RDA Northern Territory

Introduction to the .id toolkit

Presented in November 2025 by

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Register for briefing slides

Optionally - .id blog and newsletter

.id

Summary – Unlock the full potential of the .id toolkit

- The RDA Northern Territory currently subscribes to to the .id community profile and economic profile tools

- Locally based profiles for the larger LGAs are available to add (e.g. Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs), including suburb/town breakdowns, plus the optional First Nations profile at the LGA level. Other options include the housing monitor and community views work.

Sign up with QR Code – for a copy of the slides, .id blog or newsletter
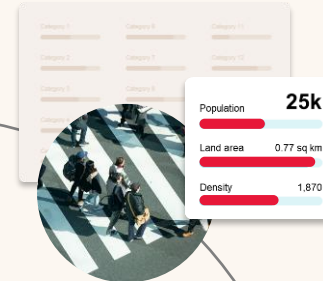
Community Views

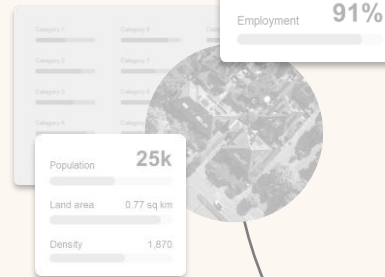Community's views and needs in policy and advocacy

Community Profile

Curated online community profile that provides deep demographic insights
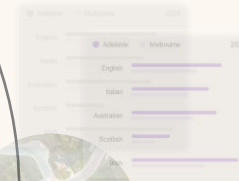http://profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory

Housing Monitor

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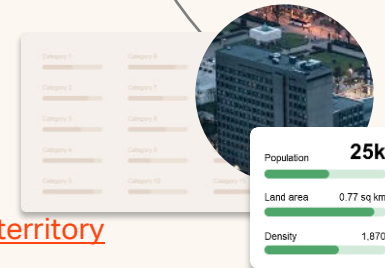
Social Atlas

Powerful thematic maps to show where resources are best allocated
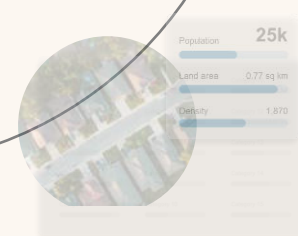
Economic Profile

Comprehensive local economic profile and impact modelling tools
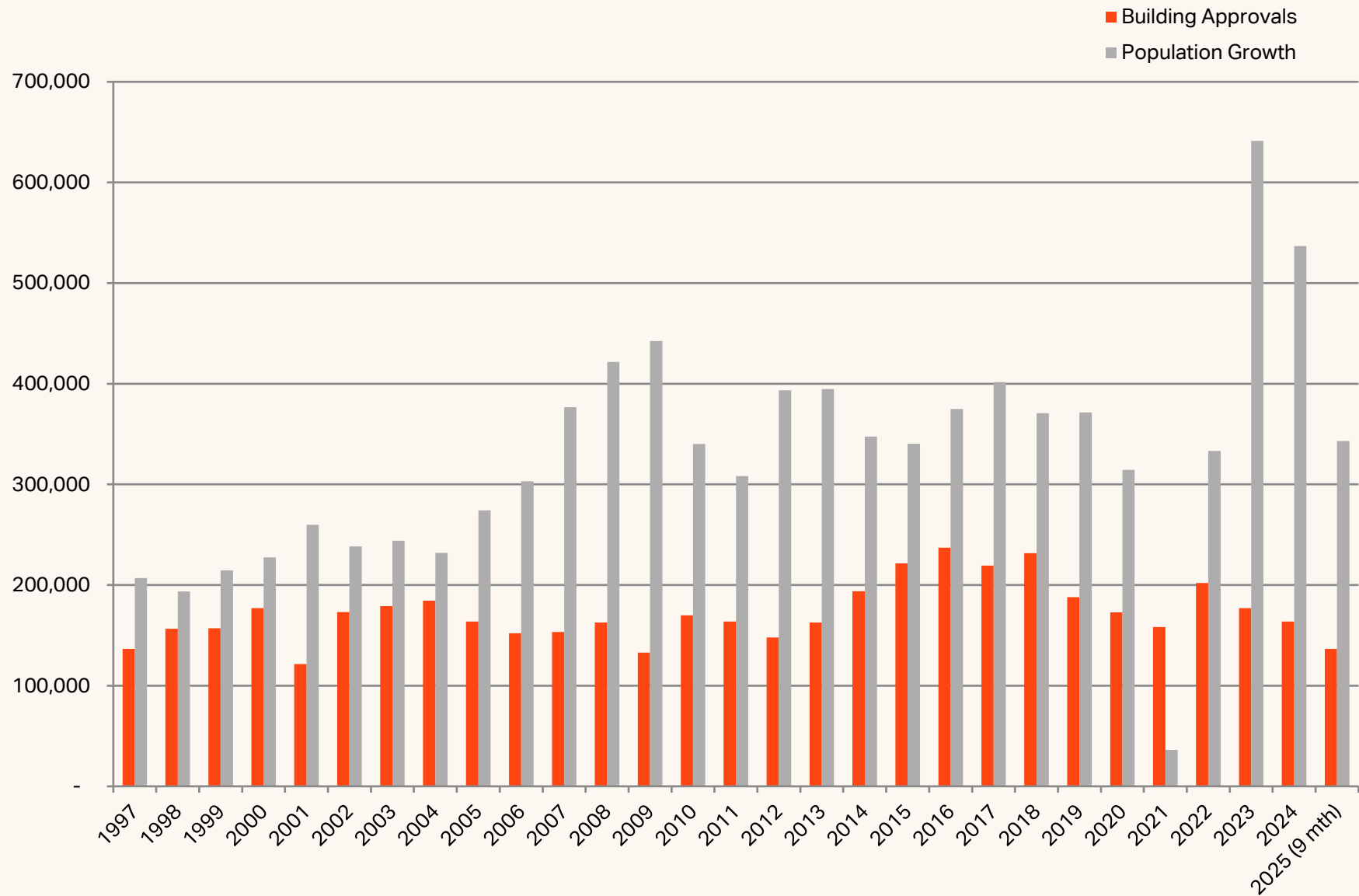http://economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory

Population Forecast

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

National population trends – population explosion after COVID downturn

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Legend:
- Building Approvals
- Population Growth

Y-axis: 700,000 / 600,000 / 500,000 / 400,000 / 300,000 / 200,000 / 100,000 / -

X-axis years: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (9 mth)

Australia ended a record period of population growth with COVID border closures. The year ended June 2021 was the lowest growth rate in over 100 years.
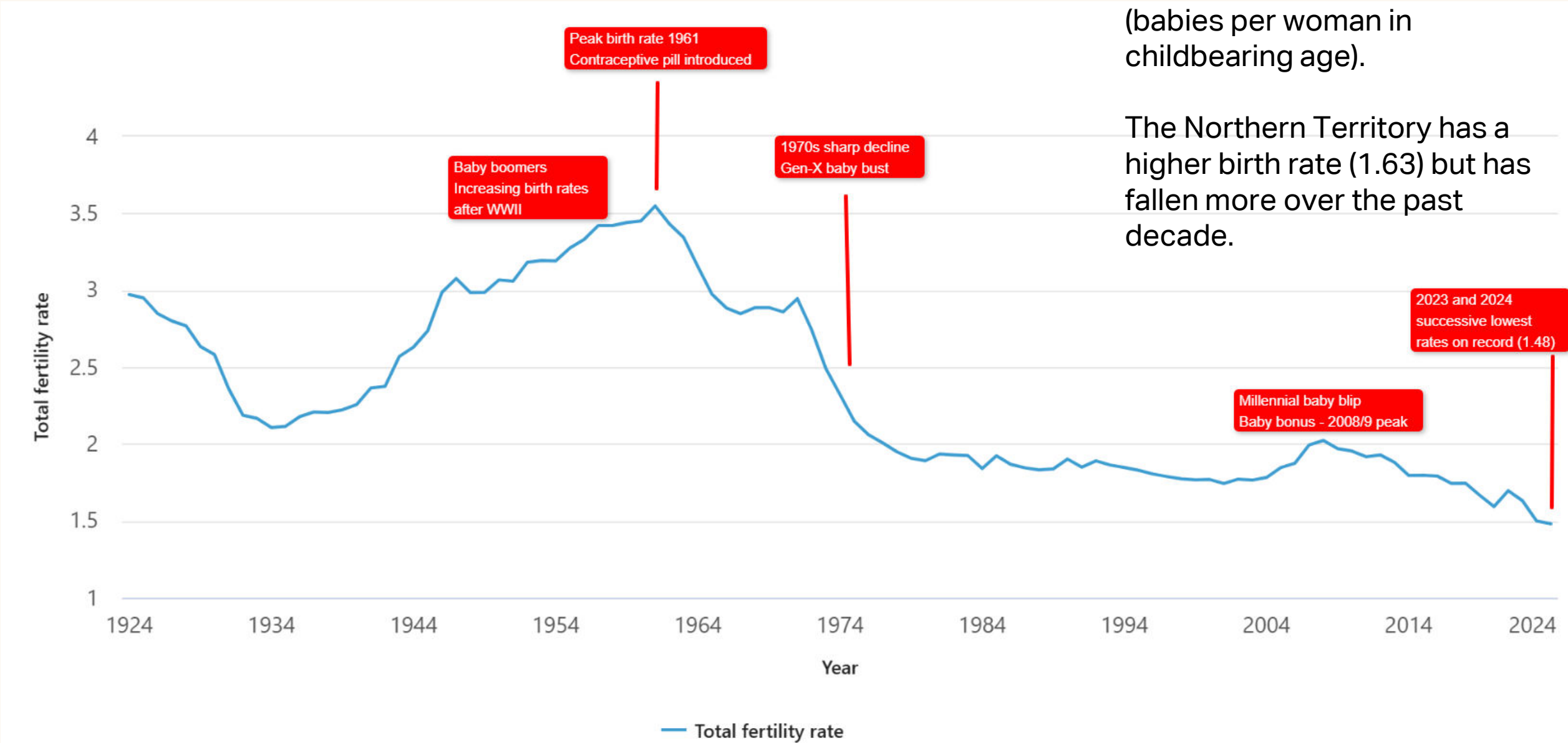
Since the borders reopened, overseas migration has driven an enormous increase in population, with 2022-23 having a record increase of more than 600,000 people. This continued in 2023-24 at 552,000 people, but is now tapering off to more average levels for 2025.

Building approvals don't fluctuate with population growth but remain relatively steady at around 150,000-200,000 p.a.

National fertility rate, 1935 to 2024

The national birth rate has fallen to a record low of 1.48 (babies per woman in childbearing age).

The Northern Territory has a higher birth rate (1.63) but has fallen more over the past decade.

Peak birth rate 1961
Contraceptive pill introduced

1970s sharp decline
Gen-X baby bust

Baby boomers
Increasing birth rates after WWII

2023 and 2024 successive lowest rates on record (1.48)

Millennial baby blip
Baby bonus - 2008/9 peak

Total fertility rate (y-axis): 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4

Year (x-axis): 1924, 1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014, 2024

— Total fertility rate

Population trends in 2021-2024

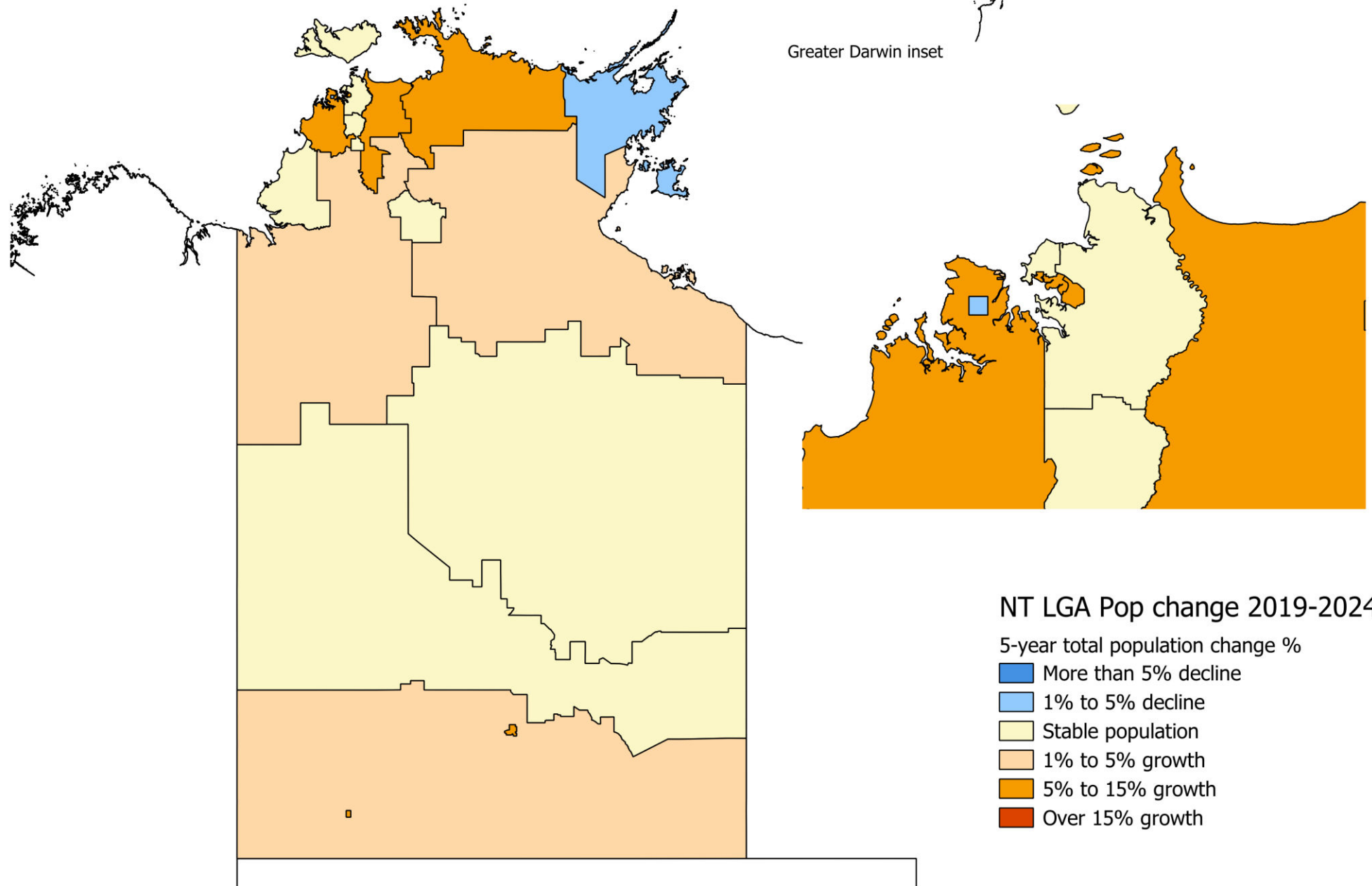| TREND	Northern Territory
Population (ERP – 2021 and 5 year change)	248,151 (+2,473 people, +1.0%) ⇧
Population (ERP – 2024 – and 3 year change)	260,847 (+12,696 people, +5.1%) ⇧
Average household size (2016-2021)	2.74 (-0.07) ⇩
Components of population change (last year only)	Natural increase: +2,170 Overseas migration: +3,612 Internal migration: -3,775

The NT is growing much more strongly in the last 3 years. This is driven by a return of overseas migration post-COVID, which now offsets the continued loss of internal migrants to other states and territories. That leaves the overall population growth mainly at the level of natural increase which is strong due to the young age structure.

Training: Estimated Resident Population vs Census – when to use it.

NT LGA population change, 2019-2024

Greater Darwin inset

NT LGA Pop change 2019-2024

5-year total population change %

- More than 5% decline
- 1% to 5% decline
- Stable population
- 1% to 5% growth
- 5% to 15% growth
- Over 15% growth

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Population trends – 5 years – NT Local Govt Areas

Small area	2019	2024	5 year change
Alice Springs Town Council LGA	27,600	29,693	7.6%
Barkly Regional Council LGA	7,212	7,288	1.1%
Belyuen Community Government Council LGA	168	167	-0.6%
Central Desert Regional Council LGA	4,147	4,128	-0.5%
Coomalie Community Government Council LGA	1,411	1,410	-0.1%
City of Darwin LGA	85,308	86,070	0.9%
East Arnhem LGA - Nhulunbuy - Alyangula	14,470	14,734	1.8%
Katherine Town Council LGA	10,721	10,857	1.3%
Litchfield Council LGA	23,331	23,940	2.6%
MacDonnell Regional Council LGA	6,636	6,769	2.0%
City of Palmerston LGA	38,200	41,598	8.9%
Roper Gulf Regional Council LGA	7,357	7,516	2.2%
Tiwi Islands Regional Council LGA	2,742	2,744	0.1%
Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA	3,163	3,307	4.6%
Wagait Shire LGA	474	481	1.5%
West Arnhem Regional Council LGA	7,059	7,467	5.8%
West Daly Regional Council LGA	3,427	3,448	0.6%
Unincorporated NT (ex. Nhulunbuy and Alyangula)	2,785	3,143	12.9%
Greater Darwin	**147,251**	**152,489**	**3.6%**
Regional NT	**99,308**	**102,580**	**3.3%**
Northern Territory	**246,559**	**260,847**	**5.8%**
Australia	**25,334,826**	**27,193,790**	**7.3%**

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CASE STUDY – What are you working on?

- What are the key questions you need to answer about the NT or a specific place?

- Are there any key grant applications which need demographic or economic input?
    - Using impact modelling
    - Using SEIFA – disadvantage analysis
    - Population and Census data.
    - Specific data on Aboriginal population.

- Let us know what you're working on and we'll look at how to use the toolkit to get the information you need.

- We are also available for additional datasets and consultancy as needed.

Community profile

- Online information tool, for council staff, and for the public.

- 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 Census data, with some data from 1996 and 1991

- 40 demographic topics to tell the story of your changing area. Benchmarked to Australia, the NT, Regional NT, Greater Darwin. Other optional benchmarks.

- Broken into 17 LGAs and Unincorporated (East Arnhem currently including Nhulunbuy). Plus 3 overlays of wider regions – Big Rivers, Central Australia and Wider Darwin.

- Adjustment of boundaries Full datasets from all available Census periods for each. Additional geographic areas available to add.

- Detailed migration and SEIFA datasets to assist with advocacy for the most disadvantaged groups.

- **Optional addition of First Nations profile for each LGA.**

- Monthly building approvals updates and JobSeeker rates.

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

- **TRAINING – how to use the community profile to tell the story of place at the LGA level in the NT.**

profile.id

community profile

understand your community over multiple timescales

community views

social atlas

allocate your resources at a local level

Regional Development Australia
NORTHERN TERRITORY

housing monitor

population forecast

economic profile

Northern Territory age structure

Age structure - five year age groups, 2021

Total persons

■ RDA Northern Territory   ■ Australia
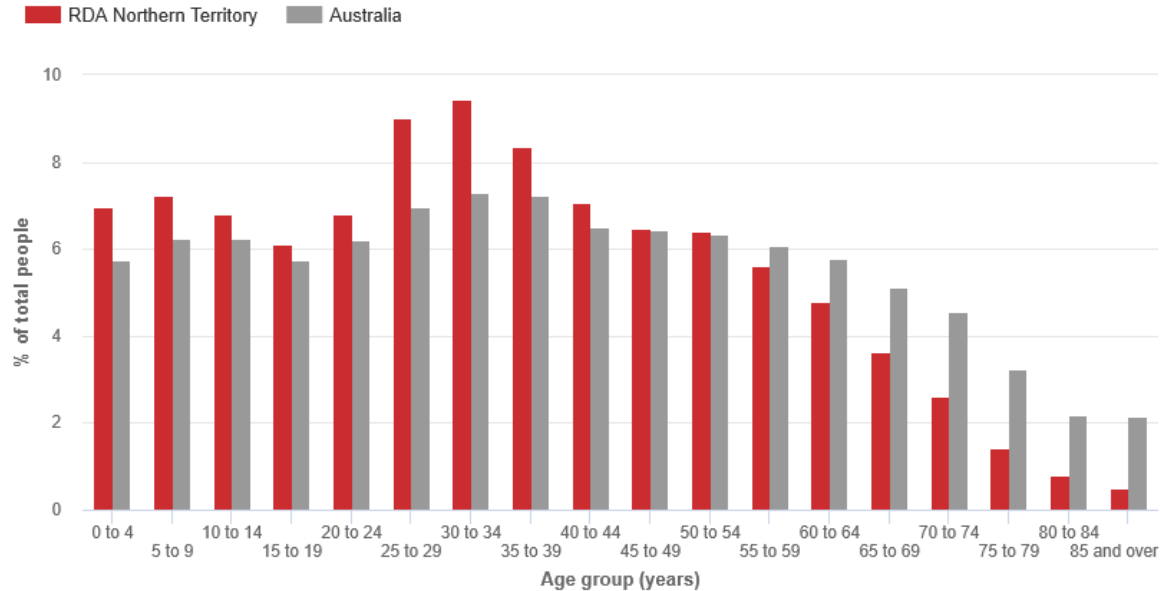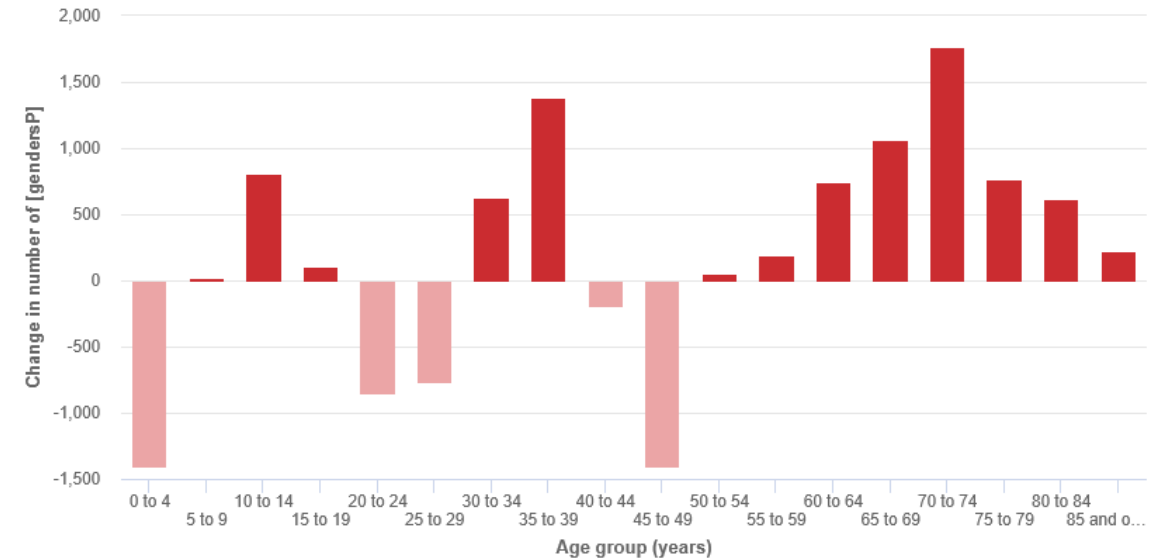

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

Change in age structure - five year age groups, 2016 to 2021
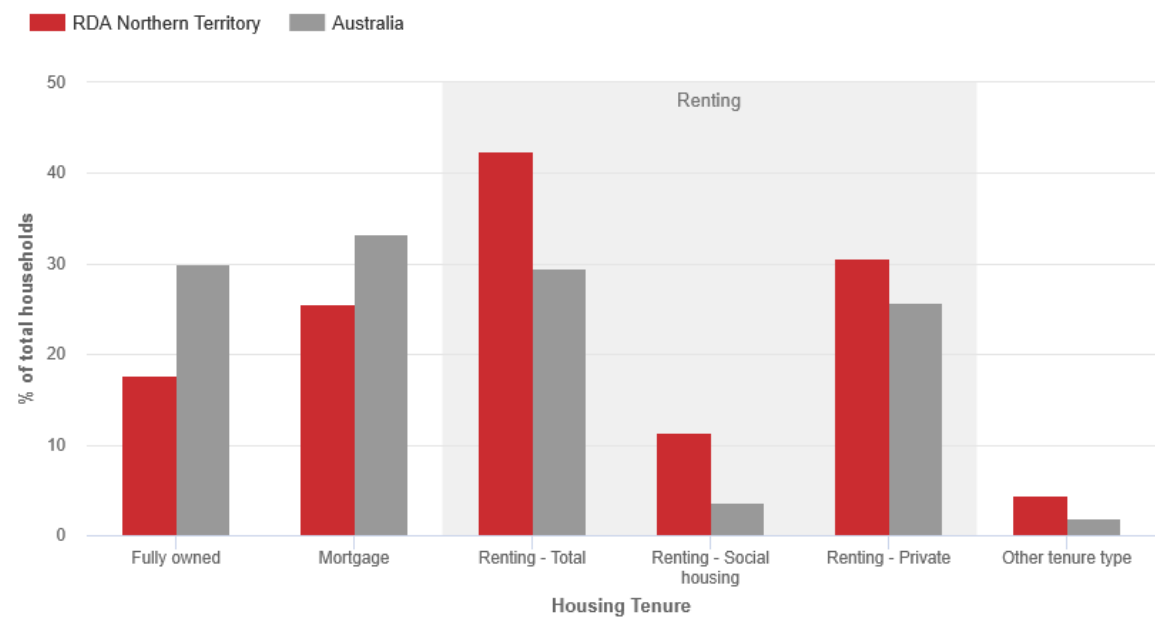
RDA Northern Territory - Total persons

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

The NT has a young age structure compared to the nation as a whole – adults in their 20s-30s and young children – partly driven by the youth of the Aboriginal population. Growth in these groups, but a decline in young children with the falling birth rate nationally, and substantial increase in elderly population.

DEMONSTRATION: Age structure in local areas – understanding change.
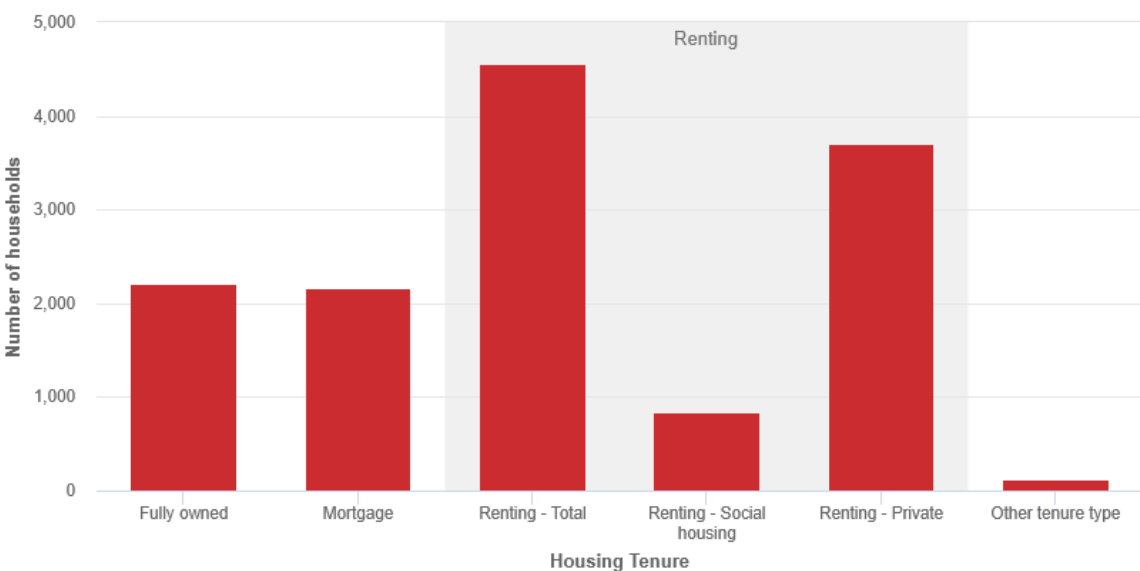
Northern Territory housing tenure

Housing tenure, 2021

Change in housing tenure, 2016 to 2021
RDA Northern Territory

The NT has a very high rate of renting and low rate of home ownership compared to the rest of the country.

First Nations, and overseas-born

TREND	Northern Territory	Australia
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations)	61,110 people, 26.3% (+0.8%) ⬆	3.2% (+0.4%) ⬆
Overseas-born	50,739 people, 21.8%, (+1.8%) ⬆	27.7% (+1.4%) ⬆
Speaking non-English language at home	32.4% (+3.0%) (Includes 15.5% of population speaking an Aboriginal language at home) ⬆	22.3% (+1.5%) ⬆

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is increasing at a faster rate than the total population, due to greater fertility and higher identification over time.
Around 60% of Aboriginal people spoke an Aboriginal language at home (15.5% of total population).
DEMONSTRATION: Aboriginal datasets. Cultural and ancestry characteristics and how to use them.
RECOMMENDED ADDITION: First Nations profile for all LGAs in the NT.

Socio-economic trends

TREND from 2016 to 2021	Northern Territory	Australia
Median weekly household income	$2,015 +2% ⇒	$1,740 +20% ⇧
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage	922 on the Disadvantage index 957 on the Advantage/Disadvantage index. There is a lot of inequality, but the overall level of Disadvantage is the highest (lowest score) of any state/territory. Incomes are higher but very polarised, and barely grew between Censuses.	Within the NT, the LGAs of Darwin and Litchfield are the only ones more advantaged than the Australian average, with Alice Springs having a lot of inequality, and coming out very close to average. Remote communities like Belyuen, Central Desert and West Daly are the most disadvantaged, coming in to the bottom 1% of the nation. Statistically remote indigenous communities across the nation are the most disadvantaged on the SEIFA index.

DEMONSTRATION: Using SEIFA and aspects of disadvantage for advocacy and grant applications.

Economic Profile

- **Online for RDA Northern Territory**
- Annually updated, modelled economic data including jobs every year.
- Size of the economy, value and employment in 87 industry sectors
- Detailed journey to work information by industry and occupation.
- Includes a breakdown to all 17 LGAs, plus unincorporated and the 3 larger regions. Will soon include Darwin Waterfront separately.
- Track individual industry change over 20 years.
- Detailed worker profiles and characteristics.
- Economic modelling tool – what if? Analysis – Modelling run by RDA NT on behalf of stakeholders.
- Event impact calculator
- Tourism information
- http://economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory
- Drop-down boxes allow selection of each sub-area.
- Current update – 2023-24 financial year modelled estimates – 2024-25 update next April (2026)
- **TRAINING – Using economy.id to tell the economic and workforce story of a place.**

community profile

community views

social atlas

Regional Development Australia
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housing monitor

population forecast

economic profile

analyse jobs, industry and model economic change

Northern Territory economic growth

Total economy of the NT valued at $35.4 billion. Strong growth in the last year after a dip the previous year. Fluctuations with no clear trend the last 5 years, when inflation adjusted.

Gross Regional Product
RDA Northern Territory
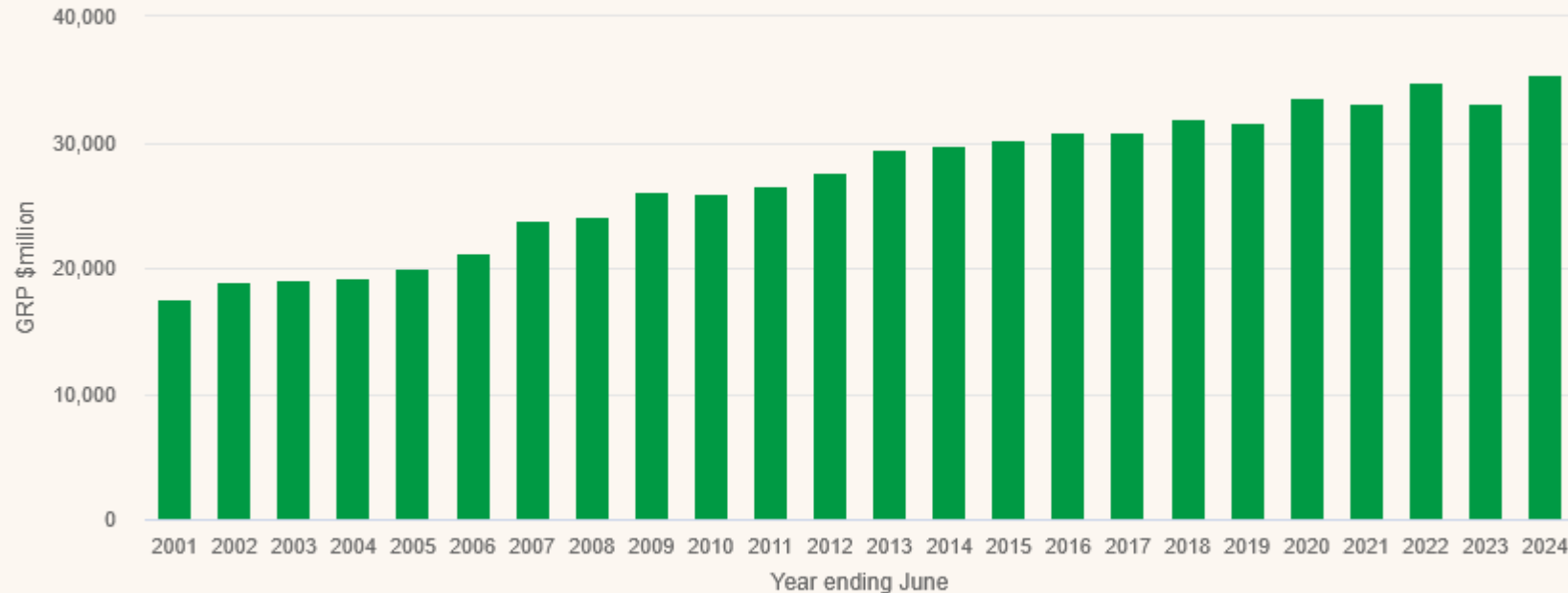
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Northern Territory jobs

Total of 135,000 jobs in the Territory. Little change in total jobs in the past 10 years.

Local jobs
RDA Northern Territory
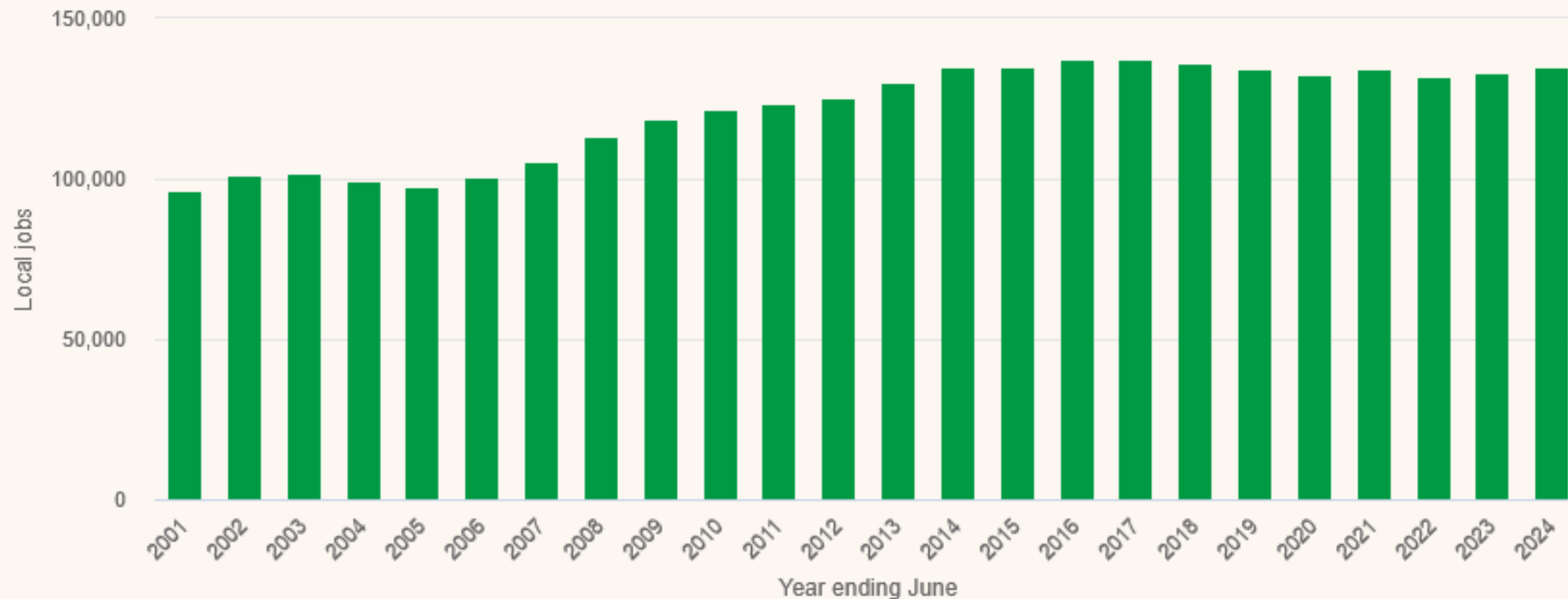
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions)

Northern Territory jobs

Loss of jobs in construction and manufacturing as the oil & gas projects wind up. Replaced by service industry sectors like health care and education.

Employment (total) by industry 2023/24

■ RDA Northern Territory ■ Australia

X-axis: Percentage of the employed (estimated)
Y-axis: Industry sector

Industry sectors shown:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services; Construction; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services; Transport, Postal and Warehousing; Information Media and Telecommunications; Financial and Insurance Services; Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Administrative and Support Services; Public Administration and Safety; Education and Training; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts and Recreation Services; Other Services

Change in employment (total) by industry, 2018/19 to 2023/24
RDA Northern Territory
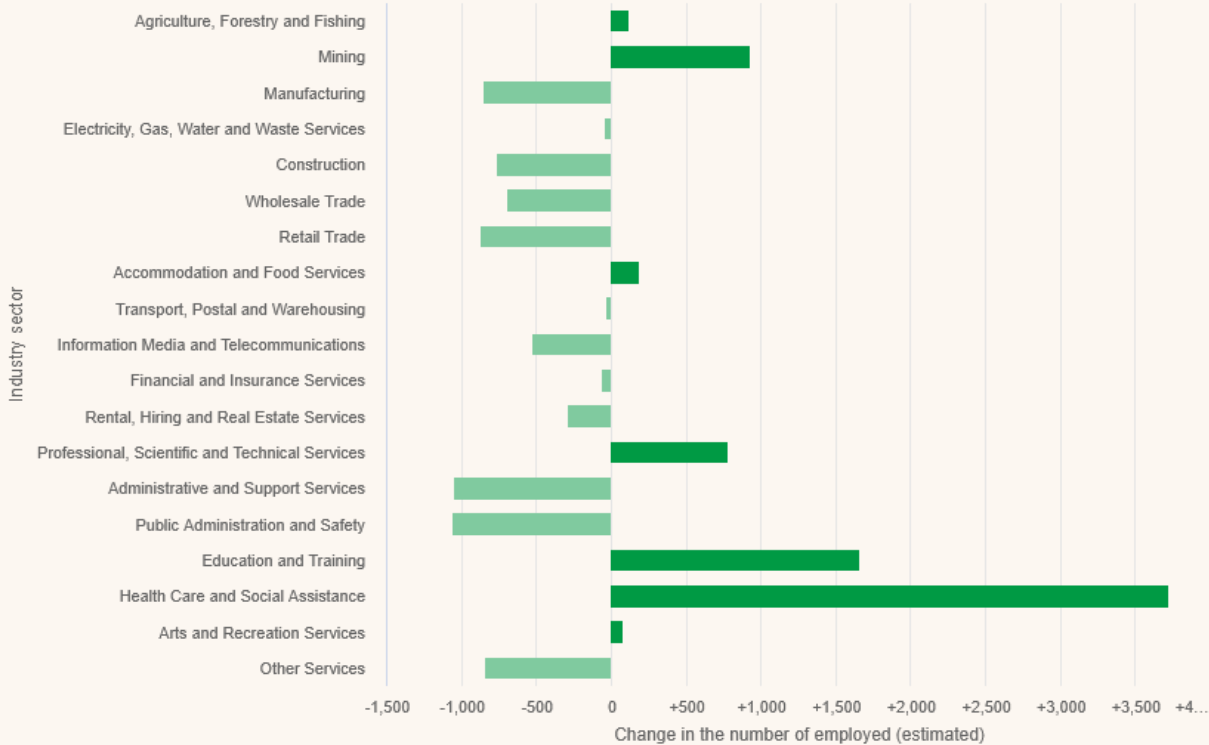
X-axis: Change in the number of employed (estimated)
Y-axis: Industry sector

Health Care alone making up over half the growth in jobs. The non-market sector is dominant (Public Admin, Defence, Health Care).

Location quotient

Location quotient by industry sector 2023/24
Value Add

■ RDA Northern Territory relative to Australia

Chart: horizontal bar chart of Location quotient by Industry sector

Industry sector	Location quotient
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	~1.42
Mining	~2.15
Manufacturing	~0.42
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	~0.72
Construction	~0.83
Wholesale Trade	~0.68
Retail Trade	~0.63
Accommodation and Food Services	~0.95
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	~0.85
Information Media and Telecommunications	~0.18
Financial and Insurance Services	~0.30
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	~0.47
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	~0.37
Administrative and Support Services	~0.54
Public Administration and Safety	~1.83
Education and Training	~1.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	~1.02
Arts and Recreation Services	~1.45
Other Services	~1.12

Location quotient (x-axis: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 2.25, 2.5)

Economic strengths using the location quotient – Public sector and Mining are the two biggest strengths of the territory, but it will differ by place.

Impact modelling

- "What if?" analysis.
- Models the flow-on effects based on supply chains of gaining or losing jobs or value in a particular sector.
- Can model multiple sectors at once.
- Construction and ongoing impact separate.
- Can model impact in any LGA in the NT, or average for any of 3 regions and NT as a whole.

- Event Impact Calculator – calculate the economic benefit of running an event, based on attendance and spend.

- Available via login only – using a RDA email address. Not available to the public.

https://economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory/economic-impact-assessment-module

DEMONSTRATION of an impact model.

Consulting Services

Our 360° view of place

We integrate diverse data sources at the hyperlocal level to see the full picture

Our expert-led services support clients to develop internal expertise, co-design solutions, and innovate with confidence.
Trusted by over 300 local governments, we bring strategic insight and clarity to your most important decisions.

- Plan for strategic growth
- Inform housing decisions
- Build the case for investment
- Represent your community's views

Demographic analysis

Gender equity reports

Disability modelling

Catchment feasibility studies

Demographic profiles

DEMOGRAPHICS

COMMUNITY VIEWS

FORECASTING

Scenario modelling

Key worker housing affordability assessments

Place

HOUSING

ECONOMICS

Economic forecasting

Housing reports

Industry profiles

Project evaluation

Community Views

- Local governments need to credibly, comprehensively and efficiently represent their community's views and needs in policy and advocacy.

- We use a survey approach to represent their community's views in decision making. Our standard questions cover a diverse range of topics, are nationally benchmarked and align with Council strategy and advocacy. Topics include:
  - Community values, experiences, local area liveability and future needs.
  - Health, wellbeing and financial circumstances.
  - Climate change, local area concerns and ideas to improve quality of life.
  - Demography and life-stage.
  - Councils can also ask custom questions.

- The diversity and utility of our deliverables ensure Council receives high and ongoing value from investing in its community's views. Deliverables include:
  - views.id analyses and reports insights for LGAs and related groups, including objective integrations. Unlimited users, public or private.
  - The Insights workshop and Insights video launch the findings to the Client and act as a views.id on-boarding opportunity.
  - Views report to build narrative and connect your insights with the Client's strategic planning and advocacy agenda.
  - Unlimited ongoing support to help policy makers continue representing their community's views in decision making.

- Join the growing number of councils who work with Community Views to inform, monitor and evaluate their strategic planning and advocacy agenda.

- Learn more: home.id.com.au/community-views

.id informed decisions

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understand people in place

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analyse jobs, industry and model economic change

What's next?

- Population numbers and migration numbers for 2025 in March 2026

- Monthly updates on building approvals, JobSeeker.

- NIEIR modelled dataset in economy.id – updated April 2026 for the 2024/25 financial year.

- Census run in August 2026 – new numbers due from mid-2027 across all key demographic characteristics.

- We expect to get Census datasets in the .id sites from within 2-3 weeks after data release.

.id informed decisions

Demographic insights, tips and news from the experts at .id

Our specialists at .id are always available to provide training and support in using the .id toolkit for council staff, councillors, and community and business groups

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0408 318 544

POPULATION

COMMUNITY VIEWS

DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSING

The top 50 largest cities and towns in Australia (2025 update)

Understanding community views on climate change and its local impact

Population growth and decline (by LGA) in 2024

Australia's changing causes of death

Australia's rental affodrdability hits record low: Get a closer look using housing.id and views.id

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