

Building approvals

March 2026 | Economic brief

Residential building approvals

Number of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↓10.5%
Monthly change (trend)	↓11.5%	↑0.5%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑9.0%
Year-ended change (trend)	↓30.3%	↑13.1%

The trend number of residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 11.5% to 46 in March 2026 (Chart 1). This was the weakest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 3.4% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 1.5% in Victoria. Nationally, residential building approvals increased by 0.5%.

The number of residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 30.3% in the year-ended March 2026 (Chart 2). This was the weakest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 3.0% in South Australia to an increase of 27.5% in Queensland. Nationally, residential building approvals increased by 13.1%.

Value of residential approvals	NT	Aust
Year-ended change (original)	↓3.8%	↑24.8%

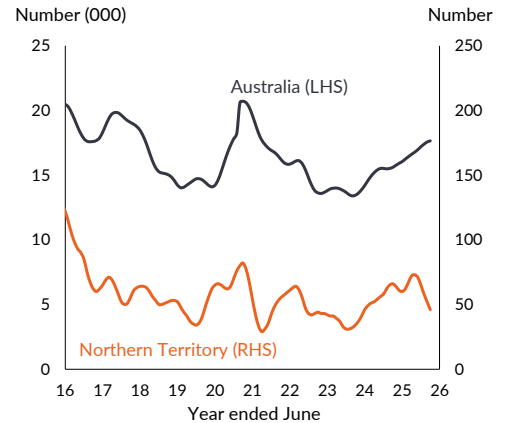
The value of residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 3.8% to \$34.9 million in the year-ended March 2026, compared with an increase of 24.8% to \$11.6 billion nationally.

Non-residential approvals

Value of non-residential approvals	NT	Aust
Year-ended change (original)	↓21.8%	↓15.9%

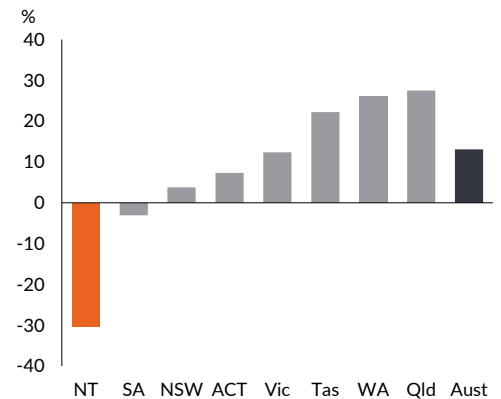
The value of non-residential building approvals in the Territory declined by 21.8% to \$30.9 million in the year-ended March 2026. This reflects a decline of 80.1% in public non-residential building approvals, partly offset by an increase of 43.0% in private non-residential building approvals. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals declined by 15.9% to \$6.1 billion.

Chart 1: Number of residential building approvals (monthly, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Approvals

Chart 2: Number of residential building approvals (year-ended change, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Building Approvals

Building approvals

Table 1 - Residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Mar 25	Feb 26	Mar 26	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Number							
Original	62	41	57	748	n.p.	-8.1%	18.9%
- houses	55	41	39	579	n.p.	-29.1%	20.9%
- other residential ⁴	6	0	18	161	n.p.	200.0%	9.5%
- alterations, additions and conversions	1	0	0	8	n.p.	n.a.	166.7%
Seasonally adjusted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Trend	66	52	46	751	-11.5%	-30.3%	
Value (\$M)							
Original	36.3	31.4	34.9	515.8	n.p.	-3.8%	13.8%
Australia							
Number							
Original	15 735	18 685	17 780	197 971	n.p.	13.0%	8.7%
Seasonally adjusted	15 872	19 339	17 300	198 396	-10.5%	9.0%	
Trend	15 613	17 572	17 657	200 635	0.5%	13.1%	
Value (\$M)							
Original	9 271	12 052	11 572	120 751	n.p.	24.8%	16.3%

Table 2 - Non-residential building approvals

	Period				Change		
	Mar 25	Feb 26	Mar 26	Year to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory							
Value (\$M)							
Original	39.6	39.5	30.9	990.7	n.p.	-21.8%	-12.4%
- private	18.7	28.9	26.8	346.6	n.p.	43.0%	-17.1%
- public	20.8	10.6	4.1	644.1	n.p.	-80.1%	-9.7%
Australia							
Value (\$M)							
Original	7 221	8 150	6 070	88 072	n.p.	-15.9%	26.7%

n.a.: not applicable or not available; n.p.: not published

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

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

3 Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12-month period.

4 Includes units and townhouses.

Caution is advised when using original monthly data, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Building Approvals, Australia*

Term	Definition
Residential building	Buildings that contain one or more dwellings, intended for the provision of long-term accommodation.
Non-residential building	Building either classified as a commercial building, industrial building and other non-residential building.
Commercial building	Buildings primarily occupied with or engaged in commercial trade or work intended for commercial trade, including buildings used primarily for retail and wholesale trade, office and transport activities.
Industrial building	Buildings used for warehousing, primary production and the production and assembly activities of industrial or manufacturing processes.
Other non-residential building	Non-residential buildings for the provision of education, religious worship or other religious activities, aged and health care, recreation, entertainment, or commercial temporary accommodation.

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.

[Building Approvals, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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