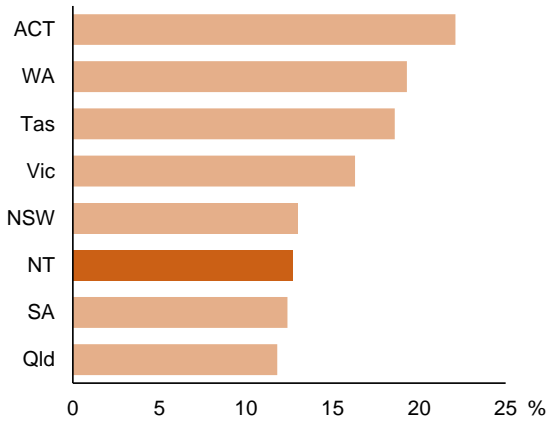


CommSec state of the states

April 2021

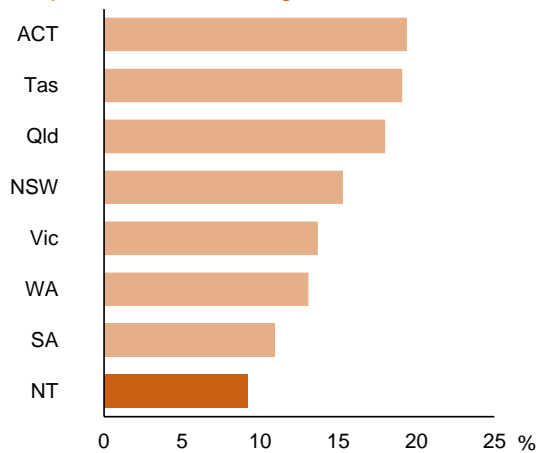
Released: 27 April 2021 | Next release: July 2021 (indicative)

Chart 1: Trend SFD + trade growth compared to decade average (nominal terms)



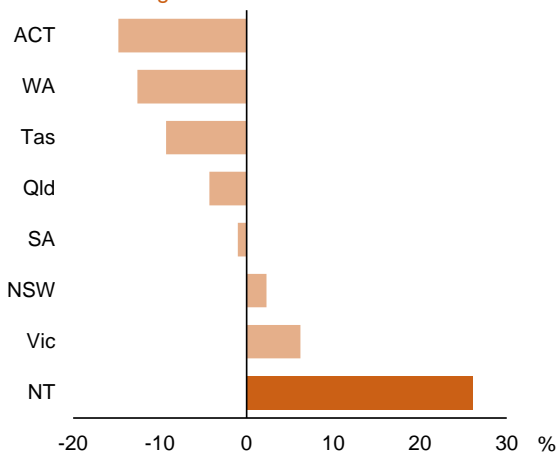
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

Chart 2: Seasonally adjusted retail trade turnover compared to decade average



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

Chart 3: Trend unemployment rate compared to decade average



Source: Australia Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

CommSec State of the States is a quarterly publication that assesses the overall economic performance of each jurisdiction based on eight key indicators. Economic performance is measured in terms of each jurisdiction’s change relative to their respective 10 year average (or ‘normal’) level for each economic indicator, rather than comparing economic performance across jurisdictions. The Territory’s 10 year average includes record levels of construction and investment activity, which may affect the assessment of some indicators.

Overall performance

The Territory remained the weakest performing economy of all the jurisdictions in terms of overall economic performance. The Territory ranked sixth for economic growth, second for equipment investment and last for the other six indicators. The Territory’s 10 year average economic performance includes record construction and equipment investment, which will negatively affect the Territory’s overall relative performance.

Economic growth

Gross state product (GSP) is the preferred measure of a state’s economic growth. However, GSP data is not available on a quarterly basis and therefore state final demand (SFD) plus trade statistics in nominal terms are used, which may not produce an accurate or comparable measure of overall economic performance compared to GSP.

The Territory was ranked sixth in terms of economic growth, with current output 12.7% above the decade average level (Chart 1). In other jurisdictions, the difference in growth compared to the decade average level ranged from 11.8% in Queensland to 22.1% in the Australian Capital Territory.

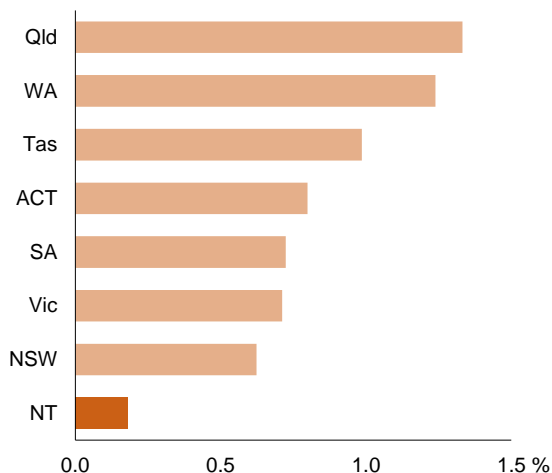
Retail trade

Performance is measured using inflation-adjusted retail trade in seasonally adjusted terms, with December quarter 2020 data being the latest available. The Territory reported the weakest result for retail spending, being 9.2% above the decade average level (Chart 2). The Australian Capital Territory was ranked first for retail spending (19.4% above their decade average).

Unemployment

Based on March 2021 data, seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Territory was 26.1% above the decade average level (Chart 3) with a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate at 5.6%. The Australian Capital Territory was ranked first at 14.8% below the decade average level.

Chart 4: Annual population growth

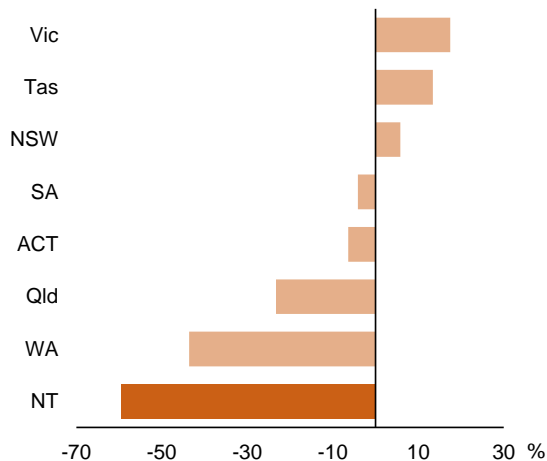


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

Population growth

CommSec compares each jurisdiction's current annual rate of population growth with the average over the past decade. In the year to September 2020, the Territory had an annual population growth rate of 0.18% (Chart 4), the fastest rate in almost three years. Queensland was ranked first with an annual population growth rate of 1.33%, but 18.1% below the decade average level.

Chart 5: Trend total construction work done compared to decade average

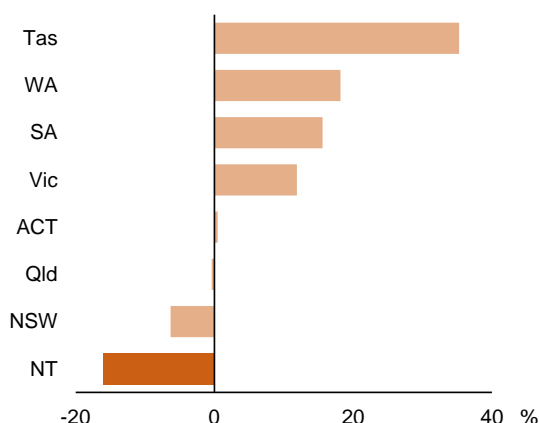


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

Construction work done

CommSec measures the total real value of residential, commercial and engineering work completed in seasonally adjusted terms during the December quarter 2020, compared with the decade average level. The Territory ranked last for construction work done, being 59.6% below the decade average level (Chart 5). Victoria retained first position, with construction work done 17.5% above its decade average level.

Chart 6: Number of trend dwelling commencements compared to decade average



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and CommSec

Equipment investment

The Territory was ranked second in equipment investment in the December quarter 2020, being 8.9% above the decade average level. Tasmania was ranked first, being 27.8% above the decade average level.

Dwelling commencements

CommSec measures the seasonally adjusted number of dwelling commencements in the December quarter 2020, compared to the decade average level. The Territory was ranked last in terms of dwelling commencements, being 16.1% below the decade average level (Chart 6). Tasmania is in first position with the number of commitments being 35.3% above the decade average.

Housing finance commitments

The measure used by CommSec for housing finance is the value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in the February quarter 2021, compared to the decade average. Housing finance commitments in the Territory were valued at 41.7% above the decade average level, the weakest of the jurisdictions. Victoria is in first position (up by 87.7%) ahead of Queensland (up by 84.2%) and Tasmania (up by 81.1%) on their respective decade averages.

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

More information:

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6801 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: <https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au/>