



CommSec

State of the States

State and Territory
Economic Performance Report

May 2023

Edition 55

Tasmania now leads the nation

How are Australia's states and territories performing?

Each quarter CommSec attempts to find out which state or territory is Australia's economic leader. Now in its 14th year, the report also includes a section comparing annual growth rates for the eight key indicators across the states and territories as well as Australia as a whole, enabling comparisons in terms of economic momentum.

Overall, the economic performances of Australian states and territories are being supported by strong job and commodity markets at a time of rising interest rates.

All states are performing well, supported by strong population growth, still-solid consumer spending, elevated commodity prices, stabilising home prices and low unemployment.

The future path of spending, housing and job markets will determine how economies perform over the second half of 2023.

In the latest survey there was little to separate three economies: Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia. In the end Tasmania took top spot while Queensland and South Australia share second place on the economic podium.

In the previous survey, Queensland occupied top spot ahead of Tasmania and South Australia. So the top grouping hasn't changed materially, merely the positions.

NSW remains in fourth place. Western Australia is now in joint fifth position with Victoria and the ACT is seventh. There is little to separate these four economies.

And the Northern Territory remains in eighth position.

=5. WA

Strength

Relative economic growth

Weakness

Construction work done

Western Australia ranks first on relative economic growth.

8. NT

Strength

Relative population growth

Weakness

Retail Trade

The Northern Territory is ranked fourth on relative population growth.

=2. QLD

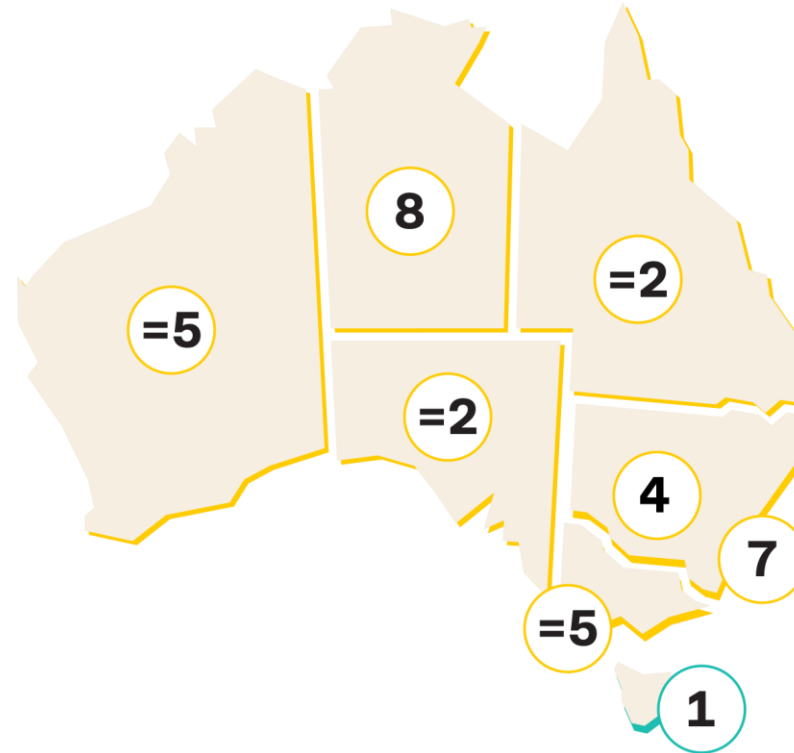
Strength

Relative population growth

Weakness

Construction work done

Queensland is ranked first on relative population growth and second on two indicators.



4. NSW

Strength

Equipment investment

Weakness

Dwelling starts

NSW is ranked third on three indicators.

7. ACT

Strength

Housing finance

Weakness

Relative population growth

The ACT is ranked first on housing finance.

=2. SA

Strength

Construction work done

Weakness

Relative economic growth

South Australia ranks first on construction work.

1. TAS

Strength

Equipment investment

Weakness

Relative population growth

Tasmania is ranked first on three indicators.

=5. VIC

Strength

Retail spending

Weakness

Equipment investment

Victoria ranks first on retail trade.

Overall *performance*

Tasmania has regained top spot in the *State of the States'* economic performance rankings, improving rankings on dwelling starts, relative unemployment and relative economic growth.

Tasmania ranks first on equipment investment, dwelling starts and relative unemployment. And it is second on housing finance.

Close behind in joint second position are **Queensland** and **South Australia**. **Queensland** finished on top in the previous survey while it is **South Australia's** best ranking for just over a year.

NSW remains in fourth position.

Behind **NSW** in joint fifth are **Victoria** and **Western Australia** followed by **the ACT**. There is little to separate these four economies. And the **Northern Territory** ranks eighth.

In terms of the leading positions on the economic indicators, as noted above, **Tasmania** leads the rankings on relative unemployment, dwelling starts and equipment investment.

Queensland leads on relative population growth.

The **ACT** leads on housing finance.

Western Australia leads on relative economic growth.

South Australia leads on construction work done.

Victoria is top ranked on retail spending.

When looking across annual growth rates of the eight economic indicators, **Tasmania**, the **Northern Territory** and **Queensland** each led annual changes on two of the eight economic indicators.

And the **ACT** and **Western Australia** each led on one indicator.



Tasmania is
**Australia's best
performing economy.**

Economic growth



Economic activity in Western Australia in the year to December 2022 was 41.4 per cent above its 'normal' or decade-average level of output.

Western Australia continues to lead

Ideally, Gross State Product (GSP) would be used to assess broad economic growth. But the data isn't available quarterly. We have previously used State Final Demand (SFD, household and equipment spending) plus exports less imports to act as a proxy for GSP. But the Bureau of Statistics doesn't provide long-term trade data for all states and territories in real terms. So nominal state final demand plus trade is assessed with rolling annual totals used to remove seasonality.

Western Australia leads the way

Western Australia continues to lead on relative economic growth. Economic activity in Western Australia in the year to December 2022 was 41.4 per cent above its 'normal' or decade-average level of output. Queensland remains in second spot, with output 36.2 per cent above the 'normal' level of output.

Tasmania is now in third position (up 31.4 per cent) followed by the Northern Territory and NSW (both up 30.4 per cent).

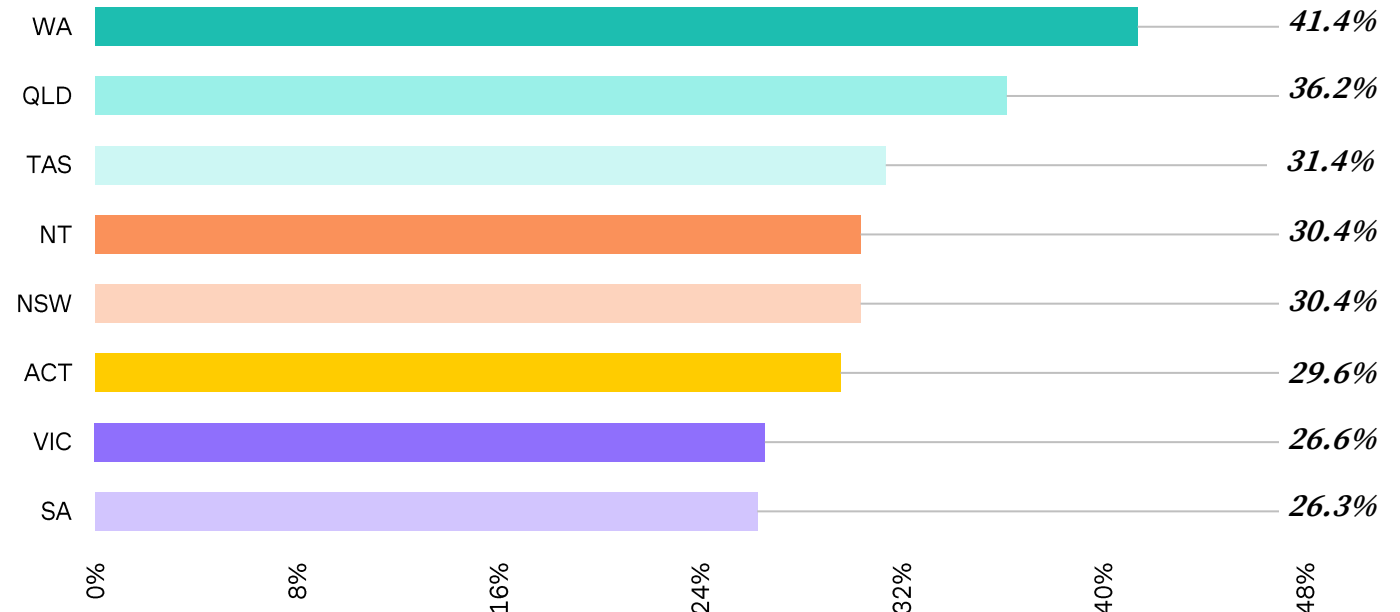
At the other end of the scale, economic activity in South Australia in the September quarter was 26.3 per cent above its decade average, but behind Victoria (up 26.6 per cent) and the ACT (up 29.6 per cent).

Queensland recorded the fastest nominal economic growth, up 18.5 per cent over the year. Next best is NSW (up 14.3 per cent), the Northern Territory (up 10.4 per cent), Victoria (up 9.7 per cent) and South Australia (up 9.5 per cent).

Tasmania records the slowest growth

The weakest on annual nominal economic activity is Tasmania (up 7.3 per cent), Western Australia (up 8.1 per cent) and the ACT (up 8.9 per cent).

If seasonally adjusted State Final Demand in real terms is used, comparing the latest result with decade averages reveals some subtle changes in the rankings. Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory lose the benefit of their strong resource exports. The ACT leads on relative economic growth from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and NSW.



Economic growth (state final demand plus trade) rolling annual nominal totals, percentage change year to December 2022 on the decade average.

Source: CommSec, ABS

Retail spending



Victoria retains top spot of the retail rankings, ahead of Queensland and NSW.

Victoria remains the strongest for retail spending

The measure used was real (inflation-adjusted) retail trade in seasonally adjusted terms with December quarter 2022 data the latest available.

Victoria leads on 'real' retail spending

A solid job market, rising wages, strong construction and renovation activity supported retail spending in the December quarter. Spending has lifted despite weak consumer sentiment, cost of living pressures and higher interest rates.

Victoria again leads the way on retail spending, up 16.2 per cent in the December quarter from its decade-average levels.

Queensland remains in second place with spending 15.2 per cent above its 'normal' levels or the decade average.

Moving from fourth to third spot is NSW with real spending up 14.0 per cent above decade-average levels.

The ACT is now in fourth position, with spending 13.9 per cent up on 'normal' levels. Tasmania remains in fifth position with spending up 12.9 per cent on the long-term average.

At the other end of the rankings, Northern Territory spending was up 0.3 per cent on the decade average, behind South Australia (up 10.1 per cent) and Western Australia (up 12.1 per cent).

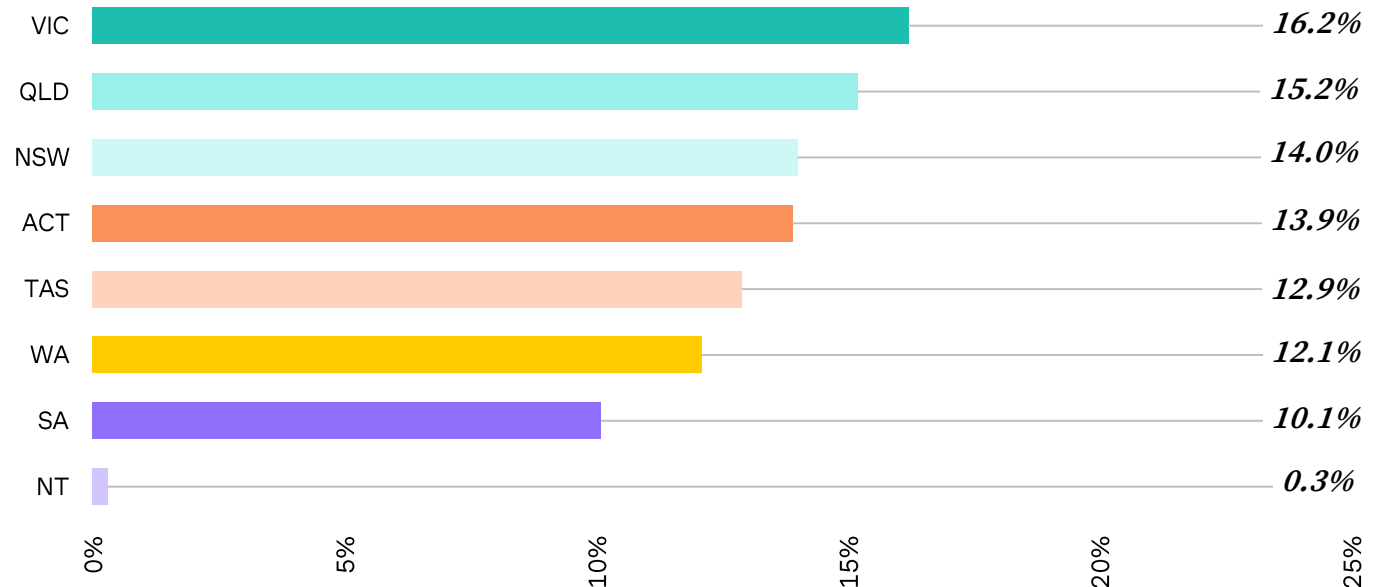
The ACT has the fastest annual growth

In terms of annual growth of real retail trade, the ACT is the strongest (up 5.0 per cent), ahead of NSW (up 2.4 per cent) and South Australia (up 2.3 per cent).

At the other end of the scale, retail spending in the Northern Territory was down 3.2 per cent, behind Tasmania (down 1.0 per cent), Western Australia (up 0.1 per cent), Queensland (up 1.4 per cent) and Victoria (up 2.1 per cent).

If monthly retail trade was assessed instead to calculate the rankings (February 2023 data is available), the ACT would be in top spot, ahead of Victoria, NSW and Western Australia.

In February, annual spending growth was fastest in the ACT (up 9.2 per cent) followed by Western Australia (up 8.8 per cent) and South Australia (up 7.2 per cent).



Real retail trade, percentage change December quarter, 2022 on the decade average.

Source: CommSec, ABS

Equipment investment



In the December quarter, equipment investment in Tasmania was 65.2 per cent above the decade average.

Record equipment investment in three states

The measure of equipment investment is real spending on new plant and equipment in trend terms with December quarter 2022 data compared with decade averages (the 'normal' performance).

In the December quarter, seven states and territories had equipment spending above or in line with decade-average levels—a result in line with the September quarter 2022 results.

Tasmania takes the lead

Equipment investment in Tasmania was up by 65.2 per cent on the decade average, ahead of South Australia (up 18.1 per cent). NSW remains in third position (up 14.2 per cent) with Western Australia fourth (up 14.0 per cent), ahead of Queensland (up 6.9 per cent).

At the other end of the table, equipment investment in the Northern Territory was down 38.5 per cent on the decade average with Victoria up 2.5 per cent, behind the ACT (up 2.9 per cent).

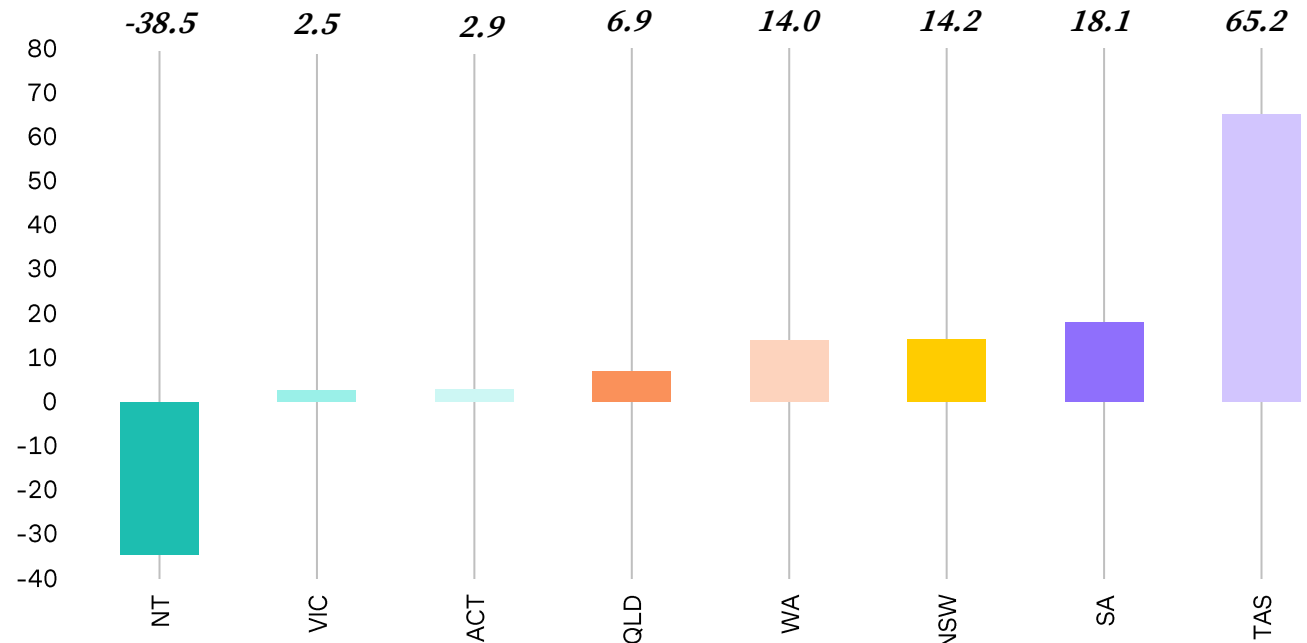
On a shorter-run analysis, real equipment investment in the December quarter was up on a year ago in four of the eight states and territories, compared with three economies in the September quarter 2022.

Equipment investment in Tasmania was up 14.4 per cent on the previous year, ahead of NSW (up 13.2 per cent); Queensland (up 6.6 per cent); and South Australia (up 1.3 per cent).

The Northern Territory lags

At the other end of the scale, new equipment investment in the Northern Territory was 34.6 per cent lower than a year ago, behind the ACT (down 29.2 per cent); Victoria (down 3.9 per cent); and Western Australia (down 3.5 per cent).

Equipment investment was at record highs in South Australia, NSW and Tasmania in the December quarter. But investment was at 16-year lows in the Northern Territory.



Equipment spending, percent change December quarter, 2022 on the decade average.
Source: CommSec, ABS

Unemployment



With unemployment at 37.7 per cent below its decade-average level, Tasmania has the strongest job market.

Tasmania has the strongest job market

Which state or territory has the strongest job market in the nation? It is not an easy question to answer. But we have looked at unemployment rates across state and territory economies, comparing the rates with the decade average.

On this measure, Tasmania has the strongest job market. Trend unemployment in Tasmania was 3.8 per cent in March 2023, 37.7 per cent below the decade average.

South Australia is now in second spot

Next best is South Australia, its 3.9 per cent jobless rate is 36.9 per cent below the decade average.

NSW comes next (36.5 per cent below the decade average), ahead of Queensland (35.5 per cent below the 10-year average) and Western Australia (33.3 per cent below the decade average).

At the other end of the scale, the Northern Territory jobless rate of 3.8 per cent is 13.1 per cent below the 4.4 per cent decade average rate.

Ahead of the Northern Territory is the ACT, its jobless rate of 2.9 per cent is 25.4 per cent below the decade average. The Western Australian jobless rate of 3.6 per cent is 33.3 per cent below the decade average.

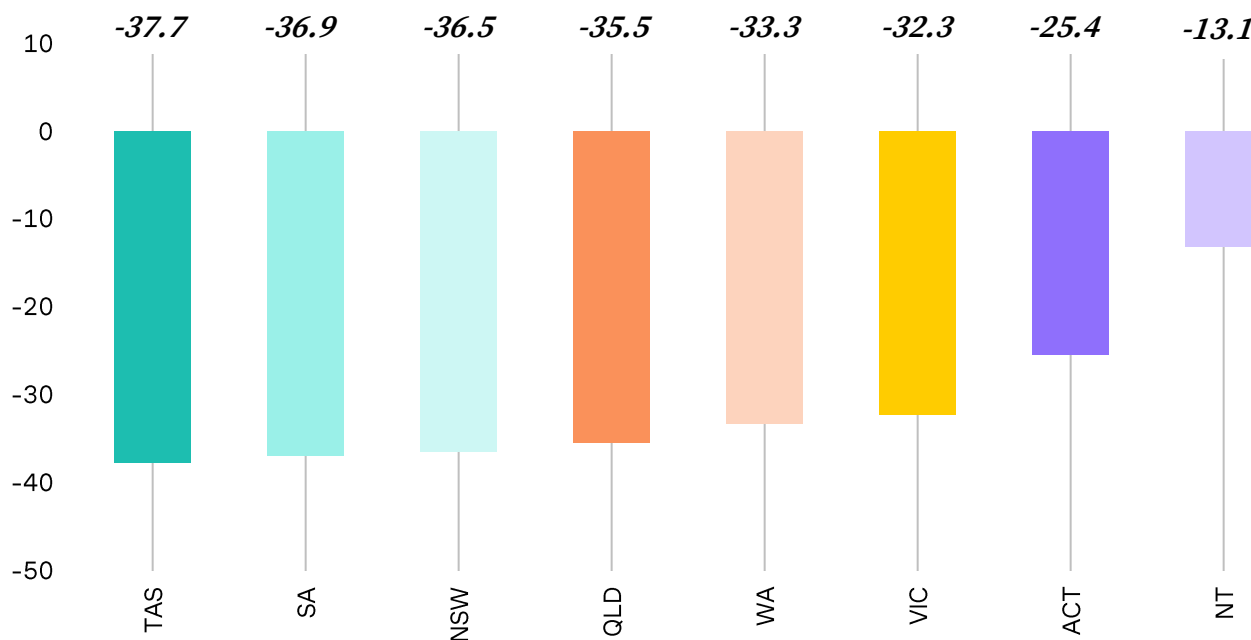
In March, employment in all the states and territories was above decade-average levels. Tasmania and the ACT were strongest on this measure with employment 14.0 per cent higher than the decade average.

The Northern Territory has fastest job growth

Looking over the year to March, employment in all states and territories recorded annual gains.

Performing best was the Northern Territory (up 5.1 per cent) ahead of the ACT (up by 5.0 per cent).

Tasmania was up by 4.1 per cent; South Australia (up by 3.8 per cent); NSW (up 3.6 per cent); Victoria (up 3.5 per cent); Queensland (up 2.1 per cent); and Western Australia (up 0.9 per cent).



Unemployment, trend, percent change in March 2023 on the decade average.

Source: CommSec, ABS

Construction work



South Australia retains top spot on construction work done.

South Australia remains strongest for construction work

The measure used for analysis was the total real value of residential, commercial and engineering work completed in trend terms in the December quarter 2022.

In five of the eight states and territories, construction work in the December quarter was higher than the decade average, a result in line with the previous quarter.

South Australia remains on top

South Australia has retained top spot for construction work done. In South Australia, construction work done is 18.2 per cent above its decade average, ahead of Victoria (up 17.3 per cent).

Tasmania comes next with work done 13.5 per cent above the decade average, ahead of NSW (up 7.4 per cent) and the ACT (up 0.4 per cent).

At the lower end of the scale, the Northern Territory construction work done in the December quarter was 52.8 per cent below the decade average.

Next lowest was Western Australia with construction work down 26.2 per cent on the decade average, behind Queensland (down 14.0 per cent).

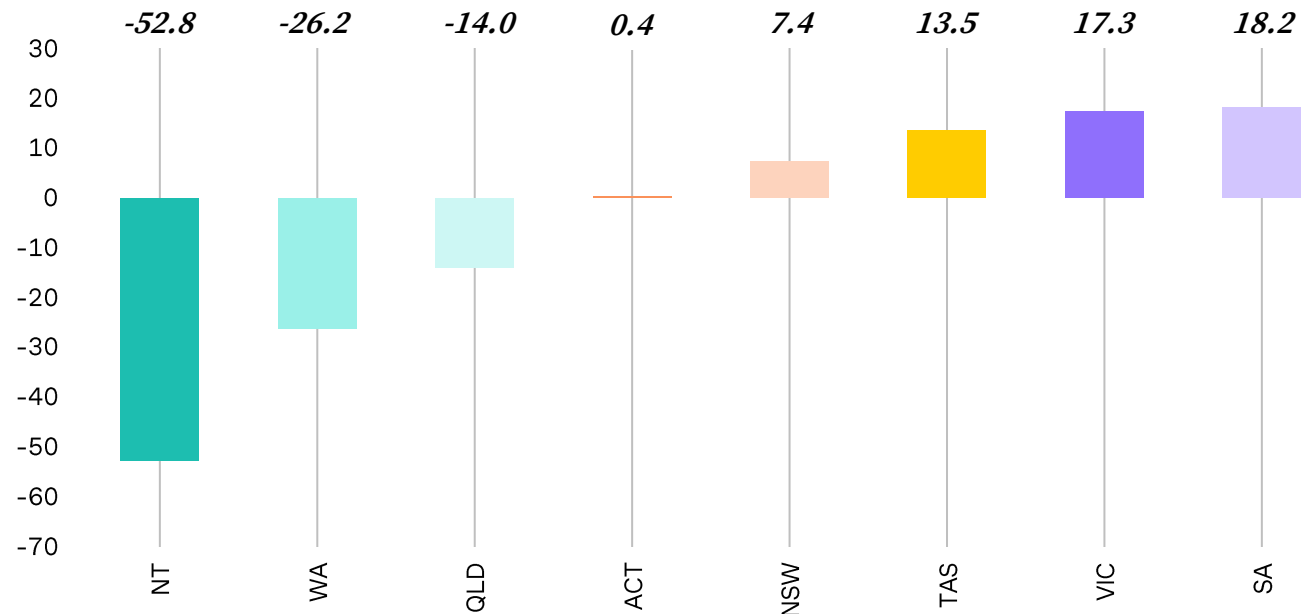
The ACT (down 2.1 per cent), South Australia (down 0.9 per cent) and Tasmania (down 0.6 per cent) posted weaker construction growth in the December quarter.

Western Australia leads annual growth

In terms of annual growth rates, four economies had construction work higher than a year ago. Western Australia was the strongest performer with construction work 5.4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Construction activity in NSW was up by 5.0 per cent on a year ago, ahead of Victoria (up 2.3 per cent); and the ACT (up 0.2 per cent).

At the other end of the scale, construction work was lower than a year ago in the Northern Territory (down 3.8 per cent) behind Tasmania (down 3.7 per cent); Queensland (down 1.0 per cent) and South Australia (down 0.2 per cent).



Construction work done, trend, percent change, December quarter 2022 on the decade average.

Source: CommSec, ABS

Population growth



South Australia has the highest relative population growth. Queensland has the highest absolute population growth.

South Australia now leads relative population growth

We assess relative population performance—the current annual growth rate and compare it to each economy’s decade average (‘normal’) growth pace. This is most relevant to the economic performance of each state or territory.

Population growth is clearly an important driver of the broader economy, especially retail spending and housing demand. With the ending of foreign border closures, annual population growth is lifting across states and territories. Now five states/territories have population growth above the decade average.

South Australia now in top spot

South Australia is now strongest on relative population growth, with its 1.40 per cent annual population growth rate 46.9 per cent above the decade average for the year to September quarter 2022 (latest available).

Queensland is now second on the relative annual population growth measure—the 2.18 per cent annual population growth rate is up 41.2 per cent on the decade average.

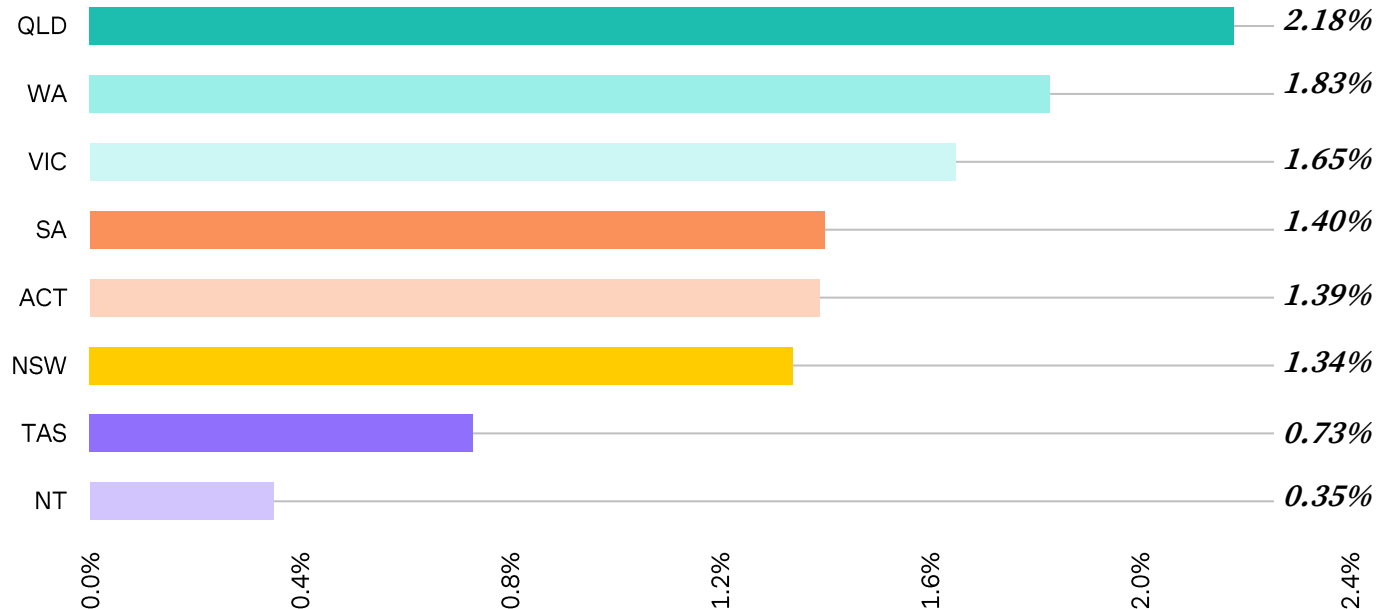
Next strongest was Western Australia (up 28.1 per cent), followed by NSW (up 21.1 per cent); Victoria (up 3.0 per cent); the ACT (down 29.3 per cent); Tasmania (down 33.9 per cent); and the Northern Territory (down 43.5 per cent).

The state with the fastest absolute annual population growth is still Queensland (up 2.18 per cent). Next strongest is still Western Australia (up 1.83 per cent), followed by Victoria (up 1.65 per cent); South Australia (up 1.40 per cent); the ACT (up 1.39 per cent); NSW (up 1.34 per cent); Tasmania (up 0.73 per cent); and the Northern Territory (up 0.35 per cent).

The 2.18 per cent annual population growth in Queensland is the strongest growth in 13 years.

The 1.34 per cent annual population growth in NSW is the fastest rate in five years.

In Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, annual population growth rates are the fastest since at least June quarter 2020.



Population, absolute annual percent change, September quarter 2022 (latest).

Source: CommSec, ABS

Housing finance



The ACT remains in top spot, with the value of home loans up by 16.4 per cent on the long-term average.

The ACT remains in top spot for home loans

The measure used was the trend value of owner-occupier housing finance commitments (home loans) excluding refinancing and this was compared with the decade average for each respective state and territory. February 2023 data is the latest available.

Housing finance is not just a leading indicator for real estate activity and housing construction, but it is also a useful indicator of activity in the financial sector.

It would be useful to compare figures on commercial, personal and lease finance, but long-term data is not yet available.

Housing finance above decade averages

In all but the Northern Territory, housing finance commitments remain above decade averages. In the previous report similar findings were obtained.

And home loans are still below year-ago levels in all states and territories.

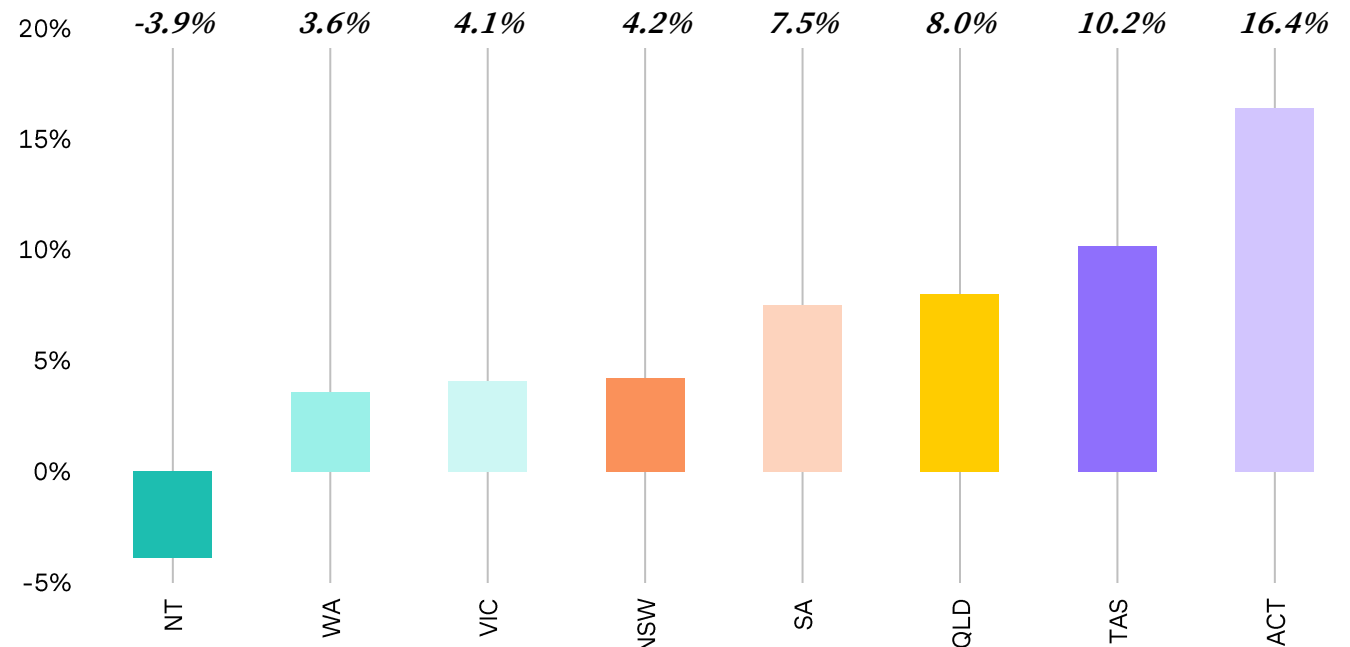
The ACT remains in top spot, with the value of home loans up by 16.4 per cent on the long-term average. Next strongest is Tasmania (up 10.2 per cent), ahead of Queensland (up 8.0 per cent) and South Australia (up 7.5 per cent).

The Northern Territory is weakest

The Northern Territory is still the weakest for housing finance with commitments 3.9 per cent lower than its decade average. Commitments in Western Australia were up 3.6 per cent on the decade average, behind Victoria (up 4.1 per cent) and NSW (up 4.2 per cent).

On an annual comparison, Tasmanian loans were down 16.2 per cent, followed by the Northern Territory (down 19 per cent) and South Australia (down 21.6 per cent).

Home loans in the ACT were down by 23.1 on a year ago, ahead of Western Australia (down 23.9 per cent); Queensland (down 25.8 per cent); NSW (down 31.1 per cent) and Victoria (down 33.8 per cent).



Housing finance commitments, percent change February 2023 on the decade average.
Source: CommSec, ABS

Dwelling starts



Dwelling starts in Tasmania in the December quarter were up 17.8 per cent on the decade average.

Tasmania now leads on dwelling starts

The measure used is the trend number of dwelling commencements (starts), with the comparison made to the decade-average level of starts. Housing starts are driven in part by population growth and housing finance, and can affect retail trade, unemployment and overall economic growth. However, any over-building or under-building in previous years can affect the current level of starts.

Tasmania is now in top spot

Tasmania is now in top position on dwelling starts. In the December quarter 2022, starts in Tasmania were 17.8 per cent above the decade average. And South Australia has slipped from first to second spot, with starts now 9.1 per cent above the decade average.

ACT is now in third spot with starts down 12.6 per cent on the decade average.

At the other end of the scale, dwelling starts in the Northern Territory were 40.3 per cent below the decade average.

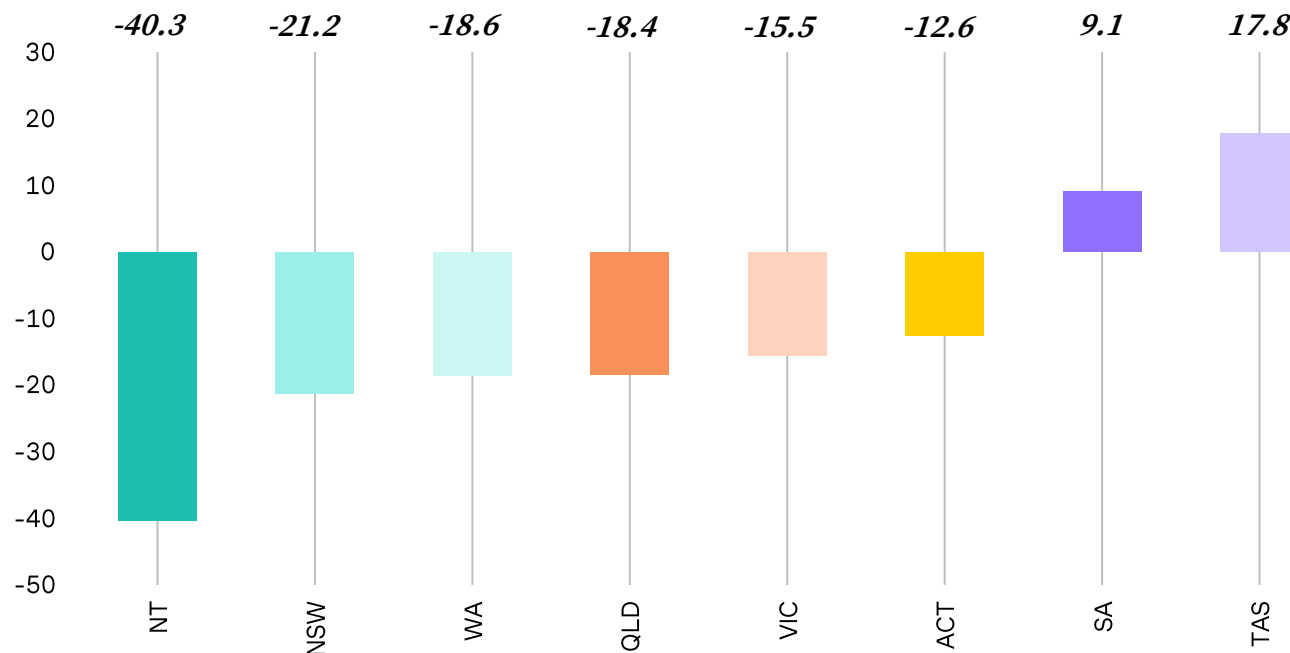
Next weakest was NSW (down 21.2 per cent); Western Australia (down 18.6 per cent); Queensland (down 18.4 per cent); and Victoria (down 15.5 per cent).

In terms of quarterly changes, all but Tasmania posted declines. The ACT fell the most, down 18.3 per cent, while starts in Victoria fell 8.7 per cent. But starts in Tasmania rose by 0.4 per cent in the December quarter.

Sharp lift in Northern Territory dwelling starts

In terms of annual changes, only the Northern Territory posted gains over the year to December 2022. Starts in the Northern Territory lifted 35.5 per cent while starts in South Australia fell by 6.9 per cent and Tasmanian starts fell by 10.6 per cent.

Starts in Victoria fell most over the year, down 28.2 per cent. Starts fell 27 per cent in Western Australia followed by Queensland (down 21 per cent); the ACT (down 19.8 per cent) and NSW (down 17.7 per cent).

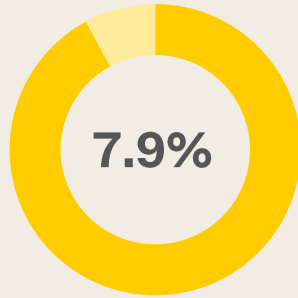


Dwelling starts, trend, percent change, December quarter 2022 on decade average

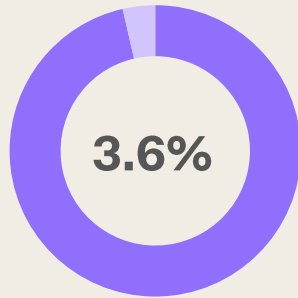
Source: CommSec, ABS

Other indicators

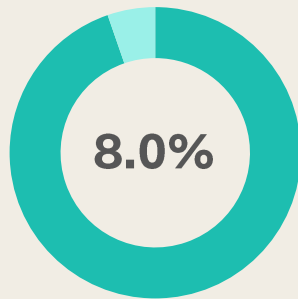
Highest inflation rate in Adelaide, SA



Fastest wage growth in Tasmania & WA



National home prices fell by



Adelaide, SA posts biggest lift in consumer prices

Annual percentage changes of consumer prices eased across all capital cities in the March quarter of 2023.

Adelaide, SA had the highest annual inflation rate in the March quarter 2023 at 7.9 per cent, ahead of Brisbane, QLD (7.4 per cent) and Sydney, NSW (7.3 per cent).

Data on wages is not yet available for the March quarter. But in the December quarter 2022 the elevated headline annual inflation rates and modest wage growth rates meant that all states and territories had negative real wage growth (the gap between wage growth and inflation).

Nationally in the March quarter 2023, consumer prices rose 1.4 per cent, with the annual rate falling from 7.8 per cent to 7.0 per cent. The underlying (or trimmed mean) measure rose 1.2 per cent in the quarter with the annual rate down from 6.9 per cent to 6.6 per cent.

The official Wage Cost Index in the year to the December quarter 2022 was strongest in Western Australia and Tasmania (3.6 per cent), ahead of South Australia (up 3.5 per cent).

	CPI Mar Qtr. 2023	Wages Dec Qtr. 2022	Home Prices March 2023
NSW	7.3	3.3	-11.3
VIC	6.8	3.4	-8.6
QLD	7.4	3.4	-6.8
SA	7.9	3.5	4.1
WA	5.8	3.6	2.3
TAS	6.9	3.6	-9.0
NT	6.2	2.6	2.0
ACT	6.2	2.9	-8.1

*Annual % change.

Source: ABS, CoreLogic, CommSec. CPI—Consumer Price Index. Wages—Wage Price Index.

Wages in both Victoria and Queensland were up 3.4 per cent, ahead of NSW (up 3.3 per cent)

The lowest annual wage growth was in the Northern Territory (2.6 per cent), behind the ACT (2.9 per cent).

Slower growth of home prices

Turning to home prices, in March 2023 five of the states and territories posted annual declines in home prices. Also, the annual price change of homes weakened in all economies in the latest month compared with three months earlier.

National home prices fell by 8.0 per cent over the year to March, the biggest annual fall in 41 years of data.

The strongest annual growth in home prices was in South Australia (up 4.1 per cent); followed by Western Australia (up 2.3 per cent); and the Northern Territory (up 2.0 per cent).

Home prices fell in NSW over the past year (down 11.3 per cent); followed by Tasmania (down 9.0 per cent); Victoria (down 8.6 per cent); the ACT (down 8.1 per cent); and Queensland (down 6.8 per cent).



South Australia

The fastest annual lift in home prices was in South Australia, up 4.1%.

Annual growth rates

Queensland, the Northern Territory and Tasmania lead annual changes on two of the key economic indicators.

Growth leaders

The State of the States report assesses economic performance by looking at the most recent result—such as retail trade or construction—and compares that with the ‘normal experience’. And by ‘normal experience’, we define this as the decade average.

A resident of the state or territory can therefore assess whether they are experiencing relatively better economic times. Comparing states or territories on the same criteria determines which state or territory is performing the best on a certain indicator.

In addition to relative economic performance, some are also interested in economic momentum. That is, annual changes to the key indicators. A state/territory may have been under-performing, but if annual growth is strengthening, then this suggests that performance has scope to improve.


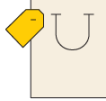


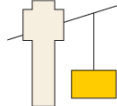

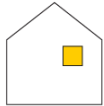
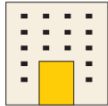
Mixed results

Of the eight indicators assessed, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Queensland each led annual changes on two of the eight economic indicators. And the ACT and Western Australia each led on one indicator.

Notably, when looking across annual growth rates, NSW exceeded the *national average* on six of the eight indicators.

Next best was Queensland, exceeding the national annual growth rate on five of the eight indicators.

South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT led the national average on four indicators. Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria exceeded the national average growth rate on three indicators.

	 Economic growth	 Retail spending	 Equipment investment	 Employment growth	 Construction work	 Population growth	 Housing finance	 Dwelling starts
NSW	14.3	2.4	13.2	3.6	5.0	1.34	-31.1	-17.7
VIC	9.7	2.1	-3.9	3.5	2.3	1.65	-33.8	-28.2
QLD	18.5	1.4	6.6	2.1	-1.0	2.18	-25.8	-21.0
SA	9.5	2.3	1.3	3.8	-0.2	1.40	-21.6	-6.9
WA	8.1	0.1	-3.5	0.9	5.4	1.83	-23.9	-27.0
TAS	7.3	-1.0	14.4	4.1	-3.7	0.73	-16.2	-10.6
NT	10.4	-3.2	-34.6	5.1	-3.8	0.35	-19.0	35.5
ACT	8.9	5.0	-29.2	5.0	0.2	1.39	-23.1	-19.8
Aust	12.3	1.8	2.6	3.1	2.3	1.63	-30.1	-21.9

Looking ahead

Tasmania is again the best performing economy, leading on three of the eight indicators.

New auto sales; Looking ahead

Timely data on new vehicle sales is available on a monthly basis. The latest data covers March 2023. We don't include vehicle sales in assessing overall economic performance as we assess other data on consumer spending. But the data is worth noting.

In three of the states and territories, rolling annual new vehicle sales are above 'normal'. Queensland is doing best with vehicle sales up by 5.2 per cent on the decade average. Looking at the yearly change of the rolling annual sum of new vehicle sales, all economies recorded growth except Tasmania. Doing best is the ACT, up 5.2 per cent on a year ago.

Little separating top three economies

There is little to separate Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia at the top of the economic leader board. And that result doesn't look like changing in the next six months.

Relative weakness on population growth may put Tasmania's position under threat although its job market remains strong.

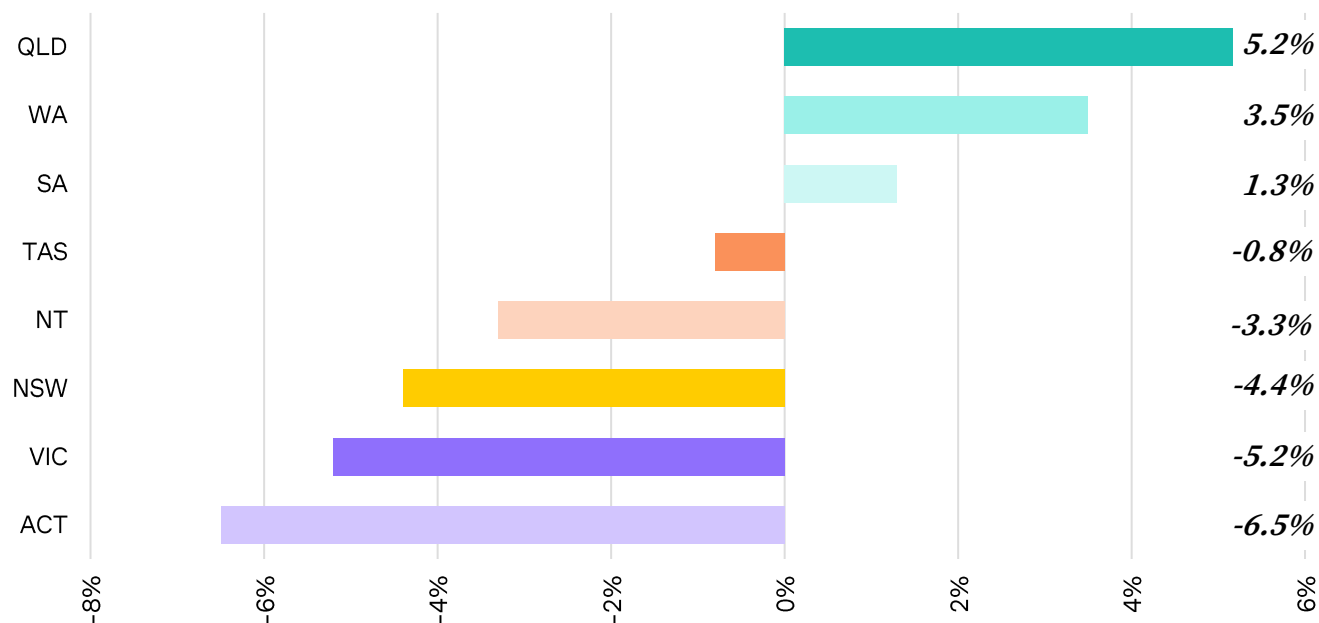
Tasmania leads the rankings again from South Australia and Queensland in joint second. In fourth position is NSW from Victoria and Western Australia in joint fifth. The ACT is seventh ahead of the Northern Territory in eighth spot.

Where to from here?

Last report we noted that housing and job markets would prove crucial to the performance of state and territory economies. A solid job market provides valuable support for the key indicators of housing purchase, new home building and retail trade.

Certainly the strength in jobs and housing starts was important in lifting Tasmania to top spot again and in consolidating South Australia in the top three economies. Queensland lost ground to these states on those indicators.

Looking ahead, the potential for stimulus in the Chinese economy will be important for resources and tourism-focused states.



Motor vehicle registrations, percent change in year to March 2023 on the decade average.

Source: CommSec, ABS, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries



CommSec

State of the States

Methodology

Each of the states and territory economies were assessed on eight key indicators: economic growth; retail spending; equipment investment; unemployment, construction work done; population growth; housing finance and dwelling commencements.

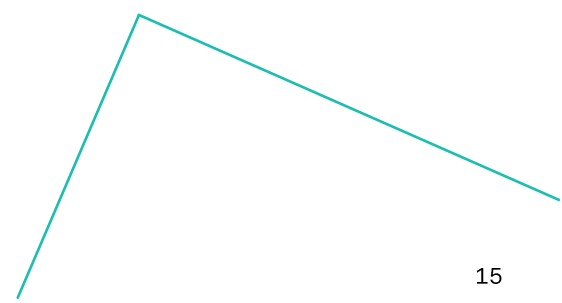
The aim is to find how each economy is performing compared with 'normal'. Similar to what the Reserve Bank does with interest rates, we used decade averages to judge the 'normal' state of affairs. For each economy, the latest level of the indicator—such as retail spending or economic growth—was compared with the decade average.

While we also looked at the current pace of growth to assess economic momentum, it may yield perverse results to judge performance. For instance, retail spending may be up sharply on a year ago but from depressed levels. Overall spending may still be well below 'normal'.

And clearly some states, such as Queensland and Western Australia, traditionally have had faster economic growth rates due to historically faster population growth. So the best way to assess economic performance is to look at each indicator in relation to what would be considered 'normal' for that state or territory.

For instance, the trend jobless rate in the ACT stood at 2.9 per cent in March with Tasmania's jobless rate at 3.8 per cent. However, Tasmania's unemployment rate was 37.7 per cent below its decade average, while the ACT jobless rate was 25.4 per cent below its decade average. So Tasmania ranks above the ACT on this indicator.

Except for economic growth, seasonally adjusted or trend measures of the economic indicators were used to assess performance on all measures. While preference was for trend measures, in many cases these have been suspended in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. Rolling annual nominal data was used to assess economic growth.



State of the States



State and Territory Economic Performance Report

Contacts

Craig James
Chief Economist

 @CommSec

Ryan Felsman
Senior Economist

 @CommSec

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