

Wage price index

March quarter 2024 | Economic brief

The wage price index (WPI) measures changes in the hourly price of labour. It reflects changes in awards, enterprise agreements, minimum wage, and individual contracts but does not reflect changes in the composition of the workforce or employee characteristics which may impact the quality and quantity of the work performed.

Territory WPI data are only reported in original terms. Data in this briefing is in original terms unless stated otherwise.

Wage price index	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	↑0.4%	↑0.6%
Annual change	↑4.1%	↑4.1%
Year-on-year change	↑4.0%	↑4.0%

Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 0.4% in the March quarter 2024, reflecting an increase of 0.5% in the private sector and an increase of 0.3% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 0.6%, with an increase of 0.6% in the private sector and an increase of 0.5% in the public sector.

Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 4.1% in annual terms (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 4.5% in the private sector and an increase of 3.7% in the public sector (Chart 2).

The Territory reported the fourth weakest annual growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.2% in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.9% in Tasmania (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 4.1% in annual terms, with an increase of 4.1% in the private sector and an increase of 3.7% in the public sector.

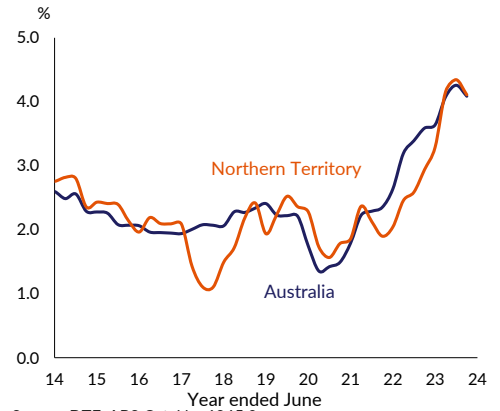
Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 6.4%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was arts and recreation services, up by 3.0%.

Year-on-year result

The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 4.0%, reflecting an increase of 4.6% in the private sector and an increase of 3.1% in the public sector.

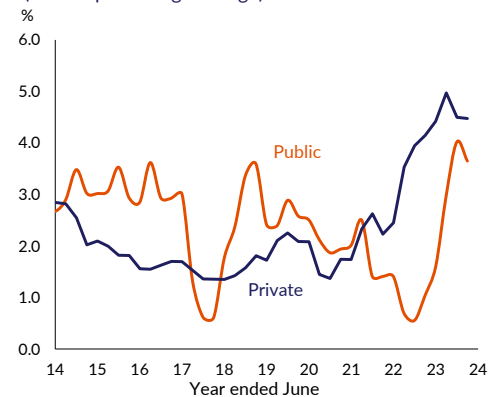
The national WPI increased by 4.0%, with an increase of 4.1% in the private sector and an increase of 3.7% in the public sector.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Annual percentage change)



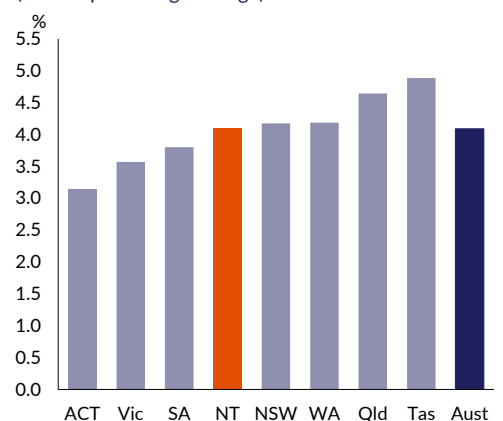
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdictions (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Table 1: Wage price index (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 23	Dec qtr 23	Mar qtr 24	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory	143.6	148.9	149.5	147.7	0.4%	4.1%	4.0%
Public	145.2	150.1	150.5	148.8	0.3%	3.7%	3.1%
Private	143.1	148.7	149.5	147.5	0.5%	4.5%	4.6%
Australia	144.3	149.3	150.2	148.2	0.6%	4.1%	4.0%
Public	146.7	151.4	152.2	150.1	0.5%	3.7%	3.7%
Private	143.6	148.6	149.5	147.5	0.6%	4.1%	4.1%

Table 2: Wage price index - Australia industry (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 23	Dec qtr 23	Mar qtr 24	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Public							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	149.0	153.9	157.0	153.5	2.0%	5.4%	4.1%
Professional, scientific and technical services	140.6	143.2	144.7	142.8	1.0%	2.9%	3.2%
Public administration and safety	144.8	148.6	149.1	147.5	0.3%	3.0%	3.1%
Education and training	149.2	154.2	155.2	152.7	0.6%	4.0%	4.0%
Health care and social assistance	146.8	151.9	152.5	150.3	0.4%	3.9%	3.6%
Private							
Mining	143.9	148.5	149.3	147.5	0.5%	3.8%	4.0%
Manufacturing	145.3	150.2	151.0	149.0	0.5%	3.9%	4.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	152.4	157.0	157.8	155.9	0.5%	3.5%	3.9%
Construction	143.0	148.0	149.0	147.3	0.7%	4.2%	4.1%
Wholesale trade	143.7	147.4	148.6	146.7	0.8%	3.4%	3.7%
Retail trade	139.4	145.1	145.5	143.6	0.3%	4.4%	4.2%
Accommodation and food services	141.0	146.3	146.6	145.1	0.2%	4.0%	4.3%
Transport, postal and warehousing	142.8	147.5	148.5	146.7	0.7%	4.0%	3.8%
Information media and telecommunications	138.5	143.2	143.4	141.8	0.1%	3.5%	3.6%
Financial and insurance services	146.9	150.6	152.3	149.9	1.1%	3.7%	3.4%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	138.0	142.7	143.2	141.7	0.4%	3.8%	3.7%
Professional, scientific and technical services	143.5	147.6	148.7	146.9	0.7%	3.6%	3.8%
Administrative and support services	138.0	142.8	144.0	141.9	0.8%	4.3%	4.3%
Public administration and safety	143.8	150.0	150.9	148.2	0.6%	4.9%	4.5%
Education and training	149.6	153.9	155.7	152.9	1.2%	4.1%	3.7%
Health care and social assistance	150.3	159.3	159.9	157.0	0.4%	6.4%	5.6%
Arts and recreation services	146.9	150.8	151.3	150.1	0.3%	3.0%	4.0%
Other services	143.6	147.3	148.1	146.4	0.5%	3.1%	3.7%

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

3 Compares the 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. 6345.0

Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

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

More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: nteconomy.nt.gov.au