

Building activity

March quarter 2026 | 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
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	▲3.6%	▲0.7%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	▼4.2%	▲8.0%
Quarterly change (trend)	▼4.0%	▲1.8%
Year-ended change (trend)	▼2.5%	▲9.1%

Quarterly results

The seasonally adjusted value of total building work done in the Territory increased by 3.6% to \$371 million in the March quarter 2026, and declined by 4.2% in year-ended terms. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted value of total building work done rose by 0.7% to \$44.8 billion in the quarter.

Year-ended results

The total trend value of building work done in the Territory declined by 2.5% in the year-ended March quarter 2026 (Chart 1).

The Territory recorded the second weakest result in the value of building work done of all the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 3.8% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 17.9% in Queensland. Nationally, the value of building work done rose by 9.1% over the same period.

Non-residential building work done in the Territory declined by 7.6% to \$203 million, reflecting a decline of 19.9% in public sector work done, partly offset by an increase of 30.9% in private sector work done (Chart 2). Residential building work done decline by 0.7% to \$118 million, reflecting a decline of 27.1% in public sector activity, partly offset by an increase of 25.6% in private sector activity work done (Chart 3).

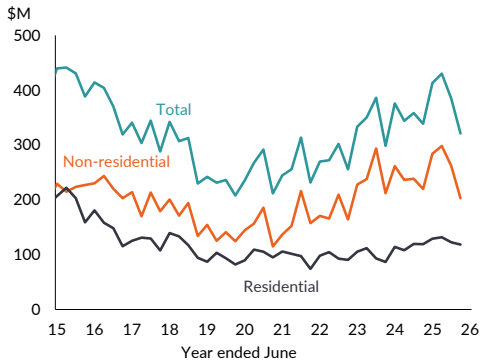
Residential building work done comprised of a decline of 12.3% in new houses to \$70 million, an increase of 26.3% in new units to \$13 million, and an increase of 21.8% in alterations, additions and conversions to \$35 million.

The total value of building activity in the Territory was \$1.6 billion in the year to the March quarter 2026.

Building work yet to be done

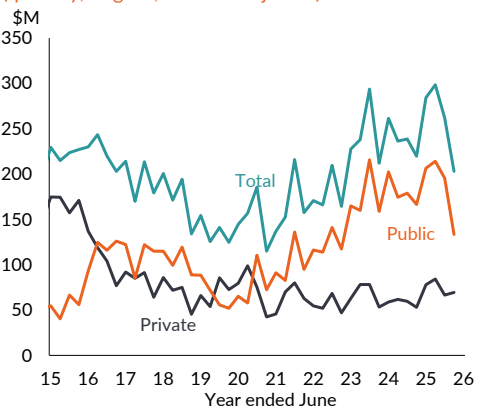
The value of building work yet to be done in the Territory increased 0.7% to \$1.2 billion in the year-ended March quarter 2026. This reflects an increase of 1.0% in non-residential work yet to be done to \$1.1 billion, partly offset by a decline of 0.7% in residential work yet to be done to \$196 million. Nationally, the value of building work yet to be done increased by 26% to \$156.7 billion over the same period.

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



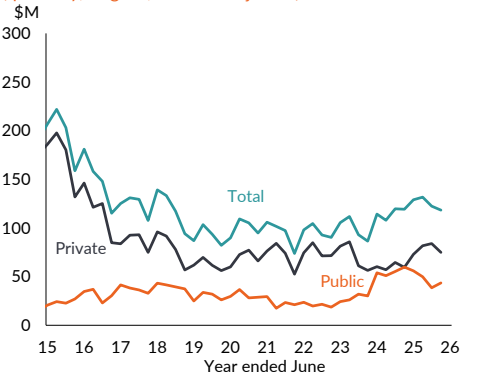
Source: DTF; ABS, Building Activity, Australia

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



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Activity, Australia

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



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Activity, Australia

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

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 25	Dec qtr 25	Mar qtr 26	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Total building	339	385	321	1 549	n.p	-5.2%	9.3%
– private	113	150	144	612	n.p	28.1%	28.9%
– public	226	234	177	938	n.p	-21.8%	-0.5%
Seasonally adjusted	388	358	371	1 551	3.6%	-4.2%	
Trend	376	382	367	1 550	-4.0%	-2.5%	
Non-residential building							
Total building	220	262	203	1 048	n.p	-7.6%	9.6%
– private	53	66	69	298	n.p	30.9%	27.8%
– public	167	196	133	750	n.p	-19.9%	3.7%
Residential building							
Total building	119	123	118	502	n.p	-0.7%	8.8%
– private	60	84	75	314	n.p	25.6%	29.9%
– public	60	39	44	188	n.p	-27.1%	-14.4%
by type							
– new houses	80	82	70	324	n.p	-12.3%	18.5%
– new units	11	10	13	44	n.p	26.3%	3.5%
– alterations & additions	28	31	35	134	n.p	21.8%	-8.1%
Australia							
Total building	38 651	44 909	41 712	174 624	n.p	7.9%	6.3%
– private	33 720	38 973	36 494	151 968	n.p	8.2%	6.8%
– public	4 931	5 935	5 218	22 656	n.p	5.8%	3.2%
Seasonally adjusted	41 488	44 517	44 814	174 752	0.7%	8.0%	
Trend	41 364	44 329	45 136	175 014	1.8%	9.1%	

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

	Period			Change	
	Mar qtr 25	Dec qtr 25	Mar qtr 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory					
Total building	1 215	1 392	1 223	n.p	0.7%
– non-residential	1 017	1 201	1 027	n.p	1.0%
– residential	198	190	196	n.p	-0.7%
Dwellings under construction (number)	584	667	677	n.p	15.9%
Australia					
Total building	124 380	148 112	156 734	n.p	26.0%
– non-residential	57 656	70 346	76 387	n.p	32.5%
– residential	60 308	70 673	73 223	n.p	21.4%

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, *Building Activity, Australia*

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.
Building	A rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof.

Caution is advised when using data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of 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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