

Population

March quarter 2023 | Economic brief

Estimated resident population

	NT	Aust
Annual change	↑0.9%	↑2.2%
Estimated resident population	251 654	26.5M

The Territory's estimated resident population increased by 0.4% (1,114 persons) to 251,654 in the March quarter 2023.

Net overseas migration (+1,463 persons) and natural increase (+582 persons) contributed to population growth while net interstate migration (-931 persons) detracted from population growth. Nationally, population increased by 0.7%.

In annual terms, the Territory's population increased by 0.9%, while nationally, population increased by 2.2% (Chart 1). Annual population change in other jurisdictions ranged from an increase of 0.4% in Tasmania to an increase of 2.8% in Western Australia (Chart 2).

Natural increase

In the March quarter 2023, the Territory recorded a natural increase of 582 persons, comprising 849 births and 267 deaths. In the year to March 2023, natural increase contributed 2,125 persons to the Territory's population, a decrease of 14.0% compared to the previous year.

Net interstate migration

Net interstate migration for the September and December 2021 quarters are impacted by the ABS making COVID-19 related methodological adjustments to its treatment of Medicare source data.

In the March quarter 2023, net interstate migration detracted 931 persons from the population, a worsening on the net loss of 310 persons in the March quarter 2022. There were 4,578 departures from, and 3,647 arrivals to, the Territory in the quarter.

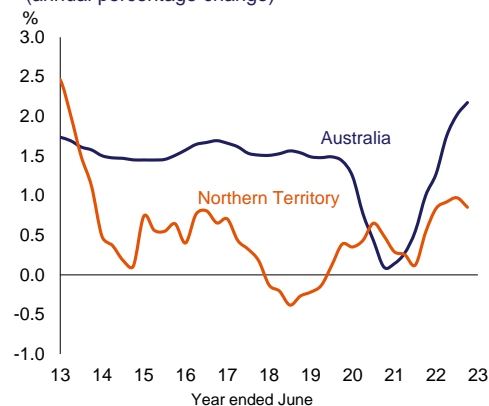
In the year to March 2023, net interstate migration detracted 2,745 persons from the population, a worsening of 6.5% on the net loss of 2,578 persons in the previous year.

Net overseas migration

In the March quarter 2023, net overseas migration contributed 1,463 persons to the population. Nationally, net overseas migration contributed 152,192 persons.

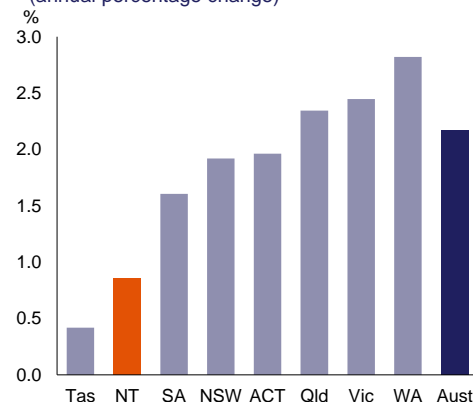
In the year to March 2023, net overseas migration in the Territory contributed 2,749 persons to the population, an improvement compared to the net gain of 1,744 persons in the previous year (Chart 3). Nationally, net overseas migration contributed 454,361 persons.

Chart 1: Population growth (annual percentage change)



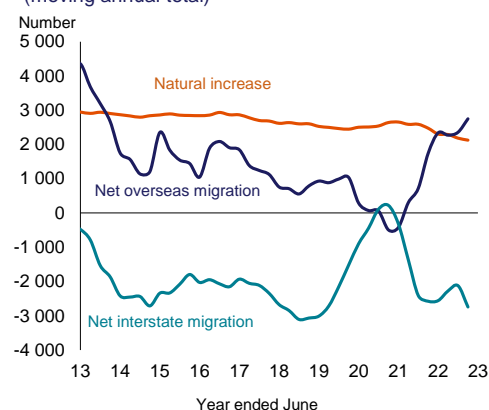
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

Chart 2: Population growth (annual percentage change)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

Chart 3: Territory population components (moving annual total)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0

Table 1: Estimated resident population and components

	Period				Change		
	Mar qtr 2022	Dec qtr 2022	Mar qtr 2023	Year to date	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory							
Original							
Population growth	1 400	- 132	1 114	2 129			
Natural increase	640	476	582	2 125	22.3%	-9.1%	-14.0%
– births	958	842	849	3 441	0.8%	-11.4%	-8.1%
– deaths	318	366	267	1 316	-27.0%	-16.0%	3.4%
Net interstate migration	- 310	- 838	- 931	- 2 745	-11.1%	-200.3%	-6.5%
– arrivals	3 931	4 296	3 647	14 342	-15.1%	-7.2%	-27.8%
– departures	4 241	5 134	4 578	17 087	-10.8%	7.9%	-23.9%
Net overseas migration	1 070	230	1 463	2 749	536.1%	36.7%	57.6%
– arrivals	1 599	1 217	2 078	6 482	70.7%	30.0%	57.3%
– departures	529	987	615	3 733	-37.7%	16.3%	57.0%
Total population	249 525	250 540	251 654	n/a	0.4%	0.9%	n/a
Australia							
Original							
Population growth	138 493	138 021	181 626	563 205			
Natural increase	31 658	29 174	29 434	108 844	0.9%	-7.0%	-18.5%
– births	76 775	74 235	74 932	301 151	0.9%	-2.4%	-3.4%
– deaths	45 117	45 061	45 498	192 307	1.0%	0.8%	7.9%
Net migration	106 835	108 847	152 192	454 361	39.8%	42.5%	255.3%
Total population	25 909 850	26 291 429	26 473 055	n/a	0.7%	2.2%	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 Cat. No. 3101.0

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

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.

More information

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: nteconomy.nt.gov.au