of leave on 'ordinary pay'. 	
When employment ceases	
Employee with between 7 and 10 years of continuous employment	<p>When an employee with at least 7 but less than 10 years of continuous employment resigns or is terminated, they are entitled to pro rata long service leave on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks for 10 years of continuous employment. This entitlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is calculated on the employee's entire period of employment; that is, years, months, weeks and days; • applies to employees who resign, are made redundant, die or whose employer has terminated them for any reason other than serious misconduct; and • does not apply to an employee whose employer has terminated them for serious misconduct.
Employee with 10 or more years of continuous employment	<p>Full entitlement – 10 years or more of continuous employment</p> <p>An employee who resigns or whose employment is terminated for any reason is entitled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks of leave if they have completed 10 years of continuous employment; and • an additional $4^{1/3}$ (4.333) weeks of leave for each subsequent 5 years after the initial 10 years of continuous employment. <p>Pro-rata entitlement – more than 10 years of continuous employment</p> <p>When an employee with more than 10 years but less than 15 years of continuous employment resigns or is terminated, they are entitled to pro rata leave. This entitlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is calculated on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ weeks for 10 years of continuous employment for each year of employment since they completed 10 years of continuous employment; • is calculated on completed years of employment only; that is, it does not include months, weeks or days; and • does not apply to an employee whose employer has terminated them for serious misconduct. <p>This pro rata entitlement (calculated on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ weeks for 10 years of continuous employment) will also apply to each year of employment since an employee completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 years etc. of employment.</p>

- The [Long service leave](#) pages of the Wageline website contain extensive information on:
 - What counts as continuous employment, including details on the impact of various types of paid and unpaid absences or interruptions on continuous employment.
 - What happens when business ownership changes.
- The [WA long service leave calculator](#) can provide an estimate of an employee’s long service leave entitlement when employment ends as a result of resignation, dismissal, death or redundancy. The WA long service leave calculator is available at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/lslcalculator.



Resignation, termination and redundancy

Resignation by the employee

- Full time and part time employees are required to provide:
 - no notice if on a probationary period of up to 3 months agreed in advance; or
 - 1 week’s notice in all other circumstances.
- A casual employee can resign by providing 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.

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.

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.
- When an employee has been made redundant they are entitled to receive:
 - the appropriate notice period or pay in lieu of notice, as outlined in the termination section above;
 - paid leave for job interviews;
 - any unpaid wages;
 - any unused accrued and pro rata annual leave;
 - any unused accrued long service leave;
 - pro rata long service leave (if applicable); and
 - severance pay (if applicable).
- Visit the [Redundancy – General information](#) page for information on redundancy obligations.

Award severance pay – Employers who employ less than 15 employees

- Employers covered by the Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award who employ less than 15 employees must pay the severance pay entitlements in the award when an employee is made redundant, as outlined in the table below.
- Award severance pay does not need to be paid to casual employees, apprentices, employees who have been engaged for a specific period of time or for a specified task or tasks, or employees terminated as a consequence of conduct that justifies instant dismissal.

Period of continuous service with employer	Award severance pay
less than 1 year	nil
1 year but less than 2 years	4 weeks
2 years but less than 3 years	6 weeks
3 years but less than 4 years	7 weeks
4 years and over	8 weeks

Severance pay – Employers who employ 15 or more employees

- Employers covered the Food Industry (Food Manufacturing or Processing) Award who employ 15 or more employees must pay severance pay when an employee is made redundant, as outlined in the table below.

Period of continuous service*	Number of weeks severance pay
Less than 1 year	Nil
1 year and less than 2 years	4 weeks
2 years and less than 3 years	6 weeks
3 years and less than 4 years	7 weeks
4 years and less than 5 years	8 weeks
5 years and less than 6 years	10 weeks
6 years and less than 7 years	11 weeks
7 years and less than 8 years	13 weeks
8 years and less than 9 years	14 weeks
9 years and less than 10 years	16 weeks
10 years and over	12 weeks

*An employee's period of continuous service includes any service with that business under a previous employer where there has been a transmission of the business.

- These severance pay requirements do not apply to probationary employees, apprentices and trainees, casual and contract employees or employees terminated due to serious misconduct or for other reasons not related to redundancy.
- Redundancy pay is calculated based on the applicable number of weeks' severance multiplied by ordinary time earnings. Ordinary time earnings excludes overtime, penalty rates, and allowances.
- If the employee resigns during the notice period, they are entitled to the same severance pay they would receive if they had worked until the end of the notice period. However, in this circumstance the employee is not entitled to payment in lieu of notice.
- Visit the [Redundancy payments](#) page for more information on redundancy payments.

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.