

# Wage price index

## September 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	↑2.2%	↑1.9%
Annual change	↑4.2%	↑4.1%
Year-on-year change	↑3.2%	↑3.7%

## Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 2.2% in the September quarter 2023, reflecting an increase of 2.6% in the private sector and an increase of 1.6% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 1.9%, with an increase of 2.1% in the private sector and an increase of 1.1% in the public sector.

## Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 4.2% in annual terms (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 5.0% in the private sector and an increase of 3.0% in the public sector (Chart 2).

The Territory reported the fourth weakest annual growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.7% in Victoria to 4.7% in Queensland (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 4.1% in annual terms, with an increase of 4.2% in the private sector and an increase of 3.5% in the public sector.

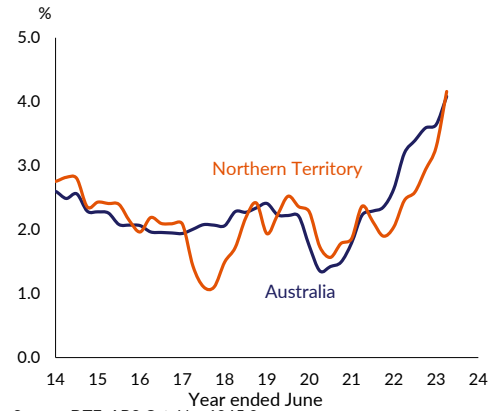
Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 6.0%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was financial and insurance services, up by 3.0%.

## Year-on-year result

The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 3.2%, reflecting an increase of 4.4% in the private sector and an increase of 1.5% in the public sector.

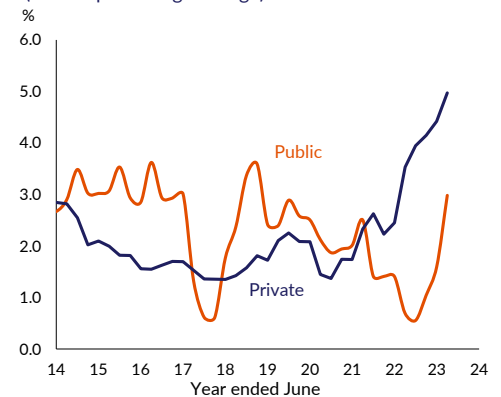
The national WPI increased by 3.7%, with an increase of 3.9% in the private sector and an increase of 3.0% in the public sector.

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		
	Sep qtr 22	Jun qtr 23	Sep qtr 23	Year average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>141.8</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>147.7</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Public	144.2	146.1	148.5	146.0	1.6%	3.0%	1.5%
Private	140.8	144.1	147.8	144.3	2.6%	5.0%	4.4%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>142.1</b>	<b>145.2</b>	<b>147.9</b>	<b>145.2</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Public	144.0	147.5	149.1	147.1	1.1%	3.5%	3.0%
Private	141.5	144.5	147.5	144.6	2.1%	4.2%	3.9%

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

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 22	Jun qtr 23	Sep 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	146.7	150.8	152.3	150.3	1.0%	3.8%	3.9%
Professional, scientific and technical services	137.7	140.9	142.3	140.6	1.0%	3.3%	2.9%
Public administration and safety	142.4	145.2	147.2	145.2	1.4%	3.4%	2.9%
Education and training	146.1	149.7	151.5	149.3	1.2%	3.7%	3.2%
Health care and social assistance	144.3	147.8	149.0	147.3	0.8%	3.3%	2.7%
<b>Private</b>							
Mining	141.0	145.5	146.6	144.7	0.8%	4.0%	3.8%
Manufacturing	142.4	146.3	148.6	146.1	1.6%	4.4%	4.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	149.3	153.2	155.4	152.9	1.4%	4.1%	3.7%
Construction	141.1	145.0	147.1	144.3	1.4%	4.3%	4.0%
Wholesale trade	141.1	144.5	146.3	144.3	1.2%	3.7%	4.1%
Retail trade	137.9	139.9	143.9	140.6	2.9%	4.4%	4.0%
Accommodation and food services	138.3	141.5	146.0	142.3	3.2%	5.6%	4.0%
Transport, postal and warehousing	140.8	143.8	146.8	143.9	2.1%	4.3%	3.5%
Information media and telecommunications	136.4	139.3	141.3	139.3	1.4%	3.6%	3.4%
Financial and insurance services	144.6	147.6	149.0	147.4	0.9%	3.0%	3.6%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	136.8	139.1	141.9	139.1	2.0%	3.7%	3.6%
Professional, scientific and technical services	141.3	144.4	146.7	144.2	1.6%	3.8%	3.8%
Administrative and support services	136.2	138.8	142.0	138.9	2.3%	4.3%	3.9%
Public administration and safety	142.1	144.1	147.9	144.6	2.6%	4.1%	3.9%
Education and training	146.8	150.3	151.8	149.8	1.0%	3.4%	3.0%
Health care and social assistance	149.0	150.8	157.9	152.2	4.7%	6.0%	4.2%
Arts and recreation services	143.5	147.9	150.3	147.6	1.6%	4.7%	4.5%
Other services	140.9	144.1	146.2	144.0	1.5%	3.8%	4.0%

<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 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au)

## More information

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