

Social Indicators August 2020

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Table of contents	Page
Annual Administration Statistics, 2018-19 This annual publication provides statistics on the administration of personal insolvencies in Australia. Author: Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA) Date of release: 29 June 2020	2
Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019 This annual publication provides statistics relating to victims of crime for a selected range of offences as recorded by police in Australia in 2019. Author: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Date of release: 9 July 2020	3
National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019 This triennial publication provides information on alcohol, tobacco and drug use among Australians. Author: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Date of release: 16 July 2020	4
Northern Territory Crime Statistics, May quarter 2020 This monthly publication provides statistics on criminal offences in the Northern Territory, extracted from the police records system. Author: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) Date of release: 17 July 2020	5

Disclaimer

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

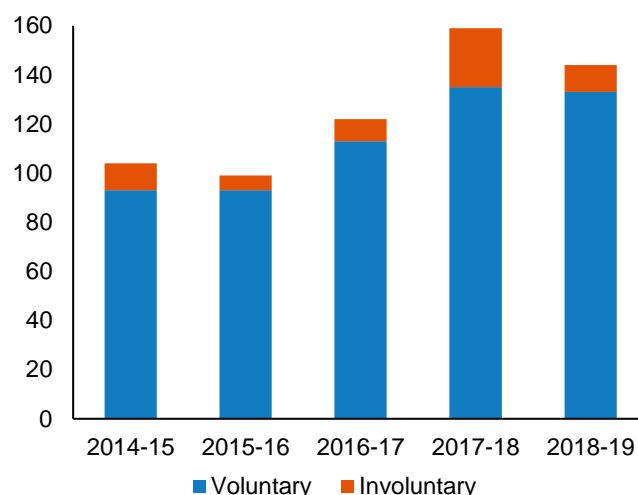
More information:

Intergovernmental Relations | Department of Treasury and Finance
P: 08 8999 6801 | W: <https://treasury.nt.gov.au>

The following is a summary of information on the administration of personal insolvencies relating to the Northern Territory in 2018-19, unless otherwise stated. Part IV bankruptcy (declared unable to pay debts) and Part IX debt agreements (legally binding agreement between debtor and creditors regarding repayment of debts) are in reference to the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cth).

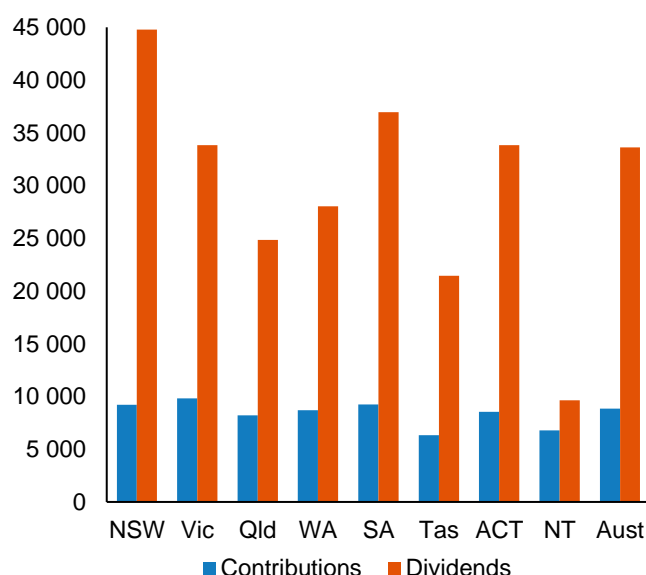
- There were 144 new Part IV bankruptcies in 2018-19, a decrease of 9.4 per cent compared to 2017-18, primarily due to a decrease in involuntary bankruptcies (-54.2 per cent). Nationally, bankruptcies decreased by 8.8 per cent over the same period (Figure 1).
- Of the total number of new bankruptcies, 119 or 82.6 per cent were administered by the Official Trustee, the statutory body established under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* to administer a debtor's estate. In comparison, bankruptcies administered by the Official Trustee ranged from 90.6 per cent in Tasmania to 72.9 per cent in Western Australia. In the Territory, the remaining 25 or 17.4 per cent of new bankruptcies were administered by private trustees registered with the Australian Financial Security Authority.
- In 2018-19, there were 84 bankruptcies in which contributions were paid (debtor payments to trustee from their income, either voluntarily or involuntarily if income exceeds set threshold), with an average contribution of \$6781. This was the second lowest average contribution of all jurisdictions, with Tasmania having a lower average contribution of \$6318. Nationally the average contribution was \$8847 (Figure 2).
- In 2018-19, there were 24 bankruptcies which had dividends (interim and final) declared and paid (payments from debtor's estate to creditors), with an average dividend of \$9631. This was the lowest average dividend of all jurisdictions and compares to the national average dividend of \$33 607 (Figure 2).
- There were 644 Part IX debt agreements not yet completed as at 30 June 2019, an increase of 4.3 per cent compared to 30 June 2018. During 2018-19, 144 new debt agreements were made and 69 were completed (Table 1).
- The average rate of return on completed debt agreements in the Territory was 58.2 cents per dollar of debt, the highest rate of all jurisdictions and compares to the national average rate of 53.5 cents per dollar of debt.

Figure 1: Number of new bankruptcies by type, Northern Territory, 2014-15 to 2018-19¹



1 Part IV bankruptcies can be either voluntary (debtor's petition) or involuntary (creditor's petition).

Figure 2: Average bankruptcy contributions and dividends, 2018-19 (dollars)²



2 Contributions comprise of voluntary and involuntary contributions.

Table 1: Dividends paid in completed debt agreements, 2018-19³

	Completed debt agreements	Value of claims	Dividends paid	Rate of return
	No.	\$M	\$M	cents/\$
NSW	2 492	91.3	48.8	53.4
Vic	1 576	58.5	31.0	53.0
Qld	2 292	79.2	42.7	54.0
WA	657	23.1	12.6	54.5
SA	400	14.0	7.3	52.1
Tas	238	8.4	4.3	52.0
ACT	144	5.2	2.8	54.0
NT	69	2.2	1.3	58.2
Australia	7 868	281.7	150.7	53.5

3 Figures may not add due to rounding.

Source data in Annual Administration Statistics 2018-19: Department of Treasury and Finance, AFSA.

The following is a summary of information about victims of selected offences in the Northern Territory as recorded by police during 2019, unless otherwise stated.

- There were 18 882 victims of crime in the Territory, a decrease of 5.8 per cent compared to 2018. Nationally, victims of crime increased by 6.9 per cent during the same period (Table 2).
- The number of assault victims decreased by 8.6 per cent to 6730. This equates to a victimisation rate of 2737 per 100 000 population in 2019.
- Of the total number of assault victims, 4352 or 64.7 per cent were female, 2345 or 34.8 per cent were male and 33 or 0.5 per cent were unstated (Table 3).
- Female assault victims were more likely to know the offender (85.2 per cent) compared with male assault victims (56.3 per cent).
- Of the total number of assault victims, 4694 or 69.7 per cent were Aboriginal, 1650 or 24.5 per cent were non-Aboriginal and 386 or 5.7 per cent were not recorded. This equates to an Aboriginal assault victimisation rate of 6049 per 100 000 population in 2019, compared with a non-Aboriginal rate of 980.
- Aboriginal assault victims were more likely to know the offender (86.7 per cent) compared with non-Aboriginal assault victims (46.5 per cent).
- There were 354 victims of sexual assault in the Territory, a decrease of 1.7 per cent compared to 2018. Of these, 315 or 89.0 per cent were female, 29 or 8.2 per cent were male and 10 or 2.8 per cent were unstated. Nationally, the number of sexual assault victims increased by 2.1 per cent.
- The sexual assault victimisation rate in the Territory was 144 per 100 000 population, the highest rate across all jurisdictions and above the national average of 106 per 100 000 population (Figure 3).
- The number of victims of unlawful entry with intent decreased by 6.6 per cent to 4652 victims. Of these, 44.5 per cent involved the taking of property, the lowest rate of all jurisdictions.
- The homicide and related offences victimisation rate in the Territory was 4.5 per 100 000 population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 1.6 per 100 000 population.

Table 2: Recorded victims of crime by selected offences, Northern Territory, 2018 and 2019⁴

	2018	2019	Annual Change
	No.	No.	%
Homicide and related offences ⁵	9	11	22.2
Assault	7 365	6 730	-8.6
Sexual assault	360	354	-1.7
Robbery	131	147	12.2
Blackmail/extortion	0	3	n.a.
Unlawful entry with intent	4 981	4 652	-6.6
Motor vehicle theft	769	700	-9.0
Other theft ⁶	6 426	6 285	-2.2
Total	20 041	18 882	-5.8

4 The sum of the components may not equal published totals due to perturbation.

5 Excludes driving causing death and conspiracy to murder.

6 Other theft includes theft of motor vehicle parts or contents, theft from a person (excluding by force), theft from retail premises and illegal use of property (except motor vehicles).

Table 3: Relationship of offender to assault victim by gender, Northern Territory, 2019^{7,8}

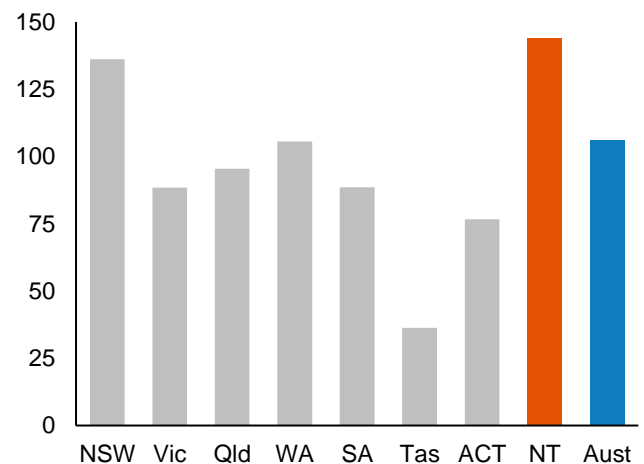
	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Known to victim	1 321	56.3	3 708	85.2
<i>Family member</i>	661	28.2	2 775	63.8
<i>Non-family member</i>	663	28.3	931	21.4
Stranger	769	32.8	439	10.1
Unknown ⁹	255	10.9	205	4.7
Total	2 345	100	4 352	100

7 The gender status of 33 victims was not recorded.

8 The sum of the components may not equal published totals due to perturbation.

9 Includes victims for whom the relationship of offender to victim was no offender identified and not stated/inadequately described.

Figure 3: Sexual assault victimisation rate per 100 000 population, 2019



Source data in Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No 4510.0.

The following is a summary of information on tobacco, alcohol and drug usage in the Northern Territory in 2019, unless otherwise stated. The statistics are based on a household survey of over 22 000 people aged 14 and over across Australia, excluding remote Indigenous communities.

- The proportion of daily tobacco smokers in the Territory was 14.7 per cent, or 1 in 7 people, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 11.0 per cent (Figure 4).
- The proportion of daily tobacco smokers has decreased by 47.3 per cent since 2001, in line with the national average decrease of 43.3 per cent.
- In 2019, 15.3 per cent of people reported having tried e-cigarettes at least once, the highest proportion of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 11.2 per cent.
- The average age at which people first tried tobacco in the Territory was 16.4 years old, below the national average of 16.6 years old.
- The proportion of people drinking daily in the Territory was 8.2 per cent, or 1 in 12 people, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 5.4 per cent.
- In the Territory, 23.9 per cent of people exceeded the lifetime alcohol risk guidelines, a decrease from 27.6 per cent in 2016. Nationally, the Territory has the highest proportion of lifetime at risk drinkers (Table 4).
- The proportion of males who exceeded the lifetime alcohol risk guidelines was 32.2 per cent compared with 15.3 per cent for females.
- In the Territory, 35.4 per cent of people exceeded the single occasion alcohol risk guidelines, a slight decrease from 35.8 per cent in 2016. Nationally, the Territory has the highest proportion of single occasion at risk drinkers (Table 4).
- The average age at which people first tried drinking alcohol was 16.7 years old, the youngest of all jurisdictions.
- The proportion of people who reported illicit drug usage in the past 12 months was 19.6 per cent, or 1 in 5 people, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 16.4 per cent.
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit drug in the Territory (15.9 per cent) and nationally (11.6 per cent), followed by cocaine with 3.1 per cent and 4.2 per cent, respectively (Table 5).

Figure 4: Proportion of daily tobacco smokers, 2019 (per cent)

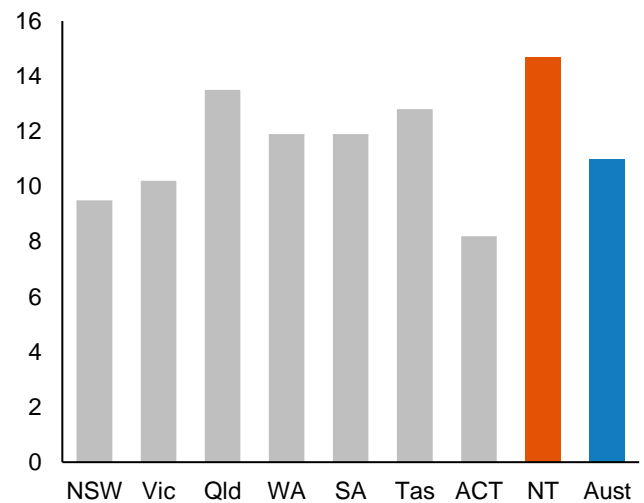


Table 4: Proportion of at risk drinkers by type, 2016 and 2019^{10,11}

	Lifetime		Single occasion	
	2016	2019	2016	2019
	%	%	%	%
NSW	16.8	16.2	24.0	22.9
Vic	15.4	14.4	24.5	23.4
Qld	19.5	20.1	29.0	28.7
WA	18.4	17.2	27.0	25.9
SA	15.9	18.3	25.5	26.0
Tas	17.7	16.6	26.9	26.3
ACT	14.4	14.1	22.7	20.7
NT	27.6	23.9	35.8	35.4
Australia	17.2	16.8	25.7	24.8

10 Lifetime risk guidelines: On average, had more than 2 standard drinks per day.

11 Single occasion risk guidelines: Had more than 4 standard drinks on one occasion at least once a month.

Table 5: Proportion of population reporting drug use within the past 12 months by type of drug, 2019¹²

	NT	Australia
	%	%
Cannabis	15.9	11.6
Cocaine	3.1	4.2
Ecstasy	3.0	3.0
Pharmaceuticals ¹³	2.7	4.2
Hallucinogens	2.1	1.6
Methamphetamine	1.5	1.3
Inhalants	1.3	1.4
Other ¹⁴	1.2	1.7

12 Includes people who consume multiple types of drugs.

13 Includes legal drugs such as pain killers, sleeping pills and steroids.

14 Includes heroin, ketamine, GHB, synthetic cannabinoids, injected drugs and new and emerging psychoactive substances.

Source data in National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, AIHW.

The following is a summary of information on offence counts in the Northern Territory in the May quarter 2020 compared to the May quarter 2019, unless otherwise stated.

- Recorded offences against property decreased by 1121, or 20.3 per cent, to 4401. This decrease was driven by decreases in all offences related to property (Table 6).
- Commercial break-ins decreased by 43.2 per cent, to 402, with decreases across all the regions in the Territory. The largest decreases were in Katherine (-58) and Darwin (-56).
- House break-ins decreased by 10.2 per cent, to 526, primarily driven by decreases in the NT Balance (-67) and Darwin (-53), partially offset by increases in Palmerston (45) (Table 7).
- The number of offences against persons decreased by 40, or 2.1 per cent, to 1828, primarily driven by a decrease in sexual assault and related offences (-20) (Table 6).
- The number of acts intended to cause injury remained steady at 1588. This was primarily due to increases in Tennant Creek (31) and Alice Springs (30) with offsetting decreases in Darwin (-38) and the NT Balance (-29).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 1582 were assaults, where 59.8 per cent involved domestic violence, 48.5 per cent involved alcohol and 33.1 per cent involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- Following the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration in March 2020, offences against property reduced with the biggest reductions observed in theft and property damage offences. Monthly recorded theft offences have decreased by 418 offences (-56.2 per cent) and property damage offences have decreased by 368 offences (-46.9 per cent) (Figure 5).
- In the year ending May 2020, the number of theft and property damage offences per 100 000 population in the Territory was 2978 and 2982 respectively, the lowest recorded levels since 2016.
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 6: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, Northern Territory, May quarter, 2019 and 2020^{15,16,17}

	May qtr 2019 No.	May qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Offences against property			
House break-ins	586	526	-10.2
Commercial break-ins	708	402	-43.2
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	458	359	-21.6
Theft	1 919	1 466	-23.6
Property damage	1 851	1 648	-11.0
Total	5 522	4 401	-20.3
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	0	3	n.a.
Acts intended to cause injury	1588	1588	0
Sexual assault and related offences	99	79	-20.2
Other	181	158	-12.7
Total	1 868	1 828	-2.1

15 Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.

16 Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.

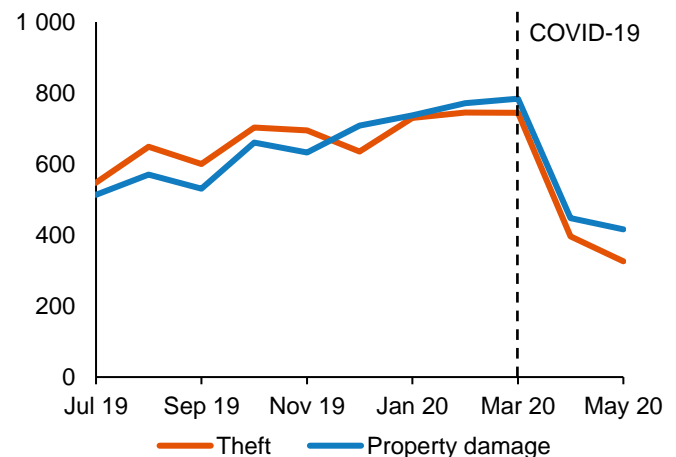
17 Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 7: Recorded house break-ins by region, Northern Territory, May quarter, 2019 and 2020¹⁸

	May qtr 2019 No.	May qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Darwin	224	171	-23.7
Palmerston	63	108	71.4
Alice Springs	112	128	14.3
Katherine	19	28	47.4
Tennant Creek	25	22	-12.0
Nhulunbuy	8	1	-87.5
NT Balance	135	68	-49.6
Total	586	526	-10.2

18 NT Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Figure 5: Monthly recorded theft and property damage offences, Northern Territory, 2019-20



Source data in Northern Territory Crime Statistics, May 2020: Department of Treasury and Finance, NTPFES.