

Household Spending Indicator

May 2026 | Economic brief

Summary

The household spending indicator has replaced the retail turnover publication following the June 2025 release.

Current prices (monthly): Household spending in the Territory increased by 2.1% to \$913 million in May 2026, to be 10.1% higher in the year-ended May 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms). Nationally, household spending increased by 1.3% to \$80.6 billion in May 2026, and increased by 5.5% in the year-ended May 2026.

Chain volume (quarterly): Household spending in the Territory increased by 1.1% to \$2.4 billion in the March quarter 2026 and increased by 2.6% in the year-ended March quarter 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms). Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to \$226.5 billion in the March quarter 2026, and increased by 2.8% in the year-ended March quarter 2026.

Monthly results (current prices)

The following analysis uses current price data, which is not adjusted to account for inflation.

Household spending indicator (current prices, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Monthly change	↑2.1%	↑1.3%
Year-ended change	↑10.1%	↑5.5%

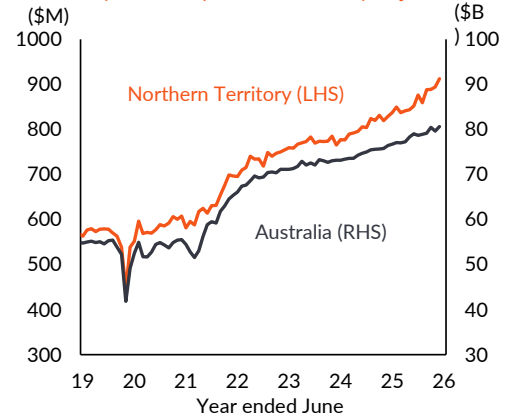
Household spending in the Territory increased by 2.1% to \$913 million in May 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 1). The increase was driven by the categories of 'hotels, cafes and restaurants' (contributing 0.8 percentage points (ppt)), and 'miscellaneous goods and services' (contributing 0.7 ppt).

The Territory reported the second strongest result of the jurisdictions in the month. Results in the other jurisdictions ranged from a decline of 0.6% in Tasmania to an increase of 2.6% in Western Australia. Nationally, household spending increased by 1.3% to \$80.6 billion in May 2026.

Household spending in the Territory increased by 10.1% in the year-ended May 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 2). The increase was driven by the categories of 'miscellaneous goods and services' (contributing 2.9 ppt), and 'recreation and culture' (contributing 2.4 ppt).

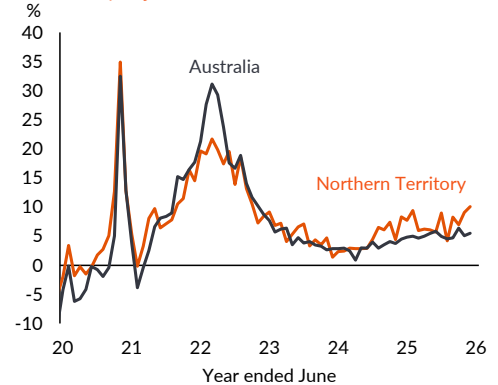
The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions in year-ended terms. Results in the other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 3.7% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 7.6% in Western Australia (Chart 3). Nationally, household spending increased by 5.5%.

Chart 1: Household spending (monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



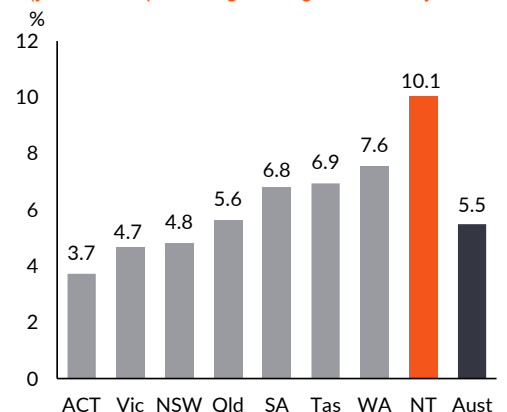
Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 2: Household spending (year-ended percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 3: Household spending (year-ended percentage change, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Quarterly results (chain volume measures)

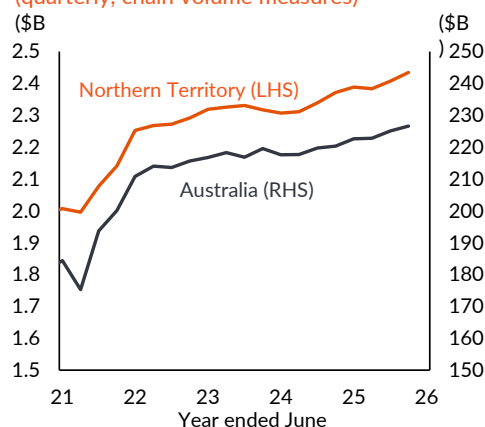
The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. This data is only updated quarterly.

Household spending indicator (chain volume measures, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	↑1.1%	↑0.7%
Year-ended change	↑2.6%	↑2.8%

Household spending in the Territory increased by 1.1% to \$2.4 billion in the March quarter 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 4). The Territory recorded the second strongest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions ranged from a decline of 0.3% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 1.4% in Tasmania. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to \$226.5 billion.

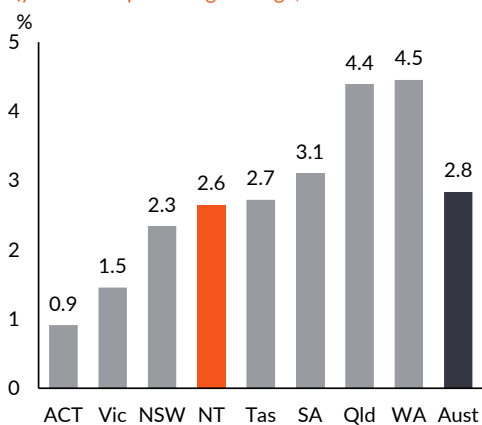
Household spending in the Territory increased by 2.6% in the year-ended March quarter 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms). The Territory recorded the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 0.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 4.5% in Western Australia (Chart 5). Nationally, household spending increased by 2.8%.

Chart 4: Household spending
(quarterly, chain volume measures)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 5: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, chain volume)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Table 1: Monthly household spending (current prices, seasonally adjusted)

Value (\$M)	Period			Change		Contribution (ppt.)
	May 25	Apr 26	May 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-ended ³
Northern Territory	829	894	913	2.1	10.1	10.1
Food	114	121	124	2.6	8.9	1.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	35	33	33	0.6	-6.6	-0.3
Clothing and footwear	23	25	26	2.0	9.4	0.3
Furnishings and household equipment	54	59	60	1.5	10.9	0.7
Health	56	64	60	-6.6	6.0	0.4
Transport	115	128	131	1.9	13.6	1.9
Recreation and culture	123	140	143	1.9	16.3	2.4
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	204	202	209	3.5	2.3	0.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	105	122	128	4.9	22.8	2.9
Goods	357	391	395	1.0	10.7	4.6
Services	472	503	517	2.9	9.6	5.5
Discretionary	605	651	671	3.1	10.9	7.9
Non Discretionary	224	243	242	-0.5	7.9	2.1
Australia	76 439	79 622	80 636	1.3	5.5	5.5
Food	11 834	12 412	12 554	1.1	6.1	0.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	2 968	2 817	2 846	1.0	-4.1	-0.2
Clothing and footwear	4 241	4 386	4 505	2.7	6.2	0.3
Furnishings and household equipment	5 241	5 502	5 544	0.8	5.8	0.4
Health	9 033	9 423	9 446	0.2	4.6	0.5
Transport	13 062	13 403	13 589	1.4	4.0	0.7
Recreation and culture	12 638	13 410	13 514	0.8	6.9	1.1
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	10 580	10 950	11 156	1.9	5.4	0.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	6 842	7 320	7 483	2.2	9.4	0.8
Goods	40 067	42 385	42 420	0.1	5.9	3.1
Services	36 372	37 236	38 215	2.6	5.1	2.4
Discretionary	49 356	51 083	52 144	2.1	5.6	3.6
Non Discretionary	27 083	28 539	28 492	-0.2	5.2	1.8

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

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

3 Year-ended percentage point contribution.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Table 2: Quarterly household spending (chain volume measures, original)

Value (\$M)	Period			Change	
	Mar 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory	2 250	2 547	2 312	n.p.	2.8
Food	317	350	334	n.p.	5.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	99	97	84	n.p.	-15.4
Clothing and footwear	58	84	61	n.p.	5.5
Furnishings and household equipment	145	189	157	n.p.	8.4
Health	157	160	154	n.p.	-1.6
Transport	385	383	390	n.p.	1.5
Recreation and culture	329	410	354	n.p.	7.7
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	520	593	515	n.p.	-1.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	289	310	315	n.p.	9.1
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	2 371	2 406	2 434	1.1	2.6
Australia	211 417	238 853	216 663	n.p.	2.5
Food	33 067	36 676	34 523	n.p.	4.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	8 640	8 801	7 279	n.p.	-15.8
Clothing and footwear	10 701	15 750	10 980	n.p.	2.6
Furnishings and household equipment	14 366	18 977	15 060	n.p.	4.8
Health	23 887	26 059	24 884	n.p.	4.2
Transport	41 119	39 747	42 931	n.p.	4.4
Recreation and culture	34 144	41 425	35 485	n.p.	3.9
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	28 443	31 319	28 710	n.p.	0.9
Miscellaneous goods and services	18 421	21 306	19 195	n.p.	4.2
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	220 292	225 057	226 539	0.7	2.8

n.p.: not published

n.a.: not available

¹ Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.² Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Term	Definition
Monthly Household Spending Indicator	The experimental Monthly Household Spending Indicator is derived using bank transactions, supermarket transactions and new vehicle sales data. As this data is not designed for statistical purposes, its scope varies from the Australian National Accounts concept of Household Final Consumption Expenditure (HFCE) and the Retail Trade turnover estimates for retail businesses.
Quarterly change	Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.
Year-ended change	Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.
Year-average change	Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 12 month period.
Seasonally adjusted	A seasonally adjusted series involves estimating and removing the cyclical and seasonal effects from the original data. Seasonally adjusting a time series is useful if you wish to understand the underlying patterns of change or movement in a population, without the impact of the seasonal or cyclical effects.
Trend	A trend series is a seasonally adjusted series that has been further adjusted to remove irregular effects and 'smooth' out the series to show the overall 'trend' of the data over time.

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.

[Monthly Household Spending Indicator, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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