



Table 1: Northern Australia key statistics

	North Queensland	North Western Australia	Northern Territory	Northern Australia	Australia
Demographics					
Population ('000)	956.4	114.4	244.5	1,315.3	23,786.1
Population growth (per cent) (one-year / 10-year)	0.6 / 19.8	-0.7 / 27.0	0.4 / 18.7	0.5 / 20.2	1.4 / 17.8
Aged < 15 years (per cent)	21.2	19.3	22.1	21.2	18.8
Aged 15–64 years (per cent)	66.6	76.4	71.1	68.3	66.2
Aged > 64 years (per cent)	12.2	4.4	6.9	10.5	15.0
Employment					
Labour force ('000)	482.5	74.9	139.0	696.4	12,677.0
Estimated total industry employment ('000)	439.9	67.2	132.3	639.4	11,927.9
Unemployment rate (per cent)	8.4	6.7	3.5	7.2	5.6
Participation rate (per cent)	64.1	77.9	74.3	67.2	64.7
Actively trading businesses (per cent)					
Non employing	59.4	57.9	59.0	59.3	60.6
1-4 employees	26.4	23.6	23.7	25.9	27.6
5-19 employees	11.4	13.7	13.1	11.7	9.3
20-199 employees	2.7	4.7	4.1	3.1	2.4
200+ employees	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total number of businesses ('000)	73.9	5.5	14.0	93.4	2,121.2

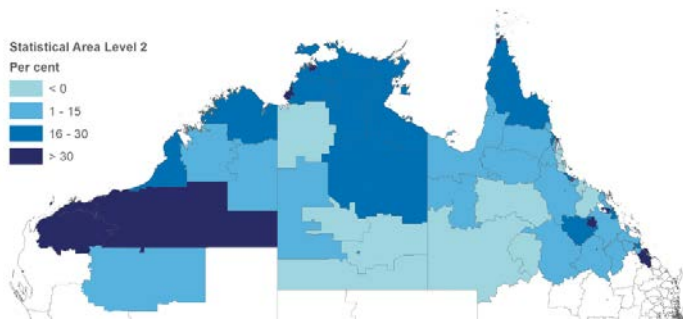
Table 2: Top three employing industries (per cent share of total employment)

	North Queensland		North Western Australia		Northern Territory		Northern Australia	
Rank								
1	Health care	12.0	Mining	28.7	Public admin	17.8	Health care	11.2
2	Retail	9.8	Construction	11.5	Health care	11.9	Public admin	9.1
3	Education	8.8	Public admin	8.5	Construction	11.4	Mining	9.1

Table 3: Mining regions in Northern Australia

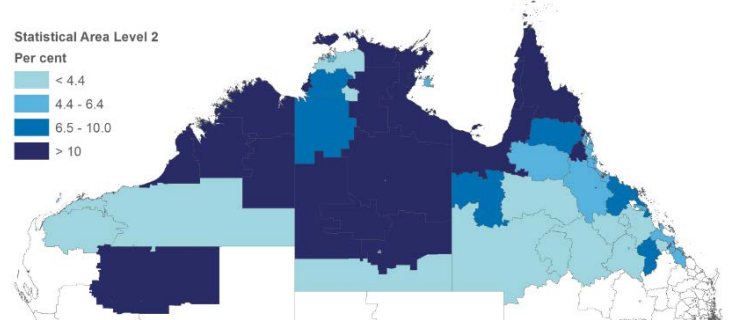
	Bowen Basin Metallurgical and Thermal Coal	Pilbara Iron ore
Key statistics		
Population ('000)	418.1	65.9
Unemployment rate (per cent)	6.2	2.9
Participation rate (per cent)	69.5	86.7
Mining statistics		
Employed in mining (per cent)	11.2	38.4
Total employment in mining ('000)	23.8	16.8

Population growth of Northern Australia, 2005 to 2015



Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014-15, cat. no. 3218.0.

Unemployment rates in Northern Australia



Source: Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets, Smoothed unemployment rates, June quarter 2016 (Table 1 – SA2).

Table 4: Northern Australia Significant Urban Areas

	Population ('000)	Unemployment rate (per cent)	Participation rate (per cent)	Total industry employment ('000)	Goods producing employment (per cent)	Market services employment (per cent)	Non-market services employment (per cent)	Actively traded businesses ('000)
Significant Urban Areas								
Townsville (QLD)	180.3	9.3	61.9	77.3	17	50	33	10.7
Cairns (QLD)	148.0	7.9	63.4	66.1	16	50	34	12.2
Darwin (NT)	123.4	3.5	78.6	72.5	21	44	35	9.0
Mackay (QLD)	85.5	7.7	69.6	45.6	30	46	24	6.6
Rockhampton (QLD)	80.7	8.1	67.0	39.8	20	46	34	4.7
Gladstone (QLD)	49.2	6.0	73.5	22.8	31	49	21	2.5
Alice Springs (NT)	28.0	1.9	83.4	20.0	14	41	45	2.0
Mount Isa (QLD)	21.8	7.7	69.4	10.6	47	38	15	0.9
Emerald (QLD)	15.2	3.5	74.4	8.1	39	50	11	1.4
Port Hedland (WA)	15.2	4.6	83.4	9.2	42	41	17	0.8
Broome (WA)	14.8	7.4	76.7	3.9	19	50	31	1.2

Table 5: Statistical Area Level 4 unemployment rates (per cent)

	12-month average to August 2016	August 2016	July 2016	June 2016
Statistical Area Level 4				
Cairns	8.7	8.1	8.7	8.9
Fitzroy	6.0	5.8	5.0	9.4
Mackay	6.4	4.0	5.1	4.7
Queensland – Outback	13.3	13.7	15.6	15.7
Townsville	10.0	14.5	9.7	14.8
Western Australia – Outback	6.4	3.4	4.0	5.0
Darwin	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.9
Northern Territory - Outback	5.1	5.6	5.2	5.0

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) is the lowest geographical boundary published in the ABS Labour Force Survey. Please note the boundaries of Fitzroy, Queensland – Outback and Western Australia – Outback include areas in Northern Australia and Southern Australia.

Table 6: Sources and Notes

Statistic	Source	Notes
Demographics		
Northern Australia (including Significant Urban Areas and mining regions)	ABS, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2015, cat. no. 3235.0.	<p>These figures are for the estimated resident population. Demographic estimates refer to June 2015. Data updated annually.</p> <p>For the purposes of this factsheet Northern Australia estimates are an aggregation of Statistical Area Level 2s.</p> <p>Significant Urban Areas (SUAs) are an aggregation of Statistical Area Level 2s that are in the same labour market and have an aggregate urban population exceeding 10,000 persons.</p> <p>The mining region of Bowen Basin relates to the Statistical Areas Level 4 of Mackay and Fitzroy. The Pilbara mining region relates to the Statistical Area Level 3 of Pilbara.</p>
State and National	ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2016, cat. no. 3101.0.	These figures are for the estimated resident population. Demographic estimates refer to June 2015. Population by age updated annually.
Population growth	ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014-15, cat. no. 3218.0.	Statistical Area Level 2 data. 10 year growth from June 2005 to June 2015. Data updated annually.
Labour Force		
Unemployment rates Northern Australia (including Significant Urban Areas and Pilbara mining region)	Department of Employment, Data tables, Small Area Labour Markets, June 2016 (Table 1 – SA2).	<p>These estimates are aggregated Statistical Area Level 2 data from the Department of Employment's Small Area Labour Markets (SALM) publication.</p> <p>The Department of Employment uses a four quarter average to minimise the variability inherent in small area estimates, however given the nature of the data, figures should be used with some caution. Data Updated quarterly.</p>
Participation rates Northern Australia (including Significant Urban Areas and mining regions)	<p>ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, August 2016, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, Table 12 and RM1.</p> <p>ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing (TableBuilder extract).</p>	Northern Australia is a construction of Statistical Area Level 2s, however, labour force survey data is only published at the SA4 level. Employment by industry is estimated by applying SA2 to SA4 Census ratios to SA4 labour force survey data. Data updated monthly.
National and State	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2016, cat. no. 6202.0 Table 12.	National and state figures are seasonally adjusted. Data updated monthly.
Statistical Area Level 4 (including Bowen Basin mining region)	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, August 2016, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, RM1.	<p>Please note Statistical Area Level 4 and Significant Urban Areas are not the same. SUAs are constructed based on population density, while SA4s reflect labour markets within each state and territory within population limits.</p> <p>The labour force survey is subject to sampling error particularly for regions with low employment, 12-month average to August 2016 has been applied to minimise the variability inherent in small area estimates. Data updated monthly.</p>
Estimated industry share of total employment		
Northern Australia (including Significant Urban Areas and Mining Regions)	<p>ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2016, cat.no. 6291.0.55.003, RQ1.</p> <p>ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing (TableBuilder extract).</p>	Northern Australia is a construction of Statistical Area Level 2s, however, labour force survey employment data is only published at the SA4 level. Employment by industry is estimated by applying SA2 to SA4 Census ratios to SA4 labour force survey data. Updated quarterly.
National and State	ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2016, cat.no. 6291.0.55.003, Table 05.	Estimates based on four quarter averages to August 2016. Data updated quarterly.
Actively traded businesses		
All regions	ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, Jun 2011 to Jun 2015, cat. no. 8165.0.	Statistical Area Level 2 data, aggregated to applicable regions. Data updated annually.