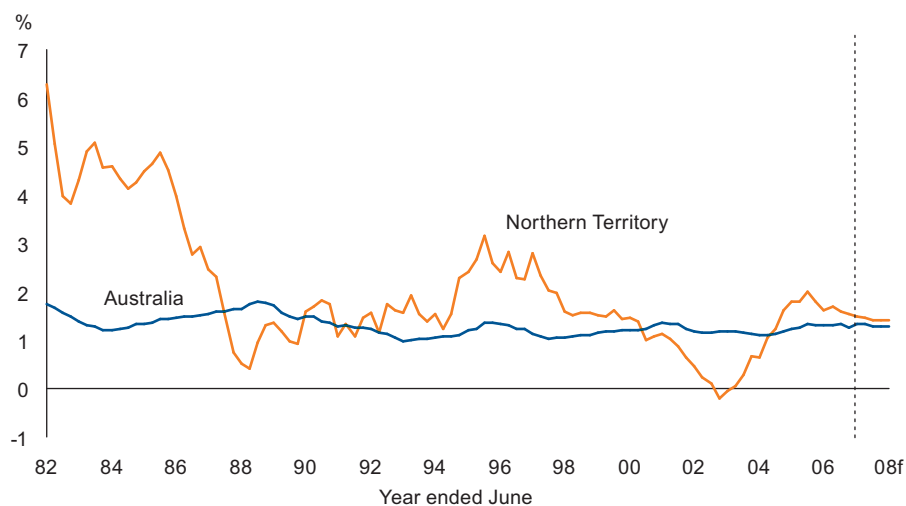


# Population

- » The Northern Territory is sparsely settled, with a relatively young and highly urbanised population. A far higher proportion of the Territory's population is Indigenous (29 per cent) than in other jurisdictions.
- » Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributes more to total growth in the Territory than in other jurisdictions, averaging 1.4 percentage points compared to 0.6 percentage points nationally. This is in part due to high rates of Indigenous fertility in the Territory.
- » Interstate migration is the most variable component of population growth. After contributing strongly to population growth in 2005, interstate migration returned to more typical patterns in 2006-07.
- » Population growth in 2006 remains strong at an estimated 1.6 per cent, after stronger than expected growth of 2 per cent in 2005.
- » Population growth of 1.4 per cent per annum is forecast for 2007 and 2008.
- » An accurate estimate of population is of critical importance to the Territory as ABS population estimates are used by the Australian Government to apportion goods and services tax (GST) revenues, a substantial portion of Territory total revenue.

Annual Population Growth



f: forecast

Source: Northern Territory Treasury, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0