

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013–2014

Outcome 3 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0033_14

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Productivity growth

1. Can the Department confirm that labour productivity across the economy has increased for the last ten quarters? 2. What has been the average annual rate of labour productivity growth since 2008? 3. What was the average annual rate of labour productivity growth in the period from 2001 to 2008?

Answer

1. Yes. In trend terms, GDP per hour worked in the whole economy has increased in each of the last ten quarters, as shown in the following table:

	GDP per hour worked - Percentage changes
Jun-2011	0.3
Sep-2011	0.6
Dec-2011	0.8
Mar-2012	0.8
Jun-2012	0.8
Sep-2012	0.5
Dec-2012	0.4
Mar-2013	0.3
Jun-2013	0.2
Sep-2013	0.2

Source: ABS 5206.0, Table 1.

2. The average annual rate of labour productivity growth (GDP per hour worked, in trend terms) between the September quarter 2008 and the September quarter 2013 is 1.4 per cent.
3. The average annual rate of labour productivity growth between the September quarter 2001 and the September quarter 2008 is 0.9 per cent.

Notes

The ABS states that 'Given the qualifications regarding the accuracy and reliability of the quarterly national accounts, the ABS considers that trend estimates provide the best guide to the underlying movements, and are more suitable than either the seasonally adjusted or original data for most business decisions and policy advice.'