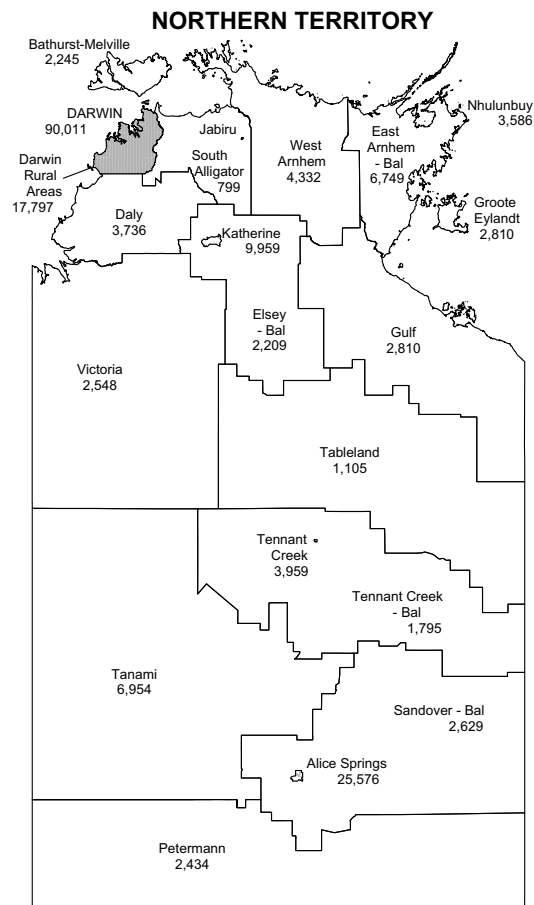


Northern Territory (NT) comprises a land area of 1,346,200 square kilometres. It is the third largest of the States and Territories after Western Australia and Queensland, yet has the smallest population and population density.

Darwin the capital, has an estimated population of 90,011. It is the commercial and administrative centre 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 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 and supports a growing number of visitors. Half of the Territory's 1,447,000 visitors in 1999–00 visited the Centre.



June 2000 Estimated Resident Population (p)

CLIMATE

		Darwin	Alice Springs
Mean annual rainfall	mm	1715	281
Mean annual temperature			
min	°C	23.2	13.3
max	°C	31.9	28.6
Mean annual relative humidity			
9.00 a.m.	%	72.0	43.0
3.00 p.m.	%	54.0	25.0

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

Highest maximum temperature 48.3°C was recorded at Finkle in 1960

Lowest minimum temperature -7.5°C was recorded at Alice Springs in 1976

DEMOGRAPHY

Estimated Resident Population (30 June)		1999	2000(p)
Darwin City	no.	68 407	68 802
Palmerston	no.	19 645	21 209
Darwin Rural Areas	no.	17 592	17 797
Nhulunbuy	no.	3 649	3 586
Katherine	no.	9 925	9 959
Tennant Creek	no.	3 934	3 959
Alice Springs	no.	25 536	25 576
Northern Territory	no.	192 724	195 463
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)		1998	1999
Births	no.	3 641	3 576
Rate per 1 000 population		19.2	18.5
Deaths	no.	871	832
Rate per 1 000 population		4.6	4.3
Marriages	no.	815	885
Rate per 1 000 population		4.3	4.6
Divorces granted	no.	457	409
Rate per 1 000 population		2.4	2.1

CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals		1998-99	1999-00
Total new houses	no.	1 527	908
Total new other residential buildings	no.	691	630
Total non-residential building	\$m	188.1	139.6
Total building	\$m	500.9	375.7
Building completions			
Total new houses	no.	1 384	1 112
Total new other residential buildings	no.	793	648
Total non-residential building	\$m	244.8	162.0
Total building	\$m	554.9	435.2

EDUCATION

		1999	2000
Primary and secondary schools	no.	182	182
Teaching staff	no.	2 796	2 827
Students	no.	36 766	37 381

LABOUR

Labour Force (trend estimate)		Dec 1999	Dec 2000
Employed persons	no.	92 000	92 900
Unemployed persons	no.	4 400	6 200
Unemployment rate	%	4.6	6.3
Participation rate	%	69.1	70.2
Labour force	no.	96 400	99 100
Civilian population aged 15 and over	no.	139 500	141 300
Average Weekly Earnings		Aug 1999	Aug 2000
All males total earnings	\$	693.40	748.30
All females total earnings	\$	534.10	559.50
All employees total earnings	\$	617.50	657.30

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

		Nov 2000
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	no.	4 979
Mining	no.	1 874
Manufacturing	no.	4 580
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	no.	860
Construction	no.	5 883
Wholesale Trade	no.	2 388
Retail Trade	no.	11 960
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	no.	5 908
Transport and Storage	no.	4 960
Communication Services	no.	1 018
Finance and Insurance	no.	1 991
Property and Business Services	no.	6 962
Government Administration & Defence	no.	16 710
Education	no.	7 781
Health and Community Services	no.	7 665
Cultural and Recreational Services	no.	2 783
Personal and Other Services	no.	5 016
Total	no.	93 318

MANUFACTURING

		1997-98	1998-99
Persons employed at end of June	no.	3 700	3 400
Wages and salaries	\$m	135.8	133.8
Turnover	\$m	995.8	926.6

OVERSEAS TRADE

Value of NT imports from		1998-99	1999-00
Singapore	\$m	81.9	998.1
Kuwait	\$m	37.5	84.1
Japan	\$m	77.0	80.3
United States of America	\$m	86.6	78.3
France	\$m	34.7	19.5
Indonesia	\$m	14.8	14.5
Canada	\$m	3.7	13.6
Malaysia	\$m	8.0	10.1
Total all countries	\$m	494.7	1 399.3
Value of NT exports to			
Taiwan	\$m	1.0	102.2
Indonesia	\$m	96.2	103.1
China	\$m	177.6	209.2
Japan	\$m	140.7	222.6
Korea, Republic of	\$m	41.2	371.7
United States of America	\$m	181.1	409.0
Singapore	\$m	3.3	421.7
Canada	\$m	101.4	95.6
Total all countries	\$m	1 240.8	2 542.9

PRICES—DARWIN

		1998-99	1999-00
Consumer Price Index (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)		122.4	124.2
Established House Price Index (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)		193.6	199.2
Average Retail Prices—Darwin (cents)		Sept qtr 1999	Sept qtr 2000
Milk, supermarket sales	1 litre	141	149
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	650g	219	224
Rump steak	1kg	1 122	1 227
Potatoes	1kg	128	135
Eggs - 1 dozen	54g	292	311
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500g	177	184
Coffee, instant	150g jar	561	543
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	285 ml glass	238	262
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	81.0	100.9

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Agriculture		1998-99	1999-00
Establishments (at 31 March)	no.	363	373
Crops and horticulture (at 31 March)	\$m	29.0	43.7
Cattle & livestock slaughtering and products	\$m	154.5	230.0
Live cattle exports	no.	207 588	275 724
Total agriculture	\$m	183.6	273.7
Fishing		1998-99	1999-00
Estimated value of catch			
Barramundi	\$m	3.8	4.5
Mud Crabs	\$m	7.7	12.0
Prawns	\$m	74.6	57.0
Total of all species	\$m	151.7	144.1

MINERALS, OIL AND GAS

		1997-98	1998-99
Establishments	no.	27	31
Persons employed	no.	1 759	1 640
Wages and salaries	\$m	133	130
Turnover	\$m	1 494	1 355
Value of production	\$m	1 345	1 266
Mineral exploration expenditure		1998-99	1999-00
Gold	\$m	38.5	40.0
Total mineral exploration (other than petroleum)	\$m	64.4	57.5
NT/Ashmore & Cartier Islands petroleum exploration	\$m	132.0	88.3

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

		Sept qtr 1999	Sept qtr 2000
Guest arrivals			
Licensed hotels with facilities	no.	125 200	117 300
Motels & guest houses	no.	199 700	172 600
Serviced apartments	no.	58 100	56 300
Takings from accommodation			
Licensed hotels with facilities	\$m	17.6	16.9
Motels & guest houses	\$m	19.4	19.3
Serviced apartments	\$m	10.0	10.2

TRANSPORT

		1998-99	1999-00
New motor vehicles registered during year	no.	8 405	7 862
New motor cycles registered during year	no.	475	653

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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Photo: Mr Justice Mitchell reading the proclamation transferring the Northern Territory to Commonwealth control on January 2nd, 1911. (Courtesy Mitchell Collection, NT Library).