

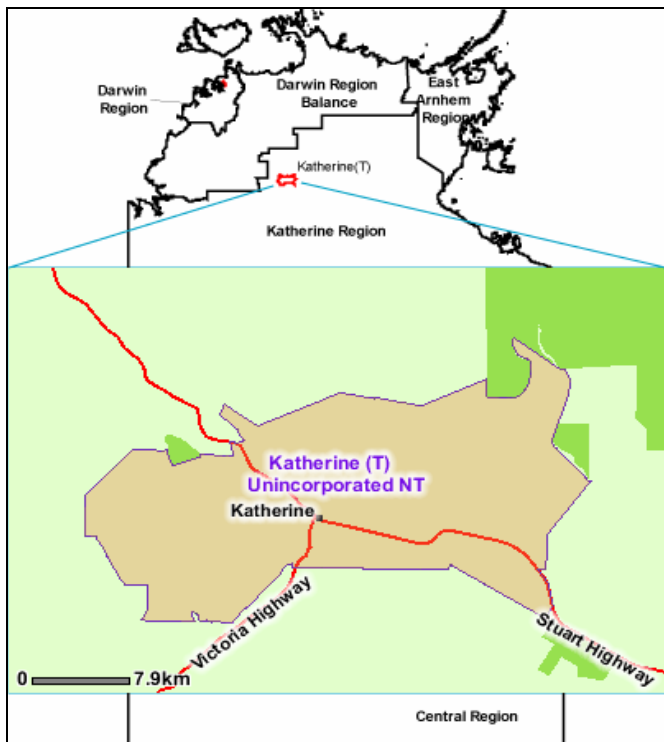
Regional Profile

Katherine is a modern, self-contained community and it continues to experience a strong population growth. Katherine Region has grown by more than 60 percent since 1988. This is attributed to the establishment of RAAF Base Tindal and the ongoing development of several industries such as Tourism, Mining and Horticulture.

The economy of the Katherine Region is quite diverse and vibrant. The Region supports a wide range of industries such as Tourism, Pastoral, Horticulture, Mining, Defence Services, Construction, Retail, Community and Government Services. Most if not all of the industries continue to demonstrate strong growth patterns and consequently there are excellent opportunities for investment, expansion and career development.

Katherine Township has all the amenities of any modern town such as a shopping centre, airport, hospital, cinema, restaurants, library, retail outlets, public pool, large recreational areas, and parks etc. Katherine is unique in that the range of infrastructure, services and facilities that it provides are in excess of most towns of a similar size.

This is due to Katherine being the service centre for another population almost the size of the town its self.



This additional population are in communities and townships that are spread throughout the region.

Katherine is a major road junction, west to the Kimberly, north to Kakadu and Darwin and south to Alice Springs, South Australia and Queensland.

The Alice Springs to Darwin railway connecting the Top End of the Territory to the rest of Australia provide further opportunities to enhance the town's economy in coming years.

Katherine Key Facts 2006

Area km ²	336,674
Population	- Katherine Region 16,464 - Katherine Town 8,192
Labour force	- Katherine Region 8,858 - Katherine Town 5,442
Unemployment rate	- Katherine Region 11.9% (Mar 08) - Katherine Town 5.7 % (Mar 08)
Visitor numbers:	283,000
Number of businesses:	690

Society

Population

In the June 2006 census the Katherine region was home to 16,464 people, 9% of the Northern Territory population (190,999). The town of Katherine was home to an estimated 8,192 people.

The population of the Katherine region is expected to rise to about 22 460 people by 2021, based on medium growth projections by the ABS.

Median Age

The median age for the town of Katherine is 30 years, with 27 the median age for the region.

Average number of Household Occupants

The average household in the Katherine region has 3.4 persons, with 2.7 persons per household in the town of Katherine.

Median Weekly Household Income

The median weekly household income for the region is \$1,040 per month; with the median weekly income for the town of Katherine \$1,128. The median weekly household income for Australia is \$1,027.

Median Housing Loan Repayment

The median housing loan repayment for both the region and the town of Katherine is \$108.

The Median Weekly Rent

Median rent for the town of Katherine is \$130 per week, with the median rent for the region \$75 per week.

Economy

Employment

In March 2008 there were 8,858 people in the labour force throughout the Katherine region, with 61% (5,442) of the labour force located in the town of Katherine. The town of Katherine had an unemployment rate of 5.7% in March 2008.

Employment in Katherine is dominated by Public Administration and Safety (26%), Health Care and Social Assistance (13%), Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10%), Retail Trade (9%), and Education and Training (8%). The Defence Industry provides a major source of employment with 3 Defence facilities located in the region including RAAF base at Tindal.

The major occupation profiles in the region consist of Technicians & trade workers (18%), Professionals (14%), Community & personal service workers (13%), Managers (13%), and Clerical & administrative workers (12%).

Income and Prices

In 2004-05, the estimated mean taxable income for the region was \$43,093, 6.5% below the NT's average income (\$46,081). The average taxable income in the town of Katherine for 2004-2005 was \$42,993.

In June 2008 an average basket of goods in Katherine was 2.4% more expensive than in Darwin. Grocery prices in Katherine increased by 4.4% from June 2007 to June 2008, while grocery prices in Darwin increased by 3.0% over the same period.

The average price of unleaded fuel in Katherine for July 2008 was \$172.3 per litre, while the average price in Darwin was \$173.4 per litre.

Number of Businesses

In 2006-07 based on the ABS Business Count the region had 690 business entities. 528 of these businesses (77%) were based in the town of Katherine.

The major industry profiles for the business count were Agriculture Forestry and Fishing (29%), Construction (21%), Property and Business Services (17%), Transport and Storage (7%) and Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants (6%).

Construction and Building

The value of non-residential building approvals in the region for 2005-06 was \$18.2M. In 2006 there were 51 approvals across the region for the construction of residential buildings valued at \$12 million.

Real Estate

In the June Quarter 2008, 31 residential housing sales were recorded in Katherine. The median house sale price was \$268,000, up 8.9% for the year. The median residential flats/units/townhouse sale price was \$211,250, with 2 sales recorded over the period.

In June Quarter 2008 the vacancy rate for rental properties in Katherine was 2.0% and house rental yields were 6.0% (based on 3 bedroom house).

Tourism

Katherine visitors accounted for 21% (283,000) of the NT's total regional visitor numbers in 2005/06. The average length of stay was 3 days. On average all visitors (excluding domestic day visitors) to the Northern Territory will spend \$170 per night.

Mining

In 2006-07, production of minerals in the region was valued at \$569M, with zinc and lead production in the region worth \$565M. Other mining production consisted of diamond, vermiculite crushed rock, dimension stone, gravel, sand and soil.

Agriculture and Horticulture

In 2006-2007 the value of primary industry production (excluding livestock/fisheries) from the region was estimated at \$40.3M. The production of fruits and vegetables was estimated at \$33.9M and for seed and hay it was \$5.4M. The total value of production in the Katherine region represents 27% of the Northern Territory's total horticulture production.

Monique Eliseo
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