

Population

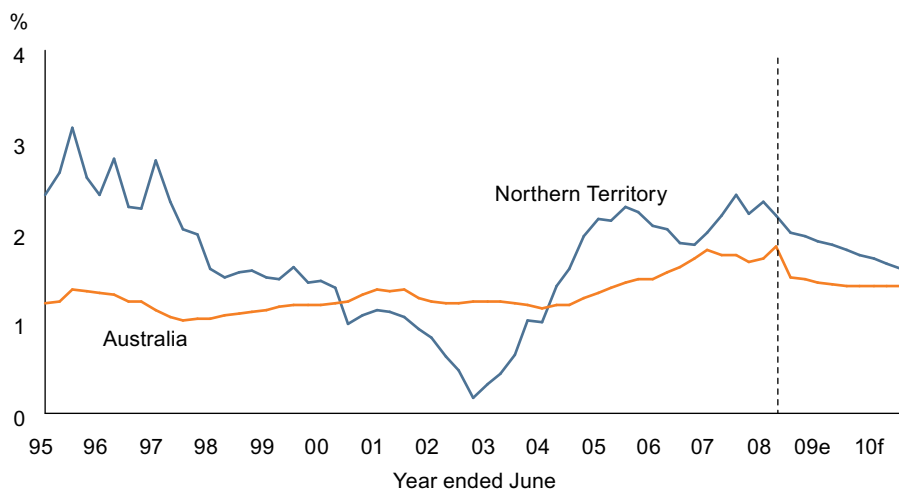
The Territory is highly urbanised, with more than half the population residing in the Darwin region. However, a quarter of the population resides in remote and small communities spread across about 17 per cent of Australia’s land mass. About 30 per cent of the Territory’s population is Indigenous, a much greater proportion than in any other jurisdiction.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) is the largest component of Territory population growth and is about double that experienced in other jurisdictions. However, net interstate migration impacts significantly on Territory population growth. Recent net interstate migration has been positive as people are attracted to the Territory by employment opportunities.

The Territory population increased by an estimated 2 per cent in 2008, and is forecast to increase by a further 1.8 per cent in 2009.

Slower population growth is attributed to declining employment opportunities in the residential and engineering-related sectors of the construction industry. However, population growth in the Territory remains above the estimated national growth rate of 1.5 per cent in 2008.

Annual Population Growth



e: estimate f: forecast

Source: Northern Territory Treasury, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0