



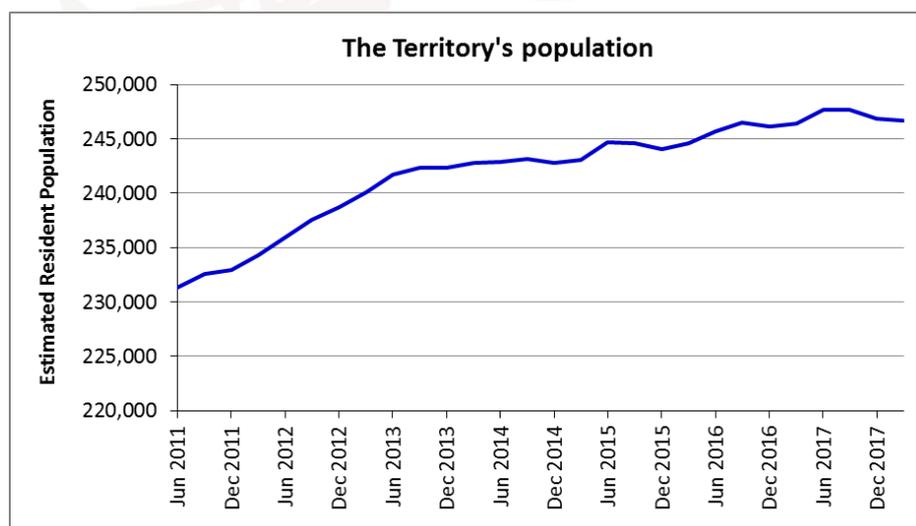
Territory Population Update

New Population Statistics for March 2018

Summary

Population figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 20th September 2018 show that the total Estimated Resident Population of the Northern Territory stood at **246,688** at the end of March 2018. This is an increase of 306 people over one year earlier and represents a growth rate of 0.1%. The population of 246,688 gives the Territory just under a 1.0% share of the national population of 24,899,077.

The graph below illustrates how the Territory's population has changed over recent years. Following strong increases to the middle of 2013, population growth has been modest in subsequent years. Over the quarter 1st January - 31st March 2018 population declined by an estimated 183 people.

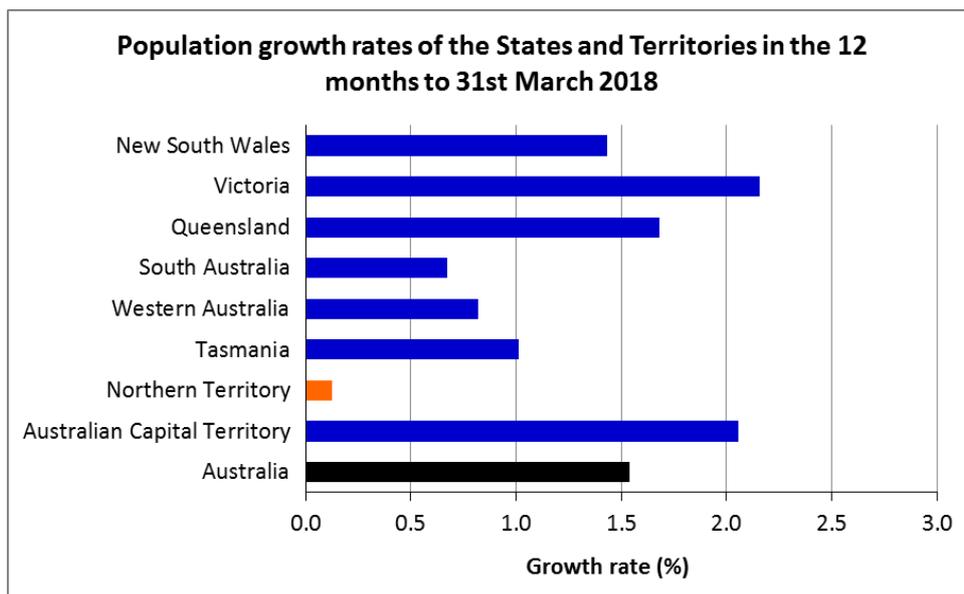


Note: Population statistics are for the end of each month shown

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



The bar chart below shows how the Territory's population growth rate over the year ending 31st March 2018 compares with that of the other States and Territories and Australia as a whole. The Territory's population growth rate of 0.1% is the lowest of all jurisdictions, followed by South Australia at 0.7%. 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:

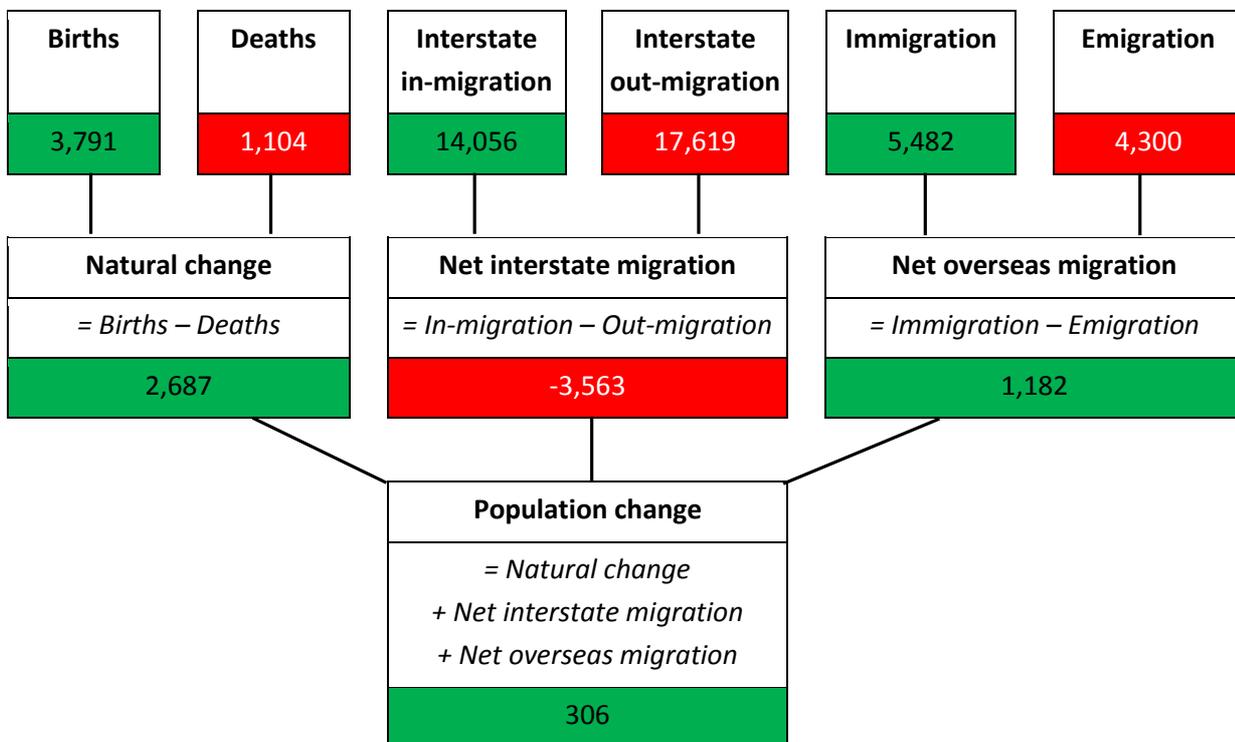
- natural change (births minus deaths)
- net interstate migration (in-migration minus out-migration)
- net overseas migration (immigration minus emigration).



The diagram below shows how these factors of population change affected population growth over the 12 months to 31st March 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 3,791 births and 1,104 deaths to Territory residents, giving natural change of 2,687.
- There were an estimated 14,056 in-migration moves to the Territory from interstate, while there were 17,619 out-migrations to other parts of Australia. Net interstate migration was therefore -3,563.
- The Territory’s population experienced immigration of 5,482 from overseas, while emigration was 4,300. Net overseas migration was therefore 1,182.
- Total population change over the year was estimated to be 306.
- Although overall population change was modest, the churn of population (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 over the 12 months ending 31st March 2018



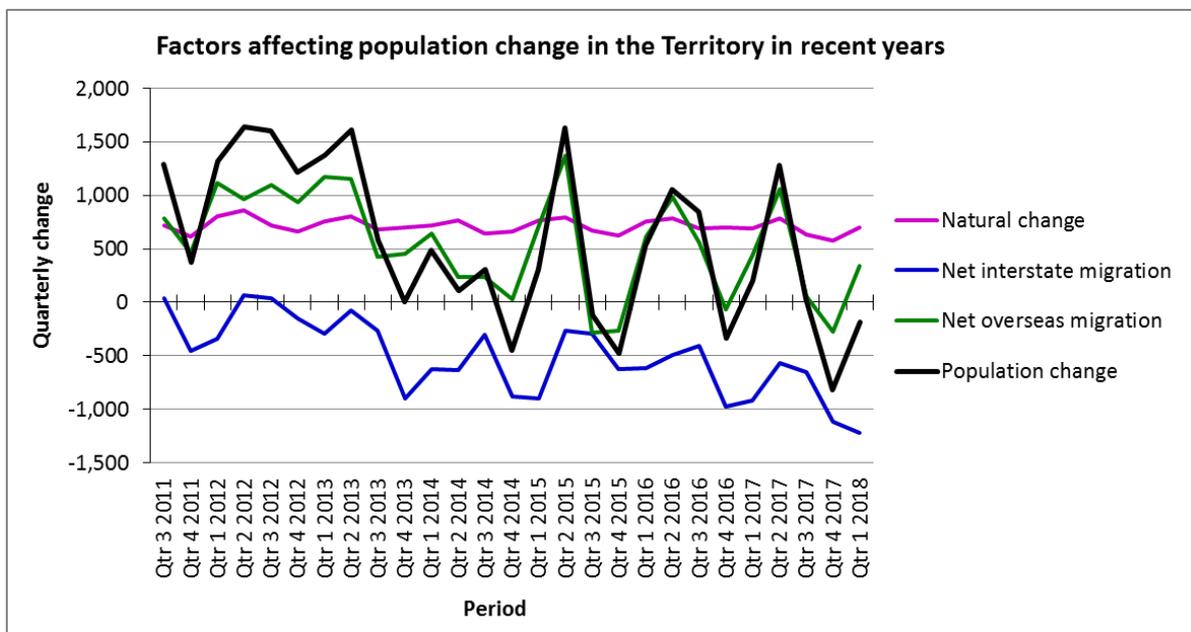
Source: calculated from ABS data

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



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, and our blog, [demographyNorth](#).