



State of Australian Cities 2012

Darwin



Population and Settlement

- Darwin's population increased from 106,842 in 2001 to 129,062 in 2011, a growth rate of 1.9 per cent, above the national average of 1.5 per cent.
- Darwin is Australia's fifteenth largest city and is home to 56 per cent of Northern Territorians and 0.6 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Darwin's stock of private dwellings increased by 3,553. With a population increase of 14,596 over the same period, there were 4.1 additional people for each new dwelling constructed, the highest rate of the major cities. Darwin's 2011 household occupancy rate was 3.1 people per dwelling, also the highest in the country and well above the 2011 average major city rate of 2.73.
- Of Darwin's total stock of 42,570 private dwellings in 2011, 7.9 per cent were unoccupied, well below the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- Darwin's rental vacancy rate has been low since 2005, and in September 2012 was the lowest of all capital cities at 0.6 per cent.
- Darwin has built a high proportion of flats and units since 1985 and now has the third highest proportion of dwellings as flats and units of any major city.
- Darwin had the highest proportion of government housing of all major cities in 2006 at 8.6 per cent. This fell to 6.8 per cent in 2011, representing the steepest decline of any major city.
- Darwin has the highest proportion of working age population of any major city and the lowest proportion of people in the 65 years and over bracket.
- Darwin has the highest proportion of housing under finance among the major cities in 2011 with less than 35 per cent of homes owned outright.
- In the year to March 2012, Darwin hosted 3.1 million domestic visitor nights, down from 3.7 million in 2008 and 1.7 million international visitor nights, up from 1.2 million in 2008.

Productivity

- Darwin residents travel significantly further than those of any other capital city, although distance travelled has reduced since its peak in 2005. The private motor vehicle remains the dominant mode of travel to work in each capital city. In Darwin, 82 per cent of residents travel to work in private motor vehicles, the highest of all the capital cities and 4.5 per cent use mass transit systems, the lowest of all the capitals cities.
- In 2011-12, Darwin's port handled 38,500 tonnes of bulk imports and 5,572 containers (TEUs) and 2.2 million tonnes of bulk exports and 3,310 containers.
- In 2011, 1.8 million domestic passengers and 357,210 international passengers passed through Darwin Airport.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, Darwin's average annual maximum temperatures increased slightly, while average annual minimum temperatures remained largely unchanged.
- Darwin is one of only two major cities - the other being Cairns - which experienced an upward trend in average rainfall over this time.
- Sea level rise around Australia has been equal to and in some cases greater than the global average of approximately three millimetres per year. Since 1993 Darwin, along with Perth, has experienced the highest rates of sea level rise among our major coastal cities of eight to nine millimetres per year.

Liveability

- According to the *Australian City Liveability Index* survey of residents in 10 Australian cities:
 - A high proportion of Darwin residents agree that the city has a 'quality natural environment' (73%) and 'good transport infrastructure and services' (55%).
 - Just 33 per cent of Darwin residents feel that the city is 'a safe place for people and their property', and 39 per cent agree that it provides 'quality affordable housing', the lowest rates of all the capital cities.
- According to the 2012 *AMP NATSEM Income and Wealth Report's* analysis of typical household goods and services, Darwin is the most expensive of the capital cities for food, alcohol, tobacco, communications and financial and insurance services.
- In Darwin, three per cent of people cycle to work, the highest rate for Australia's capital cities. Darwin also has a high rate of people walking to work, second only to Hobart.

Governance

- The draft *Greater Darwin Plan* was publicly exhibited in early 2012.