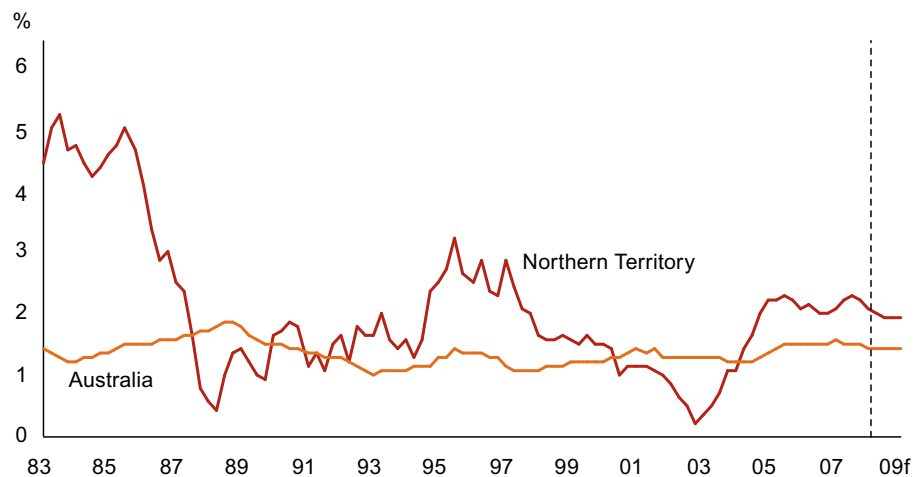


Population

- The Northern Territory is generally sparsely settled, with more than half the population in the Greater Darwin area.
- The population has a young age distribution relative to other jurisdictions; nevertheless the proportion of older people in the Territory's population is projected to rise rapidly in the next decade.
- A far higher proportion of the Territory's population is Indigenous (32 per cent) compared with other jurisdictions.
- Natural increase (births minus deaths) is by far the largest component of Territory population growth and its contribution to growth is about double that experienced in other jurisdictions.
- Net interstate migration is the most variable component of population growth and historically takes the form of an annual net population loss. Recent net migration has been positive, although quarterly patterns fluctuate considerably, making the future hard to predict.
- The Territory has enjoyed population growth of 2 per cent for the past three financial years and continues to have the third highest population growth rate after Western Australia and Queensland.
- Population growth of 2.2 per cent is forecast for the year to December 2007, moderating to 1.9 per cent for the year to December 2008.
- Accurate population estimates are of critical importance to the Territory as the Commonwealth uses them in the calculations to apportion goods and services tax (GST) revenue, a substantial proportion of total Territory revenue.

Annual Population Growth



f: forecast

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