

# Retail trade

March quarter 2021 | Economic brief

## Retail trade turnover (current prices)

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑1.9%	↑1.6%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.4%	↑9.4%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑2.0%	↑5.6%

Since the onset of COVID-19 the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suspended reporting trend estimates due to the sudden and extreme changes in retail expenditure (e.g. changes to regular and seasonal patterns) which significantly impacts the trend estimation process.

## Monthly results (seasonally adjusted data)

In March 2022 retail trade in the Territory increased by 1.9% to \$301 million compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The increase is driven by increases in turnover in the categories of 'household goods' (contributing 1.2 percentage points (ppt) to growth) and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (0.1 ppt), and 'other retailing' (0.1 ppt).

The Territory reported the equal second highest result of the jurisdictions with Western Australia, which otherwise ranged from a 0.7% decrease in South Australia to a 3.4% increase in Queensland. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 1.6% to \$33.6 billion.

## Annual results (seasonally adjusted data)

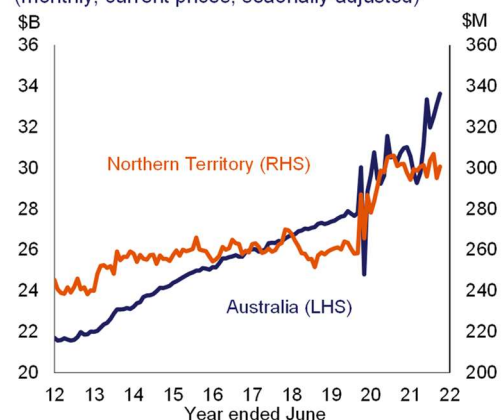
Retail trade in the Territory decreased by 0.4% in annual terms, the weakest result of the jurisdictions (Chart 2). The largest detractors from annual growth were 'food retailing' and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (both detracting 0.9 ppt).

## Year-on-year results (original data)

In the year to March 2022, retail spending in the Territory increased by 2.0% to \$3.6 billion, ranking the second lowest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 0.1% in the Australian Capital Territory to 9.6% in Victoria (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 5.6% to \$376.7 billion over the same period.

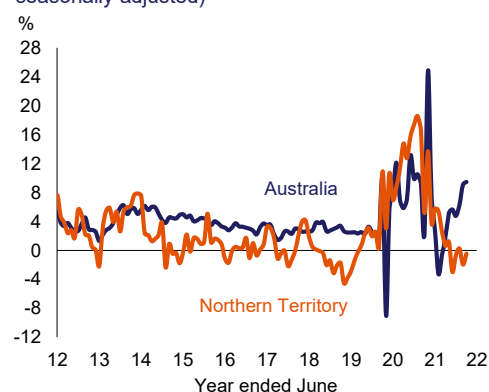
The Territory's year-on-year result was influenced by increased spending across most categories, with 'other retailing' and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' retail being the largest contributors to growth.

Chart 1: Retail turnover (monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



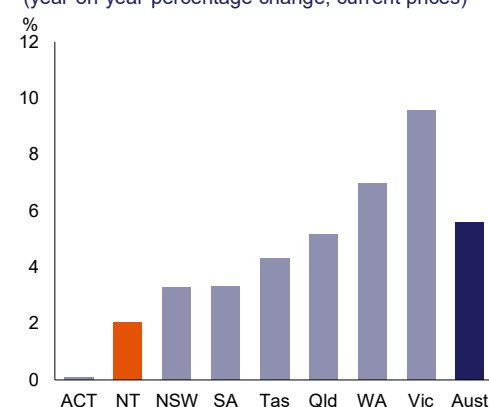
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 2: Retail turnover (annual percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

Chart 3: Retail turnover (year-on-year percentage change, current prices)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

## Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↓1.7%	↑1.2%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓4.0%	↑4.9%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓0.1%	↑3.6%

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

## Quarterly and annual results (seasonally adjusted)

In inflation adjusted terms, the Territory's seasonally adjusted retail turnover decreased by 1.7% to \$840 million in the March quarter 2022 (Chart 4). This result was the lowest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions results ranged from a 0.9% decline in Tasmania to a 4.2% increase in the Australian Capital Territory.

Territory retail turnover decreased by 4.0% in annual terms which was the lowest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the annual change ranged from a 0.1% increase in Tasmania to a 6.9% increase in Victoria.

Nationally, retail turnover increased by 1.2% in the quarter to \$93.2 billion, and by 4.9% compared with the March quarter 2021.

## Year-on-year results (original)

In the year to the March quarter 2022, retail turnover in the Territory decreased by 0.1% to \$3.4 billion (Chart 5).

The Territory recorded the second lowest year-on-year change of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change ranged from a 2.0% decrease in the Australian Capital Territory to a 7.5% increase in Victoria. Nationally, retail trade increased by 3.6% to \$360 billion over the same period.

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

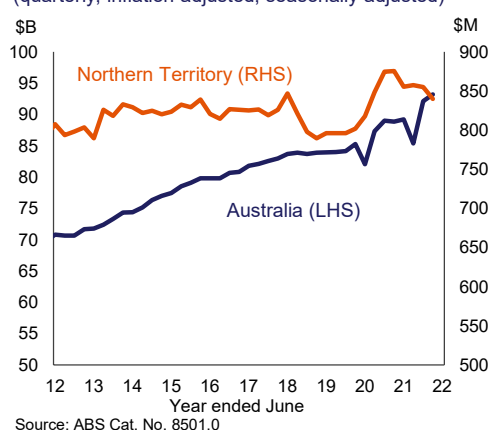


Chart 5: Change in retail turnover  
(year-on-year percentage change, inflation adjusted, original)

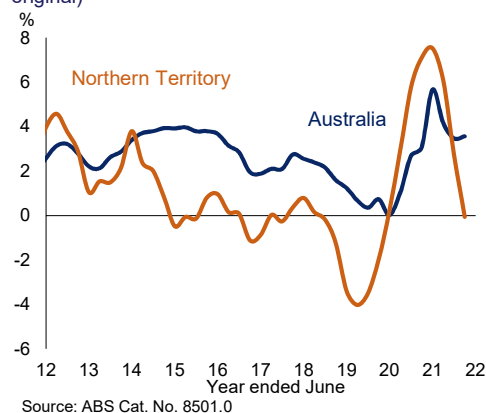


Table 1: Retail turnover (inflation adjusted, \$M)\*

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 21	Dec qtr 21	Mar qtr 22	Year to date	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
Original	786	901	752	3 415	-16.6%	-4.3%	-0.1%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	875	855	840	3 407	-1.7%	-4.0%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Australia</b>							
Original	84 550	102 974	88 141	360 045	-14.4%	4.2%	3.6%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	88 867	92 106	93 186	359 863	1.2%	4.9%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

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

	Period				Change		
	Mar 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Year to date	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
Original	287	250	285	3 594	14.0%	-0.7%	2.0%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	302	295	301	3 596	1.9%	-0.4%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Australia</b>							
Original	30 311	29 183	32 794	376 662	12.4%	8.2%	5.6%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	30 726	33 085	33 626	376 961	1.6%	9.4%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)</b>							
New South Wales	9 664	10 464	10 656	116 908	1.8%	10.3%	
Victoria	7 798	8 547	8 594	95 966	0.6%	10.2%	
Queensland	6 366	6 798	7 029	78 995	3.4%	10.4%	
South Australia	1 946	2 112	2 097	24 159	-0.7%	7.8%	
Western Australia	3 428	3 597	3 666	42 618	1.9%	7.0%	
Tasmania	645	661	666	7 869	0.7%	3.2%	
ACT	577	611	618	6 851	1.1%	7.0%	

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

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.

## More information

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