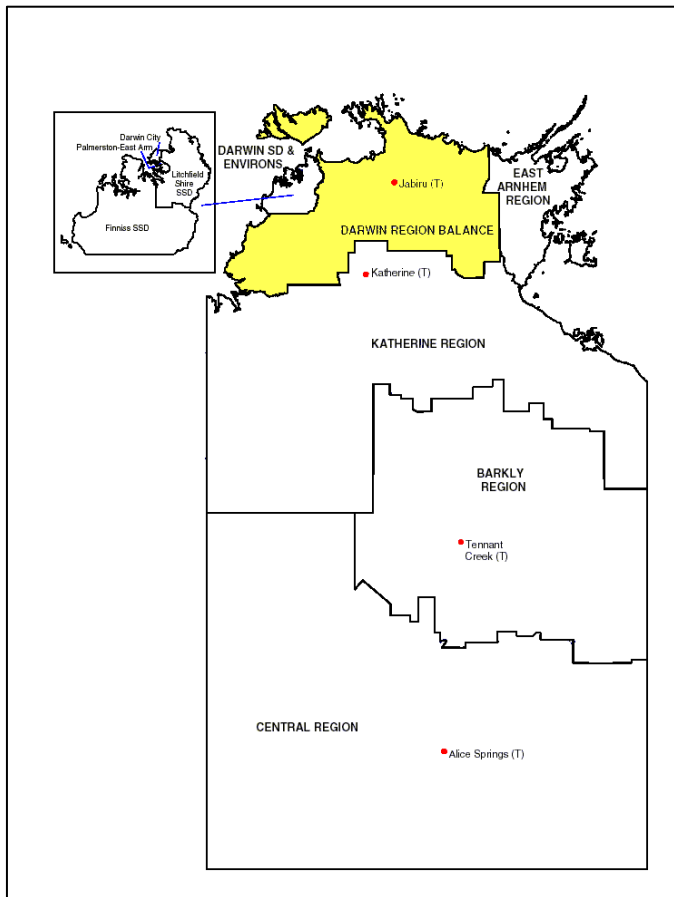


Regional Profile

Darwin Region Balance is located in the tropical north-west of the Northern Territory. It covers 132 012 square kilometres and accounts for 9.8% of the Northern Territory landmass. It includes the world famous Kakadu National Park. Statistical divisions within the region are Daly, South Alligator, West Arnhem and the Tiwi Islands (Bathurst and Melville Islands).

Jabiru was a purpose-built mining town constructed to act as a service centre for the Ranger uranium mine. Much of the region to the east of Kakadu National Park is Indigenous land that contains numerous communities situated in some of the remotest parts of the NT. Bathurst/Melville Island is also home to a large Indigenous population.

The region supports a range of industries including mining, tourism, fishing, agriculture, and government administration and defence.



Society

Population

In June 2006, the region was home to about 7,150 people, approximately 3.3% of the NT population.

Darwin Region Balance Key Facts 2008

Area		132 012 km ²
Population	- Region	8,284
	- Jabiru	1 134 (Mar 08)
Labour force	- Region	4 451 (Mar 08)
	- Jabiru	845 (Mar 08)
Unemployment rate	- Region	17.1% (Mar 08)
	- Jabiru	1.9% (Mar 08)

Tourist visitor numbers:	718 000*
Mining production value 2006-07:	\$377M
Agriculture production value 2006-07	\$22M

*Indicates tourist numbers for the Top End including Darwin, Darwin Region Balance and East Arnhem – 3 year average

Median Age

The median age for the region is 26 years and 32 years for Jabiru.

Working Age

64% (4,600 persons) of the region's population is of working age (between 15-64 yrs), while 75% (848) of persons residing in Jabiru are of working age.

Average Number of Household Occupants

The average household in the region has 4.2 persons, with 2.5 persons per household in Jabiru.

Median Weekly Household Income

The median weekly household income for the region is \$813; with the weekly income for Jabiru is \$2,116. The median weekly household income for Australia is \$1,027.

Median Housing Loan Repayment

Median housing loan repayment for the region is \$1,126 per month and \$2,600 per month in Jabiru.

The Median Weekly Rent

Median weekly rent for the region is \$32 and \$37 per week in Jabiru.

Economy

Employment

In March 2008 the region had an estimated 3,670 persons in the labour force, with 23% of the labour force residing in Jabiru.

Employment by industry in the region is dominated by Public administration & safety (32%), Health care & social assistance (16%), Education & training (8%), Agriculture, forestry & fishing (8%) and Accommodation & food services (6%)

The major occupation profiles in the region consist of Labourers (30%), Professionals (15%), Community & personal service workers (14%), Managers (8%), and Clerical & Administrative workers (8%).

Income

In 2004-05, the estimated mean taxable income for the region was \$41,727, the highest of all Territory regions and 10% below the Territory average (\$46,081). Jabiru residents earned a higher share of the average wages and salaries (\$53,887) largely due to higher than average mining industry salaries.

Number of Businesses

In 2006-07 based on the ABS Business Count the region had 93 business entities. The major industries profiles in the business count were Agriculture forestry and fishing (21 entities), Property and business services (18), Construction (15), and Accommodation cafes and restaurants (12). Most of the businesses were located in Jabiru.

Construction and Building

The value of non-residential building approvals in the region for 2005-06 was \$9.0 million.

Mining

In 2006-07, production of minerals and petroleum in the region was valued at \$337 million. This consisted of uranium (Jabiru), mineral sands (Tiwi Island), gold and silver (South Alligator) production in the region.

Agriculture

In 2006-07, the value of agricultural production from the region was an estimated \$11.8M. This principally comes from the production of horticulture and mixed field cropping in the Daly statistical district. This represents 7% of total fruit, vegetable and field crop production in the NT.

Michael Jean
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June 2008

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