



Northern Australia*

October 2017

Table 1: Northern Australia key statistics

	North Queensland	North Western Australia	Northern Territory	Northern Australia	Australia
Demographics					
Population ('000)	934.5	110.7	245.7	1,291.0	24,210.8
Annual average population growth (per cent) (1-year / 10-year)	0.3 / 1.6	-0.3 / 2.1	0.3 / 1.6	0.2 / 1.7	1.5 / 1.7
Aged < 15 years (per cent)	21.1	22.0	21.8	21.3	18.9
Aged 15–64 years (per cent)	66.1	73.3	71.3	67.7	65.9
Aged > 64 years (per cent)	12.8	4.7	6.9	11.0	15.2
Employment					
Unemployment rate (per cent)	8.1	5.0	3.6	6.8	5.6
Participation rate (per cent)	64.5	80.2	73.3	68.0	65.3
Estimated total employment ('000)	456.2	72.8	136.6	665.6	12,269.0
Income					
Mean (\$)	60,822	80,948	67,972	63,597	61,036
Actively trading businesses (per cent)					
Non employing	59.6	56.2	58.1	59.1	60.7
1-4 employees	26.6	25.2	24.3	26.1	27.6
5-19 employees	11.2	14.3	13.1	11.7	9.1
20-199 employees	2.6	4.4	4.4	3.0	2.3
200+ employees	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total number of businesses ('000)	73.6	5.7	14.0	93.3	2,171.2

Table 2: Top three employing industries (per cent share of total employment)

North Queensland		North Western Australia		Northern Territory		Northern Australia	
Rank							
1	Health Care 12.6	Mining 26.1	Public Admin 15.6	Health Care 11.8			
2	Retail Trade 10.2	Construction 9.7	Health Care 12.3	Public Admin 9.8			
3	Construction 8.9	Public Admin 9.7	Construction 10.5	Retail Trade 9.6			

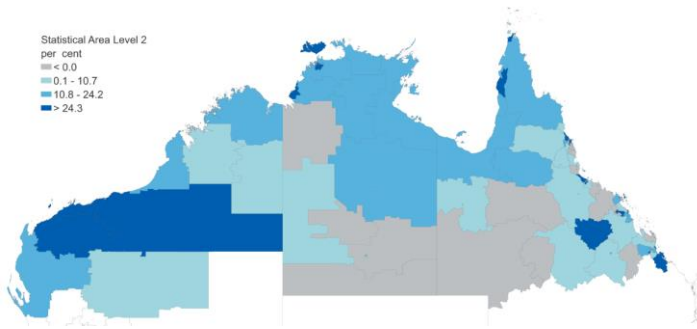
Table 3: Statistical Area Level 4 unemployment rates (per cent)

	12-month average to Aug-17	Aug-17	Jul-17	Jun-17
Statistical Area Level 4				
Cairns	5.8	6.7	4.7	4.9
Fitzroy	7.1	5.2	6.4	8.5
Mackay	5.1*	2.8	3.4	3.9
Queensland – Outback	12.8*	4.7	16.6	17.7
Townsville	8.9	8.9	6.0	9.9
Western Australia – Outback	4.8	6.3	4.9	4.7
Darwin	3.4	3.1	3.4	2.8
Northern Territory - Outback	3.7	6.2	3.7	3.9

Note: Estimates with an asterisk (*) are likely to have an RSE greater than 25 per cent and should be used with caution. Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) is the lowest geographical boundary published in the ABS Labour Force Survey. The boundaries of Fitzroy, Queensland – Outback and Western Australia – Outback include areas in northern and southern Australia.

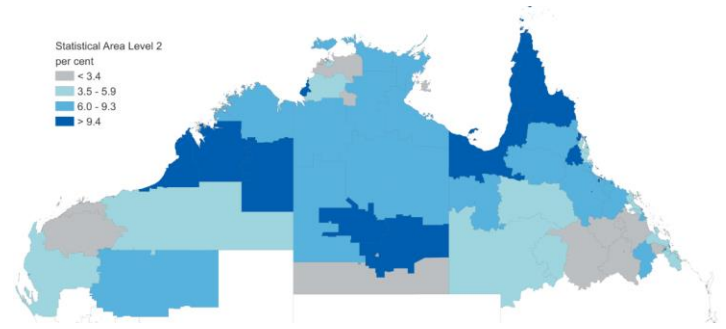
*Please refer to Table 6 for data notes and sources.

Population growth in northern Australia, 2005-06 to 2015-16



Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16, cat. no. 3218.0.

Unemployment rates in northern Australia, March 2017



Source: Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets, Smoothed unemployment rates, March quarter 2017 (Table 1 – SA2).

Table 4: Northern Australia Significant Urban Areas

Significant Urban Areas	Population ('000)	Unemployment rate (per cent)	Participation rate (per cent)	Mean income (\$)	Total employment ('000)	Goods producing employment (per cent)	Market services employment (per cent)	Non-market services employment (per cent)	Actively traded businesses ('000)
Townsville (QLD)	178.9	11.0	62.7	60,353	82.6	16.0	48.6	35.4	10.8
Cairns (QLD)	150.0	6.8	65.3	55,201	74.0	16.9	49.6	33.5	12.3
Darwin (NT)	125.3	3.4	76.6	71,210	71.4	20.3	46.3	33.5	8.9
Mackay (QLD)	80.8	6.8	72.7	67,723	49.1	30.7	46.0	23.3	6.3
Rockhampton (QLD)	78.8	7.8	64.6	60,668	39.1	21.6	43.4	34.9	4.7
Gladstone (QLD)	45.1	7.0	70.8	87,574	22.8	34.3	45.6	20.1	2.4
Alice Springs (NT)	26.8	1.5	91.2	60,181	22.0	13.7	41.2	45.1	2.0
Mount Isa (QLD)	19.0	7.4	64.4	77,819	11.8	55.6	27.4	17.0	0.9
Karratha (WA)	16.3	1.5	90.5	96,812	12.3	41.7	39.4	18.9	0.8
Yeppoon (QLD)	18.6	6.4	61.1	64,034	8.2	27.4	41.4	31.3	1.3
Emerald (QLD)	14.0	3.0	69.1	72,443	8.0	47.9	37.9	14.3	1.2
Port Hedland (WA)	14.4	3.3	86.2	95,089	9.5	41.2	38.3	20.5	0.7
Broome (WA)	14.5	5.5	79.2	65,193	9.0	15.7	49.2	35.1	1.2

Note: Statistical Area Level 4 and Significant Urban Areas are not the same. SUAs are constructed based on population density, while SA4s reflect labour markets within each state and territory within population limits.

Table 5: Mining regions

	Bowen Basin Metallurgical and Thermal Coal	Pilbara Iron ore
Key statistics		
Population ('000)	376.5	61.4
Unemployment rate (per cent)	6.2	2.2
Participation rate (per cent)	69.5	89.6
Mining statistics		
Total employed in mining ('000)	23.9	16.6
Mining share of total employment (per cent)	11.0	37.1
Share of national production (per cent)	54	95
High cost production (per cent)	<0	1

Note: The production information is derived based on AME data. High cost production refers to the proportion of production where the cost of production (including freight to port) is higher than the relevant price at 10 October 2017. Coal figures refer to exported production.

For the purposes of this note northern Australia estimates are an aggregation of Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2) as defined by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Act 2016.

Significant Urban Areas (SUA) are an aggregation of SA2s that are in the same labour market and have an aggregate urban population exceeding 10,000 persons.

The mining region of Bowen Basin relates to the Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) of Mackay and Fitzroy. The Pilbara mining region relates to the Statistical Area Level 3 of Pilbara.

Table 6: Sources and Notes

Statistic	Source	Notes
Demographics		
Northern Australia	ABS, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2016, cat. no. 3235.0.	These figures are for the estimated resident population. Demographic estimates refer to June 2016. Data updated annually.
State and National	ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2017, cat. no. 3101.0, Table 57 and 59.	These figures are for the estimated resident population. Demographic estimates refer to June 2016. Population by age updated annually.
SUAs, mining regions and population growth	ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16, cat. no. 3218.0.	SA2 data. 1-year growth from June 2015 to June 2016. 10-year growth from June 2006 to June 2016. Data updated annually.
Labour Force		
Unemployment rates Northern Australia (including SUAs and Pilbara mining region)	Department of Employment, Data tables, Small Area Labour Markets, March 2017 (Table 1 – SA2).	These estimates are aggregated SA2 data from the Department of Employment's Small Area Labour Markets (SALM) publication. The Department of Employment uses a four quarter average to minimise the variability inherent in small area estimates, however given the nature of the data, figures should be used with some caution. Data updated quarterly.
Unemployment rates SA4s (including Bowen Basin mining region)	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, August 2017, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, RM1.	Please note SA4s and SUAs are not the same. SUAs are constructed based on population density, while SA4s reflect labour markets within each state and territory within population limits. The labour force survey is subject to sampling error particularly for regions with low employment, 12-month average to August 2017 has been applied to minimise the variability inherent in small area estimates. Data updated monthly.
Participation rates Northern Australia (including SUAs and mining regions)	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, August 2017, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, RM1. ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing (TableBuilder extract).	Northern Australia is a construction of SA2, however labour force survey data is only published at the SA4 level. Employment by industry is estimated by applying SA2 to SA4 Census ratios to SA4 labour force survey data. Data updated monthly.
Unemployment and participation rates National and State	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2017, cat. no. 6202.0, Table 1 and 10.	National figures are seasonally adjusted. State figures are trended. Data updated monthly.
Estimated industry share of total employment		
Northern Australia (including SUAs and mining regions)	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2017, cat.no. 6291.0.55.003, RQ1. ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing (TableBuilder extract).	Northern Australia is a construction of SA2s, however labour force survey employment data is only published at the SA4 level. Employment by industry is estimated by applying SA2 to SA4 Census ratios to SA4 labour force survey data. Updated quarterly. Estimates based on four quarter averages to August 2017. Data updated quarterly.
State	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2017, cat.no. 6291.0.55.003, Table 05.	Estimates based on four quarter averages to August 2017. Data updated quarterly.
Actively traded businesses		
All regions	ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, Jun 2012 to Jun 2016, cat. no. 8165.0.	SA2 data, aggregated to applicable regions. Data updated annually.
Mining production and costs		
Bowen Basin and Mackay	Cost curve estimates from AME	High cost production refers to the proportion of production where the cost of production (including freight to port) is higher than the relevant spot price at 10 October 2017. Departmental calculations. AME data updated quarterly.