

Retail trade

December quarter 2022 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓2.4%	↓3.9%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑2.2%	↑7.5%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑2.8%	↑11.3%

Since the onset of COVID-19 the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suspended reporting trend estimates due to the sudden and extreme changes in retail expenditure (e.g. changes to regular and seasonal patterns) which significantly impacts the trend estimation process.

Monthly results (seasonally adjusted data)

In December 2022, retail trade in the Territory decreased by 2.4% to \$310 million compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The decrease was driven by the categories of 'household goods' reducing by 1.4 percentage points (ppt) and 'other retailing' reducing by 1 ppt.

The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decrease of 4.7% in Western Australia and Vicotria to a decrease of 2.5% in South Australia. Nationally, retail trade turnover decreased by 3.9% to \$34.5 billion.

Annual results (seasonally adjusted data)

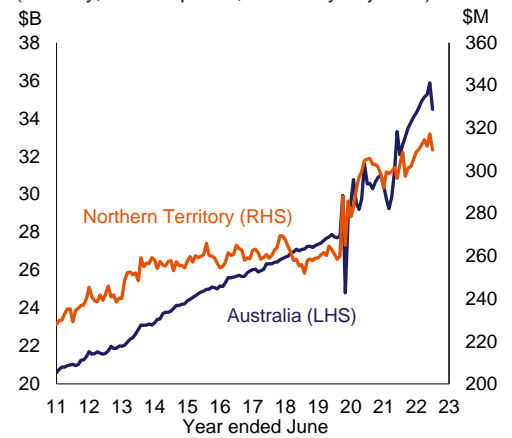
Retail trade in the Territory increased by 2.2% in annual terms, the weakest result of the jurisdictions (Chart 2). The increase was driven by the categories of 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 2.1 ppt), and 'other retailing' (0.1 ppt).

Year-on-year results (original data)

In 2022, retail spending in the Territory increased by 2.8% to \$3.7 billion, the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change otherwise ranged from an increase of 5.2% in Tasmania to an increase of 13.0% in New South Wales (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 11.3% to \$411.7 billion over the same period.

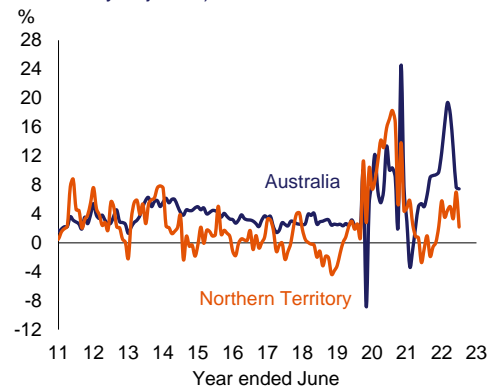
The Territory's year-on-year result was largely influenced by increased spending on 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 1.4 ppt).

Chart 1: Retail turnover (monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



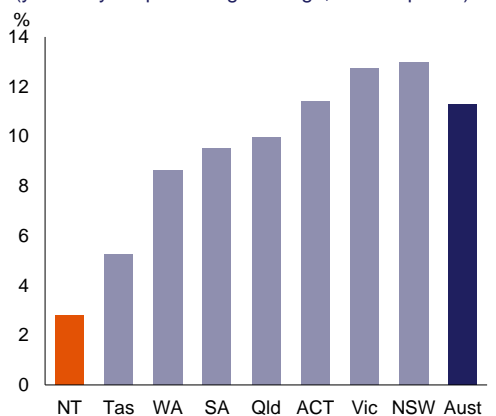
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 2: Retail turnover (annual percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 3: Retail turnover (year-on-year percentage change, current prices)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.7%	↓0.2%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓3.2%	↑1.8%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓3.1%	↑5.2%

The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. The ABS does not publish inflation adjusted data for the components of Territory retail trade.

Quarterly and annual results (seasonally adjusted)

In inflation adjusted terms, the Territory's seasonally adjusted retail turnover decreased by 0.7% to \$859 million in December quarter 2022 (Chart 4). This was the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from a decrease of 0.6% in Queensland to an increase of 0.2% in New South Wales.

Territory retail turnover decreased by 3.2% in annual terms, which was the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the annual change ranged from a decrease of 1.0% in Tasmania to an increase of 5.0% in the Australian Capital Territory.

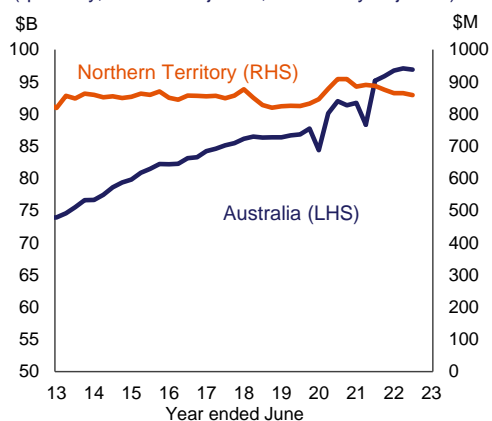
Nationally, retail turnover decreased by 0.2% to \$96.9 billion in the quarter and increased by 1.8% compared with the December quarter 2021.

Year-on-year results (original)

In 2022, retail turnover in the Territory decreased by 3.1% to \$3.5 billion (Chart 5).

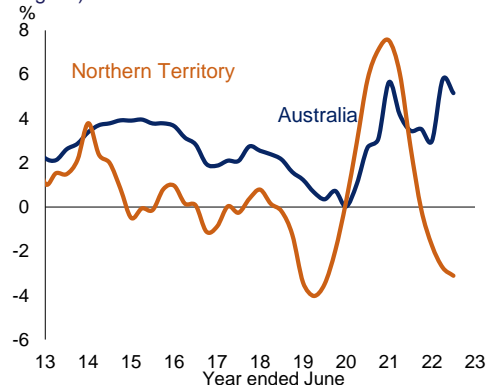
The Territory recorded the weakest year-on-year change of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change ranged from a decrease of 0.3% in Tasmania to an increase of 6.7% in New South Wales. Nationally, retail trade increased by 5.2% to \$386.2 billion over the same period.

Chart 4: Retail turnover (quarterly, inflation adjusted, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Chart 5: Change in retail turnover (year-on-year percentage change, inflation adjusted, original)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Table 1: Retail turnover (inflation adjusted, \$M)*

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 21	Sep qtr 22	Dec qtr 22	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	933	924	903	3 463	-2.3%	-3.3%	-3.1%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	887	865	859	3 464	-0.7%	-3.2%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Australia							
Original	105 970	94 459	107 551	386 252	13.9%	1.5%	5.2%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	95 177	97 068	96 878	386 566	-0.2%	1.8%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

Table 2: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	Dec 21	Nov 22	Dec 22	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	338	322	346	3 703	7.5%	2.2%	2.8%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	303	317	310	3 698	-2.4%	2.2%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Australia							
Original	40 773	37 834	43 982	411 742	16.3%	7.9%	11.3%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	32 079	35 873	34 472	411 506	-3.9%	7.5%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)							
New South Wales	10 039	11 329	10 947	129 625	-3.4%	9.0%	
Victoria	8 252	9 224	8 791	105 753	-4.7%	6.5%	
Queensland	6 678	7 401	7 118	85 266	-3.8%	6.6%	
South Australia	1 988	2 262	2 205	26 010	-2.5%	10.9%	
Western Australia	3 569	3 967	3 780	45 379	-4.7%	5.9%	
Tasmania	655	714	688	8 215	-3.7%	4.9%	
ACT	594	658	635	7 562	-3.5%	7.0%	

1 Compares the latest month/quarter with the previous month/quarter.

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

3 Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period.

4 Seasonal adjustment removes from a series influences that are systematic and calendar related.

*Data only published quarterly.

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

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. 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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