

# Population

## June Quarter 2005

### Summary

#### Population

Northern Territory	202 793	↑ 0.5%
Australia	20 328 609	↑ 0.2%

#### Analysis

Northern Territory resident population is estimated, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to have increased by 0.5% in the June quarter 2005, to 202 793, the eighth consecutive quarterly population increase. The Territory's annual population growth rate increased to 1.5%.

At the national level the population increased by 0.2% in the quarter and by 1.2% in annual terms. The Territory's population growth rate is trending upwards and is above the national rate for the second consecutive quarter.

In the Territory, estimated resident population increased by 1 026 persons in the June quarter, compared to an increase of 746 in the June quarter 2004. Natural increase (births less deaths), net overseas migration and net interstate migration all made positive contributions to growth in the quarter:

§ Natural increase	696
§ Net overseas migration	97
§ Net interstate migration	233

Net interstate migration increased by 233, substantially higher than the corresponding quarter in 2004 (net loss of 95). Net interstate migration has been positive for the past two quarters, the first instance of consecutive increases in net interstate migration since the December quarter 1996.

In the year to June 2005, net interstate migration in the Territory increased by 5, compared to a net loss of 2 108 in the year to June 2004. Improved interstate migration over the year reflects the strengthening prospects for the Territory economy, particularly in the construction and tourism sectors. These two labour intensive industries were adversely affected by the downturn in international visitors and residential construction in the early years of this decade.

Northern Territory Treasury has ongoing concerns over the ability of the interstate migration model, used by the ABS, to accurately estimate interstate flows to the Territory and therefore population growth. In recent years the reported population loss, caused by net interstate migration flows, has seemed at odds with a range of onshore economic indicators. However, the past two net interstate migration figures are more in line with the strength in the broader Territory economy.

The measurement of overseas migration continues to present problems for the ABS. Accordingly, data may be revised in coming quarters.

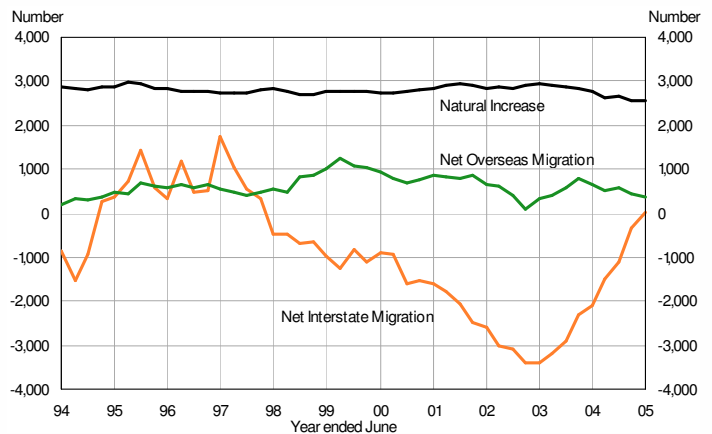
At 1.5%, the Territory recorded the third highest annual population growth of the jurisdictions. Queensland, with growth of 2.0%, recorded the highest annual growth rate.

### Population Growth\*



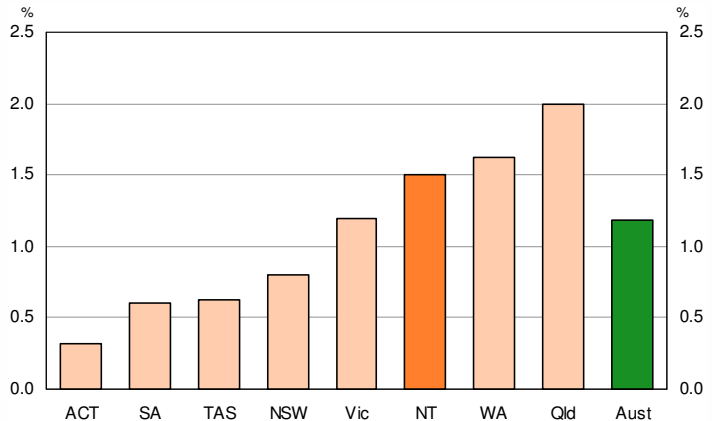
\* latest quarter compared to corresponding quarter the previous year  
Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

### Territory Resident Population Components\*



\* moving annual total  
Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

### Population Growth\*



\* latest quarter compared to corresponding quarter the previous year  
Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

economic brief

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### Estimated Resident Population and Components of Change

	Jun 04	Sep 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Jun 05
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
Births <sup>(a)</sup>	910	756	937	871	<b>950</b>
Deaths <sup>(a)</sup>	221	212	256	225	<b>254</b>
Natural Increase	689	544	681	646	<b>696</b>
Overseas Migration	152	140	65	85	<b>97</b>
Interstate Migration	- 95	- 148	- 272	192	<b>233</b>
Total Migration	57	- 8	- 207	277	<b>330</b>
Total Population Growth	746	536	474	923	<b>1 026</b>
Population at End of Quarter	199 834	200 370	200 844	201 767	<b>202 793</b>
Annual Population Growth Rate <sup>(b)</sup>	0.6%	0.8%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%
<b>Australia</b>					
Population at End of Quarter ('000)	20 091.5	20 149.1	20 210.0	20 281.4	<b>20 328.6</b>
Annual Population Growth Rate <sup>(b)</sup>	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 (a) Births and deaths are shown in the quarter of registration while natural increase is the excess of births over deaths by quarter of occurrence. (b) Population at end of quarter compared with same period in the previous year.

**Note:** Interstate and overseas migration can be very volatile and quarterly movements should be interpreted with caution. Estimates of resident population are preliminary.

#### Interstate Migration Model

The ABS model for estimating interstate migration flows is based on Medicare 'change of address' forms with adjustments for defence personnel not covered by Medicare. While this model balances at a national level and works well for most large jurisdictions, it performs poorly in the estimation of movements to and from the Territory. The Territory has a much higher level of population transience compared to the other states. In a typical year, around 8% to 10% of the total population of the Territory will move. The youth and mobility of those migrating to the Territory and their low propensity to use medical services means that their 'place of residence' record with Medicare is often incorrect. Hence, the Medicare model (using Medicare Australia data, formerly the Health Insurance Commission) usually under enumerates the residence of many short-term migrants into the Territory. Compounding this is the typically older and higher health care user profile of those migrating from the Territory. This type of person is more likely to update their Medicare 'place of residence' record once settled in another state. Under-estimation of the Territory's population has a significant impact on population-based funding the Territory receives from the Commonwealth.

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

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