

Wage price index

December quarter 2023 | 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	↑0.8%	↑0.9%
Annual change	↑4.3%	↑4.3%
Year-on-year change	↑3.7%	↑3.9%

Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 0.8% in the December quarter 2023, third equal with Western Australia and South Australia, reflecting increases of 1.1% in the public sector and 0.6% in the private sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 0.9%, with increases of 1.5% in the public sector and 0.7% in the private sector.

Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 4.3% in annual terms (Chart 1), reflecting increases of 4.0% in the public sector and 4.5% in the private sector (Chart 2).

The Territory reported the third strongest annual growth of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales and Tasmania. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 3.7% in Victoria to 4.8% in Queensland (Chart 3).

Nationally, the WPI increased by 4.3% in annual terms, with increases of 4.3% in the public sector and 4.2% in the private sector.

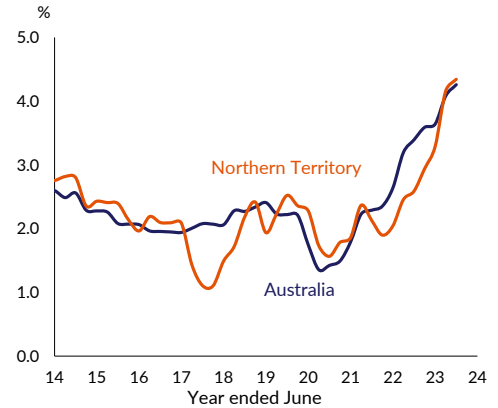
Nationally, the health care and social assistance industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 6.3%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was financial and insurance services, up by 3.2%.

Year-on-year result

The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 3.7%, reflecting increases of 2.4% in the public sector and 4.5% in the private sector.

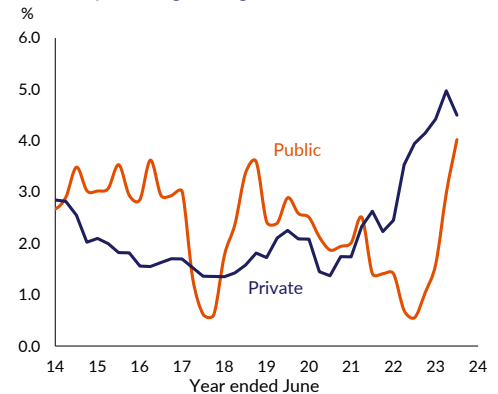
The national WPI increased by 3.9%, with increases of 3.5% in the public sector and 4.0% in the private sector.

Chart 1: Wage price index (Annual percentage change)



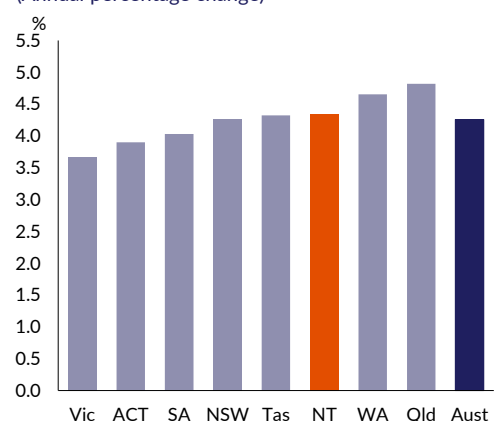
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdictions (Annual percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

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

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 22	Sep qtr 23	Dec qtr 23	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory	142.7	147.7	148.9	146.2	0.8%	4.3%	3.7%
Public	144.3	148.5	150.1	147.5	1.1%	4.0%	2.4%
Private	142.3	147.8	148.7	145.9	0.6%	4.5%	4.5%
Australia	143.2	147.9	149.3	146.7	0.9%	4.3%	3.9%
Public	145.2	149.1	151.4	148.7	1.5%	4.3%	3.5%
Private	142.6	147.5	148.6	146.1	0.7%	4.2%	4.0%

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

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 22	Sep qtr 23	Dec qtr 23	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Public							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	148.9	152.3	153.9	151.5	1.1%	3.4%	3.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	138.5	142.3	143.2	141.8	0.6%	3.4%	3.2%
Public administration and safety	143.6	147.2	148.6	146.5	1.0%	3.5%	3.1%
Education and training	146.7	151.5	154.2	151.2	1.8%	5.1%	3.8%
Health care and social assistance	145.5	149.0	151.9	148.9	1.9%	4.4%	3.3%
Private							
Mining	142.6	146.6	148.5	146.1	1.3%	4.1%	4.0%
Manufacturing	144.1	148.6	150.2	147.6	1.1%	4.2%	4.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	150.6	155.4	157.0	154.5	1.0%	4.2%	4.0%
Construction	142.1	147.1	148.0	145.8	0.6%	4.2%	4.1%
Wholesale trade	142.6	146.3	147.4	145.5	0.8%	3.4%	3.9%
Retail trade	139.1	143.9	145.1	142.1	0.8%	4.3%	4.1%
Accommodation and food services	140.7	146.0	146.3	143.7	0.2%	4.0%	4.1%
Transport, postal and warehousing	142.1	146.8	147.5	145.2	0.5%	3.8%	3.6%
Information media and telecommunications	137.9	141.3	143.2	140.6	1.3%	3.8%	3.5%
Financial and insurance services	145.9	149.0	150.6	148.5	1.1%	3.2%	3.4%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	137.5	141.9	142.7	140.4	0.6%	3.8%	3.7%
Professional, scientific and technical services	142.2	146.7	147.6	145.6	0.6%	3.8%	3.9%
Administrative and support services	136.6	142.0	142.8	140.4	0.6%	4.5%	4.2%
Public administration and safety	142.6	147.9	150.0	146.5	1.4%	5.2%	4.3%
Education and training	147.6	151.8	153.9	151.4	1.4%	4.3%	3.5%
Health care and social assistance	149.8	157.9	159.3	154.6	0.9%	6.3%	4.9%
Arts and recreation services	145.4	150.3	150.8	149.0	0.3%	3.7%	4.4%
Other services	142.0	146.2	147.3	145.3	0.8%	3.7%	4.0%

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.

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

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

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