



Charles Darwin University

Territory Population Update

Regional and local population statistics for 2001-17

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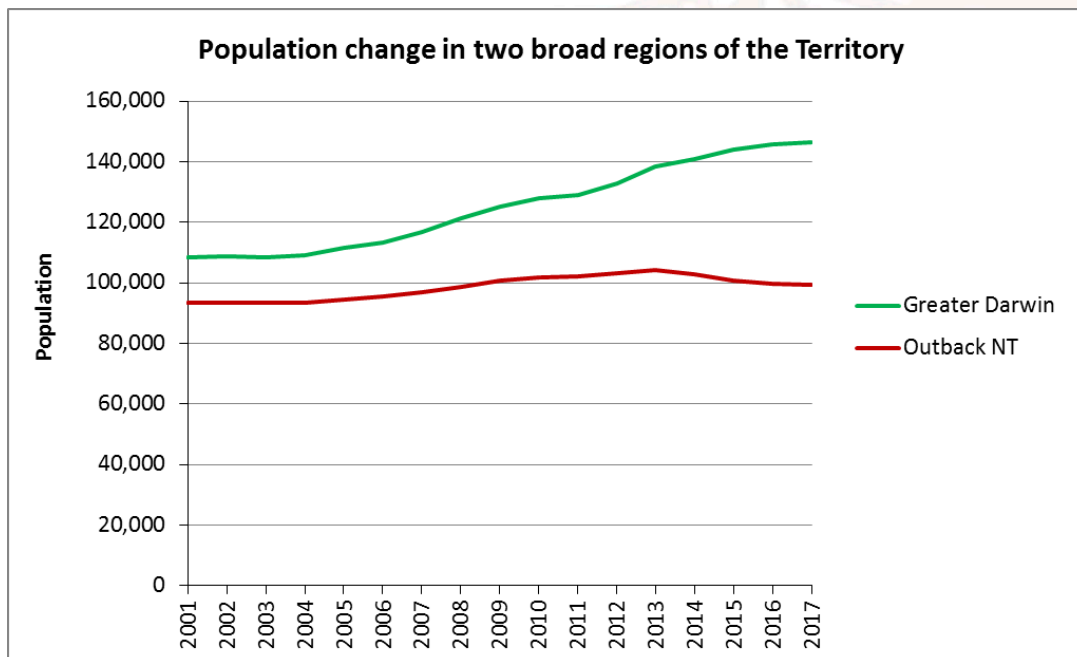
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Territory Population Update

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Summary

Population figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 24th April 2018 show that the population of the Greater Darwin region (covering Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield) reached 146,612 on 30th June 2017, an increase of 696 (or 0.5%) on one year earlier. The population of the Outback NT region (covering the rest of the Territory) stood at 99,493, a decline of 331 on one year earlier. The graph below shows how the populations of these two broad regions of the Territory have changed since the beginning of the century.



Source: ABS

Note: Greater Darwin is the ABS SA4 region of Darwin (covering Darwin, Palmerston & Litchfield local government areas); the SA4 region of Outback NT covers the rest of the Northern Territory.



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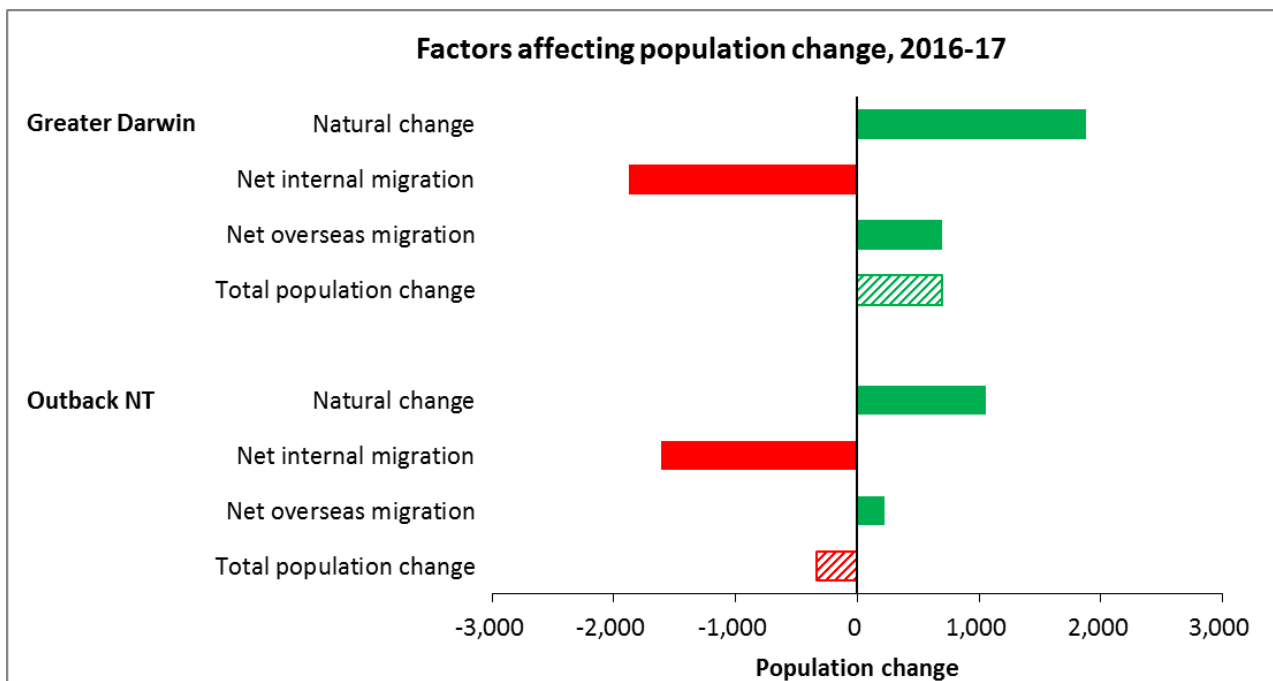
Drivers of population change in Greater Darwin and Outback NT

Regional population change is due to three broad processes:

- natural change (births minus deaths)
- net internal migration (in-migration from other parts of Australia minus out-migration to other parts of Australia)
- net overseas migration (immigration from overseas minus emigration to overseas).

The graph below shows how these processes affected population growth in Greater Darwin and Outback NT during the 2016-17 financial year. Processes which remove people from the Territory are shown in red; those which add people to the population are shown in green.

Greater Darwin experienced population growth due to strong natural change and net overseas migration gains, though growth was reduced somewhat by net internal migration losses. Outback NT also experienced natural change and net overseas migration gains, but these were insufficient to offset sizeable net internal migration losses, resulting in population decline overall.



Source: ABS



Local Government Area populations

Population change across the Territory’s local government areas is shown in the table below. Over the 2001 to 2017 period the greatest increases in population have been experienced by councils in the Greater Darwin region.

Populations of the Territory’s local government areas, 2001-17

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2017	Change 2001-17	
						No.	%
Alice Springs	26,849	26,700	28,489	26,823	26,674	-175	-0.7
Barkly	7,315	7,564	7,838	7,530	7,487	172	2.4
Belyuen	230	199	207	178	177	-53	-23.0
Central Desert	4,678	4,454	4,287	4,222	4,230	-448	-9.6
Coomalie	1,125	1,234	1,275	1,439	1,424	299	26.6
Darwin	69,635	71,366	78,467	84,468	84,346	14,711	21.1
East Arnhem	8,519	9,275	10,466	10,377	10,375	1,856	21.8
Katherine	9,706	9,689	10,488	10,571	10,545	839	8.6
Litchfield	15,782	16,451	20,218	25,262	25,357	9,575	60.7
MacDonnell	6,675	6,761	6,710	6,841	6,820	145	2.2
Palmerston	22,418	25,163	29,385	35,765	36,483	14,065	62.7
Roper Gulf	6,327	6,423	7,042	7,434	7,459	1,132	17.9
Tiwi Islands	2,523	2,432	2,970	2,805	2,790	267	10.6
Victoria Daly	3,452	3,441	3,321	3,204	3,199	-253	-7.3
Wagait	248	326	420	501	506	258	104.0
West Arnhem	6,241	6,452	7,133	7,022	6,990	749	12.0
West Daly	2,543	2,986	3,505	3,654	3,668	1,125	44.2
Unincorporated NT	7,477	8,141	9,071	7,644	7,575	98	1.3
NT	201,743	209,057	231,292	245,740	246,105	44,362	22.0

Source: ABS

Note: Based on Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2017

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Data sources

All data are derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics bulletin [Regional Population Growth, Australia](#) (catalogue number 3218.0) and the online data service [ABS.Stat](#). Be aware that these statistics are *estimates*, not precise values.

Interested in finding out more about the Territory’s population?

See the webpage of the [Demography & Growth Planning](#) team at the Northern Institute, and our blog, [demographyNorth](#).