

Wage price index

December quarter 2022 | 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.

Wage subsidies (JobKeeper) and payroll tax changes due to the impact of COVID-19 will have no direct impact on the WPI as they are outside the conceptual framework for defining wages and salaries.

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	↑0.6%	↑0.8%
Annual change	↑2.6%	↑3.4%
Year-on-year change	↑2.2%	↑2.9%

Quarterly result

The Territory WPI increased by 0.6% in the December quarter 2022, reflecting an increase of 1.1% in the private sector and an increase of 0.1% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 0.8%, with an increase of 0.8% in the public sector and an increase of 0.8% in the private sector.

Annual result

The Territory WPI increased by 2.6% in annual terms, reflecting an increase of 3.9% in the private sector and an increase of 0.6% in the public sector.

Nationally, the WPI increased by 3.4% in annual terms, with an increase of 3.6% in the private sector and an increase of 2.5% in the public sector.

Year-on-year result

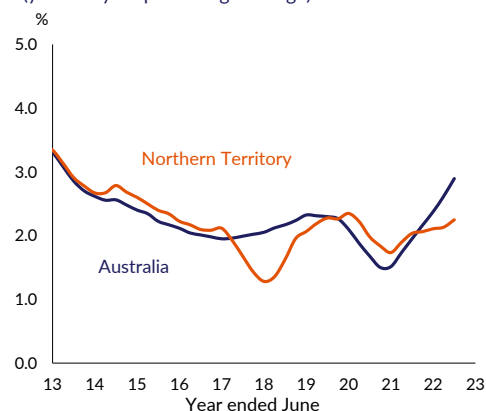
The Territory reported a year-on-year WPI increase of 2.2% (see Chart 1), reflecting an increase of 3.0% in the private sector and an increase of 1.0% in the public sector (see Chart 2).

The Territory reported the weakest year-on-year growth of the jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, the change in WPI ranged from 2.7% in the Australian Capital Territory to 3.2% in Tasmania (see Chart 3).

The national WPI increased by 2.9%, with an increase of 3.0% in the private sector and an increase of 2.4% in the public sector.

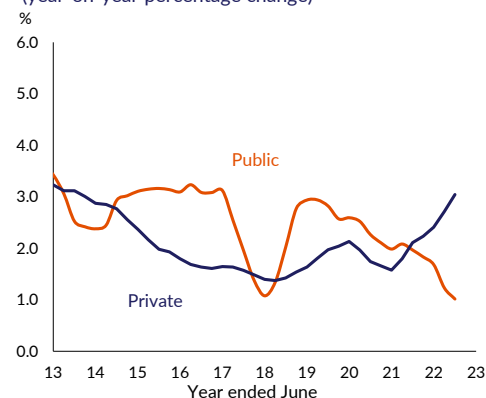
Nationally, the rental, hiring and real estate services industry, reported the strongest growth in the private sector, up 3.5%. The industry that experienced the weakest growth in private sector wages in Australia was education and training, up by 2.3%.

Chart 1: Wage price index (year-on-year percentage change)



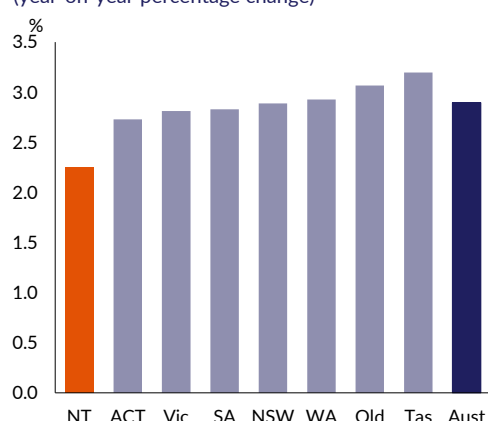
Source: DTF, ABS Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 2: Wage price index, Northern Territory (year-on-year percentage change)



Source: DTF, ABS, Cat. No. 6345.0

Chart 3: Wage price index by jurisdictions (year-on-year 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 21	Sep qtr 22	Dec qtr 22	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory	139.1	141.8	142.7	141.0	0.6%	2.6%	2.2%
Public	143.5	144.2	144.3	144.0	0.1%	0.6%	1.0%
Private	136.9	140.8	142.3	139.6	1.1%	3.9%	3.0%
Australia	138.5	142.1	143.2	141.2	0.8%	3.4%	2.9%
Public	141.7	144.0	145.2	143.7	0.8%	2.5%	2.4%
Private	137.6	141.5	142.6	140.4	0.8%	3.6%	3.0%

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

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 21	Sep qtr 22	Dec qtr 22	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Public							
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	143.1	146.7	148.9	146.0	1.5%	4.1%	2.6%
Professional, scientific and technical services	135.7	137.7	138.5	137.3	0.6%	2.1%	2.2%
Public administration and safety	140.2	142.4	143.6	142.0	0.8%	2.4%	2.5%
Education and training	143.3	146.1	146.7	145.6	0.4%	2.4%	2.2%
Health care and social assistance	142.3	144.3	145.5	144.2	0.8%	2.2%	2.2%
Private							
Mining	138.1	141.0	142.6	140.5	1.1%	3.3%	2.5%
Manufacturing	138.5	142.4	144.1	141.6	1.2%	4.0%	3.4%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	146.2	149.3	150.6	148.6	0.9%	3.0%	2.5%
Construction	137.0	141.1	142.1	140.1	0.7%	3.7%	3.2%
Wholesale trade	136.8	141.1	142.6	140.0	1.1%	4.2%	3.4%
Retail trade	133.9	137.9	139.1	136.5	0.9%	3.9%	3.2%
Accommodation and food services	136.0	138.3	140.7	138.0	1.7%	3.5%	2.8%
Transport, postal and warehousing	137.7	140.8	142.1	140.2	0.9%	3.2%	2.6%
Information media and telecommunications	133.2	136.4	137.9	135.8	1.1%	3.5%	2.8%
Financial and insurance services	140.6	144.6	145.9	143.6	0.9%	3.8%	3.1%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	132.6	136.8	137.5	135.5	0.5%	3.7%	3.5%
Professional, scientific and technical services	137.2	141.3	142.2	140.1	0.6%	3.6%	3.2%
Administrative and support services	132.0	136.2	136.6	134.8	0.3%	3.5%	3.1%
Public administration and safety	137.6	142.1	142.6	140.4	0.4%	3.6%	3.0%
Education and training	143.9	146.8	147.6	146.3	0.5%	2.6%	2.3%
Health care and social assistance	144.6	149.0	149.8	147.4	0.5%	3.6%	2.9%
Arts and recreation services	139.7	143.5	145.4	142.8	1.3%	4.1%	3.3%
Other services	136.9	140.9	142.0	139.7	0.8%	3.7%	2.9%

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.

More information

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