Wage price index

September quarter 2026 | 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 (seasonally adjusted)	n.p.	⬆1.1%
Year-ended change (original)	⬆3.3%	⬆3.5%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.p.	⬆3.5%

n.p.: not published

Year-ended result

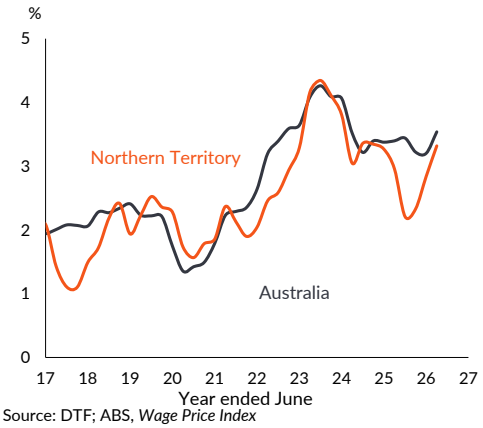
The Territory WPI increased by 3.3% in the year-ended September quarter 2026 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 3.9% in the public sector and an increase of 3.0% in the private sector (Chart 2). This compares to 2.8% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the third weakest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the year-ended change in WPI ranged from 2.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.3% in South Australia (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.5% in the year-ended September quarter 2026, with an increase of 3.9% in the public sector and an increase of 3.4% in the private sector.

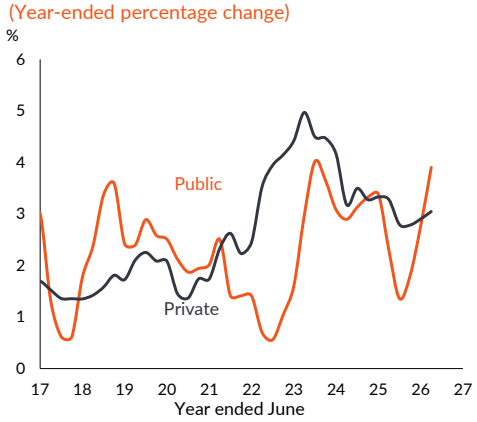
Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry reported the strongest year-ended growth in the private sector, up by 4.8%. The industry that experienced the weakest year-ended growth in private sector wages in Australia was professional, scientific and technical services, up by 2.6%.

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



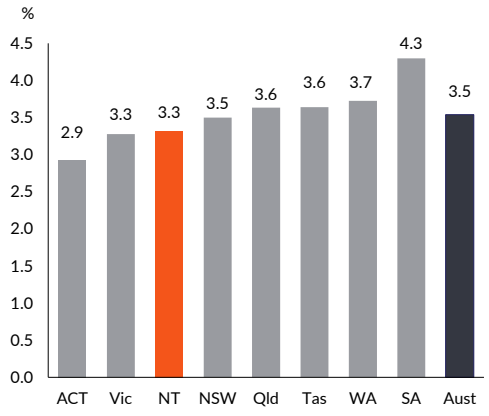
Source: DTF; ABS, *Wage Price Index*

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



Source: DTF; ABS, *Wage Price Index*

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



Source: DTF; ABS, *Wage Price Index*

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

	Period			Change	
	Sep qtr 25	Jun qtr 26	Sep qtr 26	Quarterly[1]	Year-ended[2]
Northern Territory					
Original	**156.7**	**159.3**	**161.9**	**n.p.**	**3.3%**
Public	156.3	160.0	162.4	n.p.	3.9%
Private	157.5	159.6	162.3	n.p.	3.0%
Australia					
Original	**158.3**	**161.2**	**163.9**	**n.p.**	**3.5%**
Public	160.5	164.2	166.7	n.p.	3.9%
Private	157.6	160.3	163.0	n.p.	3.4%
Seasonally adjusted	**157.9**	**161.7**	**163.4**	**1.1%**	**3.5%**
Public	160.4	164.5	166.6	1.3%	3.9%
Private	157.1	160.9	162.5	1.0%	3.4%

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

	Period			Change	
	Sep qtr 25	Jun qtr 26	Sep qtr 26	Quarterly[1]	Year-ended[2]
Public					
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	169.7	172.7	175.0	n.p.	3.1%
Professional, scientific and technical services	154.9	159.3	160.9	n.p.	3.9%
Public administration and safety	158.7	162.2	164.9	n.p.	3.9%
Education and training	163.5	166.5	167.6	n.p.	2.5%
Health care and social assistance	158.7	163.2	166.8	n.p.	5.1%
Private					
Mining	157.7	162.0	164.3	n.p.	4.2%
Manufacturing	159.1	162.4	164.4	n.p.	3.3%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	167.6	172.4	174.2	n.p.	3.9%
Construction	157.3	160.4	161.9	n.p.	2.9%
Wholesale trade	155.9	159.4	161.9	n.p.	3.8%
Retail trade	153.0	154.4	158.0	n.p.	3.3%
Accommodation and food services	155.5	156.4	161.7	n.p.	4.0%
Transport, postal and warehousing	156.4	159.5	162.6	n.p.	4.0%
Information media and telecommunications	150.7	154.9	155.8	n.p.	3.4%
Financial and insurance services	157.4	160.8	161.9	n.p.	2.9%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	151.4	153.7	155.9	n.p.	3.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	156.0	158.0	160.1	n.p.	2.6%
Administrative and support services	151.8	153.1	156.2	n.p.	2.9%
Public administration and safety	160.3	161.1	166.9	n.p.	4.1%
Education and training	164.3	167.0	168.7	n.p.	2.7%
Health care and social assistance	171.0	174.2	179.2	n.p.	4.8%
Arts and recreation services	159.2	161.7	164.4	n.p.	3.3%
Other services	155.8	158.4	161.7	n.p.	3.8%

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)

More information

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