

Wage price index

March quarter 2025 | Economic brief

The wage price index (WPI) measures changes in the hourly price of labour. It reflects changes in awards, enterprise agreements, minimum wage, and individual contracts but does not reflect changes in the composition of the workforce or employee characteristics which may impact the quality and quantity of the work performed.

Territory WPI data are only reported in original terms. Data in this briefing is in original terms unless stated otherwise.

Wage price index	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (original)	n.p.	n.p.
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑0.9%
Year-ended change (original)	↑3.3%	↑3.4%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑3.4%

Year-ended result

The Territory WPI increased by 3.3% over the year to the March quarter 2025 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 3.3% in both the public sector and private sector (Chart 2). This compares to 3.4% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the fourth weakest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.1% in New South Wales to 3.9% in the Australian Capital Territory (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.4% over the year, with an increase of 3.6% in the public sector and an increase of 3.3% in the private sector.

Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 4.3%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was financial and insurance services, up by 2.4%.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Year-ended percentage change)

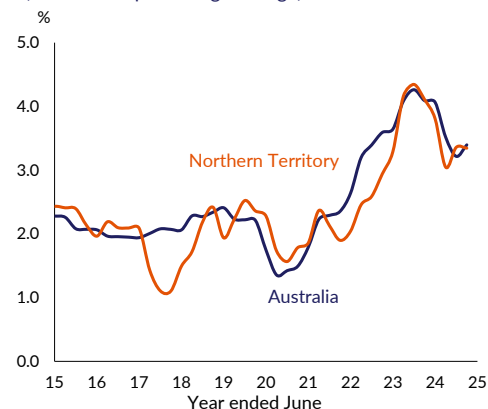


Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Year-ended percentage change)

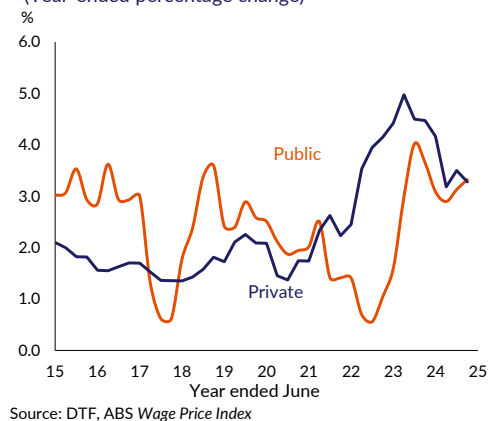


Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdiction (Year-ended percentage change)

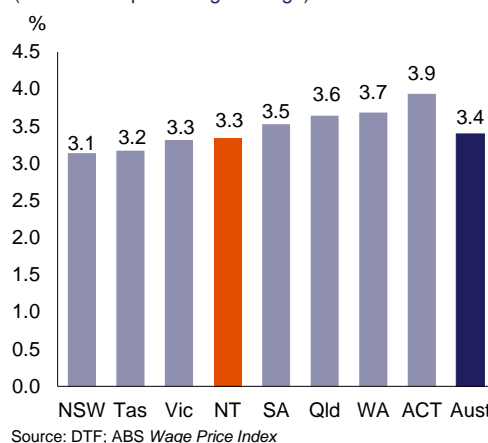


Table 1: Wage price index (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses)

	Period				Change	
	Mar qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Mar qtr 25	Year-average	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory						
Original	149.5	153.9	154.5	152.7	n.p.	3.3%
Public	150.5	154.8	155.5	153.4	n.p.	3.3%
Private	149.5	153.9	154.4	152.7	n.p.	3.3%
Australia						
Original	150.2	154.1	155.3	153.4	n.p.	3.4%
Public	152.2	155.8	157.7	155.4	n.p.	3.6%
Private	149.5	153.6	154.5	152.8	n.p.	3.3%
Seasonal adjusted	150.2	153.9	155.3	153.4	0.9%	3.4%
Public	151.9	155.8	157.4	155.4	1.0%	3.6%
Private	149.7	153.3	154.7	152.8	0.9%	3.3%

Table 2: Wage price index - Australia industry (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, original)

	Period				Change	
	Mar qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Mar qtr 25	Year-average	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Public						
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	157.0	163.4	165.0	162.2	n.p.	5.1%
Professional, scientific and technical services	144.7	148.6	150.5	148.4	n.p.	4.0%
Public administration and safety	149.1	153.0	154.6	152.6	n.p.	3.7%
Education and training	155.2	159.1	161.3	158.7	n.p.	3.9%
Health care and social assistance	152.5	154.9	157.3	154.7	n.p.	3.1%
Private						
Mining	149.3	153.7	154.5	152.9	n.p.	3.5%
Manufacturing	151.0	155.8	156.3	154.6	n.p.	3.5%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	157.8	162.2	163.7	161.5	n.p.	3.7%
Construction	149.0	153.2	154.3	152.5	n.p.	3.6%
Wholesale trade	148.6	152.2	153.5	151.6	n.p.	3.3%
Retail trade	145.5	149.7	149.8	148.5	n.p.	3.0%
Accommodation and food services	146.6	151.2	151.5	150.3	n.p.	3.3%
Transport, postal and warehousing	148.5	153.2	154.1	152.2	n.p.	3.8%
Information media and telecommunications	143.4	148.0	148.3	146.6	n.p.	3.4%
Financial and insurance services	152.3	154.8	156.0	154.3	n.p.	2.4%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	143.2	147.2	148.0	146.5	n.p.	3.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	148.7	151.7	152.9	151.4	n.p.	2.8%
Administrative and support services	144.0	147.9	148.6	147.1	n.p.	3.2%
Public administration and safety	150.9	155.1	156.0	154.4	n.p.	3.4%
Education and training	155.7	159.3	161.2	159.0	n.p.	3.5%
Health care and social assistance	159.9	164.9	166.8	164.0	n.p.	4.3%
Arts and recreation services	151.3	155.3	155.6	154.5	n.p.	2.8%
Other services	148.1	151.6	152.6	150.9	n.p.	3.0%

¹ Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

² Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.

n.p.: not published

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

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Wage Price Index

Term	Definition
Wage price index	The wage price index measures changes in the price of labour, unaffected by compositional shifts in the labour force, hours worked or employee characteristics

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

[Wage Price Index, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/australian-bureau-of-statistics/publications-and-media-releases/feature/wage-price-index-2017)

More information

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