

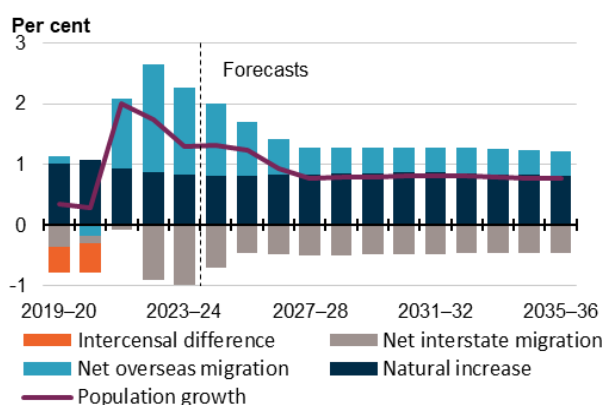


The NT has the smallest and youngest population of any state or territory¹

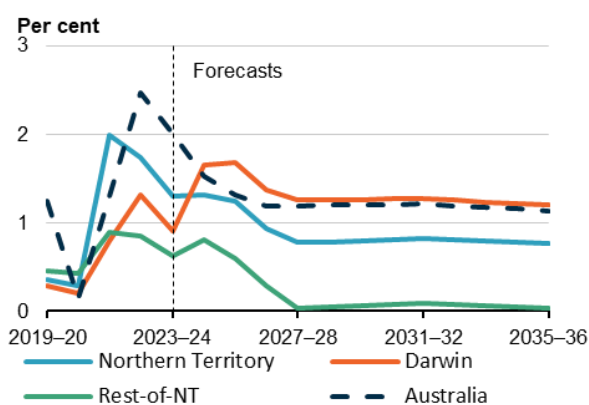
- By 2035–36, Darwin's population is expected to grow at 1.2 per cent per year while the rest-of-Northern Territory will have a growth rate of only 0.04 per cent per year.
- Only 29,000 residents are expected to be added to the population of the Northern Territory over the next decade. The Northern Territory's growth rate means that its already small population is getting smaller relative to other states and territories.
- The Northern Territory is expected to have the youngest population with a median age of 36.3 years by 2035–36.
- Most of the Northern Territory's population growth is expected to be driven by natural increase, with only a small amount of growth from net overseas migration. The Northern Territory's population growth is offset by net interstate migration outflows.
- Like Western Australia, the Northern Territory experiences migration fluctuations at the beginning and end of major mining projects.

Chart 1: Northern Territory population growth

Components of growth in Northern Territory

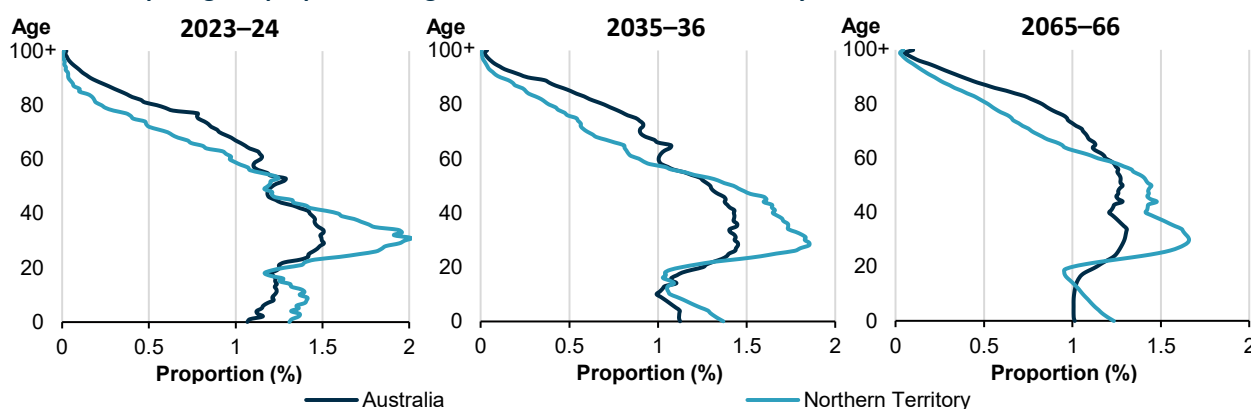


Population growth in Northern Territory and Australia



Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population*, March 2025; and Centre for Population.

Chart 2: Comparing the proportional age structures of Northern Territory and Australia



Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population*, March 2025; and Centre for Population analysis of ABS customised consultancy data.

¹ All insights refer to over the projection period (2024–25 to 2065–66) unless otherwise specified. The main data source for these projections is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *National, state and territory population*, March 2025, released in September 2025. After the projections in this statement were prepared, the ABS released the *National, state and territory population*, June 2025.

Table 1: Population projections and key statistics, Northern Territory

Population projections	2023–24 ²	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2035–36	2065–66 ³
Population ('000)							
Northern Territory	261	264	268	270	272	290	333
Greater Darwin	152	159	161	163	165	183	234
Rest-of-Northern Territory	103	106	106	107	107	107	99
Population growth (per cent)							
Northern Territory	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.3
Greater Darwin	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.6
Rest-of-Northern Territory	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.4
Natural increase ('000)							
Northern Territory	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	1.9
Greater Darwin	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4
Rest-of-Northern Territory	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5
Net overseas migration ('000)							
Northern Territory	3.7	3.1	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.2
Greater Darwin	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Rest-of-Northern Territory	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Net internal migration ('000)							
Northern Territory	-2.5	-1.8	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-2.0
Greater Darwin	-2.8	-1.1	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.8
Rest-of-Northern Territory	-1.0	-0.7	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.2
Total fertility rate (children per woman)⁴							
Northern Territory	1.60	1.60	1.59	1.62	1.64	1.75	1.75
Greater Darwin	1.58	1.55	1.55	1.57	1.60	1.69	1.69
Rest-of-Northern Territory	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.64	1.68	1.80	1.80
Median age (years)							
Northern Territory	33.7	34.0	34.2	34.5	34.8	36.3	39.3
Greater Darwin	34.8	34.8	35.1	35.3	35.6	37.1	40.0
Rest-of-Northern Territory	32.6	32.6	32.9	33.2	33.4	35.0	37.7
Old-age dependency ratio (%)							
Northern Territory	13.4	13.7	14.1	14.5	14.9	16.9	23.6
Greater Darwin	15.2	15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2	17.9	24.4
Rest-of-Northern Territory	11.5	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.8	15.2	21.8

Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population, March 2025*; ABS, *Regional population, 2023–24*; and Centre for Population.

2 The Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) population statistics are from ABS, *Regional population, 2023–24*, released on 27 March 2025. These estimates do not sum to the state and territory estimates largely due to the implementation of the net interstate migration review, released by the ABS on 19 June 2025. Corresponding sub-state revisions will be included in the next scheduled release of *Regional population, 2024–25*, on 31 March 2026.

3 Estimates beyond 2035–36 are experimental.

4 The total fertility rates for greater capital city and rest-of-state areas have been estimated for 2023–24.