

# Wage price index

## September quarter 2022 | Economic brief

The wage price index (WPI) measures changes in the hourly price of labour. It reflects changes in awards, enterprise agreements, minimum wage, and individual contracts but does not reflect changes in the composition of the workforce or employee characteristics which may impact the quality and quantity of the work performed.

Wage subsidies (JobKeeper) and payroll tax changes due to the impact of COVID-19 will have no direct impact on the WPI as they are outside the conceptual framework for defining wages and salaries.

Territory WPI data are only reported in original terms. Data in this briefing is in original terms unless stated otherwise.

Wage price index	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	↑1.4%	↑1.4%
Annual change	↑2.5%	↑3.2%
Year-on-year change	↑2.1%	↑2.6%

## Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 1.4% in the September quarter 2022, reflecting an increase of 2.0% in the private sector and an increase of 0.3% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 1.4%, with an increase of 1.7% in the private sector and an increase of 0.6% in the public sector.

## Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 2.5% in annual terms, reflecting an increase of 3.5% in the private sector and an increase of 0.7% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.2% in annual terms, with an increase of 3.4% in the private sector and an increase of 2.3% in the public sector.

## Year-on-year result

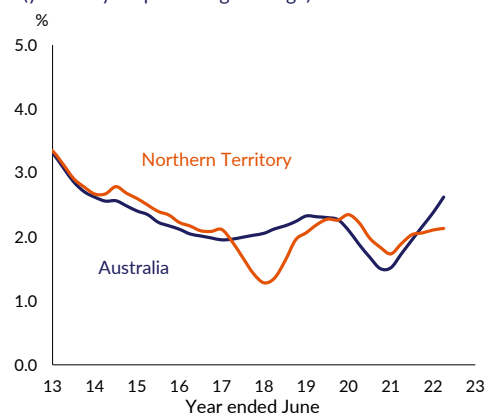
The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 2.1% (see Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 2.7% in the private sector and an increase of 1.2% in the public sector (see Chart 2).

The Territory reported the weakest year-on-year growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 2.5% in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria to 3.1% in Tasmania (see Chart 3).

The national WPI increased by 2.6%, with an increase of 2.7% in the private sector and an increase of 2.3% in the public sector.

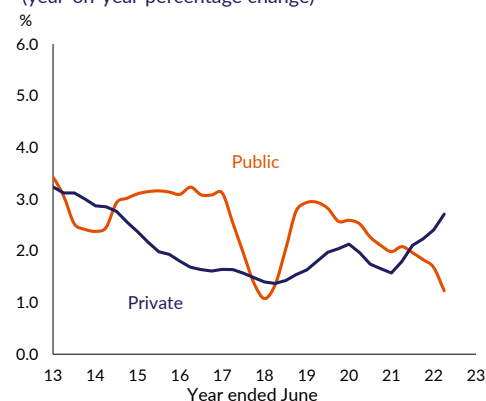
Nationally, the rental, hiring and real estate services industry reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 3.2%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was electricity, gas, water and waste services and mining up by 2.1%.

Chart 1: Wage price index (year-on-year percentage change)



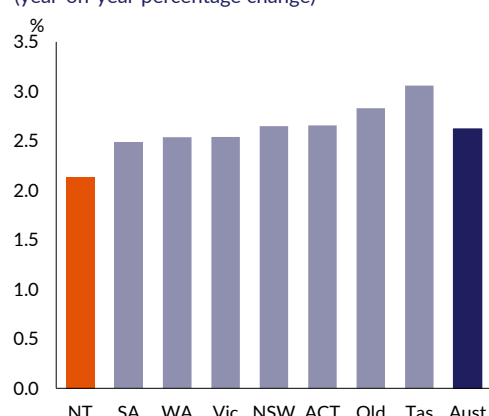
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (year-on-year percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdictions (year-on-year percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Table 1: Wage price index (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 21	Jun qtr 22	Sep qtr 22	Year average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>141.8</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Public	143.2	143.8	144.2	143.8	0.3%	0.7%	1.2%
Private	136.0	138.0	140.8	138.3	2.0%	3.5%	2.7%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>137.7</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>142.1</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Public	140.7	143.1	144.0	142.8	0.6%	2.3%	2.3%
Private	136.8	139.2	141.5	139.2	1.7%	3.4%	2.7%

Table 2: Wage price index - Australia industry (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 21	Jun qtr 22	Sep qtr 22	Year average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Public</b>							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	142.5	145.1	146.7	144.6	1.1%	2.9%	1.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	134.9	136.8	137.7	136.6	0.7%	2.1%	2.3%
Public administration and safety	139.1	141.3	142.4	141.2	0.8%	2.4%	2.4%
Education and training	142.9	144.9	146.1	144.7	0.8%	2.2%	2.2%
Health care and social assistance	141.0	143.8	144.3	143.4	0.3%	2.3%	2.1%
<b>Private</b>							
Mining	137.3	139.8	141.0	139.4	0.9%	2.7%	2.1%
Manufacturing	137.3	140.5	142.4	140.2	1.4%	3.7%	3.0%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	145.2	147.5	149.3	147.5	1.2%	2.8%	2.1%
Construction	136.4	139.5	141.1	138.8	1.1%	3.4%	2.9%
Wholesale trade	136.0	138.7	141.1	138.6	1.7%	3.7%	2.9%
Retail trade	132.3	134.7	137.9	135.2	2.4%	4.2%	2.9%
Accommodation and food services	134.7	136.6	138.3	136.8	1.2%	2.7%	2.8%
Transport, postal and warehousing	137.3	139.4	140.8	139.1	1.0%	2.5%	2.2%
Information media and telecommunications	132.5	134.8	136.4	134.7	1.2%	2.9%	2.3%
Financial and insurance services	139.4	142.5	144.6	142.3	1.5%	3.7%	2.8%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	131.4	134.2	136.8	134.3	1.9%	4.1%	3.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	136.7	139.0	141.3	138.9	1.7%	3.4%	2.9%
Administrative and support services	131.3	133.4	136.2	133.7	2.1%	3.7%	2.7%
Public administration and safety	137.4	138.7	142.1	139.1	2.5%	3.4%	2.7%
Education and training	143.7	145.8	146.8	145.4	0.7%	2.2%	2.2%
Health care and social assistance	144.1	145.5	149.0	146.1	2.4%	3.4%	2.6%
Arts and recreation services	138.5	141.3	143.5	141.3	1.6%	3.6%	2.8%
Other services	136.1	138.2	140.9	138.4	2.0%	3.5%	2.6%

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

2 Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.

3 Compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period.

Caution is advised when using quarterly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

## More information

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