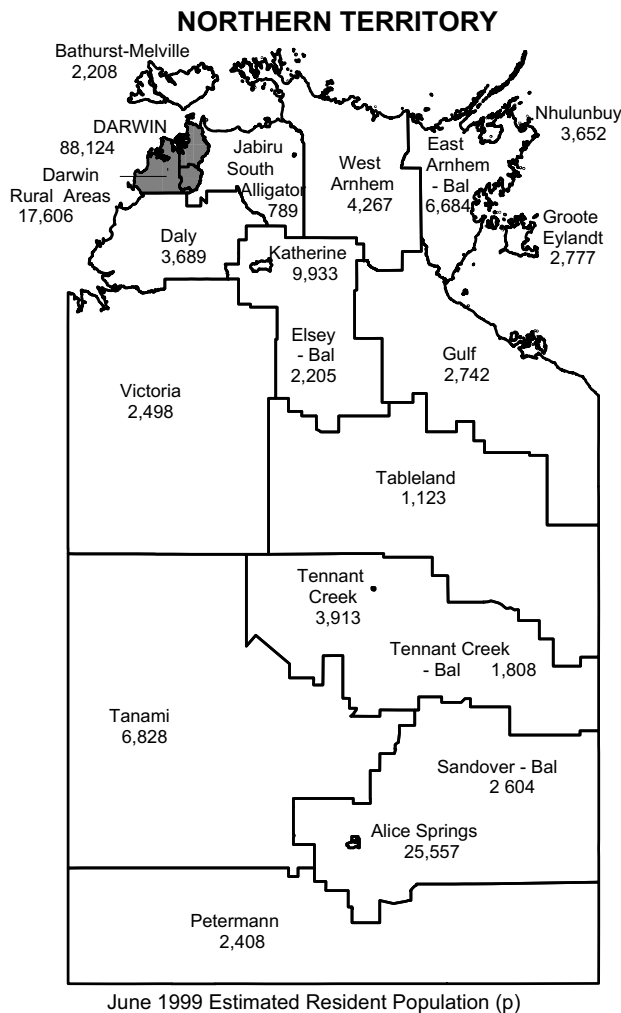


The Northern Territory (NT) comprises a land area of 1,346,200 square kilometres. It is the third largest of the States and Territories after Western Australia and Queensland, yet has the smallest population and population density.

Darwin the capital, has an estimated population of 88,124. It is the commercial and administrative center of the territory. Mining, tourism and defence are the largest contributors to the NT economy. Darwin is as close to Singapore and Manila as it is to Sydney and Melbourne.

Alice Springs is the largest regional population centre outside Darwin with a population of 25,557 and is the base for significant tourism activities in the central region. Tourism infrastructure is well developed in Alice Springs, Yulara and other local destinations. Almost half of the Territory's 1,280,000 visitors in 1998/99 visited the Centre.



## CLIMATE

		Darwin	Alice Springs
Mean annual rainfall	mm	1707	277
Mean annual temperature			
min	°C	23.2	13.2
max	°C	31.9	28.6
Mean annual relative humidity			
9.00 a.m.	%	72.7	41.6
3.00 p.m.	%	53.8	23.5

Highest daily rainfall 544.6mm was recorded at Roper River Station in 1963

Highest maximum temperature 48.30C was recorded at Finke in 1960

Lowest minimum temperature -7.50C was recorded at Alice Springs in 1976

## DEMOGRAPHY

Estimated Resident Population (30 June)		1998	1999(p)
Darwin City	no.	69 280	68 463
Palmerston	no.	17 270	19 661
Darwin Rural Areas	no.	17 013	17 606
Nhulunbuy	no.	3 718	3 652
Katherine	no.	9 853	9 933
Tennant Creek	no.	3 861	3 913
Alice Springs	no.	25 515	25 557
Northern Territory	no.	189 937	192 882
Indigenous Population (Census Counts)		1991	1996
Darwin Statistical Division	no.	6 179	7 368
Katherine	no.	1 478	1 623
Tennant Creek	no.	928	1 517
Alice Springs	no.	3 708	3 911
Northern Territory	no.	39 910	46 277
Vital Statistics (calendar year)		1997	1998
Births	no.	3 588	3 641
Rate per 1 000 population		19.2	19.2
Deaths	no.	891	871
Rate per 1 000 population		4.8	4.6
Marriages	no.	786	815
Rate per 1 000 population		4.2	4.3
Divorces granted	no.	416	457
Rate per 1 000 population		2.2	2.4

## CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals		1997-98	1998-99
New houses	no.	1 254	1 527
New other residential buildings	no.	964	691
Total building	\$m	548.8	500.9
Building completions			
New houses	no.	1 142	1 383
New other residential buildings	no.	859	793
Total building	\$m	464.1	553.6

## EDUCATION

		1998	1999
Schools	no.	179	182
Teaching staff	no.	2720	2 796
Students	no.	36 705	36 766

## LABOUR

<b>Labour Force (trend estimate)</b>		<b>Jan 1999</b>	<b>Jan 2000</b>
Employed persons	no.	95 500	91 100
Unemployed persons	no.	4 000	4 600
Unemployment rate	%	4.0	4.8
Participation rate	%	72.5	68.5
Labour force	no.	99 500	95 700
Civilian population aged 15 and over	no.	137 100	139 700
<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>		<b>Aug 1998</b>	<b>Aug 1999</b>
All males total earnings	\$	681.10	693.40
All females total earnings	\$	526.30	534.10
All employees total earnings	\$	607.20	617.50

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

		<b>May 1998</b>	<b>May 1999</b>
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	no.	4 929	3 565
Mining	no.	3 153	2 450
Manufacturing	no.	3 100	3 974
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	no.	418	360
Construction	no.	7 514	8 479
Wholesale Trade	no.	3 865	3 046
Retail Trade	no.	13 379	14 149
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	no.	5 259	4 942
Transport and Storage	no.	4 125	4 081
Communication Services	no.	1 256	1 733
Finance and Insurance	no.	1 584	1 995
Property and Business Services	no.	8 181	8 345
Government Administration & Defence	no.	8 553	10 637
Education	no.	7 852	8 297
Health and Community Services	no.	8 684	8 687
Cultural and Recreational Services	no.	2 540	3 154
Personal and Other Services	no.	6 429	8 393
Total	no.	90 819	96 287

## MANUFACTURING

		<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>
Wages and salaries	\$m	114.9	135.8
Turnover	\$m	915.6	995.8

## OVERSEAS TRADE

<b>Value of NT Imports from</b>		<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>
Canada	\$m	31.319	3.688
China	\$m	2.760	2.891
Indonesia	\$m	8.871	14.823
Japan	\$m	96.426	76.960
Malaysia	\$m	5.953	8.012
Philippines	\$m	0.992	0.777
United Kingdom	\$m	48.410	24.640
USA	\$m	125.102	86.622
Total all countries	\$m	656.863	494.720
<b>Value of NT exports to</b>			
Canada	\$m	90.122	101.399
China	\$m	144.833	177.568
Indonesia	\$m	49.048	96.228
Japan	\$m	163.686	140.762
Malaysia	\$m	7.615	9.883
Philippines	\$m	60.465	59.432
United Kingdom	\$m	68.784	76.322
USA	\$m	263.311	181.081
Total all countries	\$m	1 198.656	1 241.096

## PRICES—DARWIN

		1997-98	1998-99
Consumer Price Index (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)		121.3	122.4
Established House Price Index (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)		198.9	193.6
<b>Average Retail Prices—Darwin (cents)</b>		<b>Sept qtr 1998</b>	<b>Sept qtr 1999</b>
Milk, carton	1 litre	122	141
Bread, white loaf, sliced	680g	210	219
Rump steak	1kg	1 209	1122
Potatoes	1kg	108	128
Eggs - dozen	54g	298	292
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500g	208	177
Coffee, instant (150g jar)	150g	615	561
Draught beer, full strength	285 ml glass	231	238
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	77.2	81.0

## PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

<b>Agriculture</b>		1997	1998
Establishments	no.	354	377
Field crops and horticulture	\$m	47.9	37.8
Cattle & livestock products	\$m	168.9	169.8
Live cattle exports	no.	257 913	177 904
Total agriculture	\$m	263.8	207.6
<b>Fishing</b>		1997-98	1998-99
Estimated value of catch			
Barramundi	\$m	3.3	3.9
Mud Crabs	\$m	7.4	7.7
Prawns	\$m	53.3	74.6
Total of all species	\$m	120.6	151.7

## MINING & ENERGY

		1996-97	1997-98
Establishments	no.	27	27
Persons employed	no.	1 944	1 759
Wages and salaries	\$m	124	133
Turnover	\$m	1 465	1 496
Value of minerals produced	\$m	1 306	1 345
<b>Mineral exploration expenditure</b>		1997-98	1998-99
Gold	\$m	45.0	38.5
Total mineral exploration (other than petroleum)	\$m	75.9	64.5
NT/Ashmore & Cartier Islands petroleum exploration	\$m	n.p.	132.0

## TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

		Sept qtr 1998	Sept qtr 1999
Guest arrivals			
Licensed hotels with facilities	no.	101 600	125 200
Motels & guest houses	no.	192 000	199 700
Serviced apartments	no.	48 300	58 100
Takings from accommodation			
Licensed hotels with facilities	\$'000	16 155	17 562
Motels & guest houses	\$'000	18 216	19 364
Serviced apartments	\$'000	8 061	9 977

## TRANSPORT

		1997-98	1998-99
New motor vehicles registered during year	no.	8 694	8 405
New motor cycles registered during year	no.	428	475

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

°C	— degrees Celsius	n.p.	— not published
\$m	— dollar millions	no.	— number
kg	— kilograms	p	— preliminary data
kms	— kilometres	qtr	— quarter
ml	— millilitres	'000	— thousand
mm	— millimetres		

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