



Regional Profile

East Arnhem Region covers 38 435 square kilometres, 3% of the Northern Territory. It encompasses the East Arnhem statistical division including Groote Eylandt, and is centred on the town of Nhulunbuy.

Nhulunbuy is the service centre for a rural population three times the size of the town itself and for those tourists visiting the area. Alyangula is the service centre for Groote Eylandt. Much of the population in the region resides in outlying communities on Indigenous land.

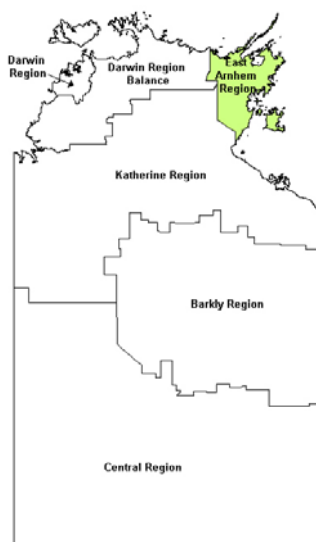
The region supports a range of industries including mining, fishing, tourism, retail and government administration.

Society

Population

In June 2005, the region was home to an estimated 14 294 people, accounting for 7% of the Northern Territory population. In the year to June 2005, the region's population increased by 1.7%.

In 2001, Indigenous people represented an estimated 63% of the population in the East Arnhem Region.



The population of the region is expected to rise to 16 444 by 2021, based on medium growth predictions by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

East Arnhem Region Key Facts 2005

Area		38 435 km ²
Population		14 294
Labour force	- Region	5153
	- Nhulunbuy	2379
Unemployment rate	- Region	10.1%
	- Nhulunbuy	4.0%
Tourist visitor numbers:		774 000*
Number of businesses:		415
Mining value:		\$980m

*Indicates tourist numbers for the Top End including Darwin Region, Darwin Region Balance and East Arnhem

Local Government

There are currently 10 local councils in the region which administer the townships of Nhulunbuy and Angurugu and a number of local communities that primarily service Indigenous people. Local government reform currently underway will result the formation of an East Arnhem Shire which will replace all existing local councils.

Economy

Employment

In 2005 the region had an estimated 5153 people in the labour force, including Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) employment, and a 10.1% unemployment rate. In 2005, 4.0% of the labour force in Nhulunbuy town was unemployed.

In 2001 the proportion of people employed in mining, government administration and defence, and manufacturing was higher than elsewhere in the Territory. Agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale trade, retail trade and accommodation, cafes and restaurants were below the Territory average.

Northern Territory Regional Snapshots

Income and Prices

In 2003-04, the estimated mean taxable income for the East Arnhem Region was \$54,827, the highest of all Territory regions and 27% above the Territory average. Nhulunbuy residents earned a higher share of East Arnhem's average wages and salaries largely due to higher than average mining industry salaries.

In December 2005 Nhulunbuy had the second highest price in the Territory after Yulara for an average basket of goods. Grocery prices were on average 17% higher than in Darwin.

Number of Businesses

In 2001 the region had 415 registered business entities (estimated at 154 public and 261 private). Most were located in Nhulunbuy.

Construction and Building

In 2004-05 the value of new residential building was \$28m for 83 buildings approved in the region. The value of non-residential building approvals was \$7m. The region has a public housing stock of 46 dwellings, 1% of the Territory total.

Tourism

During 2005, the Top End Region of the Northern Territory (Darwin, Darwin Region Balance and East Arnhem) attracted 774 000 overnight visitors. This was a 3% increase on the previous year. In 2005, accommodation takings for the Darwin Tourism Region were \$109 million, 52% of the Territory total.

Fisheries

Nhulunbuy is the home port for a proportion of the fishing vessels in the Spanish mackerel and barramundi fisheries and a service centre for these and other fisheries in the area. The area is also a service centre for some of the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet.

Pearl farming is a growing industry in the English Company's Islands and Truant Island.

Mining

In 2004-05, production of minerals and petroleum in the East Arnhem Region was valued at \$980m, a 24% increase over the previous year. This represented 54% of Territory onshore mining production value, and consisted of manganese and bauxite mined, and alumina produced, in the region.

Roads

This remote region is dependent on shipping and air transport for connection with the rest of the Territory. However a dry season road connects Nhulunbuy with the Stuart Highway, entering south of Katherine.

There are 14 km of sealed roadways within the region and 554 km of unsealed roads. In 2003-04 the region received 2% (\$1.6M) of Territory's spending on roads.

Wellbeing

Education

In 2005, there were 13 government schools and 2 non-government schools operating in the region. There were 3552 students enrolled in primary and secondary schools and 1800 students enrolled in vocational education and training courses (6% of the Territory total). A total of 35 students were enrolled in higher education courses, 1% of the Territory total.

Welfare

In 2003, 110 people per 1000 received Centrelink's Newstart allowance for jobseekers, higher than the Territory average of 72. A lower rate of people received the youth allowance and rental assistance than elsewhere in the Territory.

Health

The region's public hospital is located in Nhulunbuy. In 2004-05, of the 2212 public hospital separations, Indigenous people accounted for 72% despite comprising 63% of the population. Hospital separations longer than one day accounted for 60% of all non-Indigenous separations compared to 89% of all Indigenous separations. Indigenous people were greatly over-represented in almost all causes of death categories.

Law and Public Safety

In 2005, total crime in the region was reported at 123 offences per 1000 persons, substantially lower than the overall Territory rate of 212. Sexual assaults and related offences were reported at 1 per 1000 persons, unlawful entry with intent/burglary at 11 per 1000 persons, the latter much lower than the Territory average.

For Further Information

Contact: Please contact the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development, Economic Development Division, for further information.

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Website: www.nt.gov.au/business

Information current as at: February 2006

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