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# Northern Territory business count 2017

* The Northern Territory (NT) had 14 445 actively trading businesses at June 2017, comprising 0.65% of total actively trading businesses in Australia.
* The highest number of operating businesses was in New South Wales. This was followed by Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

## Business counts

* There were 14 445 actively operating businesses in the NT at June 2017, an increase of 140 business (1.0%) compared with June 2016.
* In June 2017, the NT had 14 445 trading businesses, compared with 14 305 businesses in June 2016 and 14 235 businesses in June 2015.
* There were 2 238 299 actively operating businesses in Australia at June 2017, an increase of 66 755 businesses (3.1%) from June 2016.

## Business entry, exit and survival

* In 2016-17, the entry rate for businesses in the NT was 13.9%, lower than the national average of 15.1%.
* The highest entry rate was in the ACT (17.6%) followed New South Wales (15.8%) and Victoria (15.5%). Tasmania had the lowest entry rate of 11.7%.
* In 2016-17, the exit rate for NT was 12.7%, lower than the entry rate and resulting in an increase in the number of overall businesses. The NT had the second highest exit rate while Tasmania had the lowest (10.0%). Nationally, the exit rate was 12.0%.
* Of the 14 297 businesses operating in June 2013 in the NT, 85.7% were still operating in June 2014, 75.6% survived to June 2015, 67.9% were still operating in June 2016, and 62.0% survived to June 2017.
* Nationally, 64.1% of the businesses operating in June 2013 survived to June 2017.

**Business count (actively trading),   
June 2017**

National count: 2,238,299  
Currently not distributed: 1301

NT - 14,445, QLD - 437,628, NSW - 753,794, ACT - 27,369, VIC - 590,820, TAS - 37,727, SA - 146,758 and WA - 228,457

*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

**Number and growth of NT businesses**

The number of NT businesses increased in 2015-16 and increased in 2016-17.

*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

**Business entry and exit rates,  
June 2017**

The NT business entry rate was 13.9%, lower than the national average of all jurisdictions of 15.1%. The NT has a business exit rate of 12.7%, the second highest rate of the jurisdictions.

*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

* Of the businesses operating in June 2013, the highest survival rate in June 2017 was recorded in Tasmania (66.7%), followed by South Australia (66.6%). The lowest survival rate was in the ACT (61.0%).
* In June 2014, the Territory had 2 080 business entries and of these 77.4% survived to June 2015, 60.4% survived to June 2016 and 51.1% survived to June 2017. Nationally, the survival rate in June 2017 of business entries in 2013-14 was 54.8%.

## Business size

* 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 2017, 95.5% were small businesses, 4.2% were medium businesses and 0.3% were large businesses. Nationally, 97.5% of the businesses were small.
* Of the small businesses in the NT, 61% were non employing businesses, 25% had 1-4 employees and 14% had between 5-19 employees.
* The non-employing businesses as a percentage of total number of businesses in the NT accounted for 58.4%.

## Business numbers - industry sector distribution

* In June 2017, the ‘Construction” industry had the highest number of businesses operating in the NT with 20.6% of total businesses. This was followed by ‘Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services’(13.2%); ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Services’ (9.1%);‘Transport, Postal and Warehousing’ (6.7%); ‘Finance and Insurance Services’ (6.5%) and ‘Agriculture Forestry and Fishing’ (6.2%).
* At the national level, ‘Construction’ industry had the highest number of businesses (16.6%) followed by ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Services’ (12.1%) and ‘Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services’ (11.0%).

**NT business size, June 2017**

In the NT 95.5 per cent of businesses were small, 4.2 per cent were medium and 0.3 per cent were large in 2016-17.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT small business sub-categories**

Of the small businesses in the NT, 61% were non employing businesses, 25% had 1-4 employees, and 14% had between 1-19 employees.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT business by industry, June 2017**

In June 2017, the ‘Construction” industry had the highest number of businesses operating in the NT with 20.6 per cent of total businesses. This was followed by ‘Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services’(13.2 per cent); ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Services’ (9.1 per cent); ‘Transport, Postal and Warehousing’ (6.7 per cent); ‘Financial and Insurance Services’ (6.5 per cent); and ‘Agriculture Forestry and Fishing’ (6.2 per cent).

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

* The majority of businesses in the NT are in the ‘services sector’ (all industries except ‘Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing’; ‘Mining’; ‘Manufacturing’; ‘Electricity, water, gas and waste services’; and ‘Construction’). In June 2017, the ‘services sector’ had 69.1% of all NT businesses.

## Regional distribution of business

* The majority of the businesses in the Territory are located in the Greater Darwin region (Darwin City, Darwin Suburbs, Litchfield and Palmerston).
* In June 2017, 73.0% of all businesses in the NT were located in the Greater Darwin region. The Alice Springs region had the second highest number of businesses (13.9%), the Katherine region had 6.3%, Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem had 2.5%, East Arnhem had 1.5% and the Barkly region had 1.3%. Business locations of about 1.6% of the businesses were ‘currently unknown’.

## Annual business turnover

* At June 2017, the NT had 20.7% of businesses operating in the ‘zero to <$50k’ turnover range. About 31.6% of the businesses were operating in the ‘$50k to < $200k’ range, 37.9% in the ‘$200k to <$2m’ range, 6.0% were in ‘$2m to <$5m’ range, 2.0% in the ‘$5m to <$10m’ range, and 1.7% in the ‘$10m or more’ range.
* More than half (52.3%) of the NT businesses have an annual turnover of less than $200k.
* A further breakdown of the NT business count by turnover by employment size range is in Table 1.
* Nationally, around 24.6% of businesses were operating in the turnover range of ‘zero to <$50k’, 34.7% in the ‘$50k to <$200k’ turnover range, 33.9% in the ‘$200k to <$2m’ turnover range, 3.9% in the ‘$2m to <$5m’ turnover range; 1.4% in the ‘$5m to <$10m’ turn over range and 1.5% in the $10m or more’ turnover range.

**NT business count by region, June 2017**

In June 2017, 73 per cent of all businesses in the NT were located in the Greater Darwin region. The Alice Springs region had the second most number of businesses.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**Business Location, June 2017**

Of the businesses located in the Darwin region, 25.5 per cent were in Darwin suburbs, 25.2 per cent were in Darwin city, 12.2 per cent were in Litchfield, and 10.2 per cent in Litchfield.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT business count by turnover, June 2017**

More than half (52.3 per cent) of the NT businesses have an annual turnover of less than $200,000.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0 and ABS unpublished data*

## Table 1: Business count by turnover and by employment size range, June 2017

Businesses count with turnover of $0 to less than $50000: with no employees is 2763; with 1 to 4 employees is 188; with 5 to 19 employees is 17; with 20 to 199 employees is 3; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 2969.
Businesses count with turnover of $50000 to less than $200000: with no employees is 3691; with 1 to 4 employees is 860; with 5 to 19 employees is 37; with 20 to 199 employees is 3; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 4596.
Businesses count with turnover of $200000 to less than $1000000: with no employees is 1691; with 1 to 4 employees is 2009; with 5 to 19 employees is 624; with 20 to 199 employees is 42; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 4365.
Businesses count with turnover of $1000000 to less than $2000000: with no employees is 145; with 1 to 4 employees is 275; with 5 to 19 employees is 559; with 20 to 199 employees is 94; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 1085.
Businesses count with turnover of $2000000 to less than $5000000: with no employees is 75; with 1 to 4 employees is 125; with 5 to 19 employees is 503; with 20 to 199 employees is 191; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 899.
Businesses count with turnover of $5000000 to less than $10000000: with no employees is 28; with 1 to 4 employees is 24; with 5 to 19 employees is 97; with 20 to 199 employees is 149; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 296.
Businesses count with turnover of $10000000 or more: with no employees is 22; with 1 to 4 employees is 5; with 5 to 19 employees is 30; with 20 to 199 employees is 144; with 200 or more employees is 31; total is 230.
Total businesses count: with no employees is 8418; with 1 to 4 employees is 3484; with 5 to 19 employees is 1880; with 20 to 199 employees is 631; with 200 or more employees is 30; total is 14443.

*Source: ABS unpublished data – care should be taken in analysing data due to the effects of the confidentiality process*

**Notes:**

ABS business count is derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (ABSBR) and is populated with information from the Australian Business Register (ABR). Most businesses in Australia are required to have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and register with ABR. Actively trading businesses with a turnover of at least of $75,000 per annum and $150 000 for non-profit organisations are required to have an ABN and remit GST. Businesses with <$75,000 turnover can voluntary register for ABN and these voluntarily registered businesses are included in the business counts. See appendix 1 for details on the basis for counts of businesses. For further information please refer to ABS Catalogue number 8165.0.

The ABS definition of business exit is ‘a business for which the ABN or GST role has been cancelled and/or which has ceased to remit GST for at least five consecutive quarters in respect of that ABN (or 3 consecutive years for annual remitters)’. It should be noted that a business exit event does not necessarily equate to a business ‘failure’.  There may be other reasons such as sale of business (owner retiring, etc) or change in the business structure e.g. mergers and takeovers.

**Data Source:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Number 8165.0

**For Further Information:**

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The conceptual and practical basis for counts of Australian business, including entries and exits

Reference period June 2017

The business count in the Australian Bureau of Statistics catalogue 8165.0 are based on active ABNs on the ABR, and the process in determining businesses count by region, turnover, and industry is based on step by step process. Detailed description can be found on the ABS website - http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/8165.0Main%20Features2Jun%202013%20to%20Jun%202017?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=8165.0&issue=Jun%202013%20to%20Jun%202017&num=&view=

1. The ABS business register is updated monthly and data is extracted as close to 30 June 2017 as possible. Therefore, in addition to out of scope ABNs, minor differences in the timing of the CABBEE frame contribute to the difference between end of year business counts presented in this release and those published by the ABR.
   1. No. of active ABNs with no active in-scope roles
   2. No. of active ABNs with active in-scope roles other than active ITW and GST roles
   3. No. of active ABNs with invalid ANZSIC/SISCA/State – active ITW or GST roles only
   4. No. of mutually exclusive active ABNs excluded due to being ITW or GST LTNRs
   5. Active ABNs with active ITW role only
   6. Out of scope TOLO/ANZSIC/SISCA

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*