

Gross domestic product – overview for the December 2018 quarter

GDP⁽¹⁾ was up 0.6 percent in the December 2018 quarter

Activity in the service industries (about 66 percent of GDP) grew 0.9 percent.

Retail, accommodation, and restaurants activity grew 2.5 percent, with retail trade up 2.0 percent. Accommodation, restaurants, and bars activity was up 3.8 percent.

Transport, postal, and warehousing grew 3.2 percent, driven mainly by road transport.

Rental, hiring, and real estate services grew 1.1 percent after a 0.2 percent increase in the September 2018 quarter. Non-residential property operation activity was the largest contributor to growth.

Activity in the goods-producing industries (about 19 percent of GDP) rose 0.2 percent.

Construction grew 1.8 percent after a 0.6 percent fall in the September quarter.

Manufacturing activity was down 0.4 percent. Increased production in the wood and paper products industry (3.2 percent) was not enough to counter falls in petroleum, chemical, polymer, and rubber product manufacturing (down 1.7 percent), food, beverages, and tobacco (down 0.8 percent), and non-metallic mineral product manufacturing (down 4.9 percent).

Electricity, gas, water, and waste services activity was down 1.1 percent, with electricity generation and on-selling being the main driver.

Activity in the primary industries (about 7 percent of GDP) fell 0.8 percent.

Production in all four primary industries declined in the quarter.

Agriculture activity was down 1.3 percent.

Mining activity fell 1.7 percent.

Forestry and logging activity dropped 1.6 percent.

Fishing activity fell 0.9 percent.

1. The percentage contributions do not sum to 100 percent as GDP also includes unallocated taxes on production (eg import duties and GST), which is about 9 percent of GDP.

GDE was up 0.5 percent in the December 2018 quarter

Spending by households (about 60 percent of GDE) rose 1.3 percent this quarter.

Spending on services increased 1.3 percent, driven by increased spending on restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food, and rents.

Spending on non-durable goods was also up 1.3 percent, driven by increased spending on alcoholic beverages, and fruit and vegetables.

Spending on durable goods rose by a more moderate 0.6 percent, driven by increased expenditure on clothing and footwear, and audio-visual equipment.

Investment in fixed assets rose 1.4 percent.

Investment in intangibles (software, research and development, and exploration), rose 5.2 percent.

Investment in plant, machinery and equipment was up 2.0 percent.

Investment in residential and non-residential building rose 2.1 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Investment in transport equipment fell 8.9 percent after two successive quarterly rises.

Exports of goods and services was up 1.1 percent. Imports of goods and services fell 0.7 percent.

Exports of goods were up 0.9 percent, due largely to an 8.1 percent increase in exports of other food, beverages, and tobacco.

Exports of services were up 1.3 percent.

Imports of goods fell 1.1 percent with declines in passenger motor cars (down 17 percent) and intermediate goods (down 3.1 percent), more than offsetting increased imports of consumption goods (up 4.2 percent).

Imports of services were up 3.5 percent.