

This brief contains key points extracted from publications that have reported social statistics about the Northern Territory. The summary is not exhaustive and does not interpret information nor in all cases contain qualifiers or contextual information. Readers should check cited publications to assess suitability for the intended use. Care should be taken to ensure that population-based statistics reported for the Northern Territory do not refer to urban areas only. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this document, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

Covered in this issue (alphabetical order):

- Apprentices and Trainees, March quarter 2008** **2**
 In the Territory, the number of commencements for apprentices and trainees for the March quarter 2008 (900), was higher than for the March quarter 2007 (800), while completions over the same period were unchanged at (200).
- Australian Demographic Statistics, March quarter 2008** **3**
 From 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2008, the Territory's estimated resident population (ERP) grew by 2.2 per cent to 218 380 compared with national growth of 1.6 per cent.
- Corrective Services, Australia, June quarter 2008** **4**
 The average daily number of Territory prisoners (919) in the June quarter 2008 was 2 per cent higher than in the June quarter 2007 (898). However, the June quarter 2008 average daily imprisonment rate of 590.4 per 100 000 adult population was slightly lower than the June quarter 2007 rate (593.8).
- Counting the Homeless 2006** **4**
 In the Territory, there were fewer homeless people identified at the 2006 Census (4785) than at the 2001 Census (5423) and the homeless rate decreased from 288 to 248 per 10 000 people over the same period, yet remained the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate (53).
- Drug use monitoring in Australia: 2007 annual report on drug use among police detainees** **5**
 In 2007 in Darwin and Alice Springs, the majority of interviewed police detainees reported drinking prior to being detained (76 and 69 per cent respectively). The majority of those who volunteered to be tested for any illicit drugs, tested positive to cannabis (93 and 86 per cent respectively).
- Injury of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people due to transport, 2001-02 to 2005-06** **6**
 From 2001-02 to 2005-06, the age-standardised rates of fatal and serious injury for Indigenous people in the Territory were higher than the national rates (for all people in Australia), 5.8 and 1.5 times as high, respectively.
- National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Summary Report** **6**
 In the Territory in 2008, the percentages of tested students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who achieved results at or above national minimum standards were lower than corresponding national percentages. In addition, a higher percentage were at or above national minimum standards for numeracy than for reading or writing.
- Population Projections 2006 to 2101** **7**
 Under Australian Bureau of Statistics medium level assumptions (Series B), between 30 June 2007 and 2056 the Territory's population is projected to increase by 87 per cent from 214 900 to 401 600 people. Darwin's population is projected to more than double from 117 400 to 243 000.
- Public health expenditure in Australia, 2006-07** **8**
 Public health expenditure by the Territory Government including Australian Government Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) experienced real growth of 8.3 per cent from 2005-06 to 2006-07 compared with real growth of 12.5 per cent for all jurisdictions combined. Average expenditure on public health activities of \$316.32 per person in the Territory was higher than the national average of \$82.22 per person.

Apprentices and Trainees, March quarter 2008

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER)

This quarterly publication presents statistics on apprentice and trainee activity in Australia for the March quarter 2008 based on administrative data provided by state and territory authorities.

Key Point:

In the Territory, the number of commencements for apprentices and trainees for the March quarter 2008 (900), was higher than for the March quarter 2007 (800), while completions over the same period were unchanged at (200).

For apprentices and trainees in the Territory:

In-training at 31 March 2008

- Estimated at 3700, 12 per cent more than at 31 March 2007 (3300) and at 31 December 2007 (3300), while national estimates increased by 2 and 5 per cent at the respective dates.
- Predominant characteristics: male (68 per cent); aged 19 years or under, or 25 to 44 years (both 34 per cent); and technicians and trades workers (54 per cent).

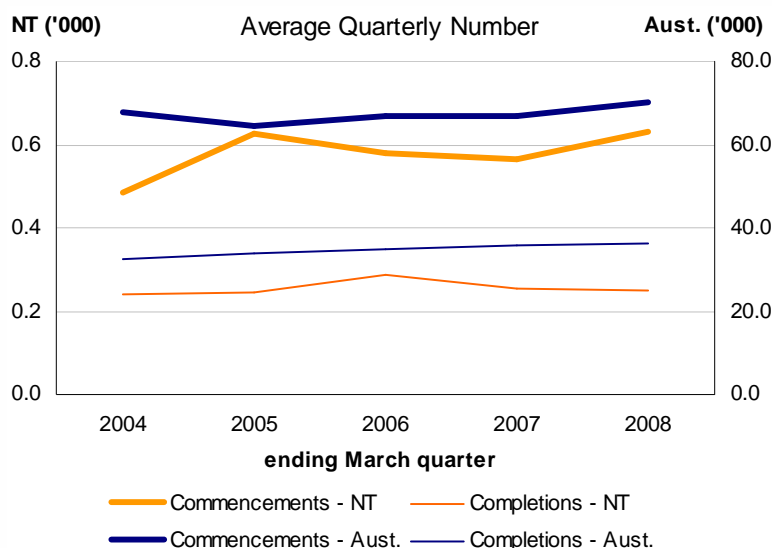
Commencements during March quarter 2008

- Estimated at 900, 13 per cent more than the March quarter 2007 (800) and 80 per cent more than the December quarter 2007 (500), while national estimates increased 6 and 58 per cent during the respective periods.
- Predominant characteristics: male (56 per cent); aged 19 years or under (56 per cent); and traditional trades (44 per cent).
- The average quarterly number commencing in the 12 months to 31 March 2008 (630) was higher than in the 12 months to 31 March 2004 (490) (Chart 1).

Completions during March quarter 2008

- Estimated at 200, no change from March quarter 2007 and 33 per cent less than during the December quarter 2007.
- Predominant characteristics: male (50 per cent) and traditional trades (50 per cent).
- The average quarterly number completing in the 12 months to 31 March 2008 (250) was slightly higher than in the 12 months to 31 March 2004 (240) (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Apprentices and Trainees, Northern Territory and Australia, 2004 to 2008



Source: NCVER Apprentices and Trainees

Australian Demographic Statistics, March quarter 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3101.0

This quarterly publication presents changes in estimated resident population for Australia and its states and territories over time. Components of change such as births, deaths, and overseas and interstate migration are included. See associated NT Treasury Economic Brief for more detail http://www.nt.gov.au/ntt/economics/econ_briefs/population.shtml.

Key Point:

From 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2008, the Territory's estimated resident population (ERP) grew by 2.2 per cent to 218 380 compared with national growth of 1.6 per cent.

In the Territory during the March quarter 2008 (Table 1):

- ERP grew to 218 380, 2.4 per cent higher than at 31 March 2007 compared with national annual growth of 1.6 per cent. The sex ratio was 108 males per 100 females, compared to the national sex ratio of 99 males per 100 females.
- The components of growth were natural increase (births less deaths) of 689 persons, net overseas migration of 149 persons and net interstate migration of negative 17 persons.
- More interstate migrants arrived from Queensland than any other state (1174 of 4246) and more departed to Queensland than any other state (1365 of 4263).

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- The total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.19 births per woman was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national TFR of 1.86 births per woman.
- The age standardised death rate of 9.15 deaths per 1000 persons was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate of 5.93 deaths per 1000 persons.

Table 1: Estimated Resident Population and Components of Change, Northern Territory and Australia, March quarter 2008

	March Quarter		change		
	quarter	year to date	quarterly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
population growth	821	4 603			
natural increase	689	2 819			
<i>births</i>	980	3 894			
<i>deaths</i>	291	1 075			
net migration					
<i>overseas</i>	149	930			
<i>interstate</i>	- 17	854			
total population	218 380		0.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Australia					
population growth	101 951	336 751			
total population	21 282 583		0.5%	1.6%	1.6%

¹ compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter

² compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year

³ compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarter period

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: ABS Cat. no. 3101.0

Corrective Services, Australia, June quarter 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 4512.0

This quarterly publication presents information based on administrative data for persons in adult custody facilities or directed to serve community-based orders administered by adult corrective services agencies. In all states and territories persons are considered adults if aged 18 years and over, except Queensland (17+).

Key Point:

The average daily number of Territory prisoners (919) in the June quarter 2008 was 2 per cent higher than in the June quarter 2007 (898). However, the June quarter 2008 average daily imprisonment rate of 590.4 per 100 000 adult population was slightly lower than the June quarter 2007 rate (593.8).

In the June quarter 2008 the Territory had:

- The highest average daily imprisonment rates per 100 000 adult population of all jurisdictions for male (1080), female (55) and all prisoners (590) and above respective national rates. However, all Territory rates were slightly lower than in the June quarter 2007 (Table 2). The overall young age structure and large percentage of Indigenous people in the Territory population likely impact on the total imprisonment rate.*
- The fifth lowest average daily imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult Indigenous population (1993), below the national average (2189) (Table 2).
- An average daily number of total prisoners of 919, 3 per cent higher than the previous quarter (896) and 2 per cent higher than the June quarter 2007 (898).
- An average daily number of Indigenous prisoners of 756, 3 per cent higher than the previous quarter (737) and 2 per cent higher than the June quarter 2007 (738).
- On average, 1152 persons in community-based corrections, more than the previous quarter (1136), but less than the June quarter 2007 (1175).

* In Australia, imprisonment rates decrease in older age groups so it is likely the Indigenous imprisonment rate will be higher than the non-Indigenous rate because of the larger proportion of young people in the Indigenous population. At 30 June 2007, the national age standardised ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment was 13:1 (ABS Cat. no. 4517.0, Prisoners in Australia, 2007).

Table 2: Imprisonment rates, Northern Territory and Australia, June quarter, 2007 and 2008

	Northern Territory		Australia	
	All	Indigenous	All	Indigenous
June quarter 2008	rate per relevant 100 000 adult population			
Male	1 080.3	3 897.8	309.6	4 134.6
Female	55.4	169.5	22.7	362.5
All	590.4	1 993.8	163.9	2 189.8
June quarter 2007				
Male	1 087.8	3 881.2	311.9	4 158.5
Female	56.1	172.3	23.7	400.6
All	593.8	1 985.0	165.5	2 218.5

Source: ABS Cat. no. 4512.0

Counting the Homeless 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 2050.0

This report presents the findings of research on homelessness based on data from the 2006 Census, combined with information from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection and the third National Census of Homeless School Students. Estimates on the size of the homeless population, social characteristics and geographical distribution of homeless people in 2006 are reported.

Key Points:

In the Territory, there were fewer homeless people identified at the 2006 Census (4785) than at the 2001 Census (5423) and the homeless rate decreased from 288 to 248 per 10 000 people over the same period, yet remained the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate (53).

At the 2006 Census, in the Territory:

- Including adjustments for undercounting at both censuses, there were 4785 homeless people identified compared to 5423 identified at the 2001 Census.
- The homelessness rate of 248 per 10 000 people was lower than the 2001 rate of 288 per 10 000 people, yet remains the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate in 2006 which was unchanged from 2001 at 53 per 10 000 people.
- 44 per cent of the homeless were staying temporarily with other households, similar to other states. However, 33 per cent were in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough, down from 40 per cent in 2001.

Drug use monitoring in Australia: 2007 annual report on drug use among police detainees

Source: *Australian Institute of Criminology, Research and Public Policy Series No. 93*

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program involves the quarterly collection of information on drug use and crime from police detainees across Australia including Darwin and Alice Springs. Information is collected from detainees on a voluntary basis, by an interviewer-administered questionnaire and urine sample. Data collection at Darwin and Alice Springs was conducted for the third and fourth quarters of 2007 only, but will continue into 2008.

Key Points:

In 2007 in Darwin and Alice Springs, the majority of interviewed police detainees reported drinking prior to being detained (76 and 69 per cent respectively). The majority of those who volunteered to be tested for any illicit drugs, tested positive to cannabis (93 and 86 per cent respectively).

In 2007, of the 196 detainees interviewed in Alice Springs:

- The majority (96 per cent) self-identified as Indigenous, and 87 per cent were males.
- 76 per cent reported drinking prior to being detained, the highest percentage of all sites across Australia.
- 118 provided urine and of the 29 who returned a positive result for any illicit drugs, the majority (86 per cent) tested positive for cannabis.
- 13 per cent reported they had lived at someone else's place and less than 1 per cent had no fixed residence during the 30 days prior to detention.

In 2007, of the 130 detainees interviewed in Darwin:

- The majority (66 per cent) self-identified as Indigenous, and 93 per cent were males.
- 69 per cent reported drinking prior to being detained, the highest percentage of all sites across Australia.
- 75 provided urine and of the 57 who returned a positive result for any illicit drugs, the majority (93 per cent) tested positive for cannabis.
- 49 per cent reported they had lived at someone else's place and 5 per cent had no fixed residence during the 30 days prior to detention.

Injury of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people due to transport, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. INJCAT 120

This report presents statistics of mortality and morbidity due to land transport accidents of Indigenous people in the Territory, Queensland, South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA) in the five-year period 2001-02 to 2005-06. For most statistics in the report, the data from the jurisdictions is aggregated.

Key Points:

From 2001-02 to 2005-06, the age-standardised rates of fatal and serious injury for Indigenous people in the Territory were higher than the national rates (for all people in Australia), 5.8 and 1.5 times as high, respectively.

In the Territory from 2001-02 to 2005-06:

- The age-standardised Indigenous rate of fatal injury was 5.8 times as high as the national rate (for all people in Australia) and the highest of the other jurisdictions with Queensland 1.8 times as high, WA 4.0 times and SA 3.6 times as high.
- The age-standardised Indigenous rate of serious injury was 1.5 times as high as the national rate (for all people in Australia), higher than Queensland 1.2 times as high and SA 1.4 times, but lower than WA 1.8 times as high.
- The age-standardised rates of fatal and serious injury for non-Indigenous people were significantly higher than the national rates, 1.8 and 1.3 times as high, respectively.

National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Summary Report

Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, NAPLAN Summary Report

The National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008 is being published progressively*. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) summary report presents results of testing of all students in Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on aspects of literacy and numeracy in 2008 under the National Assessment Program.

Key Points:

In the Territory in 2008, the percentages of tested students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who achieved results at or above national minimum standards were lower than corresponding national percentages. In addition, a higher percentage were at or above national minimum standards for numeracy than for reading or writing.

In 2008 in the Territory (Table 3):

- A higher percentage of participating (tested) Year 3 students were at or above national minimum standards for numeracy (77.3 per cent) than for reading (63.1 per cent) or writing (73.6 per cent). This pattern was repeated for all years tested.
- For all years tested for all three tests, the percentages of tested students at or above national minimum standards were lower than corresponding national percentages.

In 2007, national proportions of Indigenous students achieving benchmark levels in all years tested were below the proportions for non-Indigenous students and metropolitan students achieved the benchmarks at slightly higher rates than students in provincial and remote areas. Corresponding detail for testing in 2008 is yet to be released, but the

likely large percentage of Indigenous students in non-metropolitan areas of the Territory tested likely impacts on Territory results.

- Participation rates for all tests for all years tested were lower than national rates.

Table 3: Participation and students at or above national minimum standard (%), Northern Territory and Australia, 2008

	Northern Territory		Australia	
	Participation* (%)	At or above national minimum standard (%)	Participation (%)	At or above national minimum standard (%)
Year 3				
Reading	80.3	63.1	96.2	92.1
Writing	80.5	73.6	96.1	95.4
Numeracy	81.4	77.3	95.9	95.0
Year 5				
Reading	82.7	62.6	96.4	90.9
Writing	82.7	65.5	96.4	92.5
Numeracy	83.2	69.3	96.2	92.6
Year 7				
Reading	78.1	67.8	95.9	94.2
Writing	77.6	64.1	95.8	91.8
Numeracy	79.2	76.8	95.8	95.4
Year 9				
Reading	78.0	70.8	93.4	92.9
Writing	77.0	63.5	93.5	87.2
Numeracy	77.7	75.0	93.2	93.6

* all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of relevant year students reported by schools which includes those absent and withdrawn

Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, NAPLAN Summary Report

Population Projections 2006 to 2101

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3222.0

This publication presents a range of population projections for the period 30 June 2008 to 2101 for Australia and 30 June 2008 to 2056 for the states, territories, capital cities/balances of state. There are three main series of projections presented. In the following summary, Series B projections are presented and largely assume current trends in fertility, mortality, internal migration and overseas migration over the projection period.

Key Points:

Under Australian Bureau of Statistics medium level assumptions (Series B), between 30 June 2007 and 2056 the Territory's population is projected to increase by 87 per cent from 214 900 to 401 600 people. Darwin's population is projected to more than double from 117 400 to 243 000.

In the Territory to 2056 under Series B projections, it is assumed:

- Average total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.18 babies per woman during 2004, 2005 and 2006 declines to a constant 2.14 annually from 2021. From 2021, TFRs are lower for Darwin* (2.0) and higher for areas outside of Darwin (2.21).
- Population growth from net overseas migration for 2008 and 2009 will be 0.7 per cent of total national net overseas migration, declining to a constant 0.6 per cent annually from 2010.
- Based on long-term averages, net interstate migration of about 500 people in 2008 will decline to a constant annual negative loss of about 500 people from 2010.

- Total population is projected to increase by 87 per cent to 401 600 people. Darwin's population is projected to double from 117 400 to 243 000 people.

* Darwin refers to Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield Shire combined

Public health expenditure in Australia, 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HWE 41

This annual publication reports estimates of recurrent expenditure on public health activities in Australia that were funded by the Australian Government (AG) and state and territory governments during 2006-07. Public health is defined as the organised response by society to protect and promote health, and to prevent illness, injury and disability. AG funding directly spent by the AG on public health programs is not presented by jurisdiction in the publication, but details of AG funding of Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) for state and territory governments are included.

Key Points:

Public health expenditure by the Territory Government including Australian Government Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) experienced real growth of 8.3 per cent from 2005-06 to 2006-07 compared with real growth of 12.5 per cent for all jurisdictions combined. Average expenditure on public health activities of \$316.32 per person in the Territory was higher than the national average of \$82.22 per person.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- In addition to AG funding directly spent on its own public health programs and \$10.8 million (current prices) provided through SPPs, funding for public health activities from the Territory's own sources was estimated at \$51.2 million (current prices) which is equivalent to 7.2 per cent of total combined funding by states and territories from their own sources.
- In current price terms, organised immunisation was the largest single area of public health expenditure at 25.8 per cent (\$16 million of \$62 million) as it was for total national expenditure at 25.4 per cent (of \$1714.9 million). Organised immunisation SPPs for the Territory accounted for \$4.1 million.
- Real growth in public health expenditure (including SPPs) of 8.3 per cent to \$59.7 million from \$55.1 million in 2005-06 was smaller than the 12.5 per cent increase in total expenditure for combined jurisdictions. (Table 4).
- Average expenditure on public health activities was estimated at \$316.32 per person, the highest average of all jurisdictions and higher than the national average (\$82.22). In the Territory, public health expenditure is likely to be higher than the national average as a result of the relative isolation of the population, and the higher proportion of Indigenous people in the population who have a much poorer average health status.

Table 4: Public health expenditure, constant prices^(a), Northern Territory and All Jurisdictions, 1999-00 to 2006-07

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Northern Territory								
\$ million	48.3	44.5	44.0	41.4	47.8	57.1	55.1	59.7
growth (%)	-	-7.9	-1.1	-5.9	15.5	19.5	-3.5	8.3
All Jurisdictions								
\$ million	1 129.0	1 212.1	1 264.4	1 346.0	1 365.3	1 502.5	1 466.7	1 650.6
growth (%)	-	7.4	4.3	6.5	1.4	10.0	-2.4	12.5

(a) constant price expressed in 2005-06 prices

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HWE 41