

Building approvals

December 2025 | Economic brief

Residential building approvals

Number of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↓14.9%
Monthly change (trend)	↑5.4%	↓0.2%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑0.4%
Year-ended change (trend)	↑69.6%	↑6.9%

The trend number of residential building approvals in the Territory increased by 5.4% to 78 in December 2025 (Chart 1), this is the strongest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 2.4% in Victoria to an increase of 2.0% in Western Australia. Nationally, residential building approvals declined by 0.2%.

The number of residential building approvals in the Territory increased by 69.6% over the year to December 2025 (Chart 2). This was the second strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 10.9% in Victoria to an increase of 113.4% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, residential building approvals increased by 6.9%.

Value of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Year-ended change (original)	↑154.1%	↑9.1%

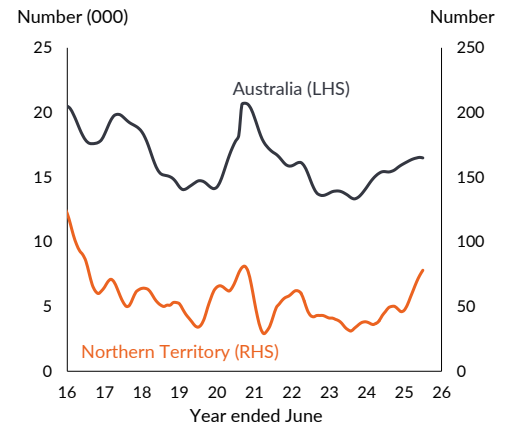
The value of residential building approvals in the Territory increased by 154.1% to \$42.1 million over the year to December 2025, compared with an increase of 9.1% to \$9.0 billion nationally.

Non-residential approvals

Value of non-residential approvals	NT	Aust
Year-ended change (original)	↓82.1%	↓10.8%

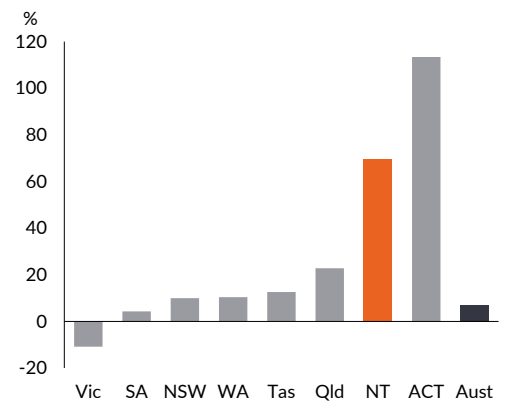
The value of non-residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 82.1% to \$35.0 million over the year to December 2025. This reflects a decline of 24.3% in private non-residential building approvals and a decline of 92.0% in public non-residential building approvals. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals declined by 10.8% to \$7.0 billion.

Chart 1: Number of residential building approvals (monthly, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Approvals

Chart 2: Number of residential building approvals (year-ended change, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Approvals

Building approvals

Table 1 - Residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Dec 24	Nov 25	Dec 25	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Number							
Original	19	57	73	692	n.p.	284.2%	60.9%
- houses	19	49	45	536	n.p.	136.8%	46.0%
- other residential ⁴	0	8	27	148	n.p.	n/a	142.6%
- alterations, additions and conversions	0	0	1	8	n.p.	n.a.	300.0%
Seasonally adjusted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Trend	46	74	78	682	5.4%	69.6%	
Value (\$M)							
Original	16.6	39.8	42.1	454.5	n.p.	154.1%	40.1%
Australia							
Number							
Original	14 308	18 377	14 883	194 971	n.p.	4.0%	12.1%
Seasonally adjusted	15 483	18 255	15 542	195 731	-14.9%	0.4%	
Trend	15 428	16 530	16 489	192 593	-0.2%	6.9%	
Value (\$M)							
Original	8 271	11 431	9 020	115 255	n.p.	9.1%	17.0%

Table 2 - Non-residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Dec 24	Nov 25	Dec 25	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Value (\$M)							
Original	195.8	28.1	35.0	1093.8	n.p.	-82.1%	-13.3%
- private	28.5	24.7	21.5	341.1	n.p.	-24.3%	1.4%
- public	167.3	3.4	13.5	752.7	n.p.	-92.0%	-18.6%
Australia							
Value (\$M)							
Original	7 807	6 923	6 965	83 116	n.p.	-10.8%	22.1%

n.a.: not applicable or not available; n.p.: not published

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

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

3 Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12-month period.

4 Includes units and townhouses.

Caution is advised when using original monthly data, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Building Approvals, Australia*

Term	Definition
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.
Commercial building	Buildings primarily occupied with or engaged in commercial trade or work intended for commercial trade, including buildings used primarily for retail and wholesale trade, office and transport activities.
Industrial building	Buildings used for warehousing, primary production and the production and assembly activities of industrial or manufacturing processes.
Other non-residential building	Non-residential buildings for the provision of education, religious worship or other religious activities, aged and health care, recreation, entertainment, or commercial temporary accommodation.

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.

[Building Approvals, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://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