

Summary

When comparing the December quarter 2008 to the December quarter 2007, guest nights increased by 0.1%, takings in the Territory increased by 6.1% and room occupancy rates decreased by 3.8 percentage points to 60.2%.

	NT	Aust
Guest Nights (original data)		
Change in the quarter	↓ 25.6%	↑ 1.2%
Change over the year	↑ 0.1%	↓ 0.7%

In the December quarter 2008, guest nights in the Territory decreased 25.6% to 634 400 and increased 1.2% to \$23.5M nationally. In comparison to the December quarter 2007, Territory guest nights increased 0.1% and decreased nationally by 0.7% (see Chart 1). This is attributed to standard seasonal patterns for this time of year.

Despite an estimated decline in international visitor numbers to the Territory over this year, demand may have been supported by increased short term accommodation requirements relating to the Commonwealth's Territory Emergency Response and Territory Government's 'Closing the Gap' initiatives.

	NT	Aust
Takings (original data)		
Change in the quarter	↓ 35.7%	↑ 1.5%
Change in the year	↑ 12.5%	↑ 6.1%

In the quarter, takings in the Territory decreased by 35.7% to \$55M and increased nationally by 1.5% to \$2044M. The Territory's increased takings in the year was the second highest growth rate of the jurisdictions, behind Western Australia (see Chart 2).

Takings decreased in the December quarter 2008 in:

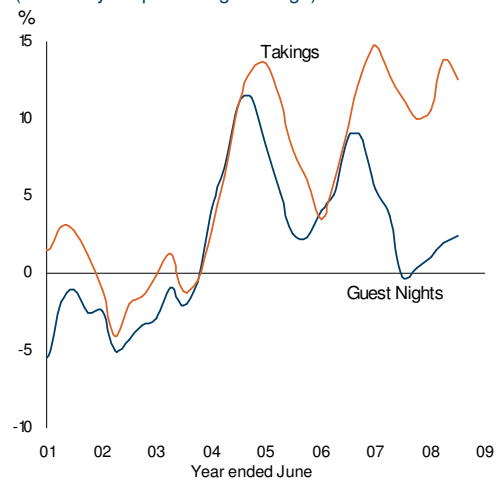
- Darwin by 46% to \$27M;
- Katherine by 34.6% to \$2M;
- Rest of the NT by 20.8% to \$17M; and
- Alice Springs by 18.2% to \$9M.

	NT	Aust
Room Occupancy Rates		
Rate in the quarter	60.2%	65.1%
Annual ppt change	↓3.8ppt	↓1.7ppt

Average Territory room occupancy rates decreased by 3.8 percentage points in the Territory to 65.7% in the December quarter 2008, and decreased by 1.7 percentage points to 65.1% nationally when compared with the December quarter 2007.

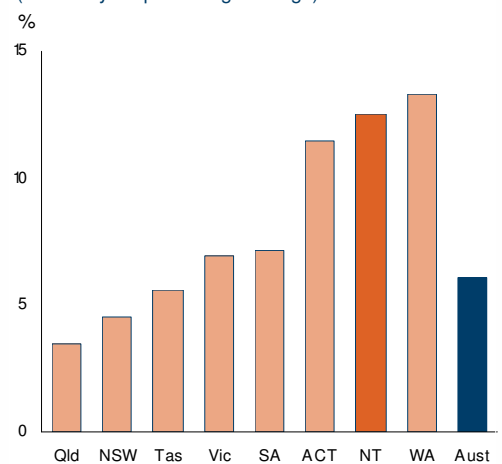
Nevertheless, the decreases in room occupancy rates may be attributed to the increased accommodation capacity and the increased length of stay by visitors to the Territory.

Chart 1: Territory Tourist Accommodation
(Year on year percentage change)



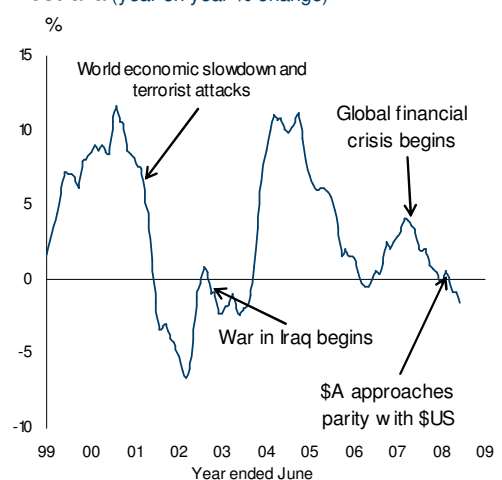
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8635.0

Chart 2: Tourist Accommodation Takings
(Year on year percentage change)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 8635.0

Chart 3: Short term overseas visitors to Australia
(year on year % change)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 3401

Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments (15 or more rooms)

	December Quarter		change		
	quarter	year to date	quarterly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
original					
<i>takings (\$m)</i>	55	245	-35.7%	6.1%	12.5%
- Darwin	27	129	-46.0%	14.7%	21.4%
- Alice Springs	9	35	-18.2%	6.9%	9.7%
- Katherine	2	10	-34.6%	13.2%	18.0%
- Rest of NT	17	70	-20.8%	-6.0%	-0.4%
<i>room occup. rate</i>	60.2%	65.7%	-18.0 ppt	-3.8 ppt	0.6 ppt
- Darwin	67.0%	74.6%	-22.1 ppt	-4.7 ppt	0.8 ppt
- Alice Springs	58.6%	64.3%	-17.2 ppt	-2.1 ppt	2.9 ppt
- Katherine	49.1%	54.2%	-19.1 ppt	-0.8 ppt	1.6 ppt
- Rest of NT	51.9%	54.6%	-10.6 ppt	-6.9 ppt	-3.4 ppt
<i>guest nights</i>	634 400	2 729 700	-25.6%	0.1%	2.4%
- Darwin	312 988	1 343 322	-29.3%	7.0%	6.9%
- Alice Springs	126 145	555 298	-21.4%	-5.2%	1.4%
- Katherine	41 593	187 447	-32.1%	-1.1%	-0.2%
- Rest of NT	153 674	643 633	-18.3%	-7.4%	-4.3%
seasonally adj					
<i>takings (\$m)</i>	61	244	-3.6%	6.3%	
<i>room occup. rate</i>	63.6%	66.1%	-0.6 ppt	-5.1 ppt	
trend					
<i>takings (\$m)</i>	62	244	-1.3%	10.7%	
<i>room occup. rate</i>	63.4%	66.7%	-1.8 ppt	-2.5 ppt	
Australia (original)					
<i>takings (\$m)</i>	2 044	7 897	1.5%	2.2%	6.1%
<i>new south wales</i>	649	2 527	3.7%	-0.2%	4.5%
<i>victoria</i>	364	1 433	4.3%	3.1%	6.9%
<i>queensland</i>	556	2 086	-1.6%	0.7%	3.5%
<i>south australia</i>	94	358	9.2%	5.2%	7.1%
<i>western australia</i>	220	848	3.1%	6.2%	13.3%
<i>tasmania</i>	53	188	48.2%	4.5%	5.6%
<i>northern territory</i>	55	245	-35.7%	6.1%	12.5%
<i>act</i>	52	212	-0.8%	14.2%	11.5%

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 monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 8635.0

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.