

Transport and Communication

With about 50 per cent of the Territory's population living in the Darwin region, and about 25 per cent living in remote communities, transport and communication services are crucial in providing access to essential services such as health and education. The transport of passengers and freight by road, rail, sea and air are also essential inputs to tourism and mining.

Expenditure on transport and communication services in 2007-08 represented 4.1 per cent and 1.1 per cent of Territory GSP respectively. Nationally, these services represented 6.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent of GDP respectively.

The Adelaide to Darwin railway is an increasingly important transport link for the Territory. In particular, the railway is assisting the development of mineral resources in regional areas along the rail corridor. Total freight on the railway in 2007-08 was 2.2 million tonnes, with volumes increasing due to the haulage of iron ore from Frances Creek and manganese from Bootu Creek.