

# Population

December quarter 2025 | Economic brief

## Estimated resident population

	NT	Aust
Year-ended change	↑1.6%	↑1.5%
Estimated resident population	267 478	27.8M

The Territory's estimated resident population increased by 0.2% (511 persons) to 267,478 in the December quarter 2025, and increased by 1.6% in year-ended terms (Chart 1).

Net interstate migration (-420 persons) detracted from growth while net overseas migration (+514 persons) and natural increase (+417 persons) contributed to population growth in the December quarter 2025.

Nationally, population increased by 0.3% in the December quarter 2025, and increased by 1.5% in year-ended terms.

Population changes in year-ended terms ranged from an increase of 0.5% in Tasmania to an increase of 2.2% in Western Australia (Chart 2).

## Natural increase

The Territory recorded a natural increase of 417 persons, comprising 736 births and 319 deaths in the December quarter 2025. Natural increase contributed 1,889 persons to the Territory population over the year to the December quarter 2025 (Chart 3).

## Net interstate migration

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has revised interstate migration estimates from September quarter 2024 to June quarter 2025 with insights from Australian Taxation Office data available through the Person Level Integrated Data Asset. The revisions have resulted in an overall improvement to the Territory's net interstate migration outcomes since September quarter 2024.

Net interstate migration detracted 420 persons from the Territory population in the December quarter 2025, compared to net loss of 170 persons in the December quarter 2024. There were 4,357 departures from, and 3,937 arrivals to the Territory in the December quarter 2025.

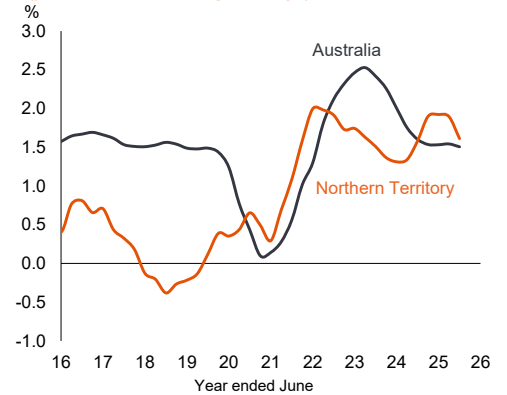
Net interstate migration detracted 1228 persons from the Territory population over the year to the December quarter 2025.

## Net overseas migration

Net overseas migration contributed 514 persons to the Territory population in the December quarter 2025 and 3,579 persons over the year to the December quarter 2025 (Chart 3).

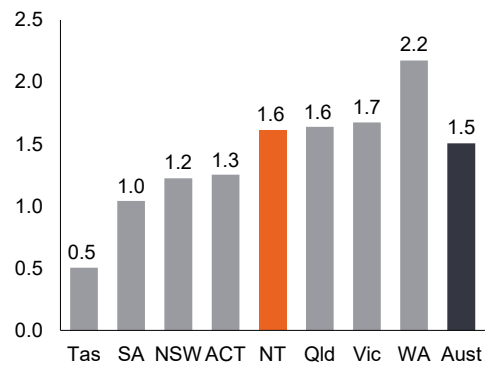
Nationally, net overseas migration contributed 56,613 persons to the population in the December quarter 2025, and 300,955 over the year to the December quarter 2025.

Chart 1: Population growth (year-ended percentage change)



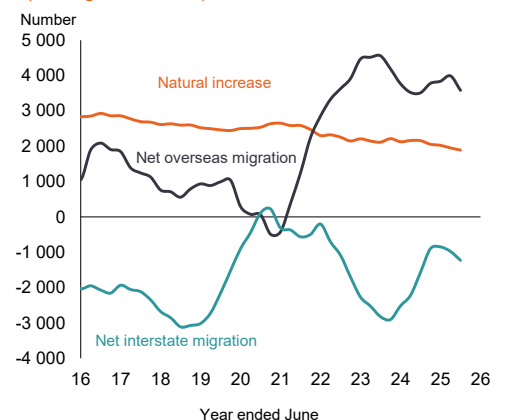
Source: ABS, National, states and territory population

Chart 2: Population growth (year-ended percentage change)



Source: ABS, National, state and territory population

Chart 3: Territory population components (moving annual total)



Source: ABS, National, state and territory population

Table 1: Estimated resident population and components

	Period				Change		
	Dec qtr 2024	Sep qtr 2025	Dec qtr 2025	Year to date	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>	Year-average <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
<b>Original</b>							
Population growth	1 232	1 072	511	4 240			
Natural increase	477	455	417	1 889	-8.4%	-12.6%	-12.4%
– births	781	837	736	3 342	-12.1%	-5.8%	-2.7%
– deaths	304	382	319	1 453	-16.5%	4.9%	13.8%
Net interstate migration	- 170	- 405	- 420	- 1 228	-3.7%	-147.1%	21.8%
– arrivals	4 543	3 064	3 937	14 258	28.5%	-13.3%	-6.1%
– departures	4 713	3 469	4 357	15 486	25.6%	-7.6%	-7.6%
Net overseas migration	925	1 022	514	3 579	-49.7%	-44.4%	2.0%
– arrivals	1 524	1 551	1 150	5 600	-25.9%	-24.5%	-0.1%
– departures	599	529	636	2 021	20.2%	6.2%	-3.5%
Total population	263 238	266 967	267 478	n/a	0.2%	1.6%	n/a
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Original</b>							
Population growth	87 380	111 359	78 638	412 494			
Natural increase	23 090	23 269	22 025	111 539	-5.3%	-4.6%	10.0%
– births	67 575	75 537	68 541	299 984	-9.3%	1.4%	3.6%
– deaths	44 485	52 268	46 516	188 445	-11.0%	4.6%	0.1%
Net migration	64 290	88 090	56 613	300 955	-35.7%	-11.9%	-8.9%
Total population	27 388 529	27 722 385	27 801 023	n/a	0.3%	1.5%	n/a

n/a: not applicable

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.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, National, state and territory population

Caution is advised when using data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[National, state and territory population | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

## More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: [nteconomy.nt.gov.au](http://nteconomy.nt.gov.au)