

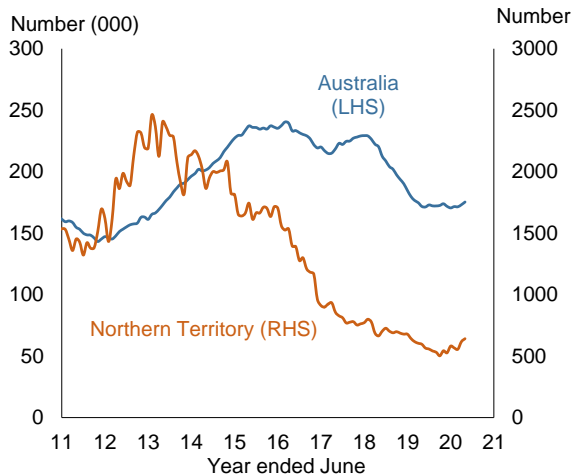
# ECONOMIC BRIEF

## Building approvals

October 2020

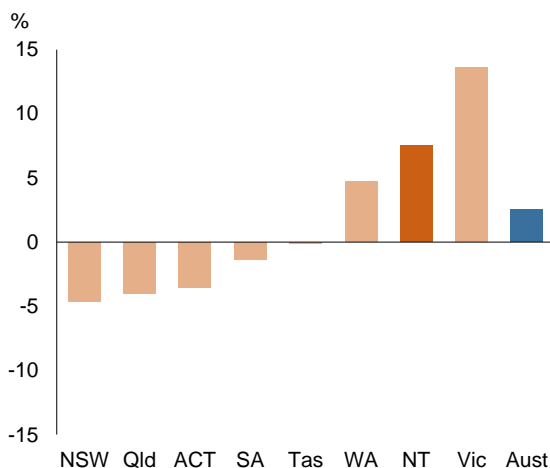
Released: 1 December 2020 | Next release: 7 January 2021

Chart 1: Number of residential building approvals (moving annual total, original)



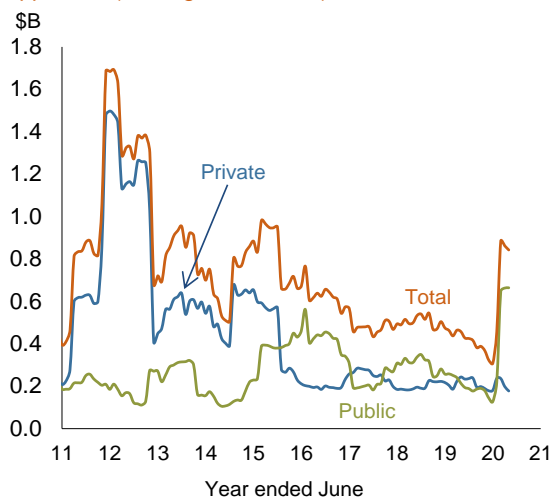
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8731.0

Chart 2: Number of residential building approvals (year-on-year percentage change)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8731.0

Chart 3: Value of Territory non-residential building approvals (moving annual total)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8731.0

The following brief uses 'original' data as the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suspended reporting the trend series. Caution is advised in interpreting monthly 'original' data as it can be volatile.

### Residential building approvals

Number of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Monthly change (original)	↓48.4%	↑5.5%
Annual change (original)	↑96.0%	↑15.3%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑7.5%	↑2.5%

In October 2020, the number of residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 48.4 per cent to 49, the largest monthly decline of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 40.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 36.1 per cent in Western Australia. Nationally, residential building approvals increased by 5.5 per cent in the month.

In year-on-year terms, residential building approvals in the Territory increased by 7.5 per cent to 643 and increased by 2.5 per cent nationally (Chart 1), with the Territory reporting the second largest increase of the jurisdictions (Chart 2). In the year to October 2020, house approvals in the Territory increased by 6.7 per cent, unit and townhouse approvals increased by 3.5 per cent, while approvals for alterations, additions and conversions increased from 11 to 22.

Value of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Change in month (original)	↓36.0%	↑9.5%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑1.5%	↑2.5%

In the year to October 2020, the value of residential building approvals in the Territory increased by 1.5 per cent to \$338 million. Nationally, the total value of residential building approvals increased by 2.5 per cent to \$67 billion.

### Non-residential approvals

Value of non-residential approvals	NT	Aust
Change in month (original)	↓26.2%	↑67.5%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑84.1%	↓4.1%

In October 2020, the value of non-residential building approvals in the Territory decreased by 26.2 per cent to \$19 million (Chart 3). Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 67.5 per cent to \$4.9 billion.

## Building approvals October 2020

Table 1 - Residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Oct 19	Sep 20	Oct 20	Year to date	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
<b>Number</b>							
Original	25	95	49	643	-48.4%	96.0%	7.5%
– houses	19	64	46	443	-28.1%	142.1%	6.7%
– other residential <sup>4</sup>	4	26	0	178	-100.0%	-100.0%	3.5%
– alterations, additions and conversions	2	5	3	22	-40.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Seasonally adjusted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Trend <sup>5</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Value (\$M)</b>							
Original	26	40	26	338	-36.0%	-2.5%	1.5%
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Number</b>							
Original	15 066	16 465	17 378	178 562	5.5%	15.3%	2.5%
Seasonally adjusted	14 510	15 978	16 584	177 396	3.8%	14.3%	
Trend <sup>5</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Value (\$M)</b>							
Original	5 894	6 167	6 752	67 380	9.5%	14.6%	2.5%

Table 2 - Non-residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Oct 19	Sep 20	Oct 20	Year to date	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
<b>Value (\$M)</b>							
Original	39	26	19	842	-26.2%	-50.2%	84.1%
– private	33	8	12	178	50.9%	-63.3%	-27.0%
– public	6	18	7	664	-59.9%	20.6%	211.0%
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Value (\$M)</b>							
Original	4 522	2 942	4 928	48 490	67.5%	9.0%	-4.1%

n.a.: not applicable or not available

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.

5 Building approvals trend series suspended from the May 2020 release.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 8731.0

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile.

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

### More information:

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