

---

---

## **6. Household Expenditure on Culture**

---

---

The most comprehensive source of data on household cultural expenditure is the ABS Household Expenditure Survey. This survey, which is conducted about every five years, records the expenditure of households rather than individuals. This is because some expenditure (e.g. housing, furniture, televisions) is often for the benefit of everyone in the household and so cannot be attributed in a meaningful way to any particular person in the household.

The latest available data relates to the 2003–04 financial year. Households in NT spent an average of \$47.46 per week in 2003–04 on 'cultural' items. This included almost \$20 per week on items such as television, video and photographic equipment and over \$11 per week on broadcasting, electronic media and film. Weekly household expenditure on culture in NT was higher than the national average (\$47.46 compared with \$36.39). Total expenditure on cultural goods and services by the 56,200 households in NT during 2003–04 was \$139m.

In 1998-99, the ABS Household Expenditure Survey showed that households in NT spent an average of \$36.27 per week on cultural items (note this figure is in 1998-98 prices and has not been adjusted for inflation).

## 6.1 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE, NT and Australia, 2003–04

	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.....		TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.....	
	NT(a)(\$)	Australia (\$)	NT(a) (\$m)	Australia (\$m)
<b>Literature</b>				
Books	4.17	3.94	12	1 589
Newspapers	2.70	2.56	8	1 033
Magazines and comics	1.65	1.80	5	726
<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>8.65</i>	<i>8.43</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>3 400</i>
<b>Music</b>				
Pre-recorded compact discs and records (audio)	*3.30	1.60	10	645
Audio-cassettes and tapes	**0.08	0.05	–	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>*3.38</i>	<i>1.65</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>666</i>
<b>Performing arts</b>				
Live theatre fees and charges	*0.56	0.87	2	351
<i>Total(c)</i>	<i>*1.38</i>	<i>1.59</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>641</i>
<b>Visual arts and crafts</b>				
Paintings, carvings and sculptures	*0.58	0.70	2	282
Art and craft materials	*0.97	0.46	3	186
<i>Total(d)</i>	<i>1.70</i>	<i>1.66</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>670</i>
<b>Broadcasting, electronic media and film</b>				
Hire of video cassette tapes and TV and computer games	1.73	1.17	5	472
Pre-recorded video cassettes and video discs	2.32	2.08	7	839
Cinema fees and charges	2.36	1.93	7	778
Pay TV fees	4.78	2.69	14	1 085
<i>Total</i>	<i>11.19</i>	<i>7.87</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>3 174</i>
<b>Other arts</b>				
Culture course	*0.81	1.14	2	460
<i>Total(e)</i>	<i>*1.06</i>	<i>1.86</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>750</i>
Heritage(f)	**0.28	0.39	1	157
<b>Other culture</b>				
Audio equipment	**2.11	1.26	6	508
Televisions and home entertainment systems	*7.77	4.74	23	1 912
Video cassette recorders	*0.39	0.36	1	145
Other video equipment	*4.29	2.70	13	1 089
Blank video cassettes and video discs	*0.15	0.21	–	85
Audiovisual equipment and personal computer repairs insurance	0.16	0.09	–	36
Photographic film and chemicals (including developing)	1.34	1.07	4	432
<i>Total(g)</i>	<i>19.82</i>	<i>12.94</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>5 219</i>
<b>Total expenditure on culture</b>	<b>47.46</b>	<b>36.39</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>14 678</b>

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Households in collection districts defined as very remote or Indigenous communities were excluded, accounting for about 23% of the population in the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes other printed material.

(c) Includes music concert fees and charges.

(d) Includes studio and other professional photography.

(e) Includes musical instruments and accessories, and cultural fees and charges n.e.c.

(f) Comprises art gallery, museum, national park and zoo fees and charges.

(g) Includes television aerials, audiovisual equipment and parts n.e.c., hire of televisions and video cassette recorders, repair and maintenance of audiovisual equipment, and photographic equipment.

Source: ABS, *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items, 2003–04 (cat. no. 6535.0)*; and data available on request.