



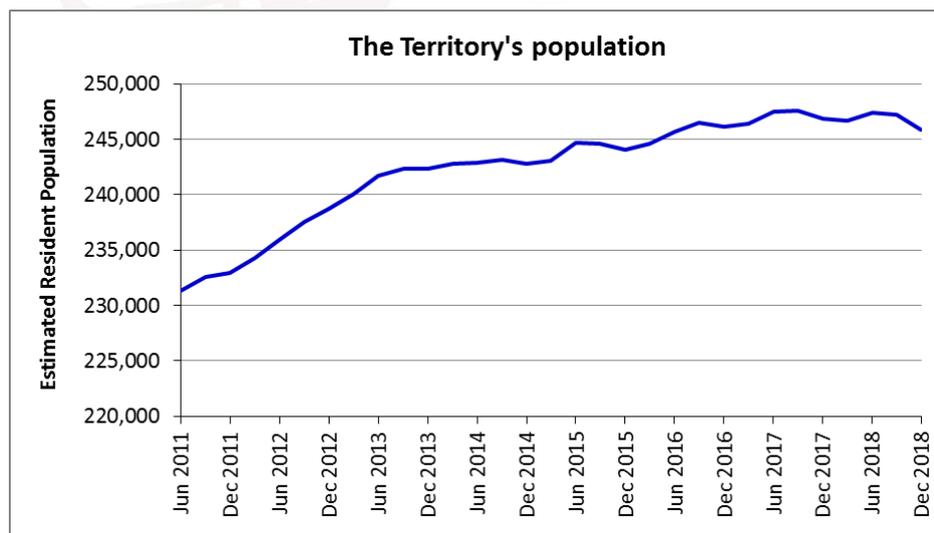
Territory Population Update

New Population Statistics for December 2018

Summary

Population figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 20th June 2019 show that the total Estimated Resident Population of the Northern Territory stood at **245,854** at the end of December 2018. This is a decline of about one thousand people over one year earlier and represents a growth rate of -0.4%. The population of 245,854 gives the Territory just under a 1.0% share of the national population of 25.18 million.

The graph below illustrates how the Territory's population has changed over recent years. Population growth has been modest since 2013 and has fluctuated between quarters of growth and decline. Over the most recent quarter for which there is data, 1st October – 31st December 2018, the population declined by an estimated 1,367 people.



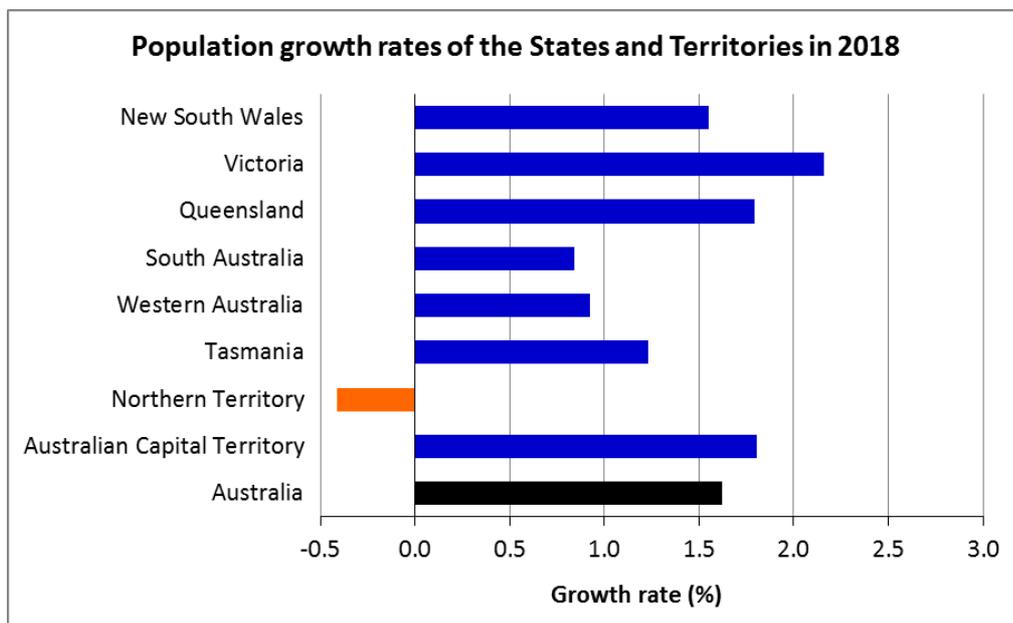
Note: Population statistics are for the end of each month shown

Source: ABS. Note: Population statistics are regularly revised by the ABS and those shown here may differ from data presented in earlier editions of Territory Population Update.





The bar chart below shows how the Territory's population growth rate during 2018 compares with that of the other States and Territories and Australia as a whole. The Territory's population growth rate of -0.4% was the lowest of all jurisdictions, followed by South Australia at 0.8%. Victoria experienced the highest growth rate (2.2%).



Source: ABS

What factors are driving population change in the Territory?

Population change in the Territory is the result of several demographic processes. These are:

- births
- deaths
- in-migration from interstate
- out-migration to interstate
- immigration from overseas
- emigration to overseas.

These six factors are often summarised as:

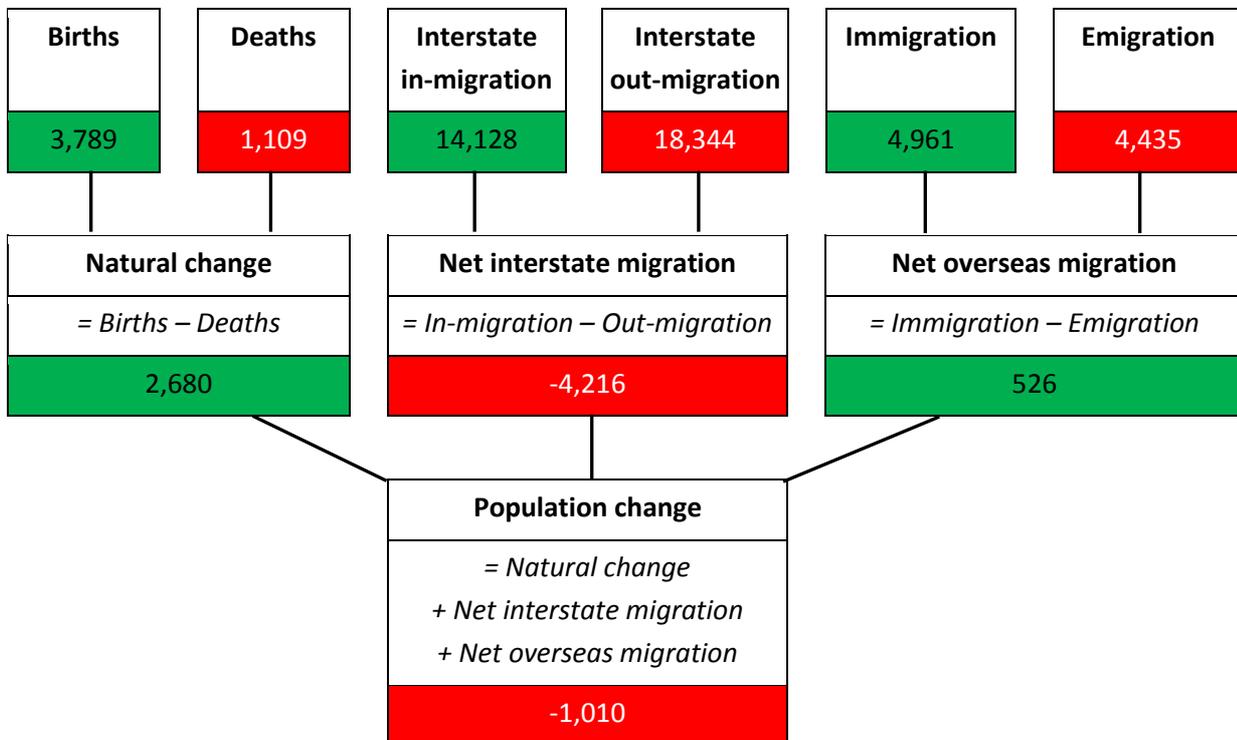
- natural change (births minus deaths)
- net interstate migration (in-migration minus out-migration)
- net overseas migration (immigration minus emigration).



The diagram below shows how these factors of population change affected population growth in 2018. Processes which remove people from the Territory are shown in red; those which add people to the population are shown in green.

- During the year there were 3,789 births and 1,109 deaths to Territory residents, giving natural change of 2,680.
- There were an estimated 14,128 in-migration moves to the Territory from interstate, while there were 18,344 out-migrations to other parts of Australia. Net interstate migration was therefore - 4,216.
- The Territory’s population experienced immigration of 4,961 from overseas, while emigration was 4,435. Net overseas migration was therefore 526.
- Total population change over the year was estimated to be -1,010.
- Although overall population change was modest, the churn (numbers of people being added and removed from the population) was substantial at 19% of the population. This is a long-established characteristic of the Territory’s demography.

Factors affecting population change in the Territory during 2018



Source: calculated from ABS data

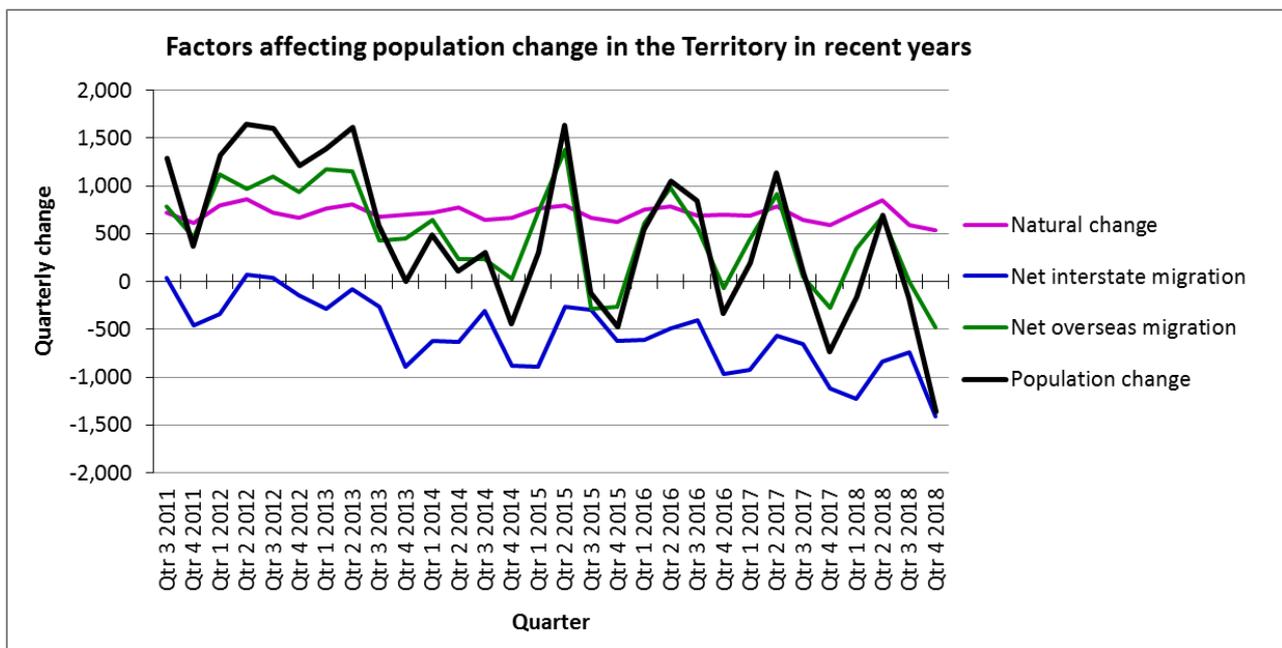
Note: Components of population change may not sum to total population change due to measurement errors



After Marina Strocchi

Factors affecting population change in recent years

Much of the volatility in the Territory’s population growth over the years is due to fluctuations in migration, which in part reflects fluctuations in the Territory’s economy. The graph below shows how natural change (shown in pink), net interstate migration (shown in blue), and net overseas migration (shown in green) have varied on a quarterly basis in recent years. The slow growth of the Territory’s population over the last few years is due to net interstate migration losses and lower levels of net overseas migration.



Note: Periods are quarters of the year; e.g. “Qtr 1 2018” refers to the first quarter of 2018

Source: ABS

Note: Components of population change may not sum to total population change due to measurement errors.

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Data sources

All data are derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics bulletin [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (released quarterly and containing data up to a date six months prior to publication) and the online data service [ABS.Stat](#). Be aware that these statistics are *estimates*, not precise values.

Interested in finding out more about the Territory’s population?

See the webpage of the [Demography & Growth Planning](#) team at the Northern Institute.