



Northern
Territory
Government



Alice Springs Region Economic Profile At a glance

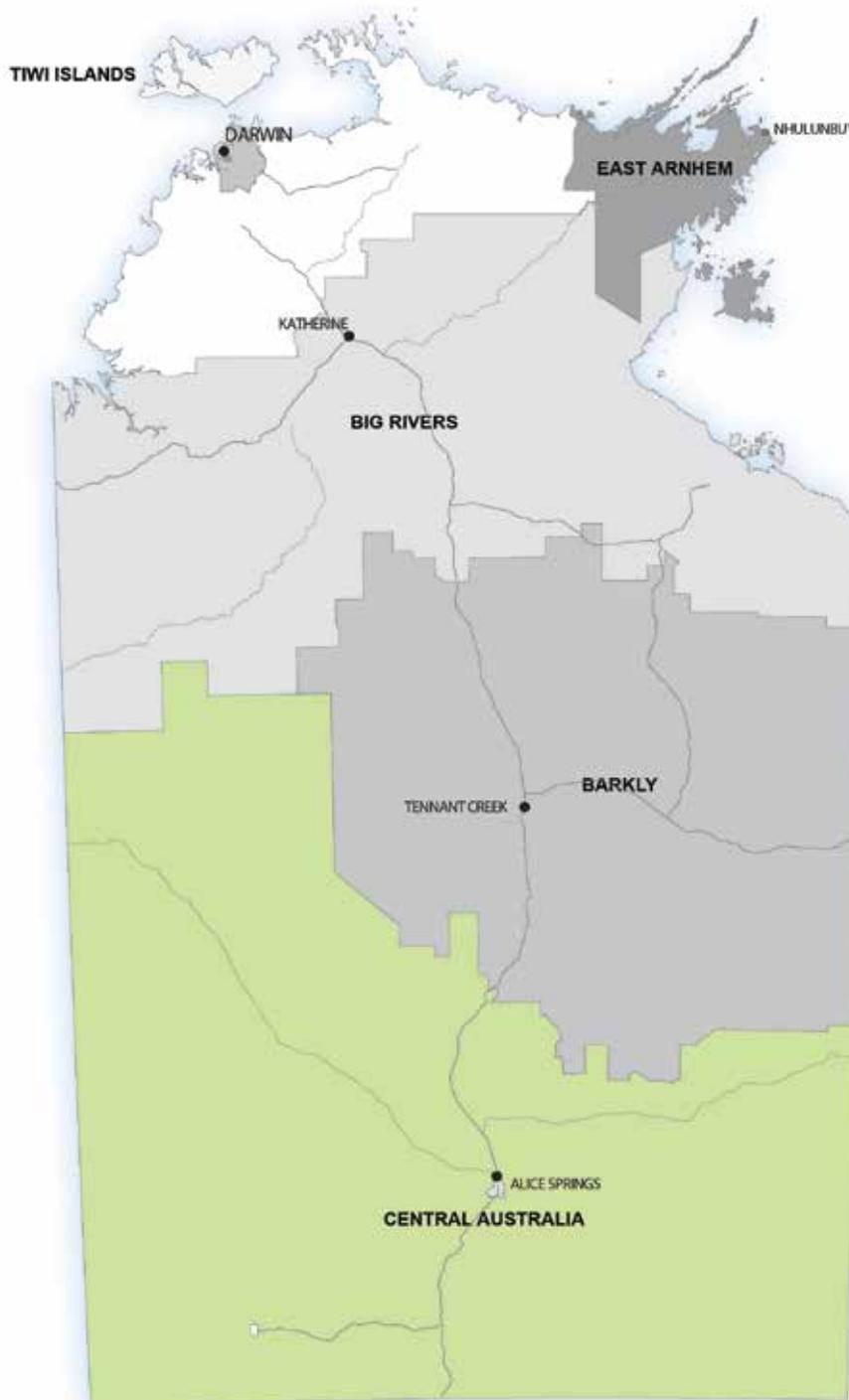
Alice Springs Region at a glance

This economic snapshot of Central Australia provides some facts about the region and highlights key aspects of the local economy and how it is changing over time.

Seventeen percent (41 042) of Territorians live in the Central Australia region, an area of almost 570,000 square kilometres. The region includes Alice Springs, the second largest population centre in the Northern Territory and the economic, business and service hub for the region. Residents from remote areas of South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland also access many services from Alice Springs such as health and retail.

The Central Australia region contributes an estimated 18 per cent (\$2.9 billion) of the Northern Territory Gross State Product. Of this, the largest industry sectors are Mining (\$552 million), Construction (\$313 million) and Health care and social assistance (\$240 million).

At \$54 450, the average income in the Central Australia region is lower than the NT average (\$59 342). This can largely be attributed to the labour intensive service sectors associated with the accommodation, retail, construction, public administration and health care sectors. The average cost of a basket of goods in Alice Springs is comparable with Darwin, but cheaper than Katherine and Nhulunbuy.



Source: Department of Local Government

Society

What are the labour force characteristics in the region?

DEMOGRAPHY

Total population at Census	2006	2011
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Alice Springs Region minus Alice Springs Town (T) = Alice Springs balance (bal.)

Alice Springs (T)	26,467	28,080
Alice Springs bal.	14,359	14,032
Alice Springs Region	40,826	42,112
Alice Springs Region median age	32	33

Source: ABS Time series profile. Figures include overseas visitors. Enumerated (the number of people counted on Census night) data.

Estimated resident population (30 June)	2011pr	2012pr
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Alice Springs (T)	28,449	28,517
Alice Springs bal.	12,593	12,705
Alice Springs Region	41,042	41,222
Northern Territory	231,331	234,836

Source: ABS catalogue (cat.) number (no.) 3218.0 2010-11. Released July 2012. (pr - preliminary revised).

Estimated resident population by age as at 30 June 2011

All persons	Male	Female
0-14	4,911	4,276
15-24	3,353	2,930
25-64	12,232	11,150
65+	1,073	1,117
Alice Springs Region	21,569	19,473
Median age	31.3	31.8

Source: ABS cat. no. 3235.0 June 2011.

POPULATION AGED 15 - 64 YEARS (WORKING AGE)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Alice Springs (T)	3,144	16,192
Alice Springs bal.	5,349	3,683
Alice Springs Region	8,493	19,875

Source: ABS Census 2011 (Enumerated data, the number of people counted on Census night). Non-Indigenous includes not stated and excludes overseas visitors.

LABOUR MARKET - ALICE SPRINGS TOWN (T)

Labour force	Dec 2012	Census 2011
Unemployed persons	482	455
Unemployment rate (%)	2.6	3.2
Labour force	18,298	14,187

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Small Area Labour Market (SALM) Report accessed April 2013.

Note: The data for December 2012 is sourced from DEEWR, the Census data is sourced from ABS.

LABOUR MARKET - ALICE SPRINGS REGION TOTAL

Labour force	Dec 2012	Census 2011
Unemployed persons	1,322	897
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	4.8
Labour force	21,891	18,573

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Small Area Labour Market (SALM) Report accessed April 2013.

Note: The data for December 2012 is sourced from DEEWR, the Census data is sourced from ABS.

Economy

How much do we earn and where are the future labour shortages in the region?

SELECTED MEDIANS AND AVERAGES

	Census 2011	
	Alice Springs (T)	Alice Springs Region
Median age of persons	35	33
Median individual income	\$/weekly 832	694
Median family income	\$/weekly 1,974	1,595
Median household income	\$/weekly 1,636	1,461
Median mortgage loan repayment	\$/monthly 1,950	1,950
Median rent	\$/weekly 300	150
Average number of persons per bedroom	1.2	1.3
Average household size	2.6	2.9

Source: ABS Census 2011 - Time series profile.

Note: Median family income is applicable to families in a family household. There can be more than one family in a household. Median household income is applicable to occupied private dwellings. It is based on all income earners in the household or in the occupied private dwelling.

INCOME

Mean taxable income	2007-2008	2009-2010
Alice Springs (0870)	\$ 50,217	56,212
Outer Alice Springs (0872)	\$ 40,049	44,965
Alice Springs Region total	\$ 48,629	54,450
Northern Territory	\$ 53,442	59,342

Source: Taxation Statistics 2009-10 released 2012.

LABOUR FORCE FORECAST BY OCCUPATION

Alice Springs Region	2011 (No.)	2016 forecast (% change)	2021 forecast (% change)
Managers and administrators	1,877	8.2	-2.1
Professionals	3,659	16.0	28.0
Technicians and trade workers	2,123	0.6	0.1
Communications and personal service workers	2,474	8.3	16.2
Clerical and administrative workers	2,229	14.4	27.0
Sales workers	1,100	-6.0	-11.4
Machinery operators and drivers	729	-1.6	-5.2
Labourers and related workers	1,498	-16.0	-29.0

Source: ABS 2011 Census data and Dept. Regional Development and Women's Policy forecast.

Note: Forecast provides a guide and does not include major projects. Labour force forecasts are based on a Leslie matrix population model. The Leslie matrix has been derived using a constant perpetual rate of return without taking into account any volatility of major projects that may impact on labour market conditions. Forecasts are based on time series data. ABS has made changes to Occupation classification, with 2011 Census Occupation responses being coded to Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification and Occupations (ANZSCO) rather than Australian Standard Classifications of Occupations (ASCO). This has included the addition of 24 new occupations and the deletion and merging of eight occupations. It has included minor changes to the classification structure and definitional changes for some occupations. This will impact labour force forecast data and as such this information should be used with caution.

Economy

(continued)

WORKFORCE EDUCATION - APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

Alice Springs Region	2011	2012
In training	640	612
Commencements	500	510

Source: NT apprentice and trainee register (DELTA) data sourced 24 April 2013. In training data as at 31 December of that year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

No. of workers in each industry sector	2006	2011
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	368	316
Mining	334	499
Manufacturing	624	475
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	97	204
Construction	971	1,225
Wholesale trade	330	313
Retail trade	1,567	1,522
Accommodation and food services	1,506	1,348
Transport, postal and warehousing	739	771
Information media and telecommunications	235	228
Financial and insurance services	209	163
Rental, hiring and real estate services	235	242
Professional, scientific and technical services	936	1,065
Administrative and support services	505	499
Public administration and safety	2,835	3,040
Education and training	1,488	1,703
Health care and social assistance	2,100	2,481
Arts and recreation services	410	549
Other services	694	689
Alice Springs Region total (includes Not stated)	16,671	17,674

Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Time series data.

AREA

Alice Springs (T)	327.5 (Km ²)
Alice Springs bal.	569 238.7 (Km ²)
Alice Springs Region	569 566.2 (Km ²)
Northern Territory	1 348 198.7 (Km ²)

Source: ABS cat. no. 3218.0 2011.

POLICY CHANGES

A uniform tariff now applies to all Power and Water customers across the Territory, including those in remote communities. The tariffs in the Territory now sit in the middle of the range compared to interstate tariffs and are a step closer to reflecting what it actually costs to deliver essential services across the Territory. More information on power tariffs are available on the Power and Water website. Powerwater.com.au/tariff.

Economy

(continued)

PRICES - COST OF LIVING			
Average cost of a standard basket of goods \$	Jun 2010	Jun 2011	Jun 2012
Nhulunbuy	230.61	232.51	250.37
Alice Springs	187.94	189.38	203.85
Darwin	189.63	193.55	203.13
Katherine	189.57	199.08	211.99

Source: NT Treasury: Grocery Price Survey June 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Cost of food basket by district, supermarkets and corner stores	2010 (\$)	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
Alice Springs district average	705	811	751
Supermarket	430	553	485
Corner stores	597	726	600
NT remote community store average	730	815	760

Source: Northern Territory Government market basket survey, 2010, 2011, 2012.

Housing - mortgage and rent payments	Alice Springs region	Alice Springs (T)	NT
Median rent (\$)	150	300	225
Households where rent payments are less than 30% of household income (%)	91.7	90.6	91.0
Households where rent payments are 30% or greater of household income (%)	8.3	9.4	9.0
Mortgage monthly repayments (\$)	1,950	1,950	2,058
Households where mortgage payments are less than 30% of household income (%)	92.5	90.7	92.3
Households where mortgage payments are 30% or greater of household income (%)	7.5	9.3	7.7

Source: ABS - Census 2011 - Quick stats - Usual residents.

Note: The commonly accepted guideline for housing affordability is where housing cost does not exceed 30% of a household's gross income. When the carrying cost of a home exceeds this threshold of housing income, then the housing is considered unaffordable for that household.

AVERAGE UNLEADED PETROL PRICES (CENTS PER LITRE)			
	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Apr 2013
Nhulunbuy	191.00	191.00	194.10
Alice Springs	170.00	170.10	170.00
Darwin	167.10	164.20	162.40
Katherine	156.90	156.90	156.90
Tennant Creek	167.90	168.30	172.00
Northern Territory	165.20	165.00	163.70
Australia	152.00	146.80	137.90

Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum - data supplied by NT Treasury and Finance.

Economy

(continued)

UTILITY COST

Business power: \$56 establishment fee or \$118 for new service connection (business hrs). \$0.2982 per kWh plus \$0.7507 fixed charge per day.

Business water: \$55 connection fee. \$1.7393 per KL used. Fixed daily charge per meter size: Up to 25mm \$0.7225; 26-40mm, \$1.8496; 41-50mm, \$2.8839; 51-100mm \$11.6511; 101-150mm, \$26.0066; 151-200mm \$46.2458.

Business sewerage: Fixed annual charge of \$731.94 applies to non - domestic properties with <3 sanitary fittings. Additional charges apply to more than three fittings plus the fixed cost.

Domestic power: \$56 establishment fee or \$118 for new service connection (business hrs). \$0.2583 per kWh plus \$0.4808 fixed charge per day.

Domestic water: As per business water.

Domestic sewerage: Fixed annual charge of \$731.94 applies to residential properties and vacant blocks able to be connected to the sewerage service.

For more information on power tariffs please visit the Power and Water website. Powerwater.com.au/tariff.

Alice Springs services and facilities

Transportation

- Adelaide to Darwin rail link
- Railway freight
- Industrial zoning
- Road and Rail Transport hub
- Ghan - twice weekly
- Passenger facilities
- Daily express coach service between Adelaide and Darwin
- Qantas and Tiger Airways offer flights to capital cities and regional towns
- Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia
- Air charter services
- Major regional airport

Clubs/accommodation/restaurants

- Sporting clubs
- Many hotels and motels varying in ratings. There are also a number of hostels and bread and breakfasts
- Caravan parks
- There are many restaurants, sandwich bars and cafes varying in cuisine and choice

Education

- Public and private schools (includes pre-school, primary, middle and high schools)
- Alice Springs School of the Air
- Charles Darwin University
- Bachelor Institute
- Registered training providers

Shopping

- Central Business District retail traders
- Speciality stores
- Kmart/Target
- 2 large supermarkets
- 4 small supermarkets
- 4 major banks, with smaller financial institutions and credit unions
- Post office

Sporting facilities

- 8 sporting ovals
- Sporting clubs covering over 40 sports and recreational activities

Natural resources

- Water availability for consumptive uses
- Mining and exploration
- Productive land for agriculture, horticulture and pastoral production
- Annual average rainfall is 279.2 millimetres

Other

- Alice Springs Convention Centre
- Dental surgeries

Industry

Number of businesses in the Alice Springs region and their contribution to the economy.

ALICE SPRINGS REGION INDUSTRY SECTORS			
Industry classification	No. of businesses (2003-2007)	No. of businesses (2007-2011)	GRP 2012 (\$M)
Agriculture forestry and fisheries	69	83	64
Mining	-	6	552
Manufacturing	60	52	132
Electricity, gas and water supply	-	-	28
Construction	378	403	313
Wholesale trade	42	53	40
Retail trade	294	217	108
Accommodation and food services	66	122	78
Transport, postal and warehousing	132	169	107
Information media and telecommunications	12	30	44
Finance and insurance services	105	112	62
Rental, hiring and real estate services	447	269	100
Professional, scientific and technical services	-	151	103
Administrative and support services	-	94	41
Public administration and safety	-	-	220
Education and training	24	30	115
Health care and social assistance	78	107	240
Arts and recreation services	96	56	44
Other services	36	134	44
Not classified ¹	-	46	0
Alice Springs Region	1,839	2,134	2,887

¹ This category consists of businesses that are yet to be coded to an industry.

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, cat. no. 8165.0. June 2003-2007 and June 2007-2011 and Dept. of Regional Development and Women's Policy. Gross Regional Product (GRP) includes ownership of dwellings, taxes and subsidies and statistical discrepancy.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT BY SECTORS

This section highlights the size, the economic base, the contribution of each sector and changes to the Alice Springs economy over time.

Industry classification	2001-2002 (\$M)	2006-2007 (\$M)	2011-2012 (\$M)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	59	41	64
Mining	571	535	552
Manufacturing	106	80	132
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	52	26	28
Construction	227	256	313
Wholesale trade	22	23	40
Retail trade	69	99	108
Accommodation and food services	86	86	78
Transport, postal and warehousing	116	106	107
Information media and telecommunications	35	38	44
Financial and insurance services	68	58	62
Rental, hiring and real estate services	27	110	100
Professional, scientific and technical services	38	99	103
Administrative and support services	20	52	41
Public administration and safety	150	184	220
Education and training	103	103	115

Industry

(continued)

Industry classification	2001-2002 (\$M)	2006-2007 (\$M)	2011-2012 (\$M)
Health care and social assistance	142	179	240
Arts and recreation services	30	35	44
Other services	38	49	44
Ownership of dwellings	166	309	322
Total All Industries GRP	2,364	2,611	2,887

Total includes taxes less subsidies on products and statistical discrepancy.

Source: ABS cat. no. 5220.0, 2011 Census Time series and Dept. of Regional Development and Women's Policy published methodology.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT TOTAL	2001-2002	2006-2007	2011-2012
Alice Springs (T) GRP (\$M)	1,470	1,747	1,966
Alice Springs Region GRP (\$M)*	2,364	2,611	2,887
Northern Territory GSP (\$M)	12,524	15,079	18,086

Source: Department of Regional Development and Women's Policy (2013) - Methodology as published in Global Business Economic Review 2010.

*GRP= Gross Regional Product, is a derived methodology based on NT Gross State Product (GSP)/labour force. The ratio is then applied to employment by Industry for a region – therefore labour intensive industries will influence the results and as such data is an estimation and for indicative purposes only.

MINING

Total Northern Territory	Value of quantity sold (\$M)	
	2011	2012
Gold	795,161	-
Gold dore	481,623,030	414,811,746

The values are for total NT. Regional breakdowns are no longer available. Mines operating in the Alice Springs region include The Granites (gold production) owned by the Newmont Mining Corporation and Mereenie oil field owned by Santos.

Source: NT Treasury March 2013.

GEOGRAPHY CHANGES

ABS changed geography from Australian Standard Geography Classification (ASGC) to Australian Standards Geography Standards (ASGS). One of the main changes incorporated by ABS is not to collect data on collection district. Changes to Geography are noted below.

2011 Census (ASGS)		2006 Census (ASGC)	
Australia	1	Australia	1
State and Territory	9	State and Territory	9
Statistical Area level 4	106	Statistical Division	69
Statistical Area level 3	351	Statistical Sub Divisions	217
Statistical Area Level 2	2,214	Statistical Local Areas	1,426
Statistical Area Level 1	54,805	Collection District	38,704
Mesh Blocks	347,627		

Industry

(continued)

TOURISM

Hotels, motels and serviced apartments by tourism regions

Alice Springs Tourism Region	December qtr 2012
Establishments (no.)	17
Bed spaces (no.)	3,932
Persons employed (no.)	684
Guest nights occupied (no.)	119,810
Guest arrivals (no.)	45,620
Accommodation takings (\$'000)	8,237.000
Bed occupancy rate (%)	33.1
Average takings per night occupied (\$)	113.53
Rooms (no.)	1,387
Room nights occupied (no.)	72,546

Source: ABS - Small Area Tourist Accommodation data, NT Sept 2012, ABS cat. no. 8635755001

Visitor numbers

June 2009 to June 2012

Alice Springs and MacDonnell Tourism Region	Visitor numbers ('000)	Visitor nights ('000)	Average stay (nights)
Domestic	254	1,179	4.6
International	143	957	6.7
Lasseter Tourism Region			
Domestic	140	510	3.6
International	160	471	2.9
Total both regions	697	3,117	5

Source: Tourism Research Australia June 2009 to July 2012.

CONSTRUCTION

Alice Springs Region		2011	2012
Private sector	no.	63	48
Total dwelling units	no.	163	81
Value of private sector houses	\$M	21.2	17.2
Value of new residential building	\$M	28.8	8.7
Value of total residential building	\$M	67	34.7
Value of total non-residential building	\$M	78.6	0
Value of total building	\$M	145.5	0.0
Average value of private sector houses	\$'000	335.2	357.7

Source: ABS cat. no. 8731.- data cubes.