

Wage price index

June quarter 2026 | 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.

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 (seasonally adjusted)	n.p.	↑0.8%
Year-ended change (original)	↑2.8%	↑3.2%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.p.	↑3.2%

n.p.: not published

Year-ended result

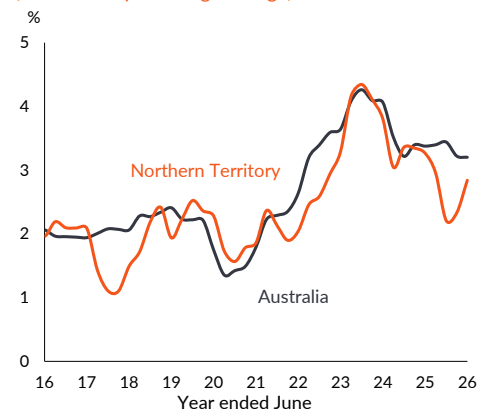
The Territory WPI increased by 2.8% in the year-ended June quarter 2026 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 2.9% in the private sector and an increase of 2.8% in the public sector (Chart 2). This compares to 2.3% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the weakest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the year-ended change in WPI otherwise ranged from 2.9% in Tasmania to 3.6% in South Australia (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.2% in the year-ended June quarter 2026, with an increase of 3.3% in the public sector and an increase of 3.2% in the private sector.

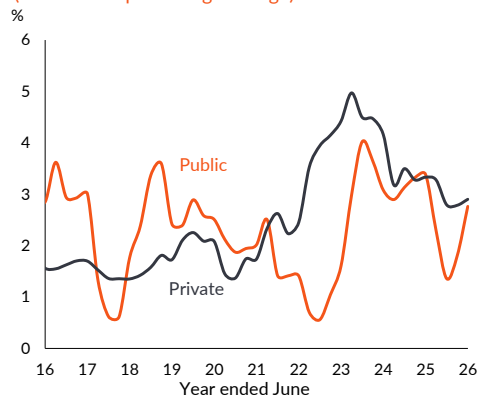
Nationally, the electricity, gas, water and waste services industry reported the strongest year-ended growth in the private sector, up by 4.3%. The industry that experienced the weakest year-ended growth in private sector wages in Australia was professional, scientific and technical services, up by 2.5%.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Year-ended percentage change)



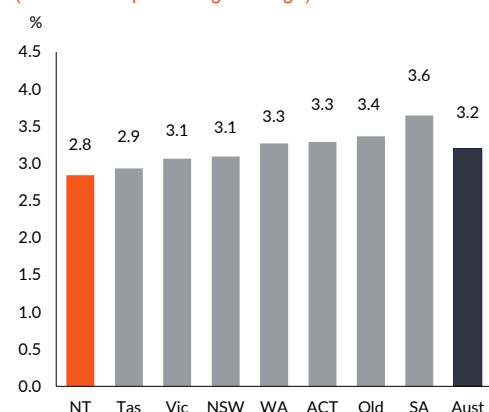
Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Year-ended percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdiction (Year-ended percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

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

	Period			Change	
	Jun qtr 25	Mar qtr 26	Jun qtr 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory					
Original	154.9	158.1	159.3	n.p.	2.8%
Public	155.7	158.3	160.0	n.p.	2.8%
Private	155.1	158.7	159.6	n.p.	2.9%
Australia					
Original	156.2	160.3	161.2	n.p.	3.2%
Public	158.9	163.0	164.2	n.p.	3.3%
Private	155.4	159.6	160.3	n.p.	3.2%
Seasonally adjusted	156.7	160.4	161.7	0.8%	3.2%
Public	159.0	162.9	164.4	0.9%	3.4%
Private	156.0	159.7	160.8	0.7%	3.1%

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

	Period			Change	
	Jun qtr 25	Mar qtr 26	Jun qtr 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Public					
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	167.8	171.8	172.7	n.p.	2.9%
Professional, scientific and technical services	153.7	156.6	159.3	n.p.	3.6%
Public administration and safety	156.4	160.4	162.2	n.p.	3.7%
Education and training	162.0	165.7	166.5	n.p.	2.8%
Health care and social assistance	157.9	161.9	163.2	n.p.	3.4%
Private					
Mining	156.5	160.2	162.0	n.p.	3.5%
Manufacturing	157.3	161.3	162.4	n.p.	3.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	165.3	171.1	172.4	n.p.	4.3%
Construction	155.3	159.2	160.4	n.p.	3.3%
Wholesale trade	154.5	158.6	159.4	n.p.	3.2%
Retail trade	150.1	154.2	154.4	n.p.	2.9%
Accommodation and food services	152.3	156.1	156.4	n.p.	2.7%
Transport, postal and warehousing	154.6	158.9	159.5	n.p.	3.2%
Information media and telecommunications	149.6	152.8	154.9	n.p.	3.5%
Financial and insurance services	156.7	160.5	160.8	n.p.	2.6%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	148.9	152.8	153.7	n.p.	3.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	154.2	157.3	158.0	n.p.	2.5%
Administrative and support services	149.2	152.6	153.1	n.p.	2.6%
Public administration and safety	156.3	160.9	161.1	n.p.	3.1%
Education and training	162.3	166.8	167.0	n.p.	2.9%
Health care and social assistance	167.3	173.6	174.2	n.p.	4.1%
Arts and recreation services	156.9	160.8	161.7	n.p.	3.1%
Other services	153.2	158.1	158.4	n.p.	3.4%

¹ Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

n.p.: not published

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 Wage Price Index

Term	Definition
Wage price index	The wage price index measures changes in the price of labour, unaffected by compositional shifts in the labour force, hours worked or employee characteristics

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

[Wage Price Index, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: nteconomy.nt.gov.au