Household Spending Indicator

September 2026 | Economic brief

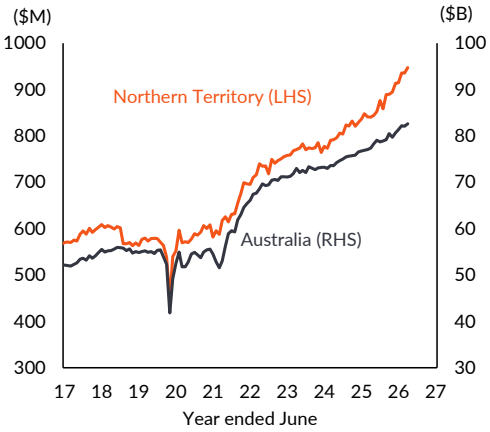
Summary

The household spending indicator has replaced the retail turnover publication following the June 2025 release.

Current prices (monthly, seasonally adjusted): Household spending in the Territory increased by 1.2% to $947 million in September 2026, and by 12.7% in the year-ended September 2026. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.6% to $82.6 billion in September 2026, and by 6.8% in the year-ended September 2026.

Chain volume (quarterly, seasonally adjusted): Household spending volumes in the Territory increased by 2.0% to $2.7 billion in the September quarter 2026, and by 8.1% in the year-ended September quarter 2026. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to $234.6 billion in the September quarter 2026, and by 3.2% in the year-ended September quarter 2026.

Chart 1: Household spending
(monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*; DTF

Monthly results (current prices)

The following analysis uses current price data, which is not adjusted to account for inflation.

Household spending indicator (current prices, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Monthly change	⬆1.2%	⬆0.6%
Year-ended change	⬆12.7%	⬆6.8%

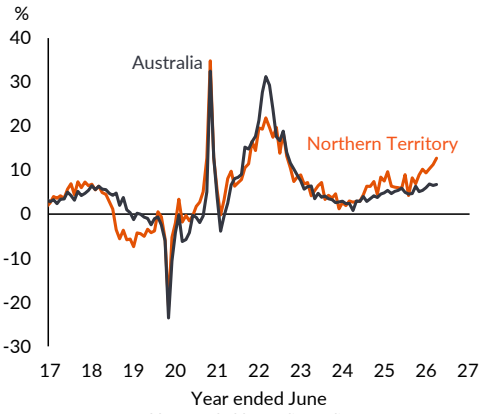
Household spending in the Territory increased by 1.2% to $947 million in September 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 1). The increase was driven by 'recreation and culture' (contributing 0.6 percentage points (ppt)), and 'transport' (contributing 0.3 ppt).

The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions in the month. Results in the other jurisdictions otherwise ranged from an increase of 0.3% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 1.1% in Western Australia. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.6% to $82.6 billion in September 2026.

Household spending in the Territory increased by 12.7% in the year-ended September 2026 (Chart 2). The increase was driven by the categories of 'miscellaneous goods and services' (contributing 3.7 ppt), and 'recreation and culture' (contributing 2.8 ppt). Discretionary spending in the Territory increased by 14.1%, and non-discretionary spending increased by 9.0% in the year-ended September 2026.

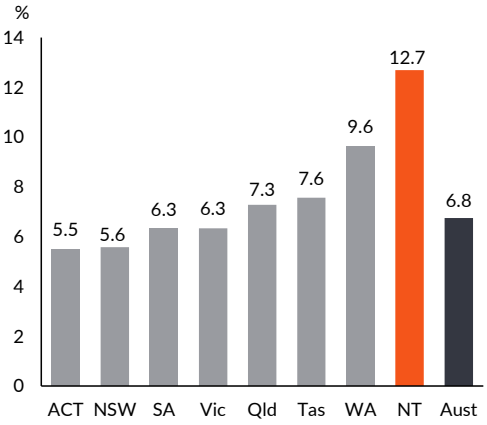
The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions in year-ended terms. Results in the other jurisdictions otherwise ranged from an increase of 5.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 9.6% in Western Australia (Chart 3). Nationally, household spending increased by 6.8%.

Chart 2: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*; DTF

Chart 3: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*; DTF

Quarterly results - September quarter 2026 (chain volume measures, seasonally adjusted)

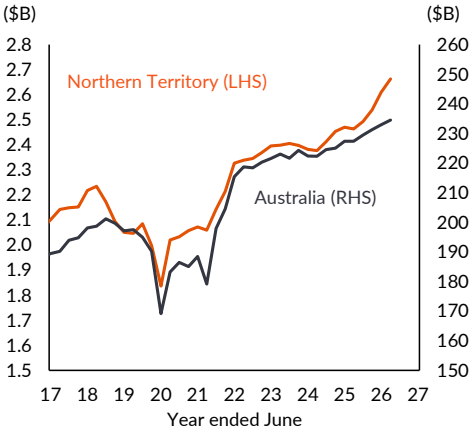
The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. This data is only updated quarterly.

Household spending indicator (chain volume measures, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	⬆2.0%	⬆0.7%
Year-ended change	⬆8.1%	⬆3.2%

Household spending volumes in the Territory increased by 2.0% to $2.7 billion in the September quarter 2026 (Chart 4). The Territory recorded the strongest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions otherwise ranged from a decline of 0.3% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 1.4% in Western Australia. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to $234.6 billion.

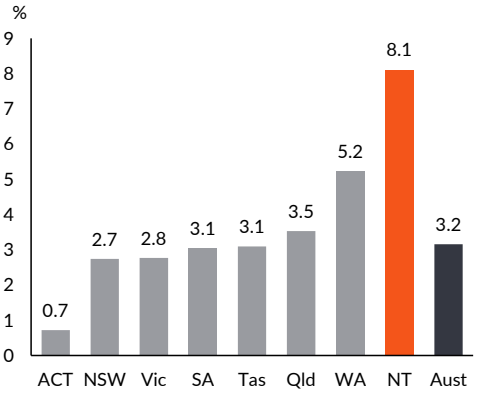
Household spending in the Territory increased by 8.1% in the year-ended September quarter 2026. The Territory recorded the strongest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions otherwise ranged from an increase of 0.7% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 5.2% in Western Australia (Chart 5). Nationally, household spending increased by 3.2%.

Chart 4: Household spending (quarterly, chain volume measures)



Source: ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*; DTF

Chart 5: Household spending (year-ended percentage change, chain volume measures, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*; DTF

Table 1: Monthly household spending (current prices, seasonally adjusted)

	Period			Change		Contribution (ppt.)
Value ($M)	Sep 25	Aug 26	Sep 26	Monthly[1]	Year-ended[2]	Year-ended[3]
Northern Territory	840	936	947	1.2	12.7	12.7
Food	116	126	126	0.2	8.4	1.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	33	33	32	-1.8	-2.7	-0.1
Clothing and footwear	23	25	25	-0.4	8.2	0.2
Furnishings and household equipment	53	59	60	2.4	14.8	0.9
Health	58	62	62	-0.3	8.0	0.5
Transport	123	132	135	2.4	9.3	1.4
Recreation and culture	126	144	149	3.6	18.6	2.8
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	199	217	216	-0.4	8.6	2.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	110	138	142	2.3	28.6	3.7
Goods	362	395	402	1.7	10.8	4.7
Services	478	541	546	0.9	14.1	8.0
Discretionary	611	687	697	1.4	14.1	10.2
Non Discretionary	230	249	250	0.7	9.0	2.5
Australia	77 384	82 078	82 611	0.6	6.8	6.8
Food	12 067	12 593	12 586	-0.1	4.3	0.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	2 798	2 866	2 845	-0.7	1.7	0.1
Clothing and footwear	4 289	4 484	4 488	0.1	4.6	0.3
Furnishings and household equipment	5 327	5 526	5 514	-0.2	3.5	0.2
Health	9 211	9 542	9 683	1.5	5.1	0.6
Transport	13 195	14 539	14 758	1.5	11.8	2.0
Recreation and culture	12 805	13 706	13 814	0.8	7.9	1.3
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	10 642	11 312	11 369	0.5	6.8	0.9
Miscellaneous goods and services	7 050	7 512	7 554	0.6	7.1	0.7
Goods	40 564	43 167	43 288	0.3	6.7	3.5
Services	36 820	38 911	39 322	1.1	6.8	3.2
Discretionary	49 833	53 073	53 257	0.3	6.9	4.4
Non Discretionary	27 551	29 005	29 354	1.2	6.5	2.3

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.
2 Compares the latest month with the same month last year.
3 Year-ended percentage point contribution.
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Table 2: Quarterly household spending (chain volume measures, original)

	Period			Change	
Value ($M)	Sep 25	Jun 26	Sep 26	Quarterly[1]	Year-ended[2]
Northern Territory	2 520	2 568	2 721	n.p.	8.0
Food	346	353	368	n.p.	6.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	98	91	92	n.p.	-6.2
Clothing and footwear	68	69	72	n.p.	4.8
Furnishings and household equipment	158	173	172	n.p.	8.4
Health	173	167	183	n.p.	5.7
Transport	376	341	378	n.p.	0.6
Recreation and culture	371	400	421	n.p.	13.2
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	595	592	622	n.p.	4.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	328	376	403	n.p.	22.7
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	2 463	2 610	2 663	2.0	8.1
Australia	227 249	228 086	234 815	n.p.	3.3
Food	35 169	35 314	36 144	n.p.	2.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	7 984	7 776	7 848	n.p.	-1.7
Clothing and footwear	11 841	12 608	12 342	n.p.	4.2
Furnishings and household equipment	15 250	16 005	15 774	n.p.	3.4
Health	27 402	27 184	28 367	n.p.	3.5
Transport	40 617	39 684	42 000	n.p.	3.4
Recreation and culture	37 054	37 897	38 704	n.p.	4.5
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	31 913	31 593	32 748	n.p.	2.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	20 443	20 757	21 187	n.p.	3.6
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	227 375	232 963	234 559	0.7	3.2

n.p.: not published
n.a.: not available
1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.
2 Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Term	Definition
Monthly Household Spending Indicator	The experimental Monthly Household Spending Indicator is derived using bank transactions, supermarket transactions and new vehicle sales data. As this data is not designed for statistical purposes, its scope varies from the Australian National Accounts concept of Household Final Consumption Expenditure (HFCE) and the Retail Trade turnover estimates for retail businesses.
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.

Monthly Household Spending Indicator, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)

More information

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