Northern Territory state of the economy
September Quarter 2020

NT Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Projects

- The Northern Territory has a land mass of 1 348 199 km2, the third largest Australian jurisdiction.
- The NT has a small and sparsely distributed population of 244 761, accounting for about 1.0% of the Australian resident population.
- The NT civilian population (15+ years) is 187 843 persons, with a labour force of 136 619 persons, including 126 396 people employed.
- The NT is characterised by a young population, with a median age of 33 years compared to 37 years nationally.
- 30.3% of the resident NT population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- More than half of the NT’s population reside in the Greater Darwin region, the main hub of economic activity.
- The NT has considerable onshore and offshore energy resources, in addition to existing and prospective mineral, agriculture, aquaculture and horticulture projects.
- The NT’s developing economic infrastructure connects regions and key markets through roads, ports, international airport, gas pipeline and Darwin to Adelaide railway.
- Economic output (GSP) in 2018-19 was $26.1 billion, a 1.5% decrease from 2017-18.

NT Mining and Energy Projects

- The NT’s five largest industries by output are mining; public administration and safety; health care and social assistance; construction; education and training; comprising a combined 48% of total NT GSP.
- The Defence presence (air force, army, and navy) in the region plays a significant role.
- Tourism activity is an expanding sector with significant tourism economy and assets such as the world-famous Kakadu National Park, Uluru, Katherine Gorge; and other national parks.
- Key exports include LNG, live animals, and mineral ores and concentrates.
- Over 80% of NT exports go to Japan, China, Thailand, and Indonesia.
- Key imports include iron, steel and aluminium structures, pipes of iron or steel, and refined petroleum.
- The NT’s major import partners are from Singapore, Switzerland, and Malaysia.
Regional fast facts

Greater Darwin
(Darwin city, Darwin suburbs, Palmerston, Litchfield)
Area: 3 164 km²
Pop: 147 255
Businesses: 10 545
Key Industries:
- retail/wholesale
- manufacturing
- government services
- agriculture
- transport
- construction

Katherine (Big Rivers)
Area: 326 327 km²
Pop: 20 859
Businesses: 915
Key Industries:
- agriculture
- tourism
- cattle
- fishing
- mining
- defence
- government services

Alice Springs
Area: 569 566 km²
Pop: 39 317
Businesses: 2049
Key Industries:
- agriculture
- tourism
- cattle
- mining
- retail
- government services

Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem
Area: 112 251 km²
Pop: 17 872
Businesses: 360
Key Industries:
- agriculture/fishing
- mining
- tourism
- government services

East Arnhem
Area: 33 596 km²
Pop: 14 525
Businesses: 223
Key Industries:
- agriculture/fishing;
- mining
- tourism
- government services

Barkly
Area: 303 295 km²
Pop: 6 091
Businesses: 211
Key Industries:
- agriculture
- tourism
- government services

Regions – Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical level 3 (SA3)
Regional population data as at June 2019
Introduction

The Territory’s economy, while relatively small compared to other Australian jurisdictions, is vibrant and has an abundance of mineral and energy resources. Its close proximity to Asia, the fastest growing region of the global economy, and a renewed focus of developing northern Australia, provide many potential business opportunities for Territory businesses.

Gross state product (GSP)

The NT’s 10-year average annual economic (GSP) growth rate (2008-09 to 2018-19) was 2.5%. In 2018 19, NT GSP (inflation adjusted) decreased by 1.5% to $26.1 billion, driven by a fall in business investment, and consumption, but partly offset by rising exports (Chart 1). In 2018 19, total investment in the NT was valued at $5.6 billion, a decrease of 44.8% compared to 2017 18.

Private investment is the largest component of total investment, about 71% ($4.0 billion). Private investment decreased by 53.5% over 2018-19 (Chart 2). This decrease was largely driven by a 71.1% fall in non-dwelling construction activities (business investment). In the NT economy, large projects have a considerable impact on investment and generate high levels of economic growth, but also large fluctuations in investment.

Nationally, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 1.9% in 2018-19. NT GSP accounts for 1.4% of Australian GDP.
Private business investment ($3.2 billion), the key driver of investment ($5.6 billion), comprised about 82% of the total private investment ($4.0 billion) and 58% of the total investment in 2018-19.

NT economic growth is estimated to increase by 3.8% in 2019-20 before declining by 3.4% in 2020-21 (Department of Treasury and Finance). This is largely due to a falling private investment and sluggish private consumption as a result of COVID-19. Deloitte Access Economics forecasts the NT economy to grow by 4.6% in 2019-20 and by 0.9% in 2020-21. National GDP is estimated to decline by 0.25% in 2019-20 and by 2.5% in 2020-21 (Australian Economic and Fiscal Update July 2020).

NT State Final Demand (SFD), total domestic expenditure within the local economy, was $23.4 billion (seasonally adjusted and inflation adjusted) in 2019-20 (Chart 3). For the same period in the previous year SFD was $24.5 billion. Consumption (public and private consumption), the largest component of SFD, comprised 80.7% of domestic demand.

SFD growth is expected to remain weak as the effects of COVID-19 continue to impact private sector investment and private consumption (Chart 4). The export led growth in GSP in 2019-20 is masking challenging conditions within the local economy.
### International trade

In the year to July 2020, the value of NT goods exported rose to $12.3 billion. This represents a 25.4% increase on the same time last year which can be attributed to the commencement of LNG exports from the INPEX project (Chart 5).

The value of goods imported has dropped 28.5% to $1.3 billion when compared to the same time last year.

The NT’s trade surplus sits at $11.0 billion in the year to July 2020, which is near a record high.

The NT contributed about 3.3% of Australia’s goods exports, and around 0.4% of imports in the year.

A significant proportion of imports to the NT come from other Australian jurisdictions and is treated as the balancing item in the GSP accounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NT SFD component</th>
<th>Proportion of SFD in the year to June 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jun 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private consumption</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public consumption</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private investment</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public investment</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chart 5: NT International Trade

- Exports
- Imports
- Balance of Trade

**Source:** ABS Cat. No. 5368.0

### Chart 6: NT International Trade

**Regional breakdowns:**
- Asia includes Southern and Central Asia, Middle East, North East Asia, and South East Asia
- Europe includes North-West Europe and Southern and Eastern Europe
- Americas includes North America, South America, Central America and the Caribbean
- Other (a) includes Africa (North Africa, Central and West Africa, and Southern and East Africa) and Oceania (Antarctica and Pacific Island countries and territories)
Major NT imports from overseas are petroleum, transport equipment, and road vehicles.

The NT’s major exports to overseas are LNG, live animals, and mineral ores and concentrates.

The majority of NT exports are destined for North and South East Asia (Japan and China are key export partners) while the main import partners in 2019-20 were Singapore, Malaysia and China.

Population

As at December 2019, the NT’s resident population was 244,761, a decrease of 0.4% in annual terms (Chart 7). Natural increase and net overseas migration added to the population while net interstate migration detracted from population growth. NT population has declined over the past year.

The population of Australia in December 2019 was 25,522,169 people. The NT population comprised 1.0% of the national population.

The estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of the NT in June 2016 was 74,509 persons, comprising around 30.3% of the NT resident population. Around 49.9% of the Indigenous population were females. Nationally, the Indigenous population accounts for 3.3% of the total population.

The NT population is relatively young (median age of 33 years compared to 37 years nationally) with a higher male-to-female sex ratio 107.5 males per 100 females compared to 97.4 males per 100 females nationally.

Chart 7: Northern Territory Population

Chart 8: NT Age Distribution 2019

Chart 9: NT Regional Population, June 2019

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3218.0
In the June quarter 2020, the civilian population (15+ years) of the NT was 187,813 persons, about 76.7% of the total population. Nationally, the civilian population was 81.6% of the population.

Around 59.9% of the NT population is located in the Greater Darwin area (Darwin City, Darwin suburbs, Litchfield and Palmerston) with Central Australia (Alice Springs region) accounting for a further 16.0% and the Katherine region accounting for 8.5% of the total population (Chart 9).

**Labour market**

The NT labour market is characterised by a relatively skilled labour force with a high level of labour participation. There are however, regional differences in the labour market characteristics.

In July 2020, the NT unemployment rate increased to 7.5% (seasonally adjusted) and has increased by 1.9 percentage points over the year (Chart 10), and has the fourth highest unemployment rate of all Australian jurisdictions. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.5%.

Employment levels have decreased for four consecutive months with 126,396 persons employed across the NT at July 2020. This represents a 1.9% decrease when compared to July 2019. The year on year change in resident employment declined by 0.3% (Chart 11), while national employment levels decreased by 0.1% over the same period.

Regional statistics show the unemployment rate increased in all NT regions in the March quarter 2020. Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem reported the highest unemployment rate of 11.1% in the quarter, while Greater Darwin reported the lowest unemployment of 5.3%.
As at July 2020, of the civilian population of 187 843, 72.7% (136 619) are in the labour force, of which 126 396 were employed.

The NT underemployment rate was the lowest of all jurisdictions at 6.9% of total employed persons in July 2020, compared to 11.2% nationally. This signifies that there are more employed people in the NT working their desired number of hours.

The NT underemployment rate has been falling since peaking in April 2020 when social distancing measures were in place.

The NT underutilisation rate (unemployment rate + underemployment rate) was 14.4% of the total employed persons in July 2020. Similarly to the underemployment rate, this rate has trended down since peaking at 17.7% in May 2020.

The NT participation rate has been trending down over the four months but still remains highest of all jurisdictions at 72.7% (Chart 10). This represents a 0.4 of a percentage point increase in annual terms. The national participation rate was 64.7% in the same period.

Non-resident labour (including fly-in-fly-out workers) is an important component of the NT labour market statistics. Although difficult to measure, Census 2016 estimated it to be about 8700 workers in June 2016. Similarly, members of the Australian Defence Force are also not included in the labour force statistics, but Australian Defence Force data estimated it to be about 4397 permanent defence force personnel as at June 2018 (Department of Treasury and Finance).

Employment levels in the NT are forecast to fall by 0.5% in 2019-20 before recovering to 1.1% growth in 2020-21 (Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook, June 2020).

Chart 12: NT Total Employment by Industry, May 2020

Chart 13: Labour underutilisation rate

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0
As at July 2020 the number of youth employed (aged 15-24 years) in the NT decreased to 14,600, which represents a 7.5% year on year decline. At the national level, youth employment decreased to 1,769,500 persons, representing a 4.2% year on year decrease.

NT employment by industry sector data (annual moving average at May 2020) shows that Public administration and safety is the largest employer employing about 16.7% of the total employed, ahead of Health care and social assistance (15.8%).

Other large industry employers include, Education and training (9.7%), Retail trade (8.8%), and Construction (8.2%). The Mining industry on the other hand employs around 1.7% of the NT workforce (Chart 12).

In 2019-20, there were 1,023 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 33.3% compared to the same period in the previous year. Over the same period there were 275 apprentice and trainee completions, an increase of 1.0% compared to the same time last year.

**Prices**

The consumer price index (CPI) decreased by 2.5% in the June quarter 2020 (Chart 14).

Over the year to June 2020, the Darwin CPI decreased by 1.8% to 109.0. Over the year, all categories recorded decreases except Tobacco and alcohol (up by 8.9%), Food & non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.8%), Health (up by 1.2%), and Education (up by 0.9%).

Furnishings, household equipment and services reported the largest annual decrease over the year (down by 10.7%).

Darwin’s annual CPI is lower than the national average of a decrease of 0.3%.

**Chart 14: Inflation Aggregates, Annual data**

**Chart 15: Darwin CPI Components, June Qtr 2020**
The Reserve Bank of Australia’s (RBA) measure of the national annual underlying inflation (core inflation) increased by 1.2% in the June Quarter 2020, lower than the RBA’s target inflation range of 2-3%.

**Residential property prices**

In the NT property market, sales have moderated, with lower home purchase prices and lower rents.

The June Quarter 2020 Real Estate Institute of the NT’s (REINT) data on median prices for a 3 bedroom house ranged from $310 000 in Tennant Creek to $701 000 in Inner Darwin (Chart 16). Median 2 bedroom residential unit prices ranged from $230 000 in Palmerston to $330 000 in Darwin Inner.

REINT reported the median rent price for a 3 bedroom house ranged from $390 in Palmerston and Darwin North to $550 in Darwin North East. Median 2 bedroom residential unit rents ranged from $298 in Palmerston to $400 in Inner Darwin and Alice Springs (Chart 17).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Median House price</th>
<th>Median Unit/Townhouse price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darwin Overall</td>
<td>$477 500</td>
<td>$280 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Darwin</td>
<td>$701 000</td>
<td>$330 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmerston</td>
<td>$442 000</td>
<td>$230 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td>$349 500</td>
<td>$260 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennant Creek</td>
<td>$310 000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>$471 500</td>
<td>$337 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The property price index (PPI - established house price and attached house price) produced by ABS for Australian capital cities, show that for the June Quarter 2020, Darwin PPI decreased by 1.4%, while nationally the PPI decreased by 1.8%.
Income

The average weekly earnings and wage price index measure are different but related concepts. Average weekly earnings captures the current average value of wages and salaries paid to employees. Wage price index measures changes in wages and salaries paid by employees for a unit of labour where the quality and quantity of labour are not considered. The Wage Price Index is designed to measure inflationary pressures on wages and salaries.

Average weekly earnings have generally increased over time, however, the rate of growth has fluctuated.

In annual terms the average weekly full time adult earnings (AWFTE) in the NT increased by 0.6% in the six month period to May 2020 to $1786, compared to the national weekly earnings of $1771 (Chart 18). The NT has the third highest AWFTE among Australian jurisdictions, behind WA ($1911) and NSW ($1805).

Over the year, the AWFTE for males in the NT decreased by 0.5% to $1911 and for females it increased by 2.3% to $1645. A substantial difference between male and female wage levels exists - both in the NT and at the national level.

In annual terms to June 2020, the WPI increased by 2.3% in the NT. Nationally, the growth in the WPI was 1.7% in the same period (Chart 19).
Business confidence

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) conducts its own quarterly business confidence survey with a significantly higher sample size than the Sensis® Business Index (SBI), and includes results by region and industry.

In the March 2020 DITT quarterly survey, business confidence was +33%, with confidence by region ranging from +100% in Barkly-Tennant Creek to +25% in Alice Springs. Over the past year, business confidence has been gradually trending sideways before the fall in March (Chart 20).

Overall 34% of businesses report business performance is better this year compared to the previous year. Over the past year, the proportion of businesses reporting better business conditions has been trending down, while the proportion of businesses reporting worse business conditions has been trending upwards (Chart 21).

In the March quarter 2020, key reasons for businesses feeling confident include strong customer relations, strong market position, and business opportunities. Key reasons why businesses were worried included a decrease in business/sales, a weak local economy, and increasing business costs.

*Note: The SBI does not adequately assess the business confidence levels in the Territory due to a small and unrepresentative sample size (35 survey responses for over 14 000 businesses in the March quarter 2020). In 2019, SBI incorporated changes to its survey methodology, largely reflecting the transition to online surveys from telephone-based interviews, and publication design. Sensis noted that the methodology change would result in a quicker turnaround time.*
Count of NT businesses

The NT had 14,776 actively trading businesses as at June 2019 which constitutes 0.62% of the national business count. In June 2018 there were 14,479 businesses operating (Chart 22).

The highest number of operating businesses was in New South Wales followed by Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the NT.

In 2018-19 the entry rate for businesses in the NT was 14.9%, lower than the national average of 15.4%. The exit rate for businesses in the NT was 12.4%, lower than the entry rate and resulting in an increase in the number of overall businesses. Nationally, the exit rate was 12.7%.

In June 2015, the NT had 14,234 operating businesses and of these 86.9% survived to June 2016, 77.6% survived to June 2017, and 69.9% survived to June 2018 and 64.1% survived to June 2019. Similarly, at the national level, 64.9% of the businesses operating in June 2015 survived to June 2019.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines business size by level of employment as follows:

- Small business: 0-19 employees
- Medium business: 20-199 employees
- Large business: 200+ employees.

The majority of actively trading businesses in the NT are small. In June 2019, 95.5% were small businesses, 4.3% were medium businesses and 0.2% were large businesses (Chart 23). Nationally, 97.4% of the businesses were small.
Of the small businesses in the NT, 62.3% were non-employing businesses, 24.2% were micro businesses with between 1-4 employees, and 13.5% were those businesses employing 5-19 employees.

In June 2019, the Construction industry had the highest number of businesses operating in the NT accounting for 19.8% of total businesses. This was followed by Rental, hiring and real estate services (13.0%), Professional, scientific and technical services (9.6%), Transport, postal and warehousing (8.0%), Finance and insurance services (6.1%), and Agriculture forestry and fishing (6.1%) (Chart 24).

The majority of businesses in the NT are in the services sector (all industries except Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas and water; and Construction).

In June 2019, the services sector included 70.2% of all NT businesses.

At the national level, the Construction industry had the highest number of businesses (16.6%) followed by Professional, scientific and technical services (12.4%) and Rental, hiring and real estate services (10.9%).

The majority of the businesses in the NT are located in the Greater Darwin region (Darwin City, Darwin Suburbs, Litchfield and Palmerston).

In June 2019, 73.0% of all businesses in the NT were located in the Greater Darwin region. The Alice Springs region had the second largest number of businesses (14.1%), Katherine region had 6.3%, Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem had 2.5%, East Arnhem had 1.5% and Barkly region had 1.4% (Chart 25).
At June 2019, the NT had 21.2% of businesses operating in the ‘zero to <$50k’ turnover range. About 13.5% of the businesses were operating in the ‘$50k to <$100k’ range, 18.1% in the ‘$100k to <$200k’ range, 20.2% were in the ‘$200k to <$500k’ range, 17.4% in the ‘$500k to <$2m’ range, and 6.1% in the ‘$2m to <$5m range, 2.0% in the $5m to <$10m range, and 1.5% in the $10m+ range.

**Key industry sectors**

The structure of the NT economy is different to the national economy with greater contributions to production in the NT from Construction, Mining, Public administration and safety, Education and training, and Health care and social assistance industries.

These five sectors together make up 48.1% of the total of industry sector contributions to the NT’s GSP in 2018-19 with the combined value of their contribution to the NT economy being about $12.6 billion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry sector</th>
<th>Value Added 2018-19</th>
<th>Proportion of NT GSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>$4.7 billion</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration and Safety</td>
<td>$3.3 billion</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>$1.7 billion</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and training</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Construction sector

In 2018-19, the Construction sector contributed $1.6 billion to NT GSP, with an industry share of total output of 6.2%. The construction industry accounts for 8.2% of the NT’s resident employment.

The value of the Construction sector is now below historical levels largely due to the completion of major construction projects such as INPEX LNG gas project.

In 2019-20, construction work done decreased by 33.8% to $1.8 billion. Engineering work done decreased by 41.7% to $1.1 billion, residential construction decreased by 15.3% to $314 million and non-residential construction decreased by 19.3% to $424 million, reflecting construction of the INPEX LNG plant winding down (Chart 27).

Over the next few years, growth is forecast to remain subdued with the completion of the construction phase of some resource projects.

Mining and energy sector

Mining and energy sector contributed $4.7 billion (gross value-added) or 18.1% to NT GVA in 2018-19 (Chart 29).

The main minerals produced and processed in the NT are bauxite, gold, manganese and zinc/lead concentrate. Key energy commodities are oil, natural gas, uranium, and the production of LNG.

Although the sector is the largest contributor to NT GSP it employs around 1.7% of the resident employment as it is capital intensive and a portion of its FIFO workers are residents of other jurisdictions.
The value of Mining and energy increased strongly in 2018-19 as LNG production commenced at INPEX’s LNG plant.

**Manufacturing sector**

In 2018-19, the Manufacturing sector accounted for 3.6% of the NT’s GSP (Chart 30).

Manufacturing in the NT consists mainly of small scale production of various products for export and domestic consumption, and mining-related processing.

This sector employs around 3800 people, 2.9% of the NT’s total resident employment in the year to May 2020.

**Retail sector**

The Retail trade sector value (gross value added) decreased by 2.1% in 2018-19 to $691 million. The sector contributes around 2.6% to NT GSP and 8.8% to total NT resident employment in the year to May 2020 (Chart 31).

Nationally, retail turnover in 2018-19 contributed about 4.2% of the national GDP and the sector grew by 1.0% in the same period.

The retail turnover (sales) in the NT in the year to July 2020 was $3.2 billion, a year on year increase of 4.3%.

Food retailing is the largest component contributing 2.8 percentage points to total NT growth in the year, followed by Other retailing (4.5 percentage points), and Electrical and electronic goods retailing (0.9 of a percentage point).
The growth in NT retail turnover is expected to be subdued in the short term, largely reflecting softening population growth in the NT.

The Wholesale trade sector contributed $524 million or about 2.0% of the NT GSP.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (rural industries)

Key agricultural commodities include livestock, horticulture produce and fisheries.

The key livestock commodities of the NT include cattle, buffaloes and crocodiles. In the horticultural sector the main commodities include fruit (mangos, melons, and bananas), Asian vegetables, and plant nursery products. The fishing sector includes commercial, recreational and traditional indigenous fishing. The commercial fishing sector includes wild catch fish (such as barramundi, snapper, and shark), crustaceans (mainly prawns and mud crabs) and aquaculture (pearls). Forestry includes sandalwood and African Mahogany production.

Agriculture, fishing and forestry contributed $700 million (inflation adjusted), about 2.7% to the value of NT GSP in 2018-19 (Chart 32).

Cattle production is the largest component of agriculture, forestry and fishing. The key markets for NT cattle are interstate markets (for further growing or slaughter) and live exports overseas (mainly Indonesia). In the short term, the value of this industry is expected to increase, driven by growth in the value of live cattle exports under the free trade agreement signed in March 2019 between Australia and Indonesia. This will be partly offset by competition from Indian buffalo meat and disruptions in the cattle supply chain from severe Queensland floods.

Horticultural production is expected to improve with favourable outlooks for barramundi and prawn production, and recovering production of bananas and melons. The horticultural products are mainly destined for interstate markets.

Fisheries production in the NT has strong potential in the coming years with the expansion of aquaculture production, e.g. Seafarms’ $1.45 billion Sea Dragon Project.

Chart 32: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: NT GVA, Inflation Adjusted

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5220.0
Tourism

The Tourism sector is distributed across a number of Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) industry sectors. The largest industry sectors that directly contribute to tourism gross value added (GVA) in the NT include Accommodation and food services; Transport, postal and warehousing, and Recreation and culture.

In the year to March 2020, visitor expenditure in the NT was $2.6 billion (Tourism NT).

Over the same period 1.96 million people visited the NT, up 0.7% on the previous year’s visitor numbers.

Tourism directly employs around 7.3% of the NT employment.

![Chart 33: Share of Tourism in Gross Value Added, 2018-19](source: Tourism Research Australia, 2018-19)
**Goods-producing and service-producing sectors**

In categorising goods and services, dwelling growth is excluded.

The GVA of goods-producing sectors (Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water, Construction) was $8.4 billion in 2018-19, about 40.7% of all industries.

Service producing sectors’ output (“things you cannot drop on your foot”) was valued at $12.3 billion, contributing 59.3% of all industries NT GSP (ownership of dwellings is excluded from the service-producing sectors).

Business services (those industries that provide non distribution services to other companies) have grown strongly since 2011 and contributed $2.7 billion (10.3%) of NT GSP in 2018-19. Since 2011 business services have grown, on average, by 5.2%. There are however, variations in growth in individual business service sectors (Chart 34).

**Chart 34: Business Services Output**

![Chart showing business services output](source: ABS Cat. No. 5220.0)
## Investment projects – major project status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Under construction</th>
<th>FID</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Indicative cost estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northcrest</td>
<td>Halikos</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Land development</td>
<td>$300 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia-ASEAN Power Link (AAPL) – (formerly SASH)</td>
<td>Sun Cable</td>
<td>Tennant Creek</td>
<td>New Project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Solar PV, Storage and Export</td>
<td>$22 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Peake Vanadium-Titanium-Iron Project</td>
<td>TNG Limited</td>
<td>Mine site - 235 km northwest of Alice Springs Processing plant - Middle Arm Industrial Precinct on the Darwin Port</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mid 2021</td>
<td>Titanium dioxide, vanadium pentoxide and iron oxide</td>
<td>$824 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nolans Project</td>
<td>Arafura Resources</td>
<td>135 kilometers north northwest of Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Rare earths and phosphoric acid</td>
<td>$1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Todd</td>
<td>Vista Gold</td>
<td>56 kilometers northwest of Katherine</td>
<td>Reopen mine</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mid 2021</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>$1.19 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammaroo Phosphate</td>
<td>Verdant Minerals</td>
<td>180km south east of Tennant Creek</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mid 2022</td>
<td>Phosphoric Acid</td>
<td>$1.4 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Company</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>FID</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Indicative cost estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jervois Base Metals Project</td>
<td>KGL Resources</td>
<td>270km east north east of Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Early 2021</td>
<td>Copper, gold &amp; silver with minor lead and zinc</td>
<td>$190 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prelude FLNG</td>
<td>Shell</td>
<td>Offshore Browse Basin, 475km north-east of Broome, WA</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>Third party estimates at $12-17 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonarah</td>
<td>Avenira Limited</td>
<td>260 kilometers east of Tennant Creek</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Super phosphoric acid</td>
<td>Stage 1 $350 million Total $1200 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler Salt Mine</td>
<td>Tellus Holdings</td>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>H1 2021</td>
<td>Salt (out)</td>
<td>$676 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Sea Dragon</td>
<td>Seafarms Group</td>
<td>Gunn Point – hatchery (stage 1B) Bynoe – hatchery and broodstock centre (stage 1A) Legune – grow out ponds (farms) and</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>Gunn Point - No Bynoe – Site cleared, intake and discharge ponds completed Legune – minimal infrastructure works</td>
<td>End 2020</td>
<td>Black Tiger prawns</td>
<td>Stage 1 $780 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Company</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>FID</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Indicative cost estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molyhil</td>
<td>Thor Mining</td>
<td>220 kilometers northeast of Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>End 2021</td>
<td>Tungsten and molybdenum</td>
<td>$69.3 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics (BREE), NT ICN and NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
## Future major projects – major project status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Under construction</th>
<th>FID</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Indicative cost estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonaparte Gas Project</td>
<td>Neptune</td>
<td>Offshore Petrel Gas Field, 250 kms west of Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladin Point LNG Expansion (Trains 3-6)</td>
<td>INPEX Holdings</td>
<td>Bladin Point</td>
<td>Expansion</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics (BREE), NT ICN and NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
## Investment projects – facilitated investment projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Under construction</th>
<th>FID</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Indicative cost estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ichthys LNG</td>
<td>INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Bladin Point, Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>US$3 billion at FID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westin Hotel</td>
<td>Landbridge</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Other – hotel</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Gas Pipeline</td>
<td>Jemena</td>
<td>Tennant Creek – Mount Isa</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Gas pipeline</td>
<td>$800 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin Shiplift</td>
<td>NTG</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>$400 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Future projects – facilitated investment projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Under construction</th>
<th>FID</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Indicative cost estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ord Stage 3</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>WA-NT border</td>
<td>Expansion</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs Tourism Commercial</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>New project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin Data Centre Park</td>
<td>TBD – Various (Wishart)</td>
<td>Darwin (Wishart)</td>
<td>New Project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Regional labour markets, population and income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region⁠¹</th>
<th>Labour force March Qtr 2020</th>
<th>Unemployment March Qtr 2020</th>
<th>Unemployment rate (%) March Qtr 2020</th>
<th>Population 2018-19</th>
<th>Median weekly household income 2016 ($)¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Darwin</td>
<td>83,385</td>
<td>3,977</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>147,255</td>
<td>2,1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin city</td>
<td>18,769</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>27,674</td>
<td>2,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin suburbs</td>
<td>32,025</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>56,154</td>
<td>2,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield</td>
<td>14,410</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>25,172</td>
<td>2,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmerston</td>
<td>18,181</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>38,255</td>
<td>2,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>17,734</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>39,317</td>
<td>1,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkly</td>
<td>2,914</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>6,091</td>
<td>1,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem</td>
<td>7,510</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>17,872</td>
<td>1,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Arnhem</td>
<td>6,129</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>14,525</td>
<td>1,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td>10,722</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>20,869</td>
<td>1,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3218.0, 5673.0.55.003, Department of Employment, and Census 2016 on Population and Housing

1. Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)
2. Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)
Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, catalogue numbers 3101.0, 6202.0, 6220.0, 6291.0.55.003, 6302.0, 6345.0, 6354.0

Department of Social Services (Australian Government)

Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Business Confidence Survey

Enquiries

Strategic Policy and Research, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Email: SPAR.DTBI@nt.gov.au

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