An Australian Government Initiative

Regional Development Australia

Put local data to work

RDA NT and .id (Informed Decisions)

Acknowledgment of Country

Regional Development Australia Northern Territory acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia.

We respect and celebrate the inherent strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their commitment to the land, waters and their communities.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Who we are



Rob Hall

Chief Economist,
.id (Informed Decisions)



Katrina Kawaljenko

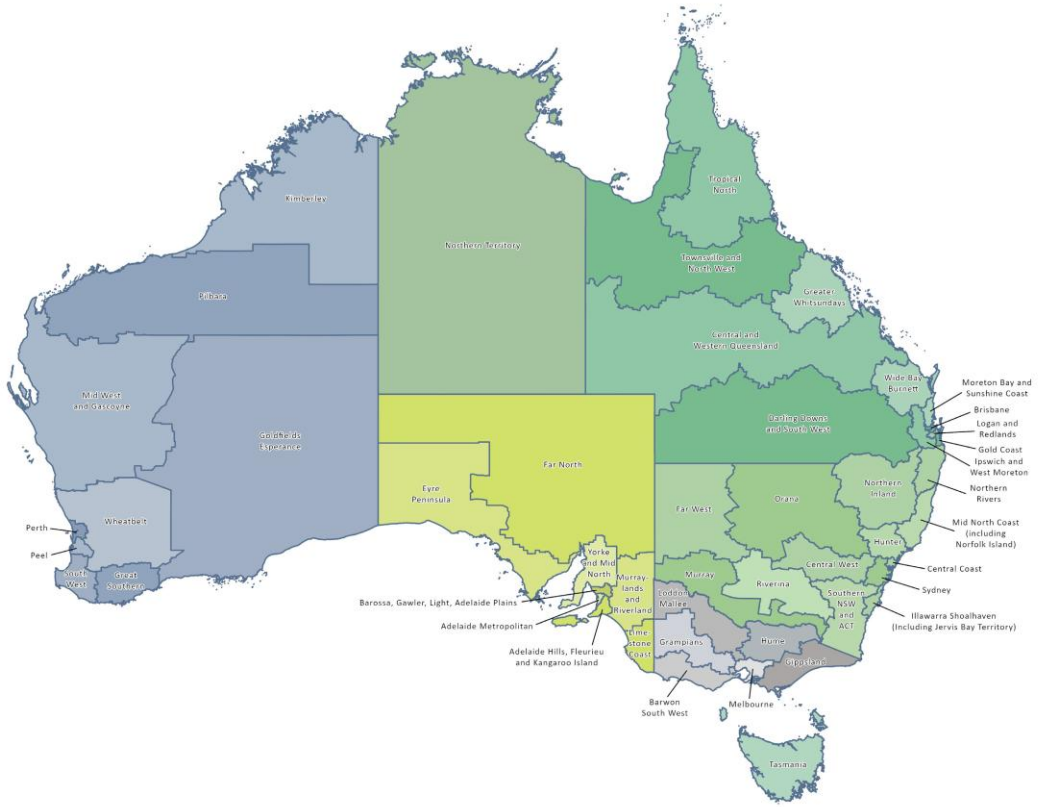
Chief Executive Officer,
Regional Development Australia NT



Maddison Clonan

Regional Development Manager, Regional Development Australia NT

Regional Development Australia Program



- Part of the federally funded RDA network, with more than 50 committees across Australia.
- Supports economic growth, stronger regional communities and long-term development priorities.
- Independent.
- Works with all levels of government and community stakeholders.
- Helps deliver the Regional Investment Framework across People, Places, Services, Industries and Local Economies.

How does RDA NT deliver?

- Collaboration and connection across stakeholders and government
- Support for grant applications and project readiness
- Promotion of funding opportunities, policies and regional opportunities
- Projects

Your community and economic profiles.



A guided read of who lives in the Barkly area, how households live, how the local economy and jobs are changing and estimating economic impacts using the community and economic profiles on the RDA Northern Territory site.

Presented by Rob Hall – Chief Economist

rob@id.com.au | 3 November 2026

What we will cover

- Logging in
- The .id tools on the RDA Northern Territory site
- Finding Barkly and reading the data

01

Who lives here

Age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and language

02

How households live

Household size, income, tenure and disadvantage

03

The local economy

Gross Regional Product, value by industry, business and tourism

04

Jobs and work

Where the jobs are, unemployment and participation

05

Impact and Event Modelling

Estimating the multiplier effect from a project

Logging in

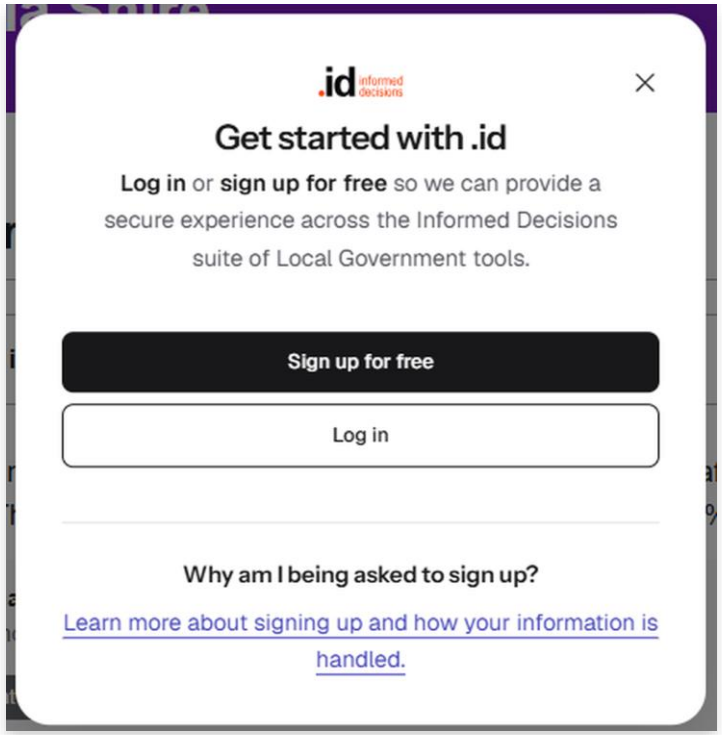
The new sign-up requirement was introduced by .id (Informed Decisions) in mid 2026 as part of an update to how its tools work.

It is quick and easy, costs nothing, and is safe and secure.

Why? It supports modern web security, helps .id understand overall usage, and keeps trusted local information available to the community.

Your personal information stays with .id. Sign-up details are managed under the .id Privacy Policy and are not shared with RDA, councils or any other parties.

The tools remain open to the public. There is no cost to creating an .id account, and the sites remain a public-facing service.



For step-by-step help, see the .id guide: how to sign up for an account to access the Local Government suite.

Six tools in the platform

Each tab is a different tool. Today we focus on two: the community profile and the economic profile.

profile.id

Who lives in the Barkly, and how has that changed?

How does the Barkly compare with the NT?

economy.id

Which industries create the value and the jobs?

How is unemployment tracking each quarter?

atlas.id

Where do different groups of people live?

Where are needs concentrated?

forecast.id

How is the population expected to change?

What will that mean for future services?

housing.id

Who can afford to rent or buy?

How well does housing supply fit demand?

views.id

What do residents value about where they live?

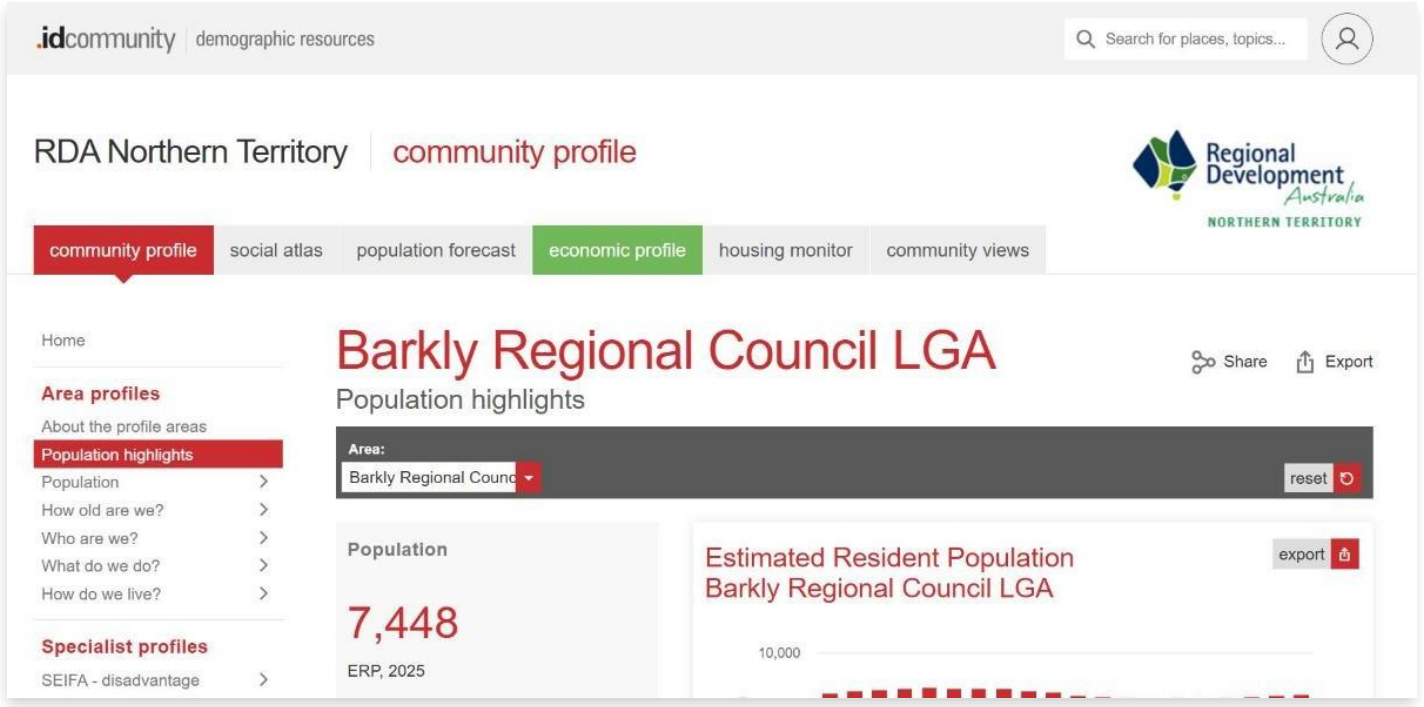
What do they need more of?

Barkly data sits inside the RDA Northern Territory site

WHERE TO FIND IT

Community profile › Area box

1. Go to profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory.
2. Choose Barkly Regional Council LGA in the Area box.
3. In the economic profile, choose Barkly again under Current area.
4. Bookmark the page once Barkly is selected.



Shown: population highlights, Barkly Regional Council LGA, community profile on the RDA Northern Territory site.

Three kinds of numbers, and when to use each

Census

ABS, EVERY FIVE YEARS

The detailed picture of people and households: age, language, income, household size, tenure. Latest is 2021. Barkly counted 6,300 residents.

Population estimate

ABS, EVERY YEAR

The official population count, with an allowance for people the Census missed. Barkly: 7,448 in 2025. Use it for "how many people live here".

Economic series

YEARLY AND QUARTERLY

NIEIR modelled GRP, value added and jobs for each year to June, plus the unemployment rate each quarter.

Why the two population numbers differ. The Census counts people at home on Census night. The estimate adds people who were missed, which is more common in remote communities, and it is updated each year.

Benchmarks give every number context. RDA Northern Territory covers the whole Territory, so its figures match the Northern Territory. Greater Darwin is the second comparison.

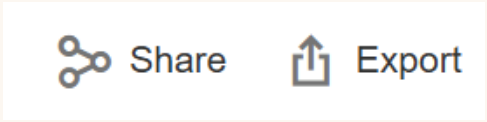
Source: ABS Census 2021, ABS Estimated Resident Population 2025, NIEIR 2026, via profile.id and economy.id.

Navigating the pages

Exports

Every chart, table, page

Use the export buttons to download a chart, table or page



Descriptive text

Every page

Every page includes a descriptive analysis about the topic.



Dominant groups

Analysis of the qualifications of the population in Barkly Regional Council LGA in 2021 compared to Regional NT shows that there was a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree; Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications), and a higher proportion of people with no formal qualifications.

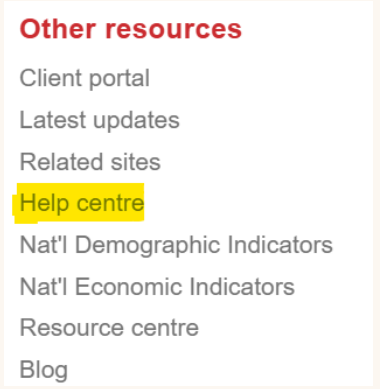
Overall, 29.9% of the population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 54.4% had no qualifications, compared with 36.2% and 49.7% respectively for Regional NT.

The major differences between qualifications held by the population of Barkly Regional Council LGA and Regional NT were:

Sources and data notes

Source, explanatory notes, reference year

Every table or chart has the year the data refers to, the source and relevant data notes. The new Help Centre includes FAQs.



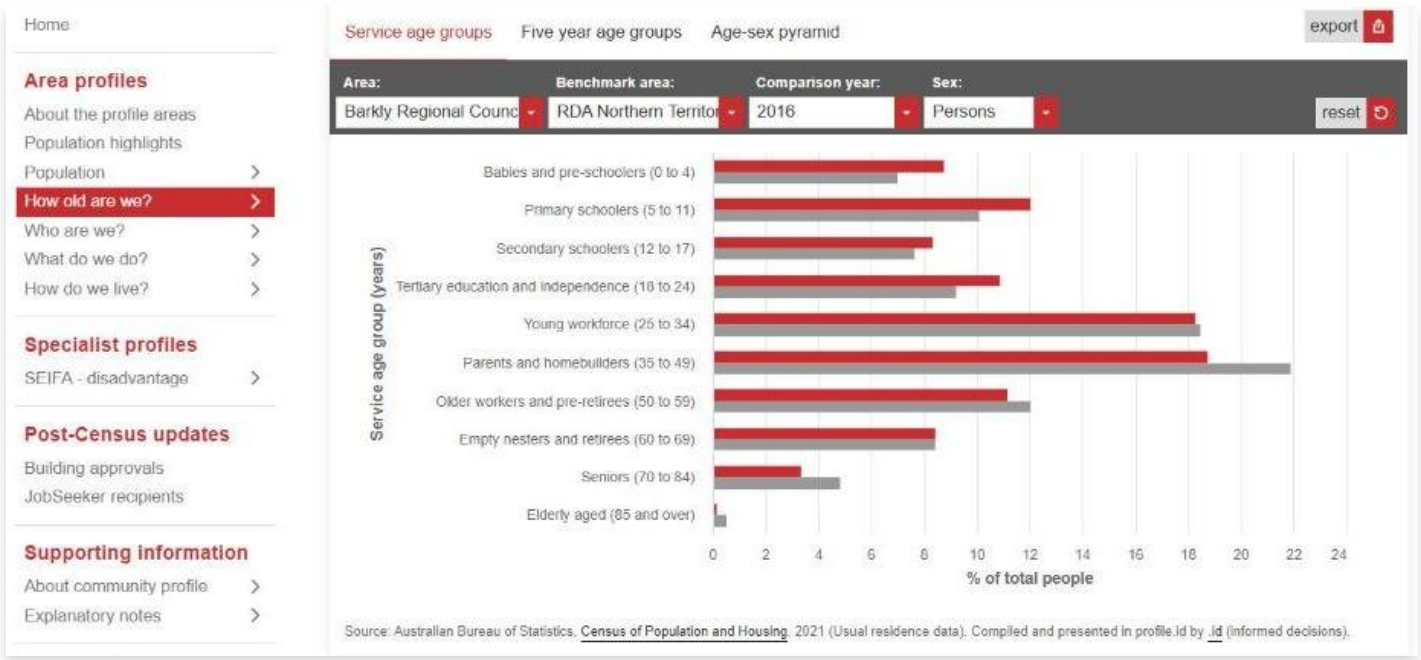
Areas, benchmarks and comparison years

1. Area picks the place. Benchmark area sets the comparison, such as RDA Northern Territory or Greater Darwin.

2. Comparison year shows change since the previous Census, 2016.

3. Charts show Barkly in red against the benchmark in grey.

4. Each chart lists its source and year underneath. Quote both when you use a figure.

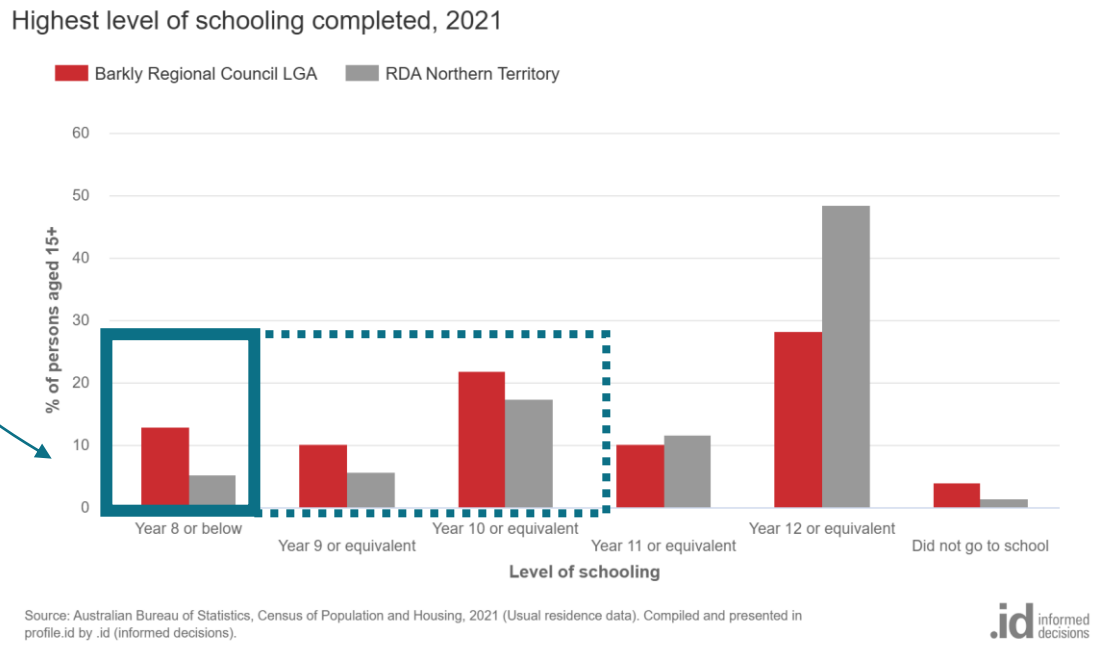


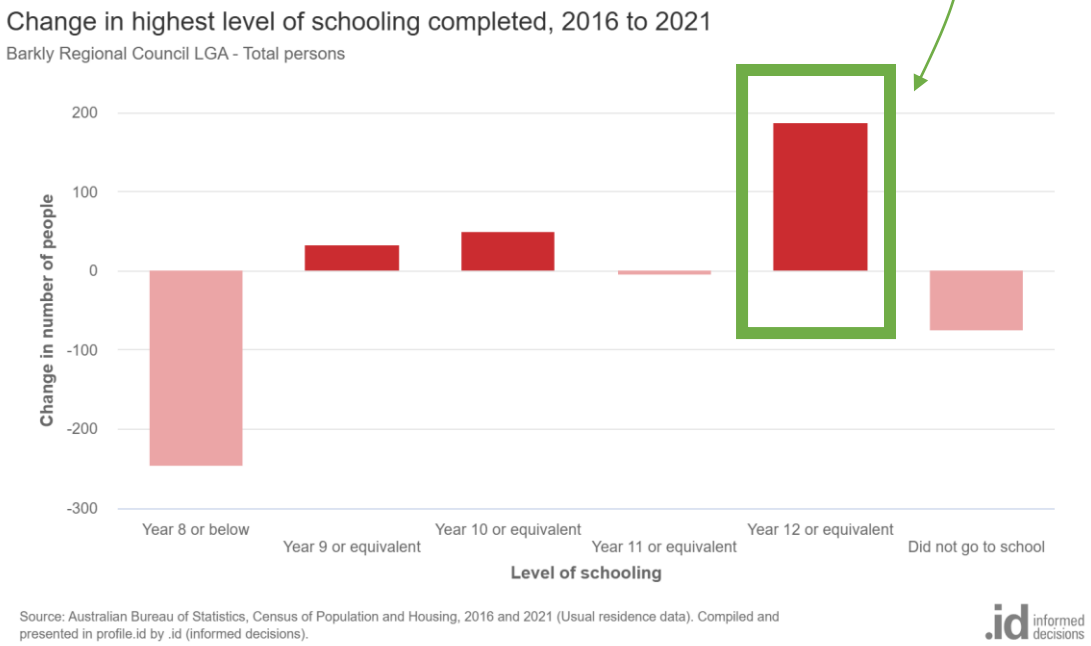
Shown: service age groups, Barkly Regional Council LGA against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021.

Dominant-Emerging Analysis

Dominant-emerging analysis is a simple way to analyse LGA and suburb data. We use it to answer:

1. How does it compare to the regional benchmark? (dominant groups are ones in higher proportion than the benchmark)
2. How is it changing over time (emerging groups are those which are increasing as a proportion of population)





Shown: service age groups, Barkly Regional Council LGA against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021.

.id

Community profile

A young community, mostly Aboriginal, where many speak an Indigenous language at home

66.7%

of residents are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, against 26.3% across the NT

50.0%

of residents speak a language at home other than English, against 32% across the NT

30

median age in years, three years younger than the NT median of 33

Children make up a large share of the community. 29.1% of residents are aged 0 to 17 (1,833 people), against 24.8% across the NT. Primary schoolers alone are 12.0% of residents.

The population has been broadly steady. The official estimate was 7,448 in 2025, up 70 on the year before. The Census count fell by 348 between 2016 and 2021, to 6,300, so check both sources before describing a trend.

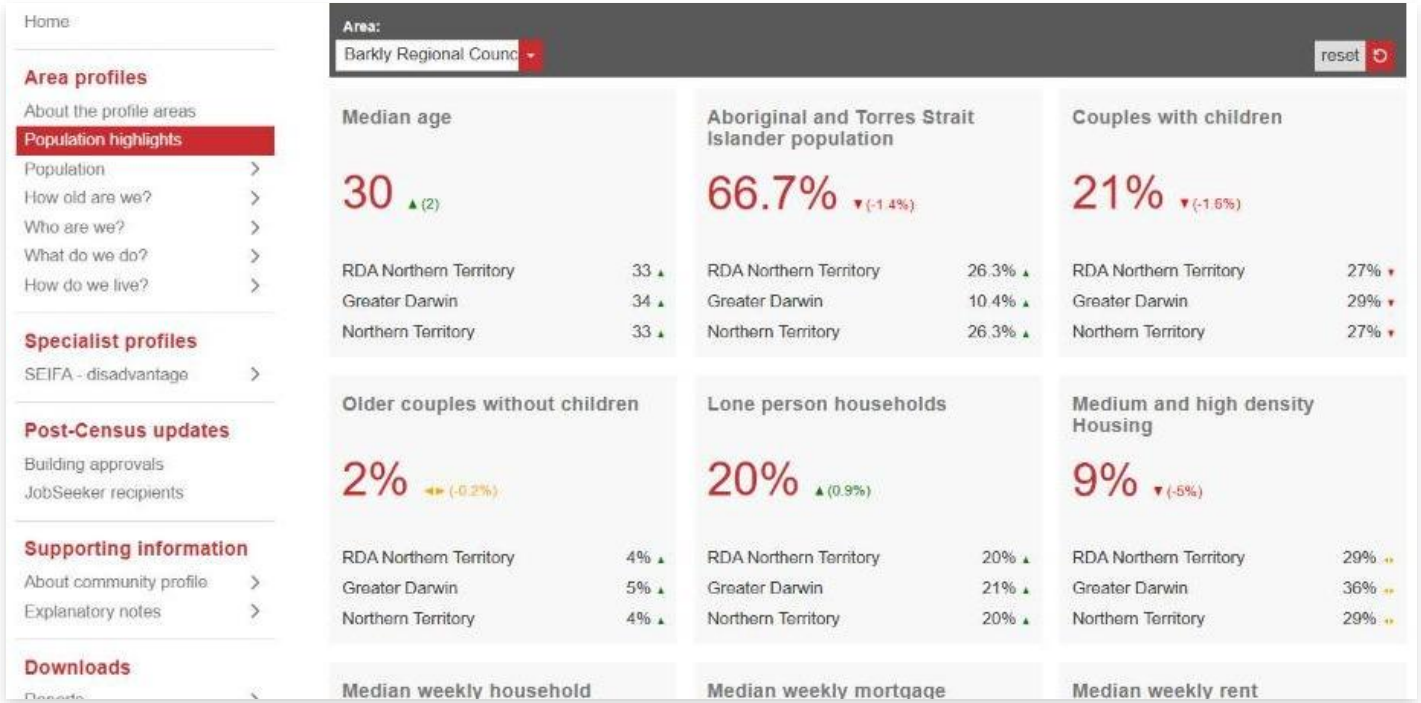
Source: ABS Census 2021 (usual residence) and ABS Estimated Resident Population 2025, via profile.id, RDA Northern Territory.

Population highlights

WHERE TO FIND IT

Area profiles › Population highlights

1. Open Population highlights from the left menu, with Barkly chosen in the Area box.
2. Each card shows the Barkly figure, its change since 2016 and three benchmarks.
3. Arrows show whether a figure rose or fell since the previous Census.
4. Click on the card to find out more. Or open the menu groups, such as Who are we?, for the full table and chart.



Shown: population highlights, Barkly Regional Council LGA, ABS Census 2021 with change from 2016.

Larger households on lower incomes, and almost half of them rent

17.9%

of households have six or more people, against 7.3% across the NT

$1,471

median weekly household income, against $2,015 across the NT

47%

of households rent and 6% have a mortgage, against 42% and 25% across the NT

Disadvantage is high. Barkly scores 670 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage, against 922 for the NT (a lower score means more disadvantage). An estimated 913 people were homeless in 2021.

Read low housing costs with care. The median rent is $120 a week against $325 across the NT. This is likely to reflect community and government housing rather than a low-cost private market.

Source: ABS Census 2021, SEIFA 2021 and ABS Estimating Homelessness, via profile.id, RDA Northern Territory.

Households and household size

WHERE TO FIND IT

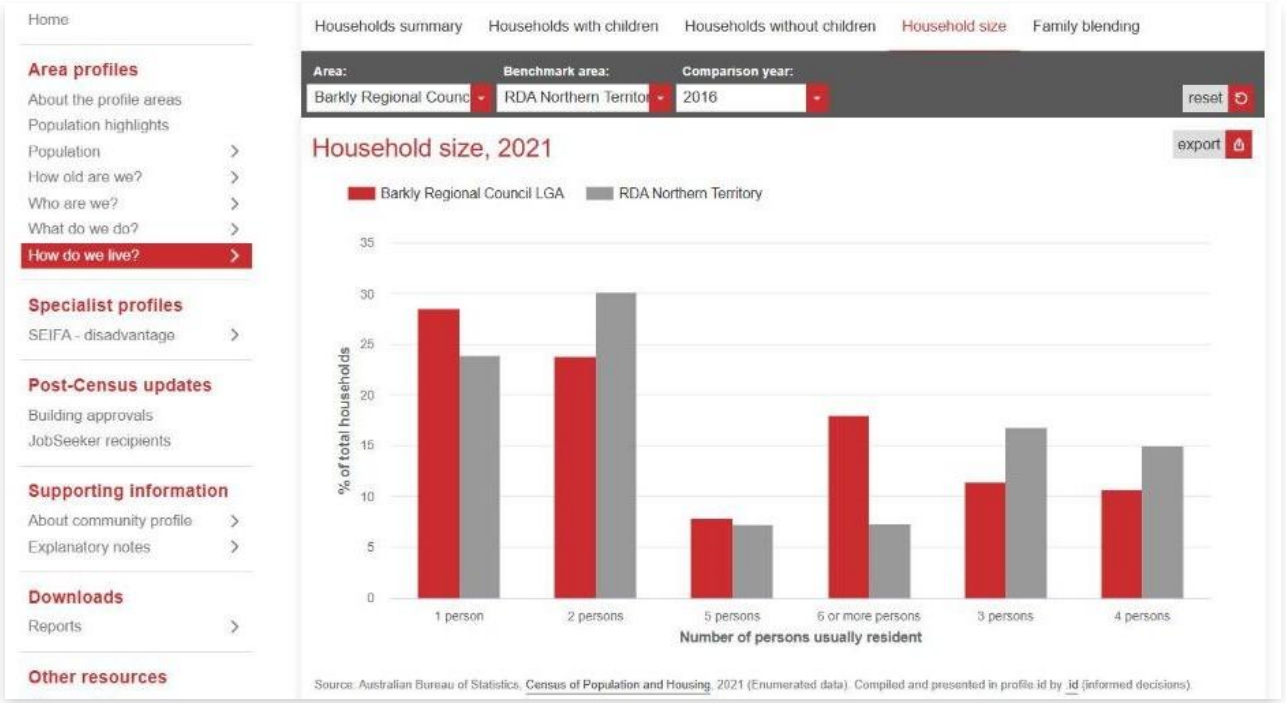
How do we live? › Households › Household size

1. Open How do we live?, then Households, and choose the Household size tab.

2. The chart compares Barkly (red) with the benchmark (grey) for each household size.

3. Change the benchmark to Greater Darwin to see a city comparison.

4. The chart below shows how household sizes shifted between 2016 and 2021.



Shown: household size, Barkly Regional Council LGA against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021 (enumerated).

Low participation rates and education attainment rates, but high share of unpaid child care.

45.6%

Of the population aged 15 or more is in the labour force, against 61.7% across the NT.

28.0%

of people aged over 15 years had completed Year 12 schooling, against 48.3% across the NT.

37.7%

of households provided unpaid child care, against 30.2% across the NT.

Full-time employment on par with NT. Of those employed, 64.7% were employed in full-time positions. This is similar to the NT average (64.8%). Many willing to work as well – 215 of 254 people unemployed looking for full-time work.

Disengagement high across all age groups. Refers to individuals who are not participating in either employment or education/training. In Barkly, 44% of people who are aged 15 or more were disengaged in 2021, compared to 26.3% across the NT.

Source: ABS Census 2021, SEIFA 2021 and ABS Estimating Homelessness, via profile.id, RDA Northern Territory.

Employment status

WHERE TO FIND IT

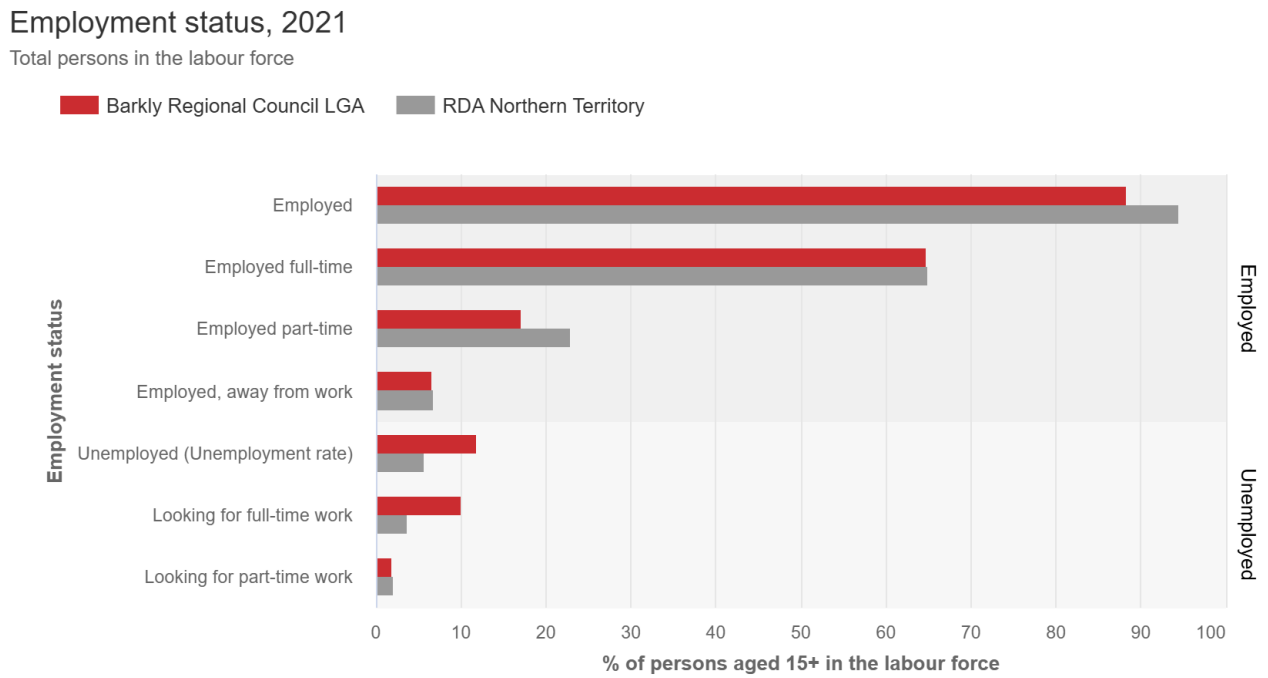
What do we do › Employment Status

1. Open What do we do? then Employment Status.

2. The chart compares the employment status in Barkly (red) with the benchmark (grey).

3. Change the benchmark to Greater Darwin to see a city comparison.

4. The chart below shows the change in employment status between 2016 and 2021.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

Shown: employment status, Barkly Regional Council LGA against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021 (usual residents).

EXERCISE 1 - QUESTIONS

Using percentages, change and benchmarks – profile

01 Use the Service Age Groups topic to show the % of Primary Schoolers (5–11 year olds) in Barkly, and how it compares to the Greater Darwin and NT. Did it increase or decrease over ten years? (2011–21)

02 Use the Language used at home topic to identify the top 3 languages used at home in Barkly. How does this compared to NT? Which languages emerged over ten years? (2011-2021)

03 Use the Qualifications topic to show the % of people aged 15+ in Barkly who have no qualification. How does this compare to Regional NT? Have qualifications increased or decreased over ten years? (2011-2021)

Economic profile

Making sense of economic and employment data

Place of work vs Usual Resident

Most of the economic and employment indicators are focused on where the job is located (place of work in the Census). Resident worker data is also provided to understand the employment characteristics of residents and if there is a mismatch between local workers and resident workers.

$ Measures – GRP, Value Added, Output

- Output (sales) = Total value of sales
- Value Added = Sales minus purchases
- GRP = Value added by industry + ownership of dwellings

All estimates are adjusted for inflation

Census employment vs NIEIR employment

Census employment counts underestimate employment in a region. NIEIR employment adjusts for this undercount and then provides annual estimate between and after the census.

Should I use output or value added? Industry Value Added is a more refined measure of the productivity of an industry than output (total gross revenue), as some industries have high levels of output but require large amounts of input expenditure to achieve that. By comparing the value added of each industry sector to a regional benchmark, you can clearly see the structure of the local economy.

A $635 million economy, with more than half its value from agriculture

$635m

Gross Regional Product in the year to June 2025, up 9.3% on the year before

55.9%

of value added comes from agriculture, forestry and fishing, against 4.6% across the NT

$40.5m

in tourism value added in 2024/25

The economy swings sharply from year to year. GRP was $833 million in 2010 and $303 million in 2016. Use the long-run series, not a single year, when describing the economy.

75% of economic activity is driven by three industries. The three largest industries in terms of economic value were Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Health Care and Social Assistance and Mining.

Source: NIEIR modelled series 2024/25 (GRP, value added, tourism) and registered businesses 2025, via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory.

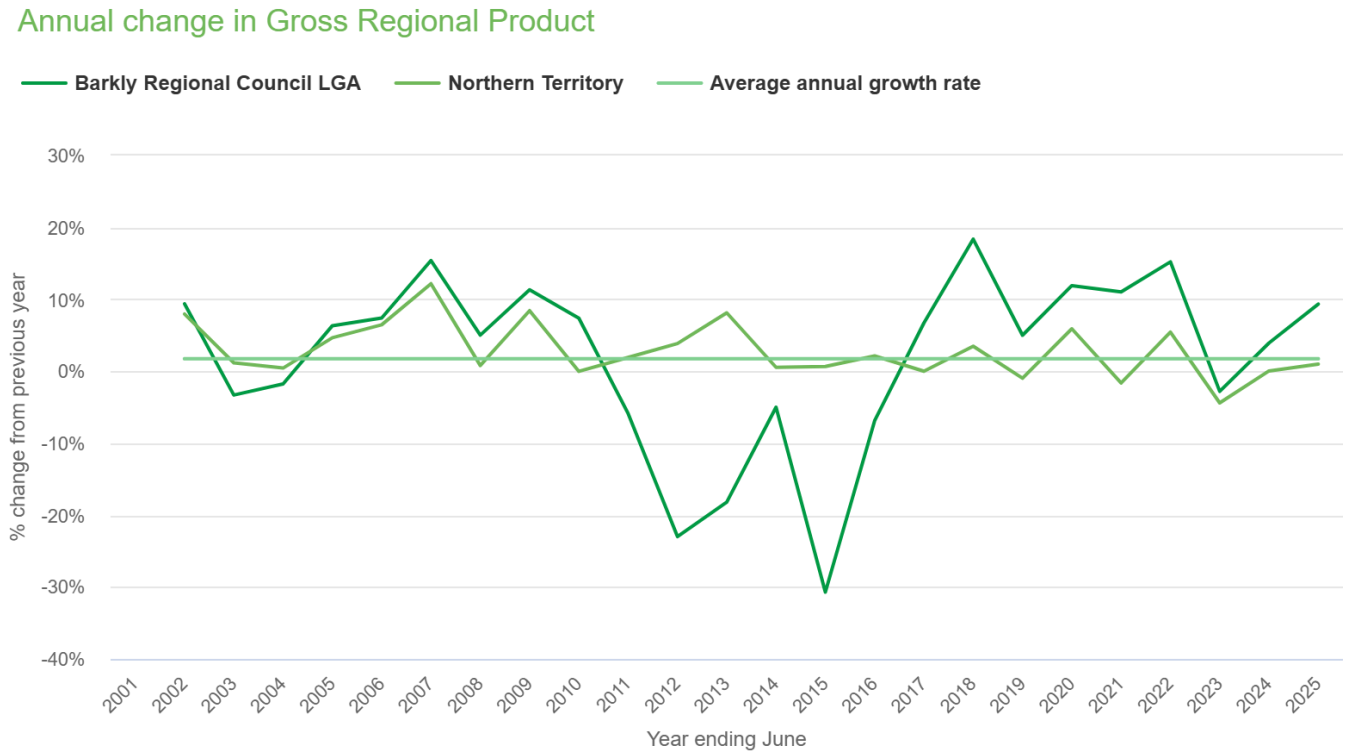
HOW TO FIND IT

Gross Regional Product

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic Indicators › Gross Product

1. Open the economic profile tab, then Economic Indicators in the left menu (you can also get more GRP detail under Economic Value)
2. Scroll to the Current area box and choose Barkly Regional Council LGA.
3. The chart runs back to 2001. Read the trend, not just the latest year.
4. The tabs across the top switch to other headline indicators like Jobs, Building Approvals, Unemployment



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2026 Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions)

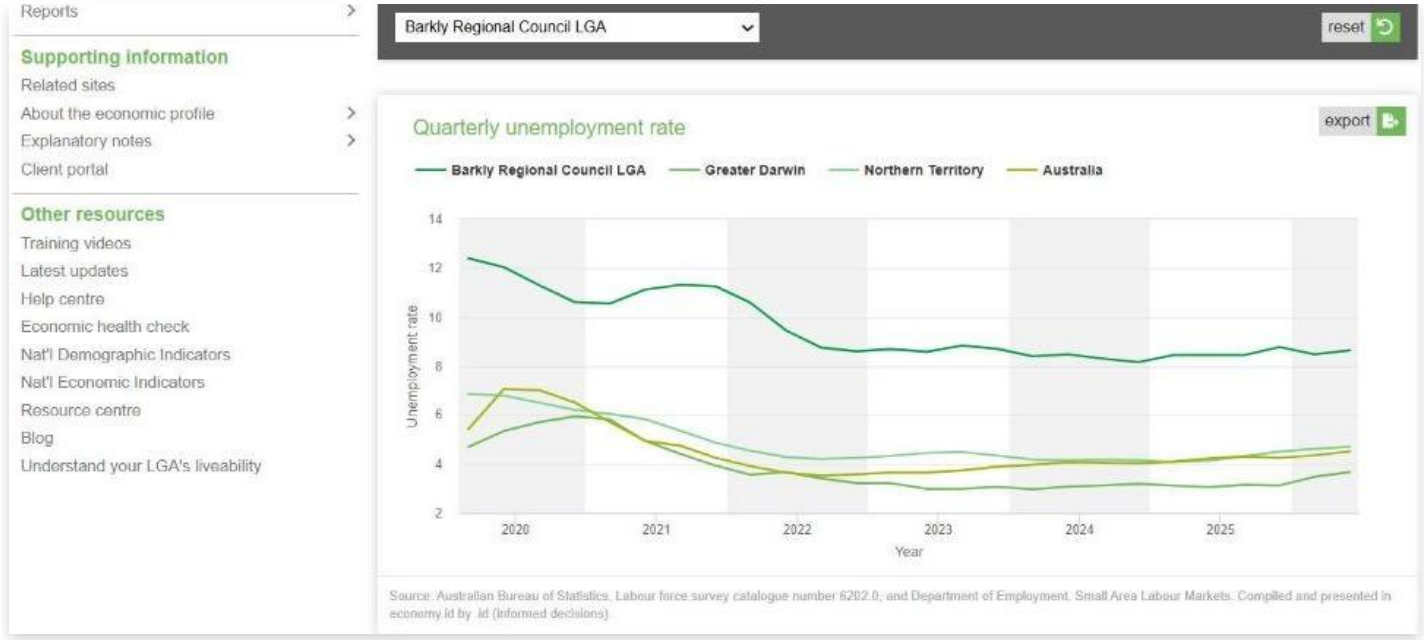
Shown: Gross Regional Product measures, Barkly Regional Council LGA, years ending June.

Unemployment, quarter by quarter

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic indicators › Unemployment

1. Open Economic indicators, then Unemployment.
2. Choose Barkly in the Current area box.
3. The chart compares Barkly with Greater Darwin, the NT and Australia each quarter.
4. It updates quarterly, so note the quarter when you quote it.



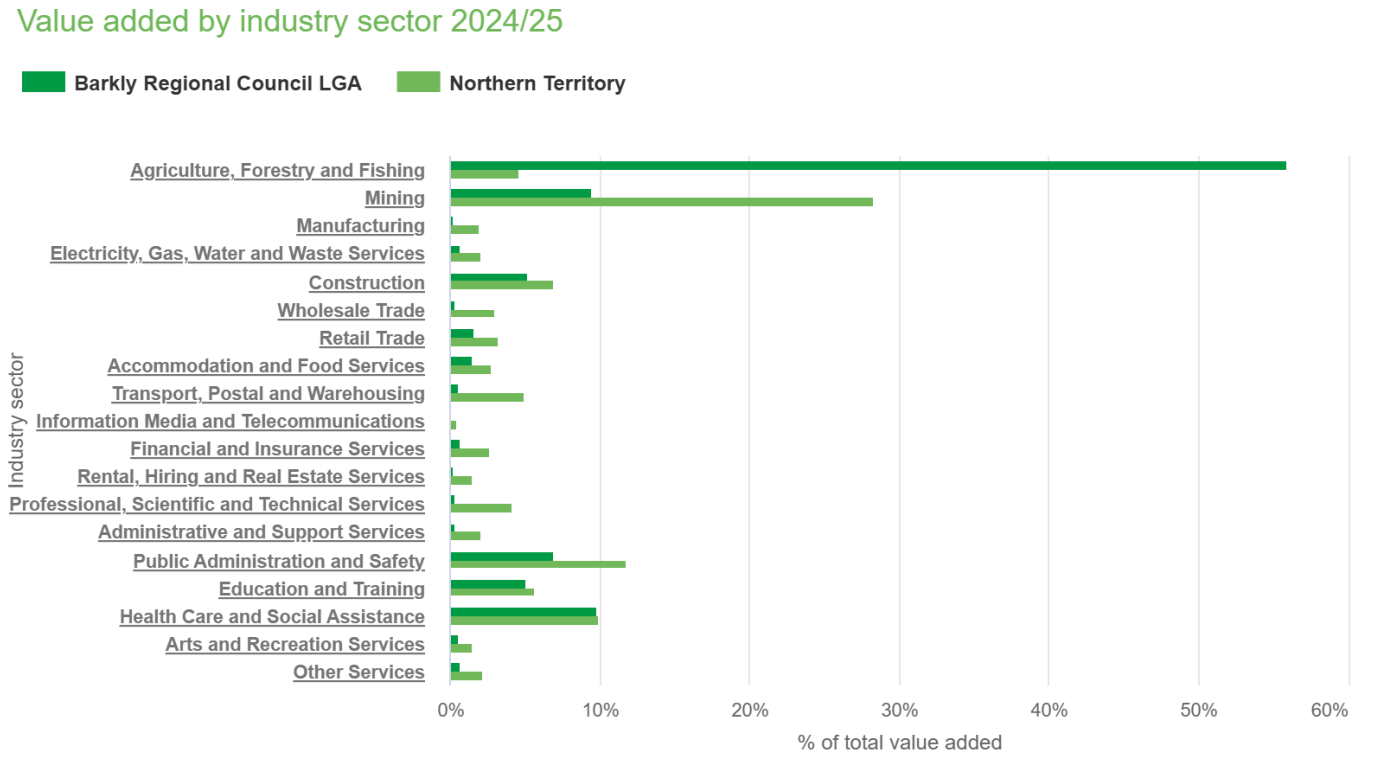
Shown: quarterly unemployment rate, Barkly Regional Council LGA and benchmarks, to the June quarter 2026.

Value Added by Industry

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic value › Value Added

1. Open the economic profile tab, then Economic value in the left menu and then Value Added.
2. Scroll to the Current area box and choose Barkly Regional Council LGA.
3. Change the year to look at 1YR, 3YR, 5YR change
4. Click on an industry to see more details
5. The tabs across the top switch to Value added, Output, Exports and Imports.



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2026. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Shown: Gross Regional Product measures, Barkly Regional Council LGA, years ending June.

Most jobs are in health, government and education, and the job count is falling

2,418

jobs located in Barkly in 2024/25, down from 2,685 in 2020/21

25.7%

of jobs are in health care and social assistance, the largest employer, against 18.0% across the NT

18.9%

Of workers were Community and Personal Service Workers, against 15.3% across the NT.

Services provide the jobs, agriculture provides the value. Health care (622 jobs), public administration (414) and education (273) employ over half the workforce. Agriculture employs 294 people (12.2%) but produces 55.9% of value added.

Census employment undercount. At the 2021 Census, there were 2,223 persons employed in Barkly. The census employment count under-estimates the number of workers in a region. The Local Employment estimate from NIEIR addresses this issue.

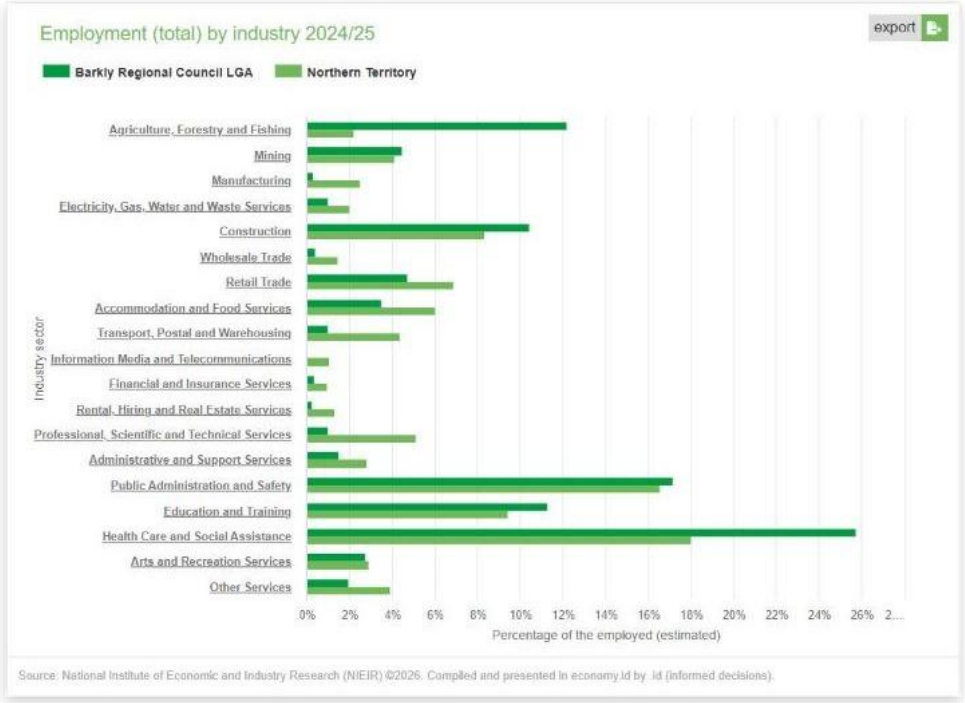
Source: NIEIR 2026, Small Area Labour Markets (June quarter 2026) and ABS Census 2021, via economy.id and profile.id.

Employment by industry

WHERE TO FIND IT

Local employment › Employment by industry (Total)

1. Open Local employment, then Employment by industry (Total).
2. Choose Barkly in the Current area box. Dark bars are Barkly, light bars the NT.
3. Click any industry name to drill down into its sub-sectors.
4. For value rather than jobs, use Economic value, then Value added.
5. For industry trends – see Industry Focus



Shown: employment (total) by industry, Barkly Regional Council LGA against the NT, 2024/25.

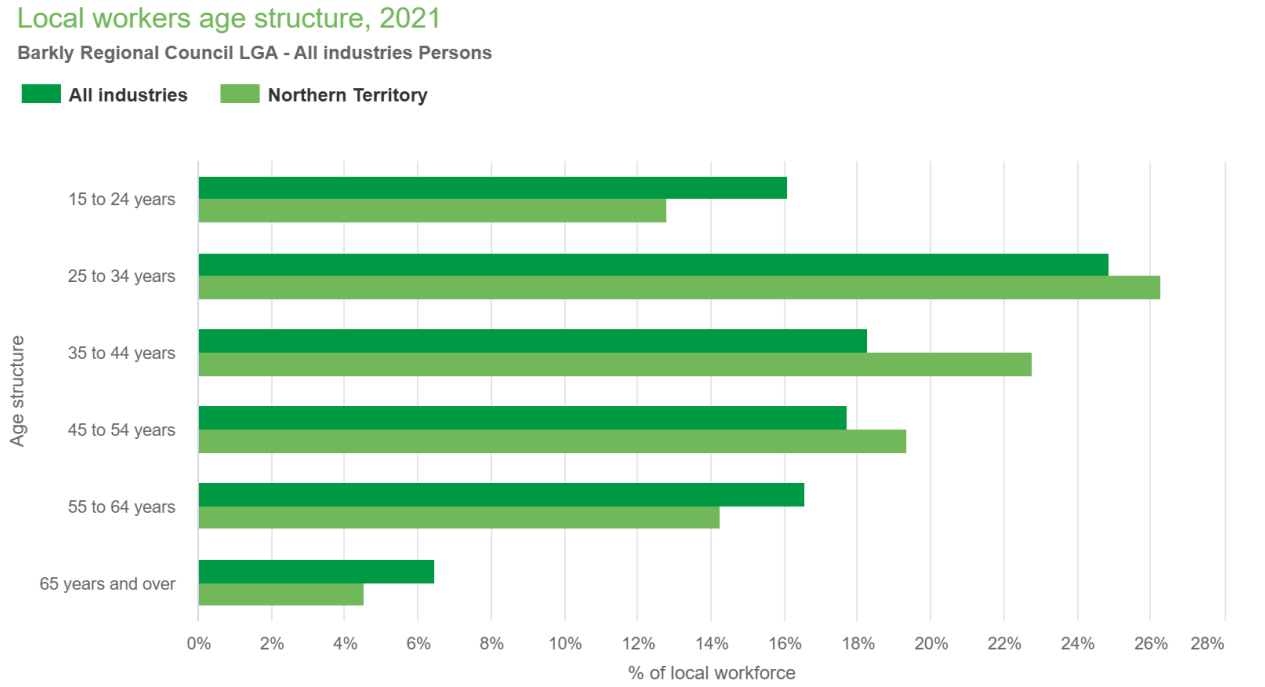
HOW TO FIND IT

Industry Characteristics – Age Profile

WHERE TO FIND IT

Local workers › Age Structure

1. Open Local workers, then Age Structure.
2. Choose Barkly in the Current area box. Dark bars are Barkly, light bars the NT.
3. Under Current Industry, change the Industry you want to understand further.
4. The tabs across the top switch to other worker characteristics.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Shown: employment (total) by industry, Barkly Regional Council LGA against the NT, 2024/25.

EXERCISE 2 - QUESTIONS

Using economic and employment estimates

01 Use the Industry Value Added, to identify which industries make the largest contribution to the local economy.

02 Use the Local Employment topic to identify which industries employ the most workers in Barkly in 2024/25. Are the top 3 employing the same as the top 3 by value added? If not, why?

03 Use the Local Workers topic to understand the age profile of the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. Are they younger or older than the NT average?

What will the project deliver in jobs and dollars?

- Economic development activities often aim to attract new employers to a region or increase output of existing businesses.
- These businesses can directly increase local employment
- They can indirectly increase local employment by increasing demand for local goods and services
- This is referred to as the multiplier effect - it captures how an initial change in economic activity ripples through the economy, creating a larger overall impact.
- Economic impact tools can help quantify the ripple effects based on an 'input-output' model.

IN PLAIN WORDS

Direct, indirect, induced The builder's wages and materials are direct. The concrete supplier is indirect. The crew buying lunch in town is induced.

Value added, not output Output is total sales and double-counts the supply chain. Value added is what becomes local wages and profits: the contribution to GRP.

FTE Full-time equivalent jobs. Two half-time jobs are one FTE.

WHERE WE GO NEXT **economy.id › Economic tools › Economic impact model (log in)**

Tip – further information can be found in our Grant Application Guide

Impact modelling use cases



Construction projects

Assessing the economic impacts of construction projects like highways, airports, hospitals, factories or renewable energy installations.



Business opening (or closing)

Analysing the ripple effects of a new business opening, a major employer closing, or shifts in industry composition within a region.



Events and tourism

Estimating the economic impact of tourism initiatives or major events like festivals, sports tournaments, or conventions. Help build the case for short-term accommodation



Natural Disasters

Calculating the economic consequences of events like cyclones, drought, or floods to inform recovery efforts and resource allocation.



Change of land use

Assessing the economic impact of a new development, such as a renewable energy precinct, on an existing land use, like agriculture.

Worked example

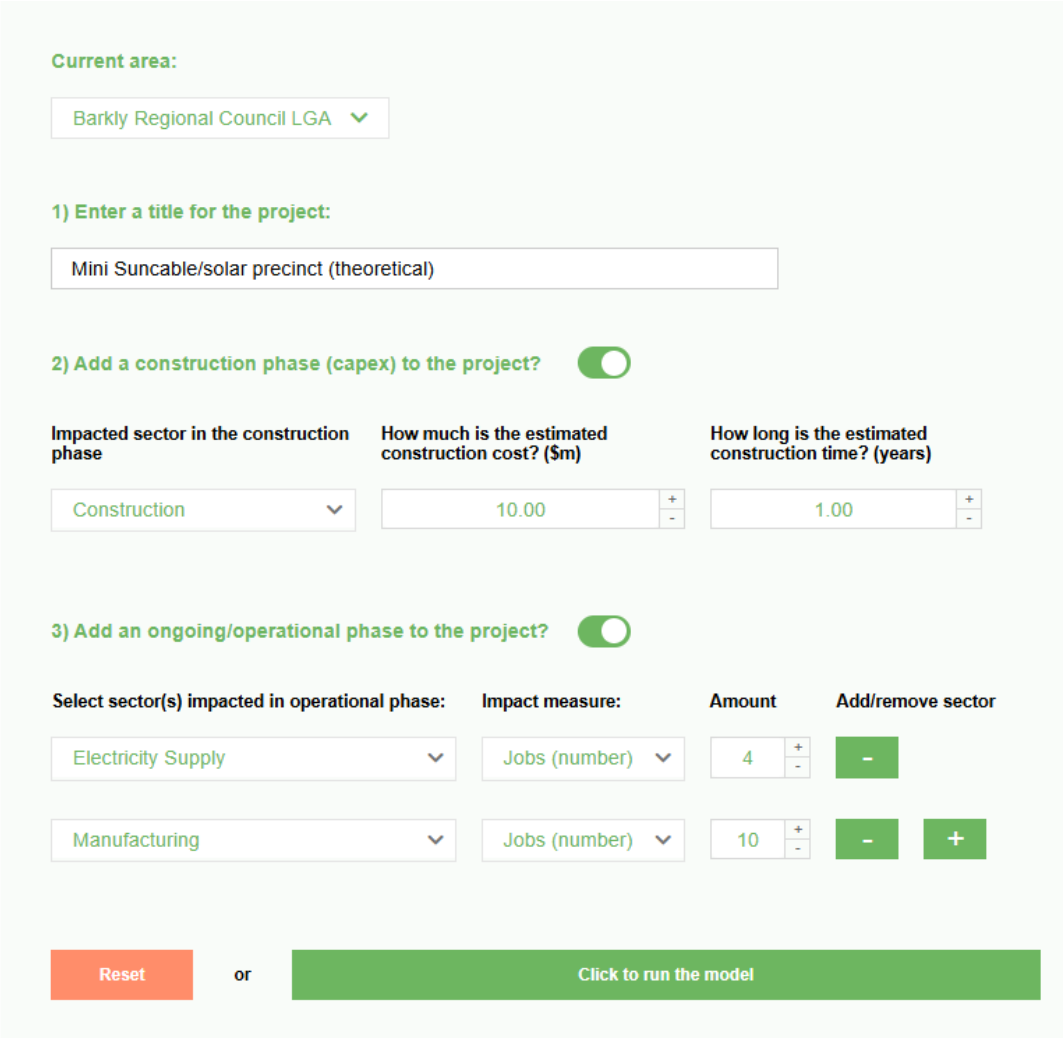
Mini Suncable/solar precinct (theoretical) – estimate $10m construction, 4 ongoing jobs in electricity supply and 10 jobs unlocked in industrial land opportunity.

The economic impact model: the Barkly example

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic tools › Economic impact model model

1. Have ready: construction cost and years; extra sales or jobs or jobs once open; non-local visitation only; a do-minimum minimum base case.
2. Log in, select Barkly as the region, name the project.
2. Add construction and/or operational phase
4. Enter inputs: Select the relevant industries and enter jobs or output.
5. Submit. Export the result as a PDF and attach it to the submission.



Shown: the model's input form, from the .id grant application guide. Inputs are illustrative.

The event impact model: the Barkly example

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic tools › Event Impact Model

1. Have ready: type of event, visitation estimates, visitor spending at the event
2. Log in, select Barkly as the region, name the event.
2. Add event type, event range, duration, attendance, spend.
4. Submit. Export the result as a PDF and attach it to the submission.

The proposed Total Solar Eclipse 2028 event is planned to run for 2 days. It is an event of State significance and is estimated to attract 7000 visitors per day over the 2 days, with an average spend per person per day of $100. This equals a total visitor spend of $1,400,000 attributed to this event. Assuming the event will be held in the Barkly Regional Council LGA, it is calculated to have the following potential impact:

Event Impact Summary

export

Barkly Regional Council LGA - Modelling the effect of $1,400,000 from an Arts and Heritage event with State significance

	Output ($)	Value-added ($)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)
Direct impact	1,120,000	626,303	7.6
Industrial impact	143,992	12,390	0.2
Consumption impact	43,854	23,793	0.2
Total impact on Barkly Regional Council LGA economy	1,307,847	662,486	8

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2026. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions). Note: All $ values are expressed in 2023/24 base year dollar terms.

Shown: the model's input form, from the .id grant application guide. Inputs are illustrative.

Pulling it all together

1 Strategic context

- Q1 Which industry does the project help?
- Q2 Is that industry doing as well as it should?
- Q3 Who does it serve, and what holds them back?
- Q4 How does the project fit, and has it worked elsewhere?

2 Economic impact

- Construction phase
- Operating phase

3 Event impact

- Direct visitor impacts
- Industrial impacts
- Consumption impacts

4 Wider benefits

- Health
- Community cohesion.
- Liveability

Structure follows the .id grant application guide and cheat sheet.

Pulling it all together – Housing Project Example

1 Strategic context

Q1 Which industry does the project help? Construction (all via labour force participation improvements)
Q2 Is that industry doing as well as it should? Strong growth recently, but volatile. Needs more sustainable projects.
Q3 Who does it serve, and what holds them back?

- **Who lives here** 66.7% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 43.6% speak a First Nations language
- **Households and homes** 17.9% have six or more people, 25.5% have one bedroom or none
- **Work** 45.6% participation, 37.6% of working-age residents on JobSeeker

Q4 How does the project fit, and has it worked elsewhere? Local research, case studies

2 Economic impact

Construction phase jobs and value added from the economy.id impact model
Operating phase ongoing local jobs in brick making and maintenance

3 Wider benefits

Health cooler, less crowded homes
Culture homes designed by their residents

Structure follows the .id grant application guide and cheat sheet.

From Census night to data you can use

When the 2026 Census results are released by the ABS, and when each release reaches the .id tools.

Aug 2026

Census

Delivery and mail-out 20 July to 10 August. Census night Tuesday 11 August. Follow-up to 14 September.

Jun 2027

ABS release 1

Demographic data and about 75% of Census topics: age, households, dwellings, education, cultural diversity and incomes.

On .id: community profile and social atlas updated progressively 2 to 6 weeks after release.

Oct 2027

ABS release 2

Employment, industry and economy topics, plus population movement (change of address).

On .id: economic profile updated, and the remaining profile topics within 6 weeks of release.

Early 2028

ABS release 3

SEIFA (the disadvantage index) and homelessness estimates.

On .id: SEIFA and homelessness data added to the community profile.

Official ABS release dates are indicative and not yet confirmed. Source: ABS; .id (informed decisions).

What is next

Every dataset in the .id tools has its own update cycle. This is when each one refreshes.

March each year

Population and migration

Updated every March, referring to the previous June.

April each year

NIEIR modelled data in economy.id

Updated each April for the previous financial year: GRP, output, value added and jobs.

Each quarter

Unemployment

Small Area Labour Markets estimates refresh quarterly in economy.id.

Monthly

Building approvals and JobSeeker

ABS building approvals and JobSeeker recipient numbers refresh every month.

11 Aug 2026

The 2026 Census

Census night was 11 August 2026. New numbers due from June 2027.

2 to 6 weeks

Into the .id tools

Each ABS Census release flows into the .id sites within 2 to 6 weeks, topic by topic.

Source: .id (informed decisions) update schedule; ABS release calendar. Census release dates are indicative.

Explore the data for your area

Everything in this session is live on the RDA Northern Territory site. Choose Barkly Regional Council LGA in the area box.

profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory

economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory

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