An Australian Government Initiative

Regional Development Australia

Big Rivers in Focus

Where the Big Rivers region is now, what's changing and the trends shaping the region.

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



Karen Balfe

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John Kim

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Katrina Kawaljenko

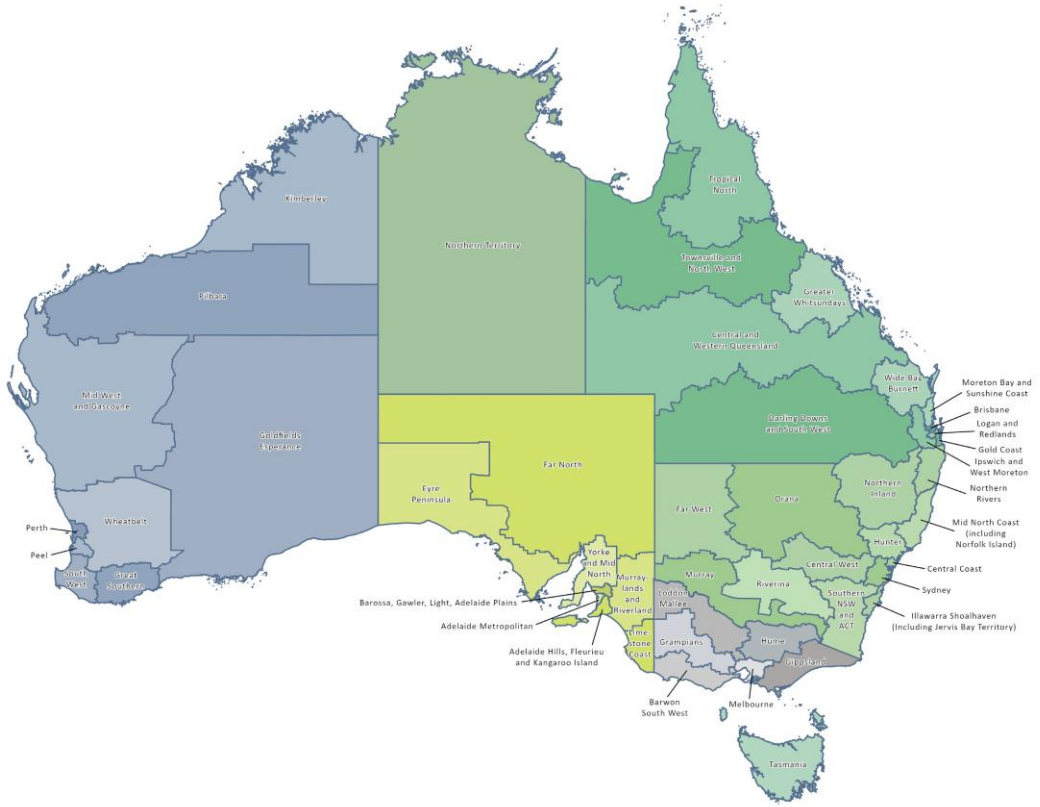
Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia NT



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

BIG RIVERS REGION: WHAT'S CHANGING?

Understand the region, explore the trends and find the evidence you need.

An overview of the Big Rivers region's key demographic, economic and community trends, and how local data can inform planning, investment and decision-making.

Informed Decisions · 5 November 2026

About .id (informed decisions)

A trusted independent partner in 360 place-based decision-making



Local Government Toolkit

Unlock the complete picture of your LGA or Region

Community Views

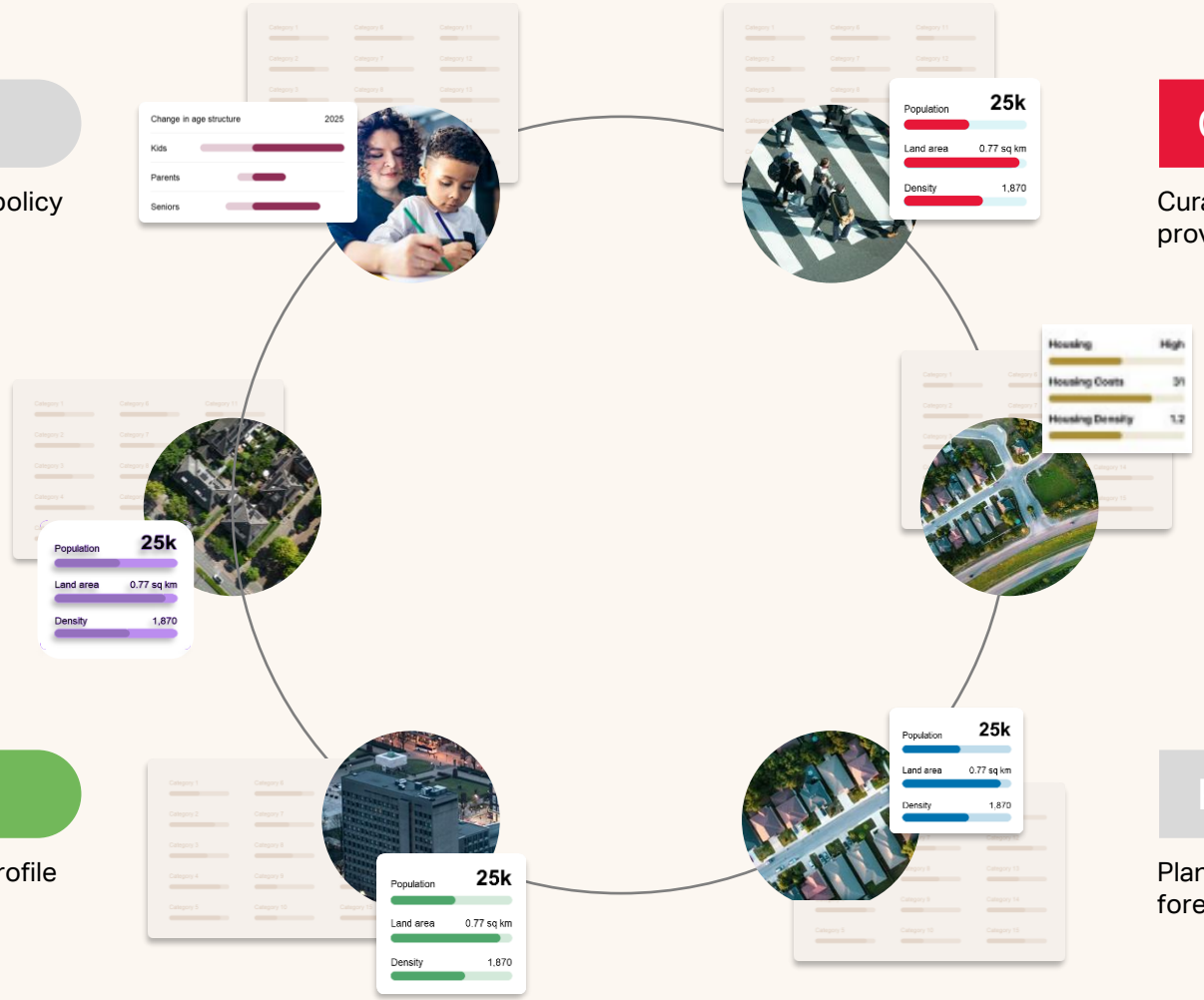
Community's views and needs in policy and advocacy

Housing Monitor

Plan, deliver and monitor the supply of affordable and appropriate housing

Economic Profile

Comprehensive local economic profile and impact modelling tools



Community Profile

Curated online community profile that provides deep demographic insights

Social Atlas

Powerful thematic maps to show where resources are best allocated

Population Forecast

Plan for the future with a single-scenario forecast of population and housing

What we will cover today

01

State of the Region

Where the Big Rivers region is now, the changes taking place

02

Introduction to .id tools tools

The tools available to help help you understand them

03

Focus on writing Grant Applications

Building a more compelling grant application

Topic 1

Big Rivers | State of the Regions briefing

Latest insights on national, NT and local trends

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What we'll cover:

01 National and NT Insights

02 Big Rivers Insights

03 Key Takeaways





LATEST INSIGHTS

National and Northern Territory insights



Photo: Ill Shutter for Canva

Rates are rising and growth is slowing – a tougher backdrop for households and business

4.85%

Cash rate after the 3 November rise

Next decision 7 December – another rise is possible.

4.3%

Inflation, year to September 2026

Above the 2–3% target, driven by housing and fuel.

4.7%

Unemployment, September 2026

A five-year high – the jobs market is softening.

+2.1%

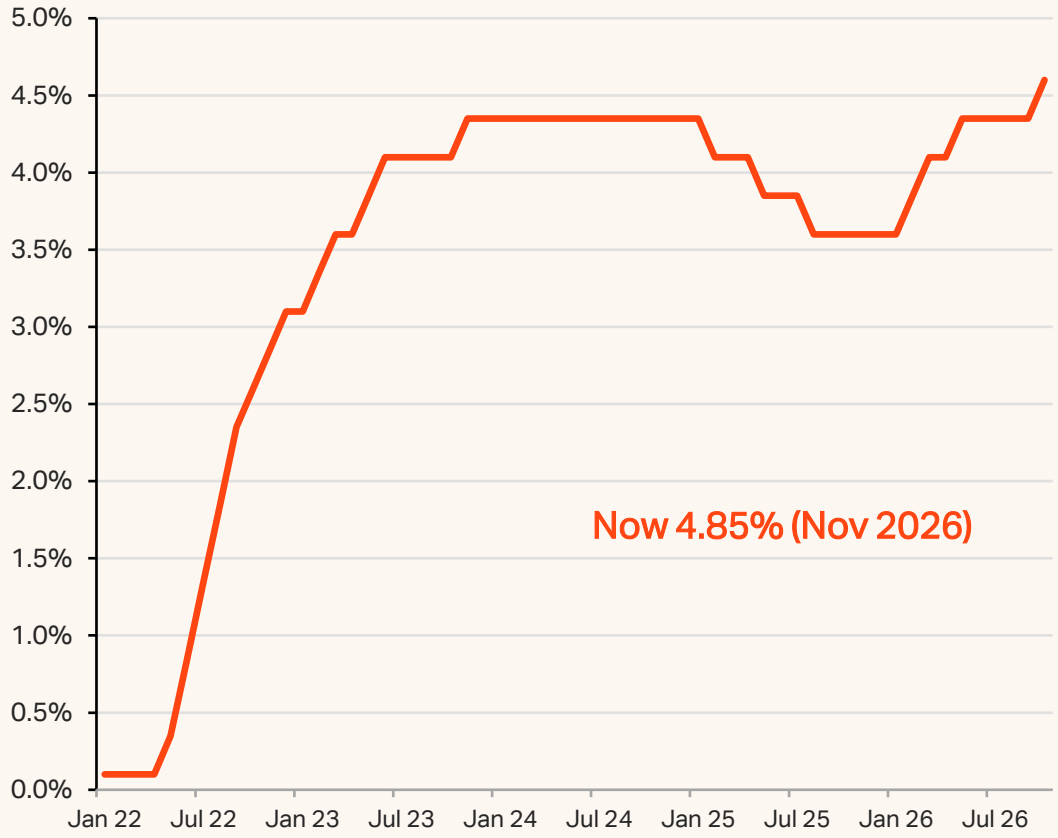
GDP, year to June quarter 2026

Modest growth; spending on fuel and travel fell.

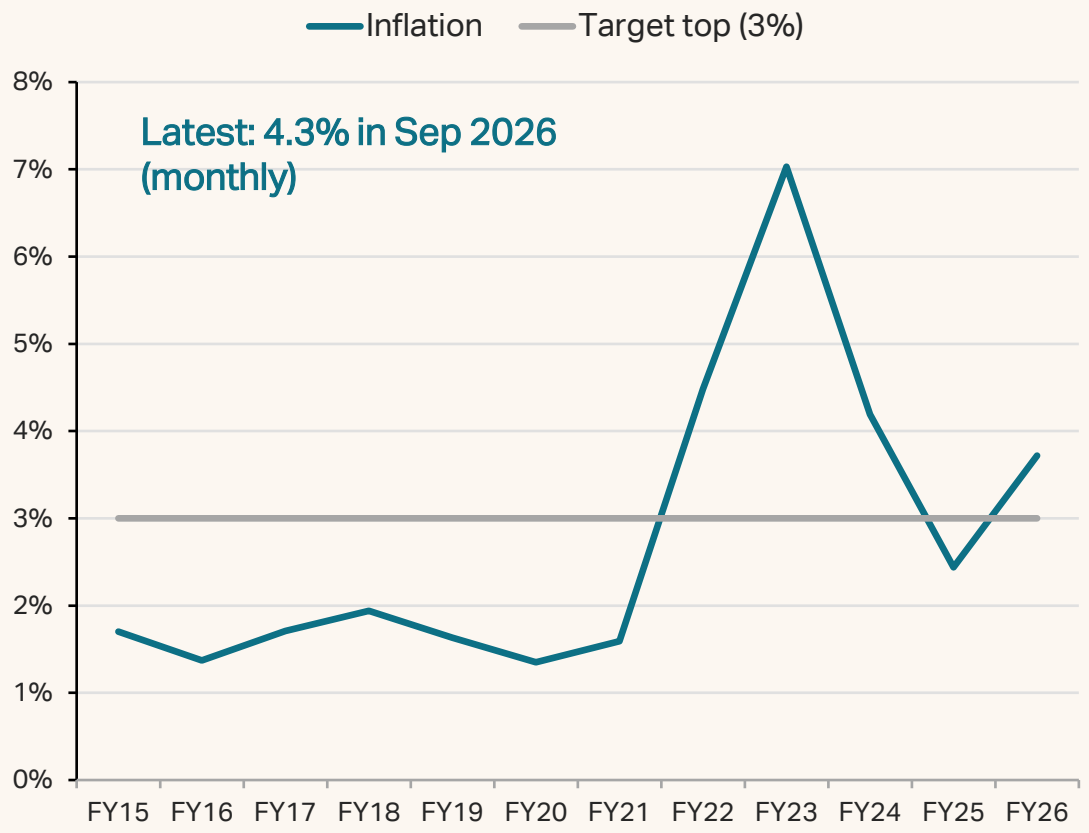
Source: RBA (3/11/2026); ABS CPI (Sep 2026), Labour Force (Sep 2026), National Accounts (Jun qtr 2026)

Interest rates are rising again as inflation runs above target

RBA cash rate target, %



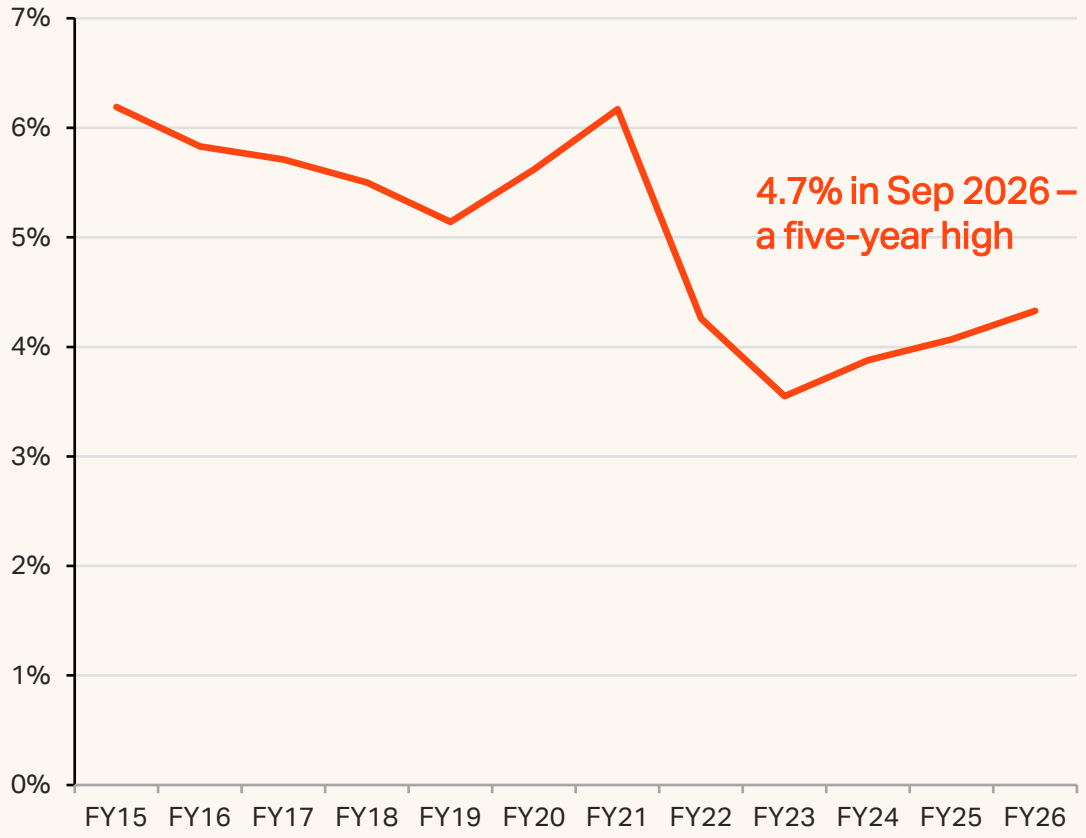
Inflation (CPI), % change, year to June



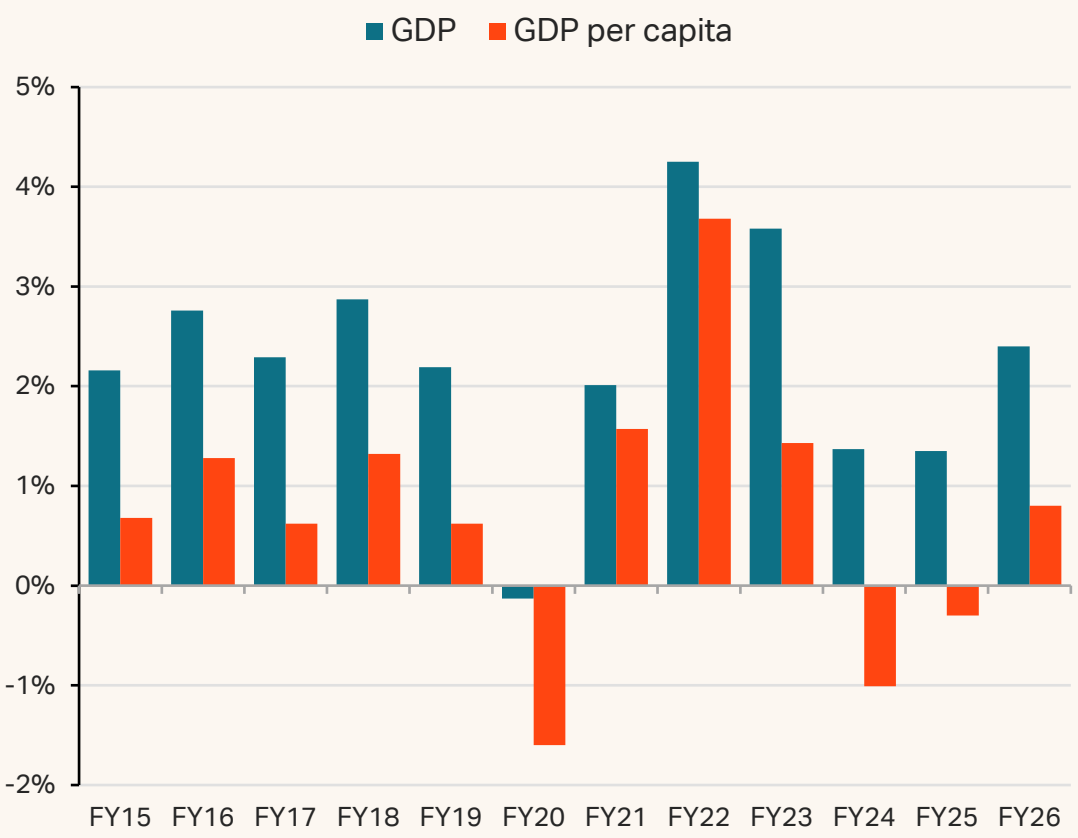
Source: RBA cash rate target (to October 2026); ABS CPI (annual average of quarterly index, year to June; latest monthly Sep 2026)

Growth picked up in 2025-26, but unemployment is now rising

Unemployment rate, %, year to June



GDP and GDP per capita, % change, financial year



Source: ABS Labour Force (12-month average to June; latest Sep 2026); ABS National Accounts (chain volume, financial years; 2025-26 from June qtr 2026 release)

Macroeconomic headwinds for Australia and NT,

US$88

Brent oil, per barrel (5 Nov 2026)

Diesel hit record highs in September; tight into 2027. Oil price dropped after US election.

US$4,072

Gold, per ounce (5 Nob 2026)

Below January's record but still historically high.

$4.55/kg

Ex-Darwin feeder steers (mid-Oct 2026)

High – up from about $4.00 in June, but below the 2022 record of about $5.50.

<US$90/t

Iron ore price (mid-Oct 2026)

A two-year low – tough for marginal NT iron ore projects.

Source: IEA Oil Market Report (Oct 2026); Trading Economics (23/10/2026); Beef Central (Oct 2026); Stock Journal (22/07/2026)

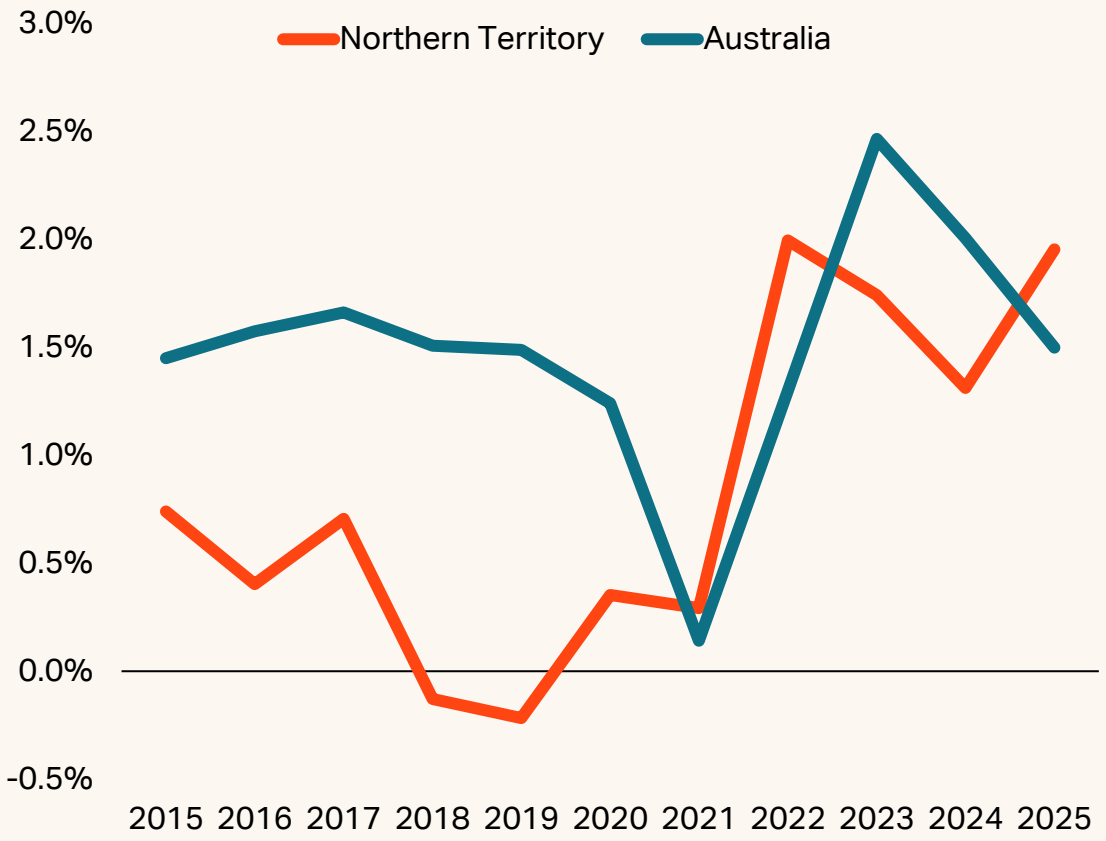
Global shocks reach Big Rivers through fuel, borrowing costs and commodity prices

Global and national drivers	How it is transmitted	Who feels it in Big Rivers
Middle East conflict, oil prices	Diesel, freight and power costs	Stations, mines, remote stores, generators, drive tourism
Interest rates and inflation	Mortgage, rent and business borrowing costs	Households, small business, new housing
Global LNG and gas demand	Gas prices and project investment	Beetaloo scale-up, Katherine as service hub
Gold, iron ore and cattle prices	Export earnings and project decisions	Mt Todd, Roper Valley iron ore, pastoral incomes
Defence strategy in the north	Base works and personnel	Tindal, Katherine housing and services

Source: .id analysis; IEA; NT Treasury 2026-27 Budget; Beef Central (25/06/2026); company announcements

The NT is growing again – population up 2.0%, second-fastest in Australia

Population - Annual % Change





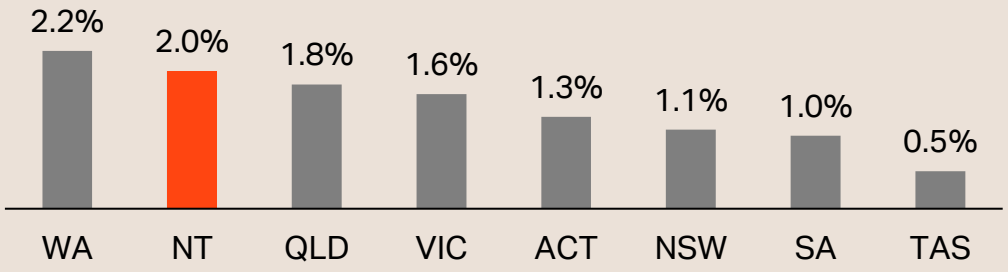
June 2025 estimate

265,978

People living in Northern Territory

2.0% **+5,094**

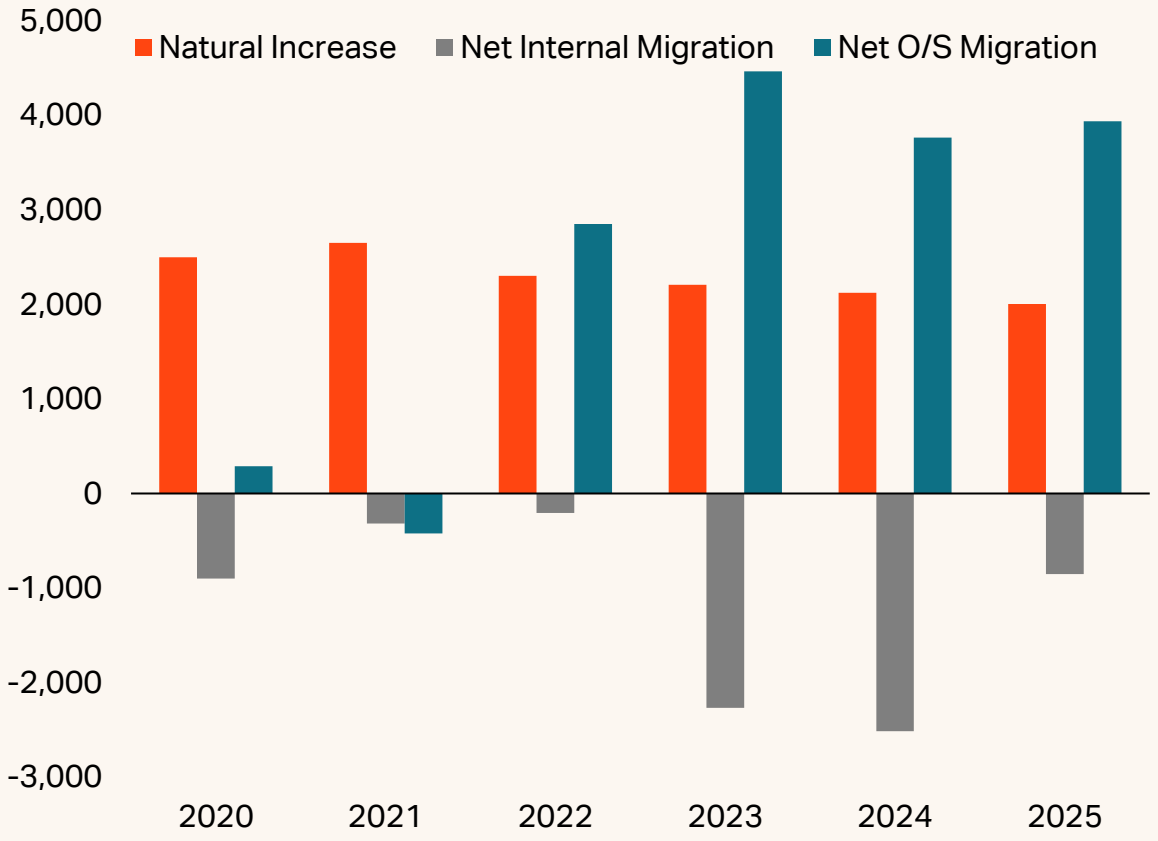
Change from the year before



Source: ABS National, state and territory population

Overseas migration drives NT growth; interstate losses shrank in 2025

Components of Change – Northern Territory



June 2025 estimate



Change in population drivers
(compared to year before)

-1% Births

+2% Interstate Arrivals

+5% International Arrivals

+7% Deaths

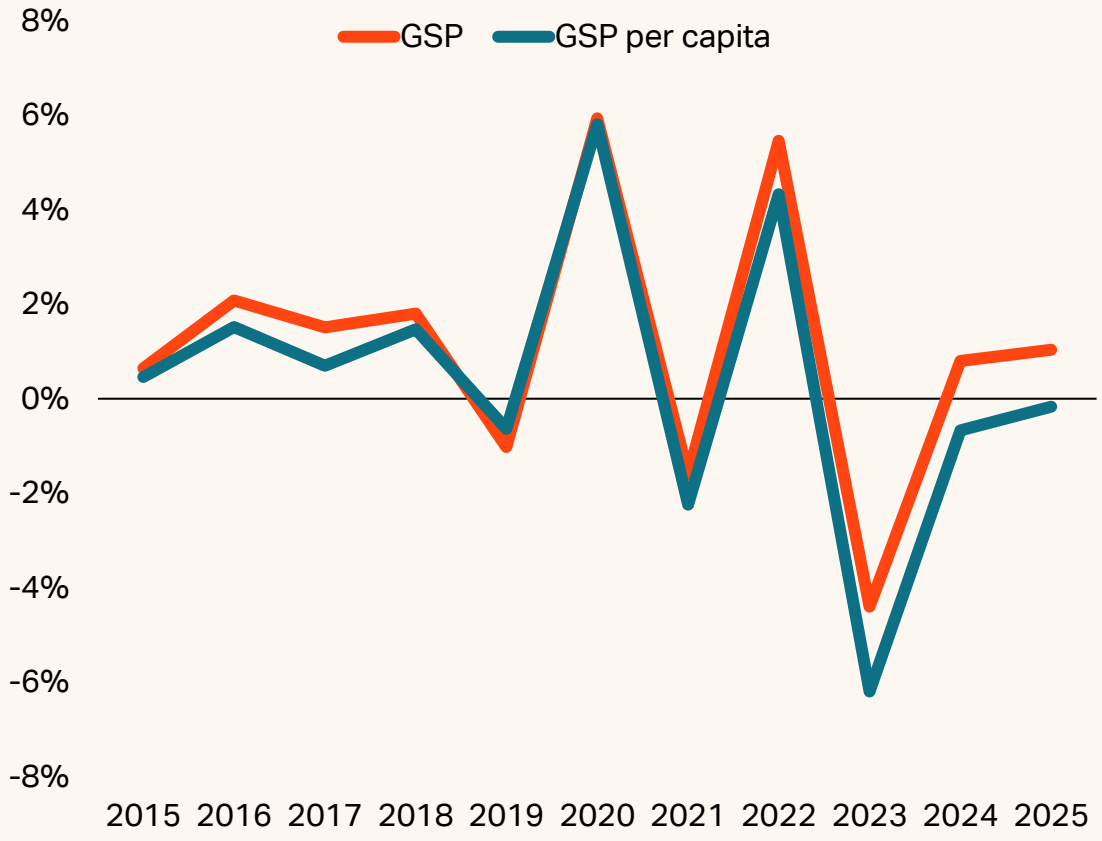
-8% Interstate Departures

+6% International Departures

Source: ABS National, state and territory population

The NT economy grew 1.0%, but output per person went backwards

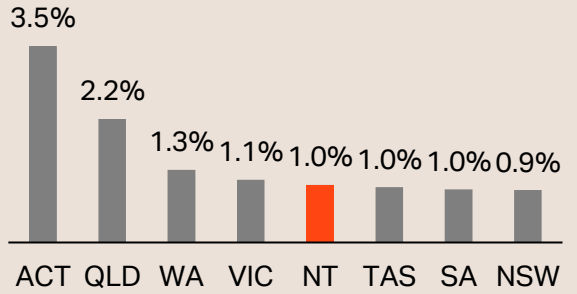
GSP, Annual % Change



Financial Year (compared to year before)

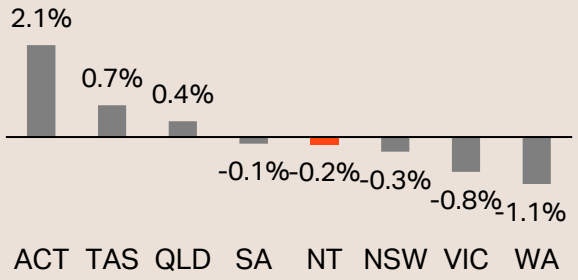


1.0%
GSP





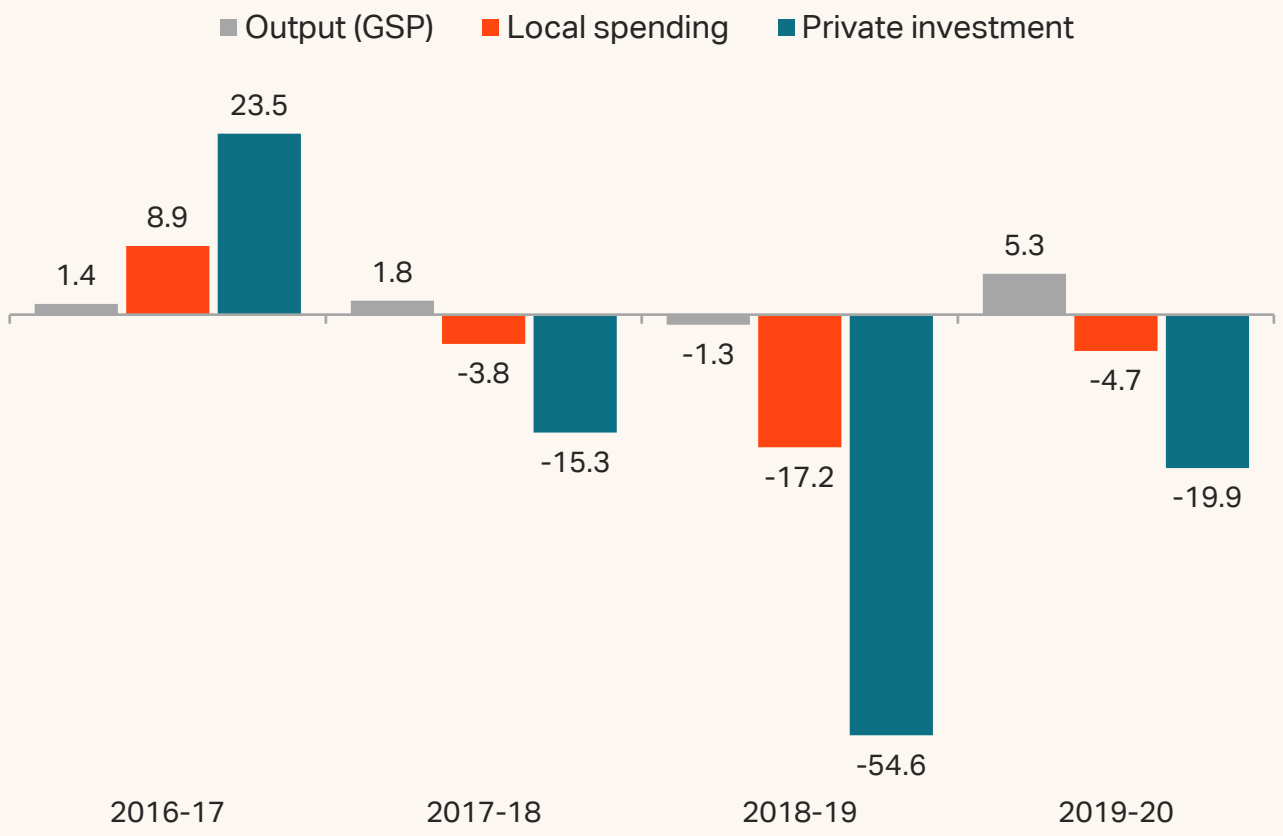
-0.2%
GSP per capita



Source: ABS **Australian National Accounts: State Accounts**

When a big project ends, local spending falls while output barely moves

NT annual change (%) – Ichthys construction ended in 2018



–55%

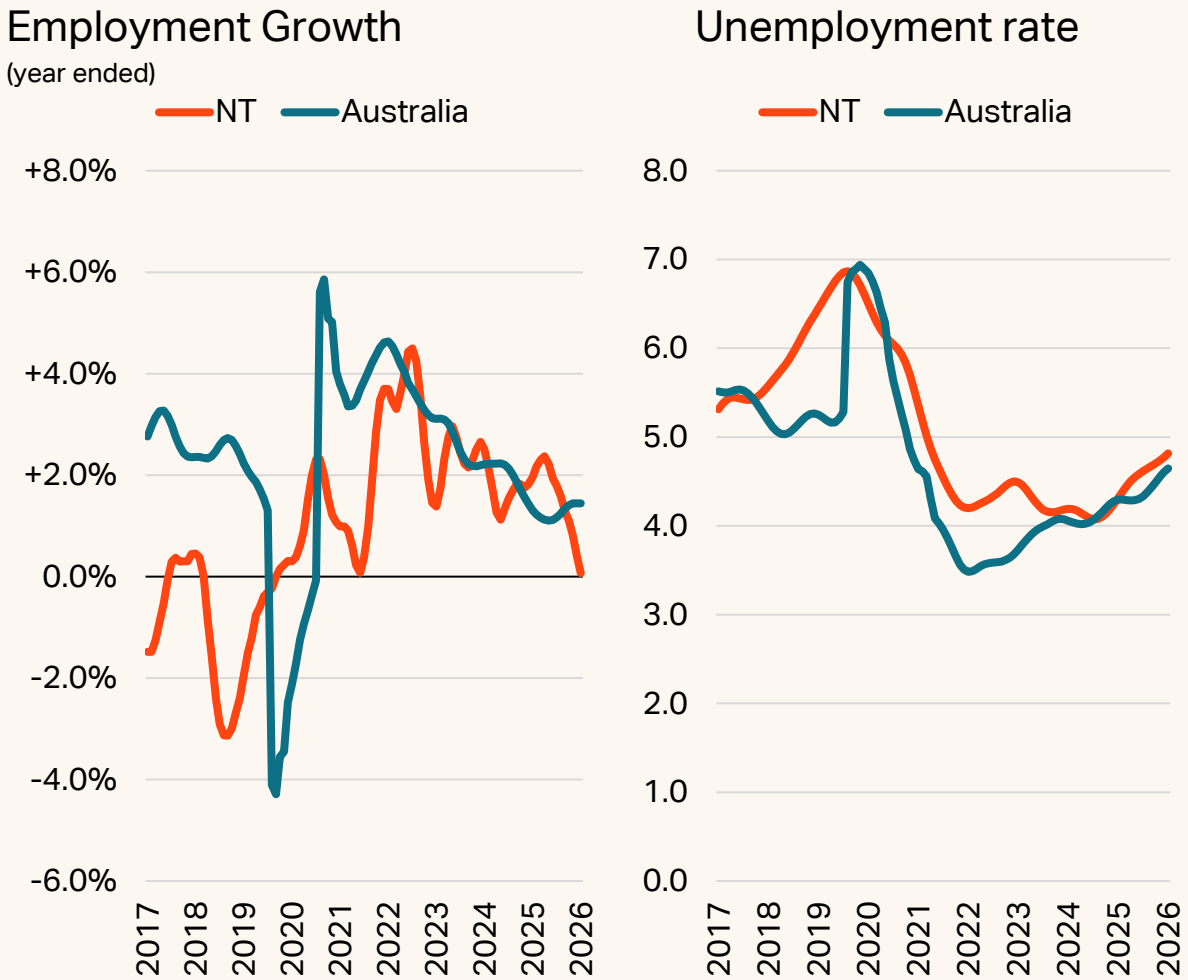
Fall in NT private investment in 2018-19, the year after Ichthys construction ended

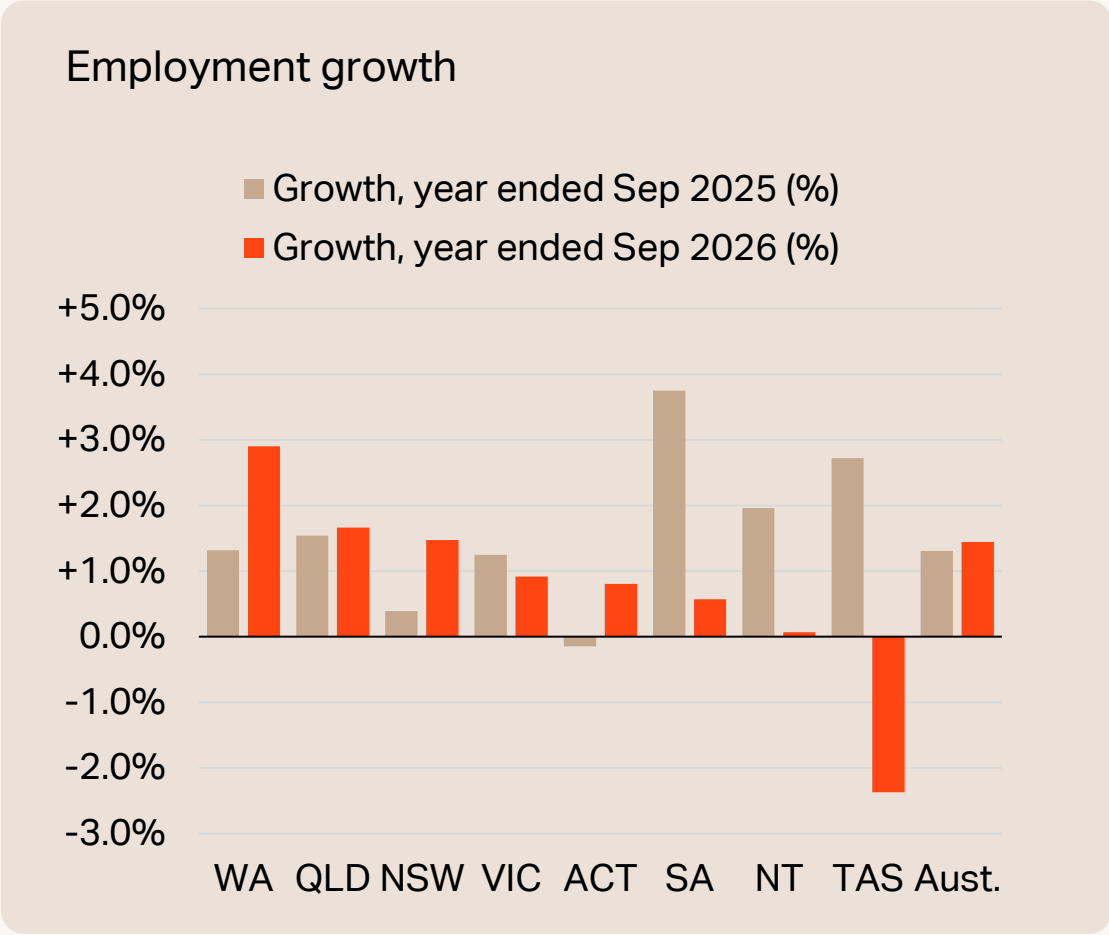
Now: Barossa construction finished in 2025 – NT Treasury forecasts private investment –15.8% in 2025-26.

Next: Beetaloo gas and Mt Todd gold could each bring a construction boom – and an end to it.

Source: NT Treasury, 2021-22 Budget NT Economy (Table 2.3, ABS 5220.0 – figures as published in 2021); NT Economy Outlook, 2026-27 Budget

NT jobs growth has stalled and unemployment is edging up



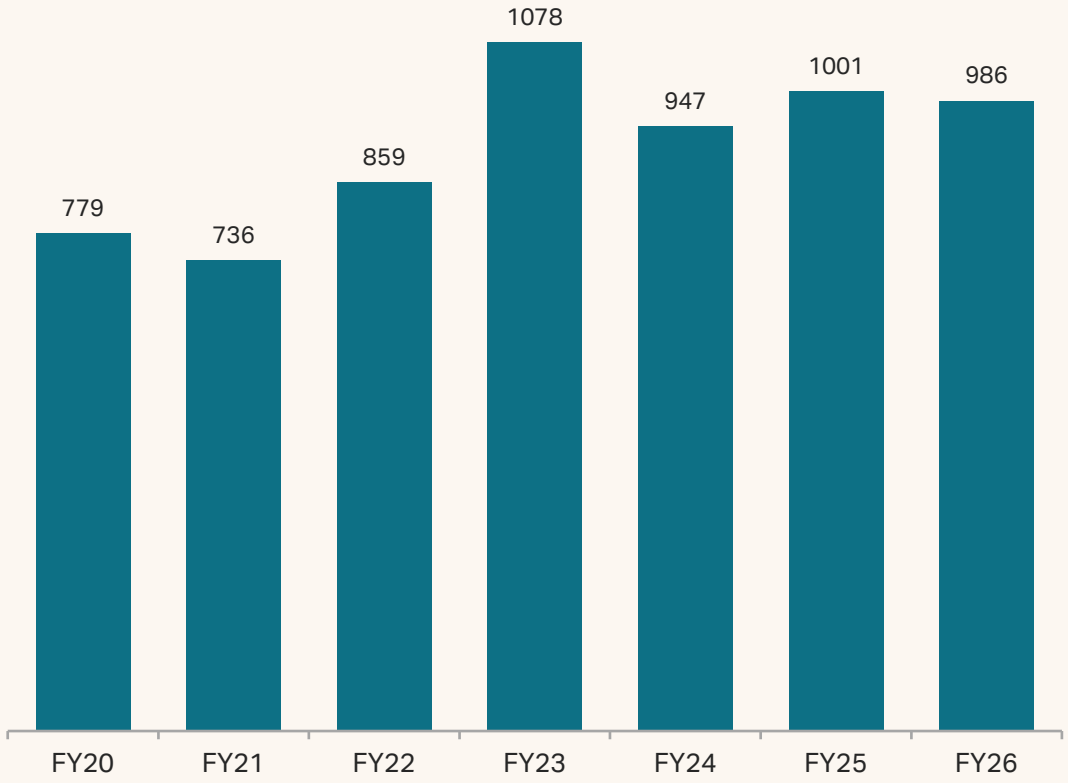


Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia (6202.0)

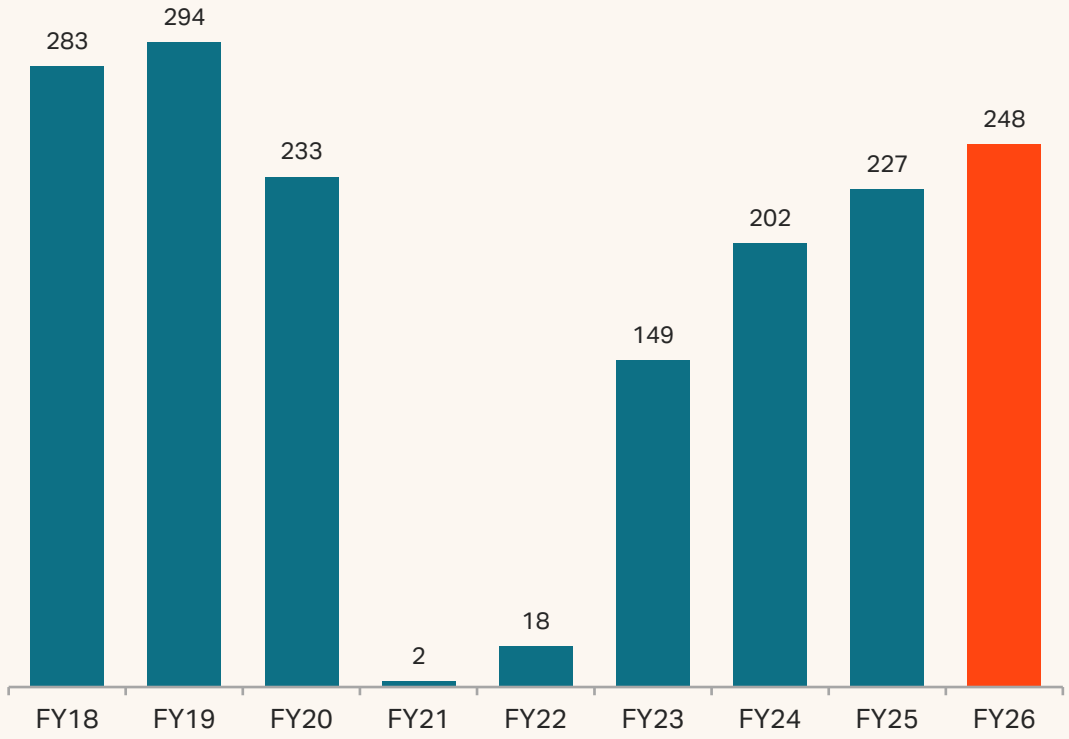
NT domestic visits have levelled off; international is at 84% of pre-COVID

Domestic overnight visits to the NT ('000)

Spending rose to $1.8b in 2025-26, from $1.3b in 2022-23



International visitors to the NT ('000)



Source: TRA Online – Domestic Tourism Statistics (2019/20 to 2024/25 backcast) and International Visitor Survey (30/10/2026)

NT liveability has improved since 2023. Safety and health services are highly valued.

Liveability Index	2026 Index	Change since 2023
Australia	60.6	▼2.0
NT	59.0	▲6.7
Darwin	60.0	▲6.8
Regional NT	57.6	▲4.6

Top 5 Values vs experience, NT

Value Rank	Attribute	Valued (top 5)	Experience (rank)
1	Feeling safe	68%	4.9 (13)
2	High quality health services	53%	5.2 (12)
3	Affordable decent housing	51%	4.9 (14)
4	Access to the natural environment	48%	7.9 (2)
5	A strong sense of community	37%	6.8 (4)

Source: Informed Decisions, Living in Australia survey 2026



LOCAL INSIGHTS

Big Rivers



Photo: Yuki Ishii for Canva

Big Rivers

Estimates at June 2025

$2.5B

Gross Regional Product
25.5% of Regional NT

22,235

Population
21.1% of Regional NT

9,321

Local Workers
21.4% of Regional NT

1,081

Local Businesses
25.7% of Regional NT

Census 2021

48%

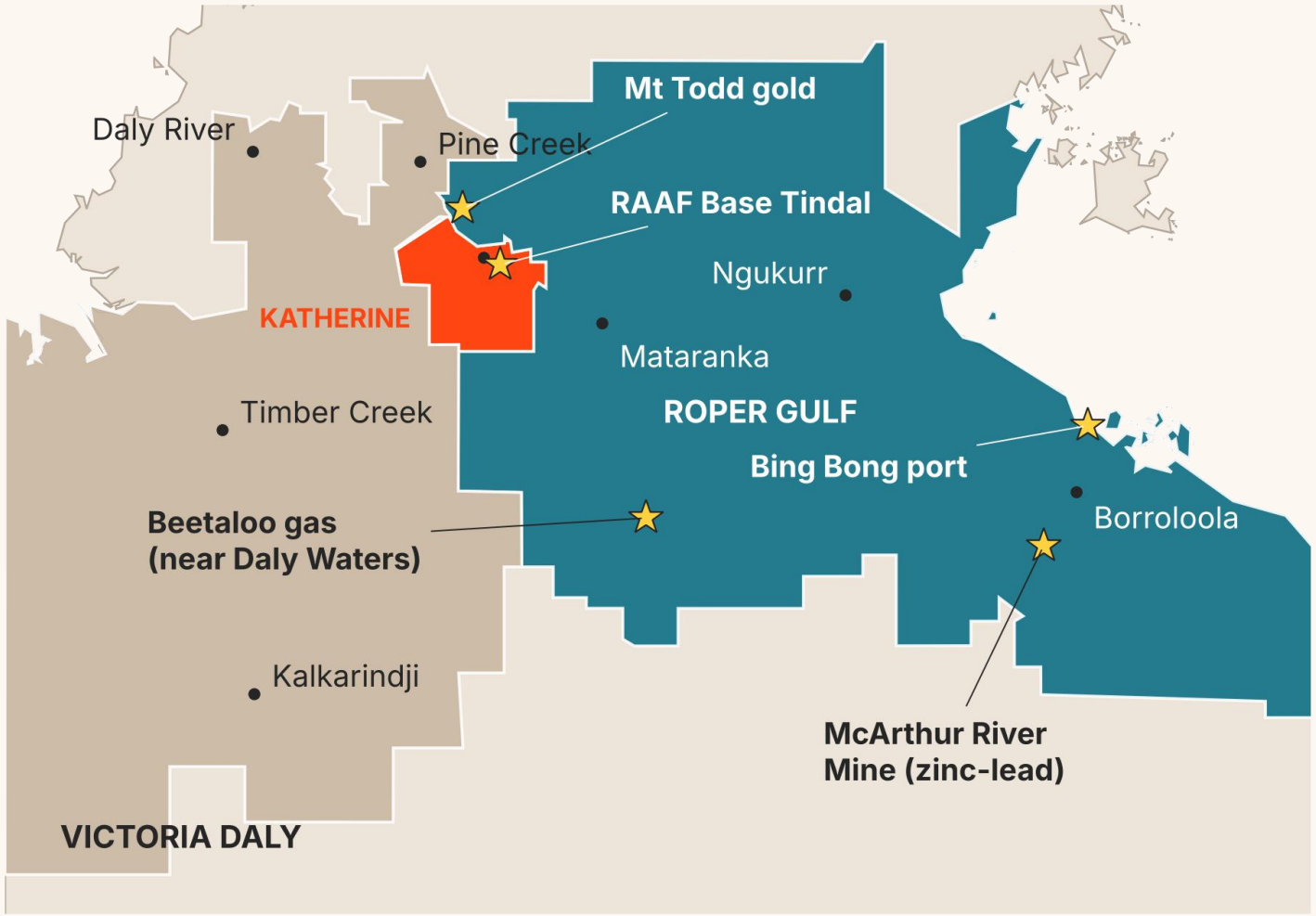
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents (NT 26%)

Top Employing Industries

- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Public Administration
- Education & Training
- Mining
- Agriculture

Source: ABS ERP (June 2025); NIEIR 2026; ABS Counts of Australian Businesses 2025; ABS Census 2021

Three LGAs, three very different economies



Katherine – service, defence and government hub

Home to RAAF Base Tindal and the region's main service centre.

Roper Gulf – mining, gas and remote communities

McArthur River Mine, Bing Bong port, Mt Todd and Beetaloo gas.

Victoria Daly – pastoral and remote communities

Cattle stations, national parks and remote communities.

Source: ABS ASGS 2021 LGA boundaries; site locations from company and NT Government sources. Indicative only

Strengths to build on

1

A young population

39% of residents are under 25 (NT 34%) – a large future workforce.

2

Culture, language and Country

About half of residents are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; one in three speaks an Australian Indigenous language at home, including Kriol – a strength for land management, tourism and services.

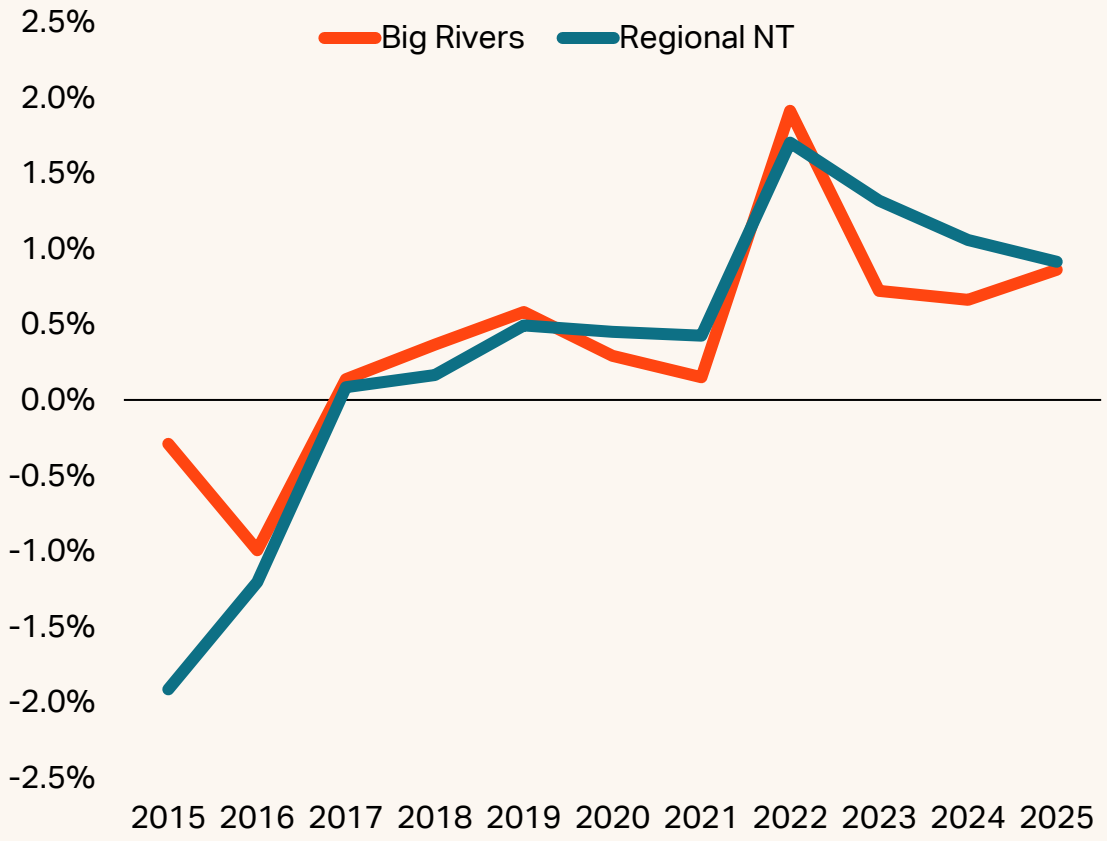
3

Iconic places, strategic assets

Nitmiluk, Leliyn and Mataranka draw visitors – the Jatbula Trail sold out for 2026 in under 24 hours. Tindal, the Stuart Highway and Bing Bong port add strategic weight.

Big Rivers is growing again after a flat decade

Population - Annual % Change





June 2025 estimate

22,235

People living in Big Rivers

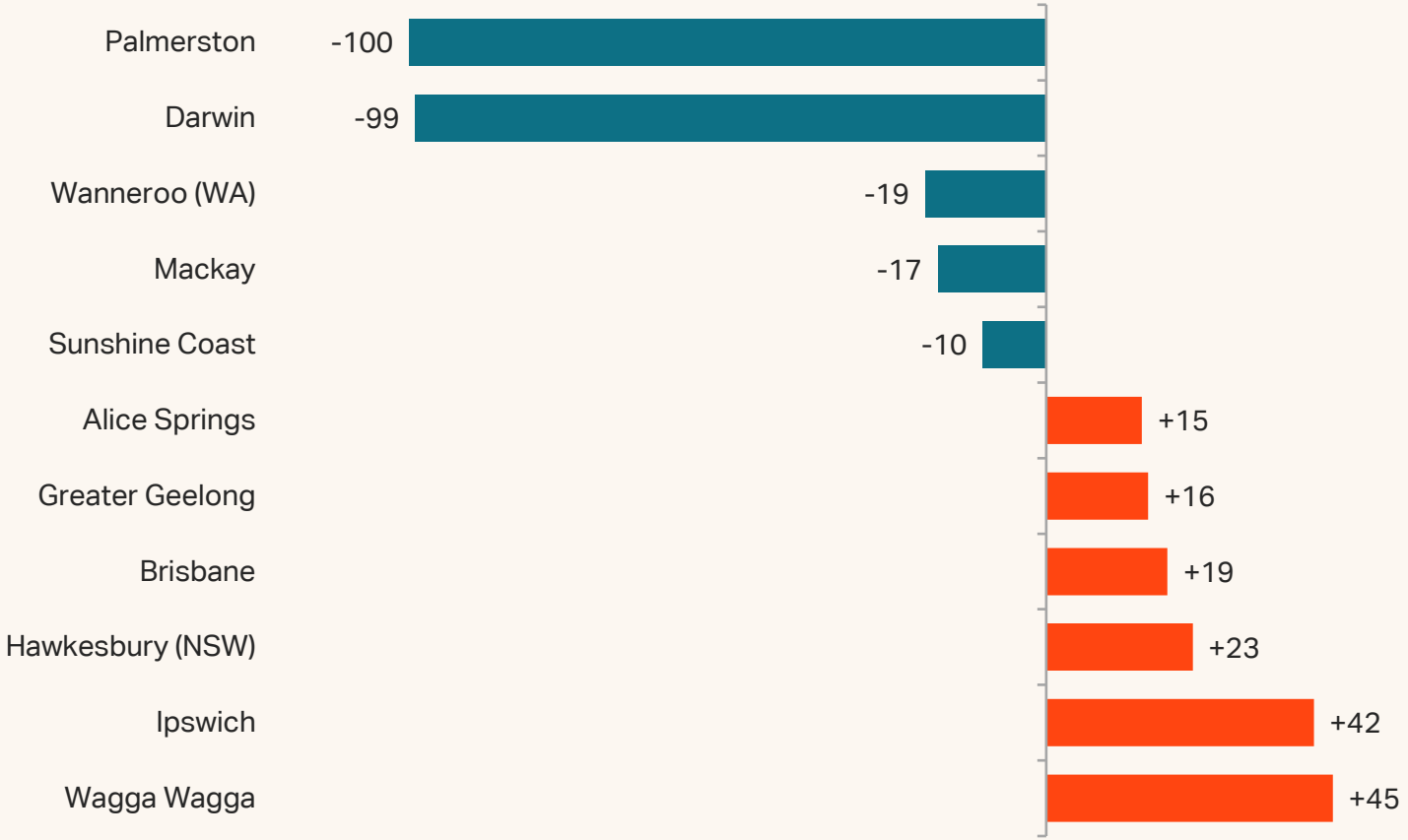
0.9% **+190**

Change from the year before

Source: ABS National, state and territory population

Big Rivers loses residents to Greater Darwin and gains them from interstate

Net internal migration by LGA, 2024-25 (persons)



−200

net loss to Darwin and Palmerston in one year – mostly from Katherine

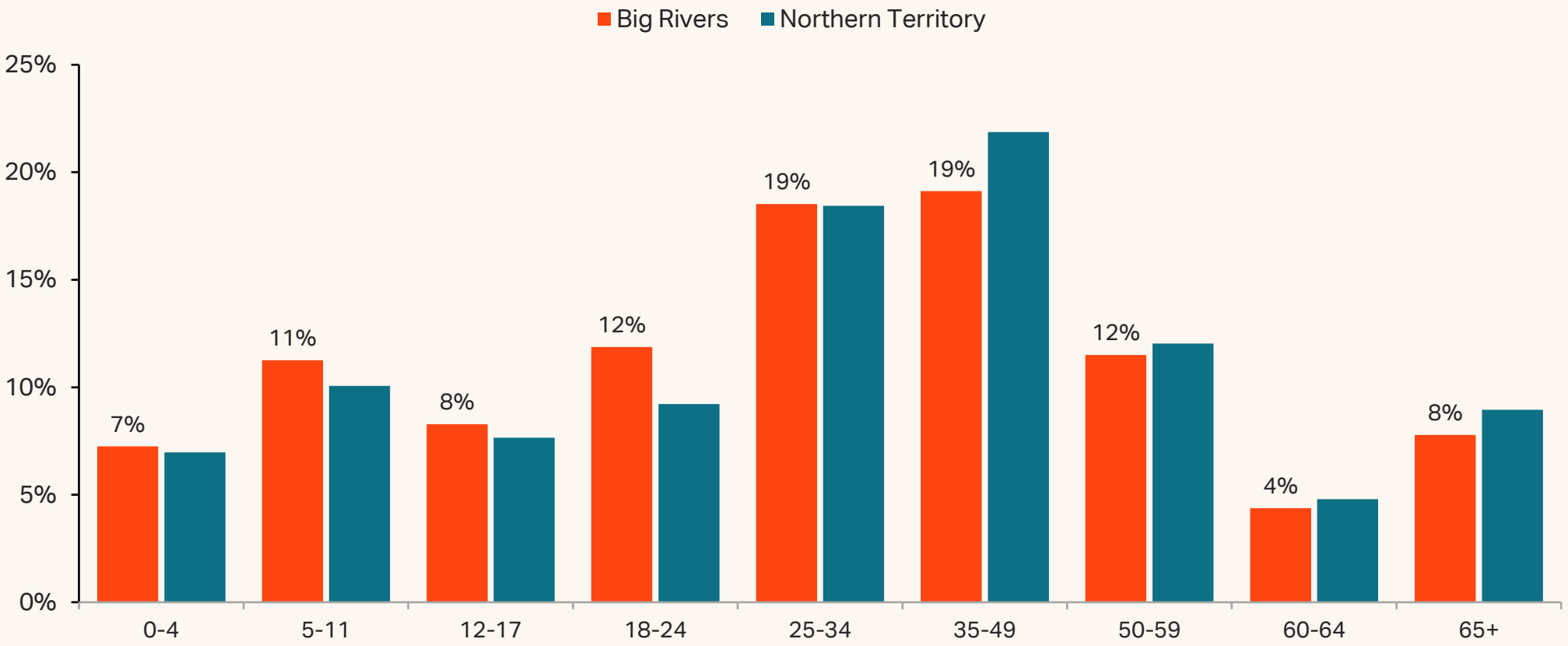
+110

net gain from Wagga Wagga, Ipswich and Hawkesbury – towns with RAAF bases

Source: ABS Regional Internal Migration Estimates by LGA (unpublished), 2024-25. Top 10 partners for each LGA only; moves between the three LGAs excluded

A young region – 39% of residents are under 25

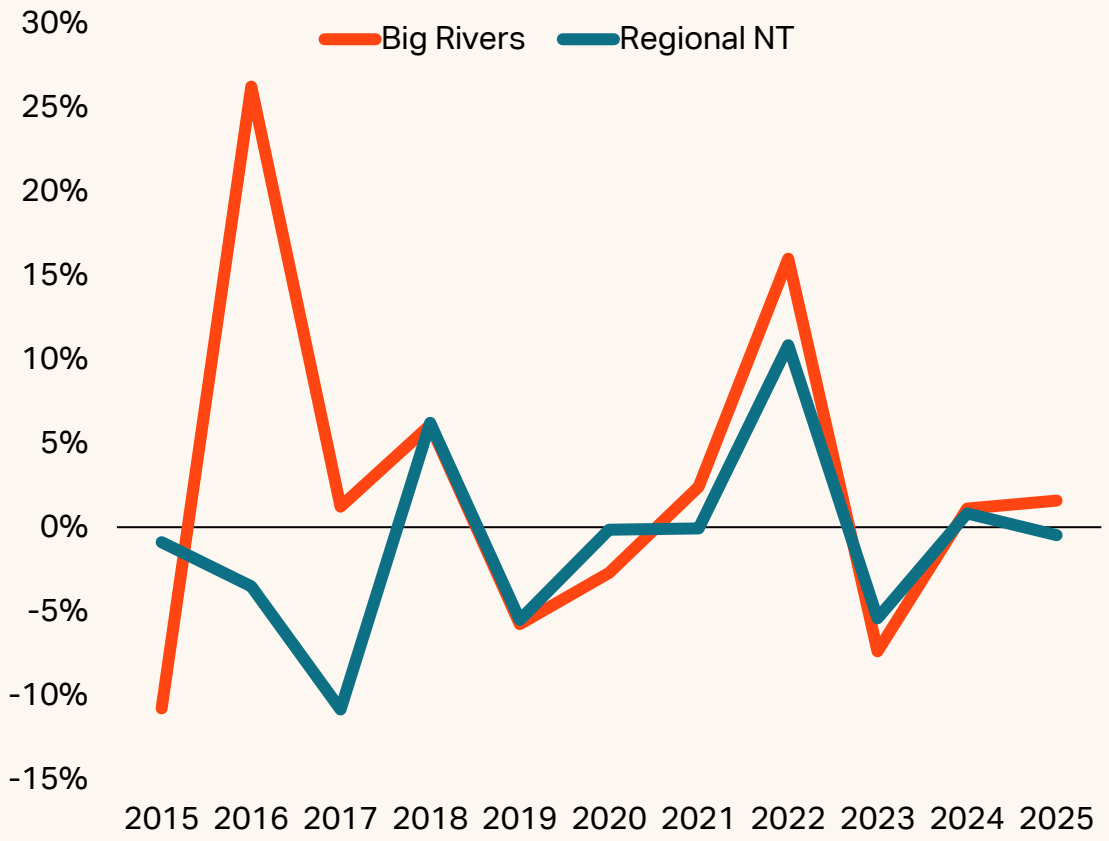
Age structure by service age group, 2021 (% of population)



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (usual residence). Big Rivers = Katherine + Roper Gulf + Victoria Daly LGAs

Output rose 1.6% in 2024/25, carried by agriculture and mining

GRP - Annual % Change



June 2025 estimate

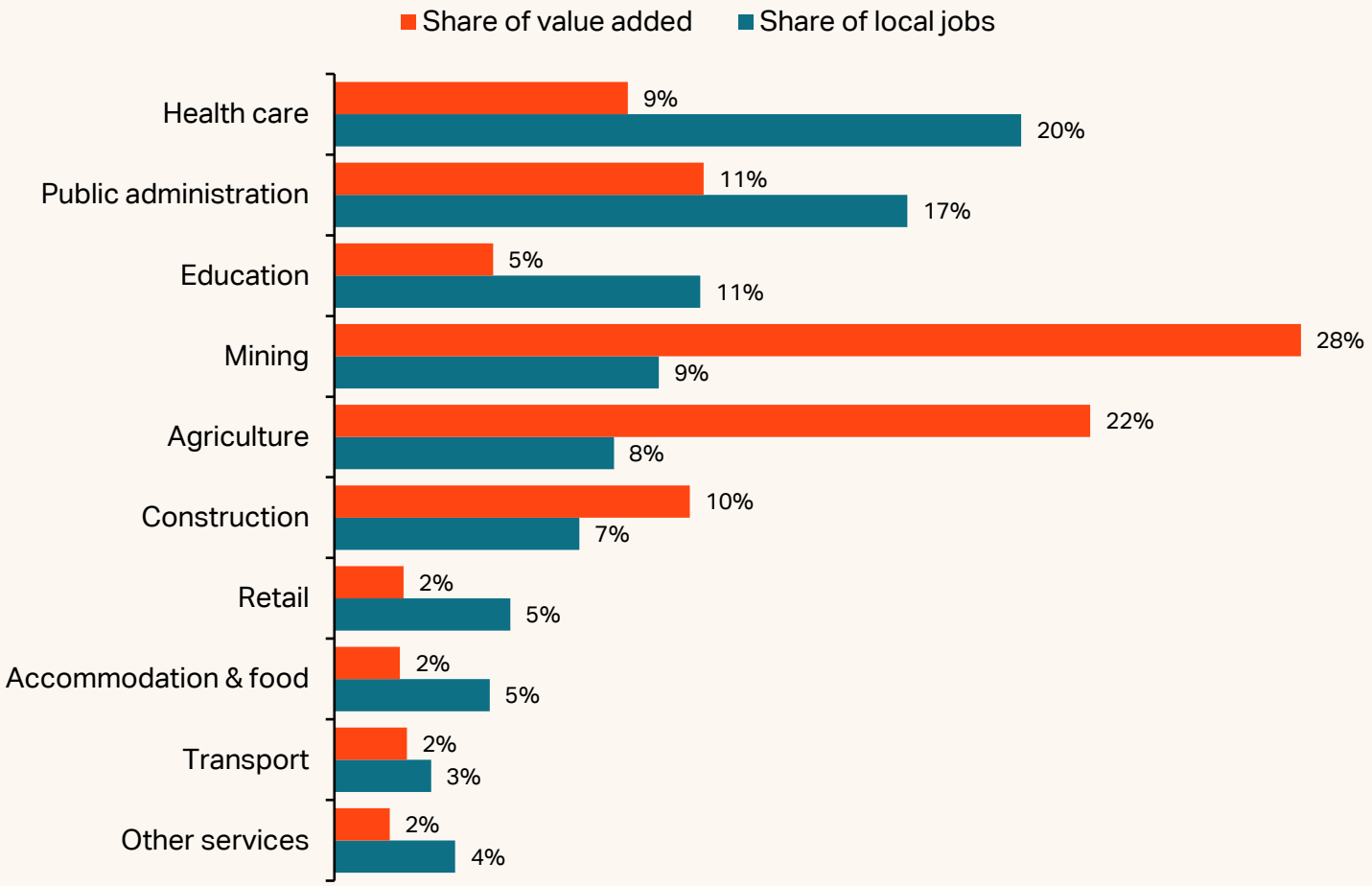


$2,502M
Gross Regional Product

1.6% **+39M**
Change from the year before

Source: NIEIR, 2026

Health care employs the most people; mining and agriculture produce the most value



Change in local jobs, 2019/20 to 2024/25

+425 Health care

+297 Construction

+277 Mining

+103 Arts and recreation

−165 Public administration

−114 Other services

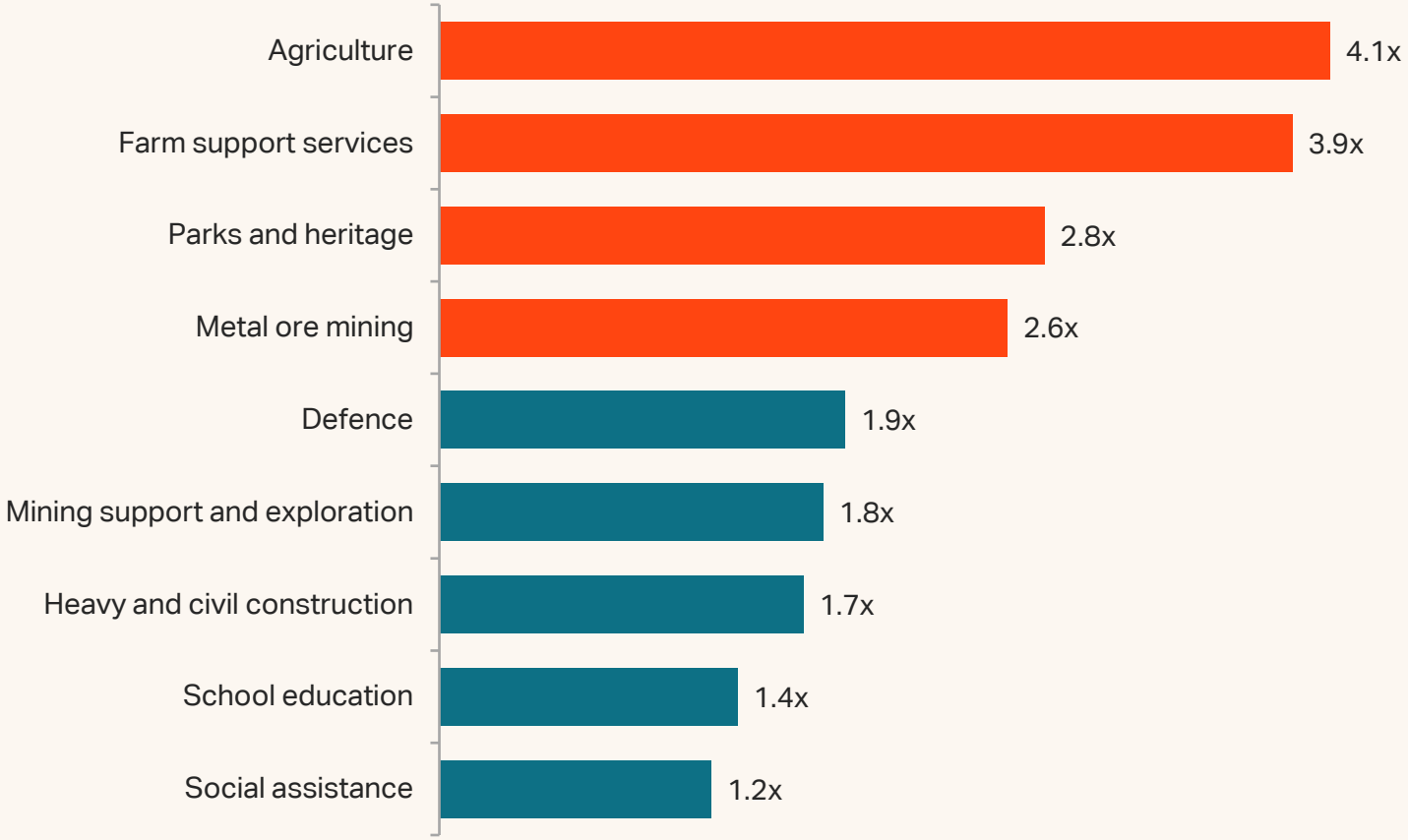
−76 Agriculture

Total: 9,321 jobs, up 540 in five years. Value added rose $262M, led by construction (+$149M).

Source: NIEIR 2026, compiled in economy.id (RDA Northern Territory – Big Rivers). Employment (total) and value added by industry, 2024/25

Big Rivers specialises in farming, mining, national parks and defence

Times more concentrated than the NT average (local jobs, 2024/25)



4x

Agriculture is four times more concentrated in Big Rivers than across the NT

1,250

jobs in metal ore mining and agriculture together – mostly McArthur River Mine and cattle stations

Source: NIEIR 2026 (local jobs by industry subdivision, 2024/25). Specialisation = Big Rivers share of jobs ÷ NT share. Industries with 100+ jobs shown

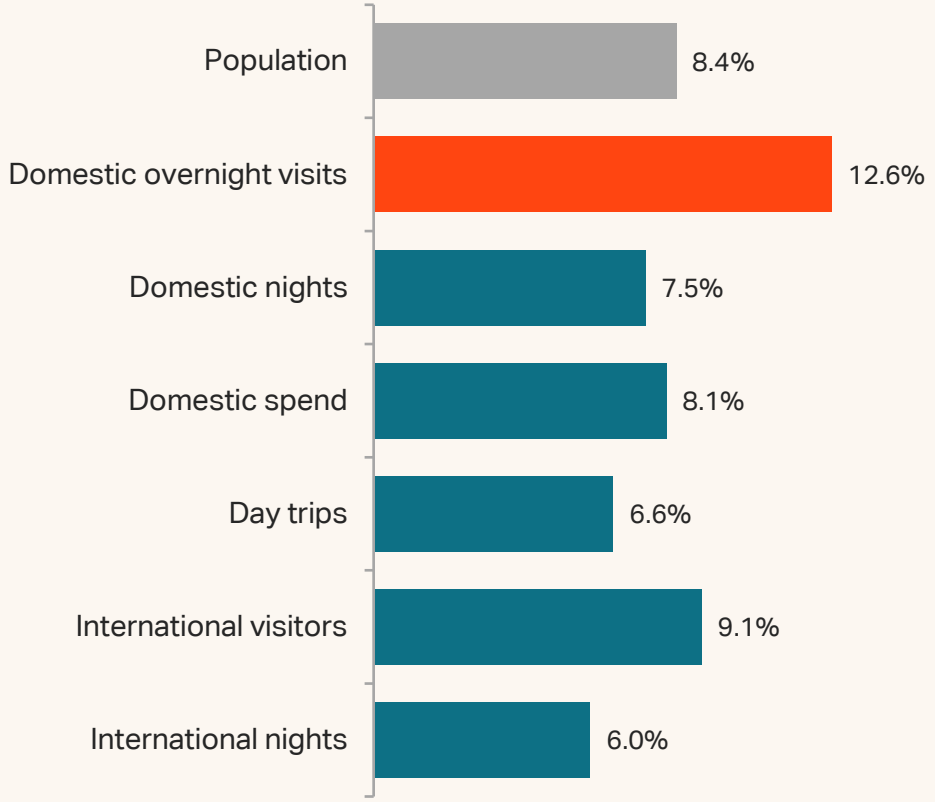
Big Rivers gets more visits per resident than the NT, but stays are short

	Big Rivers	NT	Australia
Domestic overnight visits	124,600	985,800	120.0m
Visits per resident	5.6	3.7	4.3
Average nights per visit	2.5	4.3	3.2
Spend per night	$455	$422	$285
Day trips per resident	3.8	4.8	10.4

International: about 22,000 visitors (1 in 10)

They stay long – 282,000 nights – but nearly half of those nights are people here to work (e.g. backpackers on stations), not holidaymakers. Numbers swing a lot year to year.

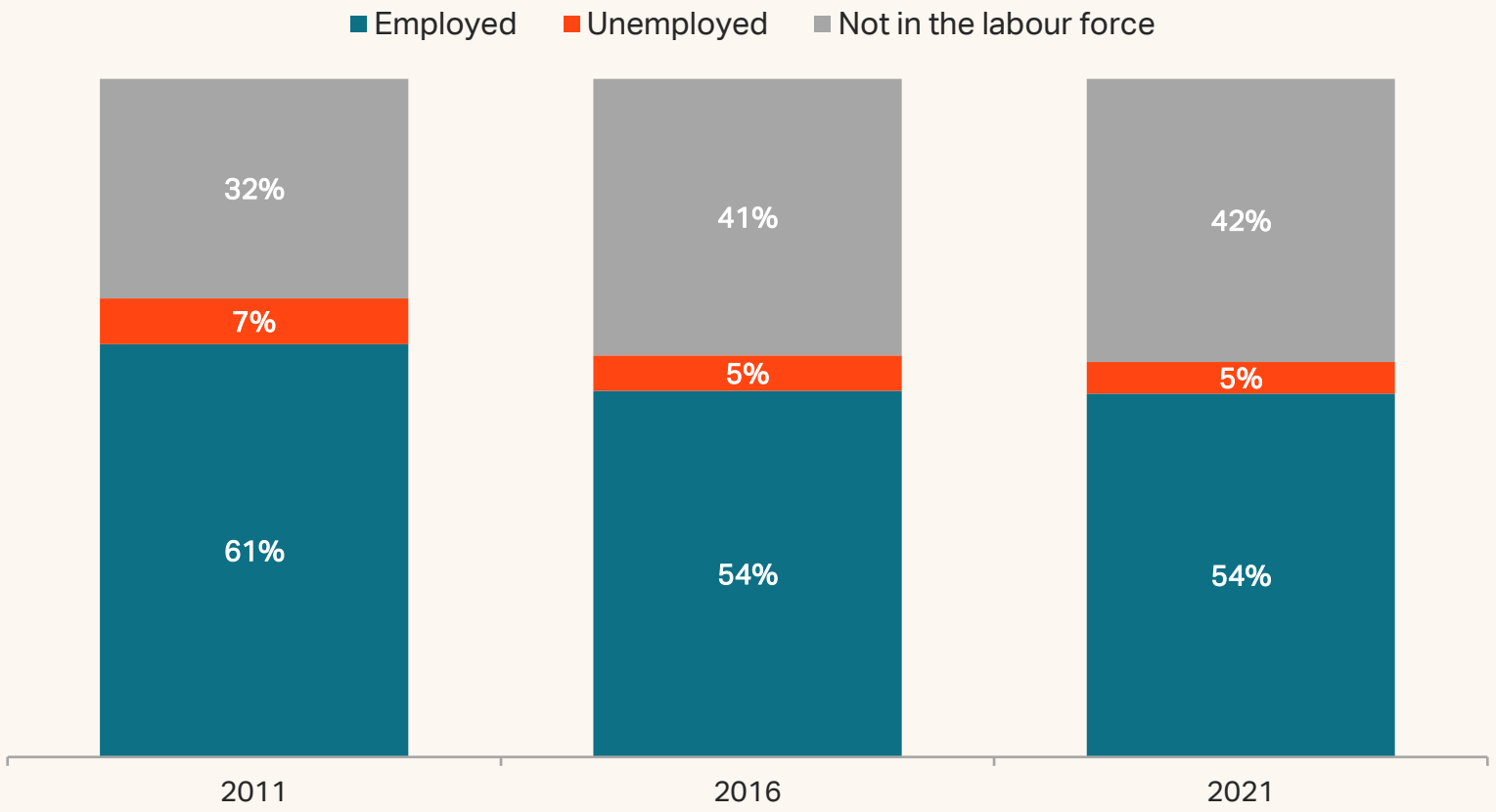
Big Rivers share of the NT, 2025-26



Source: TRA Online – Domestic Tourism Statistics and International Visitor Survey, 2025-26 (Katherine Daly tourism region ≈ Big Rivers); ABS ERP June 2025

Just over half of adults are in paid work – lifting participation is the region's biggest opportunity

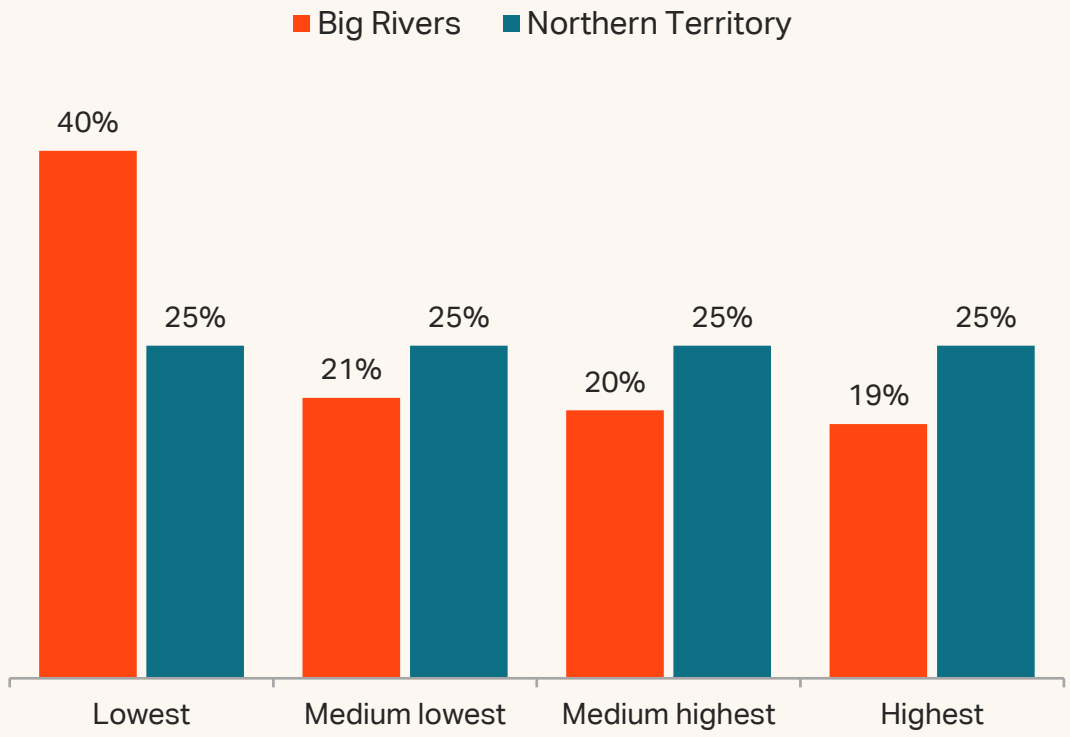
Labour force status, Big Rivers (% of persons 15+)



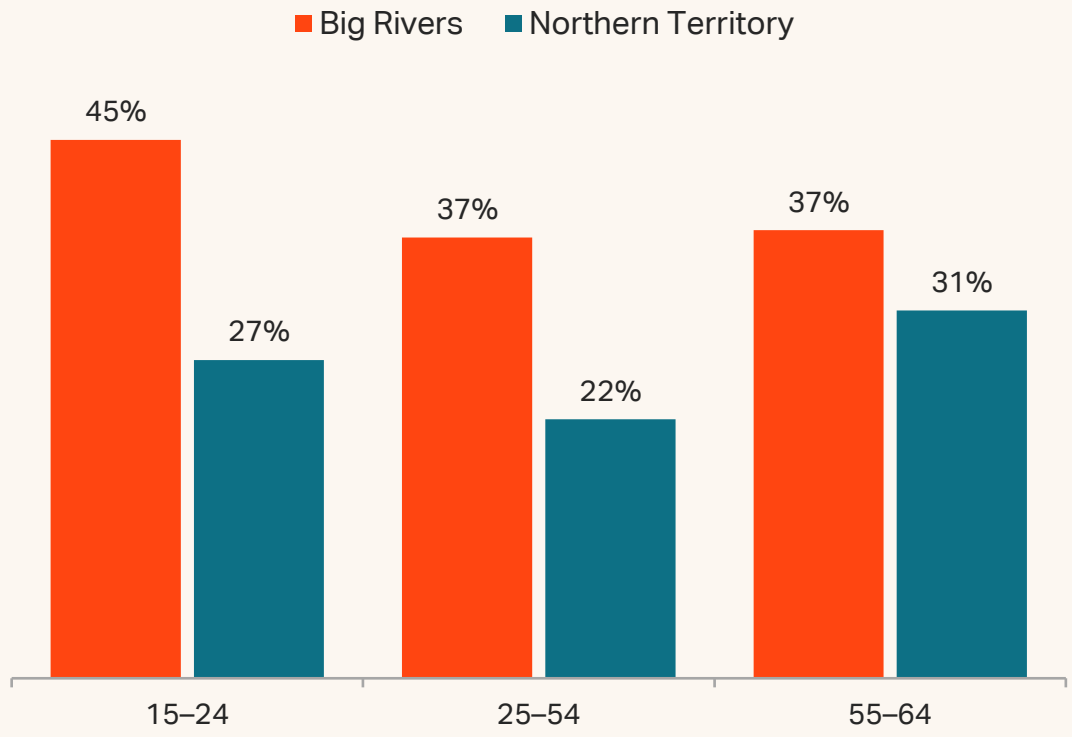
Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011, 2016 and 2021 (persons 15+, labour force status stated)

Household incomes are lower, and many young people are not yet in work or study

Equivalised household income quartiles, 2021 (% of households)



Not in work or study, 2021 (% of age group)

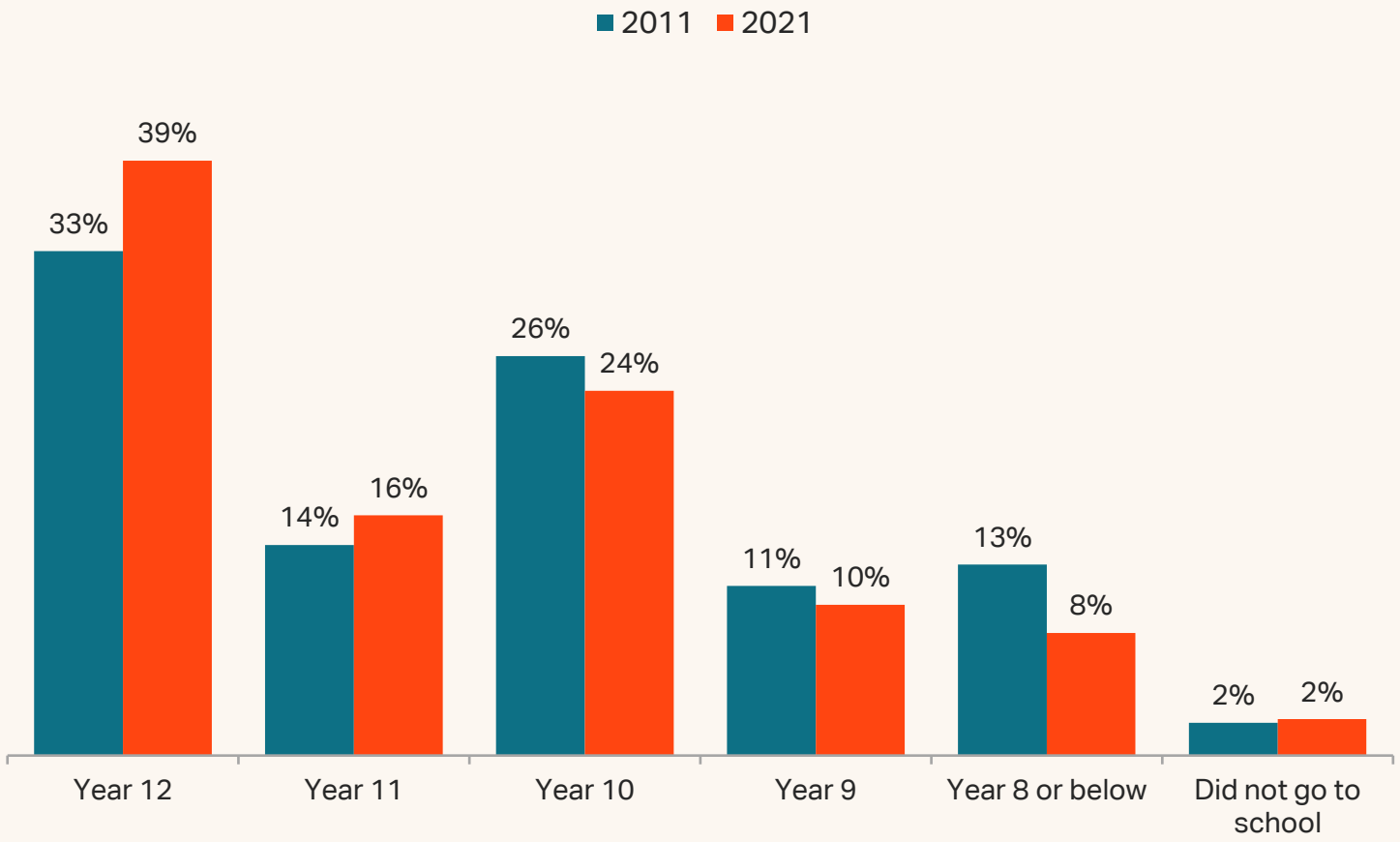


Median weekly household income, 2021: Katherine $1,867 · Roper Gulf $1,397 · Victoria Daly $1,267 · NT $2,015

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2021. Income quartiles use NT ranges; not in work or study = not employed and not studying

More adults have finished Year 12 – up by half since 2011

Highest year of school completed, Big Rivers (% of adults who stated)



+51%

more adults with Year 12 in 2021 than 2011 (3,209 → 4,830)

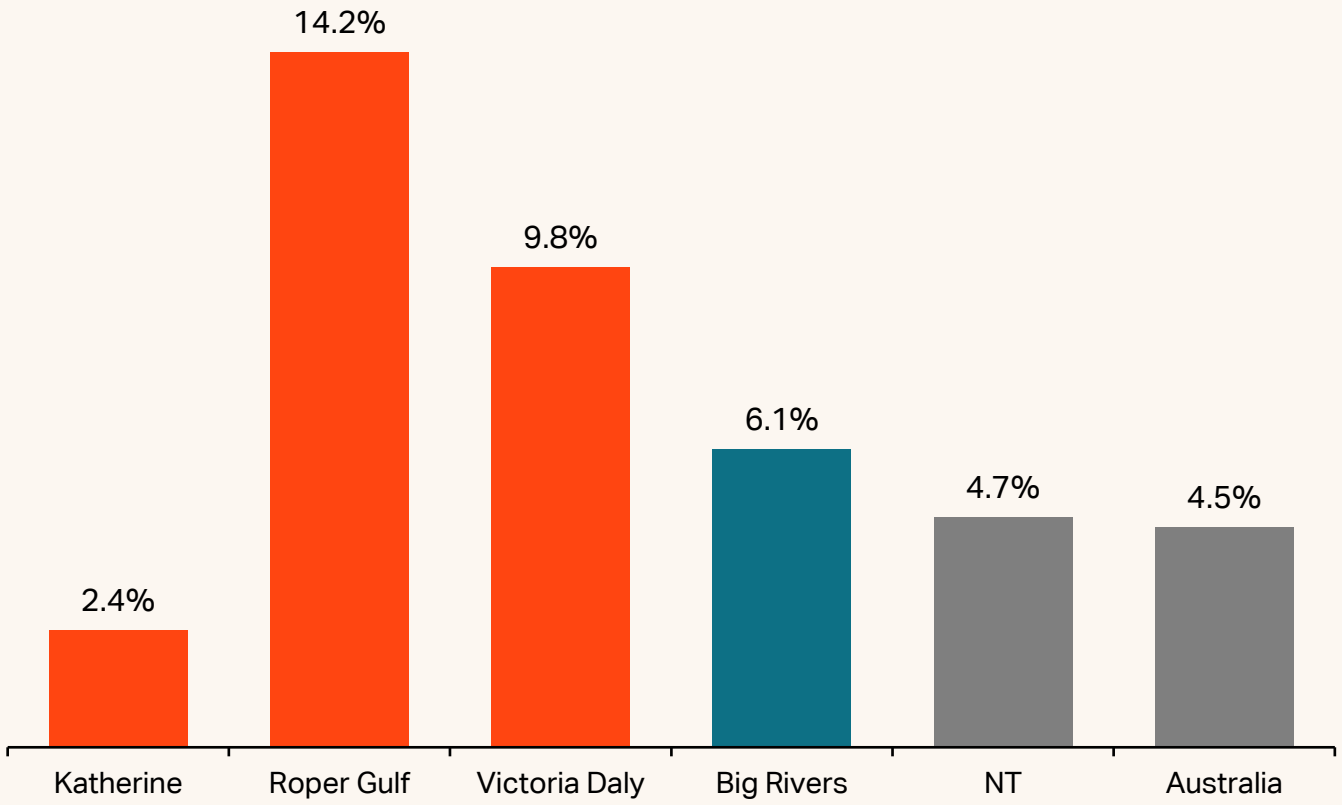
39%

of adults have finished Year 12, up from 34% in 2011 (NT 54%)

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2021 (persons 15+, highest year of school stated)

Unemployment is low in Katherine but high in Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly

Unemployment rate, %



9,321

local jobs in 2024/25 – up 540 since 2019/20

9,131

employed residents – about one job for every working resident

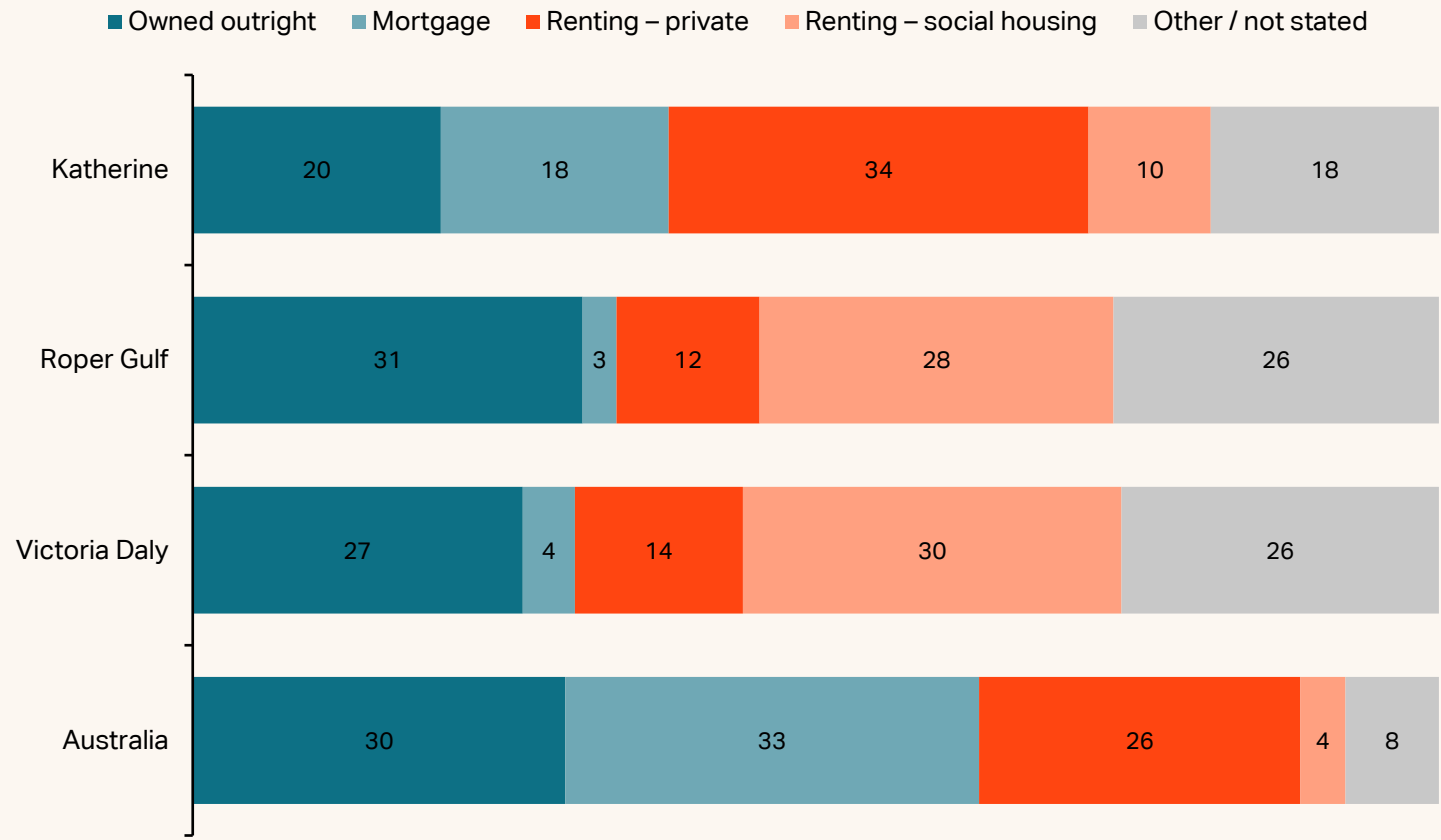
6.1%

Big Rivers unemployment, June qtr 2026 (NT 4.7%)

Source: JSA Small Area Labour Markets via economy.id (June qtr 2026); NIEIR 2026

Most households rent – one in five homes is social housing, and rents are rising

Occupied private dwellings by tenure, % (Census 2021)



19%

of Big Rivers homes are social housing (Australia 4%)

+14%

rise in regional NT house rents in 2025, to $650 a week

$16M

of residential building approved in Katherine in 2025/26

Source: ABS Census 2021 (occupied private dwellings by tenure); rents as on the NT housing slide (Dec qtr 2025); ABS Building Approvals (Katherine)

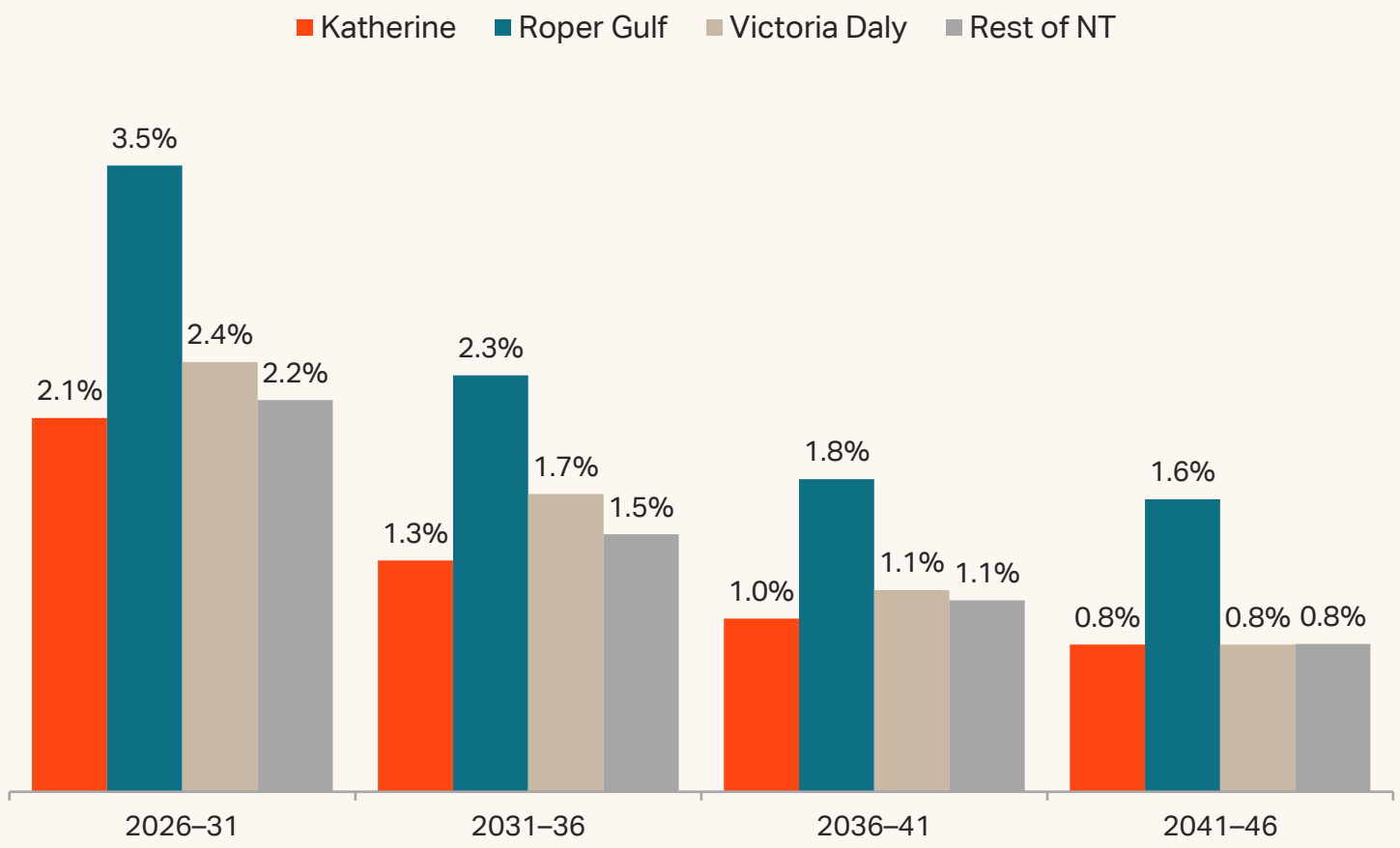
Katherine has most of the jobs; Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly produce more output per resident

	Katherine	Roper Gulf	Victoria Daly
Population (June 2025)	11,282 (10.7%)	7,597 (7.2%)	3,356 (3.2%)
Gross Regional Product	$1.2B (11.8%)	$893M (9.1%)	$451M (4.6%)
Local workers	6,018 (13.8%)	2,224 (5.1%)	1,079 (2.5%)
Local businesses	916 (21.8%)	113 (2.7%)	52 (1.2%)
Top employing industries	Health care · Public administration · Education	Mining · Education · Agriculture	Agriculture · Construction · Public administration
Median mortgage (2021, monthly)	$1,625	$1,164	$1,083
Median rent (2021, weekly)	$300	$78	$90

Source: ABS ERP (June 2025); NIEIR 2026 (2024/25); ABS Counts of Australian Businesses 2025; ABS Census 2021. % = share of Regional NT

Big Rivers is forecast to add about 1,500 people by 2046

Forecast population growth, % per five-year period



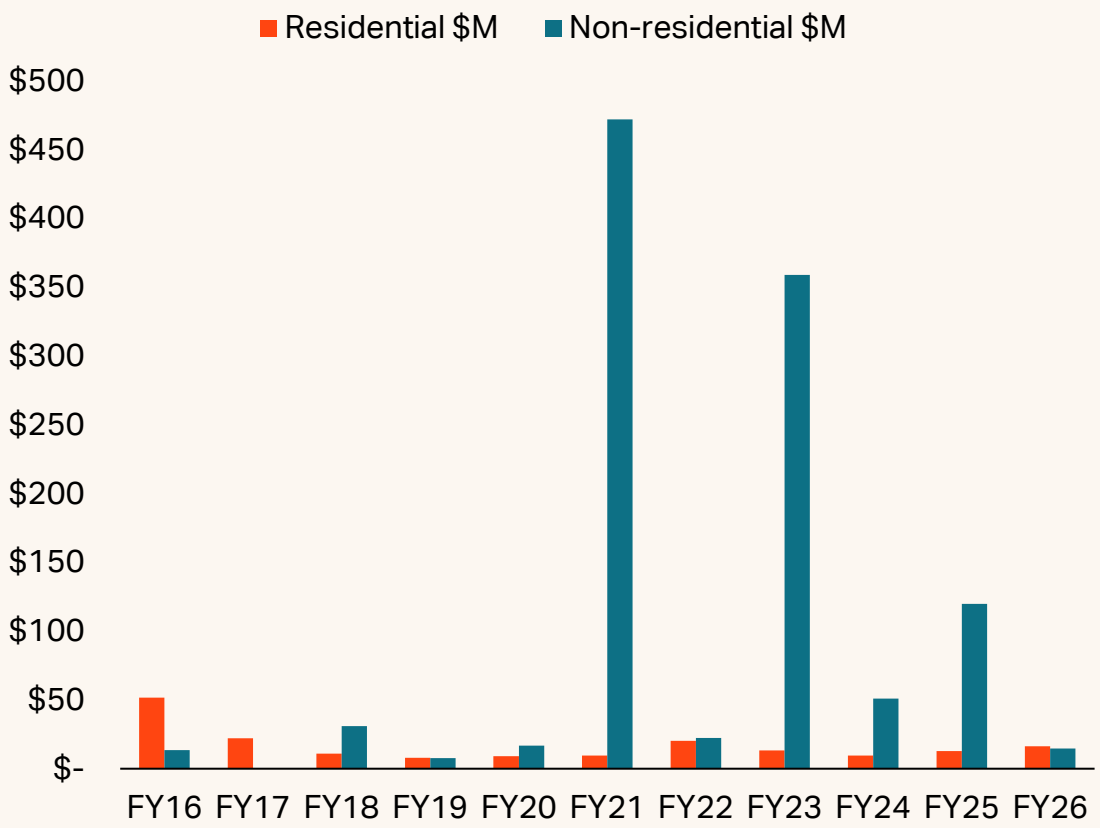
	2026	2046	Change
Katherine	11,207	11,802	+595 (+5%)
Roper Gulf	7,823	8,574	+751 (+10%)
Victoria Daly	3,552	3,772	+220 (+6%)
Big Rivers	**22,582**	**24,148**	**+1,566 (+7%)**

Roper Gulf grows fastest. Katherine's forecast dates from 2023 and does not include the latest defence and project news.

Source: .id population forecasts (forecast.id) for Katherine (published 2023), Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly (published 2026); Rest of NT = sum of .id SA1 forecasts

Katherine's building approvals fell 77% as a run of large projects ended

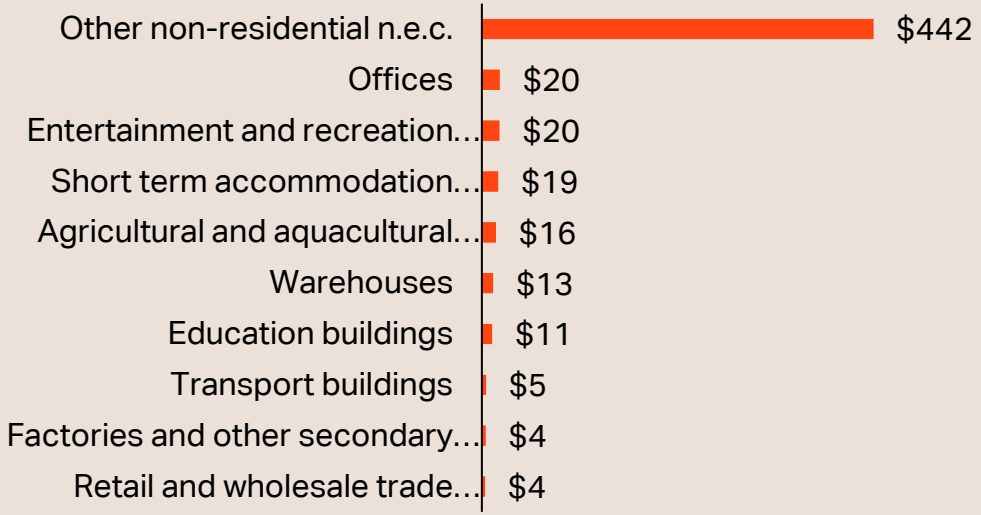
Value of Building Approvals*



-77% Change in Value Approved 2025/26 from year before

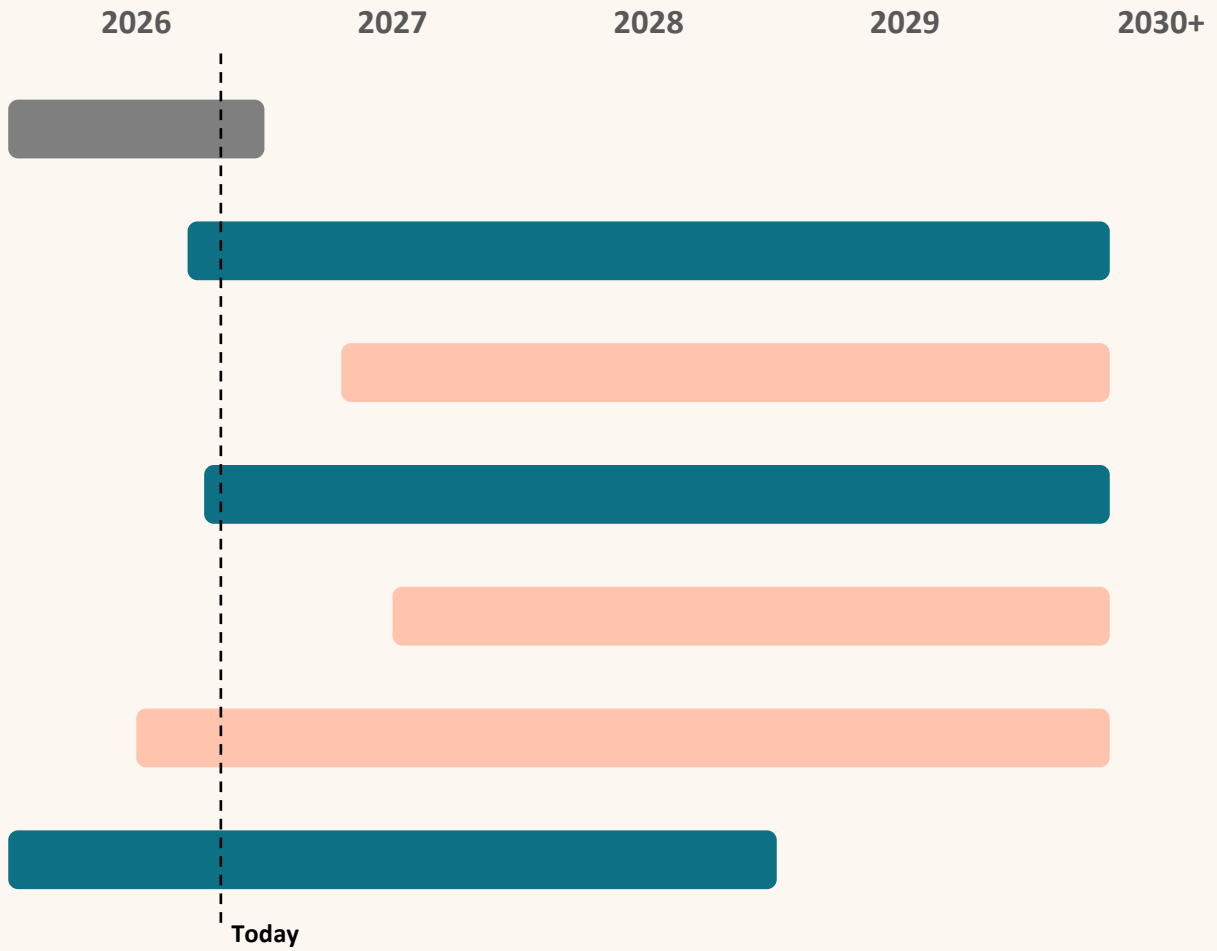


Top Non-Residential by Value, 5 years to 2025/26, $M



Source: ABS Building Approvals, Australia. Financial years ending June. Does not include State Significant infrastructure projects

One big build is finishing; the next is not yet certain



Tindal upgrades (Defence)
Triton works done Jan 2026; remaining works wind down
Finishing

Beetaloo pilot gas
First gas Sep 2026; 40 TJ/day by end 2026; 2nd rig Q2 2027
Producing

Beetaloo scale-up / LNG
Depends on partners, pipelines and gas prices
Uncertain

Carpentaria gas plant
Beetaloo Energy; plant built, first gas sales due Q4 2026 via the McArthur River Mine pipeline
Commissioning

Mt Todd gold
US$425M capex; first gold late 2029 if approved
Awaiting decision

Roper Valley iron ore
Up to 3 Mtpa; exposed to weak iron ore prices
At risk

Flood recovery and roads
$130M+ resilience works; $114M Buntine Hwy; Katherine East land
Under way

Source: ABC (Jan 2026); Tamboran/Formentera (Sep 2026); Vista Gold (Sep 2026); NT Government 2026-27 Budget; Beetaloo Energy (Sep qtr 2026)

Risks to watch: costs, prices and the weather

Diesel and freight

Record diesel prices hit road trains, stations, mines, generators and remote stores.

Cattle markets

National live exports down 29% in H1 2026; Indonesia takes 77% – one market, one point of failure.

Tourism

Short, drive-through stays (2.5 nights on average) leave visitor spending exposed to fuel prices, road closures and the wet.

Rates and cost of living

Cash rate 4.85% and inflation 4.3% squeeze households and small business.

Wet season and floods

Flood recovery under way; another big wet would hit roads, supply chains and tourism.

Project timing

A gap between Tindal finishing and the next build means fewer construction jobs and spending.

Source: IEA (Oct 2026); Beef Central (25/06/2026); TRA Online (DoTS 2025-26); NT Treasury; ABS

Key takeaways

1

A steady region in a slowing economy

Population 22,235 (+0.9%), output $2.5B (+1.6%), local jobs 9,321 (-0.6%) in 2024/25. Rates at 4.85% and record diesel weigh on households and business.

2

Outside forces drive the cycle

Defence, gas, gold and cattle set the pace. Ichthys showed how fast local demand falls when a big build ends.

3

Opportunity needs local capture

Housing, workforce and participation decide how much of Beetaloo, Mt Todd and Tindal economic benefits stays in the region.

Topic 2

Your community and economic profiles.

A guided read of who lives in the Big Rivers region, how households live, and how the local economy and jobs are changing, using the community and economic profiles on the RDA Northern Territory site. Covers the region and its three LGAs: Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly.

Informed Decisions · 5 November 2026

What we will cover

01

Who lives here

Age, Aboriginal and Torres Torres Strait Islander population and language, language, for the region region and each LGA

02

How households live

Household size, income, tenure, disadvantage, work and unemployment

03

The local economy

Gross Regional Product, value by industry, businesses and tourism

04

Jobs and work

Where the jobs are, which industries are growing, and tourism jobs

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 Big Rivers region, and how has that changed?

How do Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly compare with the NT?

economy.id

Which industries create the value and the jobs in each LGA?

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?

Big Rivers sits inside the RDA Northern Territory site

WHERE TO FIND IT

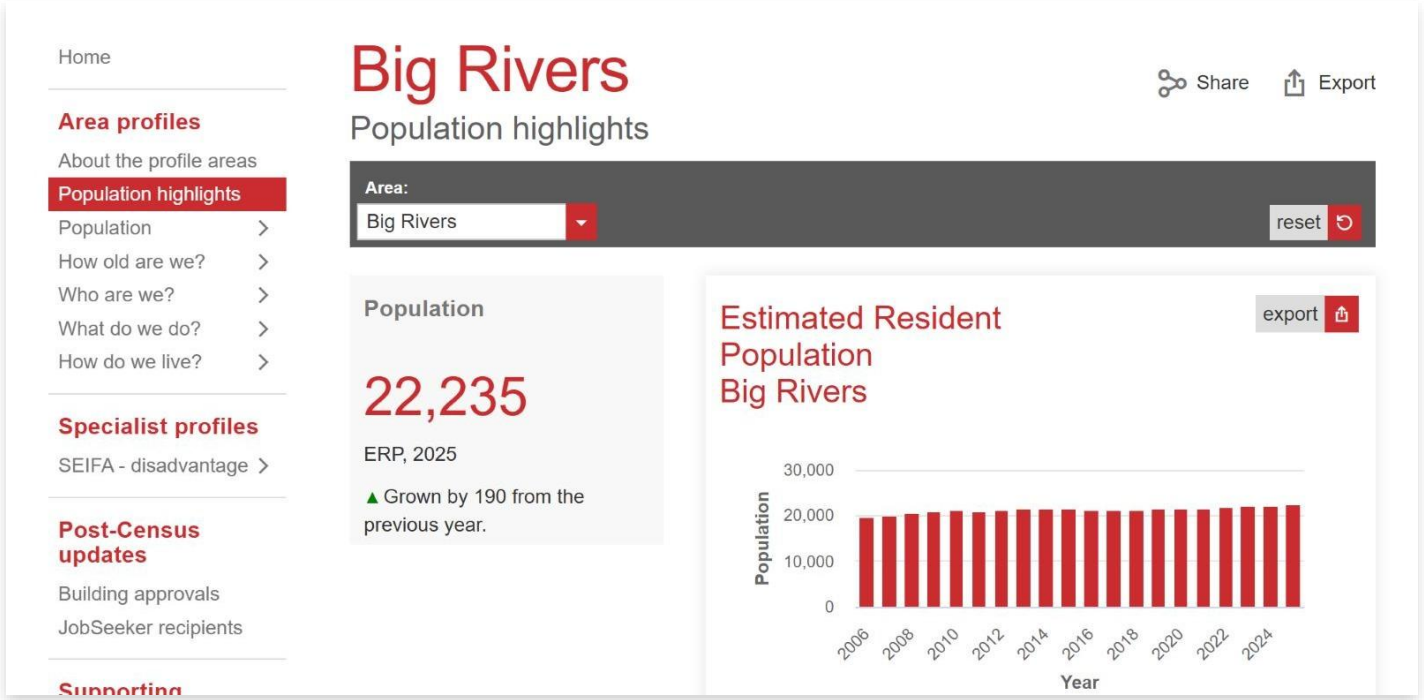
Community profile › Area box

1. Go to profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory.

2. In the Area box choose Big Rivers, or one of its LGAs: Katherine Town Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council or Victoria Daly Regional Council.

3. In the economic profile, choose the same area under Current area.

4. Bookmark the page once your area is selected.



Shown: population highlights, Big Rivers, 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. Big Rivers counted 18,944 residents.

Population estimate

ABS, EVERY YEAR

The official population count, with an allowance for people the Census missed. Big Rivers: 21,335 in 2021. 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.

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. Big Rivers is the sum of its three LGAs.

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

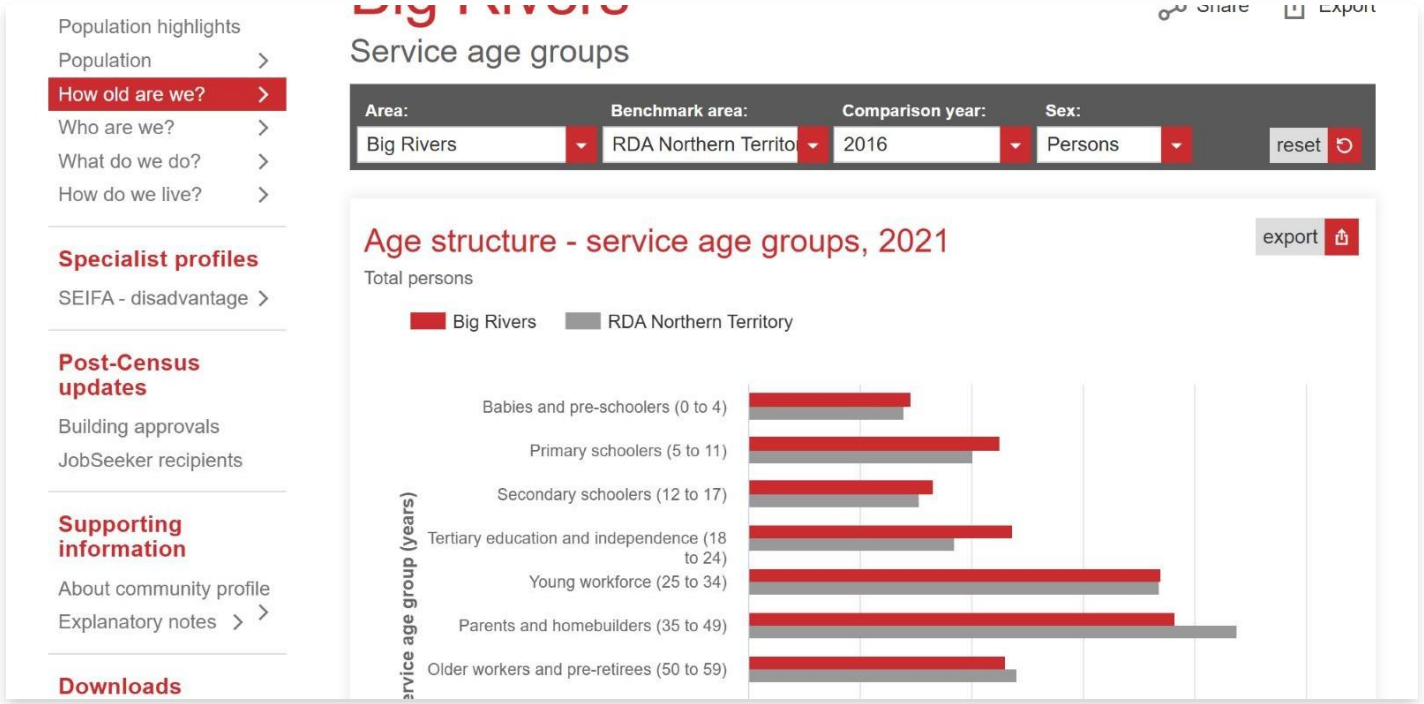
Areas, benchmarks and comparison years

1. Area picks the place: the Big Rivers region or one of its three LGAs.

2. Benchmark area sets the comparison, such as RDA Northern Territory or Greater Darwin.

3. Comparison year shows change since the previous Census, 2016. Charts show your area in red against the benchmark in grey.

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

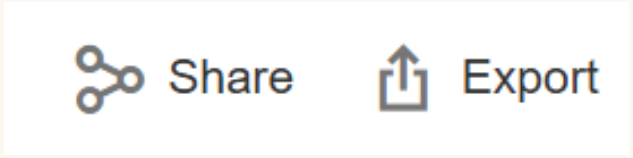


Shown: service age groups, Big Rivers against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021.

Every page has the same three helpers

Share and export

Every chart and table can be exported to Excel, PDF or an image, or shared as a link with your selections kept.



Look for these buttons at the top right of each chart or table.

Read the words, not just the chart

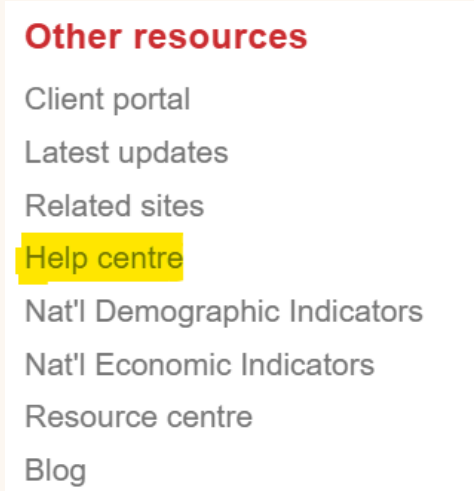
Each page has a short written summary under the chart. Copy it straight into a report or application.

> *"Overall, 36.7% of the population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 45.4% had no qualifications, compared with 48.2% and 38.8% respectively for the RDA Northern Territory."*

Big Rivers, Qualifications page

Sources and help

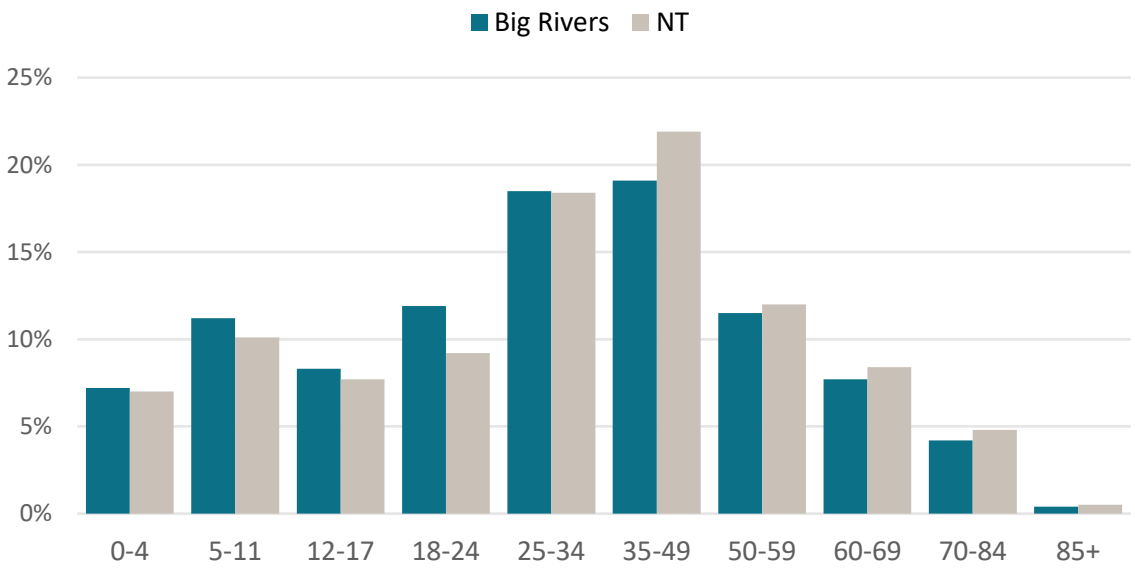
Data notes at the foot of each page explain the source and vintage. The Help centre has guides and short videos.



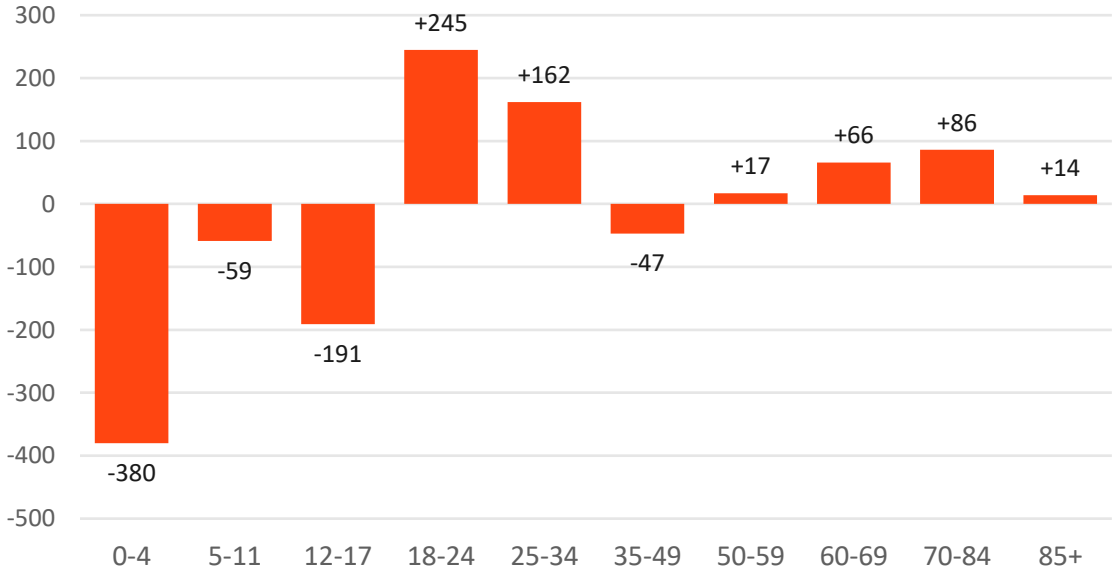
Shown: profile.id and economy.id page features, RDA Northern Territory site. Quote: ABS Census 2021 via profile.id, Big Rivers.

Look for what dominates, and what is emerging

Dominant: share of population, 2021



Emerging: change in number, 2016 to 2021



Dominant means a bigger share than the benchmark. Young adults aged 18 to 24 are 11.9% of Big Rivers residents against 9.2% across the NT, and primary school children 11.2% against 10.1%.

Emerging means growing in number. 18 to 24 year olds grew by 245 and 25 to 34 year olds by 162, while children aged 0 to 4 fell by 380. Ask the same two questions on any page.

Source: ABS Census 2021 and 2016 (usual residence), service age groups, via profile.id, Big Rivers against RDA Northern Territory.

.id

Community profile

A young region, mostly Aboriginal, where a third of residents speak an Indigenous language at home

48.5%

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

33.2%

of residents speak an Australian Indigenous language at home, against 15.5% across the NT

31

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

The three LGAs are very different communities. Katherine (11,282 people) is 25.6% Aboriginal with a median age of 33. Roper Gulf (7,597) is 75.2% Aboriginal with a median age of 29, and Victoria Daly (3,356) is 65.6% Aboriginal with a median age of 27.

The population is growing slowly, and its shape is shifting. The official estimate was 22,235 in 2025, up 190 on the year before. Between 2016 and 2021 the number of children aged 0 to 4 fell by 380 while 18 to 24 year olds grew by 245.

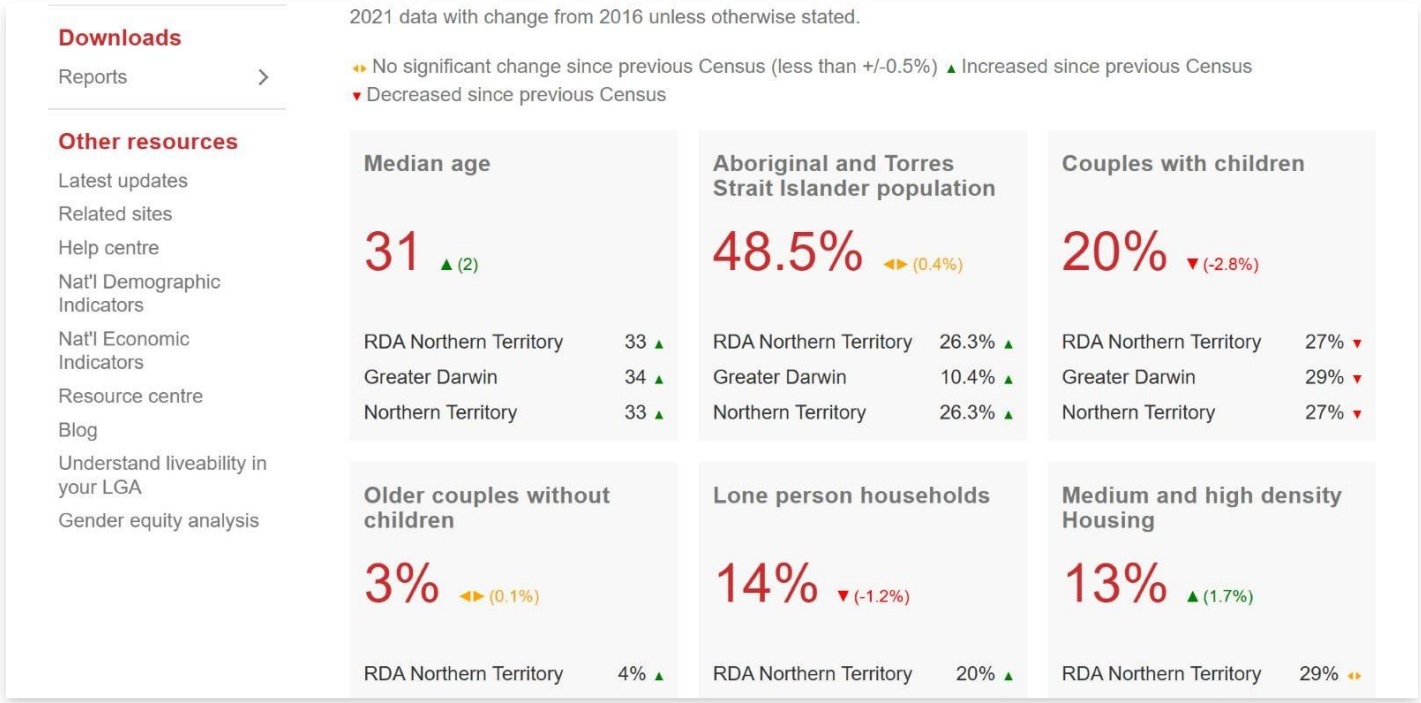
Source: ABS Census 2021 (usual residence) and ABS Estimated Resident Population 2025, via profile.id, RDA Northern Territory.

Population highlights

WHERE TO FIND IT

Area profiles › Population highlights

1. Open Population highlights from the left menu, with Big Rivers chosen in the Area box.
2. Each card shows the Big Rivers figure, its change since 2016 and three benchmarks.
3. Switch the Area box to Katherine, Roper Gulf or Victoria Daly to see the same cards for one LGA.
4. Open the menu groups, such as Who are we?, for the full table and chart.



Shown: population highlights, Big Rivers, ABS Census 2021 with change from 2016.

Large households on lower incomes, more social housing and few mortgages

15.0%

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

$1,629

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

18.9%

of households rent social housing, against 11.4% across the NT. Only 11% have a mortgage, against 25%

Disadvantage varies sharply across the region. Big Rivers scores 760 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage, against 922 for the NT (a lower score means more disadvantage). Katherine scores 961, Victoria Daly 590 and Roper Gulf 534. An estimated 2,272 people were homeless in 2021.

Read low housing costs with care. The median rent is $202 a week against $325 across the NT. In Roper Gulf ($78) and Victoria Daly ($90) this is likely to reflect community and government housing. Katherine ($300) is closer to a 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

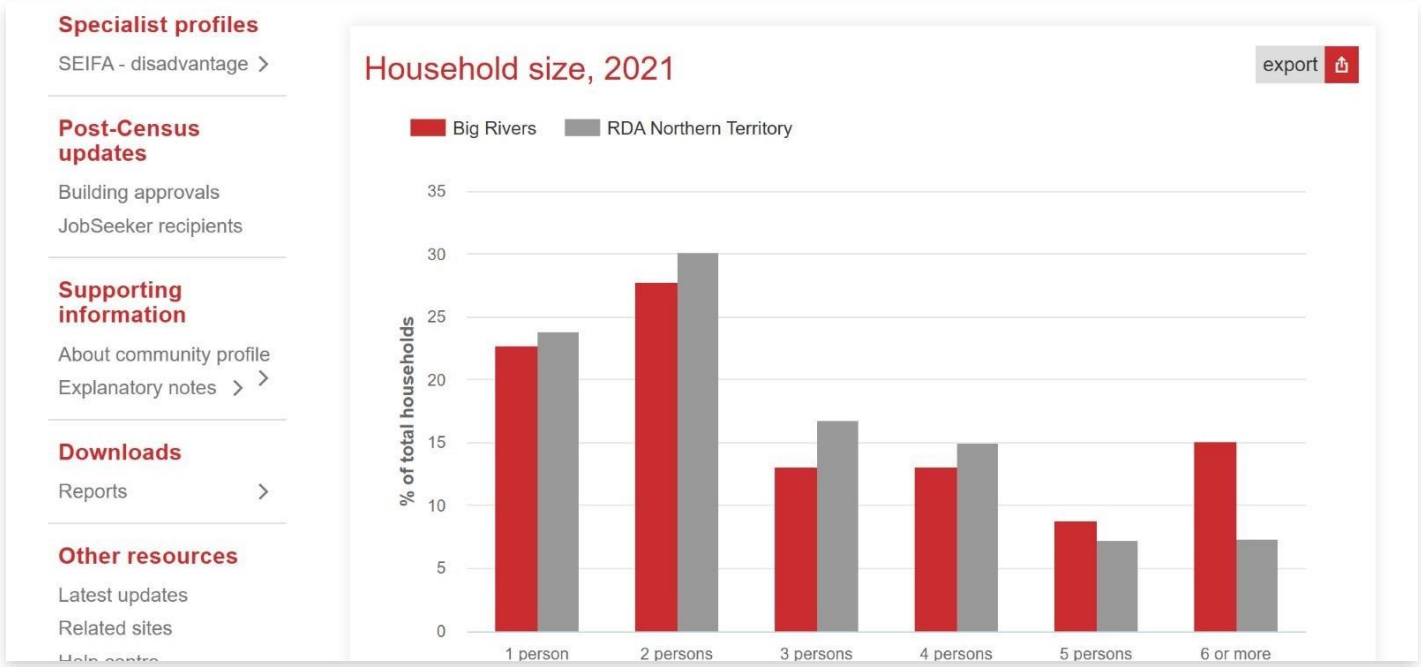
How do we live? › Households › Household size

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

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

3. Change the benchmark to Greater Darwin to see a city comparison, or the Area to one LGA.

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



Shown: household size, Big Rivers against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021 (enumerated).

Half of adults are in the labour force, and many young people are disengaged

49.9%

of residents aged 15 and over are in the labour force, against 61.7% across the NT

33.1%

of residents aged 15 and over completed Year 12, against 48.3% across the NT

38.7%

of 15 to 24 year olds are neither working nor studying, against 23.8% across the NT

Two measures of unemployment, two answers. The 2021 Census put unemployment at 8.0% (NT 5.6%). The quarterly estimate for June 2026 is 6.1% (NT 4.7%), from 2.5% in Katherine to 14.8% in Roper Gulf. Quote the quarterly figure for now, the Census for detail.

Much unpaid work is caring for other people's children. 34.2% of adults provided unpaid child care, against 30.2% across the NT, and 13.1% cared for children other than their own, against 8.8%. This is likely to reflect extended family caring arrangements.

Source: ABS Census 2021 (usual residence) via profile.id; Small Area Labour Markets, June quarter 2026, via economy.id; RDA Northern Territory site.

Employment status and disengagement

WHERE TO FIND IT

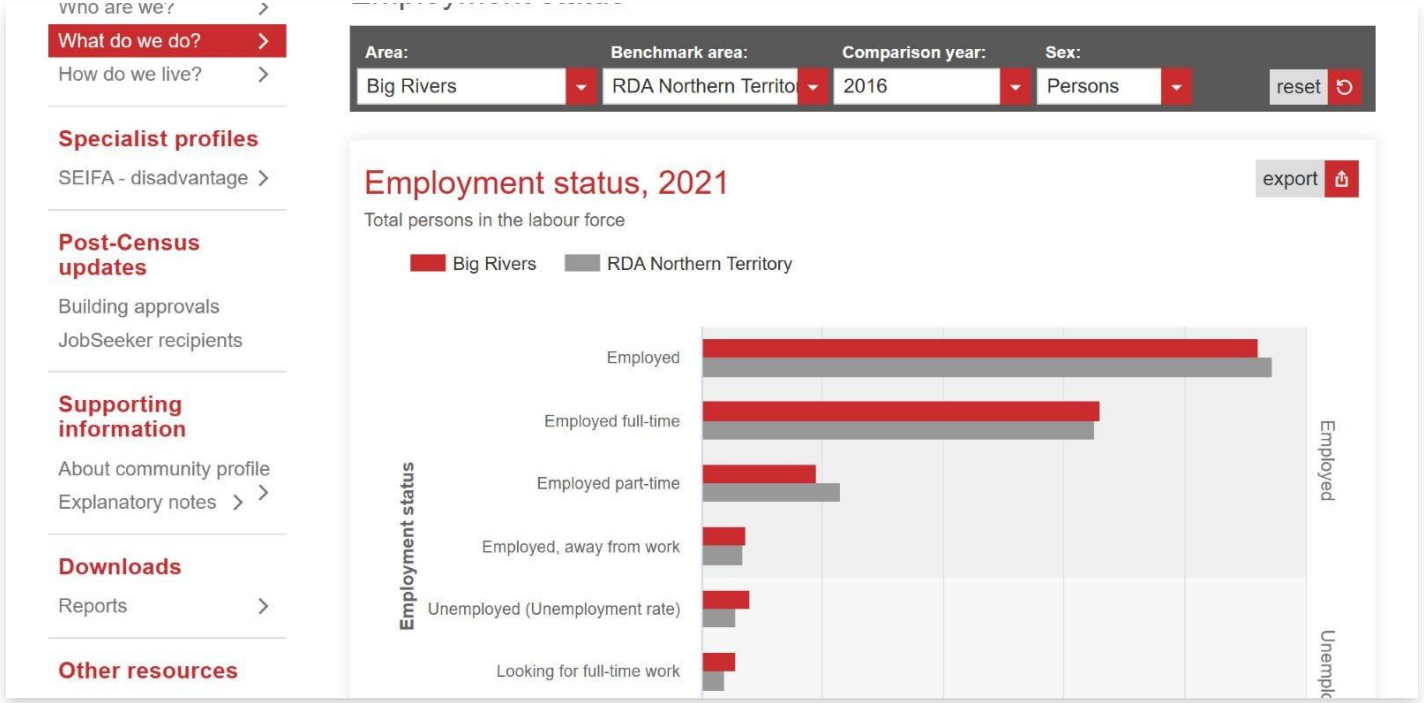
What do we do? › Employment status

1. Open What do we do?, then Employment status, with Big Rivers in the Area box.

2. The first table gives the participation rate: 49.9% in Big Rivers against 61.7% across the NT.

3. The chart compares Big Rivers (red) with the benchmark (grey): full time, part time, unemployed and looking for work.

4. The Disengagement by age tab shows people neither working nor studying, by age group.



Shown: employment status, Big Rivers against RDA Northern Territory, ABS Census 2021 (usual residence).

Unemployment, quarter by quarter

WHERE TO FIND IT

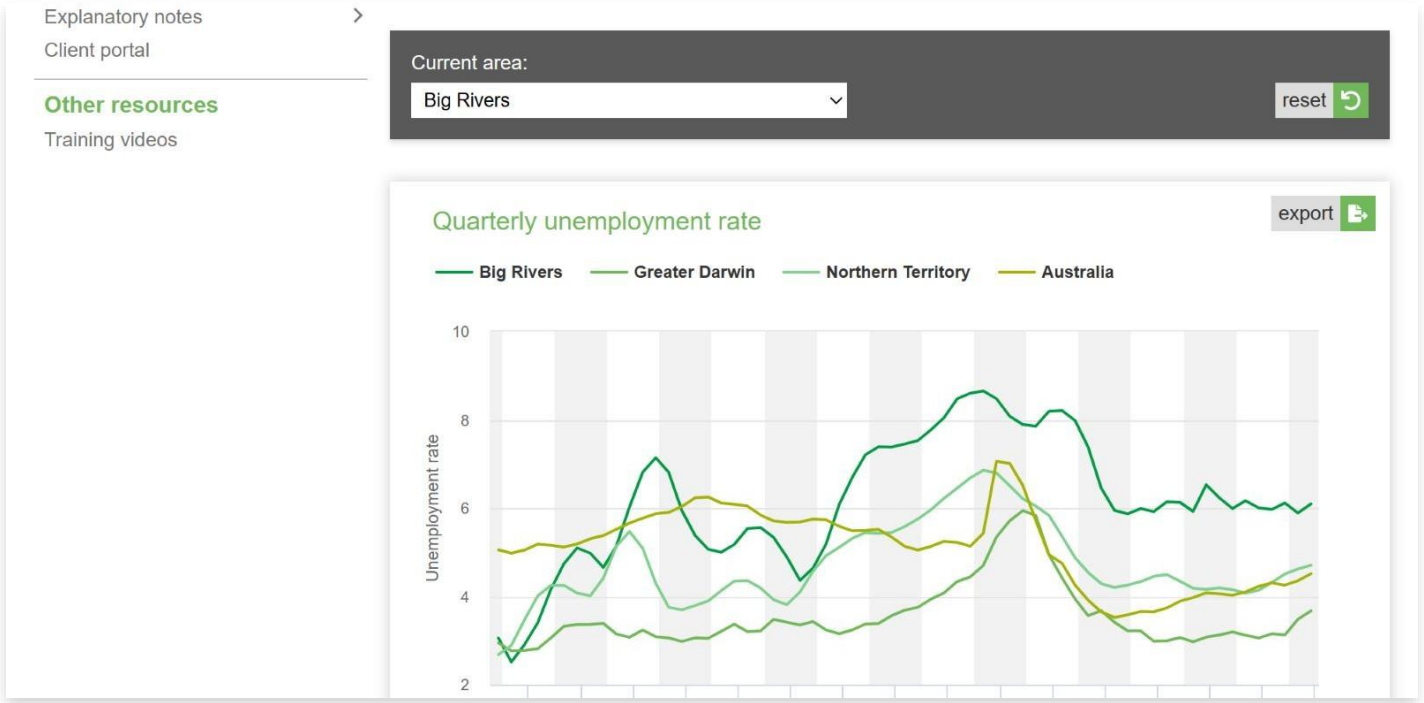
economy.id › Economic indicators › Unemployment

1. Unemployment is about residents, so it sits with the people. The quarterly series is on economy.id, under Economic indicators.

2. Choose Big Rivers or an LGA in the Current area box.

3. The chart compares your area 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, Big Rivers and benchmarks, to the June quarter 2026 (Small Area Labour Markets).

TRY IT YOURSELF

Three questions to answer on the site

1 Primary school children

Open Age structure, Service age groups. What share of your LGA is aged 5 to 11, against the NT? Did the number grow or fall from 2016 to 2021?

Check: Big Rivers: 11.2%, against 10.1% across the NT. Down 59 people.

2 Languages at home

Open Language spoken at home. What are the top three languages in your LGA, and which one grew the most?

Check: Big Rivers: Australian Indigenous languages (33.2%), Filipino or Tagalog, and Nepali (up 112).

3 Qualifications

Open Qualifications. What share of adults in your LGA have no qualification, against the NT? Copy the sentence under the chart.

Check: Big Rivers: 45.4%, against 38.8% across the NT.

Use profile.id, RDA Northern Territory site. Check answers: ABS Census 2021 and 2016 (usual residence), Big Rivers.

Economic profile

Four things that trip people up

GRP, output and value added

Output counts every sale, so it double-counts the supply chain. Value added strips that out, and adds up (with taxes) to Gross Regional Product. Compare industries on value added, not output.

Residents or workers?

The community profile counts people where they live. The economic profile counts jobs where they are. A Katherine job held by a Victoria Daly resident counts in Katherine's jobs but Victoria Daly's residents.

Tourism is not one industry

Visitor spending is spread across accommodation and food, retail, transport, and arts and recreation. economy.id adds up those shares: 1,221 tourism jobs in Big Rivers in 2024/25.

The Census undercounts jobs

The 2021 Census found 7,769 people working in Big Rivers. NIEIR estimates 9,187 jobs in 2020/21. Use NIEIR for how many jobs, and the Census for who holds them.

Source: NIEIR 2026 modelled series and ABS Census 2021 (place of work), via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory site.

A $2.5 billion economy built on mining and agriculture, with construction growing fast

$2.50bn

Gross Regional Product in the year to June 2025, up 1.6% on the year before

49.9%

of value added comes from mining (28.0%) and agriculture (21.9%). Agriculture is 4.6% of the NT economy

$310m

in tourism sales in 2024/25, supporting 1,221 jobs, up from 925 in 2019/20

Each LGA has a different economic base. Katherine ($1.16 billion) runs on government, health and services. Roper Gulf ($893 million) is led by mining, and produces 1.56 times more value locally than its residents earn. Victoria Daly ($451 million, up 11.2%) is led by agriculture.

Construction has almost tripled in value since 2019/20. Construction value added rose from $87 million to $236 million. Agriculture added $67 million and public administration fell by $31 million. There were 1,081 registered businesses in 2025, one in five of them in agriculture.

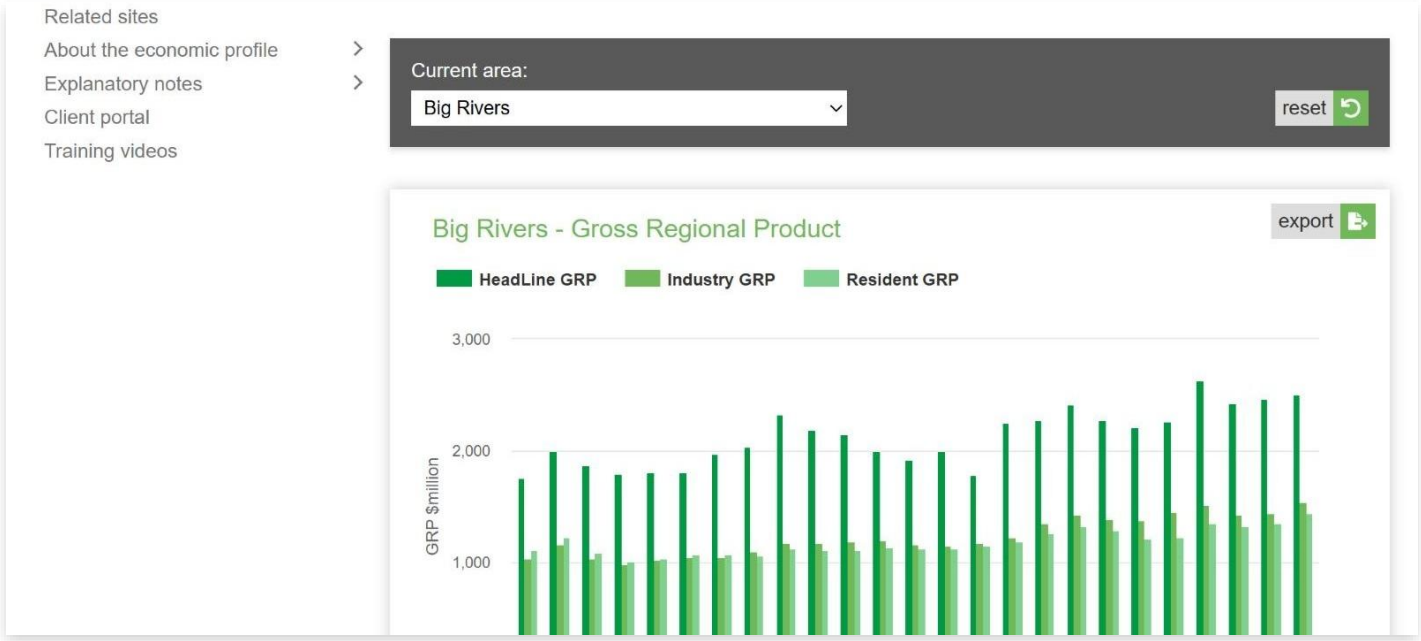
Source: NIEIR modelled series 2024/25 (GRP, value added, tourism, 2023/24 dollars) and ABS registered businesses 2025, via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory.

Gross Regional Product and value added

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic profile › Economic value

1. Open the economic profile tab, then Economic value in the left menu.
2. Scroll to the Current area box and choose Big Rivers, or one of the three LGAs.
3. The table runs back to 2001. Read the trend, not just the latest year.
4. The tabs across the top switch to Value added, Output, Exports and Imports.



Shown: Gross Regional Product measures, Big Rivers, years ending June, NIEIR 2026.

Services provide most of the jobs, while construction and mining are growing

9,321

jobs located in Big Rivers in 2024/25, up 540 since 2019/20

19.9%

of jobs are in health care and social assistance, the largest employer with 1,855 jobs

1,221

tourism jobs, 13.1% of all jobs, up from 925 in 2019/20

Services provide the jobs; mining and agriculture provide the value. Health care, public administration and education employ 47% of workers. Mining and agriculture employ 18% but produce half of all value added.

Where the growth came from. Health care added 425 jobs, construction 297 and mining 277 since 2019/20, while public administration lost 165. These are jobs located in the region, whoever fills them.

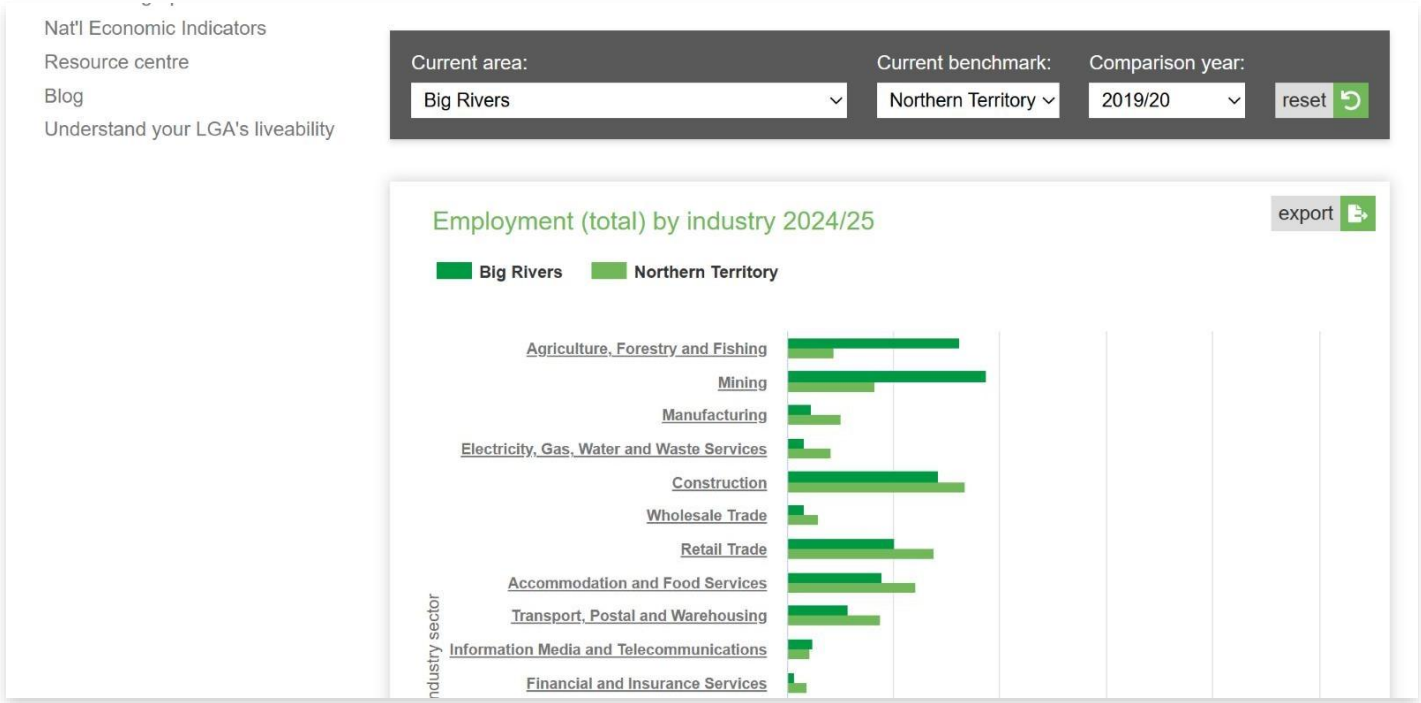
Source: NIEIR 2026 modelled employment (total) and tourism value, 2019/20 and 2024/25, via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory site.

Employment by industry

WHERE TO FIND IT

Local employment › Employment by industry (Total)

1. Open Local employment, then Employment by industry (Total).
2. Choose Big Rivers or an LGA in the Current area box. Dark bars are your area, 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.



Shown: employment (total) by industry, Big Rivers against the NT, 2024/25, NIEIR 2026.

Using this evidence in your work

1. **Describe your community with cited local figures.** Quote the figure, the source and the year, for example "48.5% of Big Rivers residents are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ABS Census 2021)".

2. **Pick the area that fits the question.** Use Big Rivers for regional investment and funding cases, and the LGA for local service or business planning. Katherine (2.5% unemployment) and Roper Gulf (14.8%) tell very different stories.

3. **Plan for large households and language.** 15% of households have six or more people and 33.2% of residents speak an Indigenous language at home, which shapes housing, early years and in-language, face-to-face engagement.

4. **Read jobs and unemployment together.** A 6.1% unemployment rate sits alongside 50% labour force participation, so the jobless rate understates how many people are not in paid work.

5. **Use trends, not single years, for the economy.** GRP has ranged from $1.78 billion in 2015 to $2.63 billion in 2022. Quote the series and its vintage, and expect NIEIR to revise earlier years with each release.

Drawn from the Big Rivers figures cited in the topic slides. Census figures are 2021; NIEIR figures are 2024/25 in 2023/24 dollars.

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.

.id

Topic 3

Writing a grant application with the .id tools.

We fill in a one-page application together for a real Katherine project, the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre expansion: the question, where to find the answer on the RDA Northern Territory site, and what you write.

Informed Decisions · 5 November 2026

WHY THIS WAY

Why evidence wins

A STORY FROM THE FIRST BUILDING BETTER REGIONS ROUND

A council applies for a community infrastructure grant. The project is sound and the need is real. The application says so, in the council's own words, with the council's own numbers.

It is not funded.

For round two the same project goes back with independent figures and modelling behind every claim: the industry it helps and how it is tracking, who it serves, what it will deliver, and a precedent. **It is funded.**

That happened more than once. The project did not change. The evidence did.

1 **Independent figures**
Not your own estimates. ABS, NIEIR and TRA data, which is what the RDA NT profile and economy site holds.

2 **Benefit beyond the boundary**
People and businesses do not stop at the LGA line. Show the region, not just the town.

3 **A precedent**
A similar project, delivered elsewhere, with measured results.

4 **A summary that leads**
Two to three pages, strongest reason first, a chart or a table, in the funder's own language.

Source: The .id grant application guide, Lessons learned (January 2022). The framework helped secure $187 million in local government infrastructure funding in 2017.

The one-page application we fill in today

1	Strategic context	Which industry does the project help? Is that industry doing as well as it should? Who does it serve, and what holds them back? How does the project fit, and has it worked before?
2	Economic impact	Construction phase Operating phase
3	Cost-benefit	NPV and BCR over 30 years; sensitivity
4	Wider benefits	Economic, social, environmental benefits

Structure follows the .id grant application guide and cheat sheet. We fill each line in from the RDA Northern Territory site.

BEFORE WE START

Four steps, and which of them your grant needs

Your grant	What the assessor expects	Steps you need
Small: a business or community grant, up to the low tens of thousands	A clear need, a few independent figures, a fit with the program's aims	**Step 1, in a paragraph or two**
Medium: a Territory or regional program, tens to hundreds of thousands	The strategic case plus what the project delivers: jobs and value added	**Steps 1 and 2**
Large: federal or major infrastructure, millions	All of the above, a cost-benefit assessment and wider community benefits, usually independent	**All four, with help on 3 and 4**

HOW TODAY RUNS: EVERY QUESTION THE SAME WAY

1 The question
What the application has to say, in plain words

›

2 Where to find it
The page, the settings and the row, live on the site

›

3 What you write
The sentence or table, with the figure and its source

We spend most of the time on step 1, because every grant needs it and you can do all of it yourself on the site.

Grant sizes are indicative. Check the funder's guidelines for what they require; many name a benefit cost ratio or independent assessment explicitly.

OUR EXAMPLE

The Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre expansion

What it was

An outdoor amphitheatre for 500, a cafe and deck, a retail space more than three times larger, and an office annex. A $6.7 million build by Katherine Constructions, a local builder, from December 2022.

Who paid

The Northern Territory Government's $30 million Arts Trail Gallery Extension Program. The centre is run by Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Ltd; the Northern Land Council appoints half its board.

How we use it

We write the application as if it were 2021 and the project not yet funded, using the data on the site today. It is a past project, so we can also check our claims against what happened.

How an arts centre creates jobs, in one line. A stage and an outdoor venue let the centre host bigger shows and festivals. A cafe and a bigger shop turn those visits into spending, and into income for regional artists. That spending, and the staff to run it, is the jobs. Every step of the evidence tests that chain.

Sources: ArchitectureAU (31/10/2022); NT Government newsroom (design tender); gyracc.org.au (About us, Arts Trail expansion).

Step 1 of 4. Strategic context

Four questions: which industry, is it doing as well as it should, who it serves, and how the project fits

Which industry does the project help?

WHAT THE APPLICATION HAS TO SAY

Name the industry, and say how big it is here: jobs and dollars.

Say which story you are telling: strengthen a strong industry, unblock a stuck one, back a new one, or diversify from an old one. For Godinymayin: arts and recreation, and the tourism it serves.

IN PLAIN WORDS

Industry Every job is sorted into 19 industries. Tourism is spread across several of them, so the site also gives a tourism total.

Jobs People employed in Katherine, wherever they live, modelled by NIEIR each year.

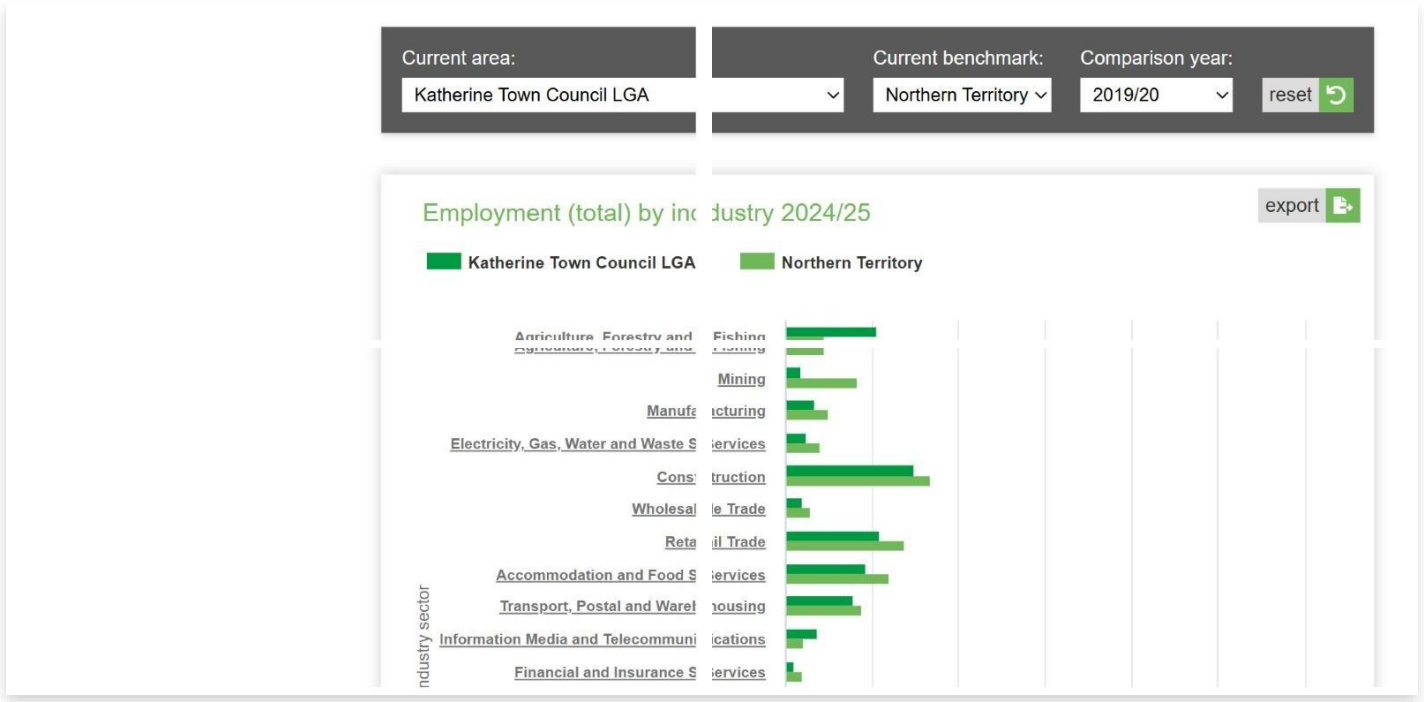
WHERE WE GO NEXT economy.id › Local employment › Employment by industry, then Tourism › Value of tourism

Employment by industry, then the tourism total

WHERE TO FIND IT

Local employment › Employment by industry (Total)

1. Choose Katherine Town Council LGA in the Current area box. Dark bars are Katherine, light bars the NT.
2. Arts and recreation services: 140 jobs, 2.3% of Katherine's jobs, against 2.9% across the NT. Accommodation and food: 4.7% against 6.0%.
3. Then Tourism, Value of tourism, for the whole-of-tourism figure: 814 jobs and $217.4 million in sales in 2024/25.
4. Export any table to Word or Excel.



Shown: employment (total) by industry, Katherine Town Council LGA against the Northern Territory, 2024/25, NIEIR 2026.

What you write: the industry and its size

WHAT YOU WRITE

The project supports Katherine's arts and recreation sector, which employs **140 people**, *and the tourism industry it serves, which generated* **$217 million in sales and 814 jobs** *in 2024/25,* **13.5% of all jobs** *in the town. Both are smaller here than across the Territory: arts and recreation provides* **2.3% of Katherine's jobs, against 2.9%**, *and accommodation and food services 4.7%, against 6.0%.*

WHERE IT CAME FROM

140 jobs, 2.3% vs 2.9%
Local employment › Employment by industry (Total), Arts and recreation services, 2024/25.

$217.4m and 814 jobs
Tourism › Value of tourism, Katherine, 2024/25.

Year and source, every time
So the assessor can check it.

Source: NIEIR 2026 modelled series via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory site. Sales in 2023/24 dollars; jobs are head counts.

Is that industry doing as well as it should?

WHAT THE APPLICATION HAS TO SAY

Compare the industry's size here with the Territory. Smaller than expected is either a weakness or room to grow.

Then ask whether it grew as much as it should have over five years, given what happened across the NT. The gap between "should have" and "did" is your evidence of a local problem the project fixes.

IN PLAIN WORDS

Location quotient How big an industry is here compared with the Territory. 1.0 is the same share of jobs. Under 0.8: under-represented. Over 1.2: a specialisation.

Shift-share Splits five years of job change into what NT growth would have given you, what the industry's own trend would have given you, and what is left. The leftover is the local effect.

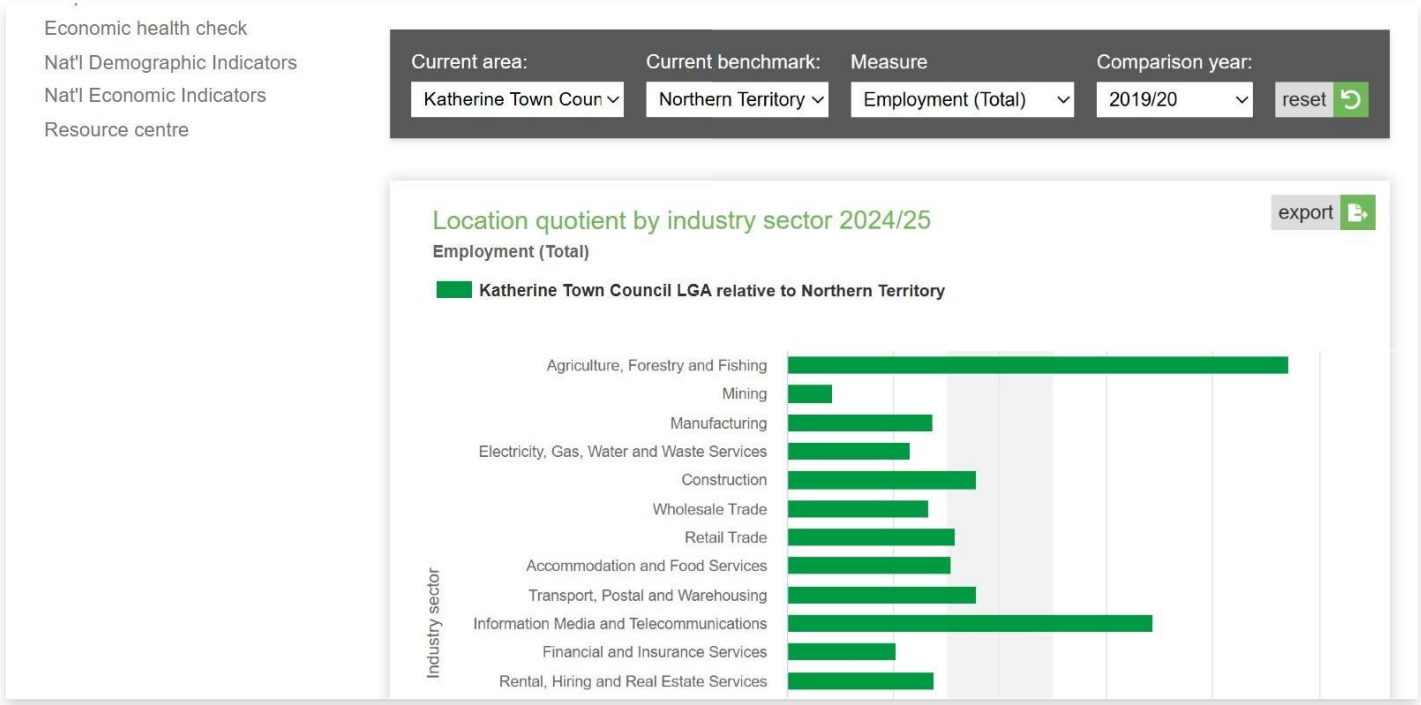
WHERE WE GO NEXT economy.id › Economic tools › Location quotient, then Shift-share analysis

Location quotient: how big is the industry here?

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic tools › Location quotient

1. Area: Katherine Town Council LGA. Benchmark: Northern Territory. Measure: Employment (total). Comparison year: 2019/20.
2. Accommodation and food services: 4.7% of Katherine jobs against 6.0% in the NT, an LQ of 0.77. Arts and recreation: 0.80.
3. Under 0.8 means under-represented. The specialisations are agriculture (2.36) and health (1.40).
4. Export the table for the application.



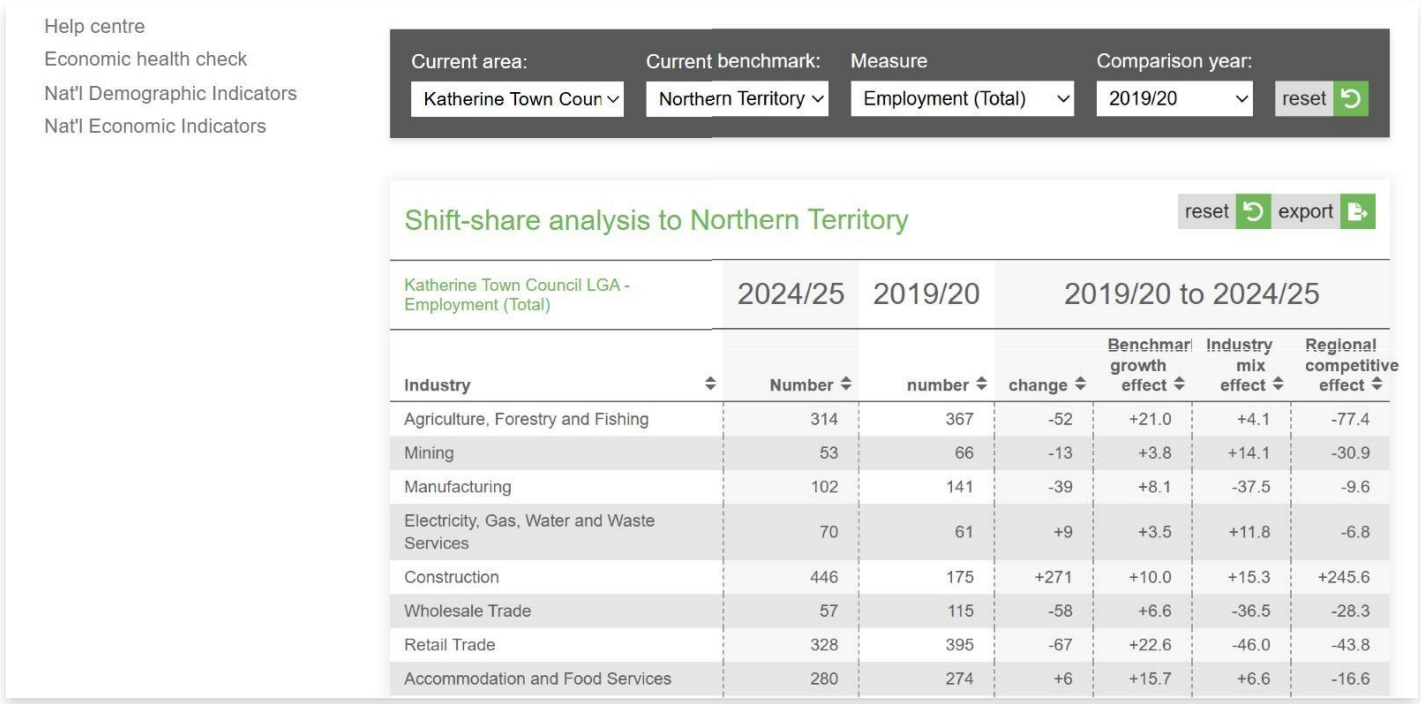
Shown: location quotient by industry, Katherine Town Council LGA against the Northern Territory, employment (total) 2024/25, NIEIR 2026.

Shift-share: did it grow as much as it should have?

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic tools › Shift-share analysis

1. Same area, benchmark and measure. Comparison year 2019/20.
2. Accommodation and food services: +6 jobs. NT growth would have given 15.7, the industry trend 6.6 more. Regional competitive effect: -16.6.
3. So it should have added about 22 jobs and added 6. The gap is the local effect.
4. Arts and recreation: +51 jobs, local effect +31.8. The experience side of tourism is growing.



Katherine Town Council LGA - Employment (Total)	2024/25	2019/20	2019/20 to 2024/25			
Industry	Number	number	change	Benchmark growth effect	Industry mix effect	Regional competitive effect
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	314	367	-52	+21.0	+4.1	-77.4
Mining	53	66	-13	+3.8	+14.1	-30.9
Manufacturing	102	141	-39	+8.1	-37.5	-9.6
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	70	61	+9	+3.5	+11.8	-6.8
Construction	446	175	+271	+10.0	+15.3	+245.6
Wholesale Trade	57	115	-58	+6.6	-36.5	-28.3
Retail Trade	328	395	-67	+22.6	-46.0	-43.8
Accommodation and Food Services	280	274	+6	+15.7	+6.6	-16.6

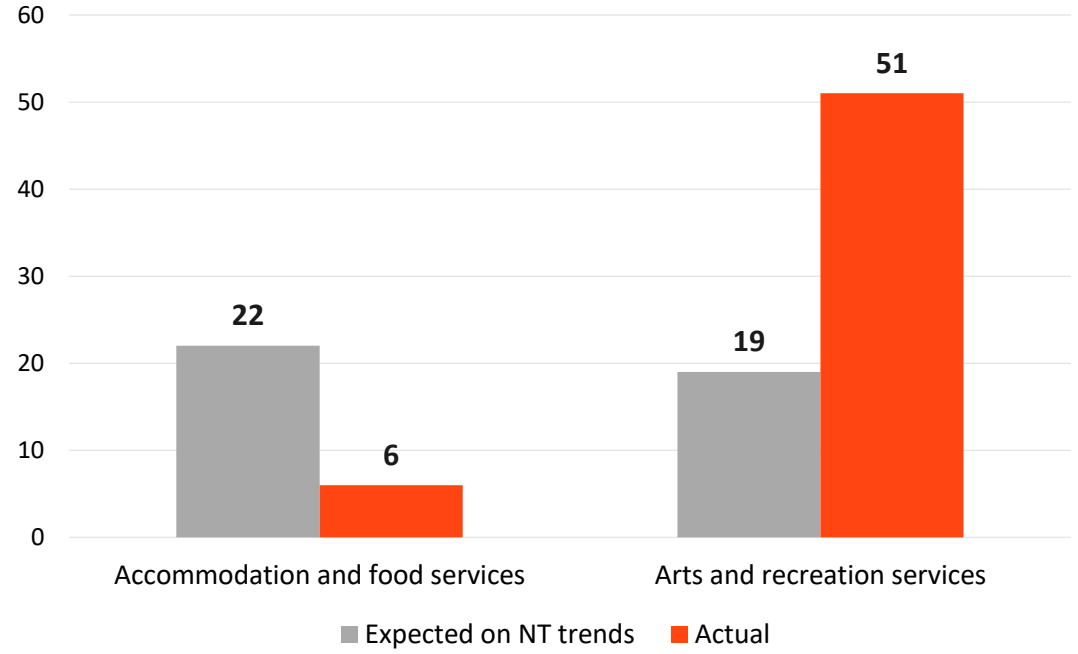
Shown: shift-share analysis to the Northern Territory, Katherine Town Council LGA, employment (total) 2019/20 to 2024/25, NIEIR 2026.

What you write: a growing sector, and a stuck one

WHAT YOU WRITE

*Arts and recreation is under-represented in Katherine (location quotient **0.80**) but growing fast. Between 2019/20 and 2024/25 it added **51 jobs**, against about 19 expected on Territory growth and its own trend: a local effect of **+32 jobs**. Hospitality went the other way, adding **6 jobs** against about 22 expected. Demand for arts and culture is growing faster here than across the Territory, while the spending that should follow is not yet being captured.*

Jobs added in Katherine, 2019/20 to 2024/25: expected on NT trends vs actual



Expected = benchmark growth effect + industry mix effect (15.7 + 6.6 and 5.1 + 13.7), rounded.

Source: NIEIR 2026 via economy.id, RDA Northern Territory site: Location quotient and Shift-share analysis, Katherine Town Council LGA, employment (total). Add the centre's own attendance figures beneath this paragraph.

Who does it serve, and what holds them back?

WHAT THE APPLICATION HAS TO SAY

Describe the people: how many, how old, and the wider catchment the project reaches. Then a short disadvantage table, your area against the region and the Territory, using rows that match the funding criteria.

For Katherine the honest story is that the town looks better off than the region it serves, so the application has to show how the benefit reaches the region.

IN PLAIN WORDS

SEIFA The ABS index of disadvantage. Australia averages about 1,000; lower is more disadvantaged. A percentile of 23 means 77% of areas are better off.

Participation rate The share of people aged 15 and over who are working or looking for work. It catches people the unemployment rate misses.

WHERE WE GO NEXT profile.id › Population highlights, then Specialist profiles › SEIFA by profile area

Population highlights: the people in one page

WHERE TO FIND IT

Area profiles › Population highlights

1. Choose Katherine Town Council LGA in the Area box: population, age, income, housing, work and SEIFA, each against three benchmarks.

2. Katherine: 11,282 people in 2025, median age 33, 25.6% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, participation 62%, SEIFA 961.

3. Switch the Area to Big Rivers for the catchment: 22,235 people, 48.5% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, participation 50%, SEIFA 760.

4. For the full SEIFA ranking of every area on the site, open Specialist profiles, SEIFA by profile area.



Shown: population highlights, Katherine Town Council LGA, RDA Northern Territory site. ABS ERP 2025 and Census 2021.

What you write: the people, and a short table

WHAT YOU WRITE

*Katherine is home to **11,282 people** and is the service centre for the **22,235 people** of the Big Rivers region, almost half of whom are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and a third of whom speak an Indigenous language at home. Katherine scores **961** on the SEIFA index of disadvantage; the region scores **760**, against 922 for the Territory. Godinymayin is the region's venue for its artists and performers, and the Northern Land Council appoints half of its board.*

Measure	Katherine	Big Rivers	NT
SEIFA disadvantage 2021	961	760	922
Median weekly household income	$1,867	$1,629	$2,015
Labour force participation	62%	50%	62%
Unemployment, June qtr 2026	2.5%	6.1%	4.7%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	25.6%	48.5%	26.3%

Where it came from. Population highlights for Katherine and for Big Rivers (ABS ERP 2025, Census 2021, SEIFA 2021); Unemployment under Economic indicators on economy.id (SALM, June quarter 2026). Add rows that match the funding criteria.

Source: ABS Census 2021 and SEIFA 2021 via profile.id; Small Area Labour Markets June quarter 2026 via economy.id; RDA Northern Territory site. Big Rivers is the three LGAs combined.

How does the project fit? The project-fit matrix

Bring questions 1 to 3 together: each issue in the evidence on the left, what the project does about it on the right. One line each. This is the table assessors read first.

Issue or opportunity in the evidence	What the project does about it
Arts and recreation is under-represented (LQ 0.80) but added 51 jobs in five years, 32 more than Territory trends.	An outdoor amphitheatre for 500, with a stage and backstage, so the centre can host bigger shows and festivals.
Hospitality is stuck: 6 jobs added against about 22 expected. Tourism is a $217m, 814-job industry.	A cafe and deck and a retail space three times larger turn attendance into spending on site.
The centre serves a region of 22,235 people, almost half Aboriginal, with high disadvantage (SEIFA 760).	An Aboriginal-governed venue and a bigger shop for regional artists' work.
The centre had no stage, green room or lighting rig; large events used a hall not built for them.	A purpose-built performance space instead of borrowed ones: the base case for step 3.

Left-hand figures come from questions 1 to 3; row 4 from the Katherine Times (15/02/2021). The guide's tip: put one real local story directly under the matrix.

Has it worked before? Godinymayin's first stage, 2012

What it was

The original centre: Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct. Construction began in December 2009, funded by $3 million from the Commonwealth, $4 million from the NT and $0.8 million from Katherine Town Council.

What it delivered

Opened on 14 July 2012 with close to 1,000 visitors. By 2023 the centre employed 6 full-time equivalent staff, with revenue of $0.76 million and assets of $7.0 million.

Why it is useful to you

The best precedent is often your own. A track record of running the venue, drawing crowds and growing staff answers the assessor's question: will this organisation deliver?

Know which job numbers you are quoting. The 2009 announcement promised 100 construction jobs. Our model run for the $6.7 million expansion gives 4 local jobs a year in Katherine, and 14 a year across Australia. Both can be right; say which one you mean.

Sources: Commonwealth media release (16/12/2009); gyracc.org.au (About us); ACNC annual information statement 2023, as summarised by civicgraph.app.

Step 2 of 4. Economic impact

What the project will deliver: jobs and value added while it is built, and each year once it is open

What will the project deliver in jobs and dollars?

WHAT THE APPLICATION HAS TO SAY

Two phases: while it is built, and each year once open. Three layers in each: the direct spending, the suppliers it flows to, and the household spending from the wages. The model works these out for Katherine from NIEIR's local tables.

Lead with value added and jobs, not output, and report the change against a realistic base case.

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**

The economic impact model: the Godinymayin run

WHERE TO FIND IT

Economic tools › Economic impact model

1. Choose Katherine Town Council LGA in the Current area box and name the project.
2. Construction: Yes. Sector Construction, $6.70m, 2 years.
3. Operating phase: Arts and Recreation Services, Jobs (number), 3. If a narrow sector returns zero, use the broad one.
4. Click to run the model. Export the result as a PDF and attach it to the submission.



Shown: economic impact model, Katherine Town Council LGA, NIEIR 2026, 2023/24 dollars. The 3 operating jobs are an illustrative input; use the operator's staffing plan.

What you write: the results, from the model

WHAT YOU WRITE

*Construction of the **$6.7 million** expansion over two years is estimated to support **4 local jobs a year** and add **$2.5 million of value added** to the Katherine economy. Across Australia the build supports **14 jobs a year** and $5.6 million of value added, as much of the supply chain sits outside the Territory. Once open, 3 new jobs at the centre are estimated to support **4 local jobs** and add **$0.27 million** to Gross Regional Product each year.*

WHERE IT CAME FROM

Show the split

Construction: 2 direct, 2 supply chain and 1 household spending job a year (rounded).

Inside and outside

Outside the NT: 9 jobs a year. For a regional case, name where the work goes.

Value added, not output

Output $11.3m; value added $2.5m. Lead with the second.

Attach the PDF

So the assessor can see the inputs.

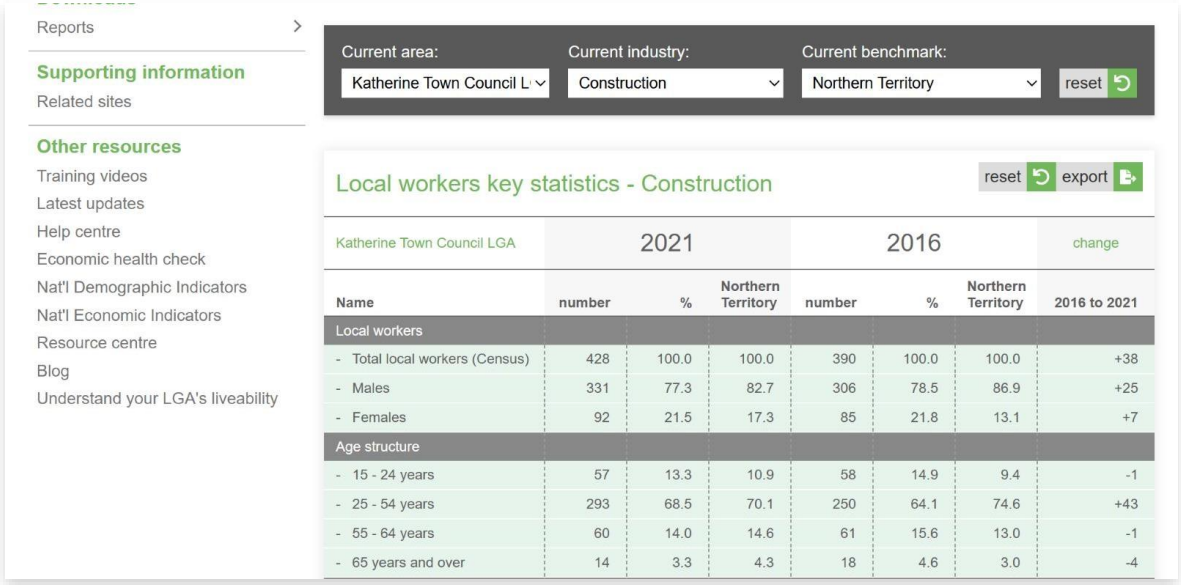
Source: economy.id economic impact model, Katherine Town Council LGA, NIEIR 2026, 2023/24 dollars. Operating input of 3 jobs is illustrative.

Who gets the jobs? Youth and Aboriginal shares

WHERE TO FIND IT

Local workers › Key statistics › Current industry

1. Pick the area and the industry the jobs are in. The 15 to 24 years row is the youth share of its workers.
2. Katherine: 13.3% of construction workers are aged 15 to 24.
3. Apply the share to the model's jobs. With 4 local construction jobs a year, that is about 1 in 8.
4. Aboriginal share: not on the site. It comes from Census TableBuilder; the next slide has it for all three LGAs.



WHAT YOU WRITE

*On the existing workforce, about **1 in 8** construction jobs would go to people aged 15 to 24 and **1 in 9** to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers; in arts and recreation, **16%** of Katherine workers are Aboriginal. As an Aboriginal-governed operator, the centre commits to higher targets.*

Shown: local workers key statistics, Construction, Katherine Town Council LGA, ABS Census 2021 via economy.id. Aboriginal shares: ABS Census 2021 TableBuilder.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander share of workers

Industry (place of work, Census 2021)	Katherine	Roper Gulf	Victoria Daly	Big Rivers
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5%	20%	11%	11%
Mining	0%	11%	22%	11%
Manufacturing	9%	0%	0%	9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste	6%	0%	42%	10%
Construction	**11%**	**15%**	**43%**	**14%**
Wholesale Trade	0%	0%	0%	0%
Retail Trade	7%	41%	70%	21%
Accommodation and food services	8%	7%	7%	8%
Transport, postal and warehousing	6%	12%	0%	6%
Information media and telecommunications	0%	0%	0%	13%
Financial and insurance services	0%	0%	0%	14%
Rental, hiring and real estate	0%	0%	0%	0%
Professional, scientific and technical	9%	15%	0%	16%
Administrative and support services	16%	36%	28%	25%
Public administration and safety	12%	63%	51%	24%
Education and training	16%	60%	57%	35%
Health care and social assistance	17%	57%	53%	26%
Arts and recreation services	**16%**	**60%**	**81%**	**50%**
Other services	19%	46%	74%	33%
All industries	**13%**	**33%**	**38%**	**22%**

IN PLAIN WORDS

How to read it Share of workers in the LGA, in that industry, who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Place of work, not home. Shares built on fewer than 20 workers are indicative only.

For the example Katherine construction 11%; arts and recreation 16% (9 of 58 workers, so indicative). A Roper Gulf or Victoria Daly project uses its own column.

Where it comes from ABS Census 2021 TableBuilder. Ask .id for another area.

Source: ABS Census 2021, TableBuilder, counting persons aged 15 and over by place of work; Indigenous status includes Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and both. Cells randomly adjusted by the ABS; no reliance on small cells.

.id

Steps 3 and 4. Beyond the model

Is the community better off, and what do the numbers miss? Two short steps: what good looks like, and when to ask for help

Is the community better off? Cost-benefit in brief

IN PLAIN WORDS

Base case and project case The result is always the difference between the two over the life of the asset, usually 30 years.

Discount rate Future dollars count for less than today's. 7% is the usual test; 3% is the social rate for public-good projects. Report both.

NPV and BCR Net present value: benefits minus costs in today's dollars. Benefit cost ratio: benefits divided by costs. Above 1 means benefits outweigh costs.

Sensitivity Change the assumption that matters most and show how the answer moves.

What goes into a Godinymayin BCA	Where the number comes from
Capital cost: $6.7m build plus design	Tender ($6.7m) and design contract ($0.37m)
Operating and maintenance, 30 years	The operator's budget
Spending by visitors from outside the region	Attendance counts and a visitor survey
Value to residents of shows and events	Attendance, and what people would pay
Avoided cost of hiring other venues	Past event costs
Residual value at year 30	The asset register

When to get help. An independent cost-benefit assessment is well regarded, and often mandatory, for larger grants. Check the funder's guidance, and NT Treasury's, for the discount rate they expect.

Source: The .id grant application guide, Part 3. Costs from ArchitectureAU (31/10/2022) and the NT Government newsroom; no BCA was published for this project.

What the numbers miss: score the wider benefits

IN PLAIN WORDS

Multi-criteria analysis For each benefit you cannot put a dollar on, score the project against the base case from 0 (no impact) to +5 (major, long-term, many people). Average by theme, then overall.

Triple bottom line Economic, social, environmental. Consult broadly on the indicators and the scores, and cite evidence for each.

Why it matters When the quantified case is small, as here with 4 local jobs a year, this is where the case is made.

Economic

Income for regional artists through a larger shop. Events that draw visitors in the dry season. Work for a local builder.

Social

Culture kept and shared, under Aboriginal governance. A gathering place for 500. Youth: 17.4% of Katherine's 15 to 24 year olds are disengaged from work and study.

Environmental

Shade and park-like landscaping. Solar panels, planned in the 2021 design brief. Better use of an existing site.

Source: The .id grant application guide, Part 4; disengagement from profile.id (ABS Census 2021, Katherine Town Council LGA); project features from ArchitectureAU and the Katherine Times.

The one-page application, filled in for Godinymayin

1	**Strategic context**	**Which industry does the project help?** Arts and recreation: 140 jobs (2.3% vs 2.9% NT). Tourism: $217m, 814 jobs. Hospitality 4.7% vs 6.0%. **Is that industry doing as well as it should?** Arts and recreation +51 jobs against about 19 expected. Hospitality +6 against about 22. **Who does it serve, and what holds them back?** Service centre for 22,235 people, half Aboriginal. Region SEIFA 760 vs NT 922. Aboriginal-governed centre. **How does the project fit, and has it worked before?** Four-row project-fit matrix. Precedent: Godinymayin's own first stage, opened 2012.
2	**Economic impact**	**Construction phase** $6.7m over 2 years: 4 local jobs a year and $2.5m value added in Katherine; 14 jobs a year across Australia. PDF attached. **Operating phase** 3 centre jobs: 4 local jobs and $0.27m value added a year. Aboriginal share of arts and recreation workers 16%.
3	**Cost-benefit**	**NPV and BCR over 30 years; sensitivity** [BCA at 7% and 3%: capital and operating costs against non-local visitor spend and resident benefit]
4	**Wider benefits**	**Economic, social, environmental scores** Income for regional artists; culture, Aboriginal governance, youth; shade, solar.

Figures from today's slides (NIEIR 2026, ABS Census 2021, SEIFA 2021, via the RDA Northern Territory site). The bracketed line needs a BCA.

Resources, and when to ask for help

The grant application guide, the cheat sheet and case studies are at id.com.au. Everything in this session is live on the RDA Northern Territory site.
economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory
profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory

Ask .id when you need: an independent impact assessment or cost-benefit analysis; help choosing a measure or benchmark; a case study that fits; or an economic profile for your area.

For a copy of the presentation or to sign up to the newsletter

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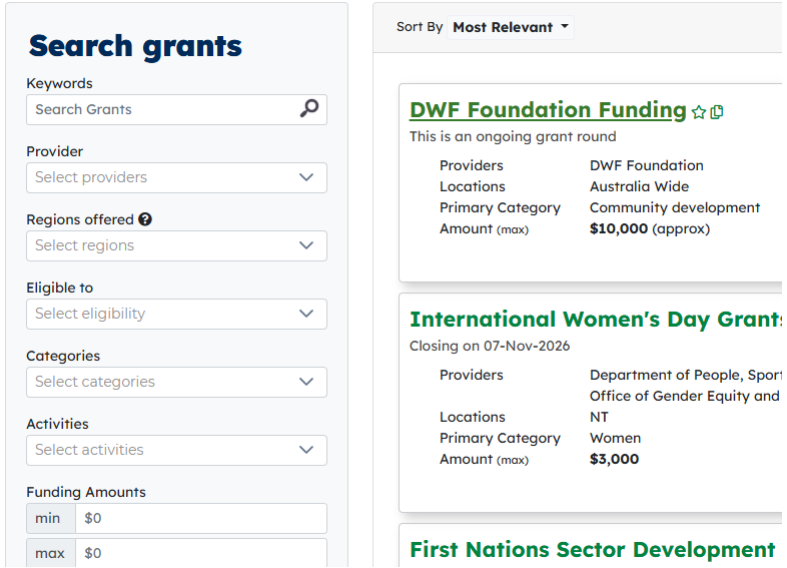
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Upcoming grants

- Growing Regions (before the end of 2026)
- Impact Philanthropy Application Program (opens 4 Nov)
- AgriFutures People and Capability program (closes 27 Nov)
- Grow Your Business (closes 13 Nov)
- Stronger Communities (MP nom closes 30 Nov)

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Not-for-profit insights

RDA Northern Territory is seeking to better understand the needs, priorities and challenges of not-for-profit organisations across the NT. Your feedback will help identify opportunities for RDA NT to deliver for practical support, collaboration and advocacy tailored to the needs of the not-for-profit sector.