

# Retail trade

May 2023 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑1.6%	↑0.7%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑5.3%	↑4.2%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑4.3%	↑9.8%

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

Retail trade in the Territory increased by 1.6% to \$321 million in May 2023 compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The increase was driven by the categories of 'food retailing' (contributing 0.9 ppt) and 'household goods' (contributing 0.3 ppt).

The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decrease of 0.1% in Tasmania to an increase of 1.4% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 0.7% to \$35.5 billion.

## Annual results

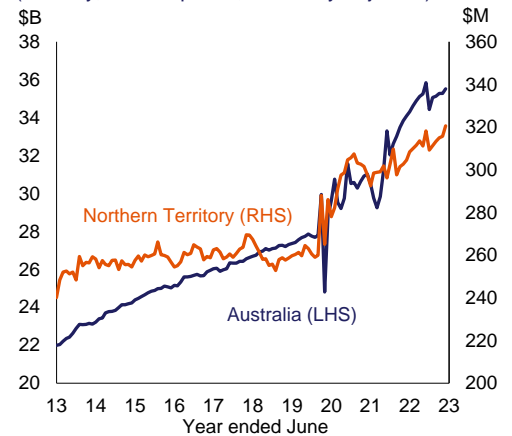
Retail trade in the Territory increased by 5.3% in annual terms (Chart 2), the fourth strongest result of the jurisdictions. The largest contributor to annual growth was 'food retailing' (contributing 3.0 ppt).

## Year-on-year results

In the year to May 2023, retail spending in the Territory increased by 4.3% to \$3.8 billion, the weakest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, results ranged from an increase of 5.6% in Tasmania to an increase of 12.8% in the Australian Capital Territory (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 9.8% to \$420.4 billion over the same period.

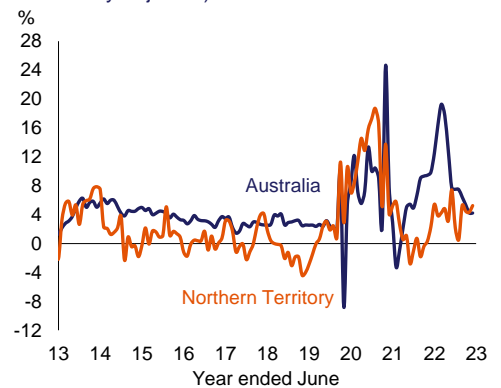
The Territory's year-on-year result was largely influenced by increased spending on 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (contributing 2.3 ppt).

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



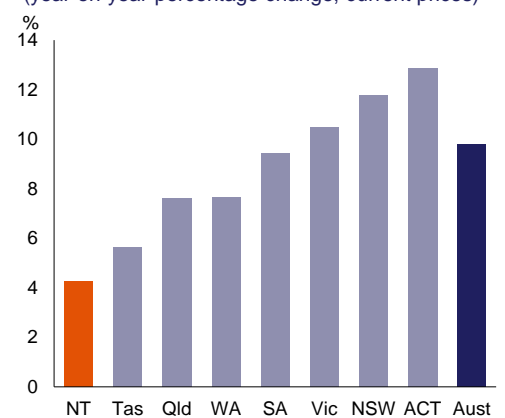
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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

Table 1: Retail turnover (current prices, \$M)

	Period				Change		
	May 22	Apr 23	May 23	Year to date	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
Original	304	298	321	3 757	7.5%	5.7%	4.3%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	305	316	321	3 758	1.6%	5.3%	
Trend							
– suspended							
<b>Australia</b>							
Original	33 259	33 566	34 690	420 414	3.3%	4.3%	9.8%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	34 087	35 279	35 525	420 733	0.7%	4.2%	
Trend							
– suspended							
<b>Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)</b>							
New South Wales	10 716	11 077	11 169	132 733	0.8%	4.2%	
Victoria	8 749	9 071	9 166	108 164	1.0%	4.8%	
Queensland	7 107	7 206	7 236	86 458	0.4%	1.8%	
South Australia	2 154	2 284	2 294	26 831	0.4%	6.5%	
Western Australia	3 754	3 963	3 969	46 584	0.2%	5.7%	
Tasmania	684	697	696	8 383	-0.1%	1.7%	
ACT	620	666	675	7 822	1.4%	8.9%	

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.

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.

[Retail Trade, May 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

## More information

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