

## Hours of work

Ordinary hours are an employee's normal and regular hours of work, which do not attract overtime rates.

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### Understanding ordinary hours

Awards, enterprise agreements and other [registered agreements \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Dictionary.aspx?TermID=2034\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Dictionary.aspx?TermID=2034) set out any:

- maximum ordinary hours in a day, week, fortnight or month,
- minimum ordinary hours in a day,
- times of the day ordinary hours can be worked (for example, between 7am - 7pm).

The ordinary hours can be different for full-time, part-time and casual employees.

### Spread of hours

The time of the day ordinary hours are worked is called the spread of hours (for example, between 7am - 7pm). Time worked outside the spread of ordinary hours can attract overtime rates.

Find more information about maximum and minimum hours of work and the spread of hours in your award by selecting from the list below.

### Maximum weekly hours

An employee can work a maximum of 38 hours in a week unless an employer asks them to work reasonable extra hours. See our [Maximum weekly hours fact sheet \(www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/maximum-weekly-hours\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/maximum-weekly-hours).

Source reference: Fair Work Act 2009 s.62 (1) (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2009A00028>)

### Tools and resources

- [Pay and Conditions Tool \(http://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward\)](http://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward)
- [Maximum weekly hours fact sheet \(www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/maximum-weekly-hours\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/maximum-weekly-hours)

### Related information

- [Overtime pay \(www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/penalty-rates-and-allowances/overtime-pay\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/penalty-rates-and-allowances/overtime-pay)
- [Awards \(www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements/awards/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements/awards/default)
- [When overtime applies \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/Hours-of-work/when-overtime-applies\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/Hours-of-work/when-overtime-applies)
- [Breaks \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/breaks\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/breaks)
- [Rosters \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/rosters\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/rosters)
- [Rostered days off \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/rostered-days-off\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/hours-of-work-breaks-and-rosters/rostered-days-off)
- [Flexibility in the workplace \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/Flexibility-in-the-workplace/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/Flexibility-in-the-workplace/default)

### Help for small business

Find tools, resources and information you might need in our [Small business showcase \(https://smallbusiness.fairwork.gov.au/\)](https://smallbusiness.fairwork.gov.au/).

### Think a mistake might have been made?

Mistakes can happen. The best way to fix them usually starts with talking.

Check out our [Fixing a workplace problem \(www.fairwork.gov.au/workplace-problems/fixing-a-workplace-problem/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/workplace-problems/fixing-a-workplace-problem/default) section for practical advice on:

- figuring out if a mistake has been made
- talking to your employer or employee about fixing it
- getting help from us if you can't resolve it.

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## Contact us

Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

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The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to providing advice that you can rely on. The information contained on this website is general in nature. If you are unsure about how it applies to your situation you can call our Infoline on 13 13 94 or speak with a union, industry association or workplace relations professional. Visitors are warned that this site may inadvertently contain names or pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have recently died.