Gross domestic product - overview for March 2019 quarter

GDP⁽¹⁾ was up 0.6 percent in the March 2019 quarter

Activity in the goods-producing industries (about 19 percent of GDP) rose 2.0 percent.

Activity in the service industries (about 66 percent of GDP) grew 0.2 percent.

Activity in the primary industries (about 7 percent of GDP) fell 0.7 percent.

Construction grew 3.7 percent. Activity increased in construction services, non-residential, and residential construction. Partly offsetting the rises was a fall in heavy and civil construction.

Manufacturing activity was up 1.4 percent. The biggest drivers were food, beverage, and tobacco manufacturing (up 3.8 percent), metal product manufacturing (up 3.5 percent), and non-metallic mineral manufacturing (up 6.7 percent). There was a fall in transport equipment, machinery, and equipment manufacturing (down 2.1 percent).

Electricity, gas, water, and waste services grew 0.1 percent.

Health care and social assistance rose 1.7 percent, driven largely by residential care services and social assistance.

Transport, postal, and warehousing rose 1.2 percent, driven by transport support services, and road transport.

Retail, accommodation, and restaurants fell 0.5 percent. Accommodation, restaurants and bars activity fell 2.6 percent after strong growth in the previous quarter.

Information media and telecommunications was down 0.6 percent.

Rental, hiring, and real estate services declined 0.2 percent.

Agriculture activity was down 2.3 percent. Dairy cattle farming was the main downward driver followed by sheep, and cattle farming.

Mining activity rose 9.6 percent. This was due to strong growth in exploration and other mining services, and oil and gas extraction.

Forestry and logging activity fell 1.2 percent.

Fishing activity fell 0.4 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 0.8 percent in the March 2019 quarter

Spending by households (about 60 percent of GDE) rose 0.5 percent.

Investment in fixed assets rose 2.4 percent.

Exports of goods and services rose 2.8 percent. Imports of goods and services rose 0.7 percent.

Spending on durable goods rose 1.4 percent, driven by increased expenditure on furniture, floor coverings, etc and clothing.

Spending on services increased 0.3 percent, driven by increased spending on welfare and hospital services. This was offset by falls in recreational and accommodation services.

Spending on non-durable goods was up 0.4 percent, driven by increased spending on grocery food and petrol.

Investment in residential and non-residential buildings rose 2.7 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively. Other construction fell 6.4 percent.

Investment in transport equipment fell 8.0 percent, the second consecutive quarterly fall. This fall is not unusual for a March quarter.

Business investment rose 1.9 percent.

Exports of goods were up 5.3 percent due largely to a 16.3 percent increase in exports of dairy products and a 3.0 percent rise in other food, beverages, and tobacco.

Exports of services were down 1.2 percent.

Imports of goods rose 0.6 percent driven by the 6.8 percent increase in capital goods.

Imports of services were down 1.4 percent.