

The Demography of the Territory's 'Midtowns': Katherine (Issue No. 201402)

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KEY FINDINGS

- From 2001 to 2012, Katherine grew by 11%, lower than the Northern Territory (17%) and slightly below the neighbouring shires of Roper Gulf (13%) and Victoria-Daly (15%).
- In the 5 year period between 2007 and 2012, Katherine grew by 9% to reach an estimated resident population of 10,766. In the same period, Roper Gulf grew 9% and Victoria-Daly 6%.
- By 2011, Katherine was made up largely of working age non-Indigenous residents, and school age and older working age Indigenous residents.
- In 2011, 28% of Katherine's residents were Indigenous, slightly up on 2006 (27%), having gained on a net basis Indigenous residents across all ages, except 35-39 years.
- Non-Indigenous residents tended to migrate to and from Katherine to interstate, while Indigenous residents migrated in and out of Katherine to Roper Gulf, Victoria-Daly, and Greater Darwin.
- The number of private dwellings in Katherine increased by 26% between 2006 and 2011.
- Prominent industries of employment in Katherine in 2011 were Public Administration and Safety (26%) and Health Care and Social Assistance (14%).
- Improvements were seen in educational attainment in Katherine. Amongst 15-29 year olds, there was a 6% increase in the proportion who completed years 11 or 12.

RESEARCH AIM

This research brief is part of a series on the changing demography of the Northern Territory's 'Midtowns' – Tenant Creek, Katherine, Jabiru and Nhulunbuy.

This brief is on the major characteristics and changing nature of the resident population of Katherine from 2006 to 2011, based on Census data and population estimates.

We compare and contrast the changing resident population of the town of Katherine, the surrounding Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly regions to other jurisdictions

*The research was conducted by **Huw Brokensha** and **Andrew Taylor** and was partially funded by the Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance Demographic Research Grant, however all information and opinions presented in this series are those of the authors.*

1. INTRODUCTION

This research brief is part of a series on the changing demography of the Northern Territory's 'Midtowns' – Tennant Creek, Katherine, Jabiru and Nhulunbuy. Demographic change in small settlements in remote areas can be rapid and substantial, shifting the demand and need for services or infrastructure. This research brief aims to capture the major characteristics and changing nature of the resident population of Katherine from 2006 to 2011, using Census data and population estimates.

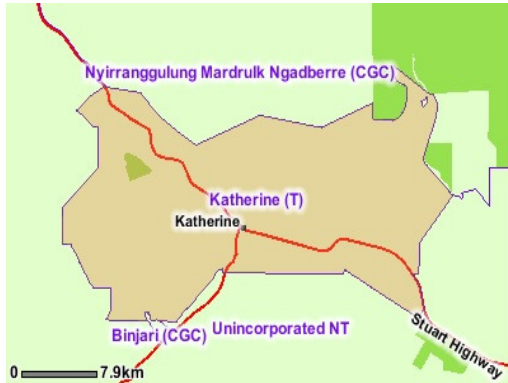
1.1. Data Sources and Geography

This research brief discusses recent population change for Katherine and the surrounding shire regions of Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly. The data for Katherine and the surrounding regions are compared in parts to the rest of the Northern Territory (NT). The data used for this research brief were based on the ABS Census' 2006 & 2011 Place of Usual Residence database. Other data are sourced from the ABS collection *3218.0 – Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011*.

It should be noted that there were significant changes to ABS Geography with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) being implemented in 2011 (ABS, 2011). As a consequence comparisons between 2006 and 2011 have resulted in slightly different geographical areas. For the comparison of Katherine town, the Local Government Areas (LGA) for 2006 and 2011 will be used (Figures 1 & 2). The main difference between Censuses is the inclusion of the Indigenous community of Binjari in the 2011 Katherine LGA boundary. Which, based on 2011, contributes just under 3% to the total population for this area and nearly 10% to the Indigenous population total. Users should keep this in mind when comparing 2006 and 2011 data. A full profile of the Binjari community can be obtained from the ABS website (abs.gov.au).

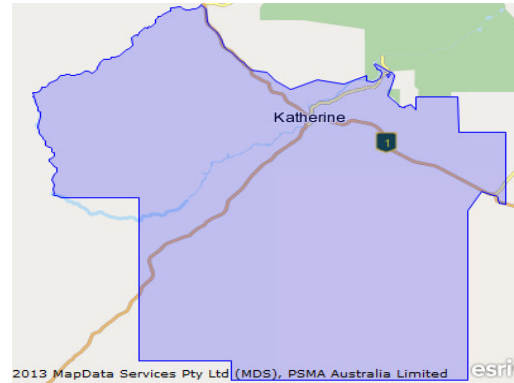
The area surrounding the Katherine LGA (Figure 3, the SA3 Katherine Region) is made up of the Katherine Shire (Figure 2), the Roper Gulf Shire (Figure 4) and the Victoria-Daly Shire (Figure 5). Comparisons are made between these three LGAs, and for the purposes of this brief we refer to these areas as 'Katherine', 'Roper Gulf' and 'Victoria-Daly'.

Figure 1: Katherine LGA 2006



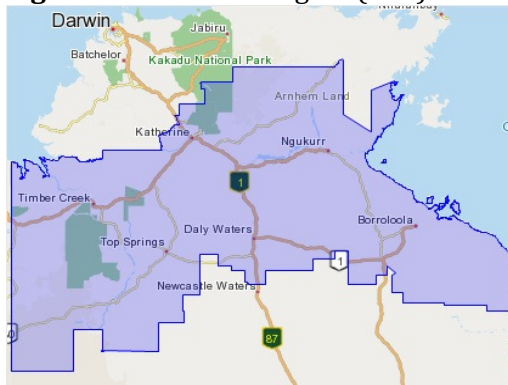
SOURCE: ABS

Figure 2: Katherine LGA 2011



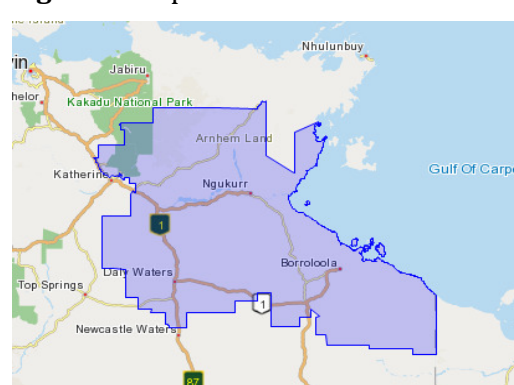
SOURCE: ABS

Figure 3: Katherine Region (SA3) 2011



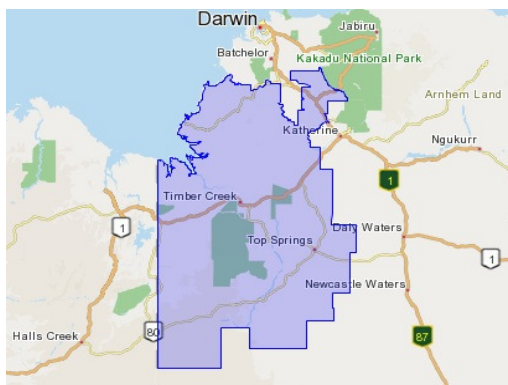
SOURCE: ABS

Figure 4: Roper Gulf LGA 2011



SOURCE: ABS

Figure 5: Victoria-Daly LGA 2011



SOURCE: ABS

1.2. Katherine Shire overview

Katherine is the fourth largest town in the NT and is located 312 km south-east of Darwin on the Katherine River. It sits on the junction of the Stuart Highway, linking the north and south and the Victoria Highway to Western Australia. It covers an area of 7,421 square kilometres

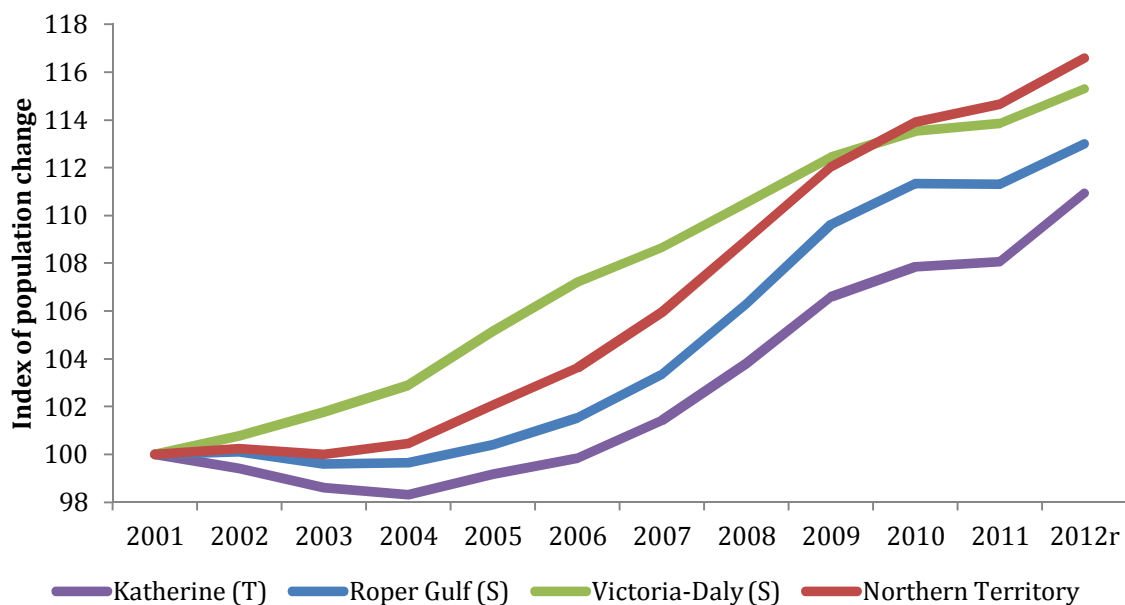
and provides services to communities from the WA border to the NT Gulf. Sitting within the Katherine LGA is the RAAF base at Tindal, which at the 2011 Census count had 742 usual residents (ABS, 2013). The town has had several locations since the days of the crossing of the Katherine River at Knott’s Crossing, but with the completion of the railway bridge in 1926, the present site of Katherine, on the south-eastern side of the river, was gazetted on 15th July, 1926 (Katherine Town Council, 2013).

2. POPULATION CHANGE

2.1 Indexed Population Change

To compensate for Census counting issues the ABS generates Estimated Resident Populations (ERP) by adjusting Census counts to produce population estimates. Indexing allows comparisons of varying population sizes by rebasing the population to 100 for each region. Figure 6 shows the change in ERP for the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Katherine, Roper Gulf, Victoria-Daly and for the NT. Between the 5 year period of 2007-2012, Katherine’s population increased by 922 people (9.4%), Roper Gulf’s population increased by 611 people (9.3%) and Victoria-Daly’s population increased by 399 people (6.1%). In comparison, the NT as a whole experienced a 10% increase during this period. Between 2001 and 2011, the population of Katherine changed by 10.9% to reach an estimated population of 10,766.

Figure 6: Indexed population change for selected NT shires (2001 = 100)



SOURCE: ABS 3218.0, released 30/08/2013

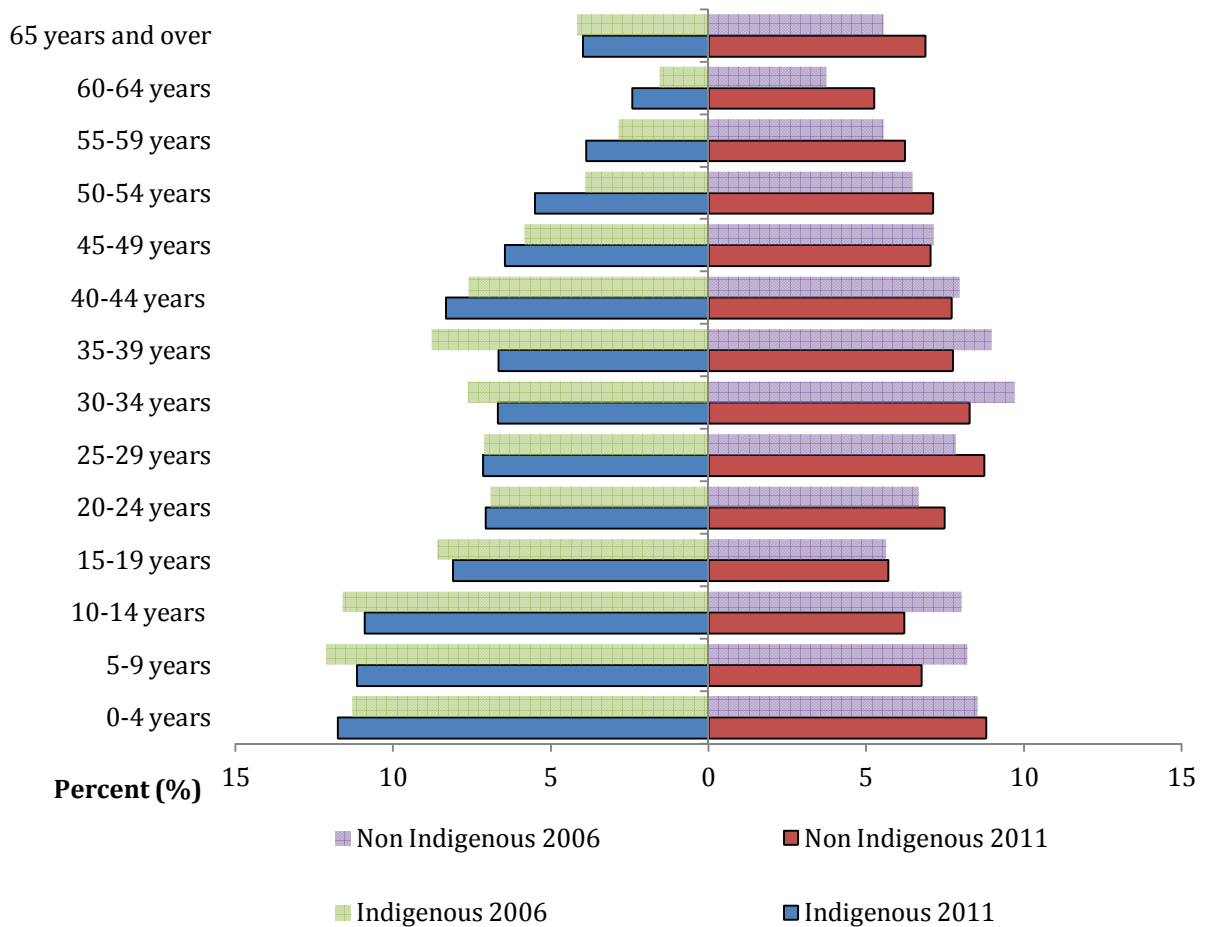
2.2 Changes to age, sex and Indigenous compositions

Whilst there were changes to the LGA boundaries between 2006 and 2011, these changes are not likely to alter the indicators within this section. From the 2011 Census, Katherine had a sex ratio of 103 males per 100 females (4,662 males and 4,525 females). In comparison the sex ratio for the NT was 109:100. Indigenous persons represented 26% of the total male

population, 29% of the total female population, and 28% of the total population of Katherine.

Figure 7 shows the change to Katherine’s population between Census periods 2006 and 2011. There were fewer school age and 30-44 year olds, more 20-29 years and 55 and older non-Indigenous residents; with more 0-4 year and 40-64 year olds and fewer school age and 30-39 year old Indigenous residents.

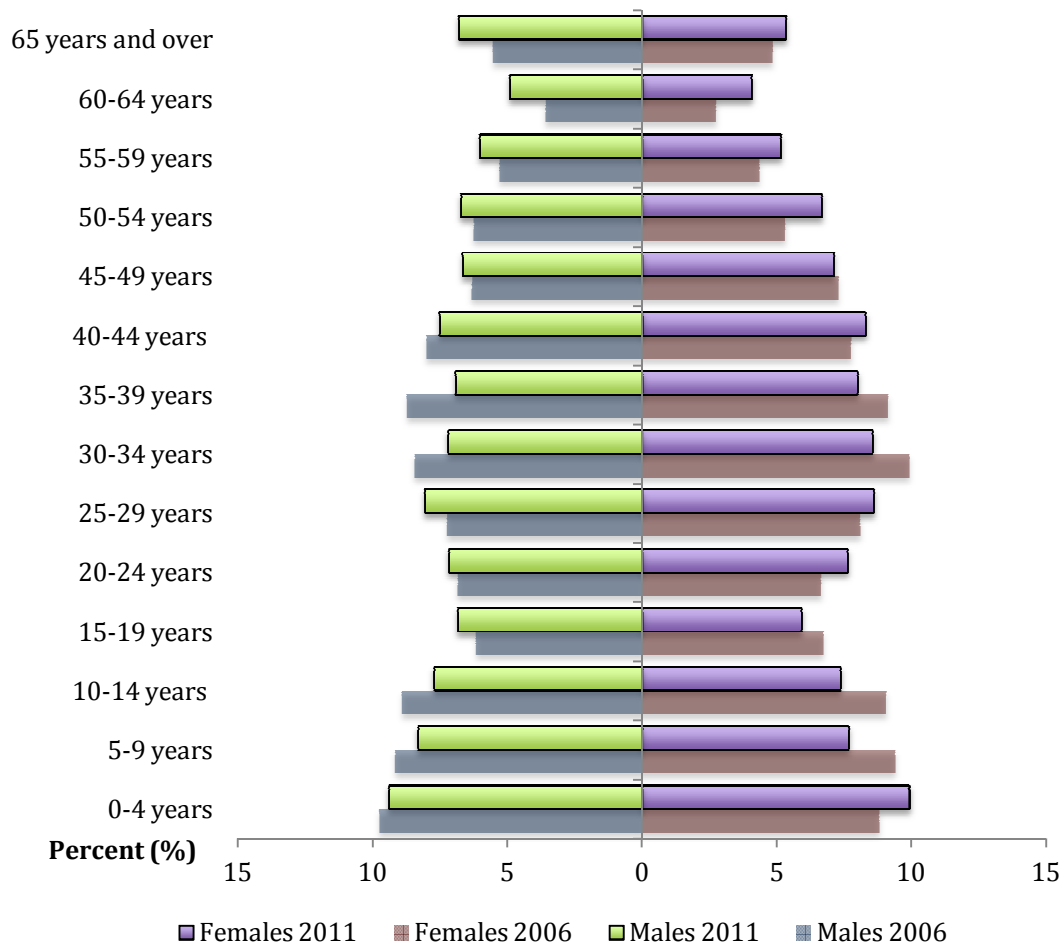
Figure 7: Katherine Population Pyramid, 2006 and 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Changes to Katherine’s population can further be seen in Figure 8. Generally the proportion of school age children and early career aged workers was lower in 2011 than in 2006 and the proportion of pre and post-retiree aged persons was higher.

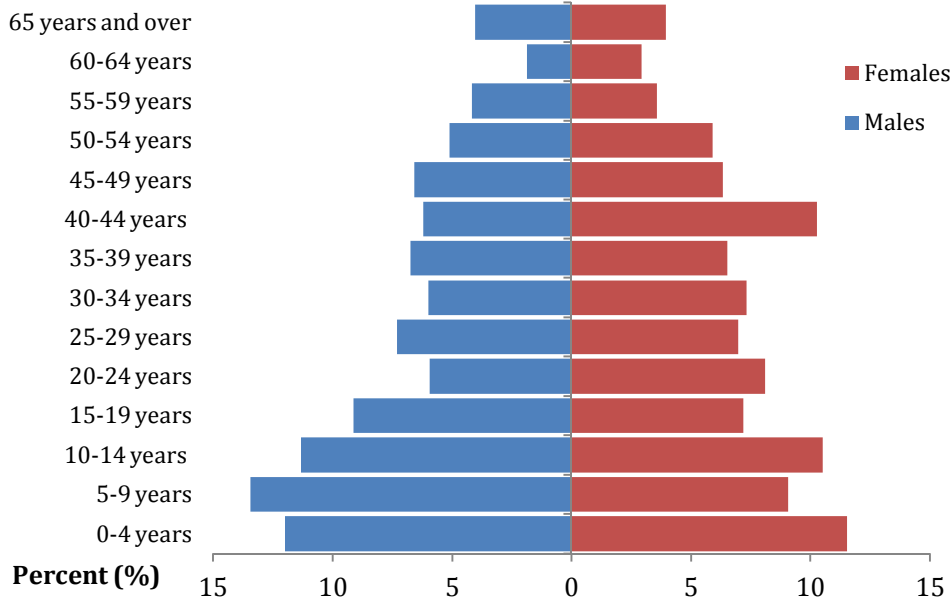
Figure 8: Katherine Population Pyramid by sex, 2006 and 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

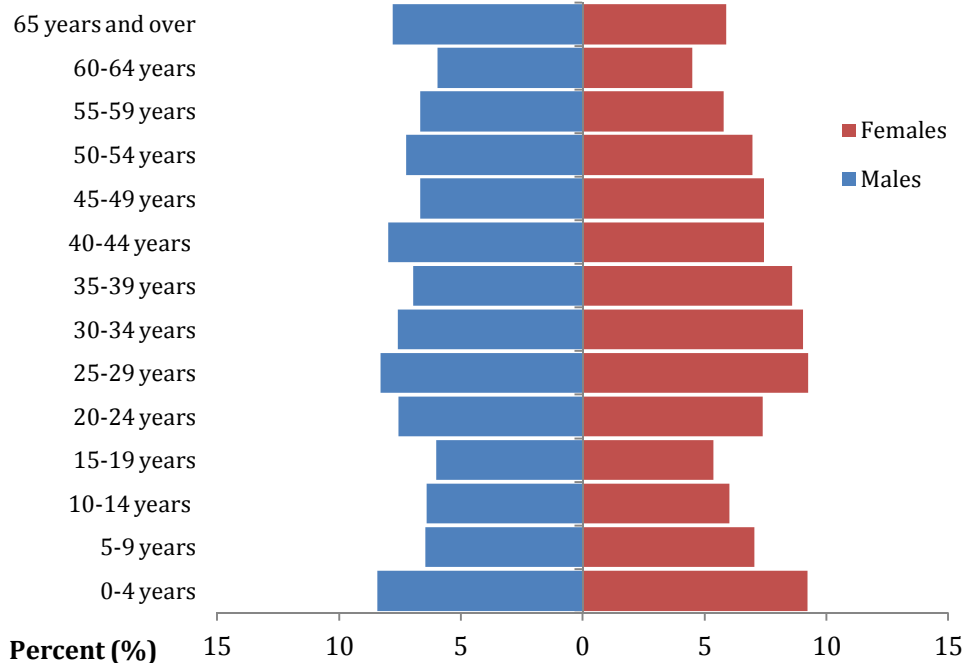
Figures 9 and 10 show the population differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents in Katherine. The largest proportions of Indigenous male residents were in the 0-19 years and females in the 0-14 and 40-44 years. The non-Indigenous male and female population was more evenly spread across the ages, with slightly increased proportions in 0-4 year olds and early career aged residents.

Figure 9: Katherine Indigenous population pyramid



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Figure 10: Katherine non-Indigenous population pyramid

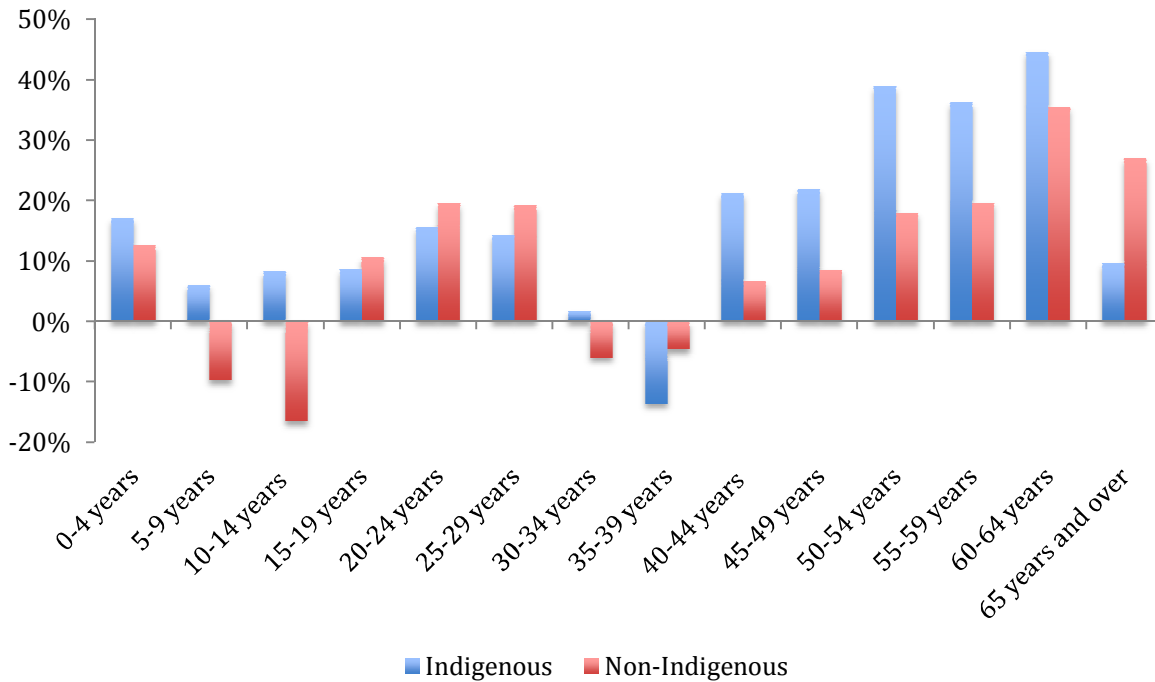


SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Net population change is calculated by subtracting the 2006 town population for each age group from the 2011 population. These should be seen as indicative as no adjustments for possible Census counting issues (people missed, double counted and so on) are incorporated. Katherine saw net gains in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population across most ages.

The non-Indigenous population had net losses across the 5-14 and 30-39 years and the Indigenous population saw net losses in the 35-39 years (Figure 11). Whilst the inclusion of Binjari in the 2011 LGA had some influence on the Indigenous net population change, it is not solely responsible for these changes. Binjari recorded no Indigenous usual residents amongst 60-64 year olds in the 2011 Census; however the net population change for this cohort saw a net increase of 45% (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Net population change, Katherine 2006 to 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

3. POPULATION TURNOVER

Population turnover is measured as the absolute sum of intra-Territory, interstate and overseas migration as a proportion of the 2011 resident population. Between 2006 and 2011, turnover for Katherine was 63%.

Table 1 shows the number of residents who moved in and out of these areas by type of migration flow. Interstate migration was the main contributor for Katherine at 41%, and intra-Territory migration at 19%. Katherine lost 3.3% (303) of residents (net) to interstate migration, however this was offset somewhat by people migrating in from overseas (3.2% or 295 residents). The total turnover figure is conservative since no measure of the number of former Katherine residents now living overseas is available.

Table 1: Population turnover: Katherine 2011

Turnover category	In	Out	Net	Katherine Turnover*
Intra-Territory	818	896	-78	18.7%
Interstate	1729	2032	-303	40.9%
Overseas**	295	Unknown	Unknown	3.2%
Total	2842	2928	-381	62.8%

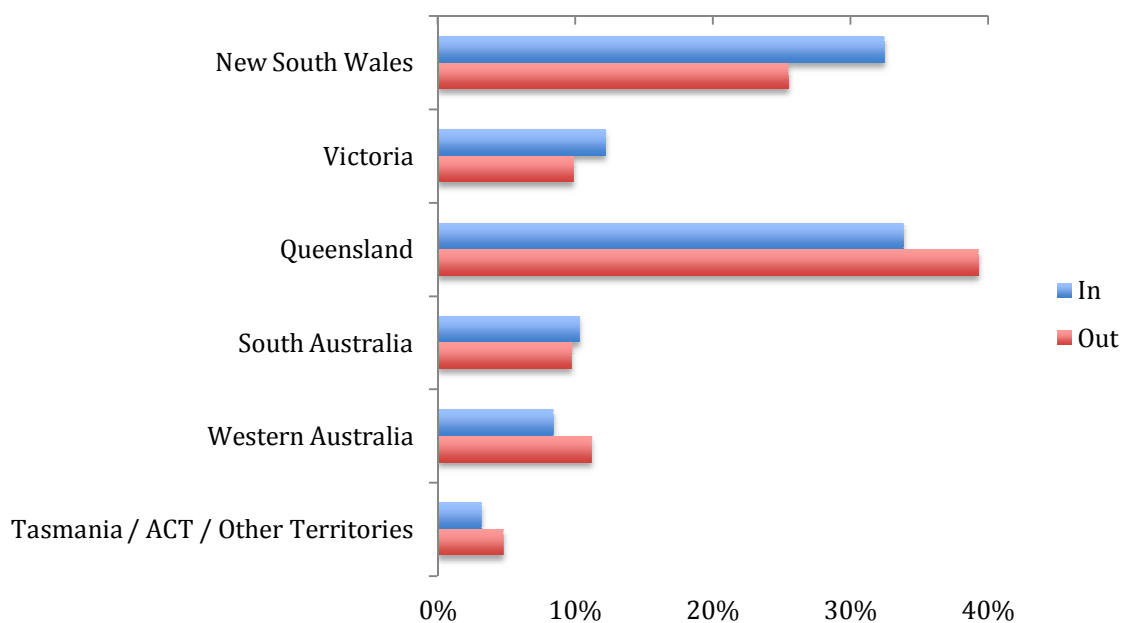
* The absolute sum of in and out migration divided by the resident population of the region at 2011

** These figures include only overseas migration into the region or town and not out of them.

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

3.1. Interstate migration

Between 2006 and 2011, 1,729 people migrated to Katherine from interstate. The majority, over a third came from Queensland (34%), followed by New South Wales (32%) and Victoria (12%), with just over half (51%) of interstate migrants being male (Figure 12). The largest proportions of interstate migrants were aged 20-39 years and 93% of interstate migrants were non-Indigenous. Over the same period 2,032 people migrated interstate from Katherine, the majority of whom went to Queensland (39%), followed by New South Wales (25%) and Western Australia (11%) with 50% of out migrants being male. The largest proportions of out migrants were aged 5-9 years and 30-39 years and Indigenous people comprised 9% of all out migrants.

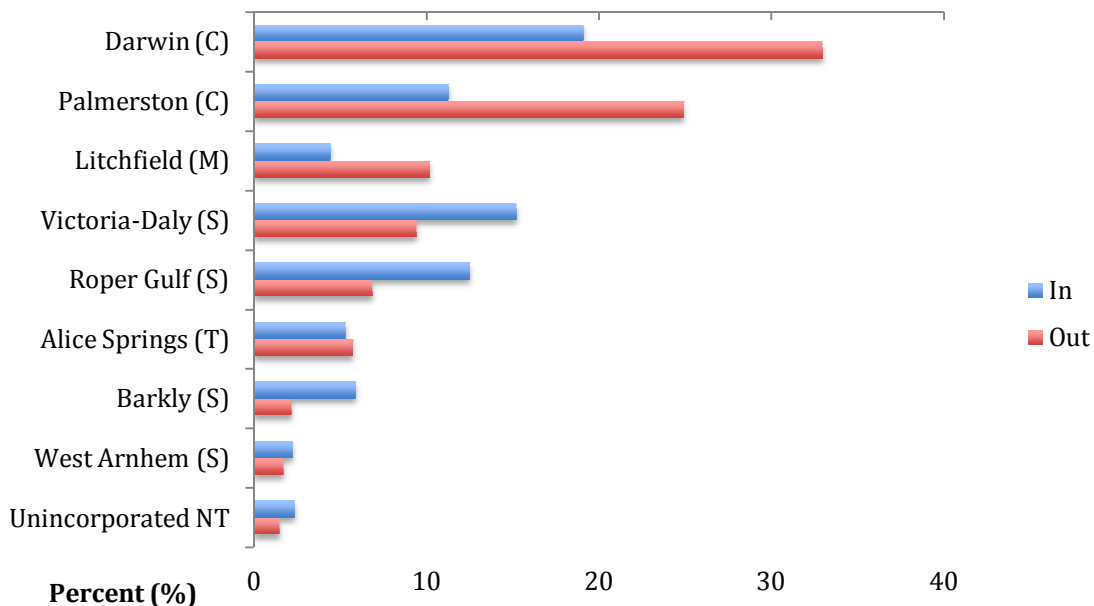
Figure 12: Sources of interstate movers (in and out migrants), Katherine 2006-2011


SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

3.2. Intra-Territory migration

There were 818 people who migrated to Katherine from within the NT between 2006 and 2011, of which over half (51%) were male. Figure 13 shows the top 9 areas that contributed the most to Katherine’s intra-Territory migration. The largest proportions of people migrating to Katherine were aged 25-34 and 40-44 years, and 42% of in migrants were Indigenous. The largest proportions migrating to Katherine were from the surrounding areas of Victoria-Daly (15%) and the Roper Gulf (13%) as well as Darwin city (19%) and Palmerston (11%). Between 2006 and 2011, 896 people migrated out of Katherine to other regions within the NT. Of these 48% were male and 34% were Indigenous. The most popular destination for Katherine’s out migrants was Greater Darwin (68%); 33% heading to Darwin, 25% to Litchfield and 10% to Palmerston.

Figure 13: Top 9 sources of intra-Territory movers (in and out migrants), Katherine 2006-2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

4. NEW MIGRANT COMMUNITIES

4.1 Overseas immigrants

Between 2006 and 2011, 295 people who were previously resident overseas migrated to Katherine. 52% were female, with the highest proportions being aged 25-39 years of age. Of the males, the highest proportions were aged 15-19 and 25-39 years. Of these 295 overseas migrants, 235 were born overseas, increasing the total overseas born population by 24% (Table 2).

The majority of overseas born residents by 2011 were from the United Kingdom, Maritime South-East Asia, New Zealand, Western Europe, and Southern and East Africa (Table 3). In 2011, these top 5 countries made up 77% of the overall overseas born population.

Table 2: Overseas born population of Katherine (not including overseas visitors)

Measure	Katherine			
	2006		2011	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total
Total population*	8191	100%	9185	100%
Overseas born	769	9.4%	988	10.8%
Australian born	6369	77.8%	7289	79.4%
Not stated	1053	12.9%	908	9.9%
Ratio residents to o/s born	8.3		7.4	

* may vary slightly due to perturbation.

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

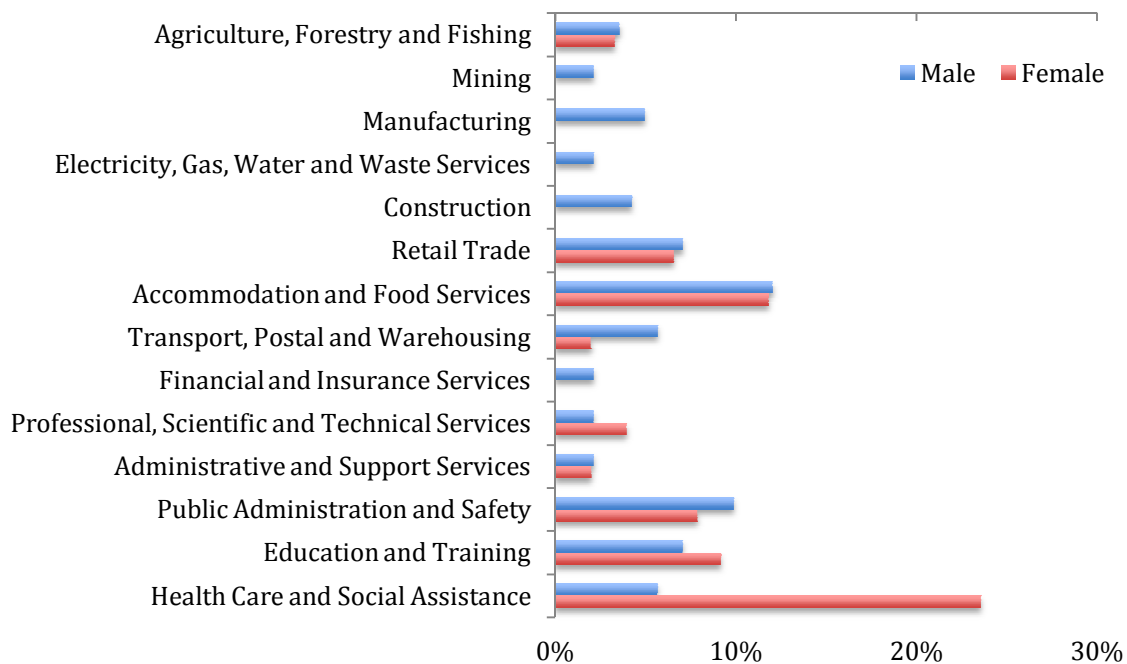
Table 3: Source nations for overseas born residents.

2006			2011			
Rank	Country	Persons	Rank	Country	Persons	% of o/s born 2011
1	United Kingdom	208	1	United Kingdom	238	24.1%
2	Maritime South-East Asia	162	2	Maritime South-East Asia	210	21.3%
3	New Zealand	122	3	New Zealand	166	16.8%
4	Western Europe	65	4	Southern and East Africa	84	8.5%
5	Southern and East Africa	41	5	Southern Asia	62	6.3%
	Top 5	598		Top 5	760	76.9%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Figure 14 shows the industries of employment for Katherine's new overseas migrants who arrived between 2006 and 2011. The main industries for females were Health Care and Social Assistance (24%), Accommodation and Food Services (12%), and Education and Training (9%). For males they were Accommodation and Food Services (12%), Public Administration and Safety (10%), and Retail Trade, and Education and Training both at 7%.

Figure 14: Industries of employment for Katherine's new overseas migrants, 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

5. CHANGES IN HOUSING

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of private dwellings in Katherine increased by 26%. However, 11% of these dwellings were recorded as unoccupied at the time of the 2011 Census. The number of separate houses increased by 11% while the number of semi-detached or townhouses increased by 195 dwellings (up 382% from 2006). Flats, units or apartments decreased by 6% and other dwelling types such as caravans/cabins, sleeping out, and improvised dwellings decreased by 26% (Table 4).

Table 4: Changing housing stock in Katherine

Type of dwelling	2006	2011	Net additions	Change 2006 to 2011
Separate house	1854	2061	207	11%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	51	246	195	382%
Flat, unit or apartment	272	257	-15	-6%
Other dwelling	287	211	-76	-26%
Unoccupied private dwellings	0	330	330	n.a.
Dwelling structure not stated	3	15	12	400%
Total	2467	3120	653	26%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Table 5 shows the tenure type of dwellings and the proportion of the average household income that was spent on either renting or mortgaging these dwellings. In Katherine, 41% of dwellings were either being bought or were owned and 51% were being rented. Mortgage repayments accounted for 28%, and rental repayments 13%, of average household incomes. In comparison, the Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly had much higher proportions of dwellings that were rented but the rental repayments were considerably lower.

Table 5: Owning/mortgaging and renting/rent as a percentage of household income, 2011

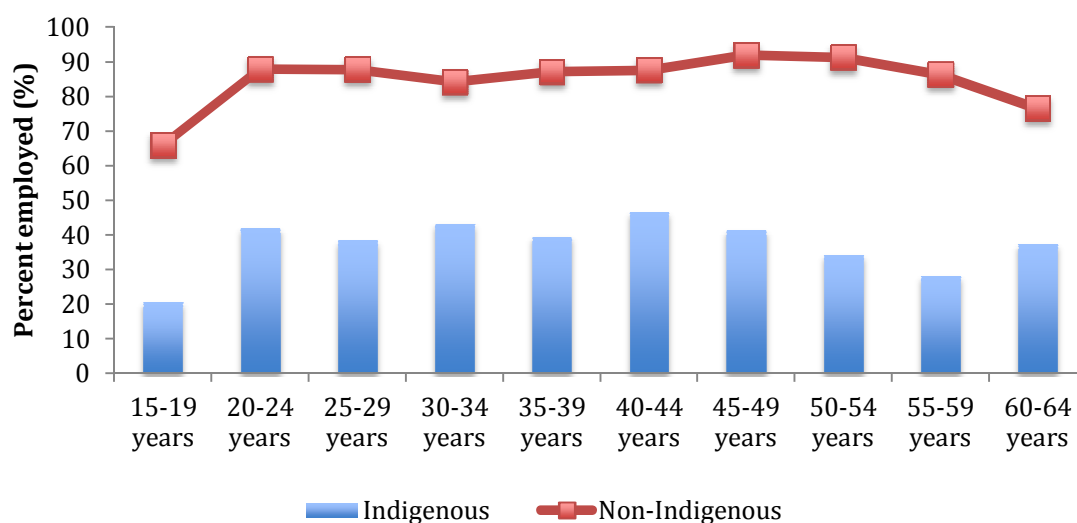
Cost of housing	Katherine	Roper Gulf	Victoria-Daly	Tennant Creek	NT	Australia
Buying or own	41%	15%	9%	35%	46%	67%
Mortgage as % income	28%	18%	21%	17%	31%	36%
Renting	51%	75%	84%	57%	49%	30%
Rent as %income	13%	4%	4%	9%	13%	23%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011

6. LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Between the ages of 15-64 years, 38% of the Indigenous population were employed and 13% unemployed. This compares to 85% of the non-Indigenous population employed and 2% unemployed. The rest of the residential population in these age ranges were not actively seeking employment so were not considered to be in the labour force. Indigenous employment levels were stronger in the 20-24 years, 30-34 years and 40-49 years (Figure 15). Non-Indigenous employment was strong (at 84% or above) across the 20-59 year age ranges.

Figure 15: Katherine employed residents, 2011

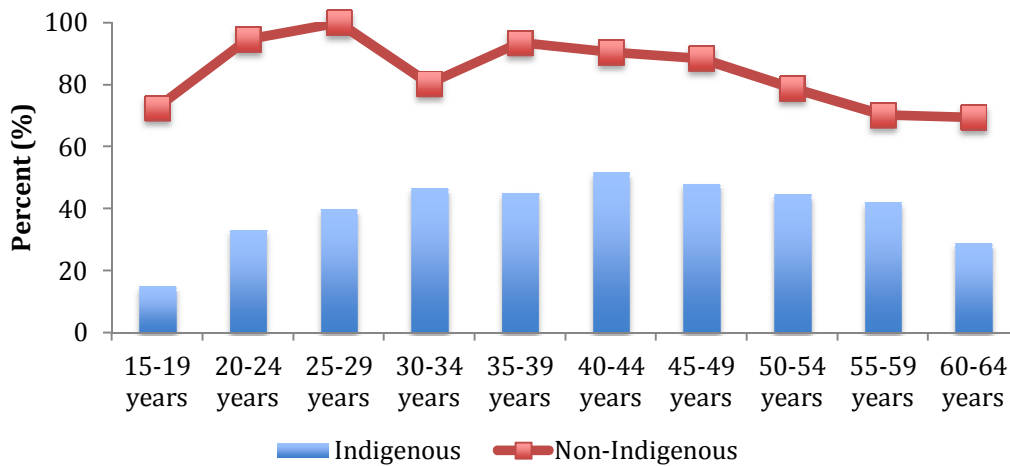


SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Roper Gulf had similar employment participation as Katherine with 38% of the Indigenous population employed and 13% unemployed. Compared with 83% of the non-Indigenous population employed and 3% unemployed (Figure 16). 35% of the Indigenous residents in Victoria-Daly were employed and 9% unemployed compared with 87% of the non-Indigenous population employed and 1% unemployed (Figure 17).

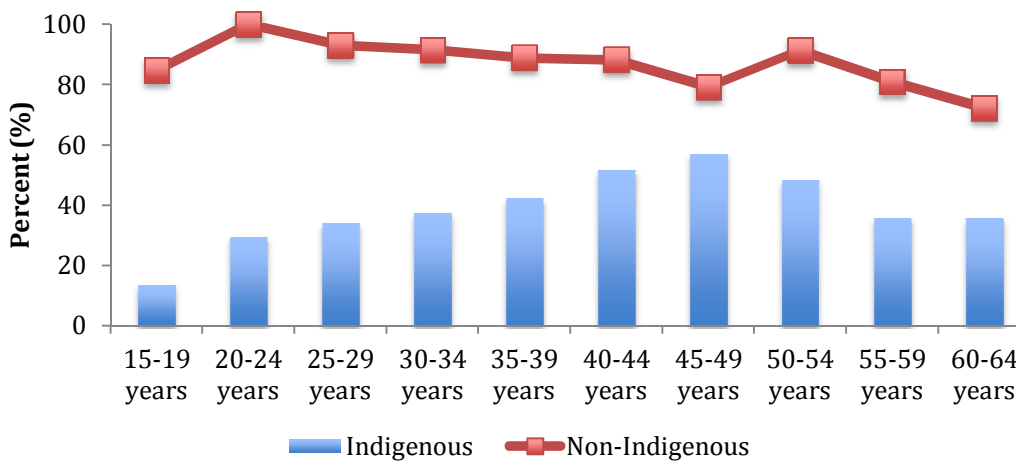
The labour force status category used for this analysis classifies employed persons as those with full or part-time/casual employment, including persons working under the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). Unemployed persons include people who are actively looking for full and part-time/casual work (ABS, 2011b).

Figure 16: Roper Gulf employed residents, 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Figure 17: Victoria-Daly employed residents, 2011

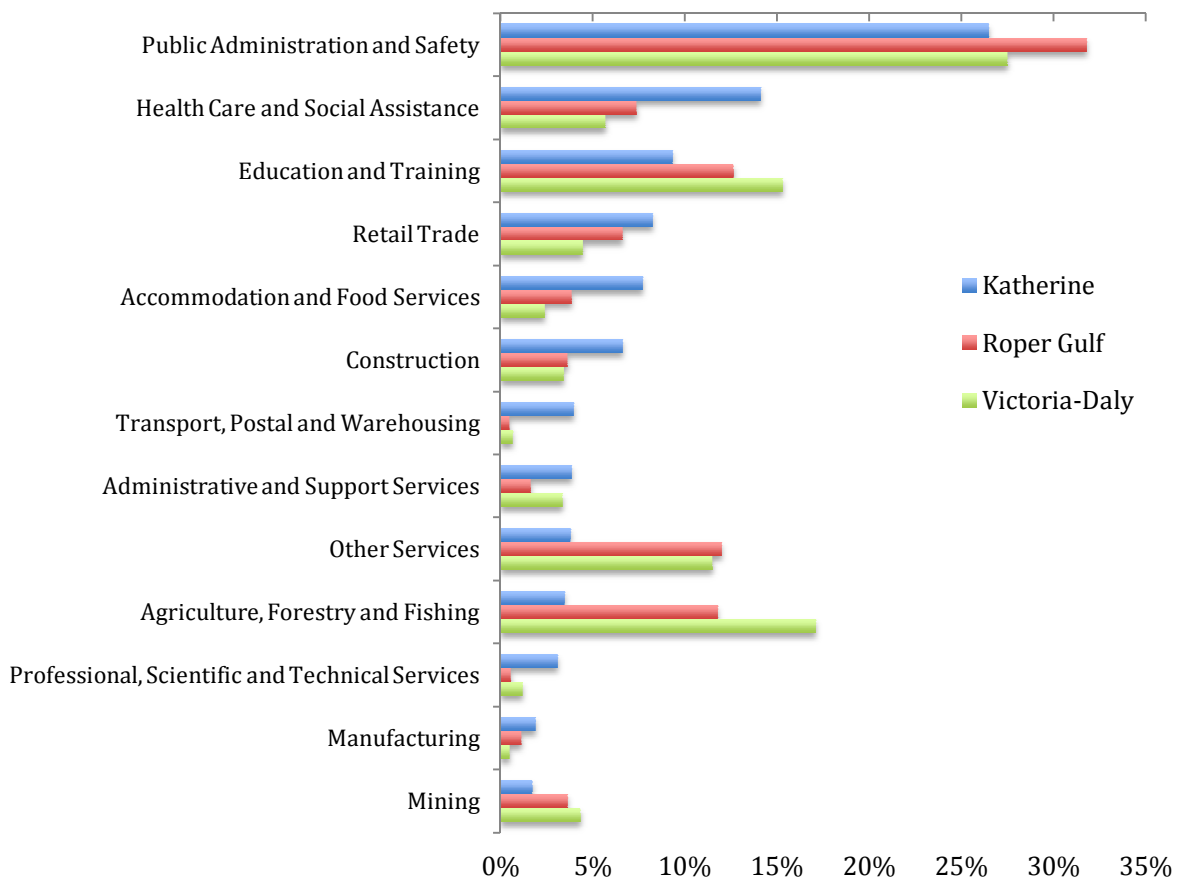


SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

6.1 Industries of employment

Figure 18 shows the main industries of employment for Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly. In all these regions Public Administration and Safety was the main employer, with Katherine at 26%, Roper Gulf 32% and Victoria-Daly 27%. In Katherine the other main industry of employment was Health Care and Social Assistance (14%). In Roper Gulf they were Education and Training (13%), and Other Services, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries both at 12%. In Victoria-Daly they were Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (17%) and Education and Training (15%).

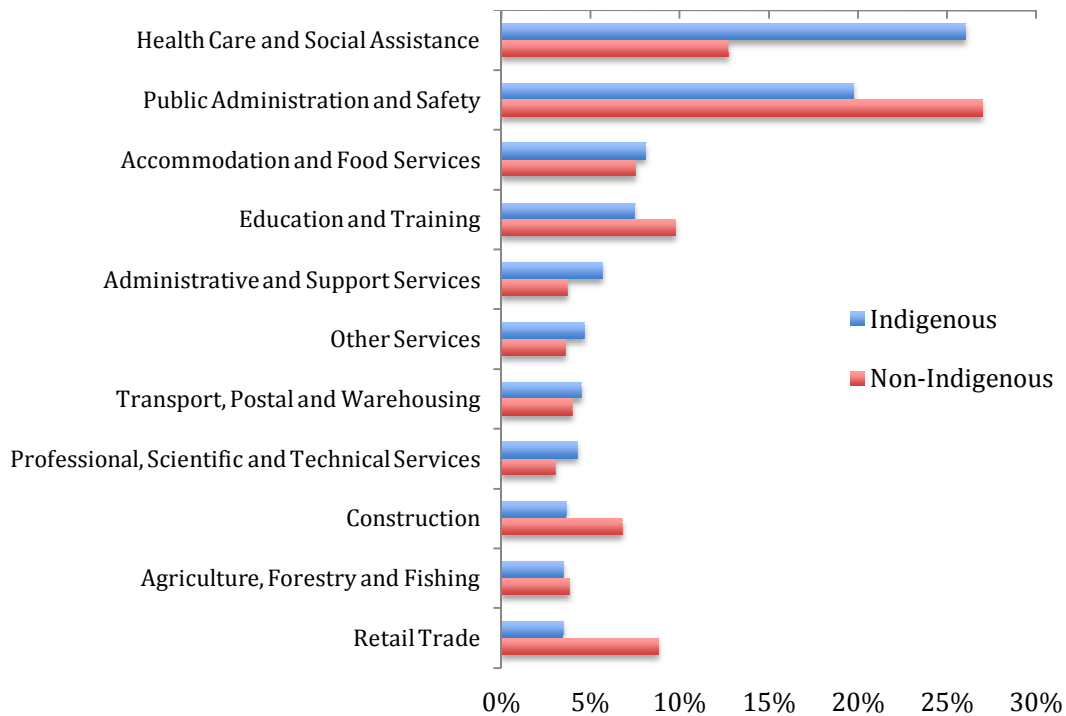
Figure 18: Industry of Employment for Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly, 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Figure 19 shows the main industries of employment for residents in Katherine by Indigenous status. For Indigenous residents it was Health Care and Social Assistance (26%), Public Administration and Safety (20%), and Accommodation and Food Services (8%). For non-Indigenous residents it was Public Administration and Safety (27%), Health Care and Social Assistance (13%), and Education and Training (10%).

Figure 19: Katherine main industries of employment by Indigenous status, 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

7. EDUCATION

Table 6 shows the highest level of schooling attained by residents of Katherine and compares it to 2006. It indicates that over the years, a greater proportion of residents were progressing further through school as the proportion who have completed years 11 or 12 increased for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents.

Table 6: Highest level of schooling attained across ages 15 and over, Katherine

% of stated responses across all ages	Katherine			
	2006		2011	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated
Yr 11 or 12	27%	60%	28%	64%
Yr 9 - 10	47%	35%	42%	32%
Yr 8 or below	19%	5%	24%	4%
Did not go to school	6%	0%	5%	0%

*due to rounding may not add to 100%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Table 7 focuses on Katherine residents aged 15-29 years. There was a 6% increase in the proportion of Indigenous residents who completed years 11 or 12, up from 30% in 2006 to 36% in 2011. There was also an increase though in the proportion of Indigenous residents who completed year 8 or below, up from 11% in 2006 to 14% in 2011.

Table 7: Highest level of schooling attained across ages 15-29 for Katherine

% of stated responses 15 - 29 years	Katherine			
	2006		2011	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated
Yr 11 or 12	30%	72%	36%	73%
Yr 9 - 10	56%	27%	49%	26%
Yr 8 or below	11%	2%	14%	2%
Did not go to school	3%	0%	1%	0%

*due to rounding may not add to 100%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

Table 8 shows the highest level of post-school qualifications for Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly. The proportions of post-school qualifications are relatively similar across all three regions.

Table 8: Highest level of post-school qualifications for Katherine, Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly, 2011

% of total responses across all ages	Katherine		Roper Gulf		Victoria-Daly	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous / Not stated
Bachelor or above	2%	15%	1%	18%	1%	18%
Advanced diploma	3%	8%	1%	7%	1%	9%
Certificate	12%	24%	11%	23%	12%	23%
Inadequately described	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Total	18%	49%	13%	49%	15%	51%

SOURCE: ABS Census 2011, generated using ABS TableBuilder

8. CONCLUSION

This research brief has summarised the changing population of Katherine and looked at key components of the surrounding LGA's of Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly. In the 5 years between 2007 and 2012, the population of Katherine grew at a stronger rate than that of the surrounding Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly. However, its growth was slightly lower than that of the Northern Territory as a whole.

In 2011, 28% of Katherine's population identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with females making up a larger proportion than males. Overall, Katherine was a more male dominated population, however less so than the NT as a whole. For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents Public Administration and Safety, and Health Care and Social Assistance were the main industries of employment.

Population turnover in Katherine was largely made up of interstate migration, with the majority of migrants to and from Katherine coming from Queensland, closely followed by New South Wales. Most of these in migrants were from the early to mid-career ages, whilst out migrants were early primary school and mid-career ages. Intra-Territory migration also contributed strongly to the population turnover of Katherine, with most in migrants coming from the surrounding area (Roper Gulf and Victoria-Daly), whilst most out migrants moved to Greater Darwin.

The proportion of overseas born persons in Katherine increased between 2006 and 2011, with the largest proportions of overseas born residents originating from the United Kingdom and Maritime South-East Asia. Educational attainment and post-school qualifications generally improved for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents between 2006 and 2011. Higher educational attainment for Indigenous residents in particular increased significantly, up 6% from 2006.

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