

# Wage price index

## December quarter 2025 | 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 (original)	n.a.	n.a.
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑0.8%
Year-ended change (original)	↑2.2%	↑3.4%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑3.4%

## Year-ended result

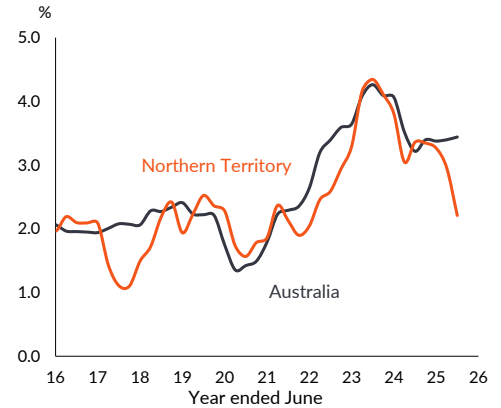
The Territory WPI increased by 2.2% over the year to December quarter 2025 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 2.8% in the private sector and an increase of 1.4% in the public sector (Chart 2). This compares to 3.0% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the weakest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.2% in Victoria to 4.1% in Western Australia (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.4% over the year to December quarter 2025, with an increase of 3.9% in the public sector and an increase of 3.3% in the private sector.

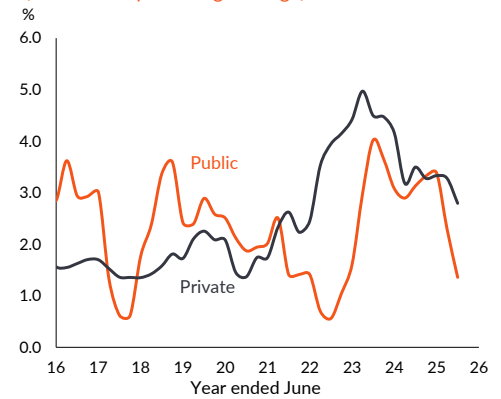
Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 4.7%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was transport, postal and warehousing, up by 2.7%.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Year-ended percentage change)



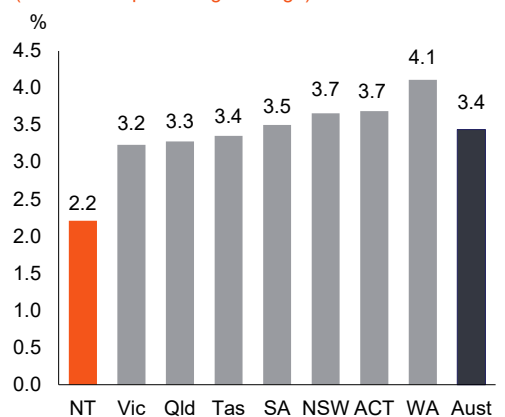
Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Year-ended percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdiction (Year-ended percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Wage Price Index

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

	Period			Change	
	Dec qtr 24	Sep qtr 25	Dec qtr 25	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
Original	153.9	156.7	157.3	n.p.	2.2%
Public	154.8	156.3	156.9	n.p.	1.4%
Private	153.9	157.5	158.2	n.p.	2.8%
<b>Australia</b>					
Original	154.1	158.3	159.4	n.p.	3.4%
Public	155.8	160.5	161.9	n.p.	3.9%
Private	153.6	157.6	158.7	n.p.	3.3%
Seasonally adjusted	153.9	157.9	159.2	0.8%	3.4%
Public	155.7	160.6	161.9	0.8%	4.0%
Private	153.3	157.2	158.5	0.8%	3.4%

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

	Period			Change	
	Dec qtr 24	Sep qtr 25	Dec qtr 25	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>
<b>Public</b>					
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	163.4	169.7	171.0	n.p.	4.7%
Professional, scientific and technical services	148.6	154.9	155.6	n.p.	4.7%
Public administration and safety	153.0	158.7	159.4	n.p.	4.2%
Education and training	159.1	163.5	164.9	n.p.	3.6%
Health care and social assistance	154.9	158.7	160.7	n.p.	3.7%
<b>Private</b>					
Mining	153.7	157.7	159.4	n.p.	3.7%
Manufacturing	155.8	159.1	160.3	n.p.	2.9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	162.2	167.6	168.4	n.p.	3.8%
Construction	153.2	157.3	158.4	n.p.	3.4%
Wholesale trade	152.2	155.9	157.2	n.p.	3.3%
Retail trade	149.7	153.0	154.0	n.p.	2.9%
Accommodation and food services	151.2	155.5	155.8	n.p.	3.0%
Transport, postal and warehousing	153.2	156.4	157.3	n.p.	2.7%
Information media and telecommunications	148.0	150.7	152.6	n.p.	3.1%
Financial and insurance services	154.8	157.4	159.0	n.p.	2.7%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	147.2	151.4	152.2	n.p.	3.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	151.7	156.0	156.7	n.p.	3.3%
Administrative and support services	147.9	151.8	152.3	n.p.	3.0%
Public administration and safety	155.1	160.3	160.5	n.p.	3.5%
Education and training	159.3	164.3	165.3	n.p.	3.8%
Health care and social assistance	164.9	171.0	172.7	n.p.	4.7%
Arts and recreation services	155.3	159.2	160.0	n.p.	3.0%
Other services	151.6	155.8	157.0	n.p.	3.6%

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

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 Wage Price Index*

Term	Definition
Wage price index	The wage price index measures changes in the price of labour, unaffected by compositional shifts in the labour force, hours worked or employee characteristics

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

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