

# Retail trade

February 2025 | Economic brief

| Retail trade turnover (current prices)  | NT    | Aust  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Monthly change (trend)                  | ↑0.2% | ↑0.2% |
| Year-ended change (trend)               | ↑3.8% | ↑4.1% |
| Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)    | ↑0.1% | ↑0.2% |
| Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted) | ↑3.6% | ↑3.6% |

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reintroduced reporting of trend estimates after they were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to irregular spending patterns over this period, trend estimates are not available from March 2020 to June 2022.

## Monthly results (trend)

Retail trade in the Territory increased by 0.2% to \$341 million in February 2025 compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The increase was driven by the categories of 'household goods' and 'food retailing' (contributing 0.1 ppt each).

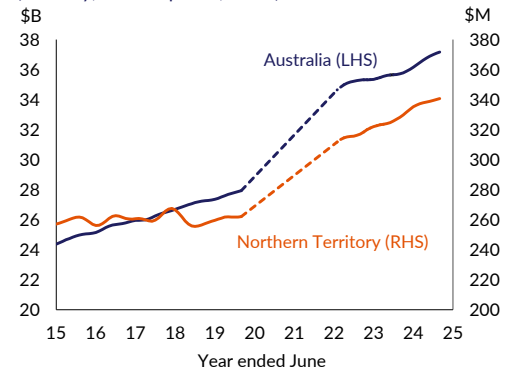
The Territory reported the third weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from no change in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.4% in Western Australia and South Australia. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 0.2% to \$37.2 billion.

## Year-ended results (trend)

Retail trade in the Territory increased by 3.8% over the year to February 2025 (Chart 2), with the largest contributor being 'food retailing' (contributing 2.7 ppt).

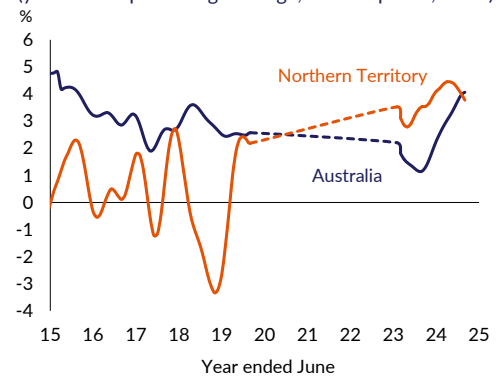
The Territory reported the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from an increased of 1.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 5.7% in Western Australia (Chart 3). Nationally retail trade increased by 4.1%.

Chart 1: Retail turnover (monthly, current prices, trend)



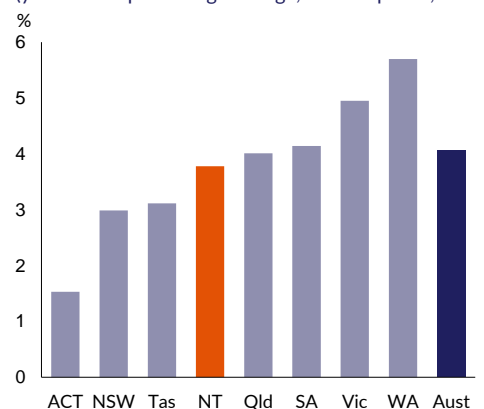
Note: Break in the time series from March 2020 to June 2022  
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 2: Retail turnover (year-ended percentage change, current prices, trend)



Note: Break in the time series from March 2020 to June 2022  
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 3: Retail turnover (year-ended percentage change, current prices, trend)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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

|                                    | Period |        |        |              | Change               |                         |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
|                                    | Feb 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Year to date | Monthly <sup>1</sup> | Year-ended <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Northern Territory</b>          |        |        |        |              |                      |                         |
| Original                           | 283    | 303    | 284    | 4 043        | n.p.                 | 0.4%                    |
| Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>   | 329    | 340    | 341    | 4 041        | 0.1%                 | 3.6%                    |
| Trend                              | 328    | 340    | 341    | 4 039        | 0.2%                 | 3.8%                    |
| <b>Australia</b>                   |        |        |        |              |                      |                         |
| Original                           | 32 745 | 36 169 | 32 744 | 438 192      | n.p.                 | 0.0%                    |
| Seasonally adjusted                | 35 823 | 37 067 | 37 129 | 438 092      | 0.2%                 | 3.6%                    |
| Trend                              | 35 715 | 37 093 | 37 166 | 438 164      | 0.2%                 | 4.1%                    |
| <b>Other jurisdictions (trend)</b> |        |        |        |              |                      |                         |
| New South Wales                    | 11 131 | 11 453 | 11 464 | 135 822      | 0.1%                 | 3.0%                    |
| Victoria                           | 9 185  | 9 613  | 9 640  | 113 087      | 0.3%                 | 4.9%                    |
| Queensland                         | 7 351  | 7 639  | 7 646  | 90 299       | 0.1%                 | 4.0%                    |
| South Australia                    | 2 314  | 2 400  | 2 409  | 28 233       | 0.4%                 | 4.1%                    |
| Western Australia                  | 4 014  | 4 226  | 4 242  | 49 791       | 0.4%                 | 5.7%                    |
| Tasmania                           | 719    | 740    | 742    | 8 736        | 0.3%                 | 3.1%                    |
| Australian Capital Territory       | 672    | 682    | 682    | 8 156        | 0.0%                 | 1.5%                    |

<sup>1</sup> Compares the latest month with the previous month.

<sup>2</sup> Compares the latest month with the same month last year.

n.p.: not published

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

| Term                | Definition  |
|---------------------|---|
| Retail trade        | Retail trade is the business activity of the sale of goods in the state that it is purchased (or after minor transformation) to the final consumer which is predominantly households and it includes both store and online sales.   |
| Monthly change      | Compares the latest month to the previous month.  |
| Year-ended change   | Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.  |
| 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.

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

## More information

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