

Building activity

December quarter 2024 | Economic brief

The Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) building activity statistics includes residential and non-residential building work done and commenced, this brief updates preliminary data in the construction work done release.

Value of total building work done	NT	Aust
Change in quarter (trend)	↓ 5.2%	↑ 0.3%
Change in quarter (seasonally adjusted)	↓ 5.9%	↓ 0.7%
Year-ended change (trend)	↓ 9.0%	↑ 0.6%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	↓ 9.4%	↓ 0.5%

Quarterly results

The trend value of total building work done in the Territory declined by 5.2% to \$299 million in the December quarter 2024. Nationally, the trend value of total building work done rose by 0.3% to \$38.5 billion in the quarter.

Year-ended results

The total trend value of building work done in the Territory declined by 9% over the year to the December quarter 2024 (Chart 1). The Territory recorded the third largest decrease in the value of building work done of all the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 14.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 6.1% in South Australia. Nationally, the value of building work done rose by 0.6% over the same period.

Non-residential building work done in the Territory declined by 15% to \$235 million, reflecting a decline of 20.3% in private sector work done and a decline of 13.1% in public sector work done (Chart 2). Residential building work done rose by 7.1% to \$86 million, reflecting an increase of 48.3% in public sector activity, partially offset by a decrease of 6.4% in private sector activity work done (Chart 3).

Residential building work done comprised an increase of 102% in new units to \$6 million, an increase of 30.6% in alterations, additions and conversions to \$38 million and a decline of 13.2% in new houses to \$41 million.

The total value of building activity in the Territory was \$1.3 billion in the year to the December quarter 2024.

Building work yet to be done

The value of building work yet to be done in the Territory rose by 3.3% to \$1.3 billion over the year to December quarter 2024. This reflects an increase of 4.0% in non-residential work yet to be done to \$1.1 billion, which is partly offset by a decline of 1.3% in residential work yet to be done to \$152 million. Nationally, the value of building work yet to be done rose by 9.5% to \$115.5 billion over the same period.

Chart 1: Territory building work done (quarterly, original, inflation adjusted)

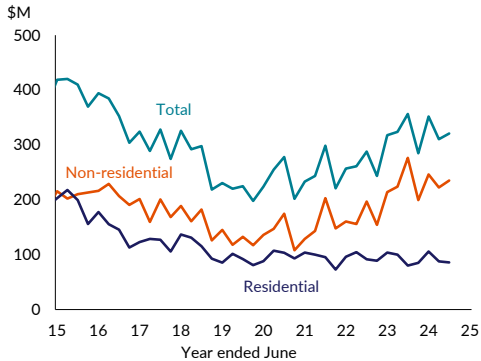


Chart 2: Territory non-residential work done (quarterly, original, inflation adjusted)

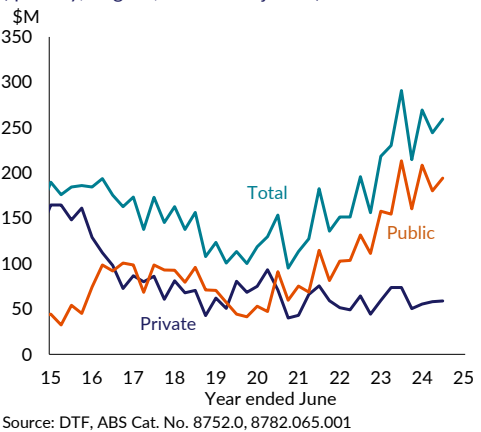


Chart 3: Territory residential work done (quarterly, original, inflation adjusted)

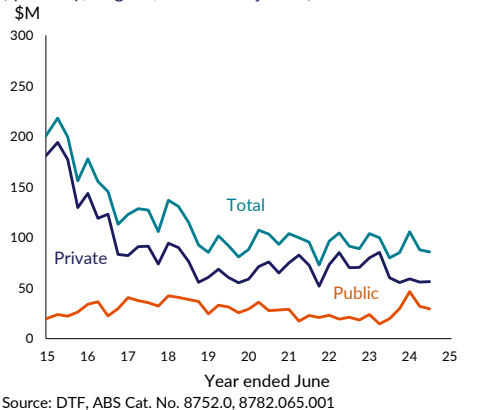


Table 1: Building work done (\$M, chain volume)

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 23	Sep qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Total building	357	310	321	1 268	n.p	-10.1%	2.1%
– private	134	114	115	450	n.p	-14.1%	-17.8%
– public	223	196	206	818	n.p	-7.7%	17.7%
Seasonally adjusted	322	310	292	1 274	-5.9%	-9.4%	
Trend	328	315	299	1 275	-5.2%	-9.0%	
Non-residential building							
Total building	277	222	235	903	n.p	-15.0%	3.9%
– private	74	58	59	223	n.p	-20.3%	-11.2%
– public	203	164	176	680	n.p	-13.1%	10.1%
Residential building							
Total building	80	88	86	365	n.p	7.1%	-2.2%
– private	60	56	56	227	n.p	-6.4%	-23.3%
– public	20	32	29	138	n.p	48.3%	79.2%
by type							
– new houses	48	47	41	191	n.p	-13.2%	-19.0%
– new units	3	9	6	27	n.p	102.0%	1.6%
– alterations & additions	29	32	38	147	n.p	30.6%	32.8%
Australia							
Total building	38 920	40 071	38 661	153 279	n.p	-0.7%	0.2%
– private	33 709	34 940	33 376	133 186	n.p	-1.0%	0.2%
– public	5 211	5 131	5 285	20 093	n.p	1.4%	-0.1%
Seasonally adjusted	38 565	38 628	38 366	153 305	-0.7%	-0.5%	
Trend	38 318	38 429	38 542	153 567	0.3%	0.6%	

Table 2: Building work yet to be done (\$M, current prices)

	Period			Change	
	Dec qtr 23	Sep qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory					
Total building	1 213	1 294	1 252	n.p	3.3%
– non-residential	1 059	1 138	1 101	n.p	4.0%
– residential	154	156	152	n.p	-1.3%
Dwellings under construction (number)	511	433	448	n.p	-12.3%
Australia					
Total building	105 511	114 877	115 488	n.p	9.5%
– non-residential	46 865	52 825	53 423	n.p	14.0%
– residential	53 366	56 310	56 199	n.p	5.3%

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

3 Compares the sum of 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period.

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 Cat. No. 8752.0, 8782.065.001

Term	Definition
Building	A rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof.
Residential building	Buildings that contain one or more dwellings, intended for the provision of long-term accommodation.
Non-residential building	Building either classified as a commercial building, industrial building and other non-residential building.

Caution is advised when using data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[Building Activity, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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