

# Wage price index

## March quarter 2023 | 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	↑0.6%	↑0.8%
Annual change	↑2.9%	↑3.6%
Year-on-year change	↑2.5%	↑3.2%

## Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 0.6% in the March quarter 2023, reflecting an increase of 0.6% in both the public and private sectors.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 0.8%, with an increase of 1.0% in the public sector and an increase of 0.7% in the private sector.

## Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 2.9% in annual terms (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 4.1% in the private sector and an increase of 1.0% in the public sector (Chart 2).

The Territory reported the weakest annual growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.5% in New South Wales and Victoria to 4.1% in Tasmania and Western Australia (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.6% in annual terms, with an increase of 3.8% in the private sector and an increase of 2.9% in the public sector.

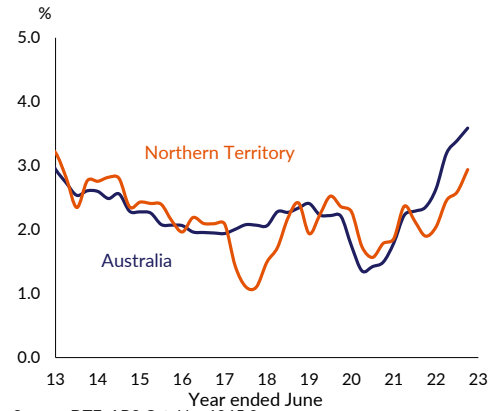
Nationally, the wholesale trade and other services industries, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up by 4.4%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was education and training, up by 3.1%.

## Year-on-year result

The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 2.5%, reflecting an increase of 3.5% in the private sector and an increase of 0.9% in the public sector.

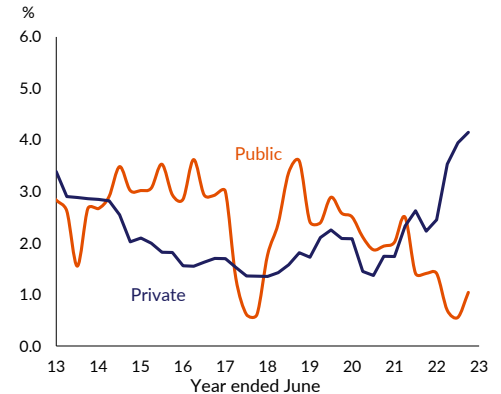
The national WPI increased by 3.2%, with an increase of 3.4% in the private sector and an increase of 2.6% in the public sector.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Annual percentage change)



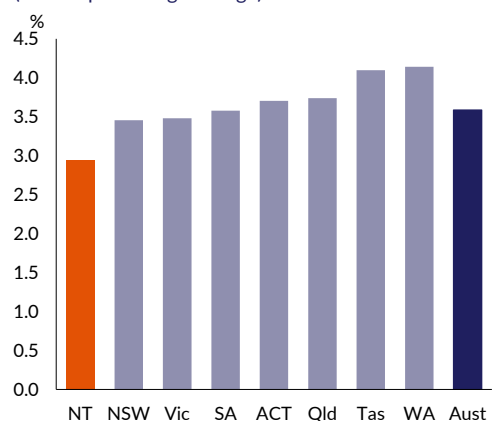
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdictions (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 22	Dec qtr 22	Mar qtr 23	Year average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>142.7</b>	<b>143.6</b>	<b>142.0</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Public	143.7	144.3	145.2	144.4	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%
Private	137.4	142.3	143.1	141.1	0.6%	4.1%	3.5%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>139.3</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>142.4</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Public	142.5	145.2	146.7	144.8	1.0%	2.9%	2.6%
Private	138.3	142.6	143.6	141.7	0.7%	3.8%	3.4%

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

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 22	Dec qtr 22	Mar qtr 23	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	143.3	148.9	149.0	147.4	0.1%	4.0%	3.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	136.3	138.5	140.6	138.4	1.5%	3.2%	2.4%
Public administration and safety	140.8	143.6	144.8	143.0	0.8%	2.8%	2.6%
Education and training	144.5	146.7	149.2	146.7	1.7%	3.3%	2.5%
Health care and social assistance	143.1	145.5	146.8	145.1	0.9%	2.6%	2.4%
<b>Private</b>							
Mining	138.6	142.6	143.9	141.8	0.9%	3.8%	3.0%
Manufacturing	139.4	144.1	145.3	143.1	0.8%	4.2%	3.8%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	146.9	150.6	152.4	150.0	1.2%	3.7%	2.9%
Construction	137.6	142.1	143.0	141.4	0.6%	3.9%	3.6%
Wholesale trade	137.7	142.6	143.7	141.5	0.8%	4.4%	3.8%
Retail trade	134.3	139.1	139.4	137.8	0.2%	3.8%	3.6%
Accommodation and food services	136.4	140.7	141.0	139.2	0.2%	3.4%	3.0%
Transport, postal and warehousing	138.4	142.1	142.8	141.3	0.5%	3.2%	2.9%
Information media and telecommunications	134.2	137.9	138.5	136.9	0.4%	3.2%	3.0%
Financial and insurance services	141.4	145.9	146.9	145.0	0.7%	3.9%	3.5%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	133.4	137.5	138.0	136.6	0.4%	3.4%	3.6%
Professional, scientific and technical services	138.0	142.2	143.5	141.5	0.9%	4.0%	3.5%
Administrative and support services	133.0	136.6	138.0	136.1	1.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Public administration and safety	138.1	142.6	143.8	141.8	0.8%	4.1%	3.4%
Education and training	145.1	147.6	149.6	147.5	1.4%	3.1%	2.5%
Health care and social assistance	145.1	149.8	150.3	148.7	0.3%	3.6%	3.2%
Arts and recreation services	140.8	145.4	146.9	144.3	1.0%	4.3%	3.7%
Other services	137.5	142.0	143.6	141.2	1.1%	4.4%	3.5%

<sup>1</sup> Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

[Wage Price Index, Australia, March Quarter 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au)

## More information

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