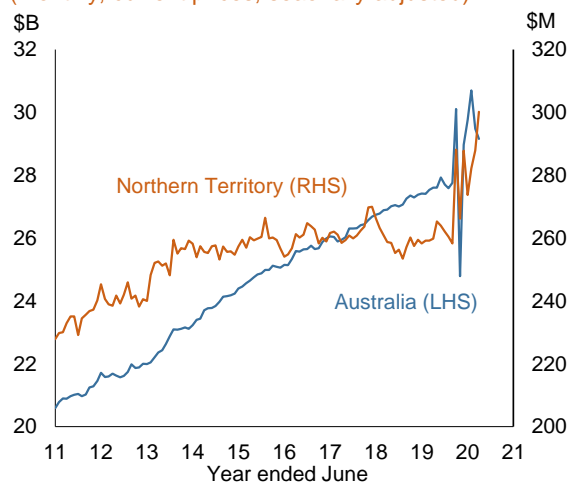


# Retail trade

September quarter 2020

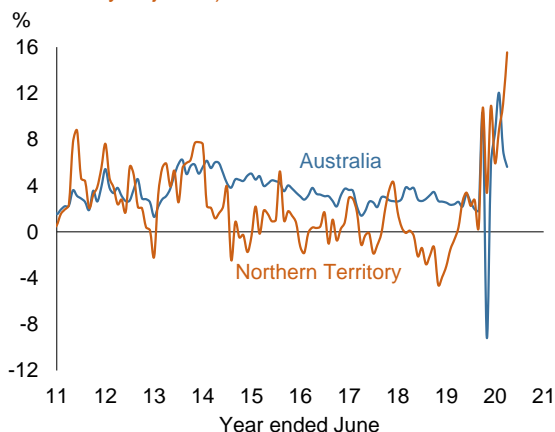
Released: 4 November 2020 | Next release: 4 December 2020

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



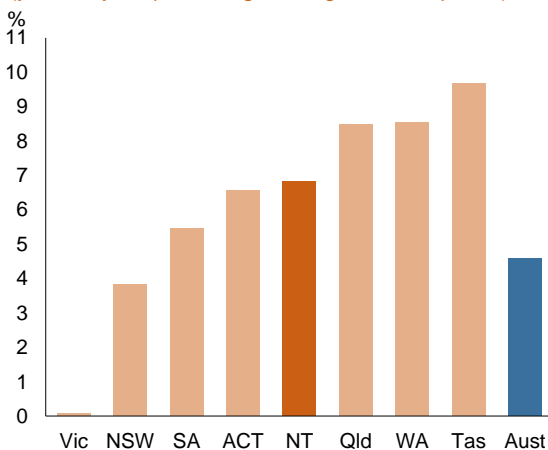
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0; DTF

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 (current prices)

	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	▲4.3%	▼1.1%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	▲15.6%	▲5.6%
Year-on-year (original)	▲6.8%	▲4.6%

The following analysis uses current price data, which has not been adjusted for inflation effects. In light of the impacts from COVID-19, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suspended reporting on trend series due to the uncertainty and changes of retail activity that makes the data unreliable.

### Monthly results (seasonally adjusted data)

Retail trade in the Territory increased by 4.3 per cent to \$300 million in September 2020 compared to the previous month (Chart 1). The increase is driven by the categories of ‘cafes, restaurants and takeaway food’ and ‘food retailing’, with smaller increases in the categories of ‘clothing, footwear and personal accessory’, ‘pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry’, ‘other recreational goods’ and ‘newspaper and book’.

The Territory recorded the only increase of all the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the monthly decrease ranged from 2.9 per cent in South Australia to 0.4 per cent in Victoria. Nationally, retail trade turnover decreased by 1.1 per cent to \$29.2 billion.

### Annual results (seasonally adjusted data)

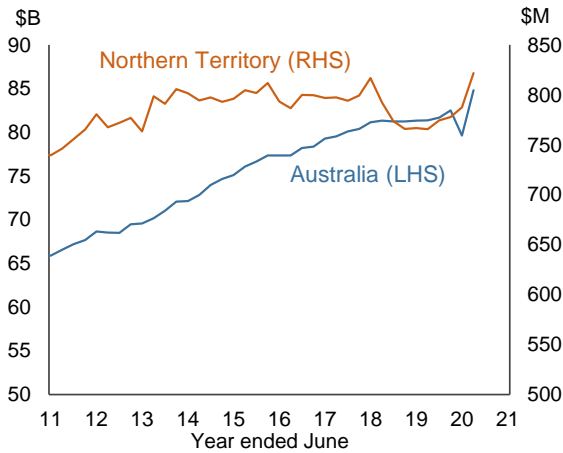
Retail trade in the Territory increased by 15.6 per cent in annual terms. The largest contributors in annual terms were ‘food retailing’ (contributing 6.3 percentage points (ppt)), ‘other recreational goods’ (contributing 1.1 ppt), ‘pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry’ (contributing 1.0 ppt) and ‘clothing, footwear and personal accessory’ (also contributing 1.0 ppt). This was partly offset by decreases in ‘cafes, restaurants and takeaway food’. Nationally, retail trade increased by 5.6 per cent (Chart 2).

### Year-on-year change (original data)

In the year to September 2020, retail spending in the Territory increased by 6.8 per cent to \$3.3 billion, ranking the fourth highest of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 0.1 per cent in Victoria to 9.7 per cent in Tasmania (Chart 3). Nationally, retail spending increased by 4.6 per cent to \$342 billion over the same period.

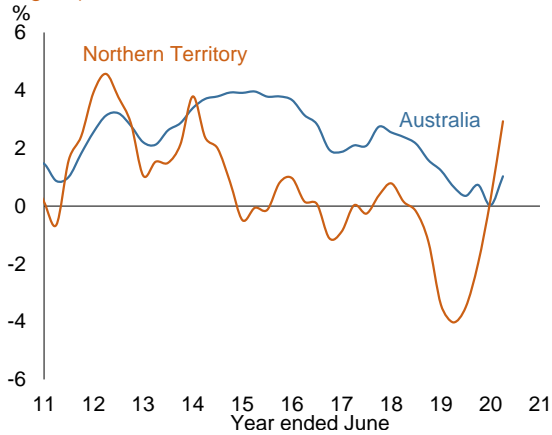
The Territory’s year-on-year result was influenced by increased spending in ‘food retailing’ and ‘other recreational goods’.

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



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

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



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8501.0

## Retail trade turnover (inflation adjusted)

	NT	Aust
Quarterly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑4.4%	↑6.5%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↑7.3%	↑4.2%
Year on year (original)	↑2.9%	↑1.0%

The following analysis uses chain volume data, which has been adjusted to remove inflationary effects. The Australia Bureau of Statistics (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 trade turnover increased by 4.4 per cent to \$822 million in the September quarter 2020 (Chart 4). This was the second lowest quarterly increase of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a 4.2 per cent decline in Victoria to an 11.6 per cent increase in New South Wales.

Territory retail turnover increased by 7.3 per cent in annual terms and was the fourth lowest result of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the annual change ranged from a 9.8 per cent decline in Victoria to a 12.8 per cent increase in Western Australia.

Nationally, retail trade turnover increased by 6.5 per cent in the quarter to \$84.8 billion, and increased by 4.2 per cent compared to the September quarter 2019.

### Year-on-year results (original)

In the year to September 2020, retail trade turnover in the Territory increased by 2.9 per cent to \$3.2 billion (Chart 5).

The Territory recorded the fourth lowest year-on-year change of all jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change ranged from a 3.4 per cent decline in Victoria to a 5.9 per cent increase in Tasmania. Nationally, retail trade increased by 1 per cent to \$328.4 billion over the same period.

## Retail trade September quarter 2020

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

	September 2020		Change		
	Quarter	Year to date	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
Original	873	3 161	11.2%	6.7%	2.9%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	822	3 162	4.4%	7.3%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Australia</b>					
Original	82 273	328 381	7.5%	4.0%	1.0%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	84 809	328 630	6.5%	4.2%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

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

	September 2020		Change		
	Month	Year to date	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
Original	303	3 306	-2.1%	15.7%	6.8%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	300	3 296	4.3%	15.6%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Australia</b>					
Original	28 336	342 046	-0.8%	6.6%	4.6%
Seasonally adjusted <sup>4</sup>	29 158	341 572	-1.1%	5.6%	
Trend	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

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, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

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

### More information:

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6801 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: <https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au/>