

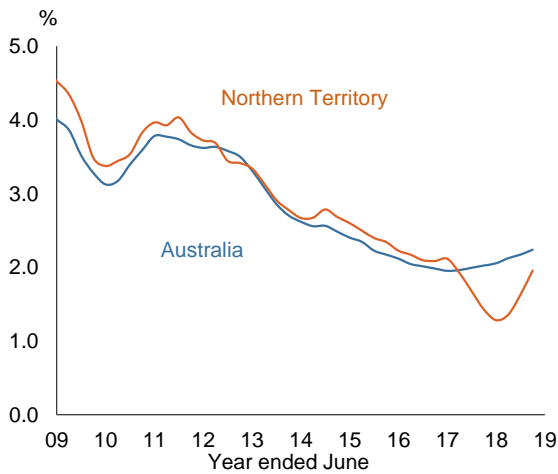
# ECONOMIC BRIEF

## Wage price index

March quarter 2019

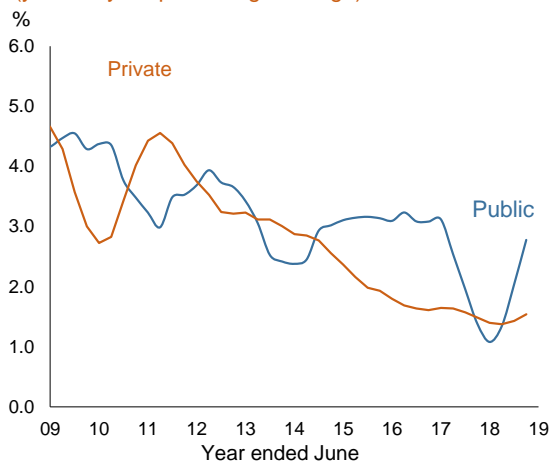
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Chart 1: Wage price index  
(year-on-year percentage change)



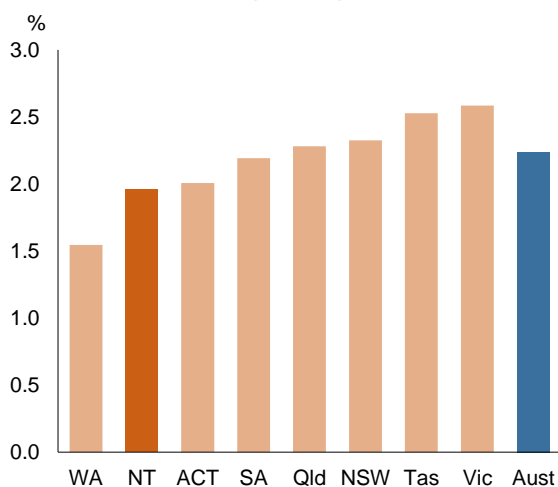
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No.

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



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

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



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

The wage price index (WPI) measures changes in the price employers pay for labour that arise from market factors. To ensure that the quantity and quality of labour services are held constant, changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g.: work performance) are all excluded from the index.

The Territory WPI data is published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in original terms only. All data in the below briefings is in original terms, unless stated otherwise.

Wage price index	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	↑0.5%	↑0.5%
Annual change	↑2.4%	↑2.3%
Year-on-year change	↑2.0%	↑2.2%

### Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 0.5 per cent in the March quarter 2019. This was driven by a 0.4 per cent increase in public sector WPI and a 0.5 per cent in private sector WPI.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 0.5 per cent in the quarter, reflecting a 0.4 per cent increase in public sector and a 0.4 per cent increase in private sector WPI.

### Year-on-year result

The Territory recorded a year-on-year result of 2.0 per cent (Chart 1). This was driven by a 2.8 per cent increase in public sector wages and a 1.5 per cent increase in private sector wages (Chart 2).

The Territory recorded the second lowest year-on-year growth of the jurisdictions, equal with the Australian Capital Territory. In other jurisdictions, the increase in WPI ranged from 1.5 per cent in Western Australia to 2.6 per cent in Victoria (Chart 3).

Over the same period, the national WPI increased by 2.2 per cent, driven by a 2.4 per cent increase in the public sector and a 2.2 per cent increase in the private sector.

The industries that recorded the strongest growth in wages in Australia were health care and social assistance (up 2.8 per cent), education and training (up 2.6 per cent), electricity, gas, water and waste services (up 2.6 per cent), arts and recreation services (up 2.5 per cent), and public administration and safety (up 2.5 per cent).

The industries that experienced the weakest growth in wages in Australia were mining (up 1.8 per cent), information media and telecommunications (up 1.8 per cent), and retail trade (up 1.8 per cent).

## Wage price index March quarter 2019

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

	March quarter		Change		
	Quarter	Year average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>131.4</b>	<b>130.3</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Public	135.5	134.1	0.4%	3.6%	2.8%
Private	129.4	128.5	0.5%	1.8%	1.5%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>130.1</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Public	134.2	133.0	0.4%	2.4%	2.4%
Private	130.3	129.3	0.4%	2.3%	2.2%

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

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

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

### More information:

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