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# Northern Territory business count 2016

* The Northern Territory (NT) had 14 310 actively trading businesses at June 2016, comprising 0.66% 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

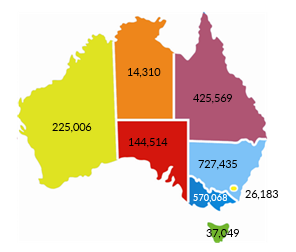
* There were 14 310 actively operating businesses in the NT at June 2016, an increase of 154 business (1.1%) compared with June 2015.
* In June 2016, the NT had 14 310 trading businesses, compared with 14 156 businesses in June 2015 and 14 158 businesses in June 2014.
* There were 2 171 544 actively operating businesses in Australia at June 2016, an increase of 50 309 businesses (2.4%) from June 2015.

## Business entry, exit and survival

* In 2015-16, the entry rate for businesses in the NT was 14.2%, lower than the national average of 14.6%.
* The highest entry rate was in the ACT (16.3%) followed New South Wales (15.3%) and Victoria (14.9%). Tasmania had the lowest entry rate of 11.0%.
* In 2015-16, the exit rate for NT was 13.1%, 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 (10.6%). Nationally, the exit rate was 12.3%.
* Of the 14 595 businesses operating in June 2012 in the NT, 84.5% were still operating in June 2013, 73.3% survived to June 2014, 65.5% were still operating in June 2015, and 59.3% survived to June 2016.
* Nationally, 62.1% of the businesses operating in June 2012 survived to June 2016.

**Business count (actively trading),   
June 2016**

National count: 2,171,544  
Currently not distributed: 1410



*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

**Number and growth of NT businesses**

The number of NT businesses decreased in 2014-15 and increased in 2015-16.

*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

**Business entry and exit rates,  
June 2016**

The NT business entry rate was 14.2%, lower than the national average of all jurisdictions of 14.6%. The NT has a business exit rate of 13.1%, the second highest rate of the jurisdictions.

*Source: ABS Cat No 8165.0*

* Of the businesses operating in June 2012, the highest survival rate in June 2016 was recorded in Tasmania (65.3%), followed by South Australia (65.0%). The lowest survival rate was in the ACT (59.1%).
* In June 2013, the Territory had 1 869 business entries and of these 75.6% survived to June 2014, 59.2% survived to June 2015 and 49.9% survived to June 2016. Nationally, the survival rate in June 2016 of business entries in 2012 13 was 54.4%.

## 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 2016, 95.2% were small businesses, 4.6% were medium businesses and 0.2% were large businesses. Nationally, 97.5% of the businesses were small.
* Of the small businesses in the NT, 60% were non employing businesses, 26% 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 57.9%.

## Business numbers - industry sector distribution

* In June 2016, the ‘Construction” industry had the highest number of businesses operating in the NT with 21.2% of total businesses. This was followed by ‘Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services’(13.2%); ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Services’ (9.1%); ‘Agriculture Forestry and Fishing’ (6.5%); ‘Transport, Postal and Warehousing’ (6.4%); and ‘Finance and Insurance Services’ (6.3%).
* At the national level, ‘Construction’ industry had the highest number of businesses (16.5%) followed by ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Services’ (12.1%) and ‘Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services’ (11.1%).

**NT business size, June 2016**

In the NT 95.2 per cent of businesses were small, 4.6 per cent were medium and 0.2 per cent were large in 2015-16.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT small business sub-categories**

Of the small businesses in the NT, 60% were non employing businesses, 26% had 1-4 employees, and 14% had between 1-19 employees.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT business by industry, June 2016**

In June 2016, the ‘Construction” industry had the highest number of businesses operating in the NT with 21.2 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); ‘Agriculture Forestry and Fishing’ (6.5 per cent); ‘Transport, Postal and Warehousing’ (6.4 per cent); and ‘Financial and Insurance Services’ (6.3 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’ and ‘Manufacturing’). In June 2016, the ‘services sector’ had 89.6% 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 2016, 72.2% of all businesses in the NT were located in the Greater Darwin region. The Alice Springs region had the second highest number of businesses (14.0%), the Katherine region had 6.3%, Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem had 2.4%, East Arnhem had 1.3% and the Barkly region had 1.5%. Business locations of about 2.3% of the businesses were ‘currently unknown’.

## Annual business turnover

* At June 2016, the NT had 20.1% of businesses operating in the ‘zero to <$50k’ turnover range. About 32.4% of the businesses were operating in the ‘$50k to < $200k’ range, 29.9% in the ‘$200k to <$1m’ range, 7.7% were in ‘$1m to <$2m’ range, 6.0% in the ‘$2m to <$5m’ range, and 3.9% in the ‘$5m or more’ range.
* More than half (52.5%) of the NT businesses have an annual turnover of less than $200k.
* A further breakdown of business count by turnover by employment size range is in Table 1.
* Nationally, around 24.3% of businesses were operating in the turnover range of ‘zero to <$50k’, 35.0% in the ‘$50k to <$200k’ turnover range, 33.9% in the ‘$200k to <$2m’ turnover range and 6.8% in the ‘$2m or more’ turnover range.

**NT business count by region, June 2016**

In June 2016, 72.2 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 2016**

Of the businesses located in the Darwin region, 25.7 per cent were in Darwin suburbs, 24.7 per cent were in Darwin city, 11.8 per cent were in Litchfield, and 10.0 per cent in Litchfield.

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*

**NT business count by turnover, June 2016**

More than half (52.5 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 2016

Businesses count with turnover of $0 to less than $50000: with no employees is 2664; with 1 to 4 employees is 201; with 5 to 19 employees is 16; with 20 to 199 employees is 3; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 2881.
Businesses count with turnover of $50000 to less than $200000: with no employees is 3751; with 1 to 4 employees is 835; with 5 to 19 employees is 52; with 20 to 199 employees is 0; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 4641.
Businesses count with turnover of $200000 to less than $1000000: with no employees is 1587; with 1 to 4 employees is 2025; with 5 to 19 employees is 621; with 20 to 199 employees is 54; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 4284.
Businesses count with turnover of $1000000 to less than $2000000: with no employees is 159; with 1 to 4 employees is 297; with 5 to 19 employees is 552; with 20 to 199 employees is 89; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 1096.
Businesses count with turnover of $2000000 to less than $5000000: with no employees is 74; with 1 to 4 employees is 118; with 5 to 19 employees is 461; with 20 to 199 employees is 202; with 200 or more employees is 0; total is 857.
Businesses count with turnover of $5000000 or more: with no employees is 46; with 1 to 4 employees is 32; with 5 to 19 employees is 153; with 20 to 199 employees is 294; with 200 or more employees is 30; total is 554.
Total businesses count: with no employees is 8281; with 1 to 4 employees is 3496; with 5 to 19 employees is 1853; with 20 to 199 employees is 642; with 200 or more employees is 30; total is 14312.




*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 2016

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%202012%20to%20Jun%202016?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=8165.0&issue=Jun%202012%20to%20Jun%202016&num=&view=

*Source: ABS Cat. No. 8165.0*