



Territory Population Update

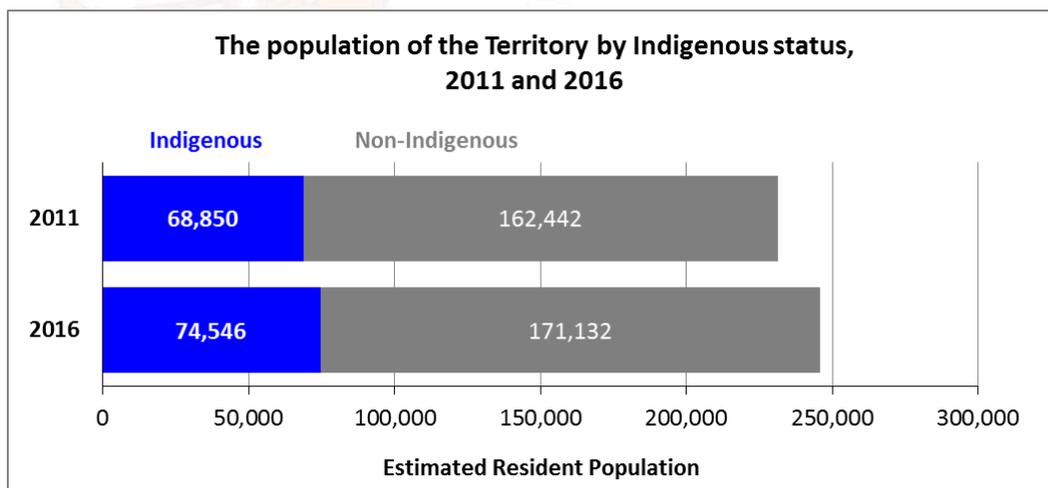


New Indigenous Population Statistics for 2016

Summary

Revised estimates of the population of the Northern Territory in 2016 by Indigenous status, along with regional and local estimates, were published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 31st August 2018. Detailed statistics are available in the ABS publication [Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians](#). This brief summarises a few key points.

As of 30th June 2016 the Indigenous population of the Territory was estimated to be **74,546**, representing **30.3%** of the Territory's total population. The Indigenous population has grown by 5,696 (or 8.3%) since 2011; the non-Indigenous population grew by 8,690 (or 5.3%) over the same period. The graph below shows the size of the Territory's Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in 2011 and 2016.



Source: ABS

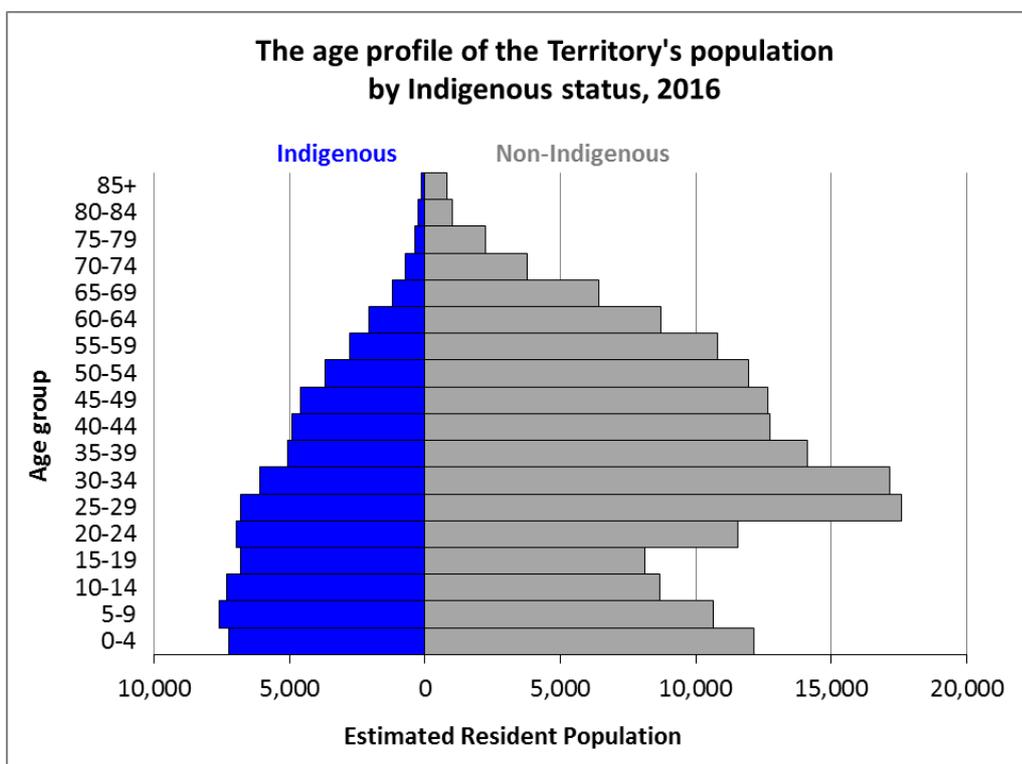
The Indigenous population of Australia as a whole in 2016 was estimated to be 798,365. The Territory therefore is home to 9.3% of Australia's Indigenous peoples.





Population by age group

The graph below illustrates the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations of the Territory in 2016 by age group (Indigenous on the left; non-Indigenous on the right). The Indigenous population is younger. The median age¹ is 26.0 years for the Indigenous population and 34.9 years for the non-Indigenous population.



Source: ABS

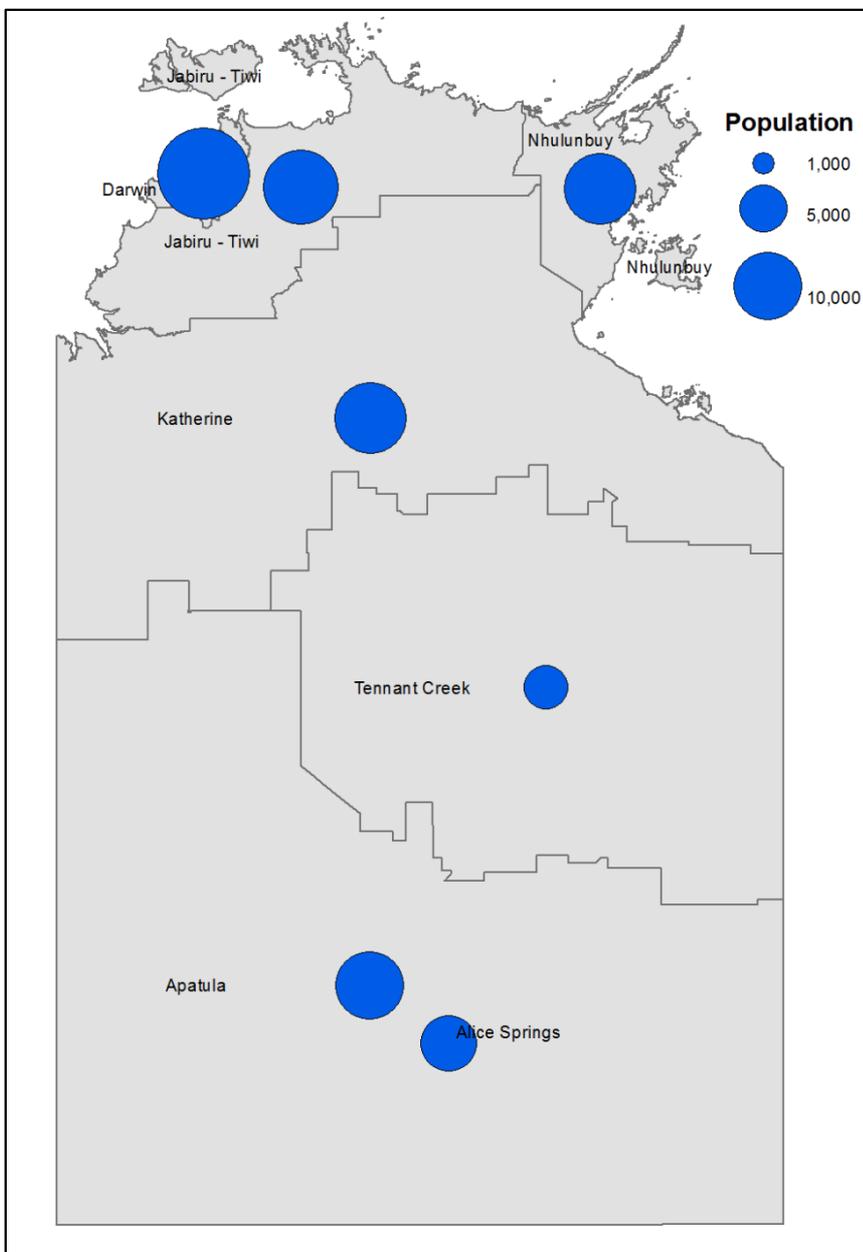
The largest age groups in the Indigenous population are found in the childhood ages, while for the non-Indigenous population those aged 25-29 and 30-34 form the largest age groups. The Indigenous population age profile reflects high fertility and high mortality. The non-Indigenous age profile is also affected by fertility and mortality to some extent, but it is predominantly shaped by migration.

¹ The median age is the age which exactly divides the population into two equal halves, one older than the median age and the other younger.



Population by Indigenous region

The map below shows the distribution of the Indigenous population across the Territory's seven Indigenous regions in 2016. The size of each circle on the map is proportional to the size of the population. The Darwin region was home to the largest Indigenous population in 2016 (18,326) while the smallest was in the Tennant Creek region (4,375).



Source: created from ABS data



The table below presents the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population estimates for both 2011 and 2016. It shows that:

- between 2011 and 2016 the Indigenous population grew in all regions of the Territory except Tennant Creek where there was a small decline;
- in the Darwin region the Indigenous population increased by 25% between 2011 and 2016;
- there was a decline in the non-Indigenous population in all regions except Darwin;
- the largest proportional decline in the non-Indigenous population occurred in the Nhulunbuy region.

The population of the Territory by Indigenous status and Indigenous region, 2011 and 2016

| Region | Indigenous population | | | Non-Indigenous population | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| | 2011 | 2016 | % change | 2011 | 2016 | % change |
| Alice Springs | 6,233 | 6,826 | 9.5 | 22,256 | 19,978 | -10.2 |
| Apatula | 9,894 | 10,175 | 2.8 | 2,640 | 2,264 | -14.2 |
| Darwin | 14,660 | 18,326 | 25.0 | 116,959 | 131,532 | 12.5 |
| Jabiru - Tiwi | 12,151 | 12,400 | 2.0 | 3,435 | 2,793 | -18.7 |
| Katherine | 10,543 | 11,050 | 4.8 | 9,059 | 8,771 | -3.2 |
| Nhulunbuy | 10,896 | 11,394 | 4.6 | 6,003 | 4,016 | -33.1 |
| Tennant Creek | 4,473 | 4,375 | -2.2 | 2,090 | 1,778 | -14.9 |
| Northern Territory | 68,850 | 74,546 | 8.3 | 162,442 | 171,132 | 5.3 |

Source: ABS

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Data sources

All data are derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication [Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians](#), the bulletin [Australian Demographic Statistics](#), 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](#).