

Retail trade

September quarter 2023 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑0.5%	↑0.9%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑2.6%	↑2.0%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑3.7%	↑5.3%

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has reintroduced reporting trend estimates after they were suspended during COVID-19. Because of the limited number of trend data points, this brief will continue to use seasonally adjusted data until more trend data becomes available.

Monthly results (seasonally adjusted data)

In September 2023, retail trade in the Territory increased by 0.5% to \$325 million compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The increase was driven by the categories of 'food retailing' (contributing 0.9 percentage points (ppt)), and 'other retailing' (0.4 ppt).

The Territory, alongside Queensland and Australian Capital Territory, reported the second weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from an increase of 0.1% in Western Australia to an increase of 1.8% in Tasmania. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 0.9% to \$35.9 billion.

Annual results (seasonally adjusted data)

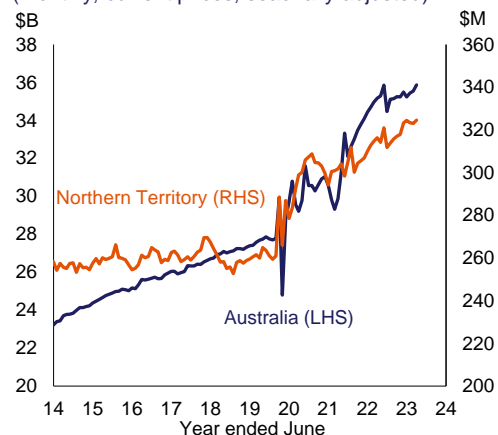
Retail trade in the Territory increased by 2.6% in annual terms, the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions (Chart 2). The increase was driven by the categories of 'food retailing' (contributing 2.8 ppt), and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (1.3 ppt).

Year-on-year results (original data)

In the year to September 2023, retail spending in the Territory increased by 3.7% to \$3.8 billion, the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change otherwise ranged from an increase of 3.8% in Tasmania and Queensland to an increase of 8.3% in the Australian Capital Territory (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 5.3% to \$423.7 billion over the same period.

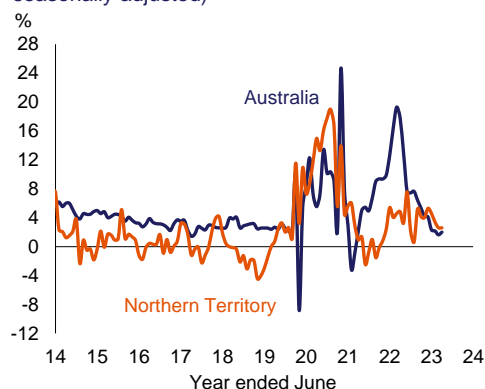
The Territory's year-on-year result was largely influenced by increased spending on 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 2.0 ppt) and 'food retailing' (contributing 1.5 ppt).

Chart 1: Retail turnover (monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



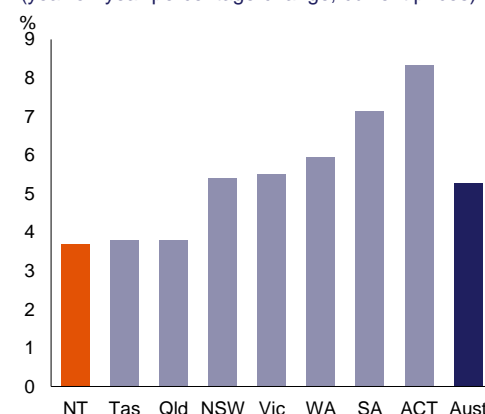
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 2: Retail turnover (annual percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 3: Retail turnover (year-on-year percentage change, current prices)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.3%	↑0.2%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓1.1%	↓1.7%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓2.0%	↓0.3%

The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. The ABS does not publish inflation adjusted data for the components of Territory retail trade.

Quarterly and annual results (seasonally adjusted)

In inflation adjusted terms, the Territory's seasonally adjusted retail turnover decreased by 0.3% to \$888 million in September quarter 2023 (Chart 4). This was the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from a decrease of 0.8% in South Australia to an increase of 0.7% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Territory retail turnover decreased by 1.1% in annual terms, which was the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the annual change ranged from a decrease of 3.1% in Queensland to an increase of 1.7% in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

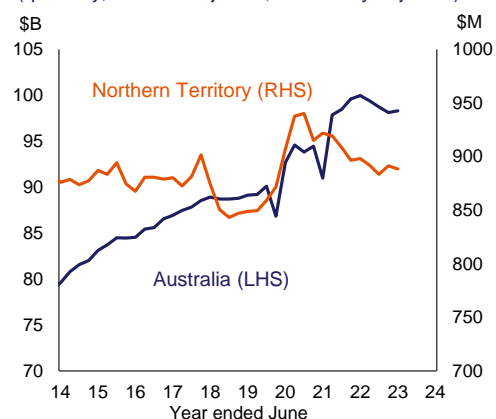
Nationally, retail turnover increased by 0.2% to \$98.3 billion in the quarter and decreased by 1.7% compared with the September quarter 2022 (Chart 5).

Year-on-year results (original)

In the year to September 2023, retail turnover in the Territory decreased by 2.0% to \$3.6 billion.

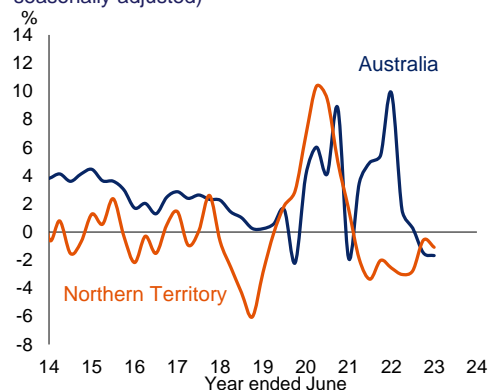
The Territory recorded the weakest year-on-year change of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change ranged from a decrease of 1.7% in Tasmania and Queensland to an increase of 2.7% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, retail trade decreased by 0.3% to \$395 billion over the same period.

Chart 4: Retail turnover (quarterly, inflation adjusted, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Chart 5: Change in retail turnover (annual percentage change, inflation adjusted, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Table 1: Retail turnover (inflation adjusted, \$M)*

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 22	Jun qtr 23	Sep qtr 23	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	959	885	946	3 552	7.0%	-1.3%	-2.0%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	898	891	888	3 555	-0.3%	-1.1%	
Trend	894	888	889	3 556	0.1%	-0.6%	
Australia							
Original	97 183	94 765	95 428	394 515	0.7%	-1.8%	-0.3%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	99 982	98 139	98 310	394 598	0.2%	-1.7%	
Trend	99 872	98 359	98 082	394 699	-0.3%	-1.8%	

Table 2: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	Sep 22	Aug 23	Sep 23	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	325	346	335	3 832	-3.4%	3.1%	3.7%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	316	323	325	3 830	0.5%	2.6%	
Trend	316	324	325	3 831	0.2%	3.0%	
Australia							
Original	34 277	34 540	34 982	423 682	1.3%	2.1%	5.3%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	35 171	35 539	35 875	423 936	0.9%	2.0%	
Trend	35 159	35 585	35 684	423 788	0.3%	1.5%	
Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)							
New South Wales	11 092	11 137	11 278	133 407	1.3%	1.7%	
Victoria	9 024	9 180	9 293	109 194	1.2%	3.0%	
Queensland	7 272	7 249	7 285	86 581	0.5%	0.2%	
South Australia	2 231	2 286	2 309	27 278	1.0%	3.5%	
Western Australia	3 884	3 993	3 999	47 269	0.1%	3.0%	
Tasmania	700	694	706	8 418	1.8%	0.9%	
ACT	652	677	680	7 959	0.5%	4.4%	

1 Compares the latest month/quarter with the previous month/quarter.

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

3 Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period.

4 Seasonal adjustment removes from a series influences that are systematic and calendar related.

*Data only published quarterly.

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

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

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

[Retail Trade, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au)

More information

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