

Retail trade

August 2023 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.1%	↑0.2%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑2.8%	↑1.5%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑4.0%	↑6.5%

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has reintroduced reporting trend estimates after they were suspended during COVID-19. Because of the limited number of trend data points, this brief will continue to use seasonally adjusted data until more trend data becomes available.

Monthly results

Retail trade in the Territory decreased by 0.1% to \$321 million in August 2023 compared with the previous month (Chart 1).

The Territory reported the third weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decrease of 0.4% in Tasmania to an increase of 0.6% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 0.2% to \$35.4 billion.

Annual results

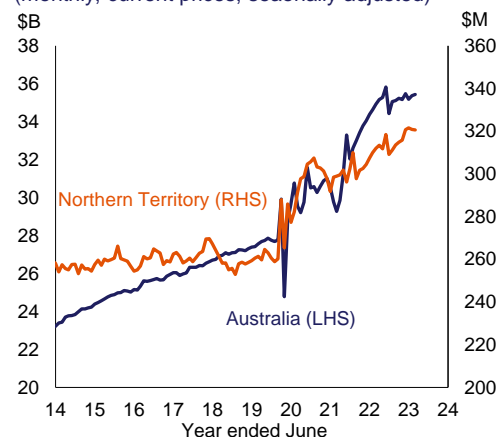
Retail trade in the Territory increased by 2.8% in annual terms (Chart 2), the third strongest result of the jurisdictions. The largest contributor to annual growth was 'food retailing', contributing 2.3 percentage points (ppt).

Year-on-year results

In the year to August 2023, retail spending in the Territory increased by 4.0% to \$3.8 billion, the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from an increase of 4.3% in Tasmania to an increase of 11.2% in the Australian Capital Territory (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 6.5% to \$422.5 billion over the same period.

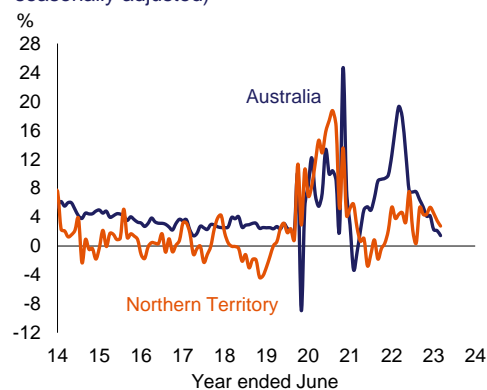
The Territory's year-on-year result was largely influenced by increased spending on 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 2.1 ppt) and 'food retailing' (contributing 1.2 ppt).

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



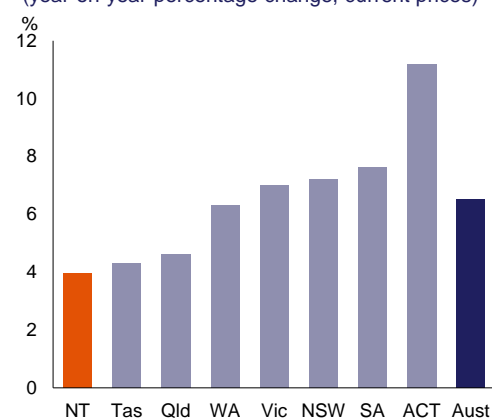
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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

Table 1: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	Aug 22	Jul 23	Aug 23	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	333	351	343	3 791	-2.2%	3.1%	4.0%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	312	321	321	3 792	-0.1%	2.8%	
Trend	312	321	322	3 792	0.3%	3.4%	
Australia							
Original	33 850	34 228	34 504	422 533	0.8%	1.9%	6.5%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	34 926	35 370	35 433	422 740	0.2%	1.5%	
Trend	34 952	35 370	35 404	422 635	0.1%	1.3%	
Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)							
New South Wales	11 028	11 090	11 094	133 139	0.0%	0.6%	
Victoria	8 976	9 120	9 149	108 777	0.3%	1.9%	
Queensland	7 222	7 226	7 241	86 539	0.2%	0.3%	
South Australia	2 217	2 279	2 274	27 092	-0.2%	2.6%	
Western Australia	3 833	3 970	3 988	47 076	0.5%	4.0%	
Tasmania	698	694	691	8 394	-0.4%	-1.0%	
Australian Capital Territory	641	672	676	7 933	0.6%	5.5%	

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.

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.

[Retail Trade | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

More information

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