

NORTHERN TERRITORY PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES ECONOMIC OVERVIEW 2021-22



DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND TRADE





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Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

The Northern Territory Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) plays an integral, enabling role through the development and regulation of our industries, which are significant to our economy and advancing our regions. Primary industry and fisheries sectors include fisheries, livestock, horticulture and other agriculture and forestry.

The department operates a range of facilities, including research farms, stations, laboratories and scientific precincts, and offices in throughout the Territory. DITT staff across a range of disciplines support the mission of facilitating sustainable economic growth across the Northern Territory and enhancing the Territory lifestyle.

The department collaborates with diverse industry stakeholders to optimise agriculture and fisheries sector benefits, seizing opportunities to develop Northern Australia and attain the Territory’s full economic potential as a gateway to global markets. We also play a significant role in supporting Aboriginal and regionally based business development, working to increase economic progress and employment growth.

Value added is an economic term to express the difference between the value of goods and the cost of materials that are used to produce them. The value added of Territory primary industry and fisheries estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) exceeded \$800 million in 2021-22 (Figure 1), accounting for 3.1 per cent of the Territory’s gross state product (GSP). Mining is the giant of the Territory resource sector, worth \$5.7 billion in 2021 and contributing 22 per cent of Territory GSP.

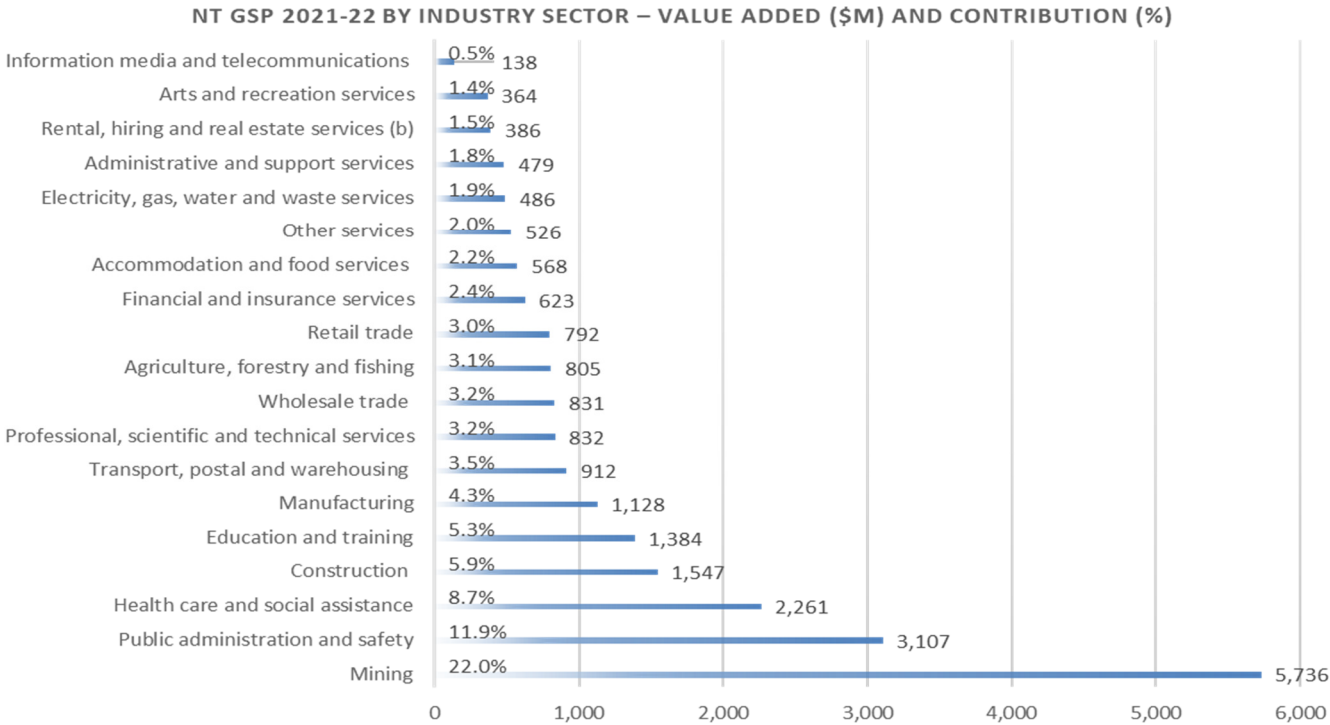


Figure 1: Territory GSP 2021-22 by industry sector – value added (\$M) and contribution (%) chain volume
Source: ABS 5220.0 – Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2021-22

Primary industry

The department delivers strategic services that support profitable and sustainable production for primary industry.

The department works in partnership with producers, industry bodies, community groups and related agencies to promote industry growth and ensure access to markets for animals, plants and plant products. This includes the fisheries, livestock, horticulture and other agriculture sectors.

Services include:

- inspection, treatment and certification services for animals and animal products
- inspection, treatment and certification services for plant and plant products
- research and extension programs to help producers sustainably lift crop and stock yields and capacity
- development of best-practice farming methods for specific environments
- Aboriginal pastoral and horticultural economic development
- biosecurity and laboratory diagnostic services for plant and animal health
- monitoring of, and response to, emergency and endemic animal and plant pests and disease
- supporting industry trade and investment development.

Fisheries

The department works in partnership with commercial and recreational fishing industries, the aquaculture industry, Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders to achieve optimum sustainable utilisation of the Territory's valuable aquatic resources. It follows a consultative and precautionary approach to ensure all Territory wild harvest fisheries, aquaculture and associated aquatic resources are ecologically, economically and socially sustained. Management programs are based on high quality scientific indicators and designed to ensure the Territory's aquatic resources are not over-exploited.

Services include:

- facilitating the sustainable commercial catch, sale and processing of fish and aquatic life through licence allocation
- encouraging industry development
- supporting the recreational fishing industry
- preventing introduction of aquatic pests into the Territory
- contributing to the research needs for each Territory fishery
- working in partnership to address the needs of the aquaculture industry
- operating the commercial barramundi hatchery and nursery business
- assisting Aboriginal communities in relation to fishing issues
- delivering community education, including education resources for schools.



Economic overview of the Territory – facts and figures

In 2021-22, the Territory economy rose by 4.7 per cent to \$26.1 billion, up from \$24.8 billion in 2020-21 (Table 1).

Table 1: Territory economy, 2020-21 and 2021-22

	2020-21	2021-22
Gross state product (\$m)	\$24,890	\$26,058
Population (persons)	246,338	250,635
Exports (\$m)	\$9,340	\$16,930
Imports (\$m)	\$1,142	\$1,848
Unemployment rate (original)	4.9%	3.9%
Inflation rate (Darwin)	2.0%	6.0%
Average weekly full-time adult earnings (persons)	\$1,801	\$1,846

Source: treasury.nt.gov.au

Deloitte Access Economics (DAE) forecasts the Territory economy to decline by 1.8% in 2023-24. DAE forecasts domestic demand to increase by 1.5%, offset by weaker international net exports, with exports forecast to decrease by 4.0% and imports forecast to decrease by 3.3%. DAE forecasts the Territory economy to grow at an average rate of 1.4% per annum over the five years to 2026-27. This is the second weakest growth rate of the jurisdictions.

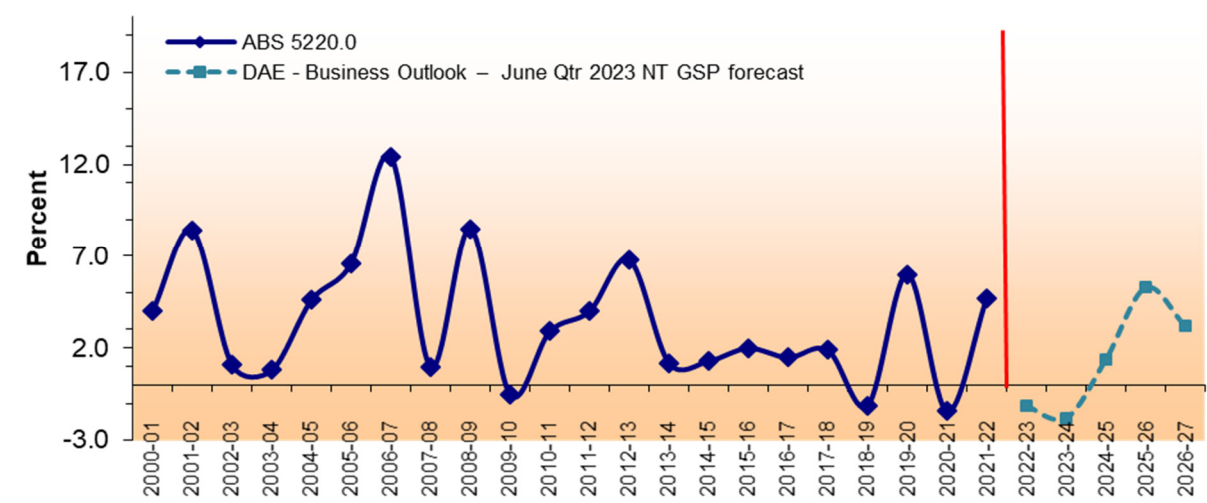
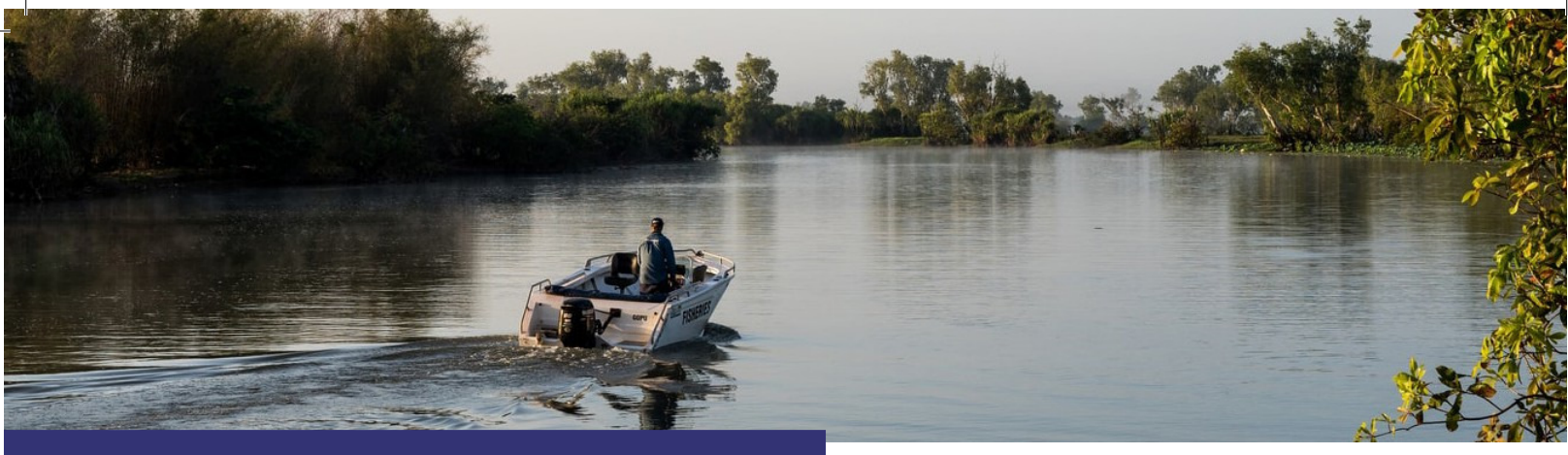


Figure 2: Territory economic outlook – GSP 2000-01 to 2026-27f

Source: treasury.nt.gov.au



Primary industry and fisheries

– an economic overview

Methodology for the calculation of production values

The production values estimated in this publication are calculated at the point of production, not at the point of sale and are based on a farm-gate price (i.e., minus marketing costs). In the case of Territory fisheries, the farm-gate price is the onboard or landed price. The Australian Government-managed Northern Prawn Fishery (Territory catch only) (NPF) production value is based on an Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) export price.

Marketing costs are the cost of moving agricultural and fishery commodities from the point of production (on the farm or fishing vessel) to the point of sale (the marketplace). These costs include, but are not limited to, freight, cost of containers, commissions, insurance, storage, handling, weighing, yard fees and other fees or charges incurred by the producer in delivering commodities to the marketplace.

Outputs and values reported in this publication were obtained with the assistance of the Northern Territory (NT) Farmers' Association, Crocodile Farmers Association of the NT, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, ABS and ABARES.

Contribution of industry to sector production value

Primary industry and fisheries in the Territory include cattle (interstate movements, live exports and slaughtering), other livestock (buffalo, crocodiles, horses, camels, donkeys and goats), horticulture (fruits, vegetables, nursery, cut flowers and turf), and mixed farming (hay and forestry). The fisheries industry comprises harvesting of wild catch (including the Australian Government-managed NPF) and aquaculture. A substantial recreational fishing sector generates tourism activity and provides lifestyle amenity.

The relative contribution of each industry to the primary industry and fisheries total is illustrated in Figure 3, with cattle, horticulture and fisheries being the major sectors. These output and values originate from the department's data collections and are presented in Table 3. The annual performance of the Territory's major commodities by sector is presented in Table 4.

In 2021-22, the total estimated value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production was \$1,522.8 million (Table 3), an increase of 25.5 per cent over the previous year. This result reflected production results and market conditions. This increase is primarily due to a rise in the value of cattle turn-offs volumes delivering a gross value of production of \$919.3 million, a 24.0 per cent increase on 2019-20, a 8.9 per cent rise in the value of horticulture production to \$333.4 million (mainly due to mangoes, melons and vegetables), fisheries production rose by 18.6 per cent to \$172.4 million, 57.8 per cent increase in the value of mixed farming output to \$55.9 million (driven by hay and cotton production), and a 14.5 per cent rise in other livestock production (mainly crocodiles and buffalo) to \$41.9 million.



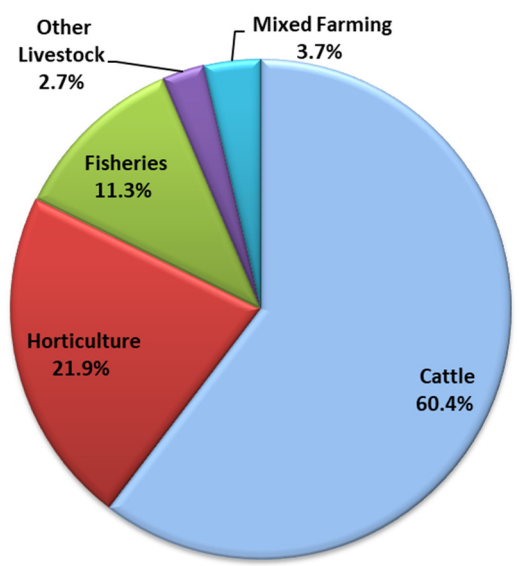


Figure 3: Contribution of industry to sector production value, 2021-22
 Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Territory primary industry and fisheries have significant links to other sectors of the local economy, such as manufacturing, transport and storage, retail and wholesale trade. These industries are vital in regional areas, providing economic stimulus and employment for approximately 1,989 people in 2021-22 (ABS). This represents 1.5 per cent of the estimated workforce in the Territory. This labour force estimate is subject to a sampling variability and results can be volatile.

Primary industry and fisheries also account for a significant proportion of the Territory’s non-mineral export revenue. These industries comprised 3.1 per cent of Territory GSP in 2021-22. This is above the total primary industry and fisheries contribution (of all states and territories) to Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.7 per cent (Figure 4). Figure 5 gives an indicative representation of where the various industries operate from.

Exports of Territory primary industry and fisheries outputs are dominated by live cattle exports (mainly to Indonesia), fisheries, horticulture, forestry and, to a lesser extent, agriculture services.

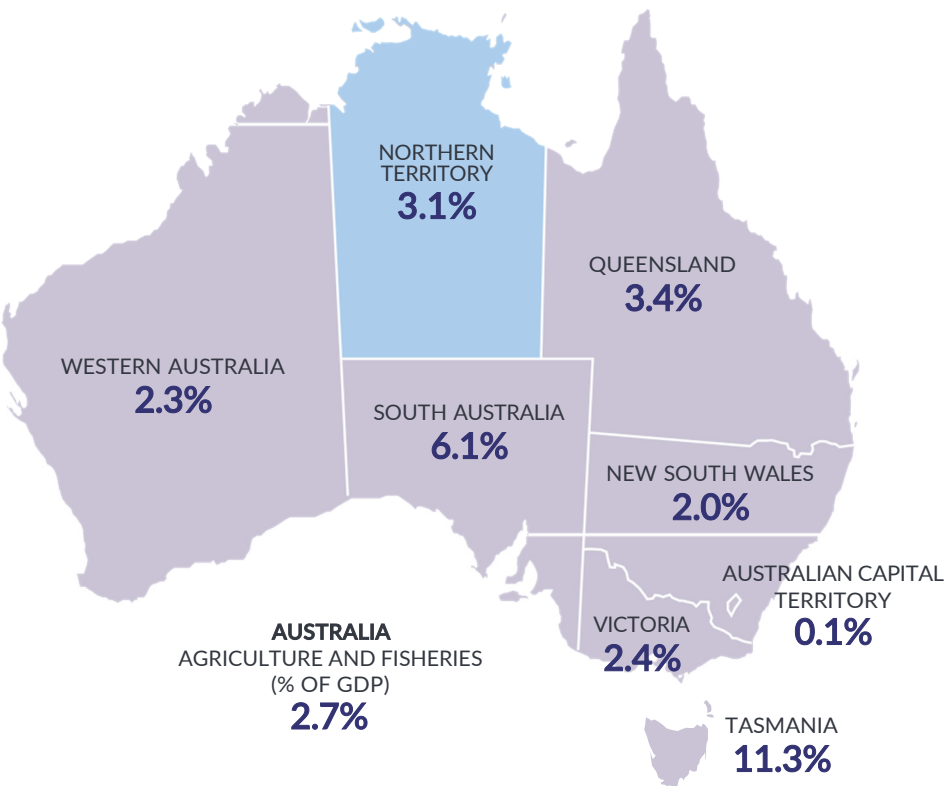


Figure 4: States and territories – agriculture and fisheries contribution to GSP, 2021-22
 Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts, Cat No. 5220.0, 2021-22



Business overview

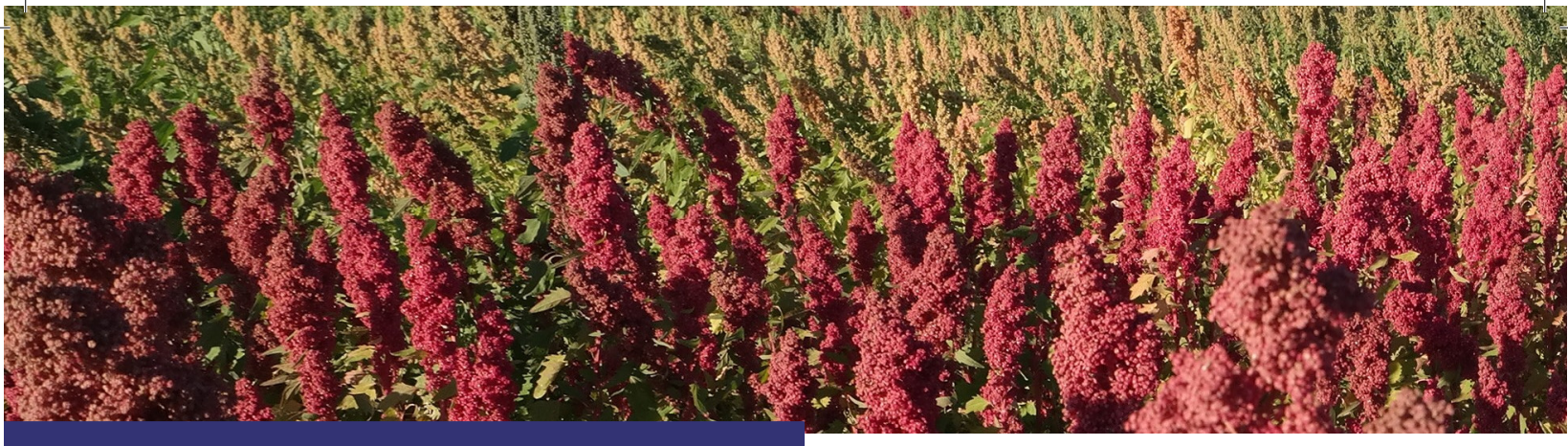
There were 968 agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses counted for the reference period June 2019 to June 2022. The sole trader or owner-operator was the most common form of business structure (67.9 per cent). There are no large firms (200 plus employees) in the sector (Table 2).

The majority of agricultural and fisheries businesses are pastoral businesses (36.0 per cent) and 67.9 per cent of all agricultural and fisheries businesses are non-employing. Non-employing business – include sole traders and partnerships with no employees in addition to the business owners. Please note this count does not include businesses operating in the NT that are headquartered outside of the NT.

Table 2: Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2019 to June 2022

Description	Non-employing	1-19	20-199	200+	Total	% by business type
Pastoral industries	232	106	10	0	348	36.0%
Plant industries	196	84	7	0	287	29.6%
Other agriculture and fishing support services	113	62	6	0	181	18.7%
Fisheries	64	11	3	0	78	8.1%
Forestry	9	3	0	0	12	1.2%
Other animals	28	10	0	0	38	3.9%
Aquaculture	6	3	3	0	12	1.2%
Hunting and trapping	9	3	0	0	12	1.2%
Total	657	282	29	0	968	100.0%
% by employment	67.9%	29.1%	3.0%	0.0%	100.0%	

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Cat No. 8165.0, June 2019 to June 2022



Industry production values overview

Table 3: Territory primary industry and fisheries production values

Horticulture	Gross Value of production (\$M)			Annual change
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	20-21 to 21-22
Mangoes	128.8	100.0	128.0	28.0%
Melons	69.4	54.3	82.2	51.3%
Other fruits	22.4	11.2	10.7	-4.1%
Vegetables	61.0	62.8	80.1	27.5%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	15.0	16.8	21.5	28.1%
Territory markets	9.5	9.8	10.9	11.4%
Total horticultural	306.1	254.9	333.4	30.8%
Fisheries				
Fish	31.1	38.8	49.4	27.5%
Crustaceans	5.5	5.1	8.5	65.2%
Aquaculture	47.1	53.1	62.5	17.7%
Molluscs and echinoderms	0.4	0.3	0.9	220.1%
Cnidarian & Other	0.9	1.2	2.3	83.0%
Total Territory fisheries	84.9	98.5	123.6	25.5%
NPF crustaceans	39.1	46.8	48.9	4.2%
Total fisheries	124.0	145.3	172.5	18.6%
Livestock and other agriculture¹				
Cattle	813.2	741.4	919.3	24.0%
Other livestock	32.8	36.6	41.9	14.5%
Total livestock	846.0	778.0	961.2	23.5%
Field crops	37.1	35.4	55.9	57.8%
Total other agriculture	37.1	35.4	55.9	57.8%
Total livestock and other agriculture	883.1	813.4	1017.1	25.0%
Agriculture and Fisheries				
Horticulture	306.1	254.9	333.4	30.8%
Fisheries	124.0	145.3	172.4	18.6%
Livestock	846.0	778.0	961.2	23.5%
Other agriculture	37.1	35.4	55.9	57.8%
TOTAL Agriculture and Fisheries	1313.2	1213.6	1522.8	25.5%

1. Other agriculture includes mixed farming and forestry.
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections



Primary industry and fisheries performance

Table 4: Current year performance of Territory commodities

Commodity	Gross Value of production (\$M)		Annual change	Performance indicator
	2020-21	2021-22		
Territory cattle exported overseas	\$319.7	\$300.2	-6.1%	▼
Territory cattle movements interstate	\$412.2	\$612.3	48.6%	↑
Territory cattle slaughtered	\$9.5	\$6.8	-28.4%	▼
Buffalo	\$12.3	\$13.4	9.2%	↑
Other livestock	\$0.31	\$0.21	-32.5%	▼
Crocodiles	\$24.0	\$28.3	17.8%	↑
Mangoes	\$100.0	\$128.0	28.0%	↑
Melons	\$54.3	\$82.2	51.3%	↑
Other fruits	\$11.2	\$10.7	-4.1%	▼
Vegetables	\$62.8	\$80.1	27.5%	↑
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$16.8	\$21.5	28.1%	↑
Territory markets	\$9.8	\$10.9	11.4%	↑
Cotton	\$10.7	\$21.3	100.0%	↑
Hay and fodder	\$24.8	\$34.6	39.7%	↑
Fin fish	\$38.8	\$49.4	27.5%	↑
Territory crustaceans	\$5.1	\$8.5	65.2%	↑
NPF crustaceans	\$46.8	\$48.8	4.2%	↑
Aquaculture	\$53.1	\$62.5	17.7%	↑
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.3	\$0.9	220.1%	↑
Cnidarian & other	\$1.2	\$2.3	83.0%	↑

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

In 2021-22, primary industry and fisheries sectors produced \$754.7million in output value in the rest of the Territory economy (Table 6).

Table 5: Output multipliers by industry for the Territory economy, 2021-22

Industry	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy ¹ per \$1 million industry output value
Beef cattle	\$510,000
Other agriculture ²	\$480,000
Horticulture	\$510,000
Forestry	\$960,000
Commercial fishing	\$400,000

1. Output created in the rest of the Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.
2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Table 6: Dollar value of output multipliers by industry for the Territory economy, 2021-22

Industry	Output value by industry (\$M)	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy ¹ (\$M)
Beef cattle	\$919.3	\$468.8
Other agriculture ²	\$97.8	\$46.9
Horticulture	\$333.4	\$170.0
Commercial fishing	\$172.4	\$68.9
Total	\$1,522.8	\$754.7

1. Jobs/Output in the rest of Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.
2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

JOBS CREATED IN THE REST OF THE TERRITORY ECONOMY¹
per 100 industry jobs



1. Jobs in the rest of Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.
2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections



Primary industry and fisheries sectors

Livestock – cattle

The live cattle export trade (mainly to Indonesia) and interstate movements (mostly to Queensland and South Australia) dominates agricultural production in the Territory. Market destinations for Territory cattle in 2021-22 consisted of live export trade (32.7 per cent), interstate movements (66.6 per cent) and local slaughter (0.7 per cent).

The pastoral industry is a major contributor to incomes in regional areas of the Territory. It also generates considerable flow-on benefits to other industries, particularly transport and storage, business-to-business services and retail trade services. The pastoral industry contributed 60.4 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2021-22 (Figure 3).

The estimated value of production for the cattle industry in 2021-22 was \$919.3 million, up 24.0 per cent from 2020-21 (Table 7). This was driven mostly by a high domestic demand. In 2021-22, 610,817 head of Territory cattle were turned-off for exports, interstate movements or for slaughter, up 6.3 per cent from 2021-22. Turn-off direct to laughter in the Territory fell in 2021-22. The current slaughter of NT cattle occurs at smaller abattoirs located in the Top End of the Territory.

Table 7: Territory cattle industry – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

Turn-off (Territory cattle only)	2020-21		2021-22		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Live exports	247,860	\$319.7	199,440	\$300.2	-19.5%	-6.1%
Interstate movements	319,516	\$412.2	406,852	\$612.3	27.3%	48.6%
Slaughter (Territory abattoirs)	7,374	\$9.5	4,525	\$6.8	-38.6%	-28.4%
Total	574,750	\$741.4	610,817	\$919.3	6.3%	24.0%

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Interstate cattle movements

The majority of Territory cattle movements interstate (Table 8) are slaughter cattle for boxed beef sale in domestic and international markets, such as Japan, South Korea, the United States and Taiwan. Historically, about 50 per cent of the interstate movement of Territory cattle goes to Queensland and approximately 20 per cent to South Australia. Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria account for the remaining 30 per cent of interstate movements.

The value of the total interstate movements of Territory cattle in 2021-22 was estimated at \$612.3 million, up 48.6 per cent from 2020-21 (\$414.2 million). A total of 406,852 head of Territory cattle were sent interstate in 2021-22, a 27.3 per cent increase over 2020-21 (319,516). This increased turn-off was because of destocking due to on-going dry conditions mainly in the Barkly and Central regions.

Table 8: Interstate cattle movements – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21		2021-22		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Queensland	162,365	\$209.5	287,202	\$432.2	76.9%	106.4%
South Australia	74,950	\$96.7	50,621	\$76.2	-32.5%	-21.2%
Western Australia	30,060	\$38.8	25,788	\$38.8	-14.2%	0.1%
Other states	52,141	\$67.3	43,241	\$65.1	-17.1%	-3.2%
Total	319,516	\$412.2	406,852	\$612.3	27.3%	48.6%

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Live cattle exports

A total of 199,440 head of Territory cattle were exported to Southeast Asia in 2021-22 (Table 9), an 19.5 per cent decrease over 2020-21 (247,860 head). The value of production for Territory live cattle exports in 2021-22 was estimated at \$300.2 million, a 6.1 per cent decrease over 2020-21 (\$319.7 million).

Indonesia is the largest export market for Territory cattle, accounting for 86.3 per cent of total cattle exports through the Port of Darwin in 2021-22. Vietnam is the next biggest market, accounting for 7.8 per cent of exports. Other markets for Territory cattle include Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. In 2021-22, Territory cattle exports accounted for 32.6 per cent of Australia’s total live cattle exports and 50.0 per cent of Australia’s total live cattle exports to Indonesia.

Table 9: Territory live cattle exports – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21		2021-22		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Brunei	6,784	\$8.8	4,186	\$6.3	-38.3%	-28.0%
Indonesia	207,671	\$267.9	172,021	\$258.9	-17.2%	-3.4%
Philippines	10,656	\$13.7	3,270	\$4.9	-69.3%	-64.2%
Sabah	0	\$0	229	\$0.3	0.0%	0.0%
Sarawak	2,028	\$2.6	1,374	\$2.1	-32.2%	-20.9%
West Malaysia	4,044	\$5.2	2,869	\$4.3	-29.0%	-17.2%
Vietnam	16,679	\$21.5	15,490	\$23.3	-7.1%	8.3%
Total	247,860	\$319.7	199,440	\$300.2	-19.5%	-6.1%

Note: Live cattle exports only represent Territory cattle shipped from the Port of Darwin.

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

IMF World Economic Global recovery remains slow, with growing regional divergences and little margin for policy error

Divergent growth prospects across the world’s regions pose a challenge to returning to pre-pandemic output trends. Despite signs of resilience earlier in 2023, the impact of policy tightening to reduce inflation is expected to cool economic activity going forward. While risks to the outlook are more balanced than earlier in the year, on account of Swiss and US authorities’ having acted decisively to contain financial turbulence, they remain tilted to the downside, implying little margin for policy errors. Monetary policy should stay the course to bring inflation to target, while fiscal consolidation is needed to tackle soaring debts.

Structural reforms are crucial to revive medium-term growth prospects amid constrained policy space. Accelerating the green transition, increasing resilience to climate shocks, and improving food security for millions of people require strengthened multilateral frameworks and adherence to rules-based platforms for international cooperation. The baseline forecast is for growth to slow from 6.1 per cent last year to 3.2 per cent in 2022, 0.4 percentage point lower than in the April 2022 World Economic Outlook.

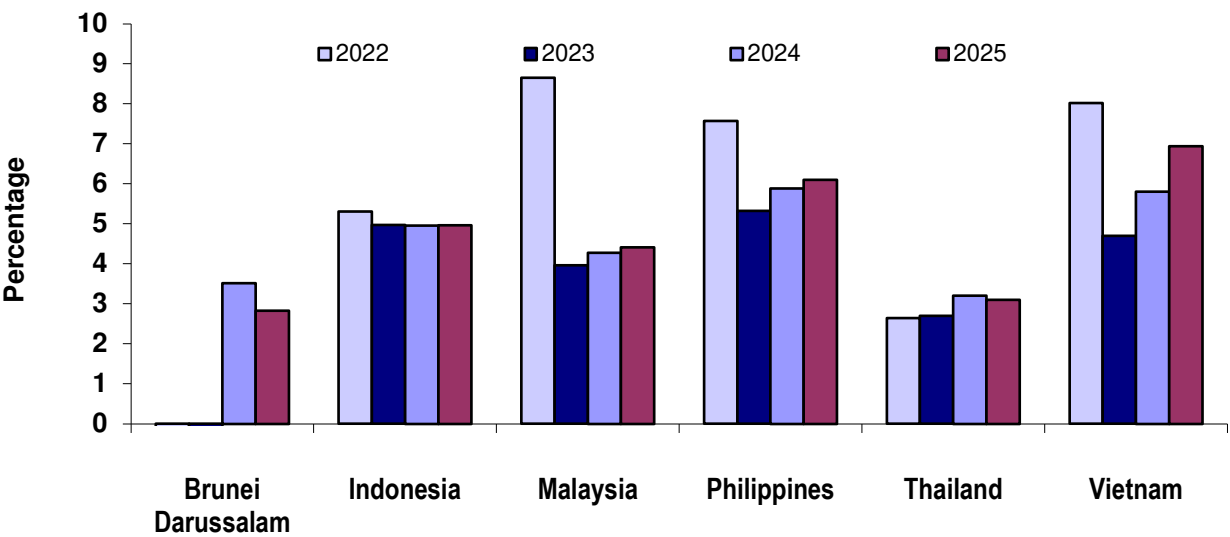


Figure 6: GDP growth forecasts 2022-2025f for Territory live cattle exports – major destinations

Source: Source International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2023

Other livestock

Other livestock is a category of industries in the Territory that has historically included crocodiles, poultry, buffalo, horses, camels, deer, pigs and goats, exported overseas or sent to domestic markets. Crocodiles are the largest industry in this category. Premium grade crocodile skins are highly sought after in Japan, France, Italy and Asian countries. Second and third grade skins are also exported, although there is a growing domestic demand. The by-products of flesh, feet, teeth and skulls are mainly sold domestically.

Total other livestock (crocodiles, buffalo, horses, camels, pigs, and goats) contributed 2.7 per cent to the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2021-22 (Figure 3).

In 2021-22, the total value of production in other livestock increased 14.5 per cent to an estimated \$41.9 million, from \$36.6 million in 2020-21 (Table 10).

For 2021-22, the value of the Territory’s crocodile industry is estimated at \$28.3 million. This accounted for 67.5 per cent of the total value of production of the other livestock industry sector.

Buffalo turn-off increased 12.1 per cent to 15,955 head in 2021-22 with an estimated value of production of \$13.4 million.

Table 10: Other Territory livestock industry – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21 (\$M)	2021-22 (\$M)	Annual change
Crocodiles	\$24.0	\$28.3	17.8%
Other livestock	\$0.31	\$0.21	-32.5%
Buffalo	\$12.3	\$13.4	9.2%
Total	\$36.6	\$41.9	14.5%

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Plant industry

The Territory’s plant industry includes:

- fruits
- vegetables
- nursery, cut flowers and turf
- field crops
- Territory markets
- forestry
- other crops.

The value of Territory plant production for 2021-22 was \$389.3 million, an increase of 34.1 per cent compared to 2019-20 (Table 11). Plant industry (horticulture and mixed farming) contributed an estimated 21.9 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2021-22 (Figure 3).

Almost all production from the Territory plant industry is sent interstate (for domestic consumption or to be exported). Less than 1 per cent of plant produce is exported directly from the Territory. Historically, this has involved mangoes, melons and pumpkins to Singapore and, most recently, woodchips to Japan. Field crops are mostly hay production for the cattle industry and cotton. In 2021-22, the Territory accounted for 2.1 per cent of national horticulture production.

Table 11: Territory plant industry – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21 (\$M)	2021-22 (\$M)	Annual change	% of Total production value 2021-22
Fruits	\$165.5	\$220.9	33.5%	56.7%
Vegetables	\$62.8	\$80.1	27.5%	20.6%
Field crops	\$35.4	\$55.9	57.8%	14.4%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$16.8	\$21.5	28.1%	5.5%
Territory markets	\$9.8	\$10.9	11.4%	2.8%
Total	\$290.3	\$389.3	34.1%	100.0%

Source: NT Farmers Association, NT Farming Production 2022

Fruits

The main fruits produced in the Territory include mangoes, melons, and table grapes. Fruit production value in 2021-22 increased an estimated 33.5 per cent to \$220.9 million on 2020-21 (Table 12). This was due to an increase in production values for melons and mangoes, offset by a small decline in other fruits production value.

Table 12: Territory fruits – tonnes and production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21		2021-22		Annual change	
	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M
Mangoes	38,892	\$100.0	31,220	\$128.0	-19.7%	28.0%
Melons	56,840	\$54.3	77,270	\$82.2	35.9%	51.3%
Other fruits	7,170	\$11.2	2,181	\$10.7	-69.6%	-4.1%
Total	102,902	\$165.5	110,671	\$220.9	7.6%	33.5%

Source: NT Farmers Association, NT Farming Production 2022

Vegetables

The major vegetables produced in the Territory include cucumber, bitter melon, hairy melon, long melon, okra, snake beans and pumpkin. Data is not collected for individual commodities.

The production value of vegetables rose 27.5 per cent in 2021-22 to \$80.1 million. This increase was driven by increased output and higher prices for growers. Vegetable production was 23,207 tonnes for this period.

Field crops

Historically, Territory mixed farming has included seed production, sorghum, maize and other crops, such as sesame and soybeans.

Mixed farming contributed 3.7 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2021-22 (Figure 3).

Hay and fodder production (used to supply the Territory cattle industry) represented 61.9% of the total field crop value, while, cotton production accounted for 38.1% per cent of the total field crops production values in 2021-22.

The value of field crop production in 2021-22 was \$55.9million, a 57.8 per cent increase from 2020-21 (\$35.4 million).

In 2021-22 hay production value increased 39.7% to \$34.6 million.

Cotton production value in 2021-22 doubled to \$21.3 million due to further plantings.

Territory markets

Local markets production value for 2021-22 was \$10.9 million mainly from the Darwin markets. Local farmers' markets include Rapid Creek, Palmerston, Parap, Nightcliff and Mindil Beach.

The major supermarket chains use local production where possible, especially bananas, mangoes, rockmelons, watermelons, Lebanese cucumber, Asian vegetables, pineapples, papaya, dragon fruit, rambutan, carambola and pumpkin. The Territory has specialist vegetable producers supplying hydroponic fancy lettuce, tomatoes and other vegetables to local supermarkets.

Forestry

There are more than 49,000 hectares under plantation forestry across the Territory.

Acacia (*Acacia mangium*) plantations on the Tiwi Islands are grown for paper pulp.

African mahogany is grown for high-value timber in the Douglas-Daly and Katherine regions. The trees have an expected rotation of between 18 and 25 years. These plantations are currently mid-rotation and have been independently valued at \$115 million standing value (NT Framers valuation), that is, the current value of trees within the plantation that will yield saleable timber when harvested at maturity.

Indian sandalwood is grown for oil and pharmaceuticals in the Douglas-Daly and Katherine regions. Sandalwood is the only plantation forestry in Australia routinely grown in a mixed species system and with irrigation. Still at the early rotation phase, Territory sandalwood plantations will not be harvested for more than a decade, when they are expected to go into the valuable international oils and pharmaceutical markets. A standing value is not currently available.

Fisheries

The Territory fishing industry encompasses the commercial, recreational and traditional Indigenous sectors. The commercial sector includes wild capture and aquaculture production, as well as seafood processing, wholesale, and retail trade.

Most Territory seafood is transported interstate (to be either exported or consumed domestically). The value of Territory fisheries production for 2021-22 was \$171.2 million, an increase of 18.6 per cent when compared to 2020-21 (Table 13). This increase is attributed to a 27.5 per cent rise in wild-stock catch, 17.7 per cent growth in aquaculture and a 4.2 per cent increase in the NPF crustaceans (Territory catch).

In 2021-22, fisheries contributed an estimated 11.3 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production value (Figure 3).

Table 13: Territory fisheries – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2020-21 (\$M)	2021-22 (\$M)	Annual change
Fish (wild-stock catch)	\$38.8	\$49.4	27.5%
Territory crustaceans	\$5.1	\$8.5	65.2%
Aquaculture	\$53.1	\$62.5	17.7%
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.29	\$0.92	220.1%
Cnidarian & Other	\$1.24	\$2.27	83.0%
Total Territory fisheries	\$98.5	\$123.6	25.5%
NPF crustaceans (Territory catch)	\$46.8	\$47.6	4.2%
Total fisheries	\$145.3	\$171.2	18.6%

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

Northern Prawn Fleet Fishery management area

The Northern Prawn Fleet Fishery management area is located off Australia’s northern coast from Cape York in Queensland to Cape Londonderry in Western Australia. There are 52 vessels licensed to operate within the fishery, which covers approximately 880,000 square kilometres of Australia’s northern waters. On average, the value of the NPF catch accounts for on average 30 per cent of the total value of Territory fisheries.

Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Australian Government and governments of Western Australia, the Territory and Queensland, whereby the coastal waters of these states and territories are deemed part of the Australian Fishing Zone. The area of the fishery is sourced from the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995 (17 October 2003 – amendments up to Northern Prawn Fishery Amendment Plan 2003 (No NPF 04)). The maritime zone boundaries shown on Figure 7 are sourced from the Australian Maritime Boundaries Information System 2001 (Version 1.1) (released October 2001).

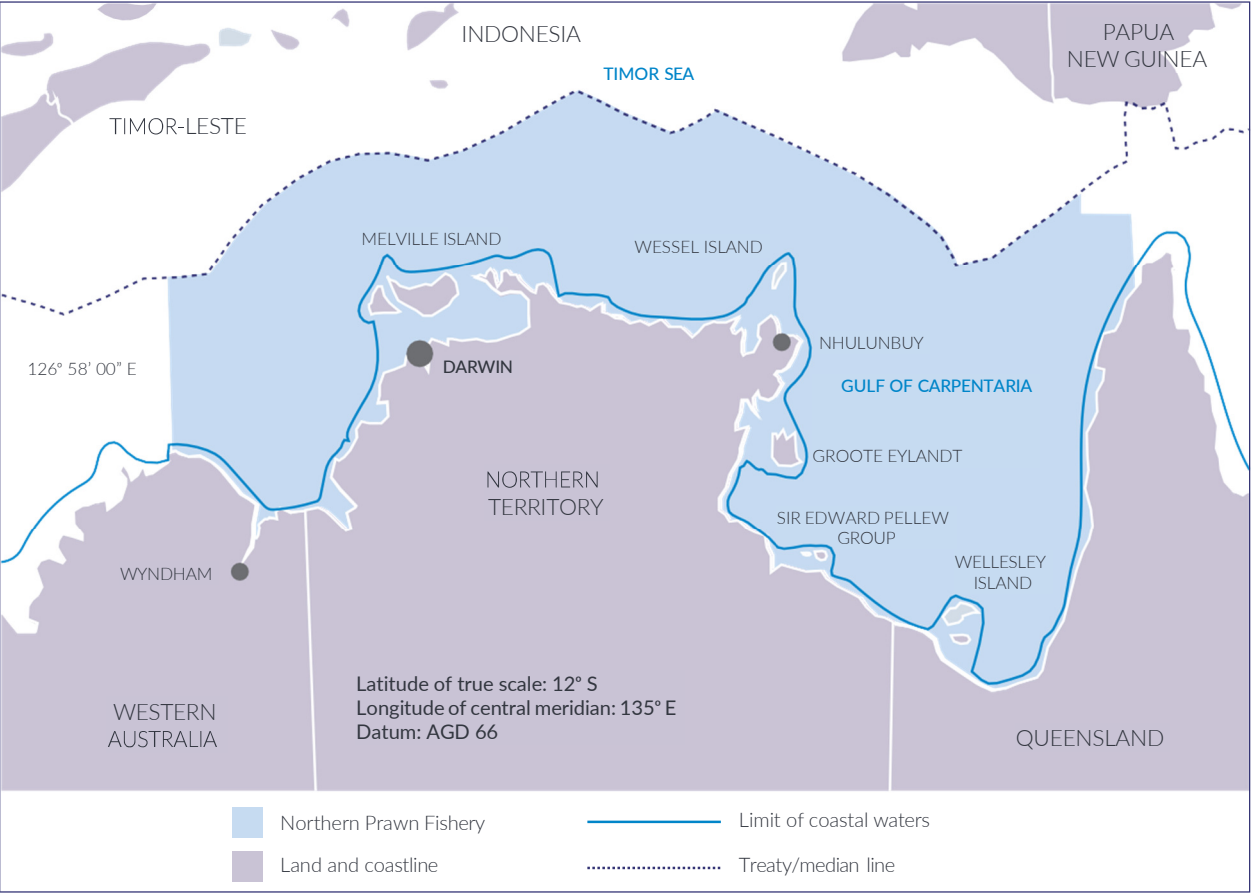
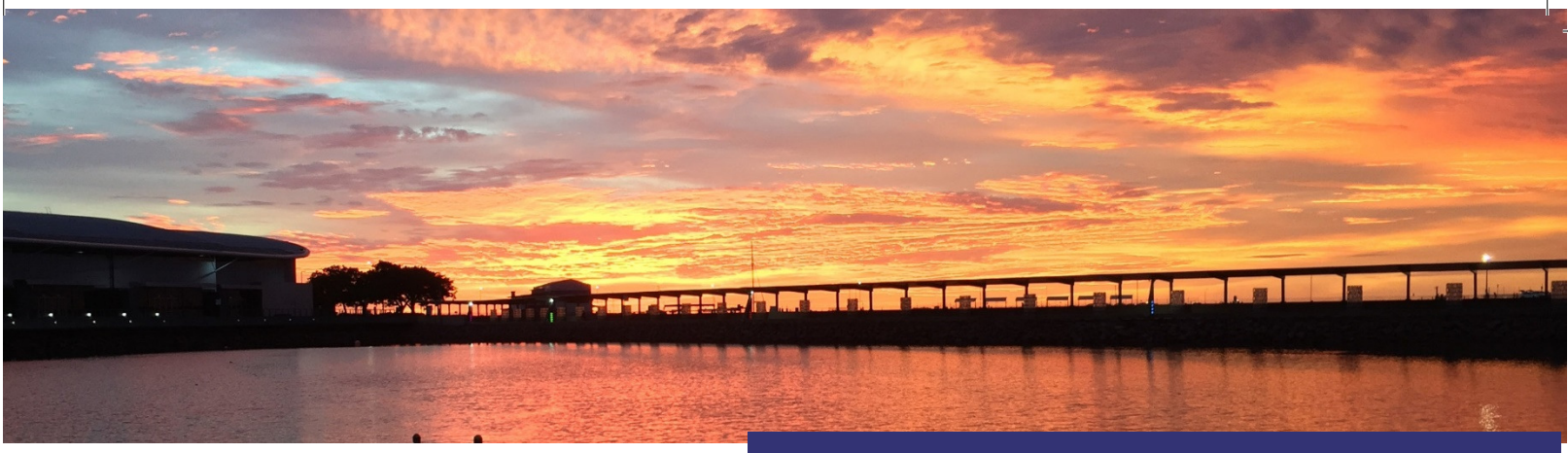


Figure 7 Northern Prawn Fleet fishery management area
Source: Northern Prawn Fishery Report



Appendix

Publications

- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade Annual Report 2020-21
[DITT Publications](#)
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Economic Overview 2017
dpir.nt.gov.au/primary-industry/primary-industry-publications/economic-profile
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Fisheries publications
dpir.nt.gov.au/fisheries/fisheries-publications
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Industry Development Plan 2013-2017
dpir.nt.gov.au/publications
- Department of Treasury and Finance: Economic briefs
treasury.nt.gov.au/dtf/economic-group/economic-briefs

Useful links

- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
agriculture.gov.au/abares
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
abs.gov.au/
- Innovation: business and economic data
business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data
- Department of Treasury and Finance
treasury.nt.gov.au/
- NT Cattlemen's Association
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