



# Alice Springs Region Economic Profile At a glance

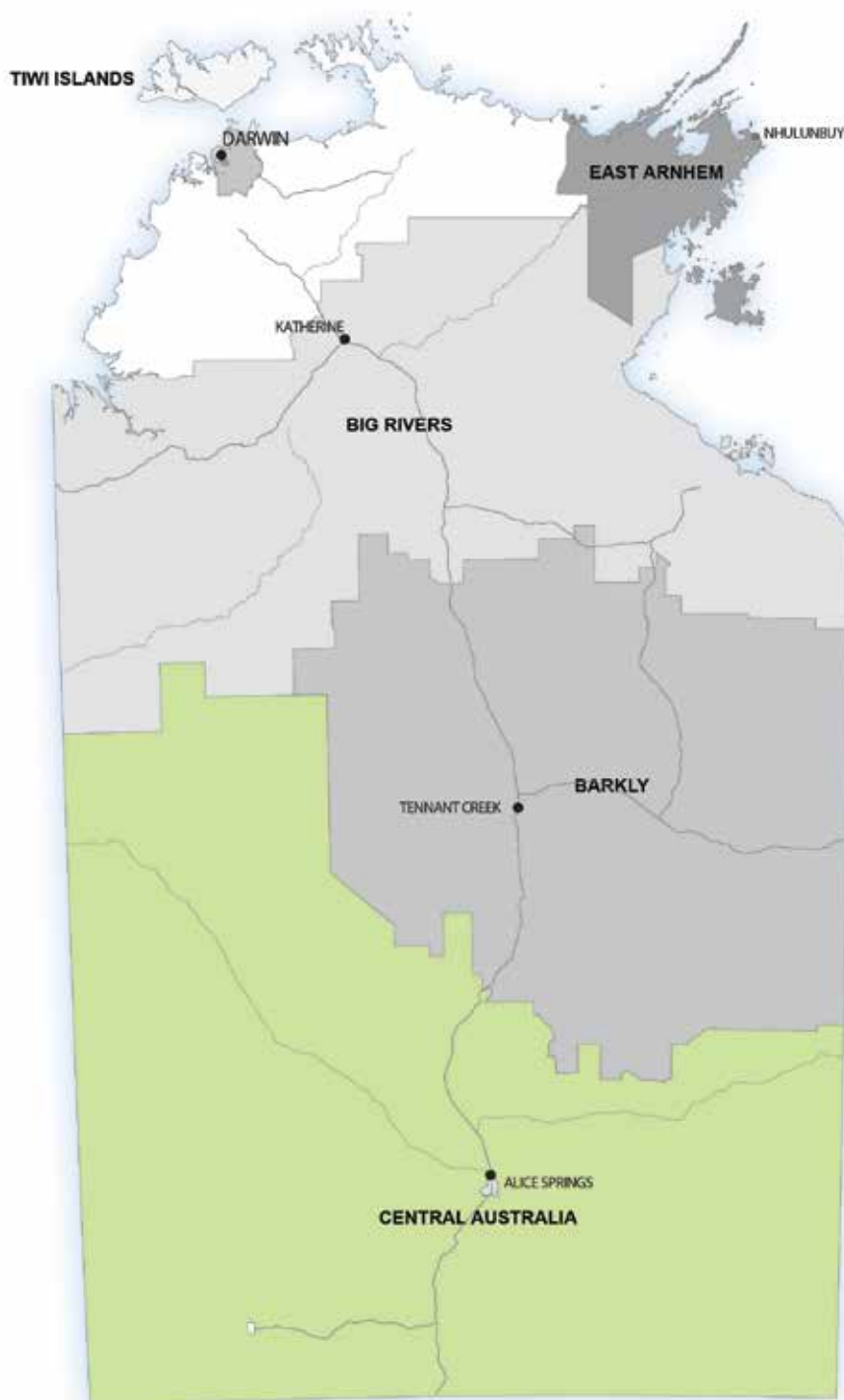
## Alice Springs Region at a glance

This economic snapshot of Central Australia provides some facts about the region and highlights key aspects of the local economy and how it is changing over time.

Seventeen percent (41 042) of Territorians live in the Central Australia region, an area of almost 570,000 square kilometres. The region includes Alice Springs, the second largest population centre in the Northern Territory and the economic, business and service hub for the region. Residents from remote areas of South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland also access many services from Alice Springs such as health and retail.

The Central Australia region contributes an estimated 18 per cent (\$2.9 billion) of the Northern Territory Gross State Product. Of this, the largest industry sectors are Mining (\$552 million), Construction (\$313 million) and Health care and social assistance (\$240 million).

At \$54 450, the average income in the Central Australia region is lower than the NT average (\$59 342). This can largely be attributed to the labour intensive service sectors associated with the accommodation, retail, construction, public administration and health care sectors. The average cost of a basket of goods in Alice Springs is comparable with Darwin, but cheaper than Katherine and Nhulunbuy.



Source: Department of Local Government

# Society

What are the labour force characteristics in the region?

## DEMOGRAPHY

| Total population at Census | 2006 | 2011 |
|----------------------------|------|------|
|----------------------------|------|------|

Alice Springs Region minus Alice Springs Town (T) = Alice Springs balance (bal.)

|                                 |        |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Alice Springs (T)               | 26,467 | 28,080 |
| Alice Springs bal.              | 14,359 | 14,032 |
| Alice Springs Region            | 40,826 | 42,112 |
| Alice Springs Region median age | 32     | 33     |

Source: ABS Time series profile. Figures include overseas visitors. Enumerated (the number of people counted on Census night) data.

| Estimated resident population (30 June) | 2011pr | 2012pr |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--------|

|                      |         |         |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Alice Springs (T)    | 28,449  | 28,517  |
| Alice Springs bal.   | 12,593  | 12,705  |
| Alice Springs Region | 41,042  | 41,222  |
| Northern Territory   | 231,331 | 234,836 |

Source: ABS catalogue (cat.) number (no.) 3218.0 2010-11. Released July 2012. (pr - preliminary revised).

## Estimated resident population by age as at 30 June 2011

| All persons          | Male        | Female      |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0-14                 | 4,911       | 4,276       |
| 15-24                | 3,353       | 2,930       |
| 25-64                | 12,232      | 11,150      |
| 65+                  | 1,073       | 1,117       |
| Alice Springs Region | 21,569      | 19,473      |
| <b>Median age</b>    | <b>31.3</b> | <b>31.8</b> |

Source: ABS cat. no. 3235.0 June 2011.

## POPULATION AGED 15 - 64 YEARS (WORKING AGE)

|                      | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Alice Springs (T)    | 3,144      | 16,192         |
| Alice Springs bal.   | 5,349      | 3,683          |
| Alice Springs Region | 8,493      | 19,875         |

Source: ABS Census 2011 (Enumerated data, the number of people counted on Census night). Non-Indigenous includes not stated and excludes overseas visitors.

## LABOUR MARKET - ALICE SPRINGS TOWN (T)

| Labour force          | Dec 2012 | Census 2011 |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|
| Unemployed persons    | 482      | 455         |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 2.6      | 3.2         |
| Labour force          | 18,298   | 14,187      |

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Small Area Labour Market (SALM) Report accessed April 2013.

Note: The data for December 2012 is sourced from DEEWR, the Census data is sourced from ABS.

## LABOUR MARKET - ALICE SPRINGS REGION TOTAL

| Labour force          | Dec 2012 | Census 2011 |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|
| Unemployed persons    | 1,322    | 897         |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 6.0      | 4.8         |
| Labour force          | 21,891   | 18,573      |

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Small Area Labour Market (SALM) Report accessed April 2013.

Note: The data for December 2012 is sourced from DEEWR, the Census data is sourced from ABS.

# Economy

How much do we earn and where are the future labour shortages in the region?

## SELECTED MEDIANS AND AVERAGES

|                                       |            | Census 2011       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|                                       |            | Alice Springs (T) | Alice Springs Region |
| Median age of persons                 |            | 35                | 33                   |
| Median individual income              | \$/weekly  | 832               | 694                  |
| Median family income                  | \$/weekly  | 1,974             | 1,595                |
| Median household income               | \$/weekly  | 1,636             | 1,461                |
| Median mortgage loan repayment        | \$/monthly | 1,950             | 1,950                |
| Median rent                           | \$/weekly  | 300               | 150                  |
| Average number of persons per bedroom |            | 1.2               | 1.3                  |
| Average household size                |            | 2.6               | 2.9                  |

Source: ABS Census 2011 - Time series profile.

Note: Median family income is applicable to families in a family household. There can be more than one family in a household. Median household income is applicable to occupied private dwellings. It is based on all income earners in the household or in the occupied private dwelling.

## INCOME

| Mean taxable income        |    | 2007-2008 | 2009-2010 |
|----------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Alice Springs (0870)       | \$ | 50,217    | 56,212    |
| Outer Alice Springs (0872) | \$ | 40,049    | 44,965    |
| Alice Springs Region total | \$ | 48,629    | 54,450    |
| Northern Territory         | \$ | 53,442    | 59,342    |

Source: Taxation Statistics 2009-10 released 2012.

## LABOUR FORCE FORECAST BY OCCUPATION

| Alice Springs Region                        | 2011<br>(No.) | 2016 forecast<br>(% change) | 2021 forecast<br>(% change) |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Managers and administrators                 | 1,877         | 8.2                         | -2.1                        |
| Professionals                               | 3,659         | 16.0                        | 28.0                        |
| Technicians and trade workers               | 2,123         | 0.6                         | 0.1                         |
| Communications and personal service workers | 2,474         | 8.3                         | 16.2                        |
| Clerical and administrative workers         | 2,229         | 14.4                        | 27.0                        |
| Sales workers                               | 1,100         | -6.0                        | -11.4                       |
| Machinery operators and drivers             | 729           | -1.6                        | -5.2                        |
| Labourers and related workers               | 1,498         | -16.0                       | -29.0                       |

Source: ABS 2011 Census data and Dept. Regional Development and Women's Policy forecast.

Note: Forecast provides a guide and does not include major projects. Labour force forecasts are based on a Leslie matrix population model. The Leslie matrix has been derived using a constant perpetual rate of return without taking into account any volatility of major projects that may impact on labour market conditions. Forecasts are based on time series data. ABS has made changes to Occupation classification, with 2011 Census Occupation responses being coded to Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification and Occupations (ANZSCO) rather than Australian Standard Classifications of Occupations (ASCO). This has included the addition of 24 new occupations and the deletion and merging of eight occupations. It has included minor changes to the classification structure and definitional changes for some occupations. This will impact labour force forecast data and as such this information should be used with caution.

# Economy

(continued)

## WORKFORCE EDUCATION - APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

| Alice Springs Region | 2011 | 2012 |
|----------------------|------|------|
| In training          | 640  | 612  |
| Commencements        | 500  | 510  |

Source: NT apprentice and trainee register (DELTA) data sourced 24 April 2013. In training data as at 31 December of that year.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

| No. of workers in each industry sector           | 2006   | 2011   |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing                | 368    | 316    |
| Mining                                           | 334    | 499    |
| Manufacturing                                    | 624    | 475    |
| Electricity, gas, water and waste services       | 97     | 204    |
| Construction                                     | 971    | 1,225  |
| Wholesale trade                                  | 330    | 313    |
| Retail trade                                     | 1,567  | 1,522  |
| Accommodation and food services                  | 1,506  | 1,348  |
| Transport, postal and warehousing                | 739    | 771    |
| Information media and telecommunications         | 235    | 228    |
| Financial and insurance services                 | 209    | 163    |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services          | 235    | 242    |
| Professional, scientific and technical services  | 936    | 1,065  |
| Administrative and support services              | 505    | 499    |
| Public administration and safety                 | 2,835  | 3,040  |
| Education and training                           | 1,488  | 1,703  |
| Health care and social assistance                | 2,100  | 2,481  |
| Arts and recreation services                     | 410    | 549    |
| Other services                                   | 694    | 689    |
| Alice Springs Region total (includes Not stated) | 16,671 | 17,674 |

Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Time series data.

## AREA

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alice Springs (T)    | 327.5 (Km <sup>2</sup> )       |
| Alice Springs bal.   | 569 238.7 (Km <sup>2</sup> )   |
| Alice Springs Region | 569 566.2 (Km <sup>2</sup> )   |
| Northern Territory   | 1 348 198.7 (Km <sup>2</sup> ) |

Source: ABS cat. no. 3218.0 2011.

## POLICY CHANGES

A uniform tariff now applies to all Power and Water customers across the Territory, including those in remote communities. The tariffs in the Territory now sit in the middle of the range compared to interstate tariffs and are a step closer to reflecting what it actually costs to deliver essential services across the Territory. More information on power tariffs are available on the Power and Water website. [Powerwater.com.au/tariff](http://Powerwater.com.au/tariff).

# Economy

(continued)

| PRICES - COST OF LIVING                       |          |          |          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average cost of a standard basket of goods \$ | Jun 2010 | Jun 2011 | Jun 2012 |
| Nhulunbuy                                     | 230.61   | 232.51   | 250.37   |
| Alice Springs                                 | 187.94   | 189.38   | 203.85   |
| Darwin                                        | 189.63   | 193.55   | 203.13   |
| Katherine                                     | 189.57   | 199.08   | 211.99   |

Source: NT Treasury: Grocery Price Survey June 2010, 2011 and 2012.

| Cost of food basket by district, supermarkets and corner stores | 2010 (\$) | 2011 (\$) | 2012 (\$) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alice Springs district average                                  | 705       | 811       | 751       |
| Supermarket                                                     | 430       | 553       | 485       |
| Corner stores                                                   | 597       | 726       | 600       |
| NT remote community store average                               | 730       | 815       | 760       |

Source: Northern Territory Government market basket survey, 2010, 2011, 2012.

| Housing - mortgage and rent payments                                          | Alice Springs region | Alice Springs (T) | NT           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Median rent (\$)                                                              | 150                  | 300               | 225          |
| Households where rent payments are less than 30% of household income (%)      | 91.7                 | 90.6              | 91.0         |
| Households where rent payments are 30% or greater of household income (%)     | 8.3                  | 9.4               | 9.0          |
| <b>Mortgage monthly repayments (\$)</b>                                       | <b>1,950</b>         | <b>1,950</b>      | <b>2,058</b> |
| Households where mortgage payments are less than 30% of household income (%)  | 92.5                 | 90.7              | 92.3         |
| Households where mortgage payments are 30% or greater of household income (%) | 7.5                  | 9.3               | 7.7          |

Source: ABS - Census 2011 - Quick stats - Usual residents.

Note: The commonly accepted guideline for housing affordability is where housing cost does not exceed 30% of a household's gross income. When the carrying cost of a home exceeds this threshold of housing income, then the housing is considered unaffordable for that household.

| AVERAGE UNLEADED PETROL PRICES (CENTS PER LITRE) |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                                  | Feb 2013 | Mar 2013 | Apr 2013 |
| Nhulunbuy                                        | 191.00   | 191.00   | 194.10   |
| Alice Springs                                    | 170.00   | 170.10   | 170.00   |
| Darwin                                           | 167.10   | 164.20   | 162.40   |
| Katherine                                        | 156.90   | 156.90   | 156.90   |
| Tennant Creek                                    | 167.90   | 168.30   | 172.00   |
| Northern Territory                               | 165.20   | 165.00   | 163.70   |
| Australia                                        | 152.00   | 146.80   | 137.90   |

Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum - data supplied by NT Treasury and Finance.

# Economy

(continued)

## UTILITY COST

**Business power:** \$56 establishment fee or \$118 for new service connection (business hrs). \$0.2982 per kWh plus \$0.7507 fixed charge per day.

**Business water:** \$55 connection fee. \$1.7393 per KL used. Fixed daily charge per meter size: Up to 25mm \$0.7225; 26-40mm, \$1.8496; 41-50mm, \$2.8839; 51-100mm \$11.6511; 101-150mm, \$26.0066; 151-200mm \$46.2458.

**Business sewerage:** Fixed annual charge of \$731.94 applies to non - domestic properties with <3 sanitary fittings. Additional charges apply to more than three fittings plus the fixed cost.

**Domestic power:** \$56 establishment fee or \$118 for new service connection (business hrs). \$0.2583 per kWh plus \$0.4808 fixed charge per day.

**Domestic water:** As per business water.

**Domestic sewerage:** Fixed annual charge of \$731.94 applies to residential properties and vacant blocks able to be connected to the sewerage service.

For more information on power tariffs please visit the Power and Water website. [Powerwater.com.au/tariff](http://Powerwater.com.au/tariff).

## Alice Springs services and facilities

### Transportation

- Adelaide to Darwin rail link
- Railway freight
- Industrial zoning
- Road and Rail Transport hub
- Ghan - twice weekly
- Passenger facilities
- Daily express coach service between Adelaide and Darwin
- Qantas and Tiger Airways offer flights to capital cities and regional towns
- Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia
- Air charter services
- Major regional airport

### Clubs/accommodation/restaurants

- Sporting clubs
- Many hotels and motels varying in ratings. There are also a number of hostels and bread and breakfasts
- Caravan parks
- There are many restaurants, sandwich bars and cafes varying in cuisine and choice

### Education

- Public and private schools (includes pre-school, primary, middle and high schools)
- Alice Springs School of the Air
- Charles Darwin University
- Bachelor Institute
- Registered training providers

### Shopping

- Central Business District retail traders
- Speciality stores
- Kmart/Target
- 2 large supermarkets
- 4 small supermarkets
- 4 major banks, with smaller financial institutions and credit unions
- Post office

### Sporting facilities

- 8 sporting ovals
- Sporting clubs covering over 40 sports and recreational activities

### Natural resources

- Water availability for consumptive uses
- Mining and exploration
- Productive land for agriculture, horticulture and pastoral production
- Annual average rainfall is 279.2 millimetres

### Other

- Alice Springs Convention Centre
- Dental surgeries

# Industry

Number of businesses in the Alice Springs region and their contribution to the economy.

| ALICE SPRINGS REGION INDUSTRY SECTORS           |                                  |                                  |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Industry classification                         | No. of businesses<br>(2003-2007) | No. of businesses<br>(2007-2011) | GRP 2012<br>(\$M) |
| Agriculture forestry and fisheries              | 69                               | 83                               | 64                |
| Mining                                          | -                                | 6                                | 552               |
| Manufacturing                                   | 60                               | 52                               | 132               |
| Electricity, gas and water supply               | -                                | -                                | 28                |
| Construction                                    | 378                              | 403                              | 313               |
| Wholesale trade                                 | 42                               | 53                               | 40                |
| Retail trade                                    | 294                              | 217                              | 108               |
| Accommodation and food services                 | 66                               | 122                              | 78                |
| Transport, postal and warehousing               | 132                              | 169                              | 107               |
| Information media and telecommunications        | 12                               | 30                               | 44                |
| Finance and insurance services                  | 105                              | 112                              | 62                |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services         | 447                              | 269                              | 100               |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | -                                | 151                              | 103               |
| Administrative and support services             | -                                | 94                               | 41                |
| Public administration and safety                | -                                | -                                | 220               |
| Education and training                          | 24                               | 30                               | 115               |
| Health care and social assistance               | 78                               | 107                              | 240               |
| Arts and recreation services                    | 96                               | 56                               | 44                |
| Other services                                  | 36                               | 134                              | 44                |
| Not classified <sup>1</sup>                     | -                                | 46                               | 0                 |
| <b>Alice Springs Region</b>                     | <b>1,839</b>                     | <b>2,134</b>                     | <b>2,887</b>      |

<sup>1</sup> This category consists of businesses that are yet to be coded to an industry.

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, cat. no. 8165.0. June 2003-2007 and June 2007-2011 and Dept. of Regional Development and Women's Policy. Gross Regional Product (GRP) includes ownership of dwellings, taxes and subsidies and statistical discrepancy.

## GROSS STATE PRODUCT BY SECTORS

This section highlights the size, the economic base, the contribution of each sector and changes to the Alice Springs economy over time.

| Industry classification                         | 2001-2002<br>(\$M) | 2006-2007<br>(\$M) | 2011-2012<br>(\$M) |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing               | 59                 | 41                 | 64                 |
| Mining                                          | 571                | 535                | 552                |
| Manufacturing                                   | 106                | 80                 | 132                |
| Electricity, gas, water and waste services      | 52                 | 26                 | 28                 |
| Construction                                    | 227                | 256                | 313                |
| Wholesale trade                                 | 22                 | 23                 | 40                 |
| Retail trade                                    | 69                 | 99                 | 108                |
| Accommodation and food services                 | 86                 | 86                 | 78                 |
| Transport, postal and warehousing               | 116                | 106                | 107                |
| Information media and telecommunications        | 35                 | 38                 | 44                 |
| Financial and insurance services                | 68                 | 58                 | 62                 |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services         | 27                 | 110                | 100                |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 38                 | 99                 | 103                |
| Administrative and support services             | 20                 | 52                 | 41                 |
| Public administration and safety                | 150                | 184                | 220                |
| Education and training                          | 103                | 103                | 115                |

# Industry

(continued)

| Industry classification           | 2001-2002<br>(\$M) | 2006-2007<br>(\$M) | 2011-2012<br>(\$M) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Health care and social assistance | 142                | 179                | 240                |
| Arts and recreation services      | 30                 | 35                 | 44                 |
| Other services                    | 38                 | 49                 | 44                 |
| Ownership of dwellings            | 166                | 309                | 322                |
| Total All Industries GRP          | 2,364              | 2,611              | 2,887              |

Total includes taxes less subsidies on products and statistical discrepancy.

Source: ABS cat. no. 5220.0, 2011 Census Time series and Dept. of Regional Development and Women's Policy published methodology.

| GROSS STATE PRODUCT TOTAL       | 2001-2002 | 2006-2007 | 2011-2012 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alice Springs (T) GRP (\$M)     | 1,470     | 1,747     | 1,966     |
| Alice Springs Region GRP (\$M)* | 2,364     | 2,611     | 2,887     |
| Northern Territory GSP (\$M)    | 12,524    | 15,079    | 18,086    |

Source: Department of Regional Development and Women's Policy (2013) - Methodology as published in Global Business Economic Review 2010.

\*GRP= Gross Regional Product, is a derived methodology based on NT Gross State Product (GSP)/labour force. The ratio is then applied to employment by Industry for a region – therefore labour intensive industries will influence the results and as such data is an estimation and for indicative purposes only.

## MINING

| Total Northern Territory | Value of quantity sold (\$M) |             |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                          | 2011                         | 2012        |
| Gold                     | 795,161                      | -           |
| Gold dore                | 481,623,030                  | 414,811,746 |

The values are for total NT. Regional breakdowns are no longer available. Mines operating in the Alice Springs region include The Granites (gold production) owned by the Newmont Mining Corporation and Mereenie oil field owned by Santos.

Source: NT Treasury March 2013.

## GEOGRAPHY CHANGES

ABS changed geography from Australian Standard Geography Classification (ASGC) to Australian Standards Geography Standards (ASGS). One of the main changes incorporated by ABS is not to collect data on collection district. Changes to Geography are noted below.

| 2011 Census (ASGS)       |         | 2006 Census (ASGC)        |        |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|
| Australia                | 1       | Australia                 | 1      |
| State and Territory      | 9       | State and Territory       | 9      |
| Statistical Area level 4 | 106     | Statistical Division      | 69     |
| Statistical Area level 3 | 351     | Statistical Sub Divisions | 217    |
| Statistical Area Level 2 | 2,214   | Statistical Local Areas   | 1,426  |
| Statistical Area Level 1 | 54,805  | Collection District       | 38,704 |
| Mesh Blocks              | 347,627 |                           |        |

# Industry

(continued)

## TOURISM

Hotels, motels and serviced apartments by tourism regions

| <b>Alice Springs Tourism Region</b>     | <b>December qtr 2012</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Establishments (no.)                    | 17                       |
| Bed spaces (no.)                        | 3,932                    |
| Persons employed (no.)                  | 684                      |
| Guest nights occupied (no.)             | 119,810                  |
| Guest arrivals (no.)                    | 45,620                   |
| Accommodation takings (\$'000)          | 8,237.000                |
| Bed occupancy rate (%)                  | 33.1                     |
| Average takings per night occupied (\$) | 113.53                   |
| Rooms (no.)                             | 1,387                    |
| Room nights occupied (no.)              | 72,546                   |

Source: ABS - Small Area Tourist Accommodation data, NT Sept 2012, ABS cat. no. 8635755001

### Visitor numbers

June 2009 to June 2012

| Alice Springs and MacDonnell Tourism Region | Visitor numbers<br>(‘000) | Visitor nights<br>(‘000) | Average stay<br>(nights) |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Domestic                                    | 254                       | 1,179                    | 4.6                      |
| International                               | 143                       | 957                      | 6.7                      |
| <b>Lasseter Tourism Region</b>              |                           |                          |                          |
| Domestic                                    | 140                       | 510                      | 3.6                      |
| International                               | 160                       | 471                      | 2.9                      |
| <b>Total both regions</b>                   | <b>697</b>                | <b>3,117</b>             | <b>5</b>                 |

Source: Tourism Research Australia June 2009 to July 2012.

## CONSTRUCTION

| <b>Alice Springs Region</b>             |        | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|
| Private sector                          | no.    | 63          | 48          |
| Total dwelling units                    | no.    | 163         | 81          |
| Value of private sector houses          | \$M    | 21.2        | 17.2        |
| Value of new residential building       | \$M    | 28.8        | 8.7         |
| Value of total residential building     | \$M    | 67          | 34.7        |
| Value of total non-residential building | \$M    | 78.6        | 0           |
| Value of total building                 | \$M    | 145.5       | 0.0         |
| Average value of private sector houses  | \$'000 | 335.2       | 357.7       |

Source: ABS cat. no. 8731.- data cubes.