

Social Indicators February 2021

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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.

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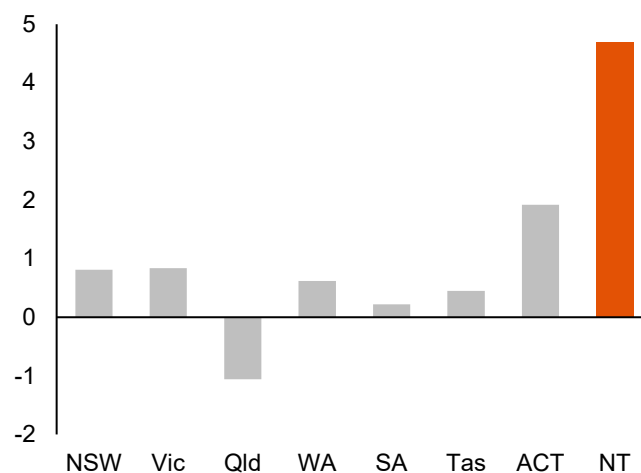
The following is a summary of personal income in the Northern Territory during the period spanning 2011-12 to 2017-18 unless otherwise stated.

- In 2017-18, the median income in the Territory was \$60,636. This was above the national median income of \$49,805 and was the second highest median income in Australia after the ACT with a median income of \$64,332.
- For the period 2011-12 to 2017-18, the median income in the Territory grew by an average of 2.5 per cent per annum, the third highest growth in Australia and in line with national median income growth of 2.5 per cent.
- In 2017-18, the highest median income in the Territory was \$66,804 in Palmerston, while the lowest median income in the Territory was \$42,446 in the Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem region (Table 1).
- From 2011-12 to 2017-18, the median income in Darwin City rose by an average of 3.1 per cent per annum, the highest median income growth in the Territory. The median income in East Arnhem fell by an average of 0.3 per cent per annum, the only decrease in the Territory during that period.
- In 2017-18, the Gini coefficient in the Territory was 0.423, the lowest Gini coefficient of all jurisdictions and below the national GINI coefficient of 0.483, indicating a relatively lower level of income inequality in the Territory.
- For the period 2011-12 to 2017-18, the Gini coefficient rose by 4.7 per cent in the Territory, the largest increase of all the jurisdictions. This indicates that while the Territory's Gini coefficient remains relatively low, income inequality in the Territory has risen much faster than other Australian jurisdictions (Figure 1).
- In 2017-18, the median income for males in the Territory was \$71,791, whereas the median income for females was \$54,107, a difference of 24.6 per cent. This is lower than the national difference of 28.5 per cent and was the second lowest percentage gap in Australia (Table 2).
- In 2017-18, the median income for females in Palmerston was 32.3 per cent lower than the median income for males, the largest median income gap in the Territory. The median income for females in Barkly was 3.3 per cent lower than the median income for males, the smallest median income gap in the Territory.

Table 1: Median income in Northern Territory jurisdictions and Australia, 2011-12 and 2017-18

	2011-12	2017-18	Average Annual Change
	\$	\$	%
Darwin City	52 562	63 218	3.1
Darwin Suburbs	52 930	60 712	2.3
Palmerston	56 774	66 804	2.7
Litchfield	54 087	64 330	2.9
Alice Springs	47 557	56 067	2.8
Barkly	45 926	52 788	2.3
Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem	39 230	42 446	1.3
East Arnhem	58 890	57 911	-0.3
Katherine	49 244	54 776	1.8
Northern Territory	52 230	60 636	2.5
Australia	42 987	49 805	2.5

Figure 1: Cumulative change in Gini coefficient between 2011-12 and 2017-18 (per cent)¹



¹ The Gini coefficient refers to a measure of income distribution. A lower coefficient indicates relatively lower income inequality.

Table 2: Median income by sex, Northern Territory jurisdictions and Australia, 2017-18

	Males	Females	Difference
	\$	\$	%
Darwin City	75 000	53 154	29.1
Darwin Suburbs	71 227	56 980	20.0
Palmerston	81 302	55 023	32.3
Litchfield	78 874	56 813	28.0
Alice Springs	61 438	52 456	14.6
Barkly	54 363	52 547	3.3
Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem	51 282	38 863	24.2
East Arnhem	69 780	52 033	25.4
Katherine	61 471	50 158	18.4
Northern Territory	71 791	54 107	24.6
Australia	63 536	45 430	28.5

Source data in Personal Income in Australia, 2011-12 to 2017-18: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

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Report on Government Services 2021

The following is a summary of the Northern Territory's performance across core government services areas. The COVID-19 pandemic may affect ROGS data in a number of ways, including actual performance, collection and processing of data, particularly data in 2019-20.

Early childhood education and care

- In 2019, the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling was 92.3 per cent, above the national average of 87.7 per cent (Figure 2).
- Real recurrent Territory expenditure per child aged 0-12 years in 2019-20 increased by 6 per cent to \$1458, the highest of all jurisdictions.
- Real recurrent expenditure per child, including Commonwealth expenditure in the Territory, was \$3009, the second highest of all jurisdictions after the Australian Capital Territory (\$3390 per child).

School education

- In 2019, there were 29 789 full time students in government schools, an increase of 0.9 per cent compared to 2018. Nationally, full time students in government schools increased by 1.4 per cent to 2.59 million (Table 3).
- Of these students in the Territory, 12 825 or 43.1 per cent were Aboriginal. This was the highest proportion of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 7.4 per cent.
- In 2019, there were 3 891 full time equivalent staff employed in government schools (including non-teaching staff), an increase of 1.2 per cent compared to 2018. Nationally, full time staff in government schools increased by 0.3 per cent to 263 526.
- The student-to-teaching staff ratio in government schools in 2019 was 11.8, the lowest of all states and below the national average of 14.2.
- 2020 student outcomes data are not available as NAPLAN testing was not conducted due to COVID-19.

Vocational education and training

- Real recurrent government expenditure per person on vocational education and training (VET) in 2019 was \$598, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$329.
- In 2019, the participation rate of 18-24 year olds in government funded VET courses was 16.6 per cent, the second highest of the jurisdictions after Tasmania and above the national average of 15.1 per cent. The Aboriginal participation rate was 15.2 per cent, the lowest of all jurisdictions (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, 2019

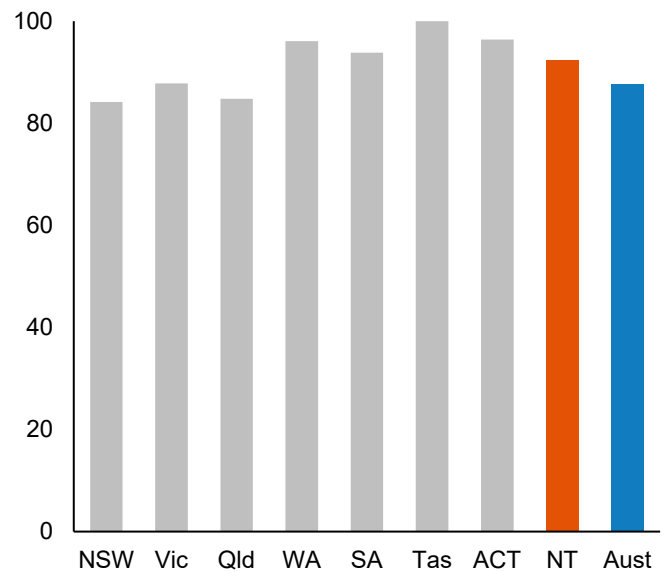


Table 3: Full time enrolled students by Aboriginal status, 2019

	Students		Aboriginal	
	No.	No.	%	
New South Wales	804 563	64 584	8.0	
Victoria	631 055	14 379	2.3	
Queensland	559 157	57 830	10.3	
Western Australia	284 718	23 449	8.2	
South Australia	175 694	11 611	6.6	
Tasmania	56 486	5 975	10.6	
Australian Capital Territory	44 075	1 733	3.9	
Northern Territory	29 789	12 825	43.1	
Australia	2 585 537	192 386	7.4	

Figure 3: Participation rate of 18-24 year olds in government funded VET courses by Aboriginal status, 2019



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Police services

- Real recurrent expenditure on police services in 2019-20 was \$387.1 million, representing an average annual increase of 4.3 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$1581.70 per person on police services, above the national average of \$518.40 per person.
- In 2019-20, there were 1888 full time equivalent police staff, an average annual increase of 1.0 per cent since 2015-16. This includes sworn, civilian and other staff.
- The total number of full time operational police staff per 100 000 people was 734, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 281 (Figure 4).
- In 2019-20, the proportion of people in the Territory satisfied (in general) with police services was 75.9 per cent, the second lowest of the jurisdictions and below the national average of 78.3 per cent.
- 83.2 per cent of people agreed that police perform their job professionally in the Territory, compared to the national figure of 83.9 per cent. The rate of complaints on police conduct per 100 000 people was 177, the highest of all jurisdictions.
- In 2019-20, the rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles was 19.9, an improvement compared to 22.9 in 2018-19, however it is still above the national rate of 5.6.
- The rate of traffic accident hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles in 2018-19 was 453.5, more than double the national figure of 200.9.

Corrective services

- In 2019-20, real net operating expenditure on prisons was \$144.6 million, an average annual increase of 3.0 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure per prisoner per day of \$228.70, the third lowest of the jurisdictions and below the national average of \$247.18 per prisoner per day (Table 4).
- The imprisonment rate per 100 000 adults in the Territory was 944.0 in 2019-20, the highest of all the jurisdictions and above than the national average of 216.4.
- The Territory's age standardised imprisonment rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (2237.7 and 213.2 per 100 000 adults) were above the national rates (1934.7 and 165.6) (Figure 5).
- In 2019-20, the community corrections offender to total staff ratio was 8.6, the second lowest jurisdiction after Victoria and below the national average of 16.1.

Figure 4: Full time equivalent operational police staff per 100 000 people, 2019-20

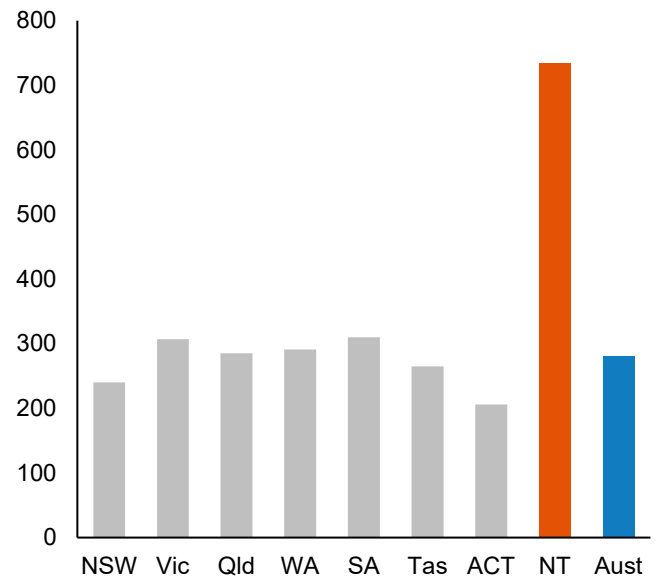


Table 4: Real net operating expenditure per prisoner per day

	2015-16	2019-20	Average annual change
	\$	\$	%
New South Wales	177.60	218.13	5.3
Victoria	308.33	323.45	1.2
Queensland	188.57	206.07	2.2
Western Australia	266.47	258.67	-0.7
South Australia	207.93	236.20	3.2
Tasmania	331.78	334.64	0.2
Australian Capital Territory	348.46	420.56	4.8
Northern Territory	211.55	228.70	2.0
Australia	223.59	247.18	2.5

Figure 5: Age standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 adults, 2019-20



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Public hospitals

- In 2018-19, real recurrent expenditure on public hospital services was \$1122 million, an average annual increase of 5.7 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$4560 per person on public hospital services, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$2851 per person (Figure 6).
- In 2018-19, the proportion of patients in emergency departments treated within national waiting time benchmarks was 68 per cent, below the national figure of 74 per cent.

Primary and community health

- There were 61.4 separations per 1000 people in 2018-19, the highest figure of all jurisdictions and above the national figure of 27.3.
- The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 15-54 who received a health check or assessment in 2019-20 was 31.0 per cent, above the national average of 25.7 per cent.
- The proportion of children aged 12 to 15 months who were fully immunised in 2019-20 was 94.5 per cent. This is similar to the national average of 94.6 per cent and is an improvement on the previous year's figure of 94.0 per cent.

Child protection and youth justice

- In 2019-20, real recurrent Territory expenditure on all child protection services, including family support, was \$221.2 million, an average annual increase of 1.8 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$3603.30 per child, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$1224.56 per child (Table 5).
- In 2019-20, there were 343.9 Aboriginal child protection notifications per 1000 Aboriginal children compared to 176.5 nationally. The rate of non-Aboriginal child protection notifications was 77.1 per 1000 non-Aboriginal children compared to 33.1 nationally.
- Of the 5185 child protection investigations that commenced in 2019-20, 87.3 per cent began within 7 days, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national rate of 59.6 per cent.
- In 2019-20, the rate of detention per 10 000 young people was 9.3 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 2.7 per 10 000 young people.
- The cost per young person per day in detention in 2019-20 was \$4600.81 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$1901.22 (Figure 7).
- The cost per young person per day in community-based supervision in 2019-20 was \$509.16 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$222.87.

Figure 6: Real recurrent expenditure on public hospital services per person, 2018-19 (dollars)

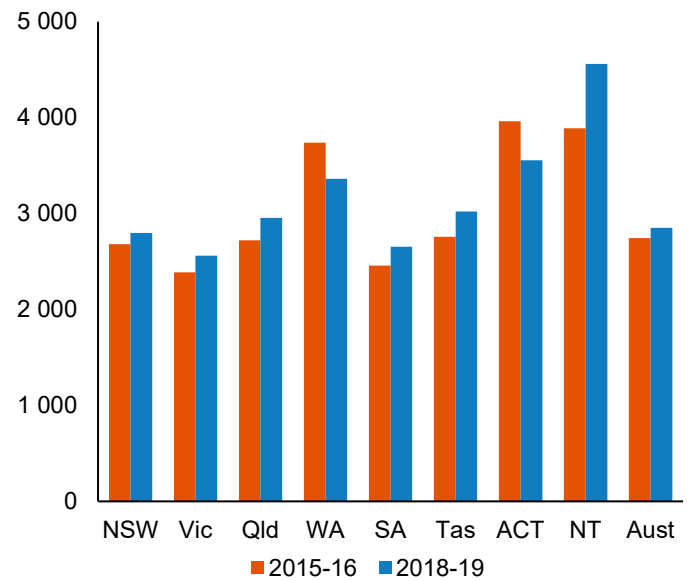
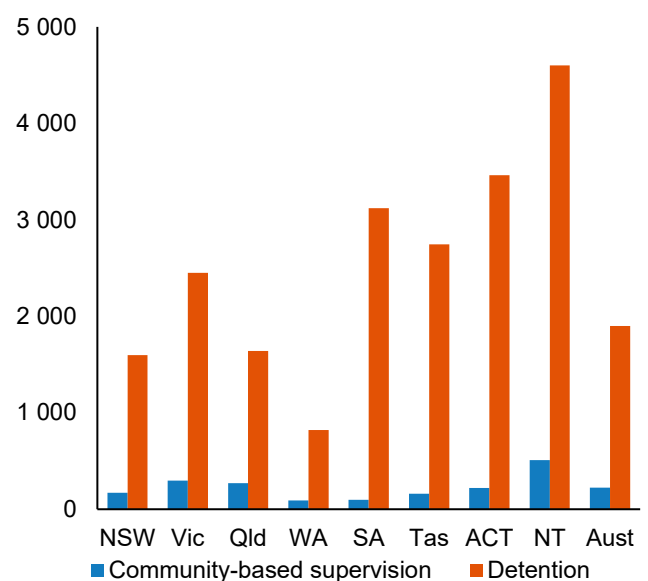


Table 5: Real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0-17 years old

	2015-16	2019-20	Average annual change
	\$	\$	%
New South Wales	1 077.97	1 389.47	6.6
Victoria	762.43	1 080.46	9.1
Queensland	838.09	1 097.00	7.0
Western Australia	835.94	948.69	3.2
South Australia	1 138.09	1 556.82	8.1
Tasmania	770.76	1 244.45	12.7
Australian Capital Territory	684.05	802.16	4.1
Northern Territory	3 298.02	3 603.3	2.2
Australia	940.17	1 224.56	6.8

Figure 7: Cost per young person per day by type of order, 2019-20 (dollars)



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Ambulance services

- In 2019-20, there were 45 533 ambulance incidents, or an incident rate of 186 per 1000 population, the second highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 154.3 incidents per 1000 population.
- Calls to the emergency call service (000) answered in a time equal to or less than 10 seconds in 2019-20 was 93.6 per cent, above the national average of 92.1 per cent (Figure 8).
- In 2019-20, 97.0 per cent of patients were very satisfied or satisfied with ambulance services, comparable with the national average of 98.0 per cent.

Housing

- In 2019-20, real net recurrent Territory expenditure on social housing was \$383.3 million, an average annual increase of 32.3 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$719.46 per person in the population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$168.04 per person (Figure 9).
- On 30 June 2020, 7.8 per cent of public housing was overcrowded, the highest rate of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 3.9 per cent.
- The average turnaround time for vacant public housing stock in 2019-20 was 86 days, the longest turnaround time of all jurisdictions.

Homelessness

- In 2019-20, real recurrent expenditure on homelessness services was \$39.7 million, an average annual increase of 6.2 per cent since 2015-16. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$162.10 per person in the residential population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$41.34 per person.
- The proportion of clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing and achieved it at the end of support and did not present again was 87.0 per cent, comparable with the national average of 87.1 per cent.
- The proportion of clients who had repeat periods of homelessness in 2019-20 was 5.2 per cent, a 1.9 percentage point decrease from the previous year and comparable with the national average of 5.3 per cent.
- The estimated recurrent cost per client accessing homelessness services in the Territory was \$3861 in 2019-20, the third highest cost of the jurisdictions and comparable with the national average cost of \$3632 per client (Table 6).

Figure 8: Calls to the emergency call service (000) answered in a time equal to or less than 10 seconds, 2019-20 (per cent)

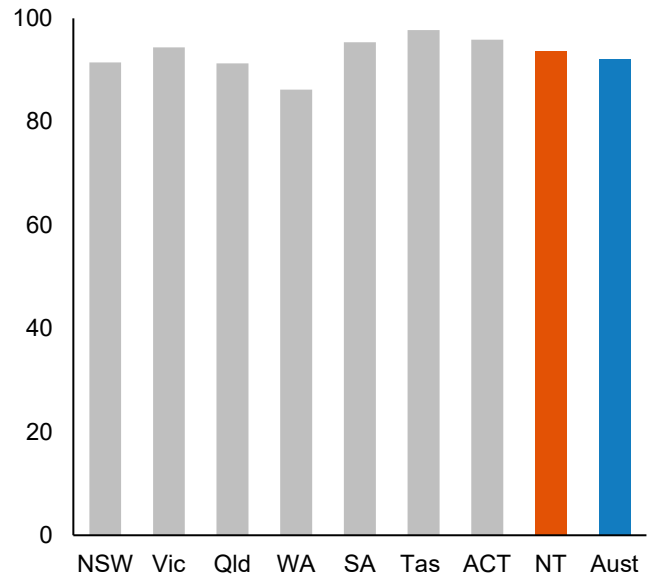


Figure 9: Real recurrent expenditure on social housing per person in the population (dollars)

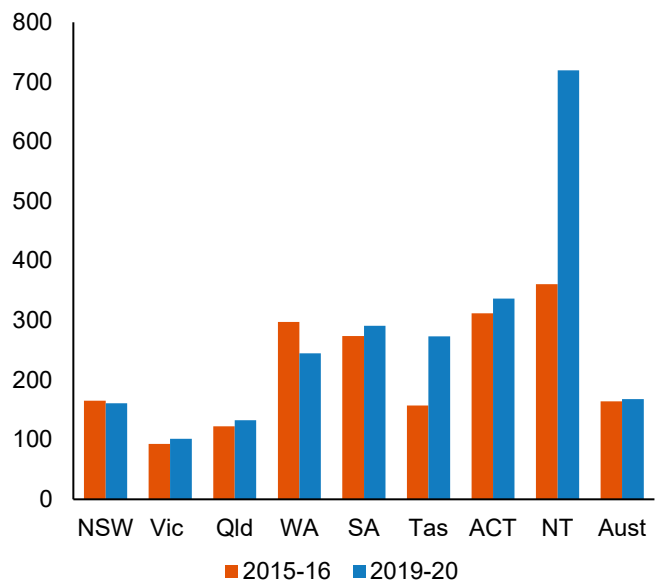


Table 6: Estimated recurrent cost per client accessing homelessness services

	2015-16	2019-20	Average annual change
	\$	\$	%
New South Wales	3 254	3 677	3.1
Victoria	2 288	3 321	9.8
Queensland	3 303	3 695	2.8
Western Australia	3 247	3 332	0.6
South Australia	3 176	3 707	3.9
Tasmania	3 576	5 328	10.5
Australian Capital Territory	4 588	6 196	7.8
Northern Territory	3 832	3 861	0.2
Australia	2 987	3 632	5.0

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

- Recorded offences against property decreased by 340, or 6.3 per cent, to 5075. This decrease was driven by decreases in all offences against property other than property damage, which increased by 336, or 18.4 per cent (Table 7).
- Commercial break-ins decreased by 10.3 per cent to 420 with the decline driven by decreases in Tennant Creek (54.3 per cent, or 25 break-ins), Alice Springs (18.9 per cent or 21 break-ins) and NT Balance (19.4 per cent or 37 break-ins). This was partially offset by increases in all other regions.
- House break-ins decreased by 18.4 per cent to 527, driven by decreases in all regions except Alice Springs (112), and Nhulunbuy (3) (Table 8).
- The number of offences against persons increased by 653, or 32.8 per cent, to 2641, primarily driven by an increase in acts intended to cause injury (628) (Table 7).
- The number of acts intended to cause injury increased by 36.4 per cent to 2353 offences. This was primarily due to increases in Darwin (217), NT Balance (156) and Alice Springs (124).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 2342 were assaults. Of these assaults, 64.2 per cent involved domestic violence, 49.1 per cent involved alcohol and 34.2 per cent involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- In the year ending November 2020, offence rates for theft and related offences (other than motor vehicle theft and related offences) decreased 19.3 per cent to 2503 per 100 000 population compared to the year ending November 2019.
- This decrease in offence rates was primarily driven by decreases in Katherine (26.7 per cent), Darwin (21.5 per cent), Alice Springs (8.9 per cent) and NT Balance (31.3 per cent), although all regions saw a decrease (Figure 10).
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 7: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, Northern Territory, November quarter, 2019 and 2020^{2,3,4}

	Nov qtr 2019 No.	Nov qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Offences against property			
House break-ins	646	527	-18.4
Commercial break-ins	468	420	-10.3
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	470	366	-22.1
Theft	2 002	1 597	-20.2
Property damage	1 829	2 165	18.4
Total	5 415	5 075	-6.3
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	2	1	-50.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1 725	2 353	36.4
Sexual assault and related offences	116	112	-3.4
Other	145	175	20.7
Total	1 988	2 641	32.8

² Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.

³ Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.

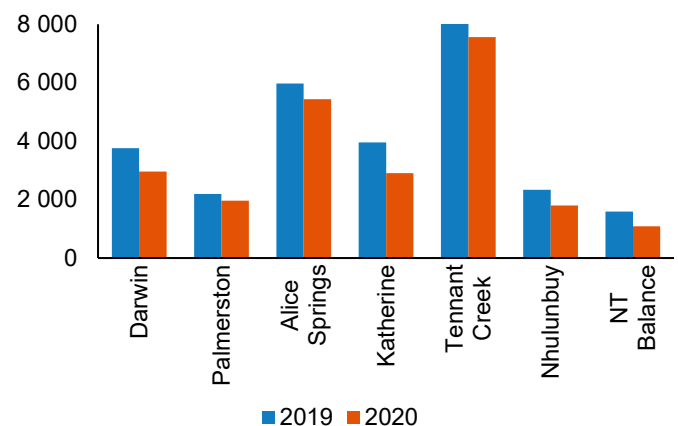
⁴ Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 8: Recorded house break-ins by region, Northern Territory, November quarter, 2019 and 2020⁵

	Nov qtr 2019 No.	Nov qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Darwin	216	94	-56.5
Palmerston	97	67	-30.9
Alice Springs	127	239	88.2
Katherine	39	11	-71.8
Tennant Creek	58	17	-70.7
Nhulunbuy	6	9	50.0
NT Balance	103	90	-12.6
Total	646	527	-18.4

⁵ 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 10: Theft and related offences per 100 000 population, Northern Territory, for the 12 months ending November⁶



⁶ Excludes motor vehicle theft and related offences.

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