

Retail Trade

December quarter 2024 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.1%	↑0.4%
Year-ended change (trend)	↑4.2%	↑3.9%
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.1%	↓0.1%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	↑5.8%	↑4.6%

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

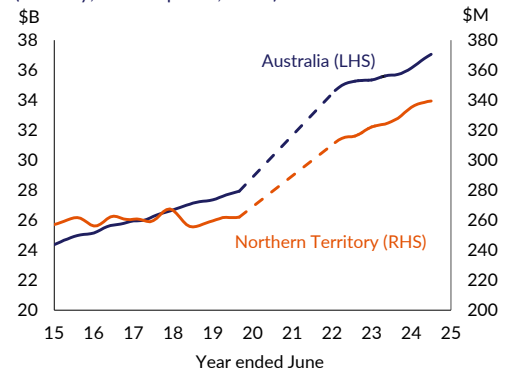
In trend terms, retail trade in the Territory increased by 0.1% to \$340 million compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The result was driven by 'food retailing', 'household goods' and 'pharmaceutical, comestic and toiletry', each contributing 0.1 percentage points (ppt).

The Territory reported the second weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.1% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.5% in South Australia. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 0.4% to \$37.1 billion.

Year-ended results

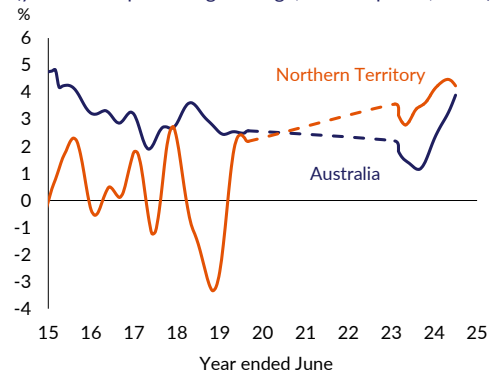
In trend terms, retail trade in the Territory increased by 4.2% over the year (Chart 2). This was the third strongest result of the jurisdictions (Chart 3). The increase was driven by the categories of 'food retailing' (contributing 2.9 ppt), and 'household goods' (0.7 ppt). Nationally, retail spending increased by 3.9%.

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



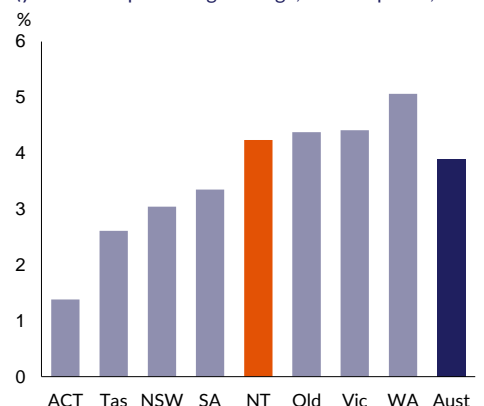
Note: Break in the time series from March 2020 to June 2022
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (trend)	↑0.1%	↑0.6%
Year-ended change (trend)	↑1.3%	↑1.0%
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.8%	↑1.0%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	↑0.9%	↑1.1%

The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. The ABS do not publish inflation adjusted data for the components of Territory retail trade.

Quarterly results

The Territory's inflation-adjusted trend retail turnover increased by 0.1% to \$963 million in December quarter 2024 (Chart 4). This was the third weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from a decline of 0.2% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.8% in Victoria and Western Australia.

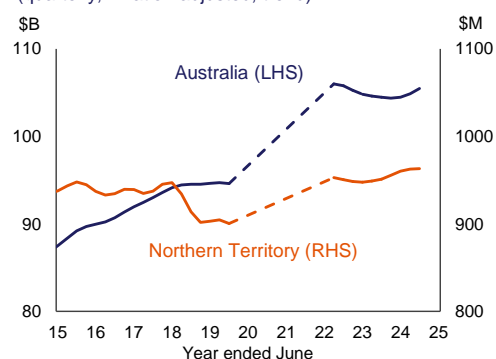
Nationally, retail turnover increased by 0.6% to \$105.5 billion.

Year-ended results

The Territory's inflation-adjusted trend retail turnover increased by 1.3% over the year (Chart 5). This was the equal third strongest result of the jurisdictions tied with Victoria. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from a decline of 0.8% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 2.4% in Western Australia.

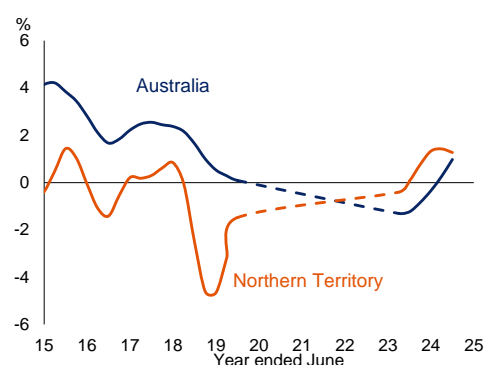
Nationally, retail turnover increased by 1.0%.

Chart 4: Retail turnover (quarterly, inflation adjusted, trend)



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

Chart 5: Change in retail turnover (year-ended percentage change, inflation adjusted, trend)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

Table 1: Retail turnover (inflation adjusted, \$M)*

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 23	Sep qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Original	996	1 029	1 006	3 841	-2.2%	1.0%	1.4%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	951	967	960	3 842	-0.8%	0.9%	
Trend	951	963	963	3 842	0.1%	1.3%	
Australia							
Original	116 192	101 580	117 733	419 356	15.9%	1.3%	0.2%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	104 684	104 756	105 820	419 212	1.0%	1.1%	
Trend	104 474	104 882	105 491	419 215	0.6%	1.0%	

Table 2: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	Dec 23	Nov 24	Dec 24	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Original	356	352	371	4 026	5.6%	4.2%	4.3%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	321	340	340	4 015	-0.1%	5.8%	
Trend	326	339	340	4 014	0.1%	4.2%	
Australia							
Original	44 159	40 227	45 943	436 758	14.2%	4.0%	2.8%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	35 363	37 041	36 992	435 419	-0.1%	4.6%	
Trend	35 669	36 921	37 056	435 350	0.4%	3.9%	
Other jurisdictions (trend)							
New South Wales	11 136	11 435	11 475	135 210	0.3%	3.0%	
Victoria	9 180	9 544	9 585	112 196	0.4%	4.4%	
Queensland	7 330	7 623	7 650	89 726	0.4%	4.4%	
South Australia	2 310	2 375	2 387	28 046	0.5%	3.4%	
Western Australia	4 000	4 191	4 203	49 335	0.3%	5.1%	
Tasmania	717	732	735	8 689	0.4%	2.6%	
ACT	672	681	681	8 134	-0.1%	1.4%	

1 Compares the latest month/quarter with the previous month/quarter.

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

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

4 Seasonal adjustment removes from a series influences that are systematic and calendar related.

*Data only published quarterly.

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.
Quarterly change	Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.
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 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://abs.gov.au)

More information

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