

# Wage price index

## December quarter 2024 | 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.a.	n.a.
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑0.7%
Year-ended change (original)	↑3.4%	↑3.2%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑3.2%

## Year-ended result

The Territory WPI increased by 3.4% over the year to the December quarter 2024 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 3.5% in the private sector and an increase of 3.1% in the public sector (Chart 2). This compares to 3.0% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the third strongest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 2.9% in New South Wales to 3.9% in Tasmania (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.2% over the year to the December quarter 2024, with an increase of 3.4% in the private sector and an increase of 2.9% in the public sector.

Nationally, the transport, postal and warehousing industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 3.9%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was professional, scientific and technical services and financial and insurance services, both up by 2.8%.

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

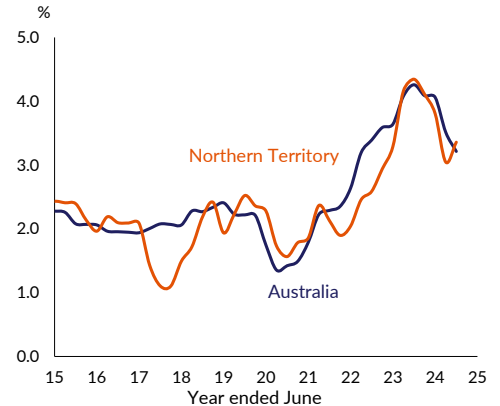


Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Year-ended percentage change)

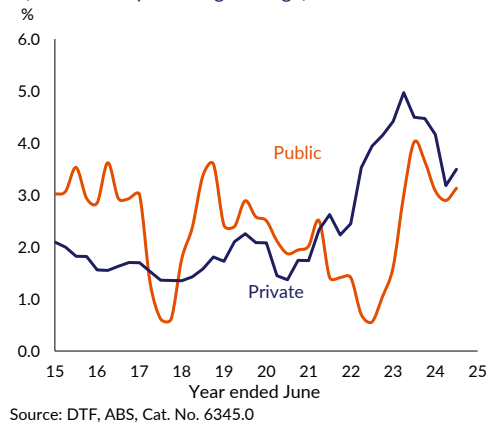


Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdiction (Year-ended percentage change)

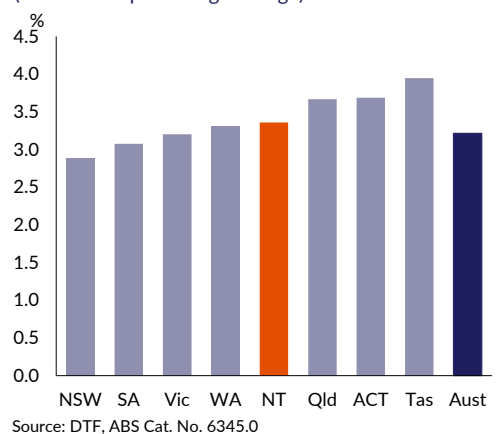


Table 1: Wage price index (hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses)

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 23	Sep qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Year-average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>	Year-average <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
Original	148.9	152.2	153.9	151.4	n.p.	3.4%	3.6%
Public	150.1	152.8	154.8	152.2	n.p.	3.1%	3.2%
Private	148.7	152.5	153.9	151.5	n.p.	3.5%	3.8%
<b>Australia</b>							
Original	149.3	153.1	154.1	152.1	n.p.	3.2%	3.7%
Public	151.4	154.6	155.8	154.0	n.p.	2.9%	3.6%
Private	148.6	152.6	153.6	151.5	n.p.	3.4%	3.7%
Seasonal adjusted	149.0	152.8	153.8	152.1	0.7%	3.2%	3.7%
Public	151.3	154.7	155.6	154.0	0.6%	2.8%	3.5%
Private	148.4	152.2	153.3	151.6	0.7%	3.3%	3.8%

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

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 23	Sep qtr 24	Dec qtr 24	Year-average	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>	Year-average <sup>3</sup>
<b>Public</b>							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	153.9	162.0	163.4	160.2	n.p.	6.2%	5.7%
Professional, scientific and technical services	143.2	148.1	148.6	147.0	n.p.	3.8%	3.7%
Public administration and safety	148.6	151.9	153.0	151.2	n.p.	3.0%	3.2%
Education and training	154.2	158.2	159.1	157.2	n.p.	3.2%	4.0%
Health care and social assistance	151.9	153.6	154.9	153.5	n.p.	2.0%	3.1%
<b>Private</b>							
Mining	148.5	152.2	153.7	151.6	n.p.	3.5%	3.8%
Manufacturing	150.2	154.2	155.8	153.3	n.p.	3.7%	3.8%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	157.0	161.3	162.2	160.1	n.p.	3.3%	3.6%
Construction	148.0	152.1	153.2	151.2	n.p.	3.5%	3.7%
Wholesale trade	147.4	151.0	152.2	150.4	n.p.	3.3%	3.4%
Retail trade	145.1	148.8	149.7	147.5	n.p.	3.2%	3.8%
Accommodation and food services	146.3	151.1	151.2	149.1	n.p.	3.3%	3.7%
Transport, postal and warehousing	147.5	152.2	153.2	150.8	n.p.	3.9%	3.9%
Information media and telecommunications	143.2	146.1	148.0	145.4	n.p.	3.4%	3.4%
Financial and insurance services	150.6	153.5	154.8	153.4	n.p.	2.8%	3.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	142.7	146.6	147.2	145.3	n.p.	3.2%	3.5%
Professional, scientific and technical services	147.6	151.1	151.7	150.3	n.p.	2.8%	3.3%
Administrative and support services	142.8	147.5	147.9	146.0	n.p.	3.6%	4.0%
Public administration and safety	150.0	155.1	155.1	153.1	n.p.	3.4%	4.5%
Education and training	153.9	158.4	159.3	157.6	n.p.	3.5%	4.1%
Health care and social assistance	159.3	164.2	164.9	162.3	n.p.	3.5%	5.0%
Arts and recreation services	150.8	154.6	155.3	153.5	n.p.	3.0%	3.0%
Other services	147.3	150.8	151.6	149.8	n.p.	2.9%	3.1%

<sup>1</sup> Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.

<sup>3</sup> Compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period.

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 Cat. No. 6345.0

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)

## More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: [nteconomy.nt.gov.au](https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au)