

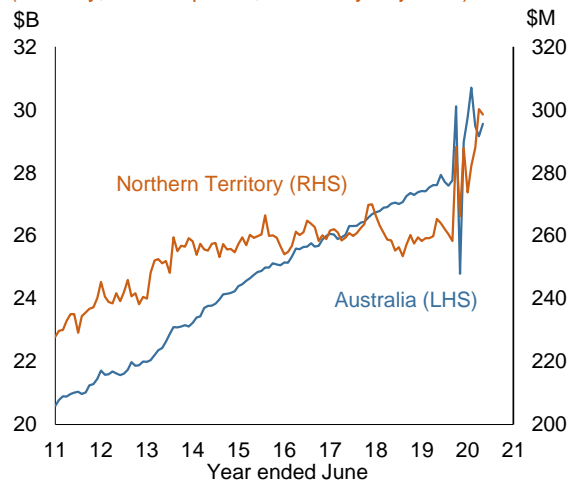
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Retail trade

October 2020

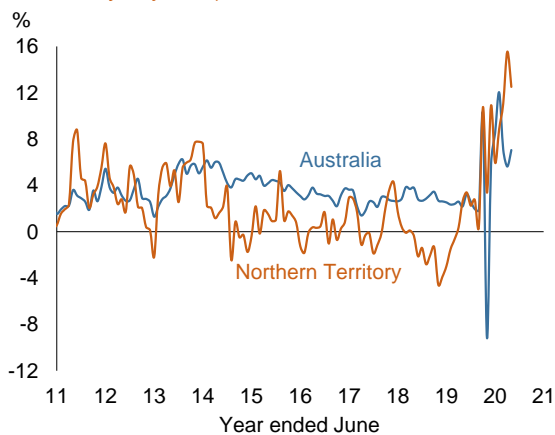
Released: 4 December 2020 | Next release: 11 January 2021

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



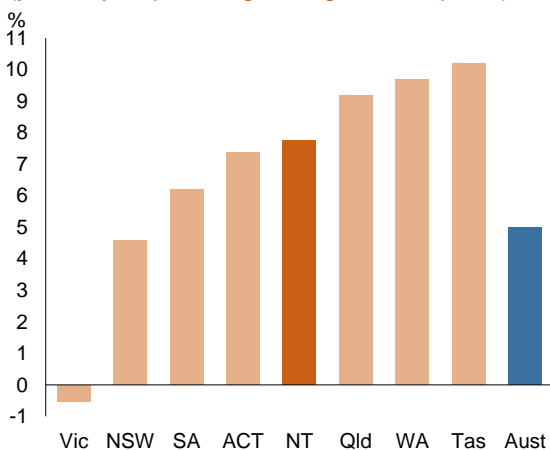
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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 (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.6%	↑1.4%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑12.5%	↑7.1%
Year-on-year (original)	↑7.8%	↑5.0%

In light of the impacts from COVID-19, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suspended reporting on trend series due to the uncertainty and changes of retail activity that makes the data unreliable.

Monthly results

Retail trade in the Territory decreased by 0.6 per cent to \$299 million in October 2020 compared with the previous month (Chart 1). This change reflects decreased retail spending on 'electrical and electronic goods retailing', 'other recreational goods' and 'pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry', partly offset by growth in 'food retailing' and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food'.

The Territory recorded the second lowest result of the jurisdictions. Across the other jurisdictions, results ranged from a decrease of 1.4 per cent in Tasmania to an increase of 5.1 per cent in Victoria. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 1.4 per cent to \$29.6 billion.

Annual results

Retail trade in the Territory increased by 12.5 per cent in annual terms. The largest contributors in annual terms were 'other retailing' (contributing 14.3 percentage points (ppt)), 'food retailing' (contributing 5.3 ppt), 'electrical and electronic goods retailing' (contributing 1.1 ppt), 'furniture, floor coverings, houseware and textile goods' (contributing 1.0 ppt) 'cafes restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 1.0 ppt) and 'clothing, footwear and personal accessory' (contributing 0.9 ppt). Nationally, retail trade increased by 7.1 per cent (Chart 2).

Year-on-year results

In the year to October 2020, retail spending in the Territory increased by 7.8 per cent (to \$3.3 billion), ranking the fourth highest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the year-on-year change ranged from a 0.5 per cent decrease in Victoria to a 10.2 per cent increase in Tasmania (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 5.0 per cent to \$344.2 billion over the same period.

The Territory's year-on-year result was influenced by increased spending in 'other retailing' and 'food retailing'.

Retail trade October 2020

Table 1: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	Oct 19	Sep 20	Oct 20	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	272	303	308	3 343	1.7%	13.6%	7.8%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	265	300	299	3 330	-0.6%	12.5%	
Trend	– retail trade trend series was suspended from the February 2020 release						
Australia							
Original	28 143	28 336	30 318	344 220	7.0%	7.7%	5.0%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	27 606	29 158	29 552	343 519	1.4%	7.1%	
Trend	– retail trade trend series was suspended from the February 2020 release						
Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)							
New South Wales	8 749	9 602	9 669	109 229	0.7%	10.5%	
Victoria	7 186	6 438	6 769	85 014	5.1%	-5.8%	
Queensland	5 596	6 285	6 251	71 672	-0.5%	11.7%	
South Australia	1 788	1 953	1 964	22 691	0.6%	9.8%	
Western Australia	2 929	3 357	3 390	37 771	1.0%	15.7%	
Tasmania	572	642	633	7 271	-1.4%	10.7%	
ACT	520	580	580	6 541	-0.1%	11.5%	

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.

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, 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.

More information:

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6801 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: <https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au/>