

Household Spending Indicator

August 2026 | Economic brief

Summary

Current prices (monthly): Household spending in the Territory increased by 0.1% to \$939 million in August 2026 and increased by 11.7% in year-ended terms (seasonally adjusted terms). Nationally, household spending was flat at \$82.3 billion in August 2026, however increased by 6.8% in year-ended terms.

Chain volume (quarterly): Household spending in the Territory increased by 2.1% to \$2.5 billion in the June quarter 2026 and increased by 5.4% in year-ended terms (seasonally adjusted terms). Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to \$227.8 billion in the June quarter 2026 and increased by 2.4% in year-ended terms.

Monthly results (current prices)

The following analysis uses current price data, which is not adjusted to account for inflation.

Household spending indicator (current prices, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Monthly change	↑0.1%	flat
Year-ended change	↑11.7%	↑6.8%

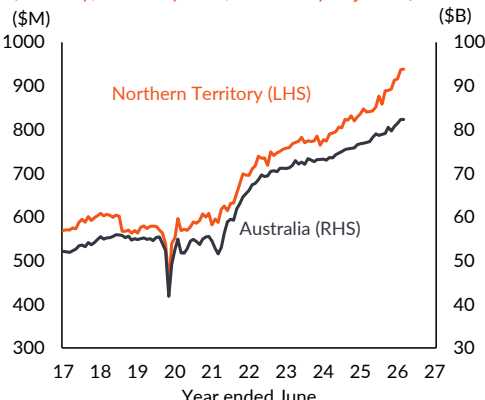
Household spending in the Territory increased by 0.1% to \$939 million in August 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 1). The increase was driven by 'hotels, cafes and restaurants' (contributing 0.3 percentage points (ppt)), and 'health' (contributing 0.3 ppt).

The Territory reported the third strongest result of the jurisdictions in the month. Results in the other jurisdictions ranged from a decline of 0.5% in Tasmania to an increase of 0.3% in Queensland. Nationally, household spending was flat at \$82.3 billion in August 2026.

Household spending in the Territory increased by 11.7% in the year-ended August 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 2). The increase was driven by the categories of 'miscellaneous goods and services' (contributing 3.1 ppt), and 'recreation and culture' (contributing 2.4 ppt).

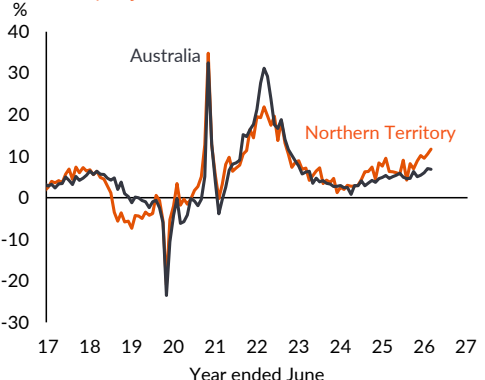
The Territory reported the strongest result of the jurisdictions in year-ended terms. Results in the other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 2.8% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 9.2% in Western Australia (Chart 3). Nationally, household spending increased by 6.8%.

Chart 1: Household spending
(monthly, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



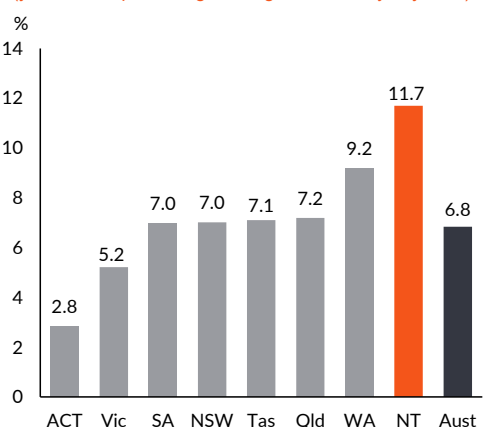
Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 2: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, current prices, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 3: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Quarterly results - June quarter 2026 (chain volume measures)

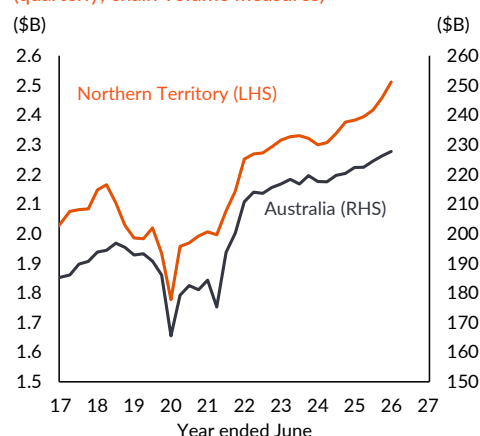
The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to account for inflation. This data is only updated quarterly.

Household spending indicator (chain volume measures, seasonally adjusted)	NT	Aust
Quarterly change	↑2.1%	↑0.7%
Year-ended change	↑5.4%	↑2.4%

Household spending in the Territory increased by 2.1% to \$2.5 billion in the June quarter 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms) (Chart 4). The Territory recorded the strongest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 0.4% in New South Wales to an increase of 1.1% in Tasmania. Nationally, household spending increased by 0.7% to \$227.8 billion.

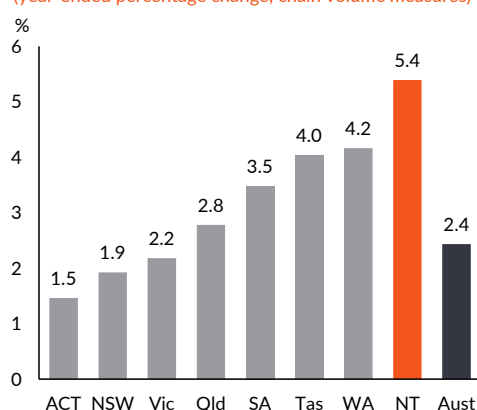
Household spending in the Territory increased by 5.4% in the year-ended June quarter 2026 (seasonally adjusted terms). The Territory recorded the strongest result of the jurisdictions. Results in other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 1.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 4.2% in Western Australia (Chart 5). Nationally, household spending increased by 2.4%.

Chart 4: Household spending
(quarterly, chain volume measures)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Chart 5: Household spending
(year-ended percentage change, chain volume measures)



Source: ABS, Monthly Household Spending Indicator; DTF

Table 1: Monthly household spending (current prices, seasonally adjusted)

Value (\$M)	Period			Change		Contribution (ppt.)
	Aug 25	Jul 26	Aug 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-ended ³
Northern Territory	840	937	939	0.1	11.7	11.7
Food	115	127	126	-0.2	9.6	1.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	33	34	33	-1.8	0.3	0.0
Clothing and footwear	24	25	25	-0.8	5.4	0.2
Furnishings and household equipment	55	60	59	-1.5	7.8	0.5
Health	59	59	62	4.4	4.4	0.3
Transport	117	130	132	1.1	13.0	1.8
Recreation and culture	124	148	144	-3.0	15.9	2.4
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	200	216	219	1.3	9.1	2.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	113	138	139	0.7	22.7	3.1
Goods	358	400	396	-1.0	10.6	4.5
Services	482	537	543	1.0	12.5	7.2
Discretionary	611	694	690	-0.5	13.0	9.4
Non Discretionary	229	244	249	2.1	8.4	2.3
Australia	77 069	82 316	82 341	0.0	6.8	6.8
Food	11 950	12 689	12 654	-0.3	5.9	0.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	2 804	2 909	2 880	-1.0	2.7	0.1
Clothing and footwear	4 294	4 545	4 501	-1.0	4.8	0.3
Furnishings and household equipment	5 288	5 583	5 550	-0.6	5.0	0.3
Health	9 188	9 598	9 513	-0.9	3.5	0.4
Transport	13 190	14 230	14 556	2.3	10.4	1.8
Recreation and culture	12 674	13 952	13 757	-1.4	8.5	1.4
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	10 648	11 287	11 382	0.8	6.9	1.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	7 032	7 524	7 548	0.3	7.3	0.7
Goods	40 218	43 175	43 316	0.3	7.7	4.0
Services	36 851	39 141	39 024	-0.3	5.9	2.8
Discretionary	49 743	53 455	53 304	-0.3	7.2	4.6
Non Discretionary	27 325	28 861	29 037	0.6	6.3	2.2

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

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

3 Year-ended percentage point contribution.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Table 2: Quarterly household spending (chain volume measures, original)

Value (\$M)	Period			Change	
	Jun 25	Mar 26	Jun 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Northern Territory	2 343	2 313	2 484	n.p.	6.1
Food	324	335	342	n.p.	5.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	95	84	86	n.p.	-9.1
Clothing and footwear	62	61	66	n.p.	7.6
Furnishings and household equipment	155	157	172	n.p.	11.4
Health	151	154	154	n.p.	2.4
Transport	374	391	373	n.p.	-0.4
Recreation and culture	351	353	393	n.p.	12.1
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	571	516	568	n.p.	-0.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	313	315	364	n.p.	16.0
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	2 383	2 459	2 511	2.1	5.4
Australia	217 923	216 740	223 076	n.p.	2.4
Food	33 397	34 536	34 260	n.p.	2.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	7 962	7 299	7 375	n.p.	-7.4
Clothing and footwear	11 830	10 981	12 282	n.p.	3.8
Furnishings and household equipment	15 210	15 065	16 008	n.p.	5.2
Health	25 110	24 880	25 820	n.p.	2.8
Transport	40 990	42 962	41 649	n.p.	1.6
Recreation and culture	35 825	35 444	37 216	n.p.	3.9
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	29 956	28 778	30 505	n.p.	1.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	19 444	19 210	20 099	n.p.	3.4
Goods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Services	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Non Discretionary	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Seasonally adjusted	222 336	226 253	227 752	0.7	2.4

n.p.: not published

n.a.: not available

¹ Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.² Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Monthly Household Spending Indicator*

Term	Definition
Monthly Household Spending Indicator	The experimental Monthly Household Spending Indicator is derived using bank transactions, supermarket transactions and new vehicle sales data. As this data is not designed for statistical purposes, its scope varies from the Australian National Accounts concept of Household Final Consumption Expenditure (HFCE) and the Retail Trade turnover estimates for retail businesses.
Quarterly change	Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.
Year-ended change	Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.
Year-average change	Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 12 month period.
Seasonally adjusted	A seasonally adjusted series involves estimating and removing the cyclical and seasonal effects from the original data. Seasonally adjusting a time series is useful if you wish to understand the underlying patterns of change or movement in a population, without the impact of the seasonal or cyclical effects.
Trend	A trend series is a seasonally adjusted series that has been further adjusted to remove irregular effects and 'smooth' out the series to show the overall 'trend' of the data over time.

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.

[Monthly Household Spending Indicator, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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