

## Regional Profile

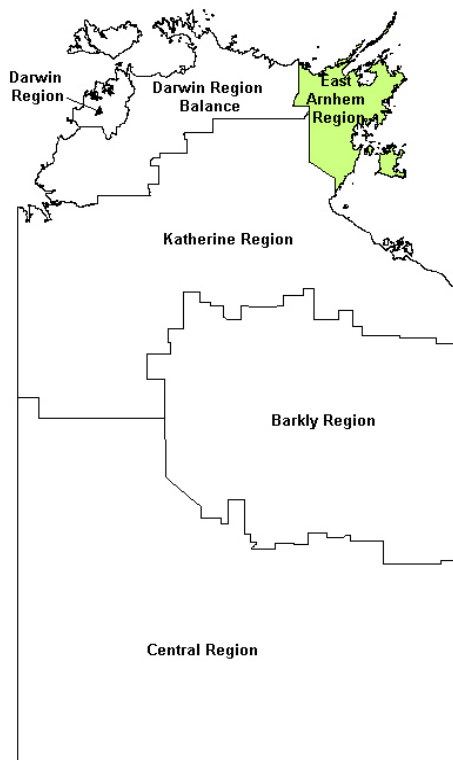
The East Arnhem Region covers 38,434 square kilometres, some 3% of the Northern Territory. It encompasses the East Arnhem Statistical Subdivision including Groote Eylandt, and is centred on the town of Nhulunbuy.

Nhulunbuy is the service centre for a rural population some three times the size of the town itself and for those tourists visiting the area.

The region supports a range of industries: fishing, mining, tourism, aboriginal services, construction, retail, community and government services.

The Region is one of the most remote in Australia with many land connections cut for months at a time during the wet season.

The construction of a gas pipeline from Katherine to Gove in the medium term should have direct and indirect benefits that will enhance the region's economic outlook.



## Society

### Population

The population of the East Arnhem region is 13,942 persons.

Nhulunbuy was home to an estimated 4,111 people, or 29% of the total population in the East Arnhem region.

Borrooloola has a population of 772 persons and accounts for 6% of the total population in the East Arnhem region.

Indigenous persons make up 61% (8,550) of the East Arnhem region's total population.

### East Arnhem Region Key Facts 2008

Area		38 435 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	- Region	13,942
	- Nhulunbuy	4,111
Labour force	- Region	5,153
	- Nhulunbuy	2,379
Unemployment rate	- Region	9.4%
	- Nhulunbuy	3.0%
Tourist visitor numbers:		230,000*
Number of businesses:		186**
Mining value:		\$1,600m

\*Indicates average tourist numbers for Kakadu and East Arnhem for 2004-5 to 2006-07.

\*\* ABS Business Count 2006-07

### Median Age

The median age for the East Arnhem region is 27 years, 33 years in Nhulunbuy and 25 years for Borrooloola.

### Working Age

68% (9,507 persons) of the East Arnhem region's population is of working age (between 15-64 yrs). 73% (2,994) of persons residing in Nhulunbuy are of working age and 63% (490) of people in Borrooloola are of working age.

### Average Number of Household Occupants

The average household in the East Arnhem region has 4.6 persons, with 3.1 persons in Nhulunbuy and 4.5 persons per household in Borrooloola.

### Median Weekly Household Income

The median weekly household income for the East Arnhem Region is \$1,546; the weekly income for Nhulunbuy is \$2,220 and \$1,012 in Borrooloola.

The median weekly household income for Australia is \$1,027.

### Median Housing Loan Repayment

Median housing loan repayment for the East Arnhem region is \$1,086 per month, \$1,145 per month for Nhulunbuy and \$834 per month in Borrooloola.

## Rental Properties

Rental properties account for 92% (2,343) of all dwelling in the East Arnhem region, with 940 rental properties located in Nhulunbuy and 106 properties in Borroloola.

## The Median Weekly Rent

Median weekly rent for the East Arnhem region is \$30, \$18 in Nhulunbuy and \$30 for Borroloola.

## Economy

### Employment

In 2008 the East Arnhem region had an estimated 5,562 people in the labour force, with 46% of the labour force residing in Nhulunbuy.

Employment by industry in East Arnhem is dominated by Public administration & safety (22%), Manufacturing (21%), Construction (13%), Mining (10%), and Health care & social assistance (10%).

Manufacturing industry in East Arnhem centres on the production of alumina at the Alcan mine.

The major occupation profiles in East Arnhem consist of Labourers (21%), Technicians & Trades workers (16%), Professionals (15%), Machinery Operators & Drivers (10%), and Clerical & Administrative workers (10%).

### Income and Prices

In 2004-05, the estimated mean taxable income for the East Arnhem Region was \$55 140, the highest of all Territory regions and 20% above the Territory average (\$46,081). Nhulunbuy residents earned a higher share of East Arnhem's average wages and salaries largely due to higher than average mining industry salaries.

In December 2006 Nhulunbuy had the highest price in the Territory for an average basket of goods. Compared to Darwin, the cost of the same basket in Nhulunbuy (\$221.97) was by 16% higher than in Darwin (\$186.38).

### Number of Businesses

In 2006-07 based on the ABS Business Count the East Arnhem region had 186 business entities. The industries profile for the business count were Construction (42), Retail trade (33) Property and business services (33) Agriculture forestry and fishing (27) and Personal and other services (18) Most of the business were located in Nhulunbuy.

### Construction and Building

In 2006 the value of new residential buildings was \$28 million for 141 buildings approved in the region. The value of non-residential building approvals for 2005-06 was \$3.1 million.

The \$2 billion plus Alcan G3 alumina refinery expansion project in Nhulunbuy, employing around 2,000 people, is one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in the Territory. It will increase plant capacity from 2 - 3.8 million tonnes of alumina per annum by 2009-10.

## Mining

In 2006-07, production of minerals and petroleum in the East Arnhem Region was valued at \$1.6 billion. This represented 57% of Territory onshore mining production value, and consisted of manganese (GEMCO) and bauxite mined, and alumina produced (Alcan) in the region. The East Arnhem region also produced crushed rock, gravel and sand in 2006-07.

## Fisheries

Nhulunbuy is the home port for a proportion of the fishing vessels in the Spanish mackerel and barramundi fisheries and a service centre for these and other fisheries in the area. The area is also a service centre for some of the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet. Pearl farming is a growing industry in the English Company's Islands and Truant Island.

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## References

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