

# Building activity

## March quarter 2023 | Economic brief

The Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) building activity statistics includes residential and non-residential building work done and commenced, which is more updated information to that reported in the construction work done economic brief.

| Value of total building work done | NT    | Aust  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Change in quarter (trend)         | ↑2.3% | ↑0.3% |
| Year-on-year change (original)    | ↑4.4% | ↓1.7% |

## Quarterly results

In the March quarter 2023, the trend value of total building work done in the Territory increased by 2.3% to \$234 million. Nationally, the trend value of total building work done increased by 0.3% to \$30.9 billion in the quarter.

## Year on year results

In the year to the March quarter 2023, the total value of building work done in the Territory increased by 4.4% to \$906 million (Chart 1).

The Territory recorded the largest increase in the value of building work done of all the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decrease of 10% in Tasmania to an increase of 1.8% in South Australia. Nationally, the value of building work done decreased by 1.7% to \$122.7 billion over the same period.

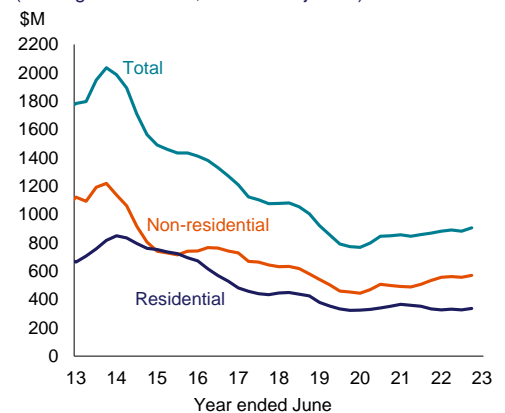
Non-residential building work done in the Territory increased by 6.5% to \$570 million, reflecting an increase of 21.4% in public sector work done, partially offset by a decrease of 15.5% in private sector work done (Chart 2). Residential building work done increased by 1.0% to \$336 million, reflecting an increase of 4.5% in private sector activity, partially offset by a decrease of 10.2% in public sector activity (Chart 3).

Residential building work done comprised an increase of 12.6% in alterations, additions and conversions to \$118 million, an increase of 0.6% in new houses to \$192 million and a decrease of 29.1% in new units to \$27 million.

## Building work yet to be done

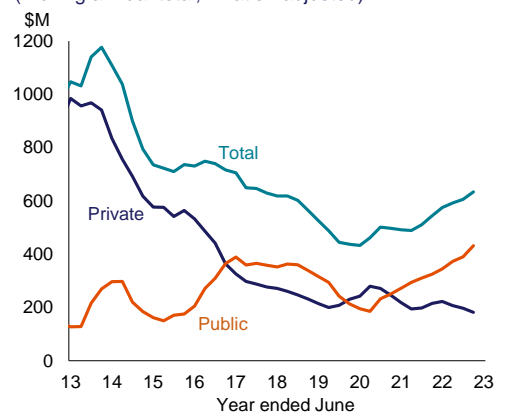
In the March quarter 2023, the value of building work yet to be done in the Territory increased by 9.9% to \$1.1 billion. This reflects an increase of 14.1% in non-residential work yet to be done to \$950 million, which is partly offset by a decrease of 7.1% in residential work yet to be done to \$190 million. Nationally, the value of building work yet to be done increased by 2.2% to \$106.2 billion over the same period.

Chart 1: Territory building work done (moving annual total, inflation adjusted)



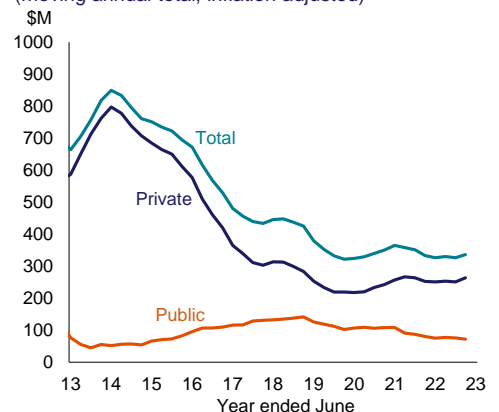
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 8752.0

Chart 2: Territory non-residential work done (moving annual total, inflation adjusted)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 8752.0, 8782.065.001

Chart 3: Territory residential work done (moving annual total, inflation adjusted)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 8752.0, 8782.065.001

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

|                                 | Period     |            |            |              | Change                 |                     |                           |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
|                                 | Mar qtr 22 | Dec qtr 22 | Mar qtr 23 | Year to date | Quarterly <sup>1</sup> | Annual <sup>2</sup> | Year-on-year <sup>3</sup> |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>       |            |            |            |              |                        |                     |                           |
| Total building                  | 189        | 249        | 212        | 906          | -14.7%                 | 12.5%               | 4.4%                      |
| – private                       | 99         | 120        | 96         | 446          | -19.7%                 | -2.7%               | -4.7%                     |
| – public                        | 90         | 129        | 116        | 460          | -10.0%                 | 29.3%               | 15.0%                     |
| Seasonally adjusted             | 212        | 226        | 239        | 910          | 5.8%                   | 12.6%               |                           |
| Trend                           | 222        | 229        | 234        | 906          | 2.3%                   | 5.6%                |                           |
| <b>Non-residential building</b> | 123        | 167        | 137        | 570          | -17.8%                 | 11.2%               | 6.5%                      |
| – private                       | 52         | 57         | 36         | 182          | -35.9%                 | -30.2%              | -15.5%                    |
| – public                        | 71         | 110        | 101        | 388          | -8.5%                  | 41.6%               | 21.4%                     |
| <b>Residential building</b>     | 65         | 82         | 75         | 336          | -8.2%                  | 15.1%               | 1.0%                      |
| – private                       | 47         | 63         | 60         | 264          | -5.1%                  | 28.2%               | 4.5%                      |
| – public                        | 19         | 19         | 15         | 72           | -18.6%                 | -17.6%              | -10.2%                    |
| <b>by type</b>                  |            |            |            |              |                        |                     |                           |
| – new houses                    | 37         | 48         | 47         | 192          | -0.3%                  | 29.2%               | 0.6%                      |
| – new units                     | 7          | 6          | 7          | 27           | 20.2%                  | -5.4%               | -29.1%                    |
| – alterations & additions       | 21         | 28         | 21         | 118          | -27.3%                 | -2.4%               | 12.6%                     |
| <b>Australia</b>                |            |            |            |              |                        |                     |                           |
| Total building                  | 29 195     | 31 358     | 28 627     | 122 717      | -8.7%                  | -1.9%               | -1.7%                     |
| – private                       | 25 410     | 27 098     | 24 809     | 106 064      | -8.4%                  | -2.4%               | -2.3%                     |
| – public                        | 3 785      | 4 260      | 3 817      | 16 652       | -10.4%                 | 0.9%                | 2.1%                      |
| Seasonally adjusted             | 31 306     | 30 839     | 30 718     | 122 740      | -0.4%                  | -1.9%               |                           |
| Trend                           | 30 886     | 30 787     | 30 880     | 123 154      | 0.3%                   | 0.0%                |                           |

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

|                                       | Period     |            |            | Change                 |                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|                                       | Mar qtr 22 | Dec qtr 22 | Mar qtr 23 | Quarterly <sup>1</sup> | Annual <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>             |            |            |            |                        |                     |
| Total building                        | 872        | 1 037      | 1 140      | 9.9%                   | 30.7%               |
| – non-residential                     | 685        | 832        | 950        | 14.1%                  | 38.8%               |
| – residential                         | 188        | 205        | 190        | -7.1%                  | 1.4%                |
| Dwellings under construction (number) | 638        | 750        | 691        | -7.9%                  | 8.3%                |
| <b>Australia</b>                      |            |            |            |                        |                     |
| Total building                        | 98 774     | 103 905    | 106 226    | 2.2%                   | 7.5%                |
| – non-residential                     | 43 052     | 44 615     | 46 037     | 3.2%                   | 6.9%                |
| – residential                         | 50 612     | 53 947     | 55 036     | 2.0%                   | 8.7%                |

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.

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

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.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/building-and-construction/building-activity-australia/latest-release>

## More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: [nteconomy.nt.gov.au](http://nteconomy.nt.gov.au)