



Media Release

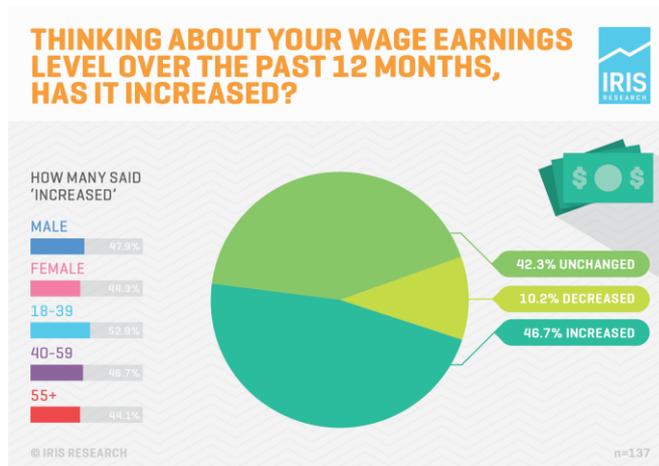
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Ask and you shall (not) receive

According to the latest #IRISVoxpop, asking for a pay rise made no difference as to whether or not Illawarra workers actually received one, although it did make them feel the need to work harder to justify their request.



Of the #IRISVoxpop survey 236 respondents, 57% were employed with 39% full time, 10% part time and 9% casual. Almost half of these workers received a pay rise with 47% reporting an increase in their wage earnings level over the past 12 months. Neither gender nor age had a significant effect on whether a person received a pay increase. A similar amount (42%) reported no change to their earnings while 10% saw a pay decrease.

Increases tended to be small while decreases were high. For pay rises, the most common range was '0.1% to 2.0%'. Conversely, the most reported band of pay cuts was 'greater than 5.0%'. The main reason attributed to decreases in pay was 'changing jobs'.

Over three quarters of respondents did not request a pay rise over the past year. Unfortunately, for those that did, it made no difference. Only 46% of those who asked for a pay rise received one, in line with the overall average.

Where it did make a difference was the attitude of the employee towards working hard. Overall, 45% of employed respondents agreed they feel the need to 'work harder than ever to maintain their position at work'. Breaking this down, two-thirds of those who asked for a pay increase agreed with this sentiment, while only 38% of those who didn't ask agreed. Whether or not a worker actually received a change in pay made no difference towards their agreement rating. The results suggest workers who ask for a pay rise aren't any more likely to receive one and generally feel the need to work harder to back up their request.

There was no difference between the amount of women or men who asked for a pay increase. However, there was a statistically significant difference between the proportion of those in the 40 to 54 years age group who asked (35%) and the 55 plus years age group (14%).

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“We were interested to run this #IRISVoxpop to compare the local experience with the recent results of the latest ABS national Wage Price Index for the June quarter,” said Peter Watts, Chief Executive, IRIS Research. The WPI rose 2.1% on last year’s June quarter which continues a downward trend where the percentage change has fallen consistently since the 2012 September quarter. “Our results suggest Illawarra wage increases are in line with the national average. Low inflation is keeping wage increases sluggish, with the Consumer Price Index lifting only 1.0% over the year, the lowest result since the 1999 June quarter,” said Peter Watts.

In other #IRISVoxpop Illawarra Wage Changes survey findings:

- 38% of employed respondents were sole income earners in their household. This was true for 43% of males and 33% of females. There was a significant difference between the amount of 40 to 54 year olds who were sole income earners (25%) and those in the 55 plus years age group (51%).
- 84% of women worked primarily in the Illawarra compared to 63% of men.
- The most common average amount of work per week was 31 to 40 hours at 36%, followed by 41 to 50 hours at 27%.

The survey

236 locals responded to the Illawarra Wage Changes #IRISVoxpop run on 13 to 14 September 2016. As always, we are grateful to the people of the Illawarra for being willing to share their views with us through the #VoxPop series. We hope the prize winners enjoy their prizes.

If you want to get involved in the conversation and haven’t registered to be on IRIS Research’s On-Line Panel, go to www.iris.org.au and follow the links. It’s free, quick, easy and fun AND there are gift vouchers to be won for lucky participants.

Further media comment:

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