

Northern Territory in Focus

1998

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Regional Director

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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- For information about these and related statistics, please contact Jim Drummond on Darwin 08 8943 2120, or refer to the back of this publication.

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PREFACE

I have much pleasure in introducing Northern Territory in Focus 1998.

This edition is the 32nd in the series originally titled the Northern Territory Statistical Summary.

The highlights of this 1998 edition include a number of special articles: Tropical Cyclone Les and the Katherine and Daly Rivers' floods; the 13th series of the Consumer Price Index; the NT manufacturing industry; Australia's 'North Sea'; trade with the East ASEAN Growth Area; and the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway. These special articles are located in the relevant chapters.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to those organisations which have kindly supplied material for inclusion in *Northern Territory in Focus 1998*.

Robyn Elliott
Regional Director, Northern Territory

Australian Bureau of Statistics
November 1998

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications, including *Northern Territory in Focus 1998*, draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The ABS wishes to thank the following organisations for their cooperation and input into *Northern Territory in Focus 1998*:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

AUSTROADS

Bureau of Meteorology

Bureau of Tourism Research

Darwin City Council

Darwin Port Authority

Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Department of Housing and Regional Development

Centrelink

Department of Transport

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Northern Territory Minerals Council (Inc)

Northern Territory Tourist Commission

Northern Territory University

NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry

NT Department of Correctional Services

NT Department of Education

NT Department of Housing and Local Government

NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

NT Department of Mines and Energy

NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

NT Department of Transport and Works

NT Employment and Training Authority

NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services

NT Work Health Authority

Office of the Administrator of the Northern Territory

Office of the Valuer-General, Northern Territory

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Power and Water Authority

Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory

Territory Health Services

Trade Development Zone Authority

Woodside Energy Ltd

INQUIRIES

Northern Territory in Focus 1998 aims to provide a convenient overview of the Northern Territory. As a consequence, the statistics contained in this publication represent a small part of the data available from the ABS.

If you require further information about any subject area covered in *Northern Territory in Focus 1998*, there are other ABS publications which will interest you. All publications issued by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office. Some data are also available on electronic media. You may purchase ABS publications by telephone, visiting an ABS Bookshop or by subscribing to them to ensure delivery on a regular basis.

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CPI Info line	Telephone: 1902 981 074 (premium \$0.75 a minute)
Dial a statistic	Telephone: 1900 986400 (premium \$0.75 a minute)
Internet	Address: http://www.statistics.gov.au

GENERAL INFORMATION

Standard notations are used throughout this publication, with meanings as follows:

n.a.	not available
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise stated
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary figure or series subject to revision
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
(T)	Town
(S)	Shire
(CGC)	Community Government Council
(IIA)	Identified Incorporated Association
(SLA)	Statistical Local Area
(SSD)	Statistical Subdivision

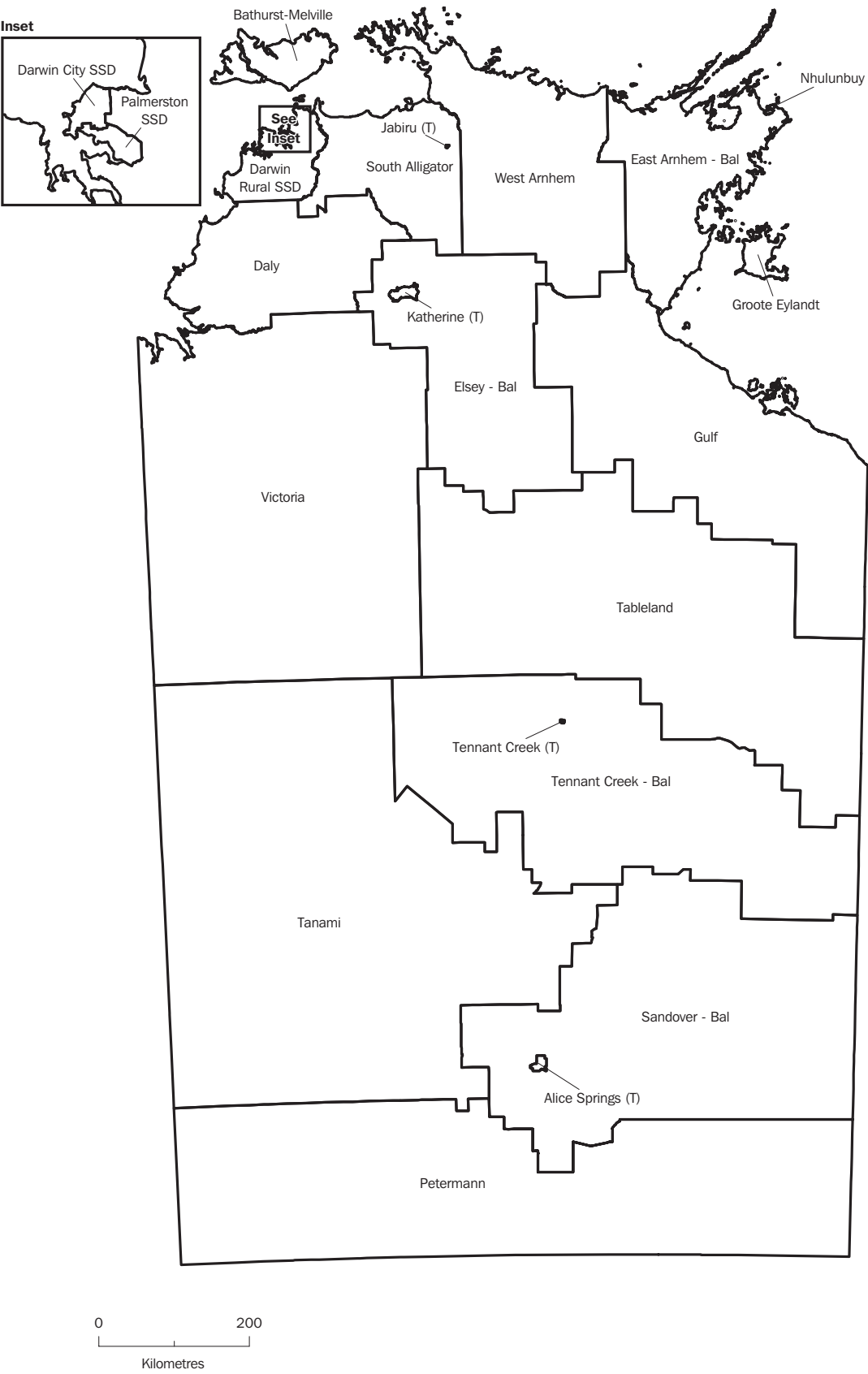
Yearly periods shown as, for example, 1997 refer to the year ended 31 December.

Those shown as, for example, 1996–97 refer to the year ended 30 June.

Other yearly periods are indicated specifically.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals shown.

SELECTED STATISTICAL SUBDIVISIONS (SSD) AND STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS (SLA)



CHAPTER 1

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

This chapter provides a brief overview of historical events. For a more detailed chronology of events prior to 1994, please refer to *Northern Territory in Focus 1994*.

INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT

Excavations of an archaeological site in Kakadu National Park have provided dates of human occupancy reaching back 50,000 years.

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT (1623–1862)

Early 1600s: First European contact

1623—first known European contact with the coast occurred when the Dutch ship, *Arnhem*, reached Australia at Arnhem Land.

1644—Tasman surveyed the coast of northern Australia from Cape York in the east to Willem's River in the west.

Early 1800s: British possession and settlement

1824—British took possession of the northern coast of Australia. Fort Dundas established on Melville Island.

1825—area that now forms the Northern Territory (NT), incorporated into New South Wales (NSW).

1827—settlement established at Fort Wellington (subsequently abandoned).

1838—settlement established at Port Essington (subsequently abandoned).

Mid 1800s: Overland explorers

1845—Leichhardt reached Port Essington after the first overland journey from Moreton Bay (Brisbane).

1855—Gregory explored the Victoria River.

1860—Stuart reached centre of the continent from South Australia (SA).

1862—Stuart reached Chambers Bay completing a south-north crossing.

UNDER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CONTROL (1863–1910)

1860s: Site for Darwin

1863—the NT became part of SA after the British Government hand-over.

1869—Palmerston (now Darwin) selected as the site for the 'chief town' after dissatisfaction with an earlier site near the mouth of the Adelaide River.

1870s: First telegraph

1872—transcontinental telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin completed and linked with overseas cable.

1871—a grassy plain containing an apparently permanent waterhole was named Alice Springs, and became the main intermediate telegraph station.

1870s: First telegraph <i>continued</i>	1874—payable gold is found in the Pine Creek area. About 200 Chinese people are recruited from Singapore to relieve a labour shortage, marking the beginning of extensive Chinese immigration. Palmerston (now Darwin) Council is established.
	1877—Hermannsburg Mission established west of Alice Springs. NT's first school opened at Palmerston (Darwin) with 34 pupils.
1880s: Exports of live cattle	1880—large cattle properties established on the Barkly Tableland and export trade in live cattle established with Asian countries.
	1888—town site of Stuart (now Alice Springs) gazetted.
1890s: Aboriginal reserves created	1890—the SA Government granted parliamentary franchise to the NT by including it in the SA electorate of Grey.
	1892—first Aboriginal reserves created.
	1897—Palmerston (Darwin) severely damaged by a cyclone.
Early 1900s: Federation	1901—the six Australian colonies united in a federal system called the Commonwealth of Australia. The NT, as part of the SA electorate of Grey, represented in the new Commonwealth Parliament. Indigenous people lost the right to vote at Federation.
UNDER COMMONWEALTH CONTROL (1911—1978)	
1910s: Commonwealth control	1911—SA Government surrendered the NT to the Commonwealth Government. An Administrator was appointed and all parliamentary franchises revoked. Palmerston renamed Darwin. The first <i>Northern Territory Ordinance</i> for the protection of Aboriginal people was passed.
	1913—first school for Aboriginal children in Darwin opens with 25 students.
	1918—serious labour unrest known as the 'Darwin Rebellion' culminated in a mass demonstration against the Administrator.
1920s: Representation in the Commonwealth Parliament	1922—Commonwealth Government granted the NT separate representation in the House of Representatives. The NT member was allowed to take part in debates but could vote only on a motion for the disallowance of any ordinance of the NT.
	1928—massacre of Aboriginal people in the Coniston area, Central Australia, occurred as a reprisal for the murder of a white miner.
1930s: First electricity supply	1932—Darwin Town Council provided first continuous electricity supply.
	1933—township of Stuart officially renamed Alice Springs. Gold found at Tennant Creek.
	1934—Darwin airport used for first regular air service between England and Australia. NT Aerial Medical Service established.

Early 1940s: Darwin bombings	1940—water first reticulated in Darwin (Alice Springs in 1942).
	1942—Darwin bombed by the Japanese (19 February), the first of 64 air raids lasting until late 1943.
	1943—Darwin and Adelaide linked by telephone.
	1943—Stuart and Barkly Highways completed.
Late 1940s: First legislative Council election	1947—first NT Legislative Council election. The Council was given power to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the NT and consisted of an Administrator, seven official members and six elected members.
	1949—uranium discovered at Rum Jungle.
Early 1950s: Assimilation policy	1951—assimilation adopted as Commonwealth Government policy. Alice Springs School of the Air opened.
	1953—Bill introduced into the NT Legislative Council to give citizenship rights to certain Aboriginal people.
Late 1950s: Citizenship rights granted to ‘full descent’ Aboriginal people	1959—legislation passed by the NT Legislative Council giving citizenship rights to Aboriginal people of ‘full descent’ took effect. Member for the NT in the House of Representatives given limited voting rights on matters relating solely to the NT.
Early 1960s: Aboriginal people granted franchise	1962—NT Electoral Regulations amended to extend the franchise to all adult Aborigines of Australia in the NT, enabling them to vote in federal elections. Radio transmission commenced in Darwin.
	1963—water reticulated to Tennant Creek.
Late 1960s: Full voting rights to NT representative in federal parliament	1967—national referendum approved the ending of constitutional discrimination against Aboriginal people and gave the Commonwealth Government power to legislate for Aboriginal people in all States and Territories and to include them in the population census.
	1968—Member for the NT in the House of Representatives given full voting rights.
	1969—contract let for the construction of new town of Nhulunbuy as part of the bauxite-alumina project on Gove Peninsula.

- Early 1970s: Cyclone Tracy 1970—rich uranium deposit discovered about 240 kilometres east of Darwin.
- 1971—television transmissions commenced in Darwin. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were fully included in the Census for the first time.
- 1974—Legislative Council replaced by a Legislative Assembly comprising 19 elected members. Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and parts of its fringe areas late Christmas Eve/Christmas morning with 49 deaths being recorded and a further 16 people missing at sea.
- Mid 1970s: Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1975—more than 2,000 refugees from East Timor arrived in Darwin, signalling the beginning of an influx of refugees from South-East Asia over the next few years. Two Senators from the NT elected to the Commonwealth Parliament for the first time. A 3,238 square kilometre pastoral lease at Wattie Creek (Wave Hill) handed over to the Gurindji tribe.
- 1977—the Commonwealth Parliament's *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory)* 1976 commenced operation on 26 January.

SELF-GOVERNMENT (FROM 1 JULY 1978)

- Late 1970s: Self-government 1978—*Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act* 1978 came into force on 1 July, establishing the NT as a body politic under the Crown. The Legislative Assembly was given power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the NT (similar to the broad power enjoyed by the State Parliaments) administered through an NT Public Service and Treasury. The Act retained provision for the appointment of an Administrator by the Governor-General. Mr Paul Everingham was the NT's first Chief Minister.
- 1979—Telecom installed the world's first complete solar energy microwave link between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.
- Early 1980s: New Town of Palmerston 1980—standard gauge railway between Tarcoola in SA and Alice Springs officially opened. The Country Liberal Party (CLP) won the first NT election since self-government. The new town of Palmerston, east of Darwin, officially named.
- 1981—Ranger Uranium Mines Pty Ltd commenced open cut mining at Ranger near Jabiru. The population of Jabiru reached 1,000 mark.
- 1983—NT Legislative Assembly elections held and the CLP returned to power. Darwin became the home base of No. 75 Squadron (Mirage fighters).
- 1984—Palmerston population passed 1,000 mark.

Mid 1980s: Uluru National Park returns to owners	<p>1985—Uluru Katatjuta Aboriginal Land Trust received title deeds to Uluru National Park, giving 200 traditional owners inalienable freehold title to the land. The traditional owners agreed to lease the area back to the Commonwealth for 99 years.</p> <p>1986—Amadeus Basin to Darwin gas pipeline completed at cost of \$380 million.</p>
Late 1980s: new RAAF base at Tindal	<p>1987—Territory Legislative Assembly election held and the CLP returned to power. Darwin's 200 MW gas-fired Channel Island Power Station became fully operational. The first World Solar Car Challenge, a solar powered car race, held from Darwin to Adelaide.</p> <p>1988—No. 75 Squadron re-equipped with FA-18 fighters and moved to new base at Tindal, near Katherine.</p> <p>1989—Stage 1 of the Tindal RAAF Base completed. Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory amalgamated to form the Northern Territory University. Katherine Gorge officially handed back to the Jawoyn people and renamed the Nitmiluk National Park.</p>
Early 1990s: Defence build-up	<p>1990—NT Legislative Assembly election held and the CLP returned to power.</p> <p>1991—inaugural Arafura Sports Festival held in Darwin, bringing together 20 teams from Australia and South East Asia in 20 sports.</p> <p>1992—first stage of the military build-up began with the relocation of the 2nd Cavalry Unit to Darwin. Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park, which includes Coronation Hill, listed as a World Heritage Area. The McArthur River Zinc Lead Silver Mining Project commenced after the NT and Commonwealth Governments hastened approvals as part of the national export development Fast Tracking Program.</p> <p>1994—new Parliament House officially opened. NT Legislative Assembly election held and the CLP returned to power.</p>
Mid 1990s: Rights of the Terminally Ill Act	<p>1996—<i>Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995</i> providing for medically assisted voluntary euthanasia at the request of a terminally ill person, commenced operation on 1 July. In September Victorian Liberal backbencher, Kevin Andrews, introduced the <i>Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996</i> into the Commonwealth House of Representatives seeking to overturn the NT's euthanasia laws and prevent similar laws being passed in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Norfolk Island. NT and SA Governments (followed by the Commonwealth Government in 1997) each pledge \$100 million towards the NT Railway Project to commence the Alice springs to Darwin railway.</p>

Mid 1990s: Rights of the Terminally Ill Act <i>continued</i>	1997—the Commonwealth Senate votes in favour of the <i>Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996</i> in March putting an end to the <i>Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 (NT)</i> . Mandatory sentencing for property offences is introduced in the NT. The CLP is returned to power in the August Legislative Assembly election. Laminaria/Corallina oil field development commences, overall project cost estimated to be \$1,300 million.
1998: The Statehood Debate	1998—a record flood inundates Katherine in January causing major evacuations and the Declaration of a State of Disaster, the first in the NT since Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Stage One of the East Arm Port constructed at East Arm, but structural failure delays full operations. Railway corridor access agreement between NT Government and the Northern and Central Land Councils finalises establishment of the railway corridor. Following Commonwealth Government approval three shortlisted consortia submit proposals for construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, estimated cost \$1,200 million. Construction of the new Jabiluka uranium mine commenced. The Statehood Convention was held at Parliament House in March/April. A Statehood referendum is conducted at the same time as the federal elections in October and a ‘No’ vote returned.

CHAPTER 2

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY

The total area of the Northern Territory (NT) is 1,346,200 square kilometres. It has 5,100 kilometres of mainland coastline with a further 2,100 kilometres of coast around off-lying islands. Most of the coast is low-lying and consists mainly of unvegetated mudflats or mangrove swamps with occasional cliffs that rarely exceed 20 metres in height. The large tidal range of the north-western coast influences some of the larger rivers for more than 100 kilometres upstream. There are extensive seasonally flooded coastal plains and black soil plains that fringe the river systems.

Inland, the coastal lowlands merge into the dissected sandstone plateaus of Arnhem Land to the north and the granitic and sandstone Ord-Victoria River plateaus to the west, with rounded ridges of largely metamorphic rocks between those plateaus. Much of the Top End is dominated by the craggy sandstone face of the Arnhem escarpment, with its rocky outliers and pockets of rainforest and deep gorges and river channels that drain the water from the escarpment.

The central section of the NT is formed of shallowly dissected lateritised sandstone ridges and sandplains. To the west there are the Lander dune fields with east-west trending longitudinal dunes and to the east the black clay plains and limestone or sandstone rises of the Barkly Tablelands.

The southern end of the NT is dominated by the Central Australian Ranges. These consist of granitic, sandstone and quartzic ridges separated by sandplains or stony lowlands. To the north of the MacDonnell Ranges are the deserts consisting of waves of sand dunes, claypans and stony deserts (the NT's harshest habitat), and to the south are the generally dry riverbeds and sandplains.

CLIMATE

Seasons In the tropical north, the annual seasonal pattern alternates between wet and dry seasons of variable length and intensity, related to the strength of the monsoon. The wet season officially runs from 1 October to 30 April and the dry season from 1 May to 30 September.

By contrast the southern half of the NT is relatively dry for most of the year and experiences cool winters (June to August) and hot summers (December to February) when the area receives the bulk of its small rainfall totals. During the wet season, tropical weather systems from the north sometimes traverse into southern parts. In the arid areas of the inland, rainfall is much more erratic, though the winter months are generally drier than summer.

In general drier than average years in the NT tend to be associated with 'El Niño' events, when global-scale atmospheric changes suppress rainfall over wide areas of northern and eastern Australia.

Winds During the dry season fine conditions predominate throughout the NT. Winds are typically dry, being light to moderate south-easterlies. In the north the onset of these dry south-easterlies signifies the start of the dry weather. Very little rain falls over most of the Top End during the dry season (figure 2.3) but light showers are fairly common about the north-east coast, due to Gulf lines, and occasionally develop elsewhere over the northern Top End. Bushfires during this season are common over the northern half and are fuelled by abundant wet season growth which has been dried by the prevailing dry south-easterlies.

Over the southern half, low pressure troughs which move in from the south-west turn the winds northerly and can trigger isolated thunderstorm activity. Under appropriate conditions extensive north-west cloud bands can develop and cause widespread rainfall across the southern regions of the NT. These cloud bands form when moisture from the tropical Indian Ocean is directed toward central Australia in the middle levels of the atmosphere. Bushfires in the southern half are fairly common during October and November and are usually ignited by lightning from dry gusty thunderstorms.

Temperature About the coast there is little variation in mean monthly temperatures throughout the year. Across the northern half of the NT temperatures are highest early in the wet season while the southern half experiences larger variations of temperature (figure 2.1). During summer, temperatures across the south are hot and often exceed 40 degrees, January being the hottest month. Throughout the NT the coldest months are June and July.

Climate trends during the 20th century There has been an observed increase in surface air temperature, averaged over the globe, of about 0.3–0.6°C since the late 19th century. However, the sparseness of observations over the NT until recent years, and the natural climate variability make it impossible to be certain whether or not this trend, or other long-term climate changes, apply specifically to the NT. Year-to-year and even decade-to-decade changes in such things as rainfall tend to be large and are therefore likely to mask any long-term trend.

2.1 LONG TERM MEAN TEMPERATURES, NT

	<i>Darwin</i>		<i>Gove</i>		<i>Katherine</i>		<i>Tennant Creek</i>		<i>Alice Springs</i>	
	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min</i>
Jan	31.7	24.8	32.1	24.6	35.1	24.3	37.0	25.1	36.2	21.3
Feb	31.4	24.7	31.4	24.4	34.2	23.9	35.8	24.6	35.0	20.7
Mar	31.9	24.5	31.3	23.9	34.5	23.1	34.4	23.2	32.6	17.4
Apr	32.7	24.0	31.0	23.1	34.3	20.8	31.5	20.2	28.0	12.6
May	32.0	22.2	29.9	22.7	32.3	17.2	27.6	16.5	22.9	8.4
Jun	30.6	20.0	28.4	21.2	30.5	14.3	24.6	13.0	19.8	5.3
Jul	30.4	19.3	27.6	20.2	30.5	12.8	24.4	12.1	19.5	4.0
Aug	31.2	20.6	28.4	19.2	32.6	15.0	27.5	14.5	22.4	6.1
Sep	32.4	23.1	30.1	19.5	35.9	20.2	31.3	18.1	26.8	10.1
Oct	33.1	25.0	31.5	21.2	37.8	24.0	34.7	21.6	30.8	14.7
Nov	33.1	25.3	33.1	23.3	37.7	24.8	36.5	23.8	33.6	17.9
Dec	32.5	25.3	32.9	24.5	36.0	24.6	37.5	24.9	35.4	20.2
<i>Annual</i>	31.9	23.2	30.6	22.3	34.2	20.5	31.9	19.8	28.6	13.2

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

The highest temperature ever recorded in the NT was 48.3°C at Finke in 1960 while the lowest recorded temperature was -7.5°C at Alice Springs in 1976. On the 11th July 1997, eye witnesses reported snow at Uluru (Ayers Rock), which was the first reported occurrence in the NT.

Humidity In the north, relative humidities are highest during the wet season (averaging between 71 and 84 per cent at 9.00 am) and lowest at the height of the dry season (averaging between 63 and 71 per cent at 9.00 am). In contrast, relative humidities in the south are generally highest in June and lowest in spring and summer.

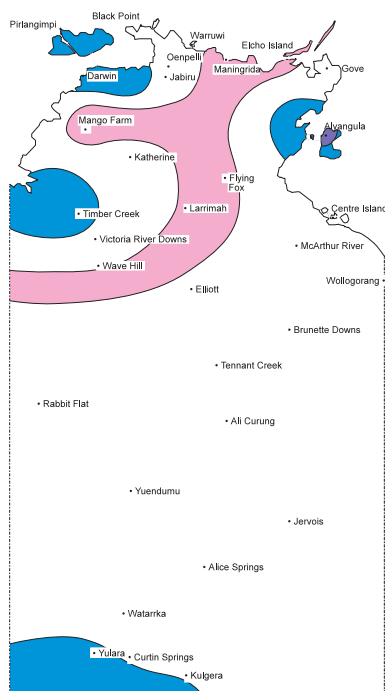
Rainfall The north-west Top End has the highest annual rainfall for the NT. Darwin's yearly mean is 1,683 mm while Alice Springs receives a yearly mean of 275 mm. Yearly mean rainfall totals, especially across the southern regions, should be viewed with caution since there is a large variation in rainfall from year to year. High rainfall totals during summer result from tropical weather systems which move into these southern regions. During winter north west cloud bands can also cause high totals in the southern parts of the NT. These situations sometimes cause flooding. For example, in March 1988 Alice Springs recorded 205 mm in 24 hours but only 82 mm fell during the driest year recorded in Alice Springs (1965).

In the NT the 1996-97 wet season rainfall was normal to above normal. The rainfall was more than 1995-96 rainfall over most of the NT except the Victoria River and Roper McArthur districts where it was less. Several pre-monsoon thunderstorms, tropical cyclones which formed outside the region and the passage of several lows contributed to the rainfall for the season. The onset of the monsoon took place on the 27th December, very close to the long term mean, and was active until the last week of March 1997. Several locations including Darwin in the northwest Top End broke previous wet season total rainfall records.

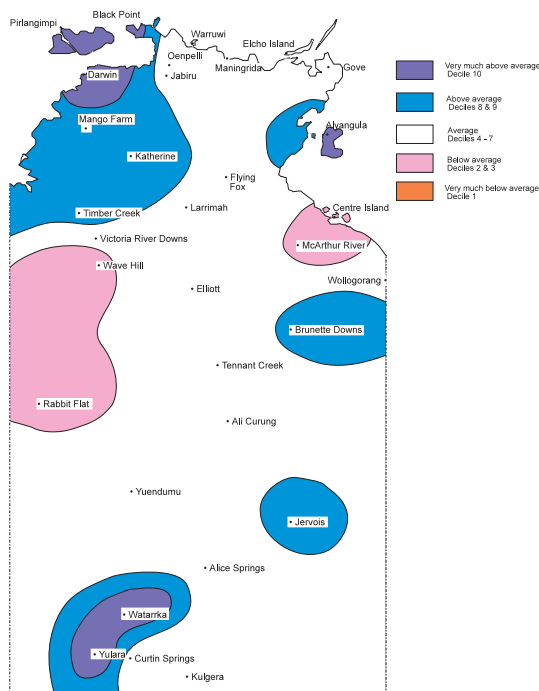
Rainfall *continued*

However, rainfall in the southern parts of the NT was below average during the calendar years 1994 and 1996. The Alice Springs district received below average to very much below average rainfall for those years. The trend was reversed during 1995 and 1997 with some areas reporting above average rainfall over the region.

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL. NT



Distribution of rainfall decile range numbers of rainfall for dry season May to September 1997 based on data from selected stations



Distribution of rainfall decile range numbers of rainfall for wet season October 97 to the April 1998 based on data from selected stations

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

The wet season rainfall has been above average in the northwestern Top End since 1994–95 with the exception of normal rainfall during 1995–96. Heavy falls in the northwestern Top End during early months of 1998 contributed to record wet season totals in the area. Large rainfall totals in April 1998 contributed to the above average wet season totals in some areas of the Alice Springs district. A few areas in the Victoria River and Roper McArthur districts recorded below average wet season totals for 1997–98.

2.3 LONG TERM MEAN MONTHLY RAINFALL, NT

	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Gove</i>	<i>Katherine</i>	<i>Tennant Creek</i>	<i>Alice Springs</i>
	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>mm</i>
Jan	429.5	280.7	269.8	99.4	35.8
Feb	344.4	291.2	239.6	112.2	41.3
Mar	320.5	253.1	178.9	55.2	33.0
Apr	97.4	182.8	35.1	14.3	14.4
May	21.6	77.1	7.5	9.3	20.4
Jun	1.3	34.9	0.3	5.4	14.6
Jul	1.0	20.6	1.7	5.5	14.7
Aug	6.1	4.9	1.0	1.7	10.6
Sep	16.1	3.1	7.5	8.4	9.1
Oct	71.3	7.4	26.6	17.8	21.0
Nov	141.8	37.2	80.2	32.2	24.8
Dec	244.0	175.5	189.7	64.7	36.2
<i>Annual</i>	<i>1 683.3</i>	<i>1 346.9</i>	<i>1 019.5</i>	<i>432.5</i>	<i>275.3</i>

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

- Monsoonal periods** During the wet season the northern half of the NT experiences periods of active monsoonal weather, often one or two months apart although this can be quite variable. These periods are interspersed with inactive periods. Active monsoonal periods last for a few days to a week or more and are characterised by cloudy conditions with persistent rain and some heavy showers or storms. Moderate to fresh northwesterly winds dominate. Temperatures are relatively cool during these periods. Break periods in the monsoon are usually longer than the active monsoon phases. They are characterised by light winds, isolated shower and thunderstorm activity and occasional gusty thunderstorm squall lines. These squalls often have gusts which reach 80 kilometres per hour.
- Lightning strikes** The lightning produced by storms during transition seasonal and monsoon break periods can be quite spectacular. Lightning is nothing more than a very long electrical spark and is nature's way of neutralising huge electrical charge differences that may build up between the clouds/atmosphere and the earth or between or even within clouds. These charges are built up by collisions of frozen particles within clouds, requiring the very strong updraughts and downdraughts commonly found in tropical thunderstorms. The western Top End and Tiwi Islands are among the most active areas for thunderstorms in the world with Darwin alone averaging more than 30,000 lightning flashes per year.
- Cyclones** Tropical cyclones can form off the coast anytime from November to April and active monsoon periods are their favoured time for development. Heavy rain and gale to storm force winds can be experienced along the coast if a cyclone is in the vicinity. On average, there are 7.7 days each year when a cyclone exists over the waters around the NT and cyclones have caused damage over most coastal regions.

Cyclones *continued* Darwin has been hit by three major cyclones in the last 100 years. Cyclones caused severe damage in January 1897 and again in March 1937. On Christmas day in 1974 the city of Darwin was devastated by Cyclone Tracy. Wind speed monitoring equipment at Darwin Airport broke when gusts measured about 200 km/h and it was estimated that wind gusts exceeded 240 kilometres per hour during the worst of the cyclone. On that day 49 people were killed and a further 16 went missing at sea. Approximately 90% of houses were damaged or destroyed.

VEGETATION

Flora The NT has a rich and diverse landscape, ranging from arid deserts to lush, tropical monsoon forests. The vegetation is basically Australian in character although there is a significant component of flora derived from the Indo-Malayan regions.

In the Top End, the monsoon climate, the frequency of fires associated with it and the poor soils support eucalypt forests with open savannah understoreys. There are pockets of rainforest either in the gorges of the escarpments or scattered in the surrounding dry woodland around springs and streams and in the margins of rivers and coastal wetlands. Along the coastal waterways mangroves form an impenetrable tangle of dense woodland, while paperbarks form along billabongs and swamps. Further inland the tropical woodlands consist of dense and high spear grass, cycads and pandanus palms. In the dry, spear grass and annual vegetation dies making fuel for fires which blacken the woodland.

Further south the height and density of forest decreases into low woodland. In the Barkly and parts of the Victoria River district savanna and seasonal grasses with scattered shrubs and stunted trees are common.

In the Central Australian Ranges there are pockets of palms, cycads and ghost gums. Along the mainly dry river beds are large river red gums and the sandplains are scattered with bushes, small trees and grasses. In the country surrounding Alice Springs is acacia scrub or 'mulga'. Out in the barren landscape of the deserts are scattered patches of arid grasses and small shrubs such as spinifex and saltbush.

WILDLIFE

The Top End supports a rich diversity of animal life, with many species characteristic of mangroves, wetlands, monsoon rainforest, Eucalyptus open forests, savannah woodland, sandstone ranges and Acacia tall shrublands.

Mangrove communities The coastal areas have the richest mangrove communities in Australia. Animal species occurring in them include mangrove snakes, brushtail possums, the rare false water-rat and a number of characteristic bird species including yellow white-eye, red-headed honeyeater, chestnut rail and mangrove kingfisher. Many hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds visit the beach regions of the Top End and swamps and inland water bodies every year.

Wetland communities Wetland communities are widespread in the Top End and include nationally important breeding sites for species such as magpie geese, whistle-ducks and jacanas. Two species of crocodiles, including the dangerous saltwater crocodile, two aquatic file snakes and at least six species of freshwater turtles are reasonably common in Top End waterways. In 1994 the 'Window on the Wetlands' visitor centre was opened at Beatrice Hill, 60 kilometres south of Darwin. Located on one of the highest places on the Adelaide River floodplain, the centre provides a comprehensive and spectacular interpretative display of the wetlands.

In the small patches of monsoon rainforests, distinctive jungle birds occur, including the Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Rainbow Pitta and Torresian Imperial-Pigeon. This habitat has declined over the last 50,000 years and most mammal and reptile species have been lost from the formerly more extensive vegetation type.

The Eucalyptus open forests resemble those of southern Australia and include many of the same animal species or their close relatives. Residents of the northern eucalypt forests with southern relatives include the Blue-winged Kookaburra, Northern Fantail, Northern Rosella and White-throated Honeyeater. Unlike their southern counterparts, the northern eucalypt forests remain extensive and little changed by European land management practices. Further inland and with lower rainfall, the height of these forests decreases and the trees become more separated and these savanna woodlands carry a different group of animal species. The prolific growth of grasses in these habitats support an abundant fauna of seed-eating birds, including more than 20 species of finches, parrots, doves and quails, including the endangered Gouldian Finch.

The areas of low mountain sandstone ranges include the Arnhem Land massif of the Top End and the MacDonnell Ranges of central Australia. In these rugged habitats restricted species of mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds occur including rock-rats, rock-wallabies, rock-possums, the Oenpelli Python, cave geckos and grass-wrens.

Central Australian wildlife Central Australia is characterised by low and unreliable rainfall and has a very different mix of habitats and wildlife to that of the Top End. Distinctive species of this environment include mammals such as the Marsupial Mole, Red Kangaroo, Mulgara, Hopping Mice and Bilby, reptiles such as Thorny Devil and Woma and birds such as the Red-capped Robin, Princess Parrot, Bourke Parrot and Budgerigar.

Impact of European settlement The wildlife of the NT has had a mixed response to European settlement. About half of the mammal species of central Australia have vanished from that area and some which have survived are still declining. In contrast, habitats of the Top End remain amongst the least modified and most extensive within Australia and there has been no loss of vertebrates to date. Continued threats to wildlife include changes in fire regimes, feral predators and high densities of feral and domestic herbivorous mammals.

Conservation programs During 1996-97 the Parks and Wildlife Commission continued to monitor and conduct research on feral cats, camels and rabbits in central Australia. The Parks and Wildlife Commission also undertook an aerial survey of feral donkeys and horses in the Victoria River District during August/September 1996. The survey indicated that the number of feral donkeys and horses had increased since the last survey was conducted in 1992.

Research programs on the Mala, Bilby, marine turtles and Gouldian Finch were conducted during 1996-97. The Central Rock-rat was rediscovered in September 1996 after an absence of over 30 years. A captive breeding program involving two males and one female was established and three young born in April 1997. During 1996-97 a 'new' species of small dasyurid marsupial, the Ampurta was found in the Simpson Desert and an interim recovery plan developed.

There are two species of crocodile in the NT, the Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the Freshwater Crocodile (*C. johnstoni*). Under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1993, the Parks and Wildlife Commission protects and regulates the sustainable harvest of crocodiles. For reasons of public safety the Parks and Wildlife Commission also maintains trapping programs in populated areas, in particular Darwin Harbour and the Katherine River near Katherine township. A total of 131 problem crocodiles were removed from NT waters and relocated to crocodile farms during 1996-97. Most of these crocodiles were removed from Darwin Harbour (108 or 82%).

Wildlife and hunting permits In 1996-7 the Wildlife Management Unit issued 1,071 permits for the keeping and trading of wildlife. The Unit also issued 1,170 waterfowl and 258 pig and buffalo hunting permits which allow hunting on designated Parks and Wildlife Commission estate.

PARKS

In 1997-98 the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory managed 93 parks and reserves along with other land, for a variety of government, private and Aboriginal landowners. The Commission Park estate covers approximately three million hectares but does not include the Kakadu and Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Parks. These are managed by boards formed under Commonwealth Government legislation with traditional Indigenous landowner and Parks Australia representation.

The Uluru Kata-Tjuta Aboriginal Land Trust received title deeds to Uluru National Park on 26 October 1985. As a consequence 200 traditional owners (the Anangu people) hold inalienable freehold title to the land. Although agreeing to lease the area back to the Commonwealth for 99 years, the traditional owners play a major role in managing the park as a tourist facility while protecting areas of spiritual significance. The number of visitors to the park remained stable with a 0.2% increase to 337,735 in 1997 from 337,018 in 1996.

Kakadu National Park is World Heritage listed and one of the principal destinations for visitors to the NT. Park management estimates of visitor numbers for 1996 were 219,114 with a 5.5% decline in 1997 to 207,131.

Some Parks and Wildlife Commission parks in the NT are also managed by boards. These boards consist of traditional owners and NT Government representatives and manage the Gurig National Park on the Cobourg Peninsula, the Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park, Barranyi (North Island) in the Sir Edward Pellew Group of Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Djukbinj National park declared in 1996–97. Many other Parks and Wildlife Commission parks and reserves have similar arrangements with Aboriginal people including those with local management groups. These groups include Commission representation but have majority traditional owner membership.

Two new parks, the Charles Darwin National Park and the Flora River Nature Park, were both opened in 1996–97. Charles Darwin National Park is located within Darwin Harbour close to the Darwin city centre. The park covers 1,350 hectares, featuring significant areas of mangroves, remnant Eucalypt woodland and Second World War heritage sites. Flora River Nature Park, about 122 km south west of Katherine, encompasses 1,874 hectares of land including 25 kms of the Flora River. A feature is the unusual tufa dams which have formed in the river after thousands of years of calcium salts being deposited from perennial springs. The result is some picturesque waterfalls, punch bowls and cascades.

Litchfield Park is located 100 kilometres south-west of Darwin and covers approximately 143,000 hectares. During 1997 there were 266,614 visitors to the Park, compared to 293,629 in 1996, a decrease of 27,015 or 9.2%. The park is noted for its perennial waterfalls and pockets of rare wildlife and vegetation.

The Territory Wildlife Park displays native wildlife in natural habitats set in 400 hectares of natural bushland. The Park promotes environmental education in a wildlife setting as well as conservation and research. In 1997–98 there were 98,779 visitors to the Park.

A park developed along a similar theme, the Alice Springs Desert Park, officially opened 23 March 1997 and has already attracted national awards for architecture and landscaping. Constructed on approximately 1,300 hectares the park is strategically located close to Alice Springs to easily cater for the tourism activity in the region. The objectives of the Park are to develop, maintain and present Australia's largest living collection of arid zone flora and fauna for the enjoyment and education of all visitors. The Park already plays a critical role in research into arid zone flora and fauna, and in the captive breeding and maintenance of endangered species. It is also a major centre for student training and education in conservation, the horticulture of desert plants and the husbandry of desert animals. In 1997-98 there were 85,718 visitors to the Park.

The 'Window on the Wetlands' visitor centre at Beatrice Hill, 60 kilometres south of Darwin is located at one of the highest places on the Adelaide River floodplain, adjacent to the Kakadu Highway leading to Kakadu National Park. The centre provides a comprehensive and spectacular interpretative display of the wetlands. Tourist numbers continued to increase, reaching 104,550 visitors in 1997-98, an increase of 5,763 or 5.8% since 1996-97.

Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge) is located a short distance from the town of Katherine, 314 km south of Darwin, and is a major Top End tourist attraction. The Park comprises 300,000 hectares and is noted for its scenic grandeur, significant cultural and natural resources and geological formations. Based on the south west portion of the Arnhemland sandstone plateau, the Park supports a broad range of sub-tropical plant and animal species including the threatened Gouldian Finch, the Hooded Parrot and a variety of reptiles and amphibians. The Park offers a range of facilities and activities including a substantial walking track system, boat cruises, canoe hire and camping/caravan parking. On the western portion of the Park, the picturesque Leliyn (Edith Falls) offers swimming, walking and wildlife observations. More than 300,000 people visited the Park in 1997-98 (213,218 at the Gorge and 87,000 at Edith Falls).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Environment and Heritage Division

The NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment administers a range of legislation protecting the environment. The Department's Environment and Heritage Division promotes consideration of environmental factors in the development and management of the NT's resources and develops environment protection policies, strategies and programs.

Environmental assessments	<p>Recent environmental assessments of major development projects under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jabiluka Mill Alternative; ■ Jabiluka No. 2 Uranium Mine; ■ Bradshaw Field Training Area; and ■ Phillips Liquefied Natural Gas Plant.
Waste Management	<p>An important step forward in protecting the NT environment was recently taken with the passage of the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act</i>, administered by the Environment and Heritage Division. Important elements of the new legislation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Environment Protection Objectives which set performance benchmarks for managing environmental quality; ■ control mechanisms such as licensing, pollution abatement notices and offences for causing pollution; and ■ management mechanisms such as environmental audits, compliance planning and best practice licensing. <p>The passage of the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act</i> completes the first stage of legislative development. A range of Environment Protection Objectives and regulations will be developed over the next few years to support the Act.</p> <p>The Environment and Heritage Division also ensures the conservation of the NT's heritage through the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>.</p>
Natural Resources Division	<p>The Natural Resources Division of the Department advises on the assessment and sustainable management of the NT's land and water resources and implements the <i>Water Act</i>, <i>Pastoral Land Act</i> and <i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act</i>.</p> <p>Per capita outlays on sanitation and protection of the environment in the NT were \$16.50 per capita (\$3 million total) in 1995–96. This was the lowest of all States and Territories and is compared to \$123.50 per capita nationally (\$2,262 million total).</p> <p>Other identified environment protection expenditure included \$23.8 million spent on biodiversity and landscape, while \$3.2 million was spent on soil and ground water, with a further \$2.4 million on other environment protection. Per capita expenditure in the NT is \$161.60, the highest of any State or Territory, and 129.9% more than the Australian per capita expenditure of \$70.30.</p> <p>The Power and Water Authority spent \$7.0 million in 1995–96 on sewerage, while expenditure by the household sector on private sewage systems was \$4.1 million. The cost of private sewerage treatment systems is identified specifically by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a pollution abatement expenditure.</p>

Noxious Weed Act	The Northern Territory Noxious Weeds Act provides the legislative basis for weed control in the NT. The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries maintains a list of noxious weeds and provides regular bulletins on new threats that have appeared in the NT.
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COMMUNITY CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental concerns	In April 1996, an ABS household based survey of the NT population living in urban areas (89,700) found that 66.1% (59,300) were concerned with at least one specific environmental problem, compared to 68.4% of Australians.
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The problem of greatest concern to the urban NT population was destruction of trees/ecosystems (26,900 or 30.0%) followed by air pollution (19,400 or 21.7%). Air pollution was the major concern nationally (30.9%). In regard to Uranium mining and use of radioactive materials the urban NT population showed the most concern out of all States and Territories (at 12.1%), compared to those next most concerned in the ACT (at 7.6%) and that of Australia as a whole (at 5.1%).

The quality of the environment was considered to have declined by 41.6% of the urban NT population, while 21.8% thought that it had improved. Almost three-quarters (61,400 or 68.5%) of the urban NT population believed that protection of the environment and growth of the economy are equally important while nearly one in five (18,600 or 20.8%) ranked environmental protection ahead of economic growth.

The most important social issues for the urban NT population were crime (25,700 or 28.7%), health (17,100 or 19.0%), and education (17,000 or 18.9%). Education was more important to the urban NT population than to other Australians (14.5%), while health was less important than to other Australians (22.7%).

Due to a lack of recycling facilities, urban NT households in March 1996 (the month prior to the survey) were the least likely to be involved in recycling paper (39.1% compared with Australia at 74.5%) or any recycling at all of the items examined in the survey (20.4% compared with Australia at 9.4%). NT urban households recycled less than the Australian average for all items examined except garden waste which 51.6% of urban NT households recycled compared to 50.8% for all Australian households (excluding NT remote and sparsely settled regions).

Darwin City Council has since introduced household recycling facilities through its waste management contractor with dedicated recycling bins provided to each ratable property.

TROPICAL CYCLONE LES AND THE KATHERINE AND DALY RIVERS' FLOODS, JANUARY–FEBRUARY 1998

The flooding of the Katherine and Daly Rivers during late January and early February 1998 resulted from record rainfall in the Katherine River catchment area during the 48 hours to 9.00 am 27 January. The rainfall was produced by the remnants of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Les, which crossed the Top End coast from the Gulf of Carpentaria near Numbulwar on 25 January and weakened into a rain depression. It then remained slow-moving over the southern Top End until the 28th. Prior to the system moving over the Top End, TC Les brought down trees and power lines on Groote Eylandt. Some damage was also reported at Numbulwar, Port Roper, and at McArthur River Mining's Bing Bong port, north of Borroloola.

The Katherine River catchment area experienced intense rainfall during the nights of 25 and 26 January (Australia Day). The main gauge at Katherine recorded 220.8 mm for the 24 hours to 9 am on the 26th and 159.8 mm on the 27th. The six-day total to 9 am on the 30th was 421.0 mm while the January total was 913.8 mm. This was the highest monthly value recorded in the area for the 125 years of record at Katherine, the previous highest being 704.6 mm in 1904. The average January total for Katherine over this period is 235.5 mm and the average yearly total is 969 mm.

The flood peak in the Katherine River basin commenced on 25 January in the Katherine Gorge, moved downstream to Katherine by 27 January and then on to the Daly River community (including the town itself and Nauiyu, the Daly River Aboriginal community) by 3 February. Flooding also affected the Roper, Waterhouse, King, Edith, Cullen and Fergusson Rivers. Further afield the South Alligator, Mary, Margaret, McKinlay, Adelaide, Douglas and Moyle Rivers also flooded.

The worst affected communities were the towns of Katherine and Daly River/Nauiyu, but the communities of Barunga, Beswick, Mataranka Resort, Djilkminggan (Duck Creek) and Elsey Station in the Roper catchment, and Peppimenarti and Palumpa in the Daly catchment were also flooded and evacuated. The need to assist flood victims extended from Djilkminggan on the Roper River in the east, to Nauiyu in the west, a distance of 300 kilometres. Road traffic was severely disrupted, with the Stuart Highway washed out at several places north and south of Katherine; the Victoria, Roper, Kakadu and Arnhem Highways were also cut for many days. The final outcome was that three people died and damage was estimated in the tens of millions of dollars.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

FURTHER READING

ABS publications *Year Book Australia* (Cat. no. 1301.0)

Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 1362.7)

Social Indicators, Australia (Cat. no. 4101.0)

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CHAPTER 3

GOVERNMENT

There are three levels of government in the Northern Territory (NT): the Commonwealth Parliament; the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly; and local government.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT

Legislative powers The *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* authorised the union of the six Australian colonies in a federal system which was proclaimed on 1 January 1901. While the Constitution confers some legislative powers exclusively on the Commonwealth Parliament (for example, the power to impose customs and excise duties), most of the powers are shared between the Commonwealth Parliament and the six State Parliaments (for example, trade and commerce, banking, quarantine, marriage, divorce and immigration). Where conflict between State and Commonwealth legislation occurs, the Commonwealth legislation prevails.

Structure The Commonwealth Parliament consists of the Queen (represented in Australia by the Governor-General), the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 76 members and the House of Representatives has 148 members.

Following the federal election in October 1998 the NT was represented in the Commonwealth Parliament by one member in the House of Representatives (from the Australian Labor Party (ALP)) and by two members in the Senate (one from the Country Liberal Party (CLP) and one from the ALP).

NORTHERN TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Historical development The NT was originally a part of the colony of New South Wales (NSW). The NT later became part of South Australia (SA) after the British Government handed it over in 1863. On 1 January 1911, the SA Government surrendered the NT to the Commonwealth Government which took over all the assets and liabilities of the NT. The NT then remained part of the Commonwealth until 1978 when the Commonwealth Parliament enacted legislation making the NT self-governing from 1 July 1978.

The NT and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Legislative Assemblies are unique. Unlike the six State Parliaments, the Assemblies were established by the Commonwealth Parliament in the exercise of its power under section 122 of the Constitution which provides that the Parliament 'may make laws for the government of any territory ...'. This means that the Assemblies can be abolished or have their powers substantially curtailed by the Commonwealth Parliament. Their legislation may also be disallowed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Commonwealth Ministers.

Legislative powers	Under the <i>Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978</i> , the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the NT which is similar to the broad power enjoyed by the six State Parliaments.
Structure	The NT Legislative Assembly comprises just one legislative chamber—that is, there is no upper house equivalent to the Senate. Following the NT election in 1997, the Assembly consisted of 25 members who are serving a four year term. There are 18 CLP members, and seven ALP members.
Role of the Administrator	The Administrator of the NT is appointed by the Governor-General and is charged under the Act with the duty of administering the government of the NT.

Every proposed law passed by the Legislative Assembly is presented to the Administrator who may assent to the proposed law, withhold assent, return it to the Legislative Assembly with recommended amendments or, in certain cases, reserve the proposed law for the Governor-General's pleasure.

The Administrator also appoints, on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, a number of members from the governing political party as Ministers to specific portfolios. These Ministers form an Executive Council to advise the Administrator in the government of the NT in relation to matters in which they have executive authority. At October 1998 the Ministry consisted of nine CLP members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government has existed in the NT, in a variety of forms, since 1874 when the Palmerston District Council was established for what later became the town of Darwin. However, due to the sparsity of population, the remoteness of communities in the outback and limited development, local government did not expand significantly in the NT until the 1970s.

Unlike the other States and the ACT, there are three forms of local government in the NT—municipal councils, community government councils (CGC) and identified incorporated associations (IIA). The NT also has two special purpose towns.

Municipal councils	There are six municipal councils in the NT—Darwin City, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Palmerston and Litchfield. The councils are incorporated bodies, comprised of members elected by the community and headed by a Mayor or President.
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Municipal councils in the NT operate under the Local Government Act which clearly defines the powers and responsibilities which have been handed to local government by the NT Government. For example, councils may provide a very wide range of community services including parks, recreational facilities, libraries, road making and maintenance, animal control, waste disposal, recycling facilities, garbage collection, litter control, street lighting and car parking.

Community government councils	<p>In 1978 the Local Government Act was amended to allow the establishment of local governing bodies in small and remote communities. The Act recognises these CGCs as full and equal parties in the local government sphere with the same (or more) powers and functions available. At January 1998 there were 32 CGCs.</p>
Identified incorporated associations	<p>At October 1998 there were 25 IIAs, which are organisations established under the NT's Associations Incorporation Act and a further four established under the Commonwealth's <i>Aboriginal Councils and Associations ACT 1976 Associations Incorporation Act</i>. They are all considered by the NT Government as communities providing local government services and receive funding from both the NT and Commonwealth Governments for this purpose.</p> <p>Following amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act, the 25 IIAs established under the NT's Associations Incorporation Act operate in the same way as a CGC established under the NT Local Government Act. This makes them subject to ministerial control in terms of financial accountability. It is NT Government policy to encourage existing IIAs to become CGCs under the NT Local Government Act.</p>
Special purpose towns	<p>Jabiru and Nhulunbuy are known as special purpose towns.</p> <p>Unlike the municipal councils, Jabiru Town Council is incorporated under the <i>Jabiru Town Development Act</i>. This means that Jabiru Town Council has unique legislation and functions, including the provision of the water supply and sewerage services.</p> <p>The company town of Nhulunbuy was initially serviced and administered by a public company, Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd established under the <i>Companies Act</i>, and not recognised as a local governing body for funding purposes. Nhulunbuy now has an advisory town board which has four elected members and representatives from the Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd, Nabalco Pty Ltd and the NT Government, but is still not considered to be part of the local government sector. The board's recommendations can be vetoed by the Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd.</p>

FURTHER READING

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ABS publications | <i>Regional Statistics, Northern Territory</i> (Cat. no. 1362.7) |
| | <i>Local Government Finance, Northern Territory</i> (Cat. no. 5502.7) |
| Non-ABS publications | Darwin City Council and the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Local Government, <i>Local Government in the Northern Territory</i> , 1996 |
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| | Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, <i>List of Members</i> |
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| | Northern Territory Government, <i>Report of the Statehood Convention: March 1998–April 1998</i> , vol. 1 Darwin, 1998 |

CHAPTER 4

THE ECONOMY

GROSS STATE PRODUCT

Economic activity at the State/Territory level is measured by Gross State Product (GSP). This measure of economic production is derived by summing the incomes generated in the production process—i.e. wages, salaries and supplements and gross operating surplus plus indirect taxes less subsidies.

The Northern Territory's (NT) GSP at market prices was \$5,418 million in 1996–97, an increase of 7.3 % from 1995–96. In constant price terms (average 1989–90 prices) GSP was estimated to be \$4,945 million, an increase of 4.6% from 1995–96 and the second highest growth of any State or Territory.

GSP per head In 1996–97 the contribution per head of mean population to NT's GSP at market prices, was \$29,434.

The contribution per head of mean population to NT's GSP over the 10 years ending 1996–97 was earlier characterised by sharp peaks and troughs, mostly reflecting changes in gross product for the mining industry.

The fluctuations in the ratio of GSP to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have levelled out since the ratio value bottomed at 102.8 in 1993–94, culminating with a ratio value of 104.8 in 1996–97 (figure 4.1).

4.1 RATIO OF NT GSP TO GDP PER HEAD OF MEAN POPULATION, (Australia=100.0)



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001).

Contribution by industry sector

In the NT over the 10 years ending 1996–97, there has been a relative shift in the contribution to GSP at Factor Cost (fc) from goods-producing industries to service-providing industries, primarily due to the mining sector (figure 4.2). During this ten year period, mining peaked at \$1,001 million or 24.6% of GSP(fc) in 1990–91 but has since decreased markedly to \$536 million or 10.7% of GSP(fc) in 1996–97. Construction has also gradually reduced in significance during the past 10 years (down from 10.1% to 8.2% of GSP(fc)), while most other goods-producing industries recorded minor increases in contributions to GSP(fc).

Contribution by industry
sector *continued*

Although the service-providing sectors individually recorded minor increases in their contributions to GSP(fc) over the period 1986–97 to 1996–97, these minor increases as a whole largely account for the decreases in the Mining and Construction sectors. The highest increases were recorded in the ownership of dwellings (up from 4.9% to 6.6%), health and community services (up from 5.2% to 6.5%), and accommodation, cafes and restaurants (up from 2.5% to 3.5%).

The industry sectors which provided the greatest contribution to the NT's GSP(fc) in 1996–97 were: mining (\$536 million or 10.7%); government administration and defence (\$418 million or 8.3%); retail trade (\$419 million or 8.3%) and construction (\$413 million or 8.2%).

4.2 CONTRIBUTION TO NT GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST

	Value	Contribution to GSP(fc)	
	1996–97	1986–87	1996–97
<i>Industry subdivision</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	263	3.6	5.2
Mining	536	18.2	10.7
Manufacturing	244	4.2	4.9
Electricity, gas and water	106	2.1	2.1
Construction	413	10.1	8.2
Wholesale trade	193	3.6	3.8
Retail trade	419	8.3	8.3
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	178	2.5	3.5
Transport and storage	286	5.8	5.7
Communication	150	2.2	3.0
Finance and insurance	130	2.0	2.6
Property and business services	332	6.5	6.6
Government administration and defence	418	8.1	8.3
Education	288	5.1	5.7
Health and community services	328	5.2	6.5
Cultural, recreational, personal and other services	319	5.7	6.3
Ownership of dwellings	330	4.9	6.6
General government	95	1.8	1.9
Total	5028	100	100

Source: Australian National State Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001).

Contribution by industry sector *continued*

There are substantial differences in the structure of industry in the NT when compared to that generally existing across Australia. This is due to the NT's relatively dominant mining sector, a relatively small and narrow manufacturing sector and a relatively large public sector. The major differences in contributions to GSP(fc) by industry sector for the NT and Australia are highlighted below:

- Mining remains the most important industry in the NT, contributing 10.7% to total GSP(fc) in 1996–97. This compares to 4.1% nationally.
- The NT has the second highest percentage contribution to total GSP(fc) from government administration and the defence sector at 8.3%, compared to 4.0% nationally. The ACT has the highest percentage contribution at 28.0%.
- The NT has the lowest percentage contribution to total GSP(fc) of all States and Territories from ownership of dwellings (6.6% compared to 10.2% nationally) and the second lowest contribution from the manufacturing sector (4.9% compared to 14.2% nationally)

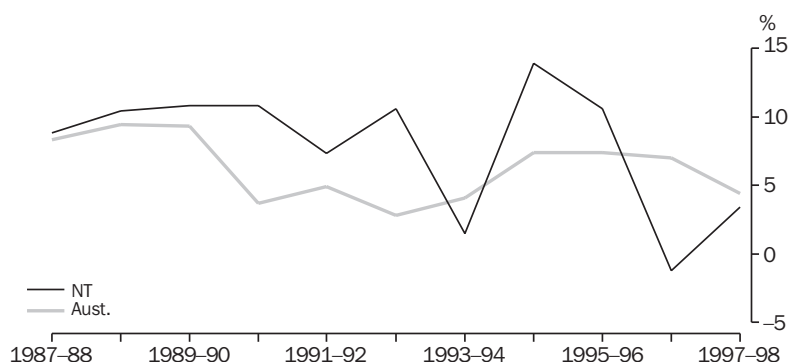
RETAIL TURNOVER

The Retail Trade Survey provides monthly estimates of the value of turnover of retail businesses classified by industry and State. Turnover includes retail sales; wholesale sales; takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods (except for rent, leasing and hiring of land and buildings); and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets, etc.) and net takings from gaming machines etc. The survey covers all employing businesses with at least one retail outlet, providing an indication of current activity in the retail sector.

Rate of growth

In 1997–98, turnover from retail and selected service businesses in the NT totalled \$1,438.8 million, an increase of 3.7% (\$51 million) over 1996–97. This was less than the national average increase of 4.4% (figure 4.3).

4.3 ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL TURNOVER, NT & AUST.: Trend

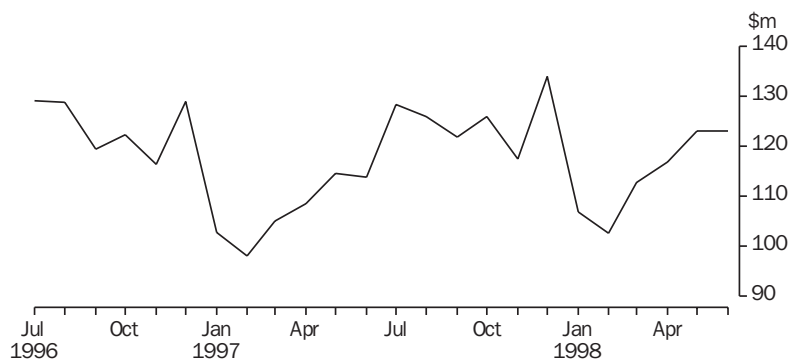


Source: Retail Trade, August 1996, 1997, 1998, (Cat. no. 8501.0); Northern Territory in Focus 1996 (Cat. no. 1306.7).

Impact of seasonal factors

In the NT, as for the rest of Australia, retail turnover peaks in December, due to Christmas shopping, then declines considerably over the next few months. The NT experiences an additional peak around June or July each year due to the tourism sectors 'Dry' season activity. The pattern of retail trade turnover over the last two financial years has been consistent (figure 4.4).

4.4 MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, NT



Source: Retail Trade, August 1997, 1998 (Cat. no. 8501.0).

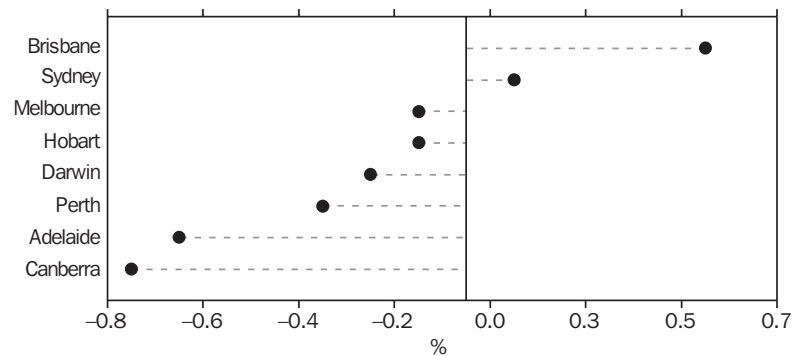
Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by metropolitan wage and salary earner households. This 'basket' is made up of a wide range of expenditure items in eight main groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Each of these groups is indexed separately for specific purposes or, as is the usual practice, grouped together as a summary of the changes in prices affecting weekly household expenditure.

Between 1996–97 and 1997–98 the CPI for all groups for Darwin decreased by 0.2% with no change being recorded nationally over the same period (figure 4.5). In Darwin, quarterly price index decreases of 0.4% and 0.2% were recorded in the September and December quarters respectively in 1997, while price index increases of 0.6% and 0.2% were recorded in the March and June quarters in 1998.

Between June quarter 1997 and June quarter 1998 the greatest price index increases measured by the CPI for Darwin were in the recreation and education and food groups. The recreation and education group showed an increase of 2.6% over the period, while the food group showed an increase of 2.5%. The largest decrease occurred in the housing group with a fall of 2.1%, with the household equipment and operation group and the transportation group also showing decreases between June 1997 and June 1998.

4.5 CPI ALL GROUPS, PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1996-97 TO 1997-98



Source: Consumer Price Index Australia, June Quarter (Cat. no. 6401.0)

PUBLIC FINANCE

Revenue Total revenue for the NT Government in 1996–97 was \$1,718 million, an increase of \$341 million (24.8%) from 1992–93 (figure 4.6).

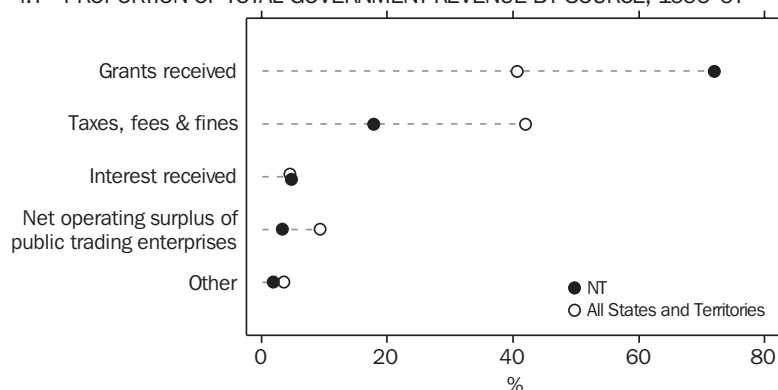
4.6 NT GOVERNMENT REVENUE, BY ECONOMIC TRANSACTION TYPE

Transaction type	1992–93	1996–97p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Grants received	1 095	1 237	13.0
Taxes, fees & fines	183	308	68.3
Interest received	55	83	50.9
Net operating surplus of public trading enterprises	26	56	115.4
Other	19	33	73.7
Total	1 377	1 718	24.8

Source: Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 1997–98 (Cat. no. 5501.0).

The NT Government's main source of revenue is Commonwealth grants which accounted for 72.0% (\$1,237 million) of total revenue for the NT Government in 1996–97. This was the single highest percentage contribution for any State or Territory Government and was considerably higher than 40.6% for all State and Territory Governments combined (figure 4.7).

4.7 PROPORTION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE, 1996-97



Source: Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 1997-98 (Cat. no. 5501.0).

The NT Government also has the lowest percentage contribution from taxes, fees and fines. Taxes, fees and fines accounted for only 17.9% (\$308 million) of total revenue compared to 42.0% for all State and Territory Governments combined.

4.8 TAXES, FEES AND FINES COLLECTED BY THE NT GOVERNMENT

	1992-93	1996-97p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Employers' payroll taxes	46	75	63.0
Taxes on property	39	54	38.4
Provisions of goods and services			
Taxes on gambling	7	28	300.0
Taxes on insurance	5	6	20.0
Total taxes on provisions of goods & services	12	34	183.3
Use of goods and performance of activities			
Motor vehicle taxes	18	30	66.6
Franchise taxes	52	92	76.9
Other taxes on use of goods etc	12	16	33.3
Total taxes on use of goods & performance of activities	81	138	70.4
Fees and fines			
Compulsory fees	4	4	—
Fines	2	3	50.0
Total fees and fines	6	7	16.6
Total	183	308	68.3

Source: Taxation Revenue, Australia, 1996-97 (Cat. no. 5506.0).

Revenue *continued* Taxes on the use of goods and performance of activities (such as motor vehicle taxes and petroleum, tobacco and liquor franchise taxes) are the main source of taxation revenue in the Territory (\$138 million or 44.8%) while taxes on property are the main source of taxation revenue for all State and Territory Governments combined (37.5%).

The significant increase in taxes on gambling since 1992–93 (\$21 million, an increase of 300%) is partially due to the increased turnover of NT based Sports Bookmakers (from \$16.5 million in 1992–93 to \$85.0 million in 1996–97), and the introduction of gaming machines in community venues since 1996.

The other sources of revenue for the NT Government in 1996–97 were: interest received (\$83 million or 4.8%); net operating surplus of public trading enterprises (PTE) (\$56 million or 3.3%); and other revenue (\$33 million or 1.9%).

Outlays Total outlays by the NT Government amounted to \$1,697 million in 1996–97, an increase of \$215 million (14.5%) from 1992–93.

- Final consumption expenditure (i.e. current gross expenditure less sales of goods and services) accounted for the largest proportion of total outlays in 1996–97 at \$1,068 million (62.9%).

The major outlays by purpose were education (\$345 million or 20.3%) and health (\$305 million or 18.0%) (figure 4.9).

- Gross fixed capital expenditure accounted for \$164 million (9.7%) of total outlays and interest payments accounted for \$196 million (11.5%).

4.9 NT GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS BY PURPOSE

	1992–93	1996–97 ^p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
General public services	169	168	–0.6
Public order & safety	122	167	36.9
Education	287	345	20.2
Health	207	305	47.3
Social security and welfare	48	43	–10.4
Housing & community amenities	59	54	–8.5
Recreation & culture	53	91	71.7
Fuel and energy	48	50	4.2
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	45	43	–4.4
Mining, manufacturing & construction	16	15	–6.3
Transport & communications	131	136	3.8
Other economic affairs	44	62	40.9
Other purposes	254	218	–14.2
Total	1482	1697	14.5

Source: Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 1997–98 (Cat. no. 5501.0).

Net financial position The liabilities of the NT Government at 30 June 1997 totalled \$2,074 million. Offset against this amount are the financial assets held in the form of cash and deposits, advances paid and other lending. The value of these assets held at 30 June 1997 was \$763 million, giving the NT Government a net debt of \$1,311 million at that time.

The CPI is an important economic indicator and actions related to movements in it have direct and indirect effects on all Australians. The CPI is used for many purposes, including as an input to the wage and salary determination process, the indexations of pension and superannuation payments and government taxes and charges, the indexations of government bonds and business contracts and as a general measure of inflation for macro-economic policy purposes.

Historically, the CPI was developed with the principal purpose of providing input to the highly centralised wage and salary determination process then existing in Australia. The CPI reference population was identified as being wage and salary earner households. Successive CPI reviews have served to ensure that refinements to the index have resulted in a measure increasingly more suited to its principal purpose.

However, since the 12th series CPI review, the context in which the CPI is used has changed in the following ways:

- Containing inflation, and the shape of inflationary expectations of the Australian population, is attracting much more focus as an economic policy imperative.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia now administers monetary policy with the objective of keeping underlying or core inflation within the range of 2% to 3%, on average, over the cycle.
- There has been a continuing trend towards decentralised, enterprise level wage and salary setting arrangements with the outcomes focused on the commercial circumstances of individual businesses. From employees' perspective these arrangements have focused attention on more forward looking inflationary expectations rather than on past 'catch-up' approaches. (Centralised safety net arrangements continue to apply for those employees unable to take advantage of enterprise bargaining arrangements.)
- The absolute reliance of most social welfare beneficiaries on the CPI for indexations of their incomes has changed with the passing of the *Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Amendments (Male Total Average Weekly Earnings Benchmark) Bill 1997*, which provides for adjustments should the maximum rate of CPI-adjusted single adult pension fall below 25% of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings.

After taking into account the practical implications of the alternative approaches to constructing a CPI on those most directly affected, the ABS reached the conclusion that, on balance, the Australian community would now be better served by a CPI designed specifically to provide a general measure of price inflation for the household sector. Accordingly the ABS has adopted the acquisitions approach for the construction of the 13th series Australian CPI. This approach defines the basket as consisting of all those consumer goods and services actually consumed in the base period irrespective of when they were acquired or paid for.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(CPI) *continued*

The most significant change that this entails is the exclusion of mortgage interest and consumer credits charges from the index, and the inclusion of net expenditure on new dwellings (excluding land).

Another key change to the CPI from the beginning of the 13th series is that the population coverage of the CPI has been expanded from the 12th series restriction to wage and salary earner households to cover all private households in the eight capital cities. This has resulted in the population coverage increasing from 29% to 64% of Australian private households.

The 13th series CPI will also be changed to include a ninth major commodity group, Financial services. This group comprises specific fees and charges paid in respect of financial services together with the cost of financial intermediations services. The ABS is developing methodology to measure these services with a view to their inclusion in the CPI early in 2000.

New items to be added to the CPI include home computers and software, tertiary education fees and domestic services, but gambling will continue to be excluded on practical grounds.

The 13th series CPI continues to be compiled and published quarterly. It was introduced in the September quarter 1998 and is linked to the 12th CPI at the June quarter 1998.

Further information can be obtained in the following ABS information papers:

Issues To Be Considered During The 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997 (Cat. no. 6451.0)

Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997 (Cat. no. 6453.0)

Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index, 1998 (Cat. no. 6454.0)

At 30 June 1997 the NT manufacturing industry employed approximately 3,400 people and generated \$915.6 million in turnover. The largest industry was metal product manufacturing, employing approximately 1,300 people and generating turnover of \$593.3 million.

The NT's manufacturing industry is very small due to the small local market and the vast distances from major urban markets in Australia. Over the period 1986–87 to 1996–97, the manufacturing industry's contribution to the NT's GSP increased from 4.2% to 4.9%.

To stimulate manufacturing in the NT, and thereby broaden its economic base, the NT Government established the Trade Development Zone (TDZ) in 1985.

The TDZ is located on 200 hectares of prime industrial land next to the new port development at East Arm, 15 kilometres south of Darwin. It was Australia's first export-oriented industrial estate with tax and duty benefits specifically designed to enhance Australia's trade with Asia.

To be eligible for entry into the TDZ, potential tenants must be carrying on a business which is:

- substantially importing and/or exporting;
- involved in import replacement in the Northern Territory;
- a licensed warehouse operation; or
- ancillary to any import/export business.

The TDZ has 40 tenant companies which manufacture, import and export a wide range of goods and services. These companies range from cardboard and packaging manufactures to sophisticated research and development and engineering-based manufactures. Other companies include: international financial consultants; suppliers to the expanding mining, oil and gas industry; traders in food commodities; and live cattle exports.

Source: *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables* (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001); *Manufacturing Industry, Australia, 1996–97* (Cat. no. 8221.0); Trade Development Zone Authority.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (Cat. no. 5204.0) (annual)
- Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (Cat. no. 5206.0) (quarterly)
- Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables* (Cat. no. 5209.0)
- Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5216.0)
- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5220.0) (annual)
- Australian National Accounts: Capital Stock* (Cat. no. 5221.0)
- Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk* (Cat. no. 5228.0)
- Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (Cat. no. 5232.0)
- A Guide to the Australian National Accounts* (Cat. no. 5235.0)
- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0) (quarterly)
- Australian Business Expectations* (Cat. no. 5250.0)
- Government Financial Estimates, Australia* (Cat. no. 5501.0)
- Taxation Revenue, Australia* (Cat. no. 5506.0)
- Local Government Finance, Northern Territory, 1996–97* (Cat. no. 5507.7)
- Government Finance Statistics, Australia* (Cat. no. 5512.0)
- Public Sector Financial Assets and Liabilities, Australia* (Cat. no. 5513.0)
- Government Finance Statistics—Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5514.0)
- Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6401.0)
- Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6403.0)
- Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6405.0)
- Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Cat. no. 6407.0)

- ABS publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Cat. no. 6408.0)
- Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0)
- House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6416.0)
- A Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6440.0)
- Information Paper: Issues To Be Considered During the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997* (Cat. no. 6451.0)
- Information Paper: Outcome of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997* (Cat. no. 6453.0)
- Information Paper: Introduction of the 13th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, 1997* (Cat. no. 6454.0)
- The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 6461.0)
- Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8221.0)
- Retail Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 8501.0)
- Comparison of Cost of Living in Darwin, Perth and Sydney* (copies are available from the Darwin Office of the ABS)
- Auspend*—a consultancy service offered by the ABS in which synthetic household expenditure estimates for small areas are created and/or extracted
- Non-ABS publications Trade Development Zone Authority, *Trade Development Zone Information Package*
- Trade Development Zone Authority, *Tenant Information Sheet*
- Racing and Gaming Authority, *Fourth Annual Report, 1997*

CHAPTER 5

POPULATION

Basis of estimates The Census of Population and Housing is held every five years and is the most comprehensive source of information about the population. The census provides the basis of all subsequent population estimates. Estimates at State and Territory level are made quarterly and are derived from census counts by the addition of actual measures of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and net overseas migration and of estimates of net interstate migration. Estimates at sub-Northern Territory (NT) level are made annually and are also derived from census counts but the measures of population change are more complex and varied.

Estimated resident population At 30 June 1997 the population of the NT was 187,132 an increase of 5,289 (2.9%) since June 1996. This was the highest rate of growth for any State or Territory and 1.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 1.2%. The NT population represents approximately 1.0% of Australia's total of 18.5 million.

At 30 June 1997 the projected population (medium series) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NT was 49,694, an increase of 1,011 (2.1%) since 30 June 1996. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent just over one-quarter (26.6%) of the NT population.

The vast majority (127,345 or 68.1%) of people in the NT live in the six major urban centres (figure 5.1).

5.1 POPULATION FOR SELECTED AREAS AT 30 JUNE 1997, NT(a)

	1987	1997p	Average annual growth rate
	'000	'000	Average annual growth rate
Darwin City	69.7	69.4	—
Palmerston-East Arm	7.0	14.8	7.8
Alice Springs (T)	23.1	25.7	1.1
Nhulunbuy	3.8	3.8	—
Tennant Creek (T)	3.4	3.8	1.1
Katherine (T)	6.5	9.8	4.2
Other areas	44.2	59.8	3.1
Total NT	157.9	187.1	1.7

(a) Due to rounding of data the component cells may not equal totals.

Source: *Population, Northern Territory, 30 June 1997* (Cat. no. 3234.7).

Regional population growth During the 10 years to 30 June 1997 the Palmerston-East Arm statistical subdivision (SSD) experienced the highest rate of growth of all NT SSDs, increasing by an average annual rate of 7.8% (figure 5.1). Katherine also experienced strong growth over this period, increasing by an average of 4.2% per year.

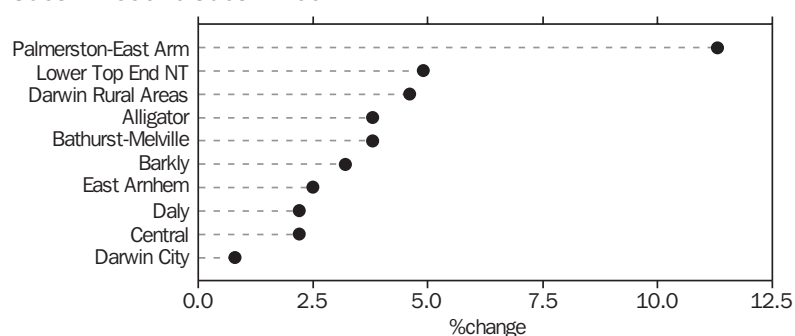
Regional population growth
continued

During 1996–97 the Palmerston-East Arm SSD led the NT with continued strong growth, experiencing a 11.3% (1,506) increase in its population. The relocation of military personnel and their families from the southern States to Palmerston along with increased availability of serviced land in the area have been key contributors to this growth.

Individual Statistical Local Area (SLA) population growth within Palmerston-East Arm SSD during 1996–97 was greatest in Palmerston (T) Balance (946 or 160.6%) which comprises a number of new suburbs. August 1998 data released by the Palmerston Town Council indicates that the populations of these new suburbs are increasing rapidly and now exceed 1000 each for Bakewell and Durack. Woodroffe SLA, also experienced significant growth in 1996–97 (250 or 8.4%).

After Palmerston-East Arm SSD the next fastest growing SSDs during 1996–97 were Lower Top End NT (812 or 4.9%) and Darwin Rural Areas (712 or 4.6%) (figure 5.2).

5.2 FASTEST GROWING STATISTICAL SUBDIVISIONS, NT,
30 JUNE 1996 TO 30 JUNE 1997

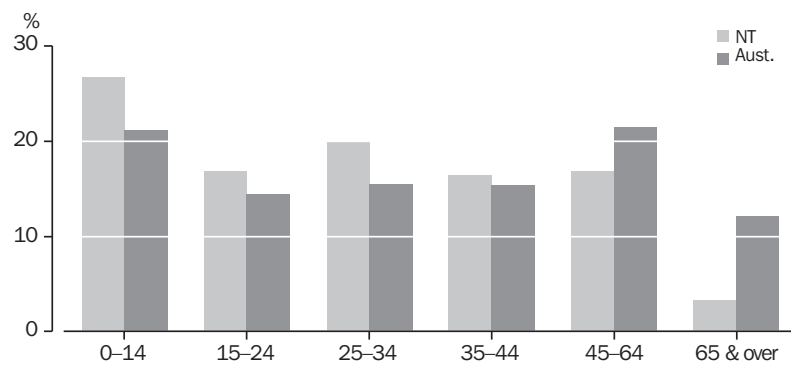


Source: Population, Northern Territory, 30 June 1997 (Cat. no. 3234.7)

Age distribution

The age structure of the NT is quite different from that of the total Australian population. At 30 June 1997 the NT had the highest proportion of people aged under 15 years of any State or Territory (49,973 or 26.7% compared to the national figure of 3.9 million or 21.2%). It also had the lowest proportion of people aged 65 years and over (6,125 or 3.3% compared to the national figure of 2.2 million or 12.1%) (figure 5.3).

5.3 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION, NT & AUST.—30 JUNE 1997



Source: *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, June 1992 to June 1997* (Cat. no. 3201.0).

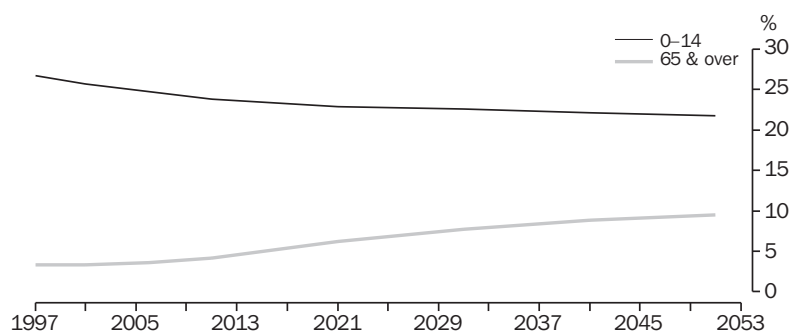
At 30 June 1997 the NT was the only State or Territory with a median age less than 30 years (28.0 years). Although the median age of the NT population has increased by 4.1 years over the last 20 years, it is still 6.3 years lower than the national median age of 34.3 years.

Sex distribution At 30 June 1997 the NT had the highest proportion of males of any State or Territory (98,816 or 52.8%). The NT sex ratio (that is, the number of males per 100 females) was 111.9 which was considerably higher than the national figure of 99.0.

Population projections The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) regularly publishes projections of population by age and sex for Australia and the States and Territories. These projections reveal the size, structure and distribution of the future population if various assumptions are made about the components of change (births, deaths and migration).

Projections indicate that the NT will experience above-average rates of growth over the next 53 years. In the year 2021 the NT is expected to have a population of between 252,800 and 308,300, increasing to between 343,900 and 476,000 in 2051. The median age is expected to be between 31.8 and 32.7 years in 2021, rising to between 33.3 and 35.6 years in 2051. This trend towards an ageing population is illustrated in figure 5.4.

5.4 PROJECTED POPULATION, AS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL NT POPULATION



Note: Data from Series II of the three population projection series published.

Source: *Population Projections, 1997 to 2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0).

POPULATION CENSUS

Population count

The Census of Population and Housing is held every five years and collects information about the number, geographic distribution and characteristics of people and dwellings on census night in Australia.

Censuses are the largest collections undertaken by the ABS. The data obtained as a result of each census provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the resident population for each State, Territory and SLA. While population estimates are used primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funding, census data are used by governments, businesses and others to support their planning, administration and policy decisions.

The last census took place on 6 August 1996 and the previous census took place on 6 August 1991.

A total of 195,101 people were counted in the NT on the night of the 1996 Census, an increase of 19,210 (10.9%) over the 1991 Census (figure 5.5). The total includes 19,759 people who were visiting the Territory from interstate or overseas.

5.5 POPULATION COUNTS(a) FOR SELECTED AREAS, NT(b)

	<i>Darwin</i>	<i>Alice Springs</i>	<i>Katherine</i>	<i>Tennant Creek</i>	<i>Nhulunbuy</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>
1871	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	201
1881	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3 451
1891	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4 898
1901	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4 811
1911	1 082	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3 310
1921	1 399	231	106	n.a.	n.a.	3 867
1933	1 566	526	213	n.a.	n.a.	4 850
1947	2 538	2 078	371	695	n.a.	10 868
1954	8 071	2 785	596	977	n.a.	16 469
1961	12 326	4 648	826	1 368	n.a.	27 095
1966	21 540	6 634	2 180	1 680	n.a.	56 504
1971	37 060	11 179	2 522	1 794	4 400	86 390
1974	46 656	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	101 233
1975	25 732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	87 584
1976	43 344	14 194	3 127	2 236	3 553	97 090
1979	50 612	16 274	3 241	2 411	3 644	115 900
1981	56 482	18 395	3 737	3 118	3 879	123 324
1986	72 937	22 759	5 691	3 503	3 515	154 848
1991	78 401	25 585	9 372	3 480	3 934	175 891
1996	85 743	27 092	10 809	3 856	3 695	195 101

(a) Population counts include visitors and not just residents.

(b) Figures prior to 1966 do not include all Aboriginal people.

Source: Census of the State of South Australian, 1871 to 1901; and Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1911 to 1966

Birthplace Almost one-fifth (35,171 or 18.0%) of people in the NT on Census night in 1996 indicated that they were born overseas. This figure included 5,736 people who were visiting the NT from overseas.

Of those people who indicated they were born overseas two-fifths (14,059 or 40.0%) were from English-speaking countries, mainly the United Kingdom (8,631 or 24.5 % of all overseas born) and New Zealand (3,474 or 9.9%). The main non-English speaking countries of origin were the Philippines (1,730 or 4.8% of all overseas born), Indonesia (1,700 or 4.8%), Greece (1,123 or 3.2%), and Germany (1,091 or 3.1%).

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

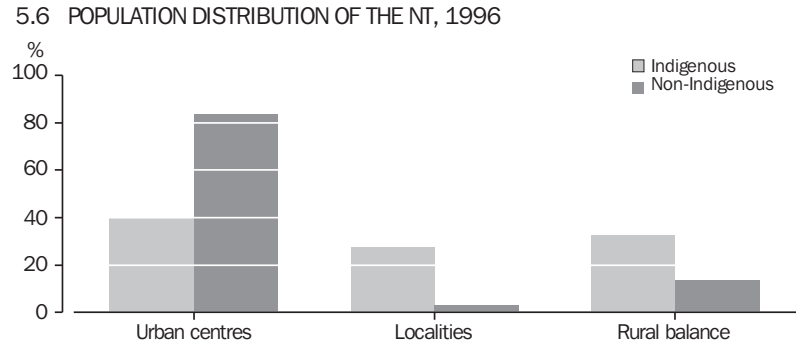
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are an integral part of the history and culture of the NT. Data about the Indigenous population has been collected in every census since federation but, prior to the repeal of section 127 of the Constitution in 1967, only those deemed to be of less than half Aboriginal origin were included in the official population figures for the States and Territories.

Since then the ABS has made considerable efforts to collect data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, through the census and other surveys, which are as comprehensive as the data gathered from the rest of the Australian population.

Population count

During the 1996 Census nearly one-quarter (46,277 or 24.4%) of the NT population (excluding overseas visitors) identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, an increase of 6,367 (16.0%) since the 1991 Census. This proportion rises to about 26.4% if all visitors (overseas and interstate) are excluded and is the highest proportion of any State or Territory. Indigenous people in the NT represented 13.1% of Australia's Indigenous population (352,970) at that time.

Unlike the non-Indigenous urban population (119,161 or 83.3% of the non-Indigenous population), which is concentrated in urban centres with a population of 1,000 or more, the majority of Indigenous people (27,923 or 60.3% of the NT Indigenous population) live in rural locations with a population of less than 1,000. Almost one-third of Indigenous people (15,199 or 32.8%) live in communities with a population of less than 200 (Figure 5.6).

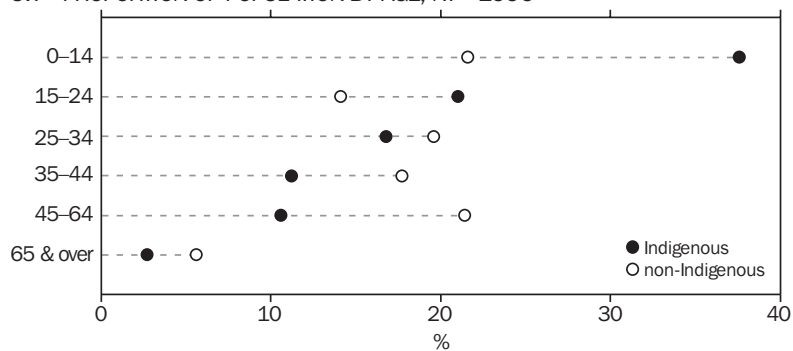


Note: Localities have a population of 200–999. Rural balance refers to the remainder of the NT.
Source: *Census of Population and Housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1996* (Cat. no. 2034.7).

Age distribution

The age distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is markedly different from that of the total NT population (figure 5.7). The main differences are in the younger and older age groups. In 1996, 37.6% (17,417) of Indigenous people in the NT were aged 0–14 years compared with 21.6% (28,830) of the non-Indigenous population. Conversely, only 13.3% (6,175) of Indigenous people were aged 45 years and over compared with 27.0% (36,002) of non-Indigenous people.

5.7 PROPORTION OF POPULATION BY AGE, NT—1996

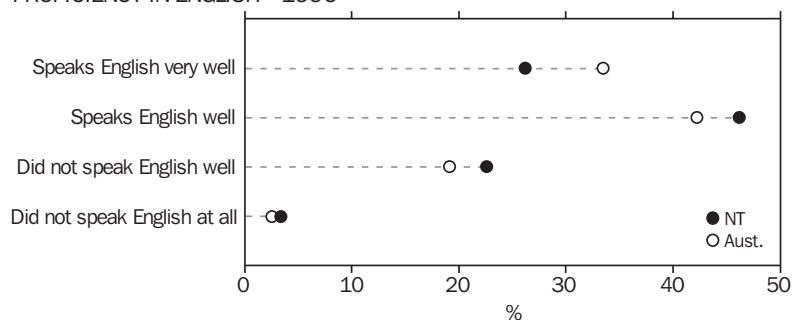


Source: Census of Population and Housing, Indigenous Thematic Profile Service
—Table 103 (Cat. no. 2021.0).

Sex distribution At the 1996 Census, the NT had the second lowest proportion of Indigenous males of any State or Territory (22,793 or 49.3%) with South Australia (SA) the lowest (10,018 or 49.0%). The NT Indigenous sex ratio (that is, the number of males per 100 females) was 97.1 which was nearly the same as the national figure of 97.0.

Language At the 1996 Census approximately three in five (25,714 or 63.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NT aged five years and over spoke an Indigenous language at home. This was the highest proportion for any State or Territory and much higher than the national average of 14.2% (42,922). Just over a quarter (6675 or 26.0%) of those who indicated that they spoke an Indigenous language also indicated that they did not speak English well or did not speak English at all, slightly higher than the national average of 21.7% (9298) (figure 5.8).

5.8 NT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS & OVER, PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH—1996

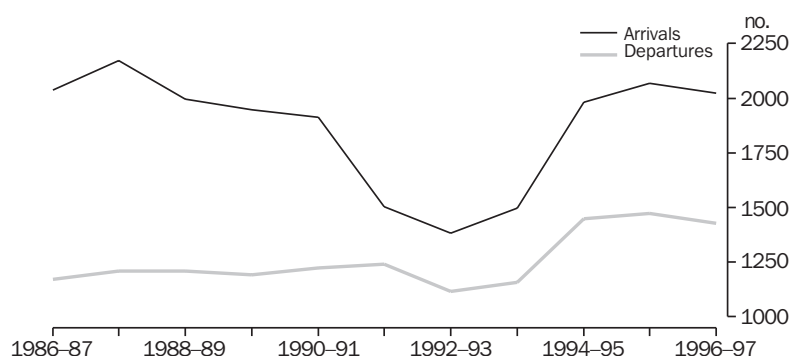


Source: Census of Population and Housing, Indigenous Thematic Profile Service
—Table 109 (Cat. no. 2021.0).

OVERSEAS MIGRATION

Arrivals During 1996–97 there were 490 permanent and 1,531 long-term (settler) arrivals who stated the NT as their State or Territory of intended residence (long-term arrivals refers to people who intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more but not permanently). In terms of total arrivals this was a minor decrease of 48 persons (2.3%) on the previous year (figure 5.9).

5.9 PERMANENT & LONG TERM ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES, NT



Source: Migration, Australia, 1996–97 (Cat. no. 3412.0).

The largest proportion of permanent arrivals in the NT during 1996–97 were from Europe and the Former USSR (179 or 36.5%) and South East Asia. Migration from South East Asia to the NT was the highest proportion for any State or Territory (145 or 29.6%) and more than double the national proportion of 13.2%.

Departures During the year ended 30 June 1997 there were 268 permanent and 1,160 long-term departures for overseas by people who gave the NT as their State or Territory of residence. This was a decrease of 3.0% (44) on the previous year.

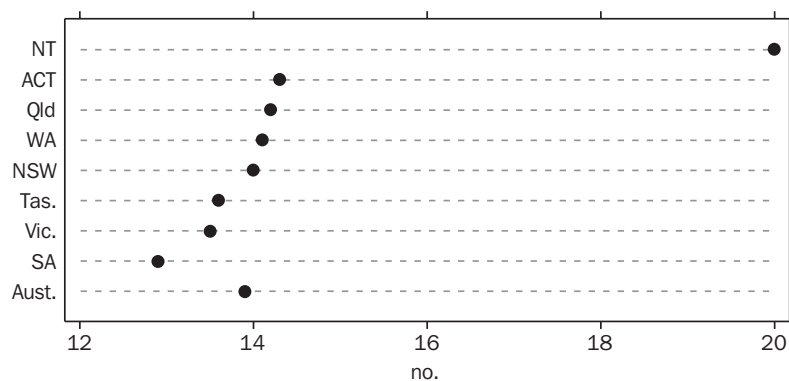
BIRTHS

Number of births In 1996 there were 3,562 live births registered to mothers usually resident in the NT. Of these, 1,343 births (37.7%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births.

Sex ratio During the five years to 1996 the sex ratio at birth in the NT has fluctuated between 99.9 and 109.6 males per 100 females and was 109.4 in 1996. By comparison the sex ratio at birth for Indigenous births for the NT in 1996 was 114.9.

Birth rate During the five years to 1996 the crude birth rate in the NT was relatively stable, between 20.0 and 22.3 births per 1,000 population. In 1996 the crude birth rate in the NT was 20.0, the highest rate of any State or Territory and considerably higher than the national rate of 13.9 (figure 5.10).

5.10 CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 1996



Source: *Demography, Northern Territory, 1996* (Cat. no. 3311.7).

Fertility rate The total fertility rate represents the number of children that one woman would bear if the age-specific rates of the year shown continued during her child-bearing lifetime. In 1996 the total fertility rate in the NT was 2.286. This was the highest rate of any State or Territory and significantly higher than the rate of 1.796 nationally. The relatively high rate for the NT is due to the high fertility rate of 2.654 for Indigenous mothers.

Age of mother The median age of the mother for all confinements in the NT in 1996 was 27.1 years, the lowest age of any State or Territory and 2.1 years less than the national median age of 29.2 years. The median age of Indigenous mothers was 23.3 years, 3.8 years less than the NT median age.

DEATHS

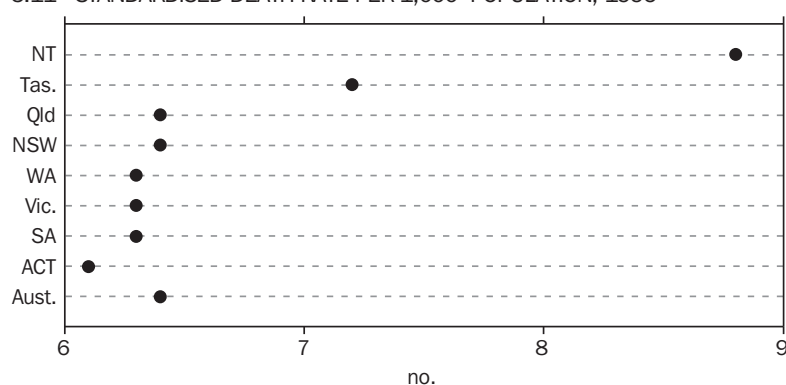
Number of deaths In 1996 there were 758 registered deaths throughout Australia of persons usually resident in the NT, a decrease of 6.7% from the number of deaths reported in 1995. The 1996 total comprised 487 males and 271 females, a sex ratio of 179.7 males per 100 females. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander deaths totalled 328 or 43.3% of total NT deaths.

Of these 758 registered deaths in 1996, 41 were infant deaths (that is, deaths of children aged less than one year), a decrease of nine deaths (18.0%) compared to 1995. Of these, 26 (63.4%) were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander deaths. Note: The Indigenous infant death figures for 1996 should be treated with caution as they are subject to investigation.

Infant mortality rate The infant mortality rate for the NT was 11.5 per 1,000 live births in 1996. It was the highest rate of any State or Territory and almost double the national rate of 5.8. The NT rate is affected more than the other States and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) by the higher infant mortality rate among Indigenous people.

Death rate The standardised death rate in the NT during 1996 was 8.8 per 1,000 population. This was the highest rate of any State or Territory and well above the national rate of 6.4 (Figure 5.11). The indirect standardised death rate (used for comparison of Indigenous and SLA rates) for the NT population during 1996 was 11.8 per 1,000, with 18.6 per 1,000 for Indigenous people in the NT. This was more than three times the rate of the non-Indigenous NT population, 5.8 per 1,000.

5.11 STANDARDISED DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION, 1996



Source: Deaths, Australia, 1996 (Cat. no. 3302.0).

Age at death In 1996 the median age at death in the NT was 54.1 years for males and 60.8 years for females. These figures are well below the corresponding national median ages of 74.0 years for males and 80.7 years for females. From 1991 to 1996 the median age at death for males increased by 0.7 years and by 6.6 years for females.

The median age at death for all Indigenous people in the NT in 1996 was 50.0 years, considerably lower than the figures for non-Indigenous people 59.5 years, and that of the whole NT population, 55.0 years. The difference of 6.0 years between male/female Indigenous median ages at death, with males at 46.5 years and females at 53.5 years is similar to that for the NT and Australian total populations.

Causes of death The three principal causes of death in the NT in 1996 were:

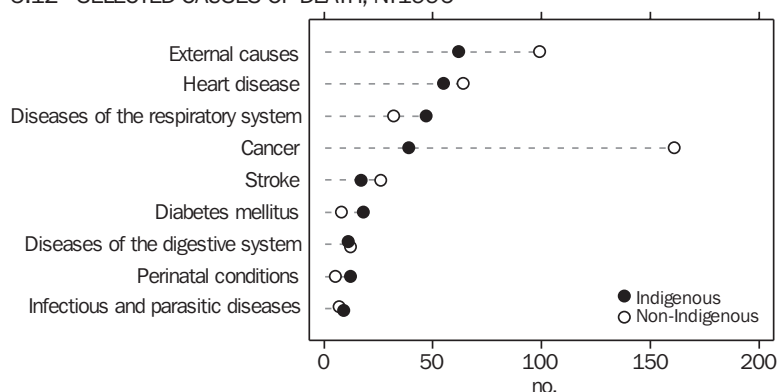
- diseases of the circulatory system (174 or 23.0%);
- malignant neoplasms (cancer) (161 or 21.2%); and
- external causes (such as accidents, poisonings, drowning and suicides) (161 or 21.2%)

The proportion of deaths caused by diseases of the circulatory system (including heart disease) and malignant neoplasms (cancer) increased from 39.9% (312) in 1990 to 44.2% (335) of all deaths in 1996. The proportion of deaths due to external causes declined from 23.9% (187) in 1990 to 21.2% (161) of all deaths over the same period.

The principal causes of death amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 1996 were:

- diseases of the circulatory system (77 or 23.6% compared to 97 or 22.5% of the non-Indigenous population);
- diseases of the respiratory system (47 or 14.4% compared to 32 or 7.4 % for the non-Indigenous population); and
- external causes (62 or 19.0% compared to 99 or 22.9% for the non-Indigenous population) (figure 5.12).

5.12 SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH, NT1996



Source: Deaths, Australia, 1996 (Cat. no. 3302.0).

The proportion of deaths caused by diabetes mellitus was nearly three times higher for the Indigenous population (18 or 5.5%) than the non-Indigenous population (8 or 1.9%). This contrasted with the proportion of deaths caused by cancer for the non-Indigenous population (122 or 28.2%) which was more than double that of the Indigenous population (39 or 12.0%).

Life expectancy

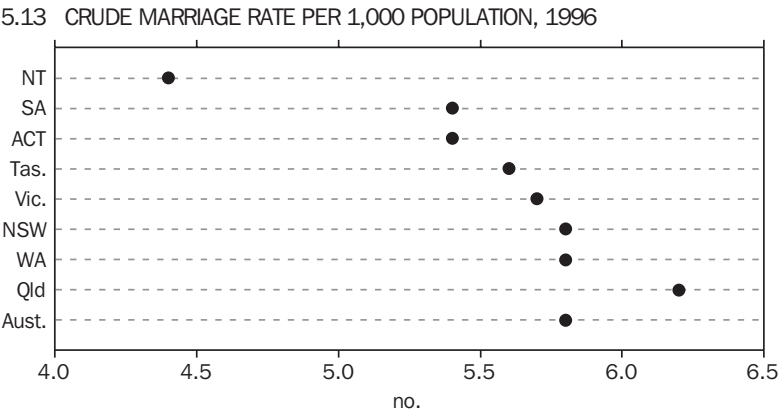
The life expectancy of NT residents at birth in 1996 was 69.2 years for males and 75.0 years for females, compared to the national figures of 75.2 for males and 81.0 for females.

In 1993 Gray and Tesfaghiorghis from the Australian National University concluded that the estimated life expectancy of the NT population's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at birth during the period 1986 to 1991 was 55.1 years for males and 61.8 years for females ('Aboriginal population prospects', Journal of the Australian Population Association, vol. 10(2)).

Since then the ABS has prepared an Experimental Life Table of the Indigenous Population of Australia which indicates the life expectancy of an Indigenous male at birth between 1991 to 1996 was 56.9 while the same figure for Indigenous females was 61.7.

MARRIAGES

Marriage rate In 1996 there were 787 marriages registered in the NT, a crude marriage rate of 4.4 marriages per 1,000 population. This was the lowest rate of marriage of any State or Territory and was less than the national rate of 5.8 (Figure 5.13). The NT's crude marriage rate has declined, from 5.4 in 1991 to 4.4 in 1996.



Source: Demography, Northern Territory, 1996 (Cat. no. 3311.7).

Age at marriage The median age of marriage for both partners has generally increased in the NT, from 30.2 in 1991 through to 30.9 years in 1996 for bridegrooms, and from 27.6 to 28.2 years for brides.

The 1996 medians were the highest for both partners of any State or Territory and higher than the 1996 national median age of 29.6 years for bridegrooms and 27.2 years for brides.

Remarriage Of all marriages registered in the NT in 1996, the majority of couples (499 or 63.4%) were married for the first time. In 180 marriages (22.9%) one partner had been married before and in 108 marriages (13.7%) both partners had been married before.

Civil and religious ceremonies The proportion of marriages performed by civil celebrants and by ministers of religion from 1991 to 1996 in the NT remained relatively steady until 1994. The proportion of marriages performed by Ministers of religion to 1996 has since fallen 4.5 percentage points. Almost two-thirds (532 or 67.6%) of marriages in the NT in 1996 were performed by civil celebrants. This was the highest proportion of civil ceremonies of any State or Territory and 20.8 percentage points higher than the national average of 46.8%.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2015.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Selected Family and Labour Force Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2017.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Counts by Age and Sex for Selected Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2018.7)
- 1996 Census—CDATA96, Northern Territory (CD-ROM)* (Cat. no. 2019.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia* (Cat. no. 2020.0)
- 1996 Census—Community Profile Service, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2020.7)
- Census of Population and Housing, Thematic Profile Service, Australia* (Cat. no. 2021.0)
- 1996 Census—Social Atlas, Darwin* (Cat. no. 2030.7)
- 1996 Census—Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 96, Northern Territory (CD-ROM)* (Cat. no. 2033.7)
- Census of Population and Housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1997* (Cat. no. 2034.7)
- Population Growth and Distribution, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 2035.0)
- Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)
- Australian Demographic Trends* (Cat. no. 3102.0)
- Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories* (Cat. no. 3201.0)
- Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 3207.7)
- Regional Population Growth, Australia* (Cat. no. 3218.0)
- Population Projections, 1997 to 2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0)
- Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Australia: Data on Floppy Disk* (Cat. no. 3227.0)
- Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory: Data on Floppy Disk* (Cat. no. 3227.7)

Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (Cat. no. 3230.0)

Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (Cat. no. 3231.0)

Population, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 3234.7)

Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0)

Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0)

Causes of Death, Australia (Cat. no. 3303.0)

Marriages and Divorces, Australia (Cat. no. 3310.0)

Demography, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 3311.7)

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (Cat. no. 3401.0)

Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0)

Northern Territory's Young People (Cat. no. 4123.7)

Population Distribution, Indigenous Australians (Cat. no. 4705.0)

Non-ABS publications

Journal of the Australian Population Association, vol. 10 (2)

Palmerston Monthly Community Newsletter, vol. 8, September 1998

Plant A J, Condon J R and Durling G, *Northern Territory Health Outcomes: Morbidity and Mortality 1979-1991* (1995), NT Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin

CHAPTER 6

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Programs	In 1998 there were 62 approved pre-school programs attached to primary schools in the Northern Territory (NT), an increase of seven approved programs since 1993. It should be noted however, that the definition of 'approved pre-school program' has been changed since 1996 and the data is not directly comparable.
Enrolments	In 1998 there were 3,177 pre-school students enrolled in approved programs in the NT, an increase of 2.2% (68) on the previous year and an increase of 13.9% (388) in the five years since 1993.
Teachers	In 1998 there were 80.0 full-time equivalent pre-school teachers attached to primary schools in the NT, an increase of 6.1% (4.6) since 1993.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Schools	In 1997 there were 144 government and 29 non-government primary, secondary and special education schools in the NT, a decrease of two government schools and an increase of four non-government schools since 1992 (figure 6.1).
Students	In 1997 there were 36,466 full-time students at schools in the NT, an increase of 2.7% (959) since 1996. The number of primary school students in the NT increased by 1.1% (268) from 25,102 in 1996 to 25,370 in 1997 while the number of secondary school students increased by 6.6% (691) to 11,096 over the same period. During the five years to 1997 the total number of students in the NT increased by 8.6% (2,895) (figure 6.1) compared to 2.3% nationally.
Indigenous students	<p>During the five years to 1997 the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students increased marginally, from 34.1% of all students in 1992 to 34.6% in 1997.</p> <p>In 1997 there were 12,604 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (figure 6.2). Of these, 9,432 (74.8%) were attending primary schools while the remaining 3,172 (25.2%) were attending secondary schools. A majority (10,388 or 82.4%) attended government schools.</p>

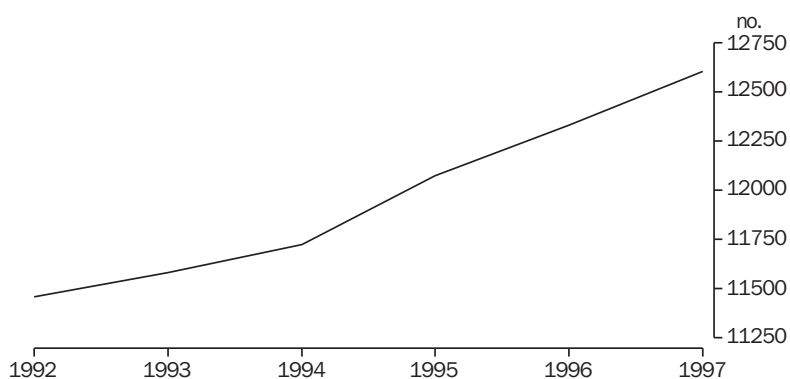
6.1 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, CATEGORY OF SCHOOL—NT

	1992	1997	Change over period
	No.	No.	%
Schools			
Government schools	146	144	-1.4
Non-government schools	25	29	16.0
Total schools	171	173	1.2
Full-time students			
Government schools	26 803	28 294	5.6
Non-government schools	6 768	8 172	20.7
Total students	33 571	36 466	8.6
Full-time teachers(a)			
Government schools	1 948	2 089	7.2
Non-government schools	427	551	29.0
Total teachers	2 375	2 640	11.2

(a) Includes full-time equivalent of part-time teaching staff.

Source: *Schools, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

6.2 FULL TIME ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS, NT



Source: *Schools, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

Government and non-government school students

A majority of the NT's full-time students (28,294 or 77.6%) in 1997 were attending government schools, down slightly from 78.2% (27,766) in 1996. This was the highest proportion of students in government schools for any State or Territory and 7.3 percentage points higher than the national average of 70.3%. During the five years to 1997 the proportion of students in government schools has declined an average 0.4 percentage points a year.

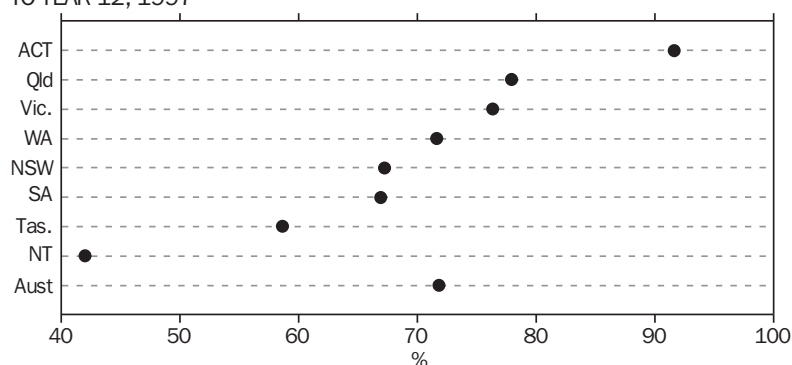
Teachers

In 1997 there were 2,089 government and 551 non-government teachers in NT schools (figure 6.1), an overall increase of 11.2% (265) since 1992. The NT's 1997 staff to student ratio of 1:13.8 was the lowest of any State or Territory and lower than the national average of 1:15.3.

Apparent retention rates During the five years to 1997 the apparent retention rate of secondary school students to Year 12 in the NT varied between 41.0% in 1996 and 56.7% in 1992. In 1997 the rate was 42.0%. This was the lowest retention rate of any State or Territory and significantly lower than the national rate of 71.8% (figure 6.3).

With the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, the NT was the only State or Territory in which the apparent retention rate of secondary school students in government schools was greater than that of students in non-government schools (43.4% compared to 37.6%).

6.3 APPARENT RETENTION RATES OF FULL-TIME SECONDARY STUDENTS TO YEAR 12, 1997



Source: *Schools, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

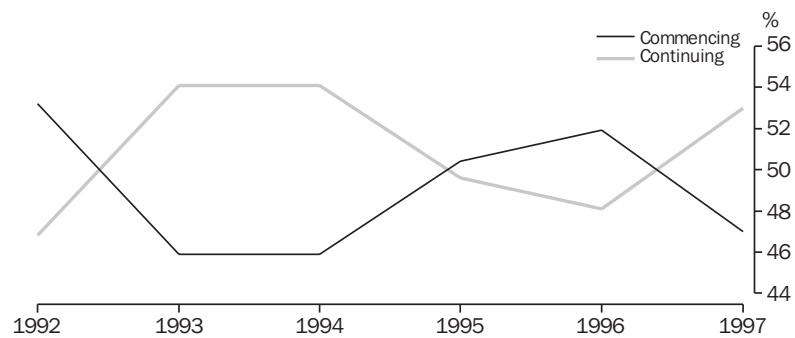
HIGHER EDUCATION

Enrolments At 31 March 1997 there were 4,203 registered students at the Northern Territory University (NTU), the NT's only university, creating 4,294 course enrolments. This was an increase of 9.0% (354) in course enrolments since 1992.

- Female enrolments accounted for 60.9% (2,613) of all enrolments in 1997. The proportion of female enrolments has remained relatively steady during the five years to 31 March 1997 averaging 60.1% of enrolments.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments accounted for 4.6% (198) of all enrolments in 1997, up from 4.4% (173) in 1992.
- External and mixed mode (part internal and part external) enrolments increased from 11.2% (442) of enrolments in 1992 to 52.2% (2,241) of enrolments in 1997.

Enrolment type The proportions of commencing and continuing enrolments has fluctuated markedly during the five years to 31 March 1997 (figure 6.4). In 1997 commencement enrolments accounted for 47.0% (2,019) of all enrolments, compared to 1996 when commencement enrolments accounted for 51.9% (2,321).

6.4 HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENTS, ENROLMENT TYPE AT 31 MARCH 1997— NT



Source: Northern Territory University, 1997 Statistical Report.

Science, Education, Business, and Arts faculties accounted for 83.0% (3,564) of enrolments in 1997. Female enrolments were concentrated in the Education (732 or 28.0%) and Arts (546 or 20.9%) faculties while male enrolments were concentrated in the Science (473 or 28.1%) and Education (378 or 22.5%) faculties. Female enrolments in the Technology faculty (31 or 1.2%) were negligible compared to male enrolments (94 or 5.6%). All faculties, other than Technology, had greater female than male enrolments.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Training framework The Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority (NTETA) is a government body responsible for the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of vocational education and training in the NT.

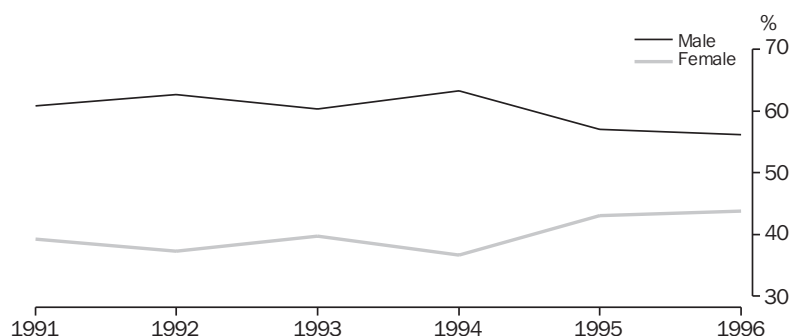
NTETA provides policy and planning advice on education and training, ensures the efficient, effective and equitable distribution of funding and ensures that the quality of outcomes in vocational education and training (VET) in the NT meets the needs of industry and the community. It receives input from industry through national, State and Territory Industry Training Advisory Bodies which formulate advice on training and sponsor research on training related to particular industries.

Training providers In 1997 there were 107 registered VET training course providers in the NT including the public providers, NTU, Batchelor College, Centralian College, and the NT Rural College. Altogether there were 101 courses on offer of which 24 were accredited, 59 were recognised training programs, and 18 were recognised short courses.

Enrolments At 31 December 1997 there were 22,321 students enrolled in VET courses in the NT. Just over half (11,468 or 51.4%) of these students were enrolled with private providers. One third (7,574 or 33.9%) of all VET students were enrolled with the NTU.

- Male enrolments accounted for 53.9% of all enrolments in 1997.
- Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders accounted for 24.6% of all student enrolments in 1997.
- Of the 2,169 VET trainees 32.3% (700) were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC) totalled 3.7 million hours. The 'community services, health and education' industry group courses accounted for 15.2% of total hours, while 'general education and training' industry group courses accounted for 13.5%, 'business and clerical' 12.1%, and 'primary industry' 10.4%.

6.5 NT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING ENROLMENTS BY SEX AT 31 DECEMBER



Source: Northern Territory University, 1997 Statistical Report.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Commonwealth Government provides financial assistance to students under the AUSTUDY, ABSTUDY and Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) schemes.

AUSTUDY is a means-tested and non-competitive scheme of financial assistance to secondary and tertiary students aged 16 years and over. As at December 1997 AUSTUDY was assisting 874 secondary and 1,461 tertiary students in the NT.

ABSTUDY provides financial assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who undertake approved secondary or tertiary education courses. Assistance is also available to primary students aged 14 years or over. Some ABSTUDY payments are income tested while others are not. As at December 1997 ABSTUDY was assisting 3,148 secondary and 2,559 tertiary students in the NT.

Financial assistance *continued*

AIC assists the families of primary, secondary and, in limited cases, tertiary students who, because of geographic isolation, a disability or other reason (for example, family itinerancy) do not have reasonable daily access to appropriate government schooling. AIC is not means-tested. As at December 1997 AIC was assisting 1,262 students in the NT.

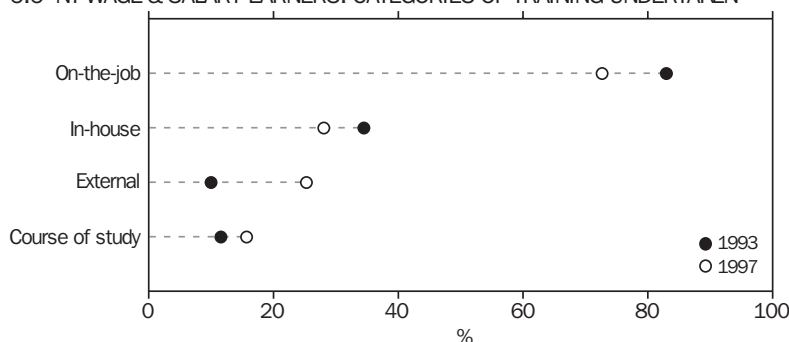
TRAINING

Training experience

The 1997 Survey of Education and Training (SET) found that 80.3% of NT wage and salary earners in predominantly urban areas received some form of training during the 12 months to May 1997, compared to 85.9% in 1993 and 82.1% in 1989.

Of wage and salary earners in predominantly urban areas 72.6% undertook on-the-job training, compared to 82.9% in 1993 and 75.0% in 1989 (figure 6.6).

6.6 NT WAGE & SALARY EARNERS: CATEGORIES OF TRAINING UNDERTAKEN



Note: Survey conducted in predominantly urban areas of NT only.

Source: *Education and Training Experience, Australia* (Cat. no. 6278.0).

The proportion of wage and salary earners in predominantly urban areas undertaking in-house training courses declined to 28.1% in 1997 from 34.5% in 1993 and 36.7% in 1989. Wage and salary earners in predominantly urban areas undertaking external training courses increased to 25.3% from 10.0% in 1993 and 7.8% in 1989. It should be noted that the approach to collecting these data was changed for the 1997 survey.

In the 1997 calendar year 15.7% of wage and salary earners undertook a course of study compared to 11.6% in 1993 and 16.8% in 1989. During the 1997 calendar year more female wage and salary earners (20.0%) than males (11.4%) undertook training.

Expenditure

Employers in the NT spent \$17.5 million on formal training in 1996. This was 3.5% of gross wages and salaries and was higher than that of any other State, but below that of the ACT. Employers spent an average of \$250 per employee, higher than the national average of \$185. NT employees received an average 5.4 hours of formal training during this period, compared to 4.9 hours nationally.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *A Directory of Education and Training Statistics* (Cat. no. 1136.0)
- Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Schools, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 4220.0)
- Schools, Australia* (Cat. no. 4221.0)
- Education and Training in Australia* (Cat. no. 4224.0)
- Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0)
- Education and Training Experience, Australia* (Cat. no. 6278.0)
- Employer Training Expenditure, Australia* (Cat. no. 6353.0)
- Non-ABS publications Department of Employment, Education and Training, *Annual Report*
- NT Department of Education, *Annual Report*
- NT Department of Education, *Statistical Overview of Northern Territory Schools* (annual)
- Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority, *Annual Report*
- Northern Territory University, *Annual Report*
- Northern Territory University, *Statistics Report* (annual)

CHAPTER 7

LABOUR

THE LABOUR FORCE

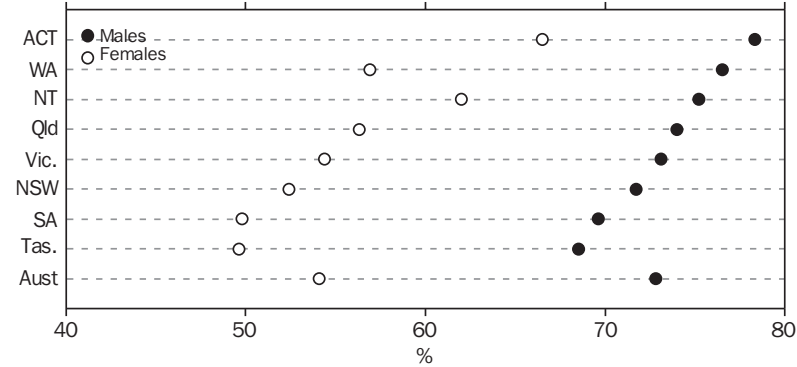
People in the labour force

The labour force comprises people aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed. In June 1998 the Northern Territory's (NT) labour force comprised an estimated 91,100 people of whom 87,500 were employed and 3,600 were unemployed. This was an decrease of 1,100 persons in the labour force (1.2%) since June 1997.

The labour force participation rate for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. This rate provides the basis for monitoring changes in the size and composition of the labour force.

In June 1998 the overall participation rate in the NT was 68.7%, a decline of 2.9 percentage points since June 1997. The NT participation rate was still the second highest of any State or Territory and 2.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 63.3%.

7.1 PARTICIPATION RATE, JUNE 1998: Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary, June 1998 (Cat. no. 6202.0).

In June 1998 the participation rate for males in the NT was 75.2%, down 3.2 percentage points from June 1997 but still 5.4 points higher than the national rate for males; while the participation rate for females was 62.0%, down 2.7 points from June 1997 but 7.9 points above the national rate for females (figure 7.1).

Trend estimates over the last five years show labour force participation rates at about the same level now as in 1993.

People not in the labour force

People aged 15 years and over are described as not being in the labour force if they are neither employed nor unemployed as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This group includes people who are retired, the permanently incapacitated and people who choose not to work. It also includes those people who want to work and are available for work but are not actively looking for work.

People not in the labour
force *continued*

In June 1998 there were an estimated 41,500 people in the NT who were not in the labour force, an increase of 4,900 (13.4%) since June 1997.

UNEMPLOYMENT

People aged 15 years and over are classified as unemployed if they satisfy the following criteria:

- they are not employed (that is, they have not worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind or worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business during the reference week);
- they are available for work; and
- they are actively looking for work.

Number of unemployed
people

In June 1998 there were 3,600 unemployed people in the NT, a decrease of 1,200 (25.0%) since June 1997. Of the total unemployed, 2,500 (69.4%) were male and 1,100 (30.6%) were female.

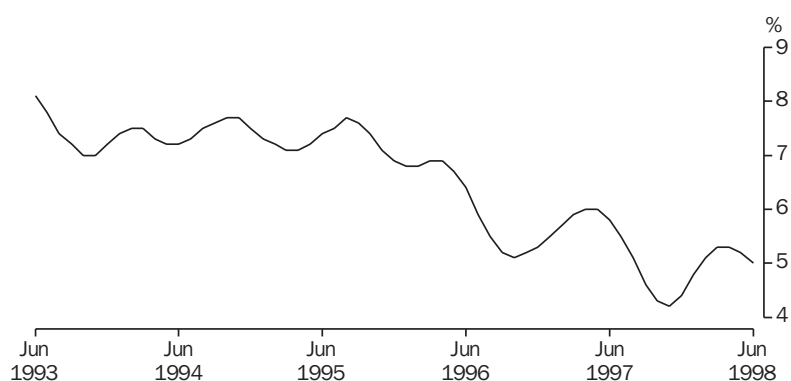
The vast majority (3,200 or 88.9%) of unemployed people were looking for full-time work while the remainder were looking for part-time work.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. In June 1998 the NT's unemployment rate was 4.0%, down 1.3 percentage points from June 1997. The NT had the lowest unemployment rate of any State or Territory, and was 3.9 percentage points below the national rate of 7.9%.

The unemployment rate for males was 5.0%, down 0.3 percentage points since June 1997, while the unemployment rate for females was 2.8%, down 2.5 percentage points over the same period.

7.2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NT: Trend



Source: Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Trend estimates show that during 1997–98 the NT's unemployment rate reached its lowest levels since the trend estimate became available for the NT in July 1991 (figure 7.2).

Regional unemployment rates The Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) publishes quarterly estimates of regional unemployment rates for the NT. At December quarter 1997 it was estimated that the unemployment rate was highest in the DEETYA regions of Tanami (7.4%) and Bathurst-Melville (5.9%); and lowest in Tableland (2.5%) and Casuarina (2.8%).

EMPLOYMENT

People aged 15 years and over are classified as employed if they worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind or worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business.

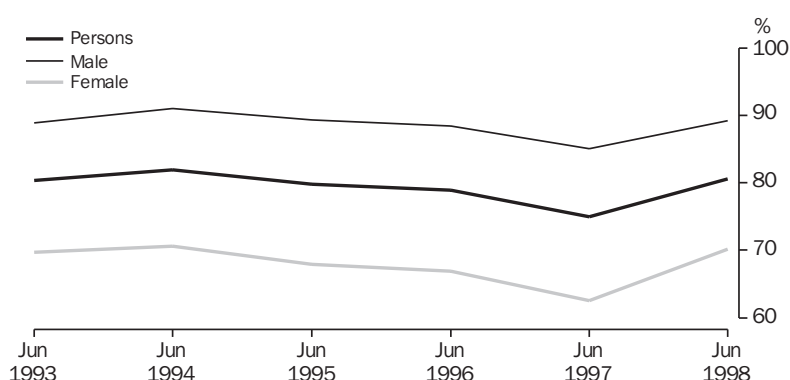
Number of employed people In June 1998 there were 87,500 employed people in the NT, an increase of 200 (0.2%) since June 1997. Of the total employed, 48,200 (55.1%) were male and 39,300 (44.9%) were female.

Community Development Employment Projects About 7,500 of these employed people were employed under the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program. Under the program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voluntarily forego their individual entitlement to unemployment benefits and partake in community development initiatives in return for wages equivalent to their foregone benefit entitlement. The program, which is administered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, provides well over half of the Indigenous employment in the NT.

Defence force personnel At June 1998 there were about 3,500 permanent defence force personnel based in the NT. These personnel are not included in the number of employed people reported above or below.

Full-time and part-time workers Four out of every five persons employed in the NT in June 1998 (69,700 or 79.7%) were full-time workers, up from 74.9% in June 1997. The proportion of males employed full-time in June 1998 was significantly higher than that of females (88.4% compared to 68.7%).

7.3 PERSONS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME, NT: Trend

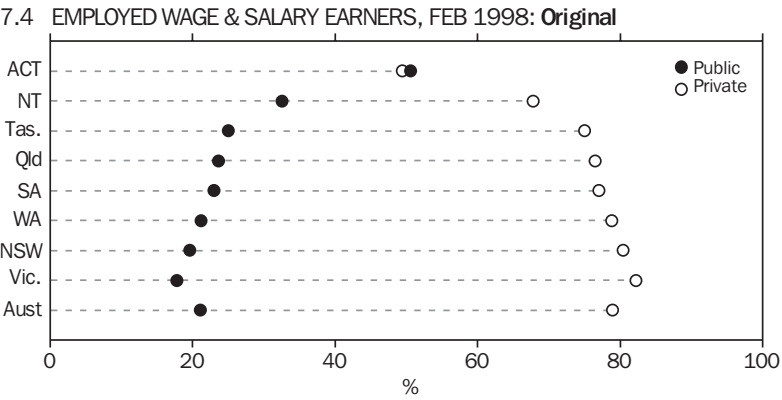


Source: Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0).

By June 1998 trend estimates of the proportion of employees working full-time had returned to the levels of five years ago, after declining between 1994 and 1997 (figure 7.3).

Public and private sector workers

At February 1998 just under one-third (21,600 or 32.5%) of the estimated 66,500 employed wage and salary earners in the NT were employed in the public sector. This was the highest proportion for any State or Territory except the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) (figure 7.4).



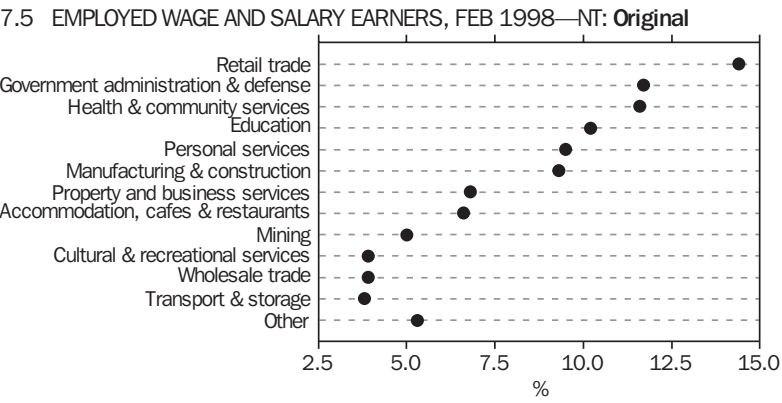
Source: Wage and Salary Earners, Australia, February 1998 (Cat. no. 6248.0).

The proportion of wage and salary earners employed in the public sector in the Territory has remained relatively steady over the five years to February 1998. This is in contrast to the situation nationally, where the proportion of public sector wage and salary earners decreased from 26.9% in 1993 to 21.1% in 1998.

The majority (16,100) of public sector employees in the NT at February 1998 were employed in the NT Government sector with the remainder employed in either the Commonwealth or local government sectors (3,500 and 2,000 respectively).

Industry

The largest industry in terms of employment in the NT at February 1998 was Retail trade with 9,600 (14.4%) of all employed wage and salary earners, followed by Government administration and defence (7,800) and Health and community services (7,700) (figure 7.5).



Source: Wage and Salary Earners, Australia, February 1998 (Cat. no. 6248.0).

Industry *continued*

During the five years to February 1998 the number of employed wage and salary earners increased by 11.0% from 59,900 to 66,500. The largest growth occurred in the Personal and other services industry (up from 3,900 to 6,300); Government administration and defence (up from 5,700 to 7,800); and Health and community services (up from 5,900 to 7,700).

THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings refers to the average gross (before tax) earnings of employees. Figures below refer to the average weekly ordinary time earnings (i.e. excluding overtime, etc) for full-time adults (i.e. excluding juniors and part-time workers).

At May 1998 the average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adults in the NT was \$741.30. This was the third highest average of any State or Territory, behind ACT (\$847.50) and New South Wales (NSW) (\$746.20); and was \$14.40 higher than the national average of \$726.90. South Australia had the lowest average weekly earnings at \$680.10.

Average weekly ordinary time earnings for full time adult males in the NT were \$796.50 compared to \$668.60 for females.

7.6 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, NT

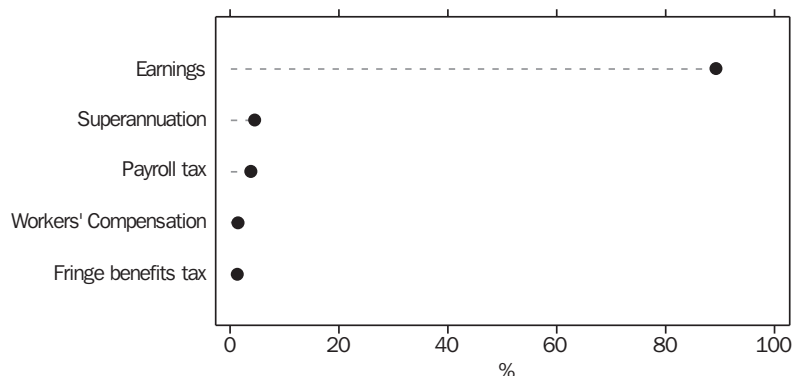
	May 1993	May 1998	Change over period	Change over period (Aust.)
	\$	\$	%	%
Males				
Full-time adults—ordinary time	669.20	796.50	19.0	22.2
Full-time adults—total earnings	733.40	846.60	15.4	22.1
All males—total earnings	646.00	704.40	9.0	16.7
Females				
Full-time adults—ordinary time earnings	573.60	668.60	16.6	21.4
Full-time adults—total earnings	589.70	685.20	16.2	21.1
All males—total earnings	449.80	538.50	19.7	15.3
Persons				
Full-time adults—ordinary time earnings	631.30	741.30	17.4	21.6
Full-time adults—total earnings	676.40	776.90	14.9	21.4
All males—total earnings	553.20	625.20	13.0	15.2

Source: *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (Cat. no. 6302.0).

During the five years to May 1998 the average weekly ordinary time earnings increased by 19.0% for full-time adult males and 16.6% for full-time adult females. In both cases the percentage increases were less than the national average increases. The increase in total earnings for all NT employees over this period was 13.0%, compared with 15.2% for Australia.

Labour costs Labour costs are costs incurred by employers in the employment of labour. In 1993–94 the total labour cost per employee in the NT was \$31,937. By 1996–97 this had increased by 12.5% to \$35,943 per employee. Over the same period the national average labour cost increased by 9.8% to \$35,435 per employee (figure 7.7).

7.7 LABOUR COSTS PER EMPLOYEE BY TYPE, NT—1996–97



Source: *Labour Costs, Australia, 1996–97* (Cat. no. 6348.0).

- Earnings accounted for 89.2% of labour costs per NT employee, down from 91.1% in 1993–94. Earnings comprised payments for time worked, leave, leave loading, public holidays, infrequent bonuses, termination payments and fringe benefits.
- The remaining 10.8% of costs incurred were superannuation (\$1,616 per employee or 4.5%); payroll tax (\$1,326 or 3.7%); workers compensation (\$491 or 1.4%); and fringe benefits tax (\$444 or 1.2%). Since 1993–94 superannuation costs had increased by \$572 per employee (54.8%).

Commencing with the December quarter 1997, ABS compiled for the first time indexes measuring quarterly changes in wage and salary costs for employee jobs (with a base of September quarter 1997 = 100.0). The index shows that from September 1997 to March 1998, ordinary time hourly rates of pay increased by 1.8% in the NT, compared with a national increase of 1.7%.

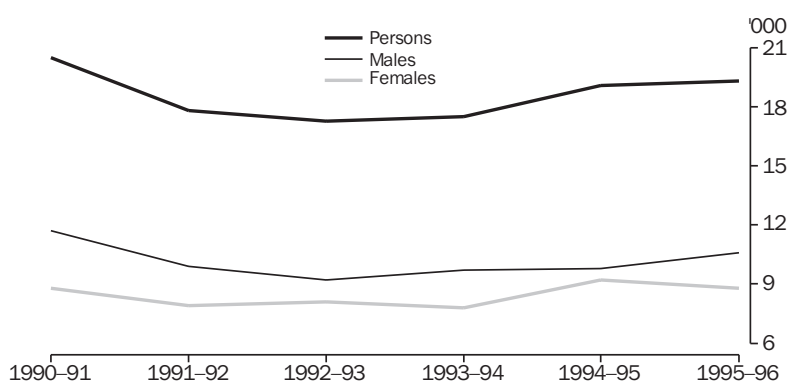
TRADE UNIONS

Number of trade unions As at 30 June 1996 there were 26 separate trade unions operating in the NT, compared with 55 in June 1991. Nationally, the number of unions decreased from 275 to 132 over the same period.

Membership As at 30 June 1996 there were 19,300 trade union members in the NT, of which 18,200 were financial.

In 1996 one-quarter (25%) of all employees in the NT were trade union members, down from 27% in 1991. The NT had the lowest proportion of union membership of all States and Territories, with Tasmania having the highest proportion at 50% (graph 7.8); however the NT had the lowest rate of decline in union membership, with the national average decreasing from 53% to 40% over the five years to 1996.

7.8 TRADE UNION MEMBERS, BY SEX—NT



Source: Trade Union Statistics, Australia (Cat. no. 6323.0).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

In the 12 months to May 1998 there were 400 working days lost in the NT due to industrial disputes. This equated to four working days lost per 1,000 employees, the lowest rate of all States and Territories. Victoria had the highest rate with 154 working days lost per 1,000 employees, while the national average was 76 days lost (figure 7.9).

7.9 WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, NT



Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

continued

In the 12 months ending May from 1994 to 1998, the number of working days lost per 1,000 employees in the NT were 38, 132, 57, 13 and 4 respectively.

FURTHER READING

ABS publications

Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 1362.7)

Labour Statistics, Australia (Cat. no. 6101.0)

Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0)

Labour Force Experience, Australia (Cat. no. 6206.0)

Multiple Jobholding, Australia (Cat. no. 6216.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6220.0)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia
(Cat. no. 6224.0)

Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia (Cat. no. 6238.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (Cat. no. 6248.0)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia
(Cat. no. 6250.0)

Career Experience, Australia (Cat. no. 6254.0)

Labour Force Projections, Australia (Cat. no. 6260.0)

Underemployed Workers, Australia (Cat. no. 6265.0)

Persons Employed at Home, Australia (Cat. no. 6275.0)

Information Paper: Measuring Employment and Unemployment
(Cat. no. 6279.0)

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6301.0)

Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (Cat. no. 6302.0)

Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (Cat. no. 6306.0)

Superannuation, Australia (Cat. no. 6319.0)

Industrial Disputes, Australia (monthly) (Cat. no. 6321.0)

Industrial Disputes, Australia (annual) (Cat. no. 6322.0)

ABS publications *continued* *Working Arrangements, Australia* (Cat. no. 6342.0)

Wage Cost Index, Australia (Cat. no. 6345.0)

Labour Costs, Australia (Cat. no. 6348.0)

Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0)

Non-ABS publications Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Small Area Labour Markets—Australia* (quarterly)

CHAPTER 8

INCOME AND WELFARE

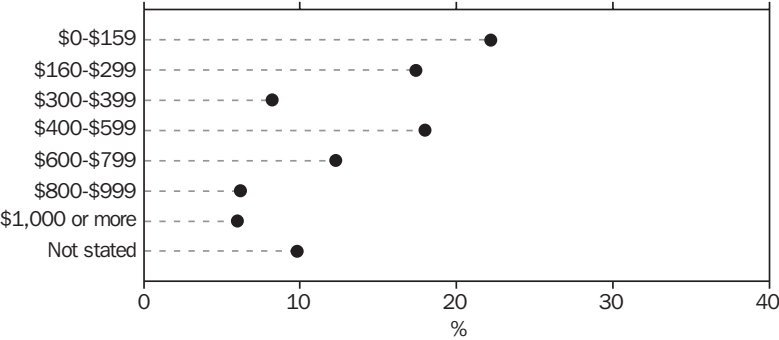
INCOME

Individual weekly income

The 1996 Census indicated that the median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over in the NT was \$367 compared to the national median of \$294.

About one-quarter of the NT population (28,350) had a weekly individual income of less than \$160 (figure 8.1). More than half of these (16,223 or 57.2%) were female. In contrast, the majority of people with a weekly individual income of \$800 or more were male (12,021 or 77.2%).

8.1 INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY INCOME, PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, NT—1996



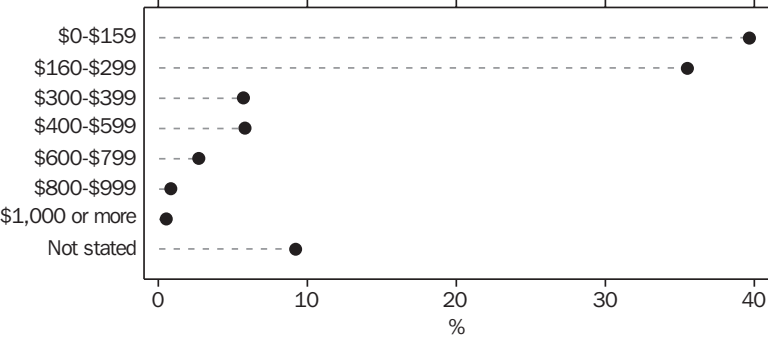
Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1996 (Cat. no. 2034.7).

INCOME OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Individual weekly income

The 1996 Census indicated that the median weekly individual income for Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in the NT was \$182 compared to the NT population as a whole on \$367. The Indigenous NT population as a group had the lowest median weekly income of any other group in any State or Territory, the corresponding national figures being \$218 for Indigenous people and \$294 for all people (figure 8.2).

8.2 INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY INCOME, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE 15 YEARS & OVER, NT—1996

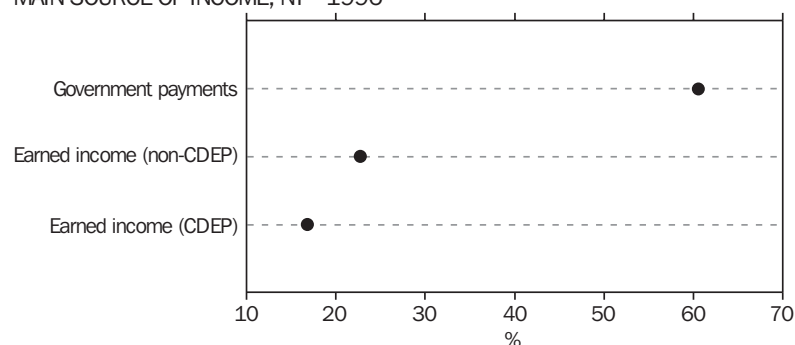


Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1996 (Cat. no. 2034.7).

Individual weekly income The median income range was higher for Indigenous females at \$191
continued than for Indigenous males at \$171. Only 9.9% (2,845) of Indigenous people in the NT had a weekly income of \$400 or more, compared nationally to 18.6% of Indigenous people and 36.7% of all people.

Sources of income The main source of income for the estimated 24,137 (excluding not-stated) Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in the NT who did receive an income was government payments (14603 or 60.5%), followed by income earned from sources other than Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) (5,487 or 22.7%) and earned income from CDEP (4,047 or 16.8%) (figure 8.3). An estimated 2,076 (excluding ‘not-stated’) Indigenous people had no income.

8.3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE 15 YEARS & OVER IN RECEIPT OF AN INCOME, MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME, NT—1996



Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1996 (Cat. no. 2034.7).

BANKRUPTCIES In 1996–97 there were 117 new bankruptcies in the NT compared to 74 in 1995–96.

Type of bankruptcies Of these new bankruptcies, 36 were business related bankruptcies and 80 were non-business bankruptcies. One additional bankruptcy could not be classified.

Major causes In 1996–97 the major causes of business bankruptcies in the NT were, lack of business ability (10 or 27.7%), personal reasons (6 or 16.7%), and other causes not stated (9 or 25%). The major causes of non-business bankruptcies were, unemployment (23 or 28.8%), excessive use of credit facilities (15 or 18.8%), ill health (9 or 11.3%) and other causes not stated (24 or 30.0%).

INCOME SUPPORT

Income support is provided for individuals or families through the payment of pensions, benefits and allowances, generally by the Commonwealth Government.

Centrelink provides the following income security payments for the retired, people with disabilities and their carers, the unemployed, families with children and people in special circumstances.

- The retired are assisted by the Age Pension. The Wife (Age) Pension is being phased out.
- People with disabilities and their carers are supported by the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment, Sickness Allowance, Newstart Allowance (incap) and Mobility Allowance. Wife (Disability Support) Pension is being phased out and no new grants are being made.
- Youth Allowance, which commenced on 1 July 1998, supports the unemployed under the age of 21 years, and students under the age of 25 years. Unemployed people over 21 years and under Age Pension age who are actively seeking full-time work or participating in an approved activity may be eligible for Newstart Allowance. People aged at least 60 years but under the Age Pension age whom have been unemployed for more than 9 months may be eligible for Mature Age Allowance.
- Families and Children are assisted by Family Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Family Tax Payment, Maternity Immunisation Allowance, Parenting Payment, Child Disability Allowance and Double Orphan Pension. Sole Parents with dependant children have access to Parenting Payment (single).
- Older women are supported by the Widow Class 'B' Pension (which is being phased out) and Widow Allowance. Widowed people without dependants are supported by the Bereavement Allowance (a short-term payment).
- Special Benefit may be available to people in financial hardship who are not eligible for any other form of income support and who cannot earn a sufficient livelihood.

In addition to these payments, other supplementary payments may be included in benefits depending on the person's circumstances. These payments include: Guardian Allowance, Rent Assistance, Remote Area Allowance, Pharmaceutical Allowance, and telephone rental and postal concessions.

8.4 CENTRELINK PAYMENTS, NT—DECEMBER 1997

		<i>Payments being made</i>
<i>Type of payment</i>		<i>no.</i>
The retired		
Age Pension		4 981
Wife (Age) pension		639
Carer Pension		179
People with disabilities and the sick		
Disability Support Pension		4 195
Disability Wage Support		1
Child Disability Allowance		762
Sickness Allowance		114
The unemployed		
Newstart Allowance		12 105
Newstart Mature Age Allowance		106
Partner Allowance		277
Mature Age Allowance		105
Mature Age Partner Allowance		19
Youth Training Allowance		570
Mobility Allowance		109
Youth Allowance (commenced 1 July 1998)		n.y.a.
Families with children		
Family Payment Allowance		21 514
Family Tax Payment		11 905
Sole Parent Pension		4 928
Parenting Allowance		5 080
Childcare Assistance		3 016
Widowed Persons		
Widow Allowance		90
Widow Class 'B' Pension		156
General Assistance		
Rent Assistance		5 845
Disadvantaged Person Scheme		1 155
Provision for special circumstances		
Special Benefit		90
Other Payments		
Double Orphans Pension		26
Drought Relief Payment		1
Total		78 969

Source: Centrelink Knowledge Desk, Centrelink/Social Security Populations database.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Repatriation Commission provides veterans and their dependents with a range of benefits, including service and disability pensions, to compensate for the effects of war or defence service. The Department of Veterans' Affairs provides administrative support to the Commission in providing these benefits.

At October 1998 there were 577 service pensions payable to veterans or veterans' wives and widows in the NT, these are income and asset tested and taxed (figure 8.5). There were also 824 disability pensions payable to incapacitated veterans or their dependents and 139 War Widow pensions. These disability and War Widows pensions are not income or asset tested, nor do they attract taxation.

8.5 SERVICE PENSIONS, NORHTERN TERRITORY, OCTOBER 1998

	<i>Pensions to Veterans</i>	<i>Pensions to Veteran's wives and widows</i>	<i>Total pensions</i>
	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>
World War I	1	n.p.	n.p.
World War II	210	n.p.	n.p.
Korea, Malaya & Fare East Strategic Reserve	58	n.p.	n.p.
Special Overseas Service	90	n.p.	n.p.
Peacetime & Peacekeeping Forces	2	n.p.	n.p.
Australian Mariners	13	n.p.	n.p.
Total	374	203	577

8.6 DISABILITY PENSIONS, NT

	<i>OCTOBER 1998</i>
	<i>no.</i>
World War I	1
World War II	158
Korea, Malaya	20
Far East Strategic Reserve	10
Special Overseas Service	171
Peacetime & Peacekeeping Forces	438
Australian Mariners	1
United Kingdom(a)	22
New Zealand(a)	3
Total	824

(a) While the Department of Veterans Affairs does not pay Disability Pensions for other Governments it does provide medical treatment to eligible Veterans on behalf of the British and New Zealand Governments.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A wide variety of services for special groups in the community or for the community as a whole are provided by the NT and local governments, welfare agencies and other organisations.

Child care

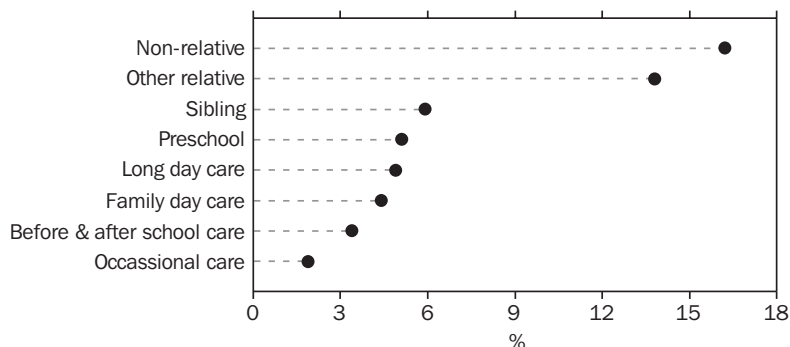
Territory Health Services (THS) conjointly with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services assists in the provision of a range of child care services. Much of this assistance is provided through operational funding of child day care centres and related children's services.

In March 1996, nearly half (14,800 or 45.2%) of NT children under 12 years of age were involved in some type of formal or informal child care arrangement. This was slightly lower than the national average of 48.4%.

Informal child care, which includes care by siblings, other relatives or non-relatives, was the most common type of child care arrangement used by NT children 8,600 or 26.4% of all children under 12 years of age).

Formal child care is regulated and occurs away from the child's home. It includes pre-school, before and after school care programs, long day care centres, family day care and occasional care. In March 1996 a total of 3,900 children in predominantly urban areas of the NT used formal care (11.9% of all children under 12 years of age). The most commonly used types of formal care were pre-school (5.1%), long day care (4.9%) and family day care (4.4%) (note that components do not add to total as children may use more than one type of formal child care).

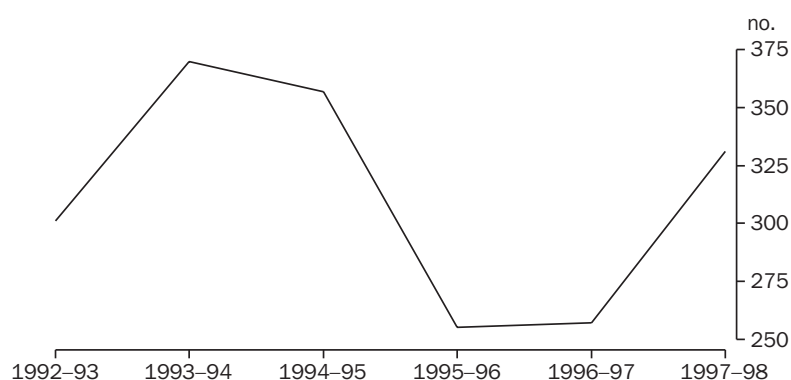
8.7 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE USING CHILDCARE, TYPE OF CHILDCARE USED, NT—1996



Source: *Child Care, Australia, March 1996* (Cat. no. 4402.0).

Approximately half (48.8% or 1,570) of all reported cases of child maltreatment since 1993–94 have been substantiated. There were 331 cases (48.7%) of child maltreatment cases substantiated in 1997–98, a increase of 10.0% on the 301 cases that were substantiated in 1992–93, although the annual number of reported and substantiated cases fluctuate (figure 8.8). Substantiated cases of maltreatment in 1997–98 were more likely to involve female children (177 or 55%) than male children (154 or 45%). During 1997–98 substantiated cases of emotional maltreatment (5%) and sexual maltreatment (14%) have continued to remain relatively constant as an annual proportion of all cases since 1993–94. In the same period cases of neglect have reduced from 47% in 1993–94 to 36% in 1997–98 while physical abuse cases have increased from 29% to 46%.

8.8 SUBSTANTIATED CASES OF MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN, NT



Source: *Territory Health Services, Annual Reports*.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2015.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Selected Family and Labour Force Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2017.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing, Counts by Age and Sex for Selected Areas, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2018.7)
- 1996 Census—CDATA96, Northern Territory (CD-ROM)* (Cat. no. 2019.7)
- 1996 Census—Census of Population and Housing: Community Profiles, Australia* (Cat. no. 2020.0)
- 1996 Census—Community Profile Service, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 2020.7)
- Census of Population and Housing, Thematic Profile Service, Australia* (Cat. no. 2021.0)
- 1996 Census—Social Atlas, Darwin* (Cat. no. 2030.7)
- 1996 Census—Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 96, Northern Territory (CD-ROM)* (Cat. no. 2033.7)
- Census of Population and Housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Northern Territory, 1997* (Cat. no. 2034.7)
- Population Growth and Distribution, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 2035.0)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Detailed Findings* (Cat. no. 4190.0)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Regional Statistics* (Cat. no. 4196.0)
- Child Care, Australia* (Cat. no. 4402.0)
- Voluntary Work, Australia* (Cat. no. 4441.0)
- Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Users Guide* (Cat. no. 6527.0)
- Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results* (Cat. no. 6530.0)
- Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics* (Cat. no. 6531.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: States and Territories
(Cat.no. 6533.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items
(Cat.no. 6535.0)

*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: The Effects of Government
Benefits and Taxes on Household Income* (Cat.no. 6537.0)

Non-ABS publications *Bankruptcy Act 1966—Annual Report*

Centrelink, Annual Report

Department of Veterans' Affairs, Annual Report

Territory Health Services, Annual Report

CHAPTER 9

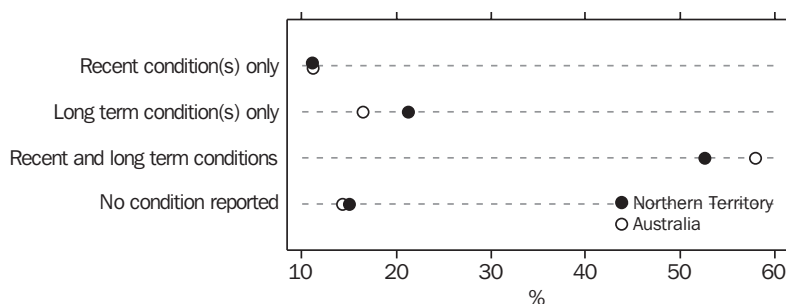
HEALTH

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

The second in a series of five-yearly National Health Surveys (NHS) was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) during a 12 month period from January 1995. The NHS aimed to collect information about the health status of Australians, their use of health services, and their health related lifestyle.

Health status	A majority (88.1%) of the urban population in Darwin-Palmerston and Alice Springs aged 15 years and over reported that their health status was good, very good, or excellent, slightly higher than the national average (83.3%). Similar proportions were reported by males and females of the urban population in Darwin-Palmerston and Alice Springs.
Recent conditions	Despite these favourable health assessments, when those suffering only long term conditions are excluded, 63.7% (87,600) of people in the NT (age and sex standardised to the Australian population) reported that they had experienced an illness, injury or disability during the two weeks prior to interview. This was below the national average of 69.2%. The most frequently reported recent condition was a headache (due to unspecified or trivial cause) which was reported by about one in five of the NT population (17.8%, 15,600 persons) (figure 9.1).
Long-term conditions	A larger group of the NT population (73.9% or 99,900) reported that they experienced long term conditions—that is, conditions which have lasted, or which are expected to last, for at least six months. This was lower than the national average of 74.5%. Hypermetropia/far sightedness was the most frequently reported long-term condition, affecting 24.2% (24,200) of the population experiencing long-term conditions. The second most frequently reported long term condition was Myopia/short sightedness which affected 21.5% (21,500) of persons reporting a long term condition.

9.1 PERSONS: WHETHER REPORTED RECENT AND/OR LONG TERM CONDITIONS—1995

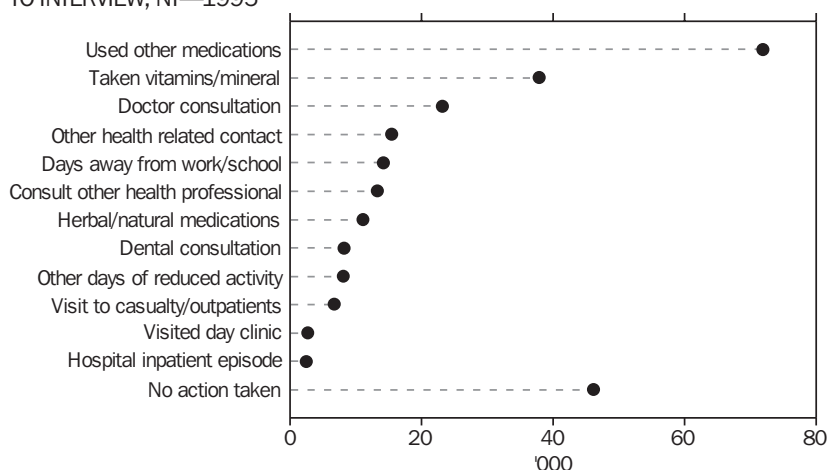


Note: NT figures relate to predominantly urban areas only.

Source: *National Health Survey: Summary of Results, States and Territories, 1995* (Cat. no. 4368.0).

Health Related Action Just over two-thirds of people in the urban population in Darwin-Palmerston and Alice Springs (99,200 or 68.3%) reported taking at least one health-related action during the two weeks prior to interview, which was below the national average of 75.3%. The most common health-related actions were using medications (86,900 or 87.6%), including taking vitamins and minerals (37,900 or 38.2% of all health-related actions) and consulting a doctor (23,200 or 23.4%) (figure 9.2).

9.2 PERSONS: HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO INTERVIEW, NT—1995



Note: Estimates relate to predominantly urban areas only.

Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results, States and Territories, 1995 (Cat. no. 4368.0).

Health risk factors The NHS also asked people about aspects of their lifestyle and other characteristics which may affect their health, such as alcohol consumption, relative weight and exercise.

People who consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview were grouped by health risk level according to the quantity of alcohol they consumed. The survey found that 35.9% of the NT population over the age of 18 had not consumed alcohol in the week prior to the interview and that 46.8% could be grouped as low risk. The remainder were grouped in the high or medium risk categories.

About one-third of the NT population (33.9%) reported that they did no exercise for recreation, sport or fitness in the two weeks prior to interview. This was on slightly higher than the national average of 33.0%.

Less than half of the NT population (40.7%) had an acceptable relative weight while 43.8% were either overweight or obese.

Just less than a third (32.2%) of the NT population aged over 18 were smokers which was significantly higher than the national average of 23.8%. The proportion of persons who had never smoked was 42.9%, lower than the national average of 48.9%.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

In 1997 there were 4,151 notifications of diseases, an increase of 17.8% from 1996 when there were 3,524 notifications. Gonorrhoea was by far the most commonly notified disease with 1,039 notifications followed by chlamydia with 656 notifications. In comparison with 1992 there were substantial increases in the notifications of pertussis (whooping cough, 2300.0%), Hepatitis C (prevalence) (272.7%), Glomerulonephritis (150.0%) and acute rheumatic fever (133%) (figure 9.3).

However, most of these, and other notifiable diseases fluctuate widely in number of notifications reported over the five year period, and percentage changes may be affected by very small numbers. Only one notifiable disease, syphilis, appears to be indicating any consistent pattern. Syphilis has reduced from 670 cases reported in 1996 to only 271 cases in 1997, indicating a pattern of consistent annual decreases.

9.3 NOTIFICATIONS OF SELECTED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES(a), NT

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Acute Rheumatic Fever	9	6	25	17	44	21
Adverse Vaccine Reaction	(a)	(a)	(a)	10	12	1
Barmah Forest Virus	49	18	34	14	27	43
Campylobacter	396	368	325	353	262	26
Chlamydia	615	653	725	542	645	656
Gonorrhoea	590	682	743	545	785	1039
Glomerulonephritis	6	27	21	60	16	15
Hepatitis A	156	115	68	53	76	93
Hepatitis C (incidence)	(a)	(a)	(a)	4	3	1
Hepatitis C (prevalence)	92	213	301	309	217	342
Haemophilus influenzae type b	(a)	20	1	4	4	4
Leprosy	3	2	1	1	6	2
Malaria	30	26	40	37	26	37
Measles	36	8	402	113	26	11
Meningococcal infection	12	2	5	8	9	15
Pertussis	1	7	140	177	16	24
Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	(a)	(a)	(a)	96	75	81
Ross River Virus	238	247	313	390	131	223
Rotavirus	(a)	(a)	(a)	303	153	259
Salmonella	379	384	477	369	422	347
Shigella	223	136	127	199	149	169
Syphilis	670	639	457	350	290	271
Tuberculosis	32	29	31	40	34	34

(A) Not notifiable.

Source: Territory Health Services, Annual Report, 1996/97; Territory Health Services, The Northern Territory Communicable Diseases Bulletin, Vol.5 No.1, March 1998.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

Breast cancer screening Regular breast cancer screening allows for early detection of the disease. There are three methods of breast cancer screening: breast self-examination; physical examination of the breasts by a trained health professional; and mammography.

In the 1995 NHS women aged over 18 were asked whether they regularly examined their own breasts for lumps or whether they regularly had their breasts examined by a doctor or medical assistant. They were also asked whether they had heard of a mammogram and for those who had, whether they had had the test. Results were age and sex standardised to the Australian population and found that in the NT, 638.5 out of every 1,000 women regularly examine their own breasts, compared to 653.0 per 1,000 nationally. A smaller proportion (351.4 per 1,000) reported having had a breast examination by a doctor or nurse, which was also less than the national average of 404.0 per 1,000. Of the 368.6 women per 1,000 who had had a mammogram, just over three-quarters (76.9 %), stated that they had been screened within the three years prior to interview.

Cervical cancer screening As with breast cancer, early detection of cervical cancer improves the chance of recovery. The national policy for cervical cancer screening recommends that routine screening with Pap smears be carried out every two years for women who have no symptoms or history suggestive of cervical pathology.

In the 1995 NHS, 874.2 per 1000 women aged over 18 in the NT reported having had a Pap smear test, slightly higher than the national average of 839.9 per 1000. Of those women who had had a test, 73.3% had been tested less than two years prior to interview.

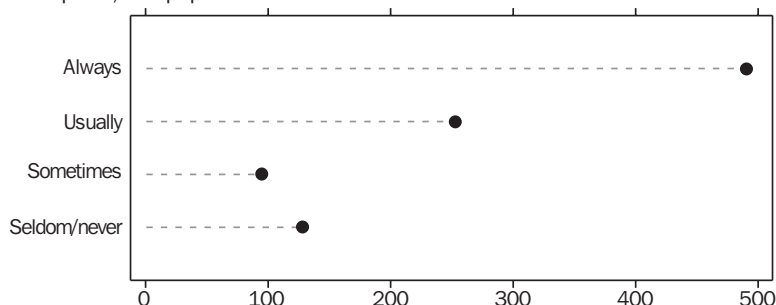
As part of its efforts to encourage women to have regular Pap smears, Territory Health Services (THS) established the NT Pap Smear Register in early 1996. The Register gives women the option of having their Pap smear results recorded each time they have one. Those women who elect to have their results recorded on the Register will be sent reminders if they are overdue for their next Pap smear and a reminder will also be sent to their doctor or clinic.

Skin cancer Exposure to sunlight (the ultraviolet component) is the major risk factor associated with skin cancers. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Australia with some of the highest rates of incidence in the world being recorded.

In the 1995 NHS respondents were asked whether in the last month they had taken any measures to protect themselves from the sun. The survey found that 490.4 persons per 1,000 in the NT always took sun protection measures, which was above the national average of 470.2 persons per 1,000. In addition to those persons who always took sun

protection measures, a further 252.8 persons per 1,000 in the NT usually took sun protection measures while 128.0 persons per 1,000 seldom or never took sun protection measures. This was above the national average of 104.9 persons per 1,000 (figure 9.4).

9.4 PERSONS: FREQUENCY OF SUN PROTECTION MEASURES, NT—
Rate per 1,000 population



Note: Rates age and sex standardised to the Australian population.

Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results, States and Territories, 1995 (Cat. no. 4368.0).

HOSPITALISATION

Public and Private Hospitals

Territory Health Services (THS) administers five public hospitals in the NT located in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Gove and Tennant Creek. There is also one private hospital, Darwin Private Hospital, which commenced operation in 1988.

Public Hospital Activity

The number of beds available in NT public hospitals declined by 1.4% (8) between 1994–95 and 1996–97. Separations increased by 10.2% (4,455) between 1994–95 and 1996–97 while the average length of stay declined from 6.5 days to 6.3 days over the same period. Royal Darwin Hospital had the highest average length of stay in 1996–97 (7.2 days) while Tennant Creek Hospital had the lowest (3.6 days).

The number of day only separations increased significantly between 1994–95 and 1996–97 from 17,804 to 23,191, an increase of 30.3%. There was also a large increase (29.9%) in the number of day surgeries over the period (figure 9.5).

9.5 SELECTED ACTIVITY STATISTICS FOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS, NT

	1994–95	1996–97	Change over time %
Available beds (no.)	585	577	–1.4
Bed utilisation (%)	85	86	1.2
Average length of stay (excluding same day patients) (days)	6.5	6.3	–3.1
All separations (no.)	43 861	48 316	10.2
Overnight separations (no.)	26 057	25 125	–3.6
Day only separations (no.)	17 804	23 191	30.3
Day surgery (no.)	16 631	21 596	29.9

Source: Territory Health Services, Annual Report, 1996–97.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

In October 1997 the ABS conducted a survey of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. For the NT, information was collected from individuals in predominantly urban households about their awareness of coverage by workers' compensation and awareness of employer initiatives to improve occupational health and safety in the workplace. Respondents who had experienced or first became aware of a work-related injury or illness in the last 12 months were asked details of their most recent injury or illness and the impact of the most recent injury or illness on their work.

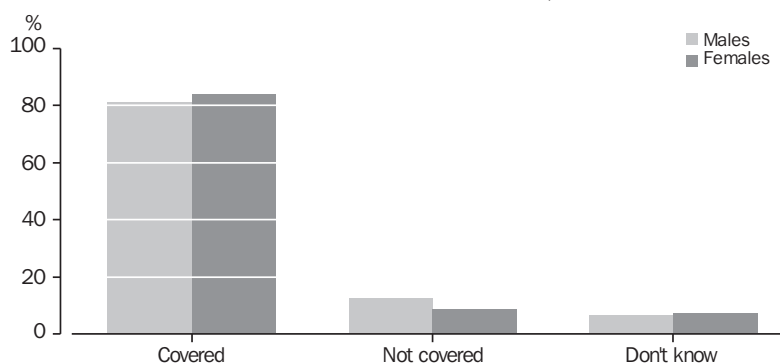
Awareness of coverage

The survey found that in October 1997 64,887 workers (82.4%) aged 15 to 69 thought they were covered by workers' compensation. Males were less likely than females to believe that they were covered (81.1 % compared with 83.9%). Workers aged 55 to 69 and 15 to 24 were least likely to think they were covered by workers' compensation (72.5 % and 78.5 % respectively) while workers aged 25 to 34 years were most likely to think they were covered (87.2%).

A majority of workers who thought they were covered by workers' compensation obtained their knowledge about workers' compensation through 'common knowledge' (49.5%) or employer seminars/discussions (47.3%).

More than half (34,728 or 53.5 %) of workers who thought they were covered by workers' compensation thought that they were covered by the NT Work Health Act scheme while one-third (21, 844 or 33.6%) did not know which workers' compensation scheme applied.

9.6 COVERAGE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION BY SEX, NT—1997



Source: *Work-related Injuries and Illnesses, Northern Territory, October 1997* (Cat. no. 6301.7).

Number of claims

Under the Work Health Act 1986, workers in the NT are entitled to compensation for injuries or illnesses contracted during the course of their employment. In 1997–98 4,291 claims for workers compensation were accepted by insurers. This was 0.4% (19) more claims than the previous year. The most common injury was sprains and strains, accounting for more than one-third (1,620 or 37.8 %) of employment injuries in 1997–98 followed by lacerations (743 or 17.3%) and contusion, bruising (528 or 12.3%).

Claims by industry and occupation The recreational, personal and other services industry had the highest number of workers compensation claims lodged in 1997–98 (744 or 17.3%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (589 or 13.7%) and community services (533 or 12.4%) (figure 9.7).

About one in three workers compensation claims were lodged by labourers (1,348 or 31.4%) with a further 22.7% of claims (974) being lodged by tradespeople. Workers' compensation claims were least likely to have been lodged by clerical workers (190 or 4.4%) and managers (231 or 5.4%).

9.7 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS BY INDUSTRY, NT—1997–98

	no.	%
Agriculture	303	7.1
Community services	533	12.4
Construction	409	9.5
Electricity, gas and water	52	1.2
Finance, property and business services	269	6.3
Manufacturing	447	10.4
Mining	324	7.6
Public administration	315	7.3
Recreation, personal and other services	744	17.3
Transport and storage	306	7.1
Wholesale and retail trade	589	13.7
Total	4 291	100.0

Source: Northern Territory Work Health Authority.

FURTHER READING

ABS publications *National Health Survey: Users' Guide, Australia* (Cat. no. 4363.0)

National Health Survey: Summary of Results, Australia (Cat. no. 4364.0)

National Health Survey: Summary of Results, Australian States and Territories (Cat. no. 4368.0)

National Health Survey: Darwin-Palmerston and Alice Springs (Cat. no. 4803.7)

Work-related Injuries and Illnesses, Northern Territory, October 1997 (Cat. no. 6301.7)

Non-ABS publications Department of Transport and Works, Northern Territory Road Accident Statistics, *Annual Report*.

Mathers C, *Health Differentials Among Adult Australians Aged 25–64 Years*, (1994), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

Mathers C, *Health Differentials Among Older Australians*, (1994), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

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- Moon L, *Elective Surgery Waiting Lists in Australian Public Hospitals 1995*, (1996), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra
- National Health Ministers' Benchmarking Working Group 1996, *First National Report on Health Sector Performance Indicators: Public Hospitals—the State of Play*, (1996), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra
- NT Work Health Authority, *Annual Report*
- NT Work Health Authority, *Statistical Supplement*
- Plant A, Condon J and Durling G, *Northern Territory Health Outcomes, Morbidity and Mortality 1979–1991*, (1995), NT Department of Health and Community Services
- Territory Health Services, *Annual Report*
- Territory Health Services, *The Northern Territory Communicable Diseases Bulletin*, vol. 5, no. 1 March 1998.
- Territory Health Services, *Tobacco Consumption in Darwin, October 1994*
- Territory Health Services, *Summary of Household Survey of Alcohol Consumption and Related Attitudes February-March 1997*

CHAPTER 10

LAW AND ORDER

In 1983 the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services were amalgamated into a tri-service organisation, with the Commissioner of Police as the Chief Executive Officer. The service describes its mission as serving and protecting the public, with a vision of 'working in partnership with the community to create a safer, more secure environment so that the Northern Territory (NT) becomes the preferred location within the Australian and Asia Pacific regions in which to live, work, conduct business and enjoy leisure'.

POLICE

Personnel At 30 June 1997 the NT police force consisted of 819 officers, including 35 Aboriginal Community Police Officers who operate in remote communities and regional centres (figure 10.1).

10.1 NT POLICE PERSONNEL AT 30 JUNE 1997

	Male	Female	Total
Classification			
Executive officers	36	2	38
Sergeants	174	18	192
Constables	374	94	468
Police auxiliary	34	52	86
Aboriginal Community Police Officers (formerly Police Aides)	31	4	35
Total	649	170	819

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report

Reported crime In 1996–97 there were 19,821 crimes reported to the police in the NT, a decrease of 155 from the previous year.

There were 2,929 reported offences against the person in 1996–97 of which nearly 70% were cleared (that is, the crime report was finalised by either an arrest or a summons). Assault accounted for most cases of offences against the person (2,489 offences or 85.0%), followed by sexual assault (241 offences or 8.2%), and robbery with a weapon (68 offences or 2.3%).

There were 28,570 reported offences against property in 1996–97, of which nearly 16% were cleared. The majority of offences related to other theft (7,359 or 25.8%), followed by property damage offences (6,500 or 22.8%), interference with a motor vehicle (3,275 or 11.5%), and break-ins to dwellings (2,996 or 10.5%).

Between 1993–94 and 1996–97 the proportion of apprehensions involving juveniles rose marginally each year from 11.3% (1,130 offenders) in 1993–94 to 12.6% (1,278 offenders) in 1996–97.

Mandatory sentencing for offences against property was introduced in March 1997.

10.2 SUMMARY OF SELECTED OFFENCES, NT

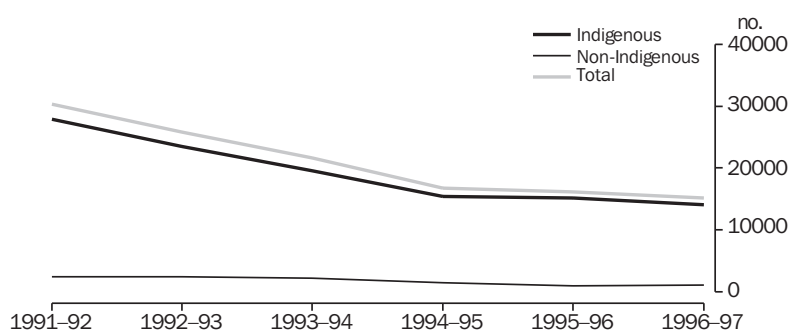
	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Reported	Total	Reported	Total	Reported	Total
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Murder	18	0.1	21	0.1	12	0.0
Attempted murder	7	0.0	4	0.0	3	0.0
Manslaughter	6	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0
Assault—non sexual	2 206	7.5	2 667	8.8	2 489	7.9
Assault—sexual	240	0.8	277	0.9	241	0.8
Robbery	75	0.3	105	0.3	85	0.3
Unlawful entry	5 053	17.1	5 401	17.8	4 900	15.6
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	1 123	3.8	1 142	3.8	1 121	3.6
Criminal deception	335	1.1	359	1.2	458	1.5
Other theft	7 094	24.0	7 387	24.3	7 359	23.4
Total (includes other)	29 539	—	30 408	—	31 499	—

Protective custody The NT police are empowered to take persons who are intoxicated in public into protective custody. In 1996-97, 15,098 persons were taken into protective custody.

The decline in the number of persons taken into protective custody in recent years is largely attributable to: the greater use of sobering-up shelters; the adoption of community supported alcohol-related behaviour strategies by an increasing number of remote communities; and improved targeting of foot, vehicle and mounted police patrols at areas of public concern.

Indigenous persons accounted for 93.0% of all persons taken into protective custody during 1996-97 (figure 10.3). Males accounted for the great majority of people taken into protective custody; 71.4% of Indigenous persons and 93.4% of non-Indigenous persons.

10.3 NUMBER OF PERSONS TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, NT



Note: A person may be taken into protective custody a number of times during any given year.

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Annual Report.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Prisons At 30 June 1997 the NT had three prisons:

- Darwin Prison, a maximum security, multifunctional prison which holds male and female prisoners;
- Gunn Point Prison Farm, a minimum security prison for male sentenced prisoners, located 76 kilometres by road from Darwin; and
- the Alice Springs Prison, a new multifunctional facility which was officially opened 22 August 1996. The innovative new prison, located 23 kilometres from Alice Springs, has been designed to meet prevailing national standards and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

All prisoners in the old Alice Springs Gaol were transferred to the new Alice Springs Prison by the end of August 1996. Some minimum security prisoners were transferred permanently to the minimum security residential cottages during 1994–95, prior to its official opening. The old gaol was decommissioned and subsequently handed over to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment on 29 April 1997.

A daily average of 541 prisoners were held in NT prisons during 1996–97 at a daily average cost of \$156.53 per prisoner. Indigenous persons who had been sentenced continued to be over-represented in the NT's prisons, accounting for 74.7% of sentenced prisoners held during 1996–97. A census, taken on 30 June 1997, showed there were 534 sentenced prisoners and 72 unsentenced prisoners, making a total of 606 prisoners in the NT.

Sentencing Of the 835 prisoners sentenced during 1996–97:

- Almost four-fifths (79.9% or 667) were Indigenous.
- More than one-third (36.2% or 361) of Indigenous prisoners were serving a sentence of 12 months duration or more compared to 57.1% of non-Indigenous prisoners.
- The offences or charges for which Indigenous prisoners were sentenced were different to those for which non-Indigenous prisoners were sentenced (figure 10.4). Non-Indigenous prisoners were more likely to be sentenced for drug and deception offences than Indigenous prisoners, while Indigenous prisoners were more than twice as likely to be sentenced for assault, driving under the influence and unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

10.4 PRISONERS SENTENCED DURING 1996–97 BY INDIGENOUS STATUS AND MAJOR OFFENCE, NORTHERN TERRITORY

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total
Murder	1	0.1	0	0
Manslaughter	2	0.3	2	1.2
Assault — non sexual	172	25.8	21	12.5
Assault — sexual	12	1.8	7	4.2
Robbery/armed robbery	6	0.9	5	3
Break and enter	69	10.3	17	10.1
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	45	6.7	6	3.6
Fraud/false pretences	1	0.1	12	7.1
Stealing/receiving	38	5.7	15	8.9
Drugs	1	0.1	20	11.9
Driving under the influence/exceeding .08%	103	15.4	12	7.1
Total (includes other)	667	100.0	168	100.0

Source: Department of Correctional Services Annual Report 1996–97

Juvenile detention centres At 30 June 1997 the NT had two juvenile detention centres:

- the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre, located in an outer suburb of Darwin; and
- the Wildman River Wilderness Work Camp, located on the edge of Kakadu National Park, about 170 kilometres from Darwin.

A daily average of 15 juvenile detainees were held in these centres during 1996–97 at a daily average cost of \$440.52 per detainee.

FIRE SERVICE

The NT Fire Service maintained nine permanently staffed fire stations and employed 189 people in 1996–97, while smaller communities were serviced by volunteer brigades. The Fire Service attended a total of 4,948 calls in 1996–97 which was a decrease of 5.4% from 1995–96.

During the year a new Bronto Skylift aerial appliance replaced a 24 year old turntable ladder. Staff were trained in the use on the new skylift, improving response to high-rise incidents. The construction of a new fire station in Alice Springs was also completed during the year and work continued on controlling the Mission and Gamba grass fire hazard.

EMERGENCY SERVICE

During 1996–97 the NT Emergency Service had 10 permanent staff, including one Commander from the NT Police, and a further 443 volunteers. Volunteers spent 4,956 hours on 38 community service projects and responded to 71 call outs during 1996–97. A total of 421 people were trained in emergency management and response skills during the year.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Corrective Services, Australia* (Cat. no. 4512.0)
- Community Attitudes to Crime and Policing, Australia* (Cat. no. 4514.0)
- Non-ABS publications Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department, *Annual Report*
- Northern Territory Correctional Services, *Annual Report*
- Northern Territory Liquor Commission, *Annual Report*
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, *Annual Report*
- The Office of Courts Administration, *Annual Report*

CHAPTER 11

AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

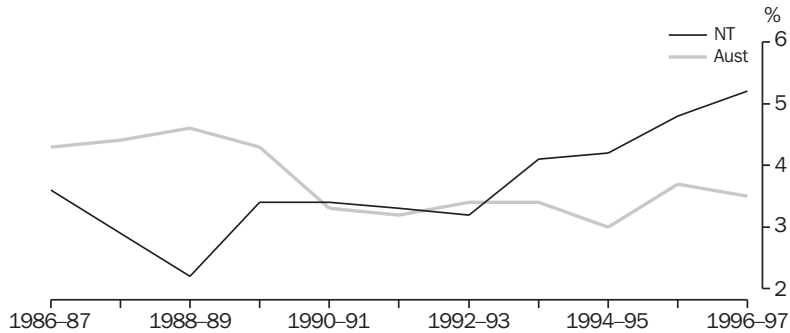
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Rural industries played a major role in pioneering the development of the Northern Territory (NT). Primary industries in the NT include pastoral, other livestock (including crocodile, poultry and camel), horticulture (fruit, vegetables, nursery and cut flowers), other agriculture (field crops, hay and seeds) and fishing (harvesting of wildstock and aquaculture). Both the agriculture and fishing industries continue to be significant contributors to diversified regional economic growth by providing employment opportunities and export income for the NT population, especially those living in remote areas.

Contribution to Gross State Product

In 1996–97 the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries contributed 5.2% to the NT's Gross State Product (GSP). Nationally these industries contributed 3.5% to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the last 12 years the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fishing to both the NT and Australian economies has averaged 3.7% of GSP and 3.8% of GDP (figure 11.1).

11.1 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO GSP & GDP



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables, 1996–97 (Cat. no. 5220.040.001).

Value of production

In 1996–97 the total value of agricultural and fishing production in the NT was \$335.2 million, an increase of 91.7% (\$160.3 million) over the last five years. The value of field crops and horticulture (122.8%) and of fishing activity (319.9%) increased substantially over the five years, while the growth in the value of livestock slaughterings/other disposals and livestock products (35.0%) was less dramatic (figure 11.2).

11.2 VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTION, NT

	1991-92	1996-97	% change
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Field crops and horticulture(a)(b)	21.5	47.9	122.8
Livestock slaughterings/other disposals and livestock products(c)	125.1	168.9	35.0
Fish(d)	28.2	118.4	319.9
Total	174.9	335.2	91.7

(a) Includes fruit and vegetables.

(b) Figures for horticulture (excluding nurseries) relate to 1997 calendar year.

(c) Includes livestock slaughtered in the NT, livestock movements interstate and exported live overseas, dressed poultry and livestock products such as milk and eggs. Figures relate to years ended 30 June.

(d) Includes crustaceans, molluscs, trepang and aquaculture. Figures relate to years ended 30 June.

Source: *Agricultural and Fishing, Northern Territory, 1996-97* (Cat. no. 7113.7).

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

At 31 March 1997 there were 357 agricultural producers in the NT with a total area under holding of 70,768,932 hectares (figure 11.3). This area under holding represents just over half of the NT's land mass.

11.3 TOTAL AREA OF HOLDINGS & NUMBER OF PRODUCERS, SLA AT 31 MARCH 1997—NT

	Total area of holdings	Producers
	Ha	no.
Tableland	13 873 378	23
Victoria	10 648 190	30
Sandover-Balance	9 851 013	36
Tanami	7 914 987	25
Petermann	7 229 838	19
Elsey-Balance	6 897 175	48
Tennant Creek-Balance	6 525 027	10
Gulf	4 448 607	11
Daly	1 347 192	12
South Alligator	760 250	10
Litchfield Shire-Part B	187 574	69
Other	1 085 702	64
Total	70 768 932	357

Source: *Agricultural and Fishing, Northern Territory, 1996-97* (Cat. no. 7113.7).

The largest number of producers were in the Litchfield Statistical Local Area (SLA) (69) but these held the least land with an average of 2,718 hectares each. In contrast, the 23 producers in the Tableland SLA held an average of 603,190 hectares each.

PASTORAL AND OTHER LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES

At 31 March 1997 there were 1.61 million head of cattle on NT establishments, a 20.6% increase on the number five years ago. At that same time there were 9,440 domesticated buffalo in the NT, a decrease of 27.3% over the past five years (figure 11.4).

11.4 SELECTED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON HOLDINGS AT 31 MARCH, NT

	1992	1997	% change
Cattle	1 334 289	1 608 846	20.6
Domesticated buffalo	12 992	9 440	-27.3
Pigs	2 528	2 467	-2.4
Goats	524	56	-89.3
Horses	14 436	6 414	-55.6

Source: *Agricultural and Fishing, Northern Territory 1991-92 and 1996-97 (Cat. no. 7113.7).*

The NT also has a number of other livestock industries which supply eggs, poultry meat (including quail), pork, camel meat, fresh milk, live exports (horses, camels, donkeys, goats) and crocodile skins and flesh.

CATTLE EXPORTS

An economic downturn in the South East Asian economy has contributed to the decline of what had been one of the NT's fastest growing industries. Live cattle exports to Indonesia in 1998 have gone into decline, halving total live cattle exports from the NT (figure 11.5). This has led to the search for, and development of, new live cattle export markets.

The NT has entered some new markets. Data to 15 September 1998 show that 11,335 NT sourced cattle have been exported to Egypt, where no trade had previously existed. The NT has also successfully picked up part of the Libyan market share which Ireland lost due to stock being exposed to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). NT sourced live cattle exports to Libya totalled 5,629 head in 1997 and 11,061 head in the year to 15 September 1998. Australian and Chinese quarantine officials in 1998 signed agreements on stringent quarantine controls of bluetongue virus, paving the way for possible export of cattle from Australia to China in 1999. The NT could experience increased exports in the future to China as a result, with some suggesting it will become the major destination.

The table below provides data on NT sourced cattle (excluding interstate cattle) exported through the Port of Darwin. In previous years interstate cattle exports have been a significant proportion of total live cattle exports. In 1997 a total of 448,196 head were exported through the Port of Darwin, 246,389 of these cattle were NT sourced. The data for the year to 15 September 1998 (NT sourced cattle 117,059, total live cattle exports 141,661) indicates a large drop in the contribution from interstate sourced cattle to total live cattle exports via the Port of Darwin.

11.5 LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS OF NT CATTLE VIA DARWIN

	1996	1997	YTD 15 Sept 1998
Destination			
Brunei	3 467	5 650	4 238
Egypt	0	0	11 335
Indonesia	102 806	129 973	2 517
Libya	0	5 629	11 061
Philippines	70 901	92 297	81 664
Sabah	3 816	1 180	541
Sarawak	0	479	0
West Malaysia	8 928	11 181	5 703
Total	189 918	246 389	117 059

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Top Paddock, October 1998.

HORTICULTURE AND CROPS

Horticulture and crops are expanding in several areas in the NT. In 1996 grape production was worth nearly \$5.9 million and utilised over 125 hectares in the southern areas of the NT, with the Ti Tree region being a major contributor. Expanding Asian vegetable production in the NT was also worth around \$4 million, with produce destined mainly for Sydney and Melbourne markets.

Sugar milling and other crops are planned for NT lands adjacent to the Ord River with full sugar production planned by 2004. A large citrus orchard of 60,000 trees with juicing and oil extraction facilities is also being developed in the Darwin area.

NT horticulture and field crop production in the 1996–97 season was valued at \$47.9 million. The value of fruit production increased from \$24.4 million in 1994–95 to \$30.4 million in 1996–97, while the value of vegetable production increased by \$1.3 million over the same period.

Over the past three years the value of horticulture and field crop production in the NT has increased by \$11.9 million (33.1%).

11.6 HORTICULTURE AND FIELD CROP PRODUCTION, NT

	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Field crops	3 252	2 410	6 462
Vegetables	3 685	4 011	4 939
Fruit	24 416	27 744	30 377
Grapes	4 625	6 400	6 100
Total	35 978	40 565	47 878

Source: Agricultural and Fishing, Northern Territory, 1996–97 (Cat. no. 7113.7).

NURSERY PRODUCTS

In 1996–97 sales of nursery products in the NT, excluding retail sales of garden accessories and services, amounted to \$4.0 million (figure 11.7). There were 28 establishments involved in the nursery products industry employing approximately 100 people with a wages cost of nearly \$1.5 million.

11.7 NURSERY SALES BY ACTIVITY, 1996–97 NORTHERN TERRITORY

	\$'000
Sales	
Plant material grown or grown-on for resale	2 078
Plant material purchased and on-sold	69
Garden accessories sold by production business	492
Retail sales of plant material (a)	972
Retails sales of garden accessories and services	n.p.
Plant hire and maintenance	347
Total sales	3 958

(a) Sales by producer and wholesale nurseries to home gardeners published only. Retail sales not available for publication.

Source: ABS Nursery, Cut Rower and Cultivated Turf Statistics, Australia.

CROCODILE FARMING

Demand for Australian crocodile products is expected to decline over the next two years due to the economic downturn in South East Asia. Japan in particular, the largest consumer, has reduced demand as its economy slows. In some countries, such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, falling currency values combined with increased local production, have made crocodile products more competitive. Declining prices of other high fashion alternatives to crocodile skin, such as ostrich, have also put pressure on the crocodile industry.

It is estimated that the NT produced 36,154 kilograms of crocodile meat and 7,098 skins, with an estimated combined value of \$3.0 million.

FISHING INDUSTRIES

The NT fishing industry comprises commercial, recreational and traditional sectors.

Recreational fishing

A recreational fishing survey of nearly 7,000 people in the NT was conducted over 15 months from 1994 to 1996. The survey was designed to determine the recreational fishing habits of both visitors and residents. During the survey a team of interviewers made approximately 30,000 telephone calls to 1,500 NT resident anglers obtaining data from their fishing activity diaries. Thousands of additional 'face to face' interviews were conducted with visitors about their fishing activity.

The survey found that anglers spent 2.2 million hours a year undertaking recreational fishing activities with direct spending of \$30 million per year in the NT. Barramundi was the target of nearly 50% of visitors and 30% of all recreational anglers. Over a third of the NT population went fishing at least once a year while one in every four NT resident households owned pleasure boats, of which 80% were used partly for fishing.

Commercial fishing The commercial sector includes the harvesting of wildstock fisheries (dominated by prawns), aquaculture (dominated by high quality pearl production) and the processing, trade and retailing of seafood. The aquaculture of species other than pearls is in the development stage, with barramundi and prawns being grown commercially since 1995, and research is continuing on mud crabs and golden snapper. All major fisheries have now been placed under formal management plans and continued emphasis is being placed with the ongoing management of all aquatic resources.

The total value of production in the fishing industry in the NT for 1996–97 was \$118.4 million. Aquaculture made the largest contribution to the industry generating \$58 million, despite having the least number of establishments. The production value of crustaceans was \$49.6 million, with prawns comprising 81.3% (\$40.3 million). The value of fish caught was \$10.2 million, barramundi comprising 27.9% (\$2.8 million) (figure 11.8).

11.8 CATCH OF SELECTED SPECIES OF FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, NT—1996–97

	<i>Catch live weight</i>	<i>Estimated value</i>
	<i>tonnes</i>	<i>\$'000</i>
Fish		
Barramundi	577	2 839
Mackerel	505	1 251
Shark	671	1 768
Snapper	530	2 711
Other	560	1 596
<i>Total fish</i>	2 843	10 165
Crustaceans		
Prawn	3 267	40 300
Mud crab	618	7 468
Other	179	1 806
<i>Total crustaceans</i>	4 064	49 574
Molluscs		
Squid	16	71
Scallops	4	13
Trepang	60	548
Other	3	12
<i>Total molluscs</i>	83	634
Total	6 990	60 383

Source: *Agricultural and Fishing, Northern Territory 1996–97* (Cat. no. 7113.7).

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables, 1996–97
 standard data service* (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001)
- Agriculture, Australia* (Cat. no. 7113.0)
- Agriculture and Fishing, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 7113.7)
- Livestock Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 7215.0)
- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (Cat. no. 7503.0)
- Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Australia* (Cat. no. 7507.0)
- Nursery, Cut Flower and Cultivated Turf Statistics, Australia* (available
 on request)
- Non-ABS publications NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Annual Report*
- NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Northern Territory
 Primary Industry and Fisheries Statistics* (annual)
- NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Top Paddock*
 (Newsletter)
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- Territory Business, Quarterly* (ISSN 1037-5449)

CHAPTER 12

MINING AND ENERGY

MINING

Contribution to the economy

The mining industry is an important part of the economy of Australia, contributing 4.1% of the 1996–97 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounting for almost a quarter of its exports. In the Northern Territory (NT), the mining and resource sector represents an even greater proportion of economic activity, contributing 10.7% Gross State Product at factor cost (GSP(fc)) to the 1996-97 GSP (figure 12.1).

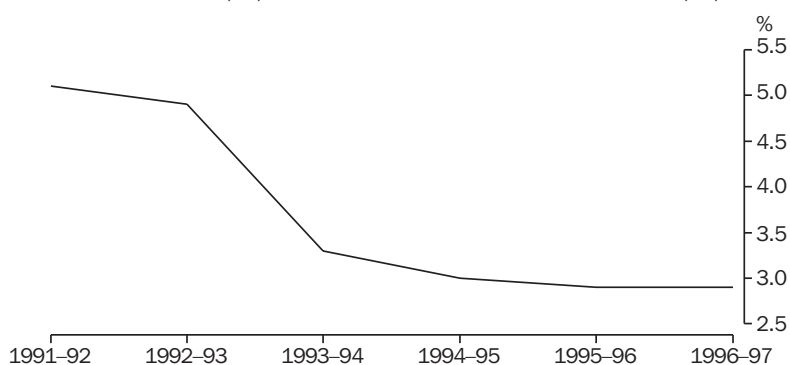
12.1 NT MINING SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO GSP AND MINING GDP(FC)

	NT Mining GSP(fc)	Contribution to total NT GSP	Contribution to mining GDP(fc)
	\$m	%	%
1986–87	501	18.2	4.4
1987–88	615	20.4	5.1
1988–89	475	15.0	4.0
1989–90	742	20.2	5.1
1990–91	1 001	24.6	6.1
1991–92	829	20.7	5.1
1992–93	822	20.7	4.9
1993–94	546	13.6	3.3
1994–95	515	11.8	3.0
1995–96	534	11.6	2.9
1996–97	536	10.7	2.9

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables, 1996–97, standard data service (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001).

Mining in the NT underwent a considerable period of expansion in the early 1990s which has since contracted with large falls in GSP(fc) recorded in 1993–94 without any further growth in subsequent years. In 1996–97, 2.9% of the Australian mining sector's GDP(fc) was generated in the NT, maintaining the lowest levels in over a decade from its peak at 6.1% of GDP(fc) in 1990–91 (figures 12.1 and 12.2).

12.2 NT MINING GSP(FC) CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA MINING GDP(FC)



Source: Australian National Accounts; State Accounts, Main Tables, 1996–97 (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001).

Number of establishments At 30 June 1997 there were 30 mining establishments in the NT a decrease of two from 30 June 1996. The NT mining sector employed 1,911 people at 30 June 1997, an increase of 7.1% from 30 June 1996. Total earnings for mining sector employees increased 5.1% from \$121.7 million in 1995–96 to \$127.9 million in 1996–97.

At 30 June 1996 net capital expenditure by mining establishments totalled \$105.1 million with metal ore mining comprising 87.2%. Turnover totalled \$1,272.7 million in 1996–97 a decrease of 0.6% from 1995–96. This resulted in a value added figure of \$796.3 million in 1996–97 a decrease of 7.5% from the 1995–96 figure of \$860.4 million (figure 12.3).

12.3 SUMMARY OF MINING OPERATIONS(a), NT

	1995–96	1996–97	% change
Establishments (no.)	32.0	30.0	–6.3
Employment (persons)	1 784.0	1 911.0	7.1
Wages and salaries (\$m)	121.7	127.9	5.1
Turnover (\$m)	1 280.3	1 272.7	–0.6
Value added (\$m)	860.4	796.3	–7.5
Capital expenditure (\$m)	105.1	n.p.	n.a.

(a) Includes Oil and Gas Extraction and Metal Ore Mining.

Source: Mining, Electricity and gas operations, Australia, Preliminary, 1996–97 (Cat. No. 8401.0).

MINERALS

Exploration Despite many known mineral occurrences, the NT is still comparatively under-explored and therefore has a substantial potential for future significant mineral discoveries, including gold, base metals, uranium, platinum group metals, tin, tungsten, molybdenum, manganese, bauxite and diamonds.

Major mineral exploration interest in the NT is centred on six main areas:

- Darwin/Arnhem Land/Katherine region for uranium, base metals, gold and diamonds;
- Victoria River/Keep River/Bonaparte Gulf region for diamonds and base metals;
- McArthur Basin for diamonds, base metals, manganese and bauxite;
- Tennant Creek region for gold, copper, bismuth and silver;
- Tanami region for gold; and
- Central Australia for base metals, tungsten, molybdenum, gemstones and industrial minerals.

Exploration *continued*

In 1996–97, \$91.1 million was spent on mineral exploration in the NT (figure 12.4), while a further \$41.5 million was spent on petroleum exploration. The search for gold accounted for 58.3% of mineral exploration expenditure in the NT, followed by diamonds at 18.1%, copper-lead-zinc at 16.5% and uranium at 6.5%.

12.4 MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, NT—1996–97

	Expenditure	Proportion of total expenditure
	\$m	%
Ore type		
Base metals(a)	15.0	16.5
Gold	53.1	58.3
Uranium	5.9	6.5
Diamonds	16.5	18.1
Other	0.3	0.3
Total(b)	91.1	100.0

(a) Base metals include: Copper, Silver-Lead-Zinc, Nickel and Cobalt.

(b) Figures may not add to total due to low value or confidential unpublished mineral categories.

Source: *Private Mineral Exploration, September 1996 to June Quarter 1997* (Cat. no. 8412.0).

Production

Internationally Australia continues to be a leading mineral resource nation. It is one of the world's top six countries for commodities such as bauxite, gold, iron ore, lead, zinc, mineral sands and uranium.

The NT is a world class mineral province. It contains known deposits of manganese, uranium, gold, bauxite, zinc, lead, bismuth, copper, palladium and tantalite, amongst others. In 1995–96 the NT contributed 7.7% to the total value of Australia's metallic mineral production (figure 12.5).

12.5 METALLIC MINERALS PRODUCTION, NT—1995–96

Mineral	Unit	Quantity	Value	
			Total	Proportion of Australian total
			\$'000	%
Bauxite	kilotonnes	5 878.0	132 850.0	15.9
Copper concentrate(a)	kilotonnes	49.0	47 230.0	4.1
Gold bullion (dore)	kilograms	19 836.0	348 881.0	7.8
Lead concentrate	kilotonnes	18.0	6 260.0	1.7
Manganese ore				
Metallurgical grade	kilotonnes	962.0	115 203.0	n.p.
Other grades	kilotonnes	813.0	95 962.0	100.0
Tin-tantalite concentrate	tonnes	25.0	759.0	100.0
Uranium concentrate	tonnes	3 200.0	127 382.0	63.2
Zinc concentrate	kilotonnes	81.0	46 082.0	10.0
Zinc-lead concentrate	kilotonnes	159.0	67 515.0	n.p.
Total	988 124.0	7.7

(a) The Australian total for Copper concentrate excludes data for South Australia so the proportion of the Australian total is overstated.

Source: *Australian Mining Industry, 1995–96* (Cat. no. 8414.0).

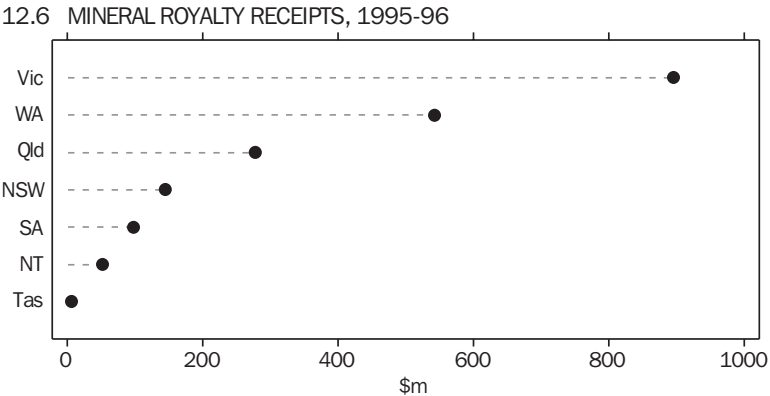
Production *continued*

The value of gold bullion (dore) produced in the NT during 1995–96 was \$348.9 million, which represented 35.3% of the total value of metallic minerals produced in the NT. Other major commodities were bauxite (\$132.9 million or 13.4%), metallurgical grade manganese (\$115.2 million or 11.7%) and uranium concentrate (\$127.4 million or 12.9%).

ROYALTIES AND SECONDARY TAXES

Mineral royalties

Mineral resources are owned by the Crown in Australia. Royalties are collected by State and Territory governments for mining onshore and up to three nautical miles offshore and by the Commonwealth Government outside that limit.



Source: Australian Mining Industry, 1995-96 (Cat. no. 8414.0)

Petroleum taxes

In addition to general taxation arrangements applying to companies in Australia, petroleum production projects are subject to secondary taxes. The type and rate of secondary taxation (resource rent tax, resource rent royalty or excise and royalties) depends on the location of the petroleum resource, the date of discovery of the petroleum reservoir and the date upon which production commenced.

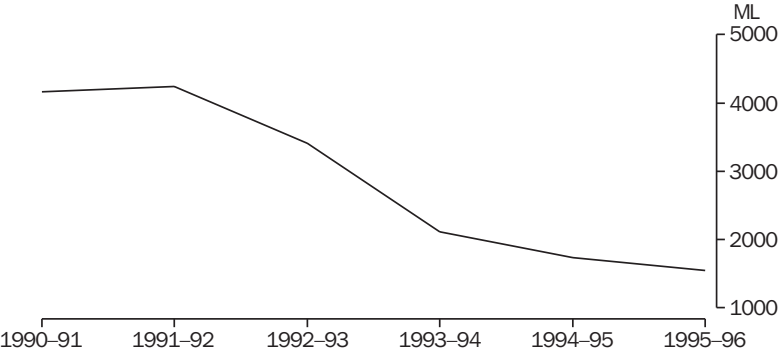
ENERGY

- Petroleum exploration
- Petroleum exploration in the NT occurs onshore as well as in three areas offshore:
- the Territorial Sea which is the submerged lands adjacent to the coast of the NT, that is landwards of the three nautical miles beyond the low water mark or baseline;
 - the NT Adjacent Area, the area beyond the three nautical mile limit (including the Timor Gap Zone of Cooperation with Indonesia– Area B) which is administered through a Joint Authority/Designated Authority structure; and
 - the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Adjacent Area which is administered by the NT on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

Oil and gas production

NT crude oil production continued to fall from a peak of 4,240 megalitres (ML) in 1991–92 to 1,547 ML in 1995–96 (figure 12.7).

12.7 CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION, NT



Source: Australian Mining Industry, 1995–96 (Cat. no. 8414.0).

NT production of natural gas increased to 407 gigalitres (GL) in 1995–96 an increase of 4.9% from 388 GL in 1994–95 (figure 12.8). The size of the NT production is small (2.0%) compared to the Australian total natural gas production in 1995–96 of 19,169 GL.

12.8 NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, NT



Source: Australian Mining Industry, 1995-96 (Cat. no. 8414.0).

The value of crude oil produced in the NT continues to decrease while the value of natural gas has continued to increase (figure 12.9). The value of NT crude oil represented 4.9% of the total value of crude oil produced in Australia, while the value of NT natural gas represented 2.0% of the value of Australian natural gas production.

12.9 VALUE OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION, NT

	1994-95	1995-96	Change
	\$m	\$m	%
Crude oil—stabilised	257.4	232.6	-9.6
Natural gas	24.8	27.0	8.8
Total	282.1	259.6	-8.0

Source: Australian Mining Industry, 1995-96 (Cat. no. 8414.0).

Energy services The Power and Water Authority (PAWA) is responsible for the provision of electric power supply, water supply and sewerage services throughout the NT. This involves servicing not only large urban areas but also many small remote communities and Aboriginal outstations. PAWA also supplies electricity to McArthur River Mining for the lead, zinc and silver mine in the Gulf region.

The Aboriginal Essential Services Branch of the PAWA, operates and maintains power services to 85 remote communities across the NT. The Branch also maintains water supply systems to those 85 remote communities and 400 Aboriginal outstations while providing sewage collection and disposal for 35 remote communities.

PAWA also has responsibility for water resources and natural gas development. Natural gas pipelines from the Amadeus Basin in central Australia supply Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, all of which use indigenous natural gas—replacing imported heavy fuel oil and distillate as fuel for electricity generation.

Energy services *continued*

To meet increased demand in Alice Springs the PAWA has agreed to purchase power over 20 years from a private supplier. To meet similar demands in Darwin the PAWA has increased output from individual gas turbines at Channel Island by 18%. These arise as a result of innovative off peak power strategies. To reduce remote area disconnections the PAWA has, in consultation with communities, introduced a pay as you use strategy.

In 1996–97 the PAWA provided electricity to 57,614 customers, and water to 33,998 customers, most of whom were in the residential sector. Total electricity sales were 1,318,217 Megawatt hours (MWh) with a value of \$195.3 million.

Oil and gas fields are being discovered off the NT coast at unprecedented rates. There have been 15 discoveries over the past four years, with a success rate of around 30%. These include the world class Bayu-Undan, Laminaria-Corallina and Cornea fields, which have attracted the oil industry's attention, and record development and exploration programmes are underway.

Work program bids for current permits commit companies to drill 120 exploration wells over the next five years, at a cost of around \$1.2 billion.

To date the value of production from the Jabiru, Challis, Skua and Cassini oil field developments is in excess of \$5.0 billion, but this will be dwarfed by future production. Some \$4.3 billion investment is already anticipated for the development of oil discoveries in the Timor Sea and another \$12 billion of development investment is under consideration.

Discovered in 1995, the Bayu-Undan field is the major development project in the world for both Phillips Petroleum and BHP Petroleum. In addition to gas, the field contains world class volumes of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) and condensate. Nine wells have been drilled to date. Plans to develop the field for the production of 30–50,000 barrels per day of condensate and LPG, and reinject gas back into the reservoir, at a cost of \$A1.7 billion have been announced by the consortia.

Two primary gas development scenarios are being considered, liquid natural gas (LNG) production parallel with liquids recovery, or liquids recovery followed by LNG production. Different concepts are being considered for each case, ranging from onshore LNG to offshore floating facilities or fixed platforms for condensate recovery and gravity platforms for offshore LNG. Phillips has filed a notice of intent (NOI) under environmental legislation to construct an LNG plant in Darwin, along with the pipeline to bring the gas onshore. BHP has filed an NOI to construct an offshore LNG plant in Western Australian waters.

A LNG plant in Darwin requires construction of a 500 km gas pipeline.

Feasibility studies, reserves assessments, and marketing discussions are being fast tracked with a view to settling on the development plan in the near future.

The Laminaria-Corallina fields, with estimated combined recoverable reserves of up to 200–220 million barrels of light oil, are to be jointly developed using a sub-sea production system tied back via flexible flow lines to one of the world's largest floating production, storage and offtake barges (FPSO) being built by Samsung Heavy Industries in Korea. The estimated capital cost of this project is \$1.3 billion and production is expected to commence in the third quarter 1999.

Seven discoveries were made in 1997. These include: the Tenacious oil field in the NT waters off Ashmore and Cartier Islands; the Buller and Cornea oil fields in Western Australian waters; the Kelp Deep gas field and the Kakatua North oil fields, in the Zone of Co-operation; as well as the Sunset and Hingkip gas/condensate fields. Cornea is considered to be a major oil field, prompting Shell and Cultus Petroleum to commit to the drilling of 54 wells in the area during the next six years. More finds are anticipated.

The sustained nature of the recent wave in Timor Sea oil and gas activity will provide a critical mass for the development of Darwin as a major regional oil and gas supply and service centre.

The development of an offshore supply base by the Kvaerner Oil and Gas Australia/Singapore Offshore Petroleum Services/OilNet consortium has been announced, to be located adjacent to Darwin's new East Arm Port.

To ensure the NT fully capitalises on the potential economic benefits arising from exploration and development activity in the Timor Sea, the NT Ministers for Resource Development and for Asian Relations, Trade and Industry (DARTI) formed a dedicated taskforce to identify and promote business opportunities resulting from offshore petroleum activity.

Membership of the Timor Sea Business Development Taskforce comprised representatives of both the Department of Mines & Energy and DARTI, NT Industry Search and Opportunities Office and the NT Minerals Council.

The Taskforce has played a key role in facilitating a two-way flow of information on Timor Sea activities between oil companies, prime contractors, and local industry. This has included disseminating information on business opportunities through seminars and other events. However, due to a re-organisation of NT Government departments in mid 1998 the Taskforce may need to be reformed and address capability shortfalls in the future.

One example of an event arranged by the Taskforce was the March 1998 visit to Darwin by a delegation of around 30 British supply and service companies, accompanied by senior British Government representatives. They came to attend the 'Timor Sea Business Matching Seminar' which was held in Darwin on 11 March 1998. This seminar provided an opportunity for local businesses to meet and establish links with companies which have considerable experience and expertise in servicing the offshore oil and gas industry in the North Sea and elsewhere.

Source: Northern Territory Minerals Council (Inc), *Down to Earth, March 1998*.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Year Book Australia* (Cat. no. 1301.0)
- Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5220.0)
- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, Main Tables, 1996–97, standard data service* (Cat. no. 5220.0.40.001)
- Mining, Electricity and Gas Operations, Preliminary, 1996–97* (Cat. no. 8401.0)
- Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia* (Cat. no. 8412.0)
- Australian Mining Industry* (Cat. no. 8414.0)
- Non-ABS publications NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry, *Major Projects: Australia's Northern Territory*
- NT Department of Mines and Energy, *Annual Report*
- NT Department of Mines and Energy, *Mining and Energy Development in Today's Northern Territory: Projects and Potential*
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- Woodside Energy Ltd, *The Laminaria And Corallina Development*

CHAPTER 13

HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

HOUSING

The Census of Population and Housing, conducted every five years, provides information about the housing of the population of the Northern Territory (NT).

Number of dwellings

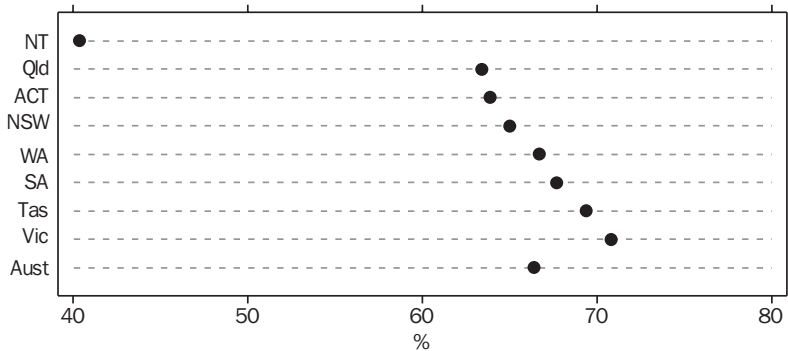
At the 1996 Census there were 60,959 private dwellings in the NT excluding hotels, motels, hospitals, gaols, boarding schools, etc. At the time of the Census 3,516 of these dwellings were unoccupied. Almost half (29,351 or 48.1%) of all private dwellings were in the Darwin-Palmerston area.

Since the last census a further 2,649 private dwellings were completed in the NT, bringing the total number of private dwellings in the NT to an estimated 63,608 at 31 March 1998.

Home ownership

While home ownership by the NT population increased during the 1990s, it is still well below that of any other State or Territory. At the 1996 Census 40.4% (23,229) of occupied private dwellings in the NT were owned or being purchased (figure 13.2) compared to 66.4% nationally (figure 13.1).

13.1 OCCUPIED DWELLINGS OWNED OR BEING PURCHASED, 1996



Source: Census of Population and Housing, Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia, 1996 (Cat. no. 2015.0)

Home ownership levels were highest in the Darwin-Palmerston area (12,857 or 46.5%) and significantly lower in the regional centres Alice Springs (3,709 or 43.4%), Katherine (1,097 or 34.4%), Tennant Creek (338 or 29.6%), Jabiru (103 or 17.2%) and Nhulunbuy (65 or 5.7%). The lower levels of ownership in these areas reflects the high proportion of Defence housing in Katherine and employer-provided housing in the mining towns.

Home ownership *continued*

Of the 27,563 occupied dwellings in the NT which were being rented at the 1996 Census, 27.2% (7,491) were being rented from the Government (figure 13.2). This was significantly less than 1991 Census figure of 46.8% (11,637) and reflects the Commonwealth and NT Governments' policy to reduce their housing stock. The proportion of Government rentals was higher than the NT average in Darwin/Palmerston (4,361 or 33.0%) and Alice Springs (1,465 or 34.9%) and other urban centres such as Katherine and Tennant Ck. While in the more remote regional and or mining towns such as Jabiru (44 or 9.9%) and Nhulunbuy (187 or 18.3%) proportions were lower.

13.2 OCCUPIED DWELLINGS BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY, NT—1996

<i>occupied private dwellings</i>		
	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>
Owned	10 202	17.8
Being purchased	13 027	22.7
Rented(a)		
Government(a)	7 491	13.0
Other(a)	19 083	33.2
Not stated	982	1.7
Sub-total(b)	27 563	48.0
Other(c)	6 643	11.6
Total	57 435	100.0

(a) Rent types have been randomly adjusted to avoid release of confidential data and do not add to the sub total.

(b) Obtained from source listed below.

(c) Includes not stated.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 2015.0).

Types of dwellings

Nearly three in five (58.8% or 35,830) of the private dwellings in the NT 1996 Census were separate houses, compared to 74.8% nationally, while flats, apartments and semi-detached houses comprised 23.8% (14,517) of private dwellings (figure 13.3). The proportion of flats, apartments and semi-detached houses was highest in the Darwin-Palmerston area (32.2% or 9,441) and lower in the regional centres such as Katherine (19.2% or 653), Tennant Ck (23.2% or 297) and Nhulunbuy (24.6% or 306). The NT proportion of improvised dwellings including tents and sleepers out (4.3% or 2619) is far greater than the national proportion (0.2% or 15,144). This is due to both the large traditional Indigenous population living in remote areas and the tourism activity in the NT during the winter 'dry' season which corresponds with Census night, the 6th of August.

13.3 PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY TYPE OF DWELLING, NT—1996

	No.	%
Separate house	35 830	58.8
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, town house etc	5 505	9.0
Flat or apartment	9 012	14.8
Caravan etc in caravan park, houseboats, cabin	5 311	8.7
Improvised, tent, sleepers out	2 620	4.3
Other/not stated	2 666	4.4
Total	60 944	100.0

Source: Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory, 1996 (Cat. no. 2015.7).

Housing loans The total number of dwellings financed (including refinancing) for owner occupation in 1997–98 was 4,268 dwellings, up 180 or 4.4% from 1996–97. Finance for owner occupied housing in 1997–98 totalled \$467 million an increase of \$36 million or 8.4% since 1996–97.

The number of finance approvals for the construction of dwellings has declined 2.4% in the five years since 1992–93 while the number of finance approvals for established dwellings has increased by 17.0%. The proportion of the number of approved loans for each loan type in 1992–93 and 1997–98 is relatively stable. However as 'construction of dwellings' loans have declined from 16.6% of approved loans in 1992–93 to 14.3% in 1997–98, the 'purchase of established dwellings' loans have increased from 77.1% of approved loans in 1992–93 to 79.6% in 1997–98 (figure 13.4).

13.4 HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION, NT—ORIGINAL

	1992–93		1997–98		% change from no. in previous year
	no.	%	no.	%	
Loans approved to individuals for housing					
Construction of dwellings	626	16.6	611	14.3	–2.4
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	238	6.3	259	6.1	8.8
Purchase of established dwellings	2 905	77.1	3 398	79.6	17.0
Total(a)	3 769	100.0	4 268	100.0	13.2

(a) Excludes refinancing.

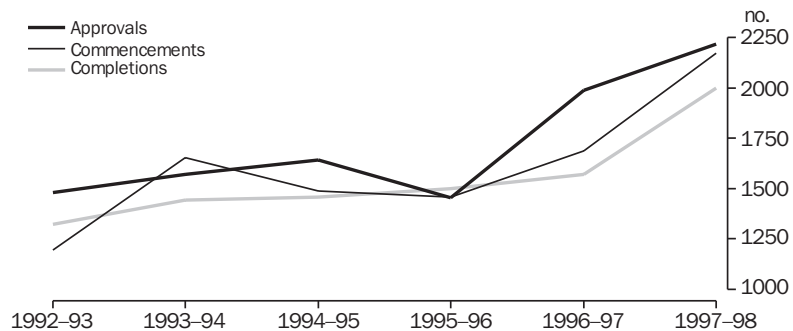
Source: Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0).

CONSTRUCTION

Building Approvals

In 1997–98 there were 2,218 dwelling units approved for construction in the NT, an increase of 11.6% (231) on the previous year (figure 13.7). Of these, 56.5% (1,254) were approvals for houses and 43.5% (964) were for other dwelling units. Public sector approvals accounted for 17.5% (389) of all approvals.

13.5 NUMBER OF NEW DWELLINGS, NT



Source: *Building Activity, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8752.7); *Building Approvals, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8731.7).

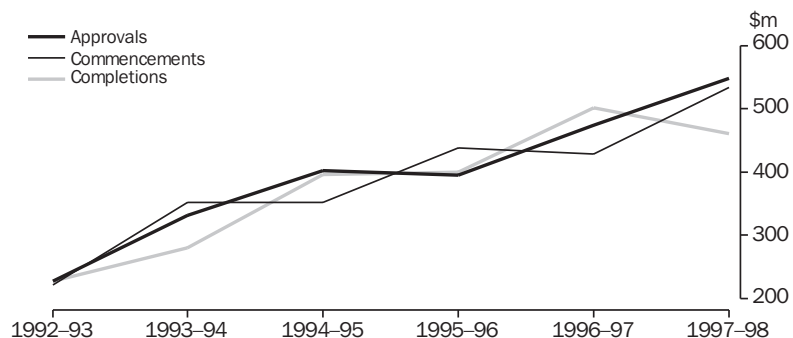
Housing approvals were concentrated in the Palmerston-East Arm Statistical Subdivision (SSD) (624 or 49.8%), Darwin Rural Areas SSD (167 or 13.3%) and the Darwin City SSD (106 or 8.5%), while the majority of approvals for dwelling units other than houses were in the Darwin City SSD (442 or 45.9%) followed by Palmerston-East Arm SSD (334 or 34.6%) and the Alice Springs Local Government Area (LGA) (154 or 16.0%).

Value of building jobs

The value of building jobs approved in 1997–98 was \$548.8 million, an increase of 15.7% (\$74.3 million) on the previous year (figure 13.8).

- The value of residential approvals in 1996–97 was \$301.2 million, up \$68.0 million (29.2%) on the previous year.
- The value of non-residential approvals in 1997–98 (\$247.6 million) were 2.6% higher than in 1996–97 (\$241.2 million).

13.6 VALUE OF JOBS BY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NT



Source: *Building Activity, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8752.7); *Building Approvals, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8731.7).

13.7 NEW DWELLING UNITS, CLASS OF BUILDING AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION—NT

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
APPROVALS						
New houses						
Private sector	961	922	868	838	909	946
Public sector	94	171	161	97	203	308
Other new dwellings						
Public sector	416	464	554	396	837	883
Private sector	9	14	58	121	38	81
Total dwellings	1 480	1 571	1 641	1 452	1 987	2 218
COMMENCED						
New houses						
Private sector	744	1 035	804	773	815	950
Public sector	84	170	143	112	170	270
Other new dwellings						
Private sector	353	430	522	455	685	877
Public sector	13	16	19	117	16	75
Total dwellings	1 194	1 651	1 488	1 457	1 686	2 172
UNDER CONSTRUCTION						
New houses						
Private sector	344	505	417	354	338	387
Public sector	53	115	75	9	52	74
Other new dwelling units						
Private sector	170	129	283	264	450	531
Public sector	7	12	12	108	5	17
Total dwellings	574	761	787	735	845	1 009
COMPLETED						
New houses						
Private sector	755	856	888	833	823	891
Public sector	159	112	182	178	125	248
Other new dwellings						
Private sector	338	462	368	467	504	796
Public sector	71	11	19	21	119	63
Total dwellings	1 323	1 441	1 457	1 499	1 571	1 998

Source: Building Approvals, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8731.7), and Building Activity, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8752.7).

13.8 VALUE OF JOBS, CLASS OF BUILDING AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NT

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
APPROVED						
Residential buildings(a)						
New houses	99.0	114.3	114.1	98.8	137.5	163.9
Other new residential	28.2	41.1	73.6	46.0	72.4	109.6
Alterations and additions	19.2	17.3	30.0	27.4	23.3	27.8
Non-residential buildings(b)						
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	1.7	10.4	25.6	38.8	28.6	0.8
Shops	3.2	30.0	39.6	18.8	74.4	40.1
Offices	22.1	21.2	9.7	26.7	27.8	43.1
Other	54.0	97.3	109.6	137.7	110.5	163.6
Total building	227.5	331.7	402.2	394.3	474.4	548.8
COMMENCED						
Residential buildings(a)						
New house	82.5	123.5	106.1	98.9	124.7	156.8
Other new	26.3	38.1	67.9	55.9	61.8	114.4
Alterations and additions	19.6	18.7	28.3	27.7	23.8	25.8
Non-residential buildings(b)						
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	1.6	10.6	25.2	62.7	2.6	0.6
Shops	2.7	30.2	14.1	31.3	57.1	34.7
Offices	25.4	26.0	7.4	27.5	28.2	32.7
Other	63.5	105.1	102.8	134.2	129.7	168.9
Total building	221.6	352.2	351.8	438.2	428.0	533.8
COMPLETED						
Residential buildings(a)						
New houses	90.5	94.2	121.8	118.7	114.9	142.0
Other new residential	39.3	36.2	35.3	64.0	58.2	81.3
Alterations and additions	21.7	17.2	24.1	33.2	21.7	25.2
Non-residential buildings(b)						
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	1.5	11.8	0.4	26.8	61.9	0.5
Shops	5.5	7.9	8.2	19.2	57.1	61.2
Offices	8.7	27.0	119.3	12.5	41.1	17.1
Other	60.4	85.2	86.5	125.4	146.4	133.0
Total building	227.6	279.5	395.6	399.8	501.3	460.4

(a) Jobs valued at \$10,000 or more.

(b) Jobs valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: Building Approvals, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8731.7); Building Activity, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8752.7).

During 1996-97 and 1997-98 building and construction in the NT continued to be stimulated by the creation and development of new residential subdivisions in Palmerston such as Bakewell and Rosebery. Other contributing developments were: tourist accommodation in the Darwin Central Business District; ongoing Army Presence in the North (APIN) projects; and infrastructure projects such as the East Arm Port development.

Engineering construction activity

The Engineering Construction Activity Survey aims to measure the value of all engineering construction work undertaken in the NT. The cost of land and the value of building construction are excluded. These estimates provide a value for construction of such works as roads, bridges, railways, harbours and pipelines which are undertaken by both public and private sector organisations (figures 13.10 and 13.11).

13.9 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED, NT—1997–98

	Private	Public
<i>Type of construction</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
Roads, highways and subdivisions	64.2	1.0
Bridges	0.4	0.0
Railways	0.0	0.0
Harbours	15.1	0.0
Water storage and supply	4.3	2.4
Sewerage and drainage	4.7	0.7
Electricity generation, transmission and distribution	4.6	5.3
Pipelines	1.7	0.0
Recreation	14.7	0.8
Telecommunications	1.6	11.0
Oil, gas, coal and other minerals	23.3	0.0
Other heavy industry	1.3	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0
Total	136.1	21.1

Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, June Quarter 1998 (Cat. no. 8762.0).

13.10 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED—NT

	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
<i>Type of construction</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
Roads, highways and subdivisions	54.4	109.7	65.5	57.4	97.8	65.2
Bridges	4.5	6.3	3.2	4.8	3.4	0.4
Railways	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Harbours	3.5	12.9	0.5	43.2	18.7	15.1
Water storage and supply	5.4	6.0	2.7	2.7	3.6	6.7
Sewerage and drainage	3.4	5.3	3.5	23.3	2.0	5.5
Electricity generation, transmission and distribution	9.3	10.5	31.3	11.5	9.8	9.8
Pipelines	0.0	1.1	10.2	6.7	2.7	1.7
Recreation	3.7	4.5	4.9	11.9	4.8	15.6
Telecommunications	26.1	25.2	32.4	26.5	14.6	12.6
Heavy industry						
Oil, gas, coal and other minerals	21.4	47.4	82.7	39.6	33.9	23.3
Other heavy industry	0.6	0.5	16.9	1.5	1.3	1.3
Other	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	132.9	229.5	253.9	229.1	192.2	157.2

Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, June Quarter 1998 (Cat. no. 8762.0).

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- Building Approvals, Australia* (Cat. no. 8731.0)
- Building Approvals, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8731.7)
- Building Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8752.0)
- Building Activity, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 8752.7)
- Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8762.0)
- Non-ABS publications Department of Housing and Local Government, *Bilateral Housing Strategic Plan, 1996–97—1998–99*
- Department of Housing and Regional Development, *Housing Assistance Act 1989 Annual Report*
- NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry, *Major Projects: Australia's Northern Territory*
- Office of the Valuer-General, Northern Territory, *Annual Report*

CHAPTER 14

TOURISM

The Northern Territory (NT) offers many internationally renowned tourist attractions including Uluru and the Kakadu, Litchfield and Nitmiluk national parks. The NT's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage has also become a significant tourist drawcard.

Tourism contributes significantly to the NT economy. Tourist dollars add substantially to a number of NT industries including: accommodation; cafes and restaurants; cultural and recreational industries; retail; transport; and personal and other services. Total direct expenditure by visitors to the NT during 1996–97 was \$715.9 million.

VISITOR NUMBERS

Number of visitors In 1996–97 the number of visitors to the NT was 1,299,000. This was 3% lower than the number of visitors recorded the previous year. The number of visitor nights also declined in 1996–97 to total 6,519,000, representing a decrease of 8% from 1995–96.

14.1 VISITORS TO THE NT



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Northern Territory Travel Monitor, 1993–94 and 1994–95; Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics, 1995–96 and 1996–97.

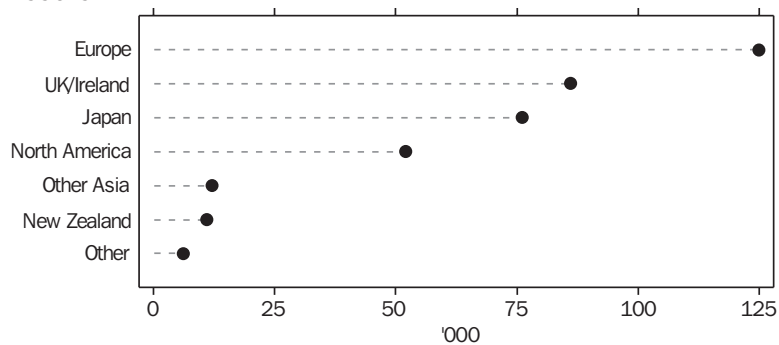
Overall visitor figures for the NT increased in each year from 1992–93 to 1995–96 before a marginal decline in 1996–97. This decline was caused by a decrease in the domestic visitor component of 7%. In contrast, the smaller overseas visitor component continued to increase in 1996–97 growing by 7%.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

Usual country of residence The largest proportion of overseas visitors to the NT in 1996–97 were from Europe (125,000 or 34%) followed by the UK/Ireland (86,000 or 23%), Japan (76,000 or 21%) and North America (52,000 or 14%) (figure 14.2).

Overseas visitors accounted for 28% (368,000) of all visitors to the NT during 1996–97. These visitors stayed an average of 4.0 nights and spent an average of \$601 during their stay.

14.2 OVERSEAS VISITORS BY USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, NT—1996–97

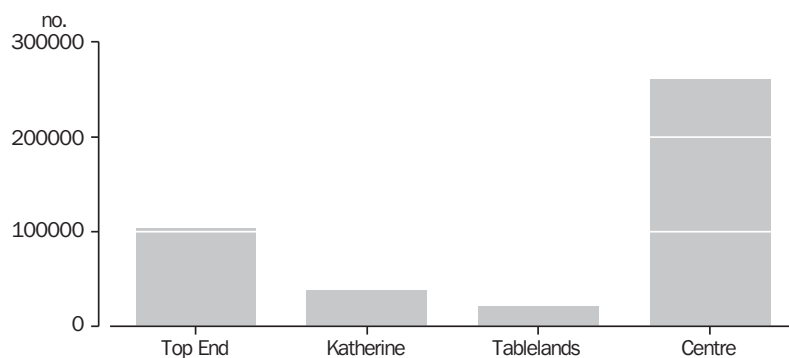


Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics, 1996–97.

Purpose of visit The vast majority (319,000 or 87%) of overseas visitors who travelled to the NT in 1996–97 did so for pleasure or holidays. The remaining visitors came to the NT to visit friends or relatives (15,000 or 4%), for business (12,000 or 3%), or for ‘other reasons’ (22,000 or 6%).

Most popular regions The most popular region visited by overseas visitors to the NT in 1996–97 was the Centre (261,000 or 71%), followed by the Top End (103,000 or 28%) (figure 14.3).

14.3 OVERSEAS VISITORS BY REGION VISITED, NT—1996–97



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics, 1996–97

Most popular places and attractions According to the Bureau of Tourism Research, in 1996 Uluru National Park was the most popular place in the NT for overseas visitors with 78% (272,000) visiting the Park. Other popular places included Alice Springs (227,000 or 65%), Darwin (140,000 or 40%), Kings Canyon (126,000 or 36%) and Kakadu National Park (105,000 or 30%).

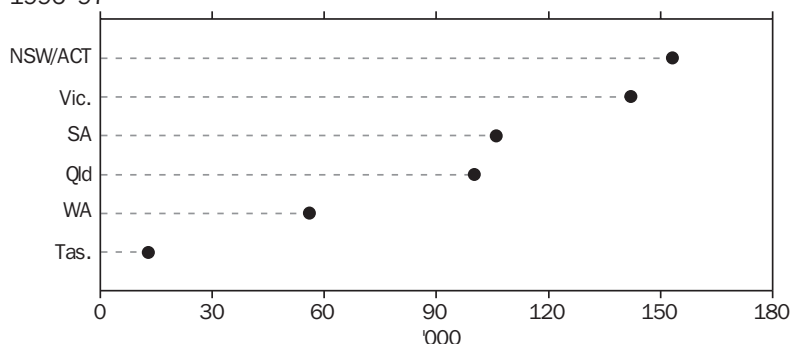
DOMESTIC VISITORS

Number of visitors Domestic visitors are people from interstate or within the NT who spend at least one night away which involves a journey of at least 40 kilometres from home. To be included the visit must be short term, that is, at least one night but less than 90 nights spent in the NT.

Interstate visitors accounted for 44% (570,000) of all visitors to the NT in 1996–97 while intra-Territory visitors accounted for 28% (361,000). Interstate visitors stayed an average of 6.8 nights and spent an average of \$723 during their stay while intra-Territory visitors stayed 3.3 nights and spent \$229.

Usual State or Territory of residence The main source of interstate visitors to the NT in 1996–97 was New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory (NSW/ACT) (27% or 153,000), followed by Victoria (Vic.) (25% or 142,000) and South Australia (SA) (19% or 106,000) (figure 14.4).

14.4 INTERSTATE VISITORS BY USUAL STATE OF RESIDENCE, NT—1996–97



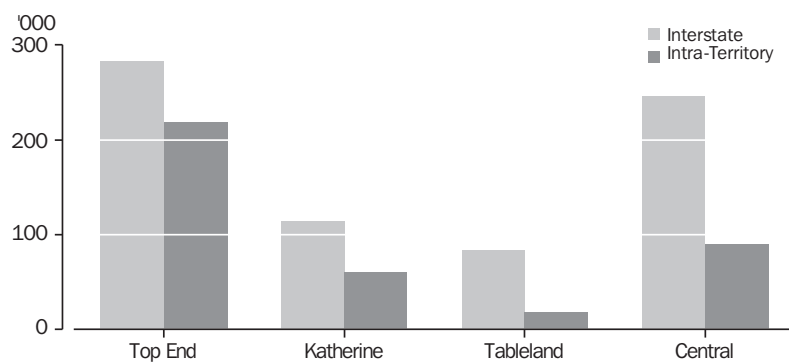
Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics, 1996–97

Purpose of visit A majority of domestic visitors who travelled to or within the NT in 1996–97 did so for pleasure or holidays (51% of all domestic visitors comprising 56% of interstate and 44% of intra-Territory visitors).

- Interstate visitors were more likely than intra-Territory visitors to travel to or within the NT for business (20% compared to 17%).
- Intra-Territory visitors were more likely than interstate visitors to travel to or within the NT to visit friends and relatives (18% compared to 15%) or for 'other reasons' (21% compared to 8%).

Most popular regions The most popular region visited by both intra-Territory and interstate visitors during 1996–97 was the Top End (218,000 or 60% of intra-Territory visitors and 283,000 or 50% of interstate visitors.) (figure 14.5). Interstate visitors from NSW/ACT, Vic and SA were more likely to visit the Centre than the Top End while interstate visitors from the other States were more likely to visit the Top End than any other region (figure 14.5).

14.5 DOMESTIC VISITORS BY REGION VISITED, NT—1996–97



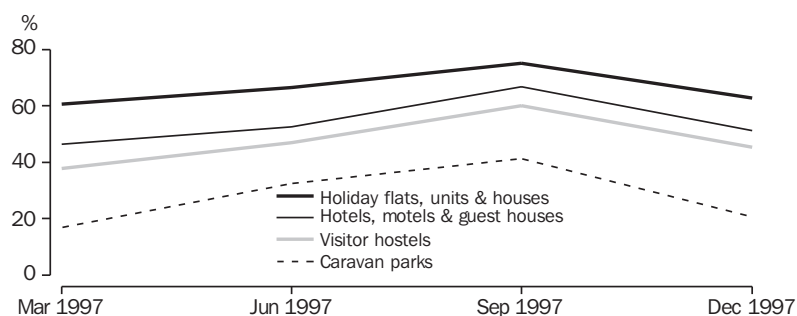
Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics, 1996–97.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Occupancy rates

Occupancy rates in the NT vary according to the season, with occupancy rates for all types of accommodation peaking during the dry season (June and September quarters) (figure 14.6).

14.6 QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY RATES BY ACCOMMODATION TYPE, NT—1997



Source: Tourist Accommodation, Northern Territory, March, June, September and December Quarters, 1997 (Cat. no. 8635.7).

The average occupancy rate for the year ended December 1997 was highest for holiday flats, units and houses at 66.4%, followed by licensed hotels with facilities with a room occupancy rate of 55.1%, and motels and guest houses with facilities at 54.0%. The average site occupancy rate for all caravan parks was 28.0%.

During the five years to 1997 room nights occupied at hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities in the NT increased by 186.4% (783 590) to 1,203,905 (Figure 14.7).

14.7 NIGHTS OCCUPIED AND TAKINGS BY ACCOMMODATION TYPE, NT

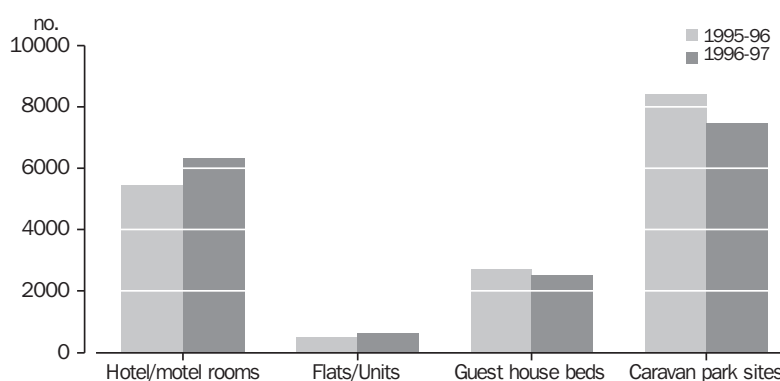
	1993	1997	Change over period (%)
Hotels, motels and guest houses			
Room nights occupied ('000)	1005.1	1203.91	19.8
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	79.37	117.71	48.3
Caravan parks			
Site nights occupied ('000)	880.64	918.9	4.3
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	10.81	14.18	31.2
Holiday flats, units and houses			
Unit nights occupied ('000)	60.27	78.81	30.8
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	4.35	6.47	48.7
Visitor hostels			
Guest nights ('000)	528.01	563.59	6.7
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	6.31	8.27	31.1

Source: Tourist Accommodation, December Quarter 1997 and December Quarter 1993 (Cat. No. 8635.7).

Holiday flats, units and houses showed the strongest growth in accommodation takings during the five years to 1997, increasing by 48.7% (\$2.12 million) to \$6.47 million (Figure 14.7). Hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 48.3% (\$38.34 million), while takings from caravan parks increased by 31.2% (\$3.37 million) to \$14.18 million over the same period.

During 1996/97 there was a 16.5% (896) increase in the number of hotel/motel rooms in the NT. Most of this increase (539 rooms, 60.2%) was in the Darwin area where four new establishments were added in 1996/97.

14.8 ACCOMMODATION STOCK BY TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT, NT



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Selected Statistics

FURTHER READING

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ABS publications | <i>Regional Statistics, Northern Territory</i> (Cat. no. 1362.7) |
| | <i>Tourist Accommodation, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 8635.0) |
| | <i>Tourist Accommodation, Northern Territory</i> (Cat. no. 8635.7) |
| Non-ABS publications | Bureau of Tourism Research, <i>Domestic Tourism Monitor</i> |
| | Bureau of Tourism Research, <i>International Visitor Survey</i> |
| | Northern Territory Tourist Commission, <i>Selected Statistics</i> |

CHAPTER 15

TRADE

EXPORTS

In 1997–98 exports from the Northern Territory (NT) accounted for 1.4% of all Australia's exports, down from 1.6% in 1996–97. NT exports were valued at \$1,198.3 million in 1997–98, down 3.7% (\$46.6 million) from the previous year.

Exports by commodity group

The Asian currency crisis has had a significant effect on NT exports (see figure 11.5, Cattle exports). In 1996–97 the value of food and live animal exports was 16.3% (\$202.7 million) of total NT exports. By 1997–98 this had decreased to 10.2% (\$122.4 million). In contrast, the contribution of crude materials, inedible, except fuels to total exports increased from 8.9% (\$110.5 million) to 14.6% (\$174.5 million) (figure 15.1).

The other category to experience a significant decrease in exports in 1997–98 was mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (–62.9% or \$107.1 million), which contributed 5.3% to NT total exports compared to 13.7% in 1996–97.

15.1 EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP, NT

	1996–97	1997–98	Change
	\$m	\$m	%
Food and live animals	202.8	122.4	–39.6
Beverages and tobacco	—	0.4	166.8
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	110.5	174.5	57.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	170.2	63.1	–62.9
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	—	—	—
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	9.5	17.4	82.1
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2.5	15.2	507.2
Machinery and transport equipment	5.9	4.2	–27.9
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	4.9	2.6	–46.5
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	738.6	798.4	8.1
Total	1 244.8	1 198.3	–3.7

Note: Commodity groups are Sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FASTTRACCS

Major export destinations

The major destinations for NT exports in 1997–98 were the United States of America (USA), Japan, and China (figure 15.2). These three countries accounted for 47.7% (\$571.8 million) of all exports from the NT while the top 10 major destinations accounted for 81.2% (\$973.1 million) of all NT exports.

15.2 TOP TEN NT EXPORT DESTINATIONS, 1997-98

	Value	Total exports
	\$m	%
United States of America	263.31	22.0
Japan	163.69	13.7
China	144.83	12.1
Canada	89.94	7.5
United Kingdom	68.78	5.7
Philippines	60.47	5.0
Hong Kong	50.03	4.2
Indonesia	49.05	4.1
Republic of Korea	41.81	3.5
Belgium-Luxembourg	41.18	3.4

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FASTTRACCS.

The main commodities exported to the ten major recipients of NT exports were:

- commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified (\$563.47 million or 47.0% of total NT exports);
- food and live animals (\$179.58 million or 15.0% of total NT exports); and
- crude materials, inedible, except fuels (\$87.32 million or 7.3% of total NT exports).

Food and live animals made up the bulk of exports to Indonesia (66.3%) and the Philippines (99.6%) but made up less than 2% of exports to each of the remaining eight of the 10 major export destinations. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels represented 89.4% of all exports to Belgium/Luxembourg, 48.4% of exports to the Republic of Korea and 42.9% to the United Kingdom. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels also made up a significant proportion of exports to Japan and China representing 21.3% and 18.6% respectively of all exports to those countries.

Commodities and transactions not elsewhere classifiable made up over 75% of exports to seven of the ten major export destinations.

Commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified include:

- Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind;
- Gold coin whether or not legal tender, and other coin being legal tender;
- Coin (excluding gold coin), not being legal tender;
- Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates);
- Combined confidential items of trade and commodities not elsewhere specified.

Major export destinations *continued* Canada received the largest proportion of commodities in this classification (99.6%), followed by the USA (92.0%), Hong Kong (91.7%), China (81.3%) and Japan (78.1%).

IMPORTS In 1997–98 imports into the NT accounted for 0.7% of all Australia's imports. Imports into the NT were valued at \$656.9 million in 1997–98, up 62.6% (\$253 million) from the previous year.

Imports by commodity group Just under half (\$314.5 million or 47.9%) of imports into the NT in 1997–98 were from the machinery and transport equipment commodity group (figure 15.3).

15.3	VALUE OF IMPORTS (CUSTOMS VALUE), NT		
	1996–97	1997–98	Change
<i>Commodity group</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>%</i>
Food and live animals	0.87	1.13	29.9
Beverages and tobacco	—	—	—
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	7.20	7.39	2.6
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	58.86	75.20	27.7
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.17	0.21	23.5
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	10.72	25.04	133.6
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	51.99	90.06	73.2
Machinery and transport equipment	155.36	314.49	102.4
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	15.45	46.30	199.7
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	103.24	97.04	–6.0
Total	403.87	656.87	62.6

(a) Sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FACTTRACCS.

Major import sources The major sources of NT imports in 1997–98 were USA, Japan and Singapore (figure 15.4). These three countries accounted for 47.8% (\$314.3 million) of all imports into the NT while the top 10 major sources accounted for 82.8% (\$543.9 million) of all NT imports.

15.4	TOP 10 SOURCES OF NT IMPORTS, 1997–98	
	Value	Total imports
	<i>\$m</i>	<i>%</i>
United States of America	125.1	19.0
Japan	96.43	14.7
Singapore	92.78	14.1
Kuwait	64.26	9.8
United Kingdom	48.41	7.4
Canada	31.32	4.8
Norway	31.06	4.7
France	27.45	4.2
Germany	14.91	2.3
Republic of Korea	11.75	1.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FASTTRACCS.

Major import sources
continued

The main commodities imported from the 10 major sources of NT imports were:

- machinery and transport equipment (\$276.7 million or 42.1% of total NT imports);
- commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified (\$86.7 million or 13.2% of total NT imports); and
- mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$69.6 million or 10.6% of total NT imports).

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials made up the bulk of imports from Singapore (74.7%) but less than 1% of imports from the remaining nine of the 10 major export destinations. All of the imports from Kuwait were commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified.

Machinery and transport equipment made up over 90% of imports to the NT from Canada (98.7%), Norway (98.2%), Germany (93.5%), the Republic of Korea (93.1%) and France (91.4%). The bulk of imports from the United Kingdom (69.2%), Japan (59.3%) and the USA (51.4%) were also from this commodity group. A significant proportion of imports from the USA (22.6%) were miscellaneous manufactured articles.

SPECIAL ARTICLE

TRADE WITH THE EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA

In March 1994 Brunei, eastern Indonesia, eastern Malaysia and the southern Philippines created the East ASEAN Growth Area, a regional trading bloc known by the acronym BIMP-EAGA. The NT already had strong economic ties with these regions resulting from its 1991 Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia. By the end of March 1996 the NT Government had developed similar Memoranda of Understanding with the other countries in the region. These agreements prioritise trade between the NT and BIMP-EAGA and solidify the NT's role as a regional member.

EXPORTS to BIMP-EAGA

NT exports to BIMP-EAGA amounted to \$126.3m for the 1997–98 financial year, down 53% (\$111.8m) from 1996–97. The proportion of exports sent to these countries from the NT decreased from 19.1% of all NT exports in 1996–97, to 10.5% in 1997–98.

15.5	VALUE FOB OF NT EXPORTS TO BIMP-EAGA	
	1996–97	1997–98
	\$m	\$m
Brunei	8.74	9.1
Indonesia	150.6	49.0
Malaysia	10.1	7.6
Philippines	68.6	60.5
Total	238.0	126.3

‘The recent economic turmoil in the region, and in Indonesia in particular, has had a profound impact on this [food and live animals] export market. Exports of live cattle to Indonesia are down 36% for the first seven months of 1997–98, compared to the previous financial year, and are expected to decline a total of 60% in 1997–98. The slight increase in demand from the Philippines in the second half of 1997 is encouraging and, given the slump in demand from Indonesia, the Philippines is now the biggest importer of Territory cattle’. (Source: NT Budget Paper No.5—The NT Economy—1998–99, p14).

IMPORTS FROM THE BIMP-EAGA

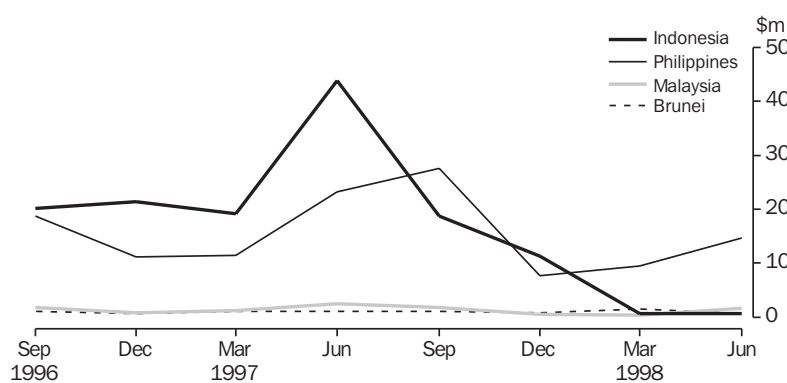
Imports from BIMP-EAGA to the NT amounted to \$15.8 million in 1997–98, up 48.3% (\$5.2 million) compared to 1996–97. Imports from these countries accounted for 2.4% of all NT imports in 1997–98, down slightly from 2.6 % in 1996–97.

There were significant increases in imports from Indonesia (45.3% or \$2.8 million) and Malaysia (37.9% or \$1.6 million). Imports from the Philippines and Brunei remained negligible.

15.6 CUSTOMS VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM BIMP-EAGA TO THE NT

	1996-97	1997-98
	\$m	\$m
Brunei	—	—
Indonesia	6.1	8.9
Malaysia	4.3	6.0
Phillippines	0.2	1.0
Total	10.7	15.8

15.7 EXPORTS OF LIVE CATTLE TO BIMP-EAGA, NT



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FASTTRACCS.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat. no. 1362.7)
- International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 5422.0)
- Information Paper: International Merchandise Trade and Shipping Statistics, Australia: Data Confidentiality* (Cat. no. 5487.0)
- FASTTRACCS—a consultancy service offered by the ABS in which statistics can be provided for quantity and value of commodities for all or selected countries or States
- Non-ABS publications Australian Customs Service, *Annual Report*
- Darwin Port Authority, *Annual Report*
- Department of Asian Relations Trade & Industry, *Annual Report*
- Department of Asian Relations Trade & Industry, *Northern Territory Major Projects*, a directory
- Territory Business, Quarterly (ISSN 1037-5449)
- Department of Transport & Works, *The AustralAsia Trade Route...Transport Conference NT Expo 1998—Papers and Audio Visuals, 24 June 1998 - Plaza Hotel Darwin*
- Northern Territory Budget Paper No. 5, Northern Territory Economy, 1998-99

CHAPTER 16

TRANSPORT

The transport industry consists of businesses mainly engaged in passenger or freight transport by road, rail, water and air and associated storage facilities and services.

The Northern Territory (NT) is linked to neighbouring States by the Stuart, Barkly and Victoria Highways along with air and sea services. Barge services from Darwin to coastal communities provide a vital supply link to these areas, especially in the wet season. There is a railway from South Australia (SA) to Alice Springs, with the process of extending it to Darwin in progress (see the special article on the railway in this chapter).

ROAD TRANSPORT

Length of road system In 1996–97 the NT Government managed 20,541 kilometres (km) of the NT road network. Of this total, 13% is classified as national highway, 20% arterial roads, 42% secondary roads and 25% as local roads. These figures exclude roads managed by local municipal governments, community government councils (CGC) and identified incorporated associations (IIA).

16.1 NT ROAD LENGTHS BY TYPE OF SURFACE, 1997(a)

	Length	
	km	%
Sealed	6 573	32
Gravel	6 573	32
Formed only	4 724	23
Unformed only	2 670	13
Total(b)	20 541	100

(a) Excludes roads in towns and local government areas.

(b) Columns may not add to total due to rounding.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Transport and Works, Annual Report, 1996–97.

Registrations of new motor vehicles In the 12 months ended June 1998 there were 8,694 new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles) registered in the NT, up 12.7% (979) from the previous year. This was lower than the national increase of 16.3%.

Passenger vehicles accounted for 75.5% (6,566) of new motor vehicles registered in 1997–98, while 18.8% (1,635) were light commercial vehicles including utilities and panel vans. The remaining 5.7% comprised buses (290) and trucks (203).

In 1997–98 there were also 428 new motor cycles registered in the NT, a decrease of 5.5% (25) from the previous year.

16.2 REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES PER 1,000 PEOPLE
AT JUNE 30, NT



Note: Based on mean resident population.

Source: *Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, June 1997* (Cat. no. 9303.0.40.003).

Registered motor vehicles

Figure 16.3 below shows the total number of motor vehicle registrations in the NT at July 1, 1997. Based on the estimated resident population for the NT as at June 30 1997 (187,132), the number of motor vehicles (light and heavy vehicles) per 1,000 population was 527.8.

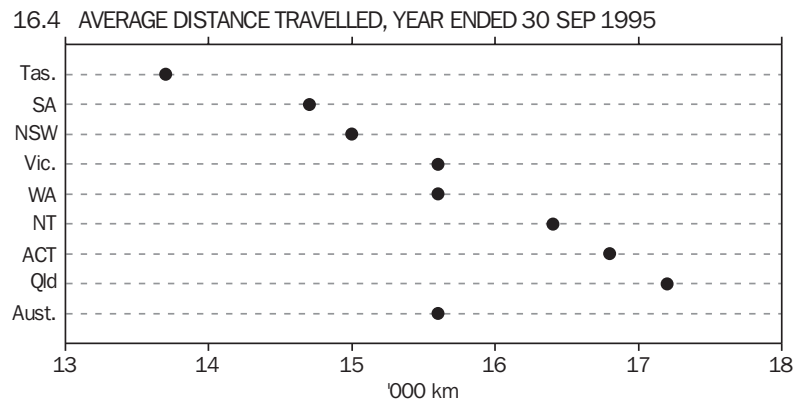
16.3 NT MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS AT JULY 1 1997

	no.
Motor Vehicles	
Light vehicles (less than 4.5 tonnes)	93 894
Heavy vehicles (exceeding 4.5 tonnes)	4 877
Total motor vehicles	98 771
Trailers	14 783
Total registrations	113 554

Source: *Department of Transport and Works*.

Motor vehicle use

The 1995 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (SMVU) indicated that vehicles registered in the NT travelled an average of 16,400 km in the 12 months ended 30 September 1995, 800 km more than the national average of 15,600 km. The average number of km travelled for business purposes by vehicles registered in the NT was 18,000 km. This was higher than in all other States except Victoria (Vic.), which also had an average of 18,000 km. Vehicles in the NT travelled an average of 7,800 km for private purposes, slightly lower than the national average of 8,000 km, and 6,000 km to and from work compared to 6,600 km nationally (figure 16.4).



Bus services

The Department of Transport and Works provides urban and school bus services in Darwin, Palmerston and regional centres. Bus services are also provided for students with special needs. In 1996–97 there was an integration of the routes serviced by private and government contractors in the Darwin urban bus service. These services now operate as ‘Darwinbus’ in Darwin, Palmerston and some rural areas.

During 1996–97, 4.5 million passenger trips were made throughout the NT, three-quarters of these (75.0% or 3.4 million) were on the ‘Darwinbus’ service. ‘Darwinbus’ passengers can be classified into five groups: adults, comprising 29% of all passengers; concession, 13% of all passengers; children (11%); pensioners (11%); and students (36%).

Passenger trips on other services included: 13.2% (0.6 million) in the Darwin Region; 6.6% (0.3 million) in Katherine; 4.4% (0.2 million) in Alice Springs and 0.8% (36,000) in Nhulunbuy.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Injuries and deaths

In 1996 there were 2,671 road traffic accidents in the NT, a decrease of 1.9% (52) since 1995. About two-thirds of these accidents caused no injuries or fatalities (1,781 or 66.7%) while 831 accidents caused injury to 1,249 people. The remaining 59 accidents resulted in 73 fatalities which represented 40.1 deaths per 100,000 population in the NT (figure 17.5).

16.5 FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION, NT, 1992-1996



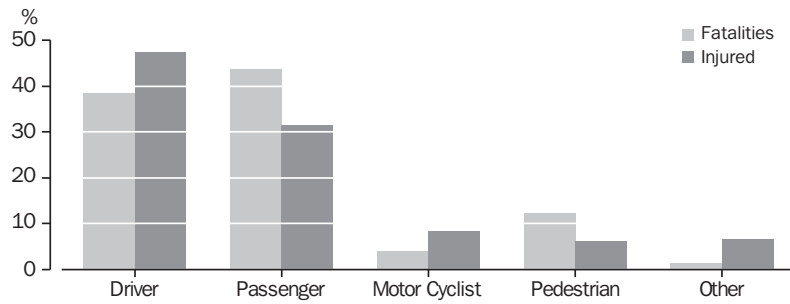
Source: Department of Transport and Works, Northern Territory Road Accident Statistics, 1996

- Although the majority of road accidents occur in the urban areas of the NT, most fatal road accidents occur outside these areas.
- While relatively few (23.8%) of the urban accidents cause death or injury, over half (53.0%) of all reported accidents in rural areas result in death or injury.
- Of the 59 fatal accidents occurring in the NT in 1996, 39 (66.1%) were accidents involving a single vehicle.
- About two-fifths (24 or 40.7%) of the fatal accidents in 1996 were caused by overturning. Vehicles overturning was also the biggest cause of injury accidents, accounting for 218 (26.2%) of all injury accidents. Angle collisions were the second biggest source of injury accidents, accounting for 174 (20.9%) of this type of accident.
- About half (940 or 52.8%) of all non-injury accidents were either rear end collisions (490) or angle collisions (450).

The number of persons hospitalised per 100,000 people fluctuated between 1992 and 1996 but increased overall from 225.0 to 270.1 during the period.

- More passengers than drivers were killed in road traffic accidents in 1996 (32 or 43.8% compared to 28 or 38.4%). Pedestrians also comprised a significant proportion of fatalities, accounting for nine or 12.3% of all fatalities (figure 17.6). In contrast, drivers comprised the largest group of road users injured in road traffic accidents, accounting for almost half (594 or 47.6% of all people injured, followed by passengers (393 or 31.5%).
- More males than females were injured or killed in road traffic accidents in 1996 with males comprising 80.8% (59) of all fatalities and 62.7% (783) of all injuries.
- Alcohol-related accidents accounted for 13.7% (367) of all accidents in 1996. The majority (23 or 57.5%) of drivers, motor cyclists and pedestrians killed in road traffic accidents had blood alcohol concentration levels of 0.05% or above.

16.6 PROPORTION OF ROAD ACCIDENT INJURIES AND FATALITIES, TYPE OF ROAD USER, NT—1996



Note: Other includes pillion passengers and pedal cyclists.

Source: Department of Transport and Works, Northern Territory Road Accident Statistics, 1996.

AIR TRANSPORT

Growth continued in total passenger numbers passing through Darwin International Airport in 1996–97 (1,030,641 up 3.6%) but has slowed since 1995–96 when annual growth of 15.7% was experienced. In the three years to 1996–97 total passenger numbers increased 48.9% from 692,117.

16.7 TOTAL PASSENGER NUMBERS, DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Source: Department of Transport and Works, Annual report—1996–97.

In 1996–97 there were 372 domestic weekly services through Darwin International Airport. This was an increase of 48.8% (122 services) since 1992–93. The number of available seats associated with these flights also increased from approximately 25,000 in 1992–93 to 37,000 in 1996–97.

During the year ended December 1997, there was a total of 171,319 international passengers through Darwin International Airport. This represented a 15.8% increase on the number of passengers in 1996 and made up 1.2% of international passengers passing through all Australian airports in 1997.

The AustralAsia rail project is a major infrastructure project involving the construction of a 1,410 km standard gauge railway between Alice Springs and Darwin. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.2 billion. Of this amount \$300 million will be provided through government capital grants, \$100 million from each of the NT, South Australian (SA) and Commonwealth governments. The Tarcoola to Alice Springs line will also be handed over to the successful consortium by the Commonwealth.

The AustralAsia railway will require:

- 155,000 tonnes of steel rails;
- 9.2 million spring steel fasteners;
- 2.3 million sleepers (170,000 tonnes of steel and 240,000 cubic meters of pre-stressed concrete);
- two million cubic meters of ballast;
- 120 new bridges;
- 15 km of culvert pipe; and
- construction of new buildings and workshops to the value of \$26 million.

On April 8, 1998 the NT and SA governments announced the shortlisted consortia for the project. They were:

- the Asia Pacific Transport Consortium;
- the Southern Cross Consortium; and
- the Northlink Consortium.

On September 12, 1998 the NT Government and the Northern and Central Land Councils negotiated an arrangement that will lead to the provision of secure title for the rail corridor.

The AustralAsia rail project is one of a number of projects outlined in the report Darwin 2010—the Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics Hub which was released in November 1996. According to this report:

The 21st century will see the city of Darwin playing a pivotal role in the future of this country. Within 15 years, Australia's northern capital will be a linchpin in trade, communications and transport, linking Australia and the dynamic markets of Asia. (quoted in Department of Transport and Works, Annual Report, 1996–97, p11.)

The strategies outlined in the report provide for the development of infrastructure in Darwin and throughout the NT to allow Darwin to fulfil this role in the future. In addition to the construction of the AustralAsia Railway, provision is made for:

- the expansion of the East Arm Port;
- an expansion of the Darwin International Airport;
- the establishment of cruise ship facilities; and
- an improved road distribution network in northern Australia.

Construction of the railway is due to commence in the first quarter of 1999 and is expected to be completed in 2002.

FURTHER READING

- ABS publications *Year Book Australia* (Cat no. 1301.0)
- Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (Cat no. 1362.7)
- Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia* (Cat no. 9208.0)
- New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia: Preliminary* (Cat no. 9301.0)
- Motor Vehicle Census, Australia* (Cat no. 9309.0)
- Non-ABS publications Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Health in Australia—What you should know* (Cat. no. 8901.0)
- AUSTROADS, *The Australian Road System and Road Authorities National Performance Measures*
- AUSTROADS, *RoadFacts: An Overview of Australia's Road System and Its Use*
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