

Retail trade

December quarter 2021 | Economic brief

Retail trade turnover (current prices)

Retail trade turnover (current prices)	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑3.7%	↓4.4%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓0.3%	↑4.8%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑4.9%	↑5.3%

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 December 2021 retail trade in the Territory increased by 3.7% to \$306 million compared with the previous month (Chart 1). The increase is driven by increases in turnover in the categories of 'food retailing' (contributing 3.3 percentage points (ppt) to growth) and 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (0.8 ppt) and 'household goods' (0.5 ppt), and was partially offset by a decrease in 'other recreational goods' (0.1 ppt).

The Territory recorded the highest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from an 8.4% decrease in Victoria to a 0.7% decrease in Queensland. Nationally, retail turnover decreased by 4.4% to \$31.9 billion.

Annual results (seasonally adjusted data)

Retail trade in the Territory decreased by 0.3% in annual terms.

The main contributor in annual terms was 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (0.9 ppt), and was partially offset by 'other recreational goods' (0.5 ppt) and 'pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry' (0.5 ppt).

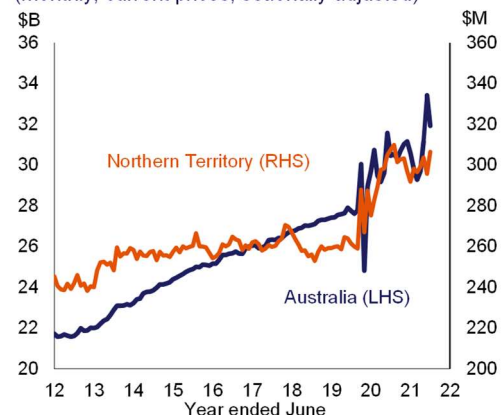
Nationally, retail trade increased by 4.8% (Chart 2).

Year-on-year results (original data)

In 2021, retail spending in the Territory increased by 4.9% to \$3.6 billion, ranking the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 1.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to 8.0% in Victoria (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 5.3% to \$370.1 billion over the same period.

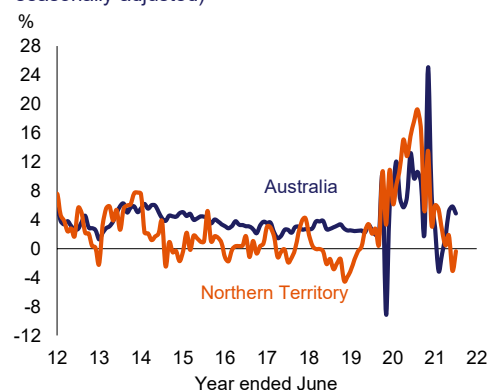
The Territory's year-on-year result was largely influenced by increased spending in 'cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' (1.4 ppt) and 'pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry' (0.8 ppt).

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



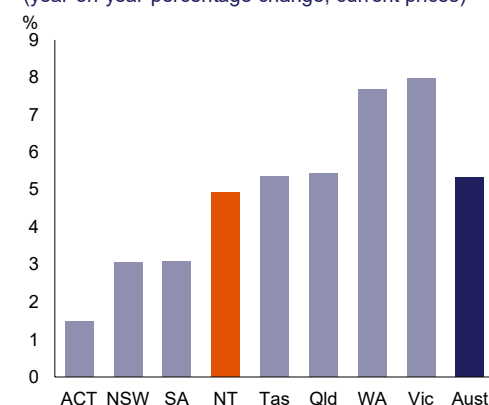
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑0.9%	↑8.2%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓1.9%	↑3.6%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑2.8%	↑3.5%

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 increased by 0.9% to \$861 million in the December quarter 2021 (Chart 4). This result was the second lowest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions results ranged from a 1.1% decline in Tasmania to a 15.3% increase in New South Wales.

Territory retail turnover decreased by 1.9% in annual terms which was the second lowest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the annual change ranged from a 3.2% decrease in the Australian Capital Territory to a 6.7% increase in Victoria.

Nationally, retail turnover increased by 8.2% in the quarter to \$92.3 billion, and by 3.6% compared with December quarter 2020.

Year-on-year results (original)

In 2021, retail turnover in the Territory increased by 2.8% to \$3.5 billion (Chart 5).

The Territory recorded the fourth lowest year-on-year change of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change ranged from a 0.4% decrease in the Australian Capital Territory to a 6.3% increase in Victoria. Nationally, retail trade increased by 3.5% to \$356.6 billion over the same period.

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

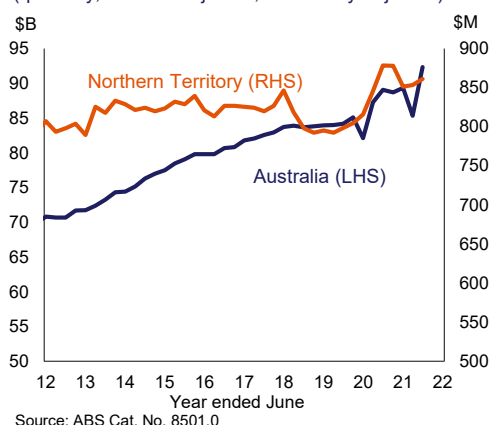


Chart 5: Change in retail turnover
(year-on-year percentage change, inflation adjusted, original)

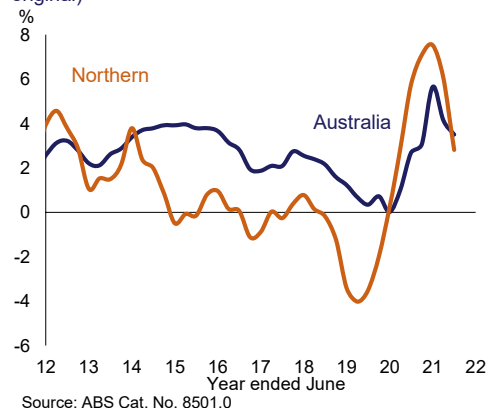


Table 1: Retail turnover (inflation adjusted, \$M)*

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 20	Sep qtr 21	Dec qtr 21	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	918	914	903	3 451	-1.3%	-1.6%	2.8%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	879	853	861	3 444	0.9%	-1.9%	
Trend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Australia							
Original	99 311	83 241	103 088	356 567	23.8%	3.8%	3.5%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	89 082	85 349	92 328	355 717	8.2%	3.6%	
Trend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

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

	Period				Change		
	Dec 20	Nov 21	Dec 21	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original	339	297	339	3 604	14.3%	0.0%	4.9%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	307	296	306	3 605	3.7%	-0.3%	
Trend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Australia							
Original	38 830	35 167	40 842	370 133	16.1%	5.2%	5.3%
Seasonally adjusted ⁴	30 451	33 412	31 926	369 507	-4.4%	4.8%	
Trend	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Other jurisdictions (seasonally adjusted)							
New South Wales	9 469	10 394	9 957	114 598	-4.2%	5.2%	
Victoria	7 723	8 985	8 228	93 591	-8.4%	6.5%	
Queensland	6 418	6 703	6 657	77 569	-0.7%	3.7%	
South Australia	1 953	2 070	1 985	23 776	-4.1%	1.7%	
Western Australia	3 368	3 677	3 548	41 777	-3.5%	5.3%	
Tasmania	627	672	649	7 809	-3.5%	3.5%	
ACT	586	616	597	6 783	-3.1%	1.8%	

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

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: nteconomy.nt.gov.au