

Wage price index

September 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 (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑0.8%
Year-ended change (original)	↑3.0%	↑3.5%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑3.5%

Year-ended result

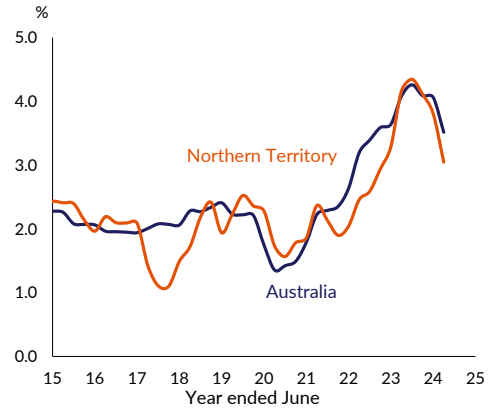
The Territory WPI increased by 3.0% over the year to September quarter 2024 (Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 3.2% in the private sector and an increase of 2.9% in the public sector (Chart 2). This compares to 3.8% growth in the previous quarter.

The Territory reported the weakest growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.2% in Victoria and South Australia to 4.0% in Tasmania (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.5% over the year to September quarter 2024, with an increase of 3.7% in the public sector and an increase of 3.5% in the private sector.

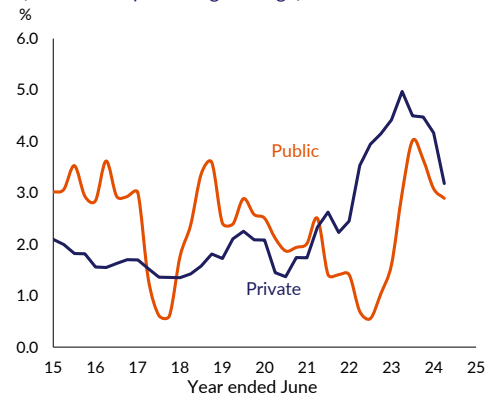
Nationally, the public administration and safety industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 4.9%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was arts and recreation services, up by 2.9%.

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



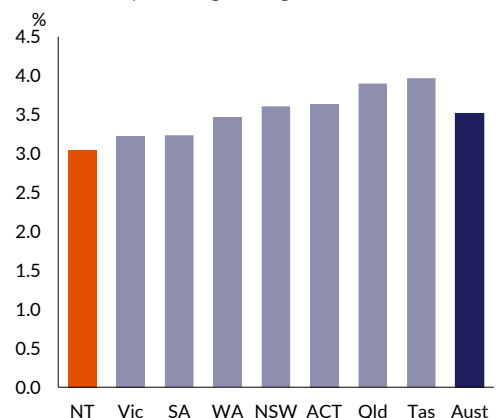
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

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



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 23	Jun qtr 24	Sep qtr 24	Year-average	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Original	147.7	150.0	152.2	150.2	n.p.	3.0%	3.8%
Public	148.5	150.6	152.8	151.0	n.p.	2.9%	3.4%
Private	147.8	150.1	152.5	150.2	n.p.	3.2%	4.1%
Australia							
Original	147.9	151.1	153.1	150.9	n.p.	3.5%	4.0%
Public	149.1	153.3	154.6	152.9	n.p.	3.7%	3.9%
Private	147.5	150.4	152.6	150.3	n.p.	3.5%	4.0%
Seasonal adjusted	147.5	151.5	152.7	150.9	0.8%	3.5%	4.0%
Public	149.2	153.5	154.7	152.9	0.8%	3.7%	3.9%
Private	147.0	150.9	152.1	150.3	0.8%	3.5%	4.0%

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

	Period				Change		
	Sep qtr 23	Jun qtr 24	Sep qtr 24	Year-average	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Public							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	152.3	158.3	162.0	157.8	n.p.	6.4%	5.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	142.3	146.5	148.1	145.6	n.p.	4.1%	3.6%
Public administration and safety	147.2	150.8	151.9	150.1	n.p.	3.2%	3.4%
Education and training	151.5	156.1	158.2	155.9	n.p.	4.4%	4.5%
Health care and social assistance	149.0	153.0	153.6	152.8	n.p.	3.1%	3.7%
Private							
Mining	146.6	151.3	152.2	150.3	n.p.	3.8%	3.9%
Manufacturing	148.6	152.0	154.2	151.9	n.p.	3.8%	4.0%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	155.4	158.9	161.3	158.8	n.p.	3.8%	3.8%
Construction	147.1	150.5	152.1	149.9	n.p.	3.4%	3.9%
Wholesale trade	146.3	149.6	151.0	149.2	n.p.	3.2%	3.4%
Retail trade	143.9	145.8	148.8	146.3	n.p.	3.4%	4.1%
Accommodation and food services	146.0	147.4	151.1	147.9	n.p.	3.5%	3.9%
Transport, postal and warehousing	146.8	149.4	152.2	149.4	n.p.	3.7%	3.8%
Information media and telecommunications	141.3	143.9	146.1	144.2	n.p.	3.4%	3.5%
Financial and insurance services	149.0	152.8	153.5	152.3	n.p.	3.0%	3.4%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	141.9	144.1	146.6	144.2	n.p.	3.3%	3.6%
Professional, scientific and technical services	146.7	149.8	151.1	149.3	n.p.	3.0%	3.5%
Administrative and support services	142.0	144.4	147.5	144.7	n.p.	3.9%	4.2%
Public administration and safety	147.9	151.3	155.1	151.8	n.p.	4.9%	5.0%
Education and training	151.8	156.9	158.4	156.2	n.p.	4.3%	4.3%
Health care and social assistance	157.9	160.1	164.2	160.9	n.p.	4.0%	5.7%
Arts and recreation services	150.3	152.6	154.6	152.3	n.p.	2.9%	3.2%
Other services	146.2	148.5	150.8	148.7	n.p.	3.1%	3.3%

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

3 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://abs.gov.au)

More information

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