

Engineering construction activity

March quarter 2026 | Economic brief

Engineering construction work done

| Value of engineering work done | NT | Aust |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Quarterly change (trend) | ↓13.7% | ↓0.7% |
| Year-ended change (trend) | ↓35.3% | ↓2.3% |

In the March quarter 2026, the trend value of engineering construction work done in the Territory declined by 13.7% to \$425 million. Nationally, the trend value of engineering construction work done declined by 0.7% to \$35.8 billion.

The trend value of engineering construction work done in the Territory decreased by 35.3% to \$425 million in the year-ended March quarter 2026 (Chart 1). This reflects public sector activity declining by 14.5%, mainly due to work for bridges, railways and harbours, and private sector activity declining by 47.8%, mainly due to work for heavy industry.

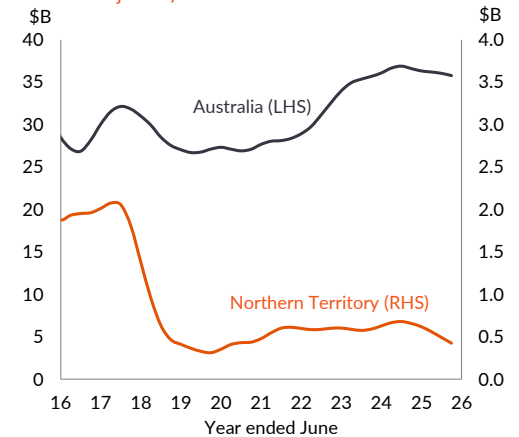
The Territory recorded the weakest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 11.0% in Victoria to an increase of 25.5% in South Australia (Chart 2).

Engineering work commenced

The value of Territory engineering construction work commenced increased by 18.0% to \$347 million in the year-ended March quarter 2026. Nationally, the value of engineering work commenced increased by 17.6% to \$31.2 billion over the same period.

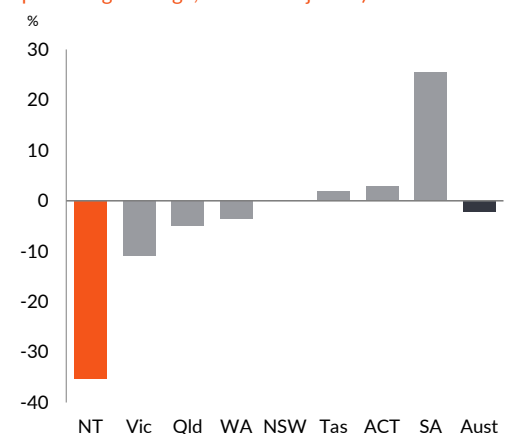
Private sector work commenced declined by 9.4% to \$226 million, mainly reflecting decreases in work for heavy industry. Public sector work commenced increased by 172.9% to \$121 million, mainly reflecting increases in work for roads, highways and subdivisions.

Chart 1: Engineering work done (quarterly, trend, inflation adjusted)



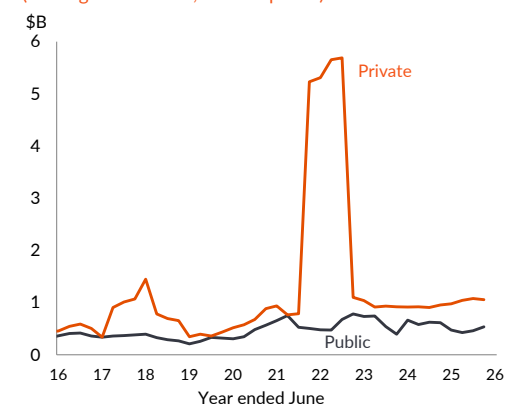
Source: ABS Engineering Construction Activity; DTF

Chart 2: Engineering work done (trend, year-ended percentage change, inflation adjusted)



Source: ABS Engineering Construction Activity; DTF

Chart 3: Engineering work commenced (moving annual total, current prices)



Source: ABS Engineering Construction Activity; DTF

Table 1: Engineering construction work done (\$M, chain volume)

| | Period | | | | Change | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Mar qtr 25 | Dec qtr 25 | Mar qtr 26 | Year to date | Quarterly ² | Year-ended ³ | Year-average ⁴ |
| Northern Territory | | | | | | | |
| Original | 589 | 579 | 351 | 5 328 | n.p. | -40.4% | 100.8% |
| – public ¹ | 152 | 173 | 130 | 656 | n.p. | -14.5% | -29.9% |
| – private ¹ | 459 | 435 | 239 | 4 935 | n.p. | -47.8% | 177.3% |
| Seasonally adjusted | 661 | 506 | 396 | 5 320 | -21.7% | -40.1% | |
| Trend | 657 | 492 | 425 | 2 095 | -13.7% | -35.3% | |
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| Original | 34 226 | 37 589 | 36 057 | 150 749 | n.p. | 5.4% | 2.8% |
| – public | 15 688 | 16 606 | 14 793 | 65 641 | n.p. | -5.7% | -3.8% |
| – private | 18 537 | 20 983 | 21 264 | 85 108 | n.p. | 14.7% | 8.5% |
| Seasonally adjusted | 36 895 | 36 292 | 38 868 | 150 751 | 7.1% | 5.3% | |
| Trend | 36 616 | 36 056 | 35 791 | 144 393 | -0.7% | -2.3% | |

Table 2: Engineering work commenced (\$M, original, current prices)

| | Period | | | | Change | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Mar qtr 25 | Dec qtr 25 | Mar qtr 26 | Year to date | Quarterly ² | Year-ended ³ | Year-average ⁴ |
| Northern Territory | | | | | | | |
| Original | 294 | 417 | 347 | 1 589 | n.p. | 18.0% | 1.3% |
| – public | 44 | 127 | 121 | 535 | n.p. | 172.9% | -12.7% |
| – private | 250 | 291 | 226 | 1 054 | n.p. | -9.4% | 10.4% |
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| Original | 26 539 | 33 279 | 31 210 | 130 552 | n.p. | 17.6% | 10.6% |
| – public | 12 126 | 12 194 | 11 328 | 54 298 | n.p. | -6.6% | 3.9% |
| – private | 14 413 | 21 085 | 19 881 | 76 255 | n.p. | 37.9% | 16.0% |

n.p.: data not published

1 Current prices.

2 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

4 Compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS *Engineering Construction Activity*

| Term | Definition |
|--|---|
| Engineering construction | Any construction that does not have a roof. |
| Heavy industry | Includes construction of production, storage and distribution facilities; refineries; pumping stations; construction of mines; drilling wells; chemical plants; blast furnaces; steel mills; other industrial processing plants; ovens. |
| Roads, highways and subdivisions | Includes parking areas; foot and cycle paths; airport runways; pedestrian and vehicle overpasses; traffic lights; roundabouts; associated road drainage works; street and highway lighting; road resurfacing, kerbing and guttering, road tunnels. |
| Bridges, railways and harbours | Includes those for the support of roads, railways, causeways and elevated highways when spanning a geographical obstacle eg river, lake, valley etc; tracklaying; overhead power lines and signals; platforms; tramways; tunnels for underground railways; fuel hoppers; boat and yacht basins; breakwaters; retaining walls; docks and piers; terminals; wharves; dredging works; marinas. |
| Public sector | Public sector includes Commonwealth Departments and Authorities, State Departments and Authorities, Local Government Authorities, Water, Sewerage and Electricity Authorities and government owned businesses and Statutory Authorities. |
| Private sector | All remaining organisations not classified as public sector. |
| Current prices | The value in nominal terms, not adjusted for inflation or changes in the purchasing power of money. It is the market value for the good or service at the time it was being sold. |
| Chain volume/Inflation adjusted prices | A measure of growth that captures the change in quantity while removing the effects of price changes. |
| Year-ended change | Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year |
| Year-average change | Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 12 month period |
| 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 data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[Engineering Construction Activity, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(www.abs.gov.au\)](http://www.abs.gov.au)

More information

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