

NORTHERN TERRITORY  
**PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**  
**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**  
2020-21



DEPARTMENT OF  
**INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND TRADE**





## Contents

Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	3
Primary industry	4
Fisheries	4
Economic overview of the Territory – facts and figures	5
Primary industry and fisheries – an economic overview	6
Methodology for the calculation of production values	6
Contribution of industry to sector production value	6
Business overview	9
Industry production values overview	10
Primary industry and fisheries performance	11
Primary industry and fisheries sectors	13
Livestock – cattle	13
Interstate cattle movements	13
Live cattle exports	14
Other livestock	15
Plant industry	16
Fruits	16
Vegetables	17
Field crops	17
Territory markets	17
Forestry	17
Fisheries	17
Appendix	19
Publications	19
Useful links	19



## Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

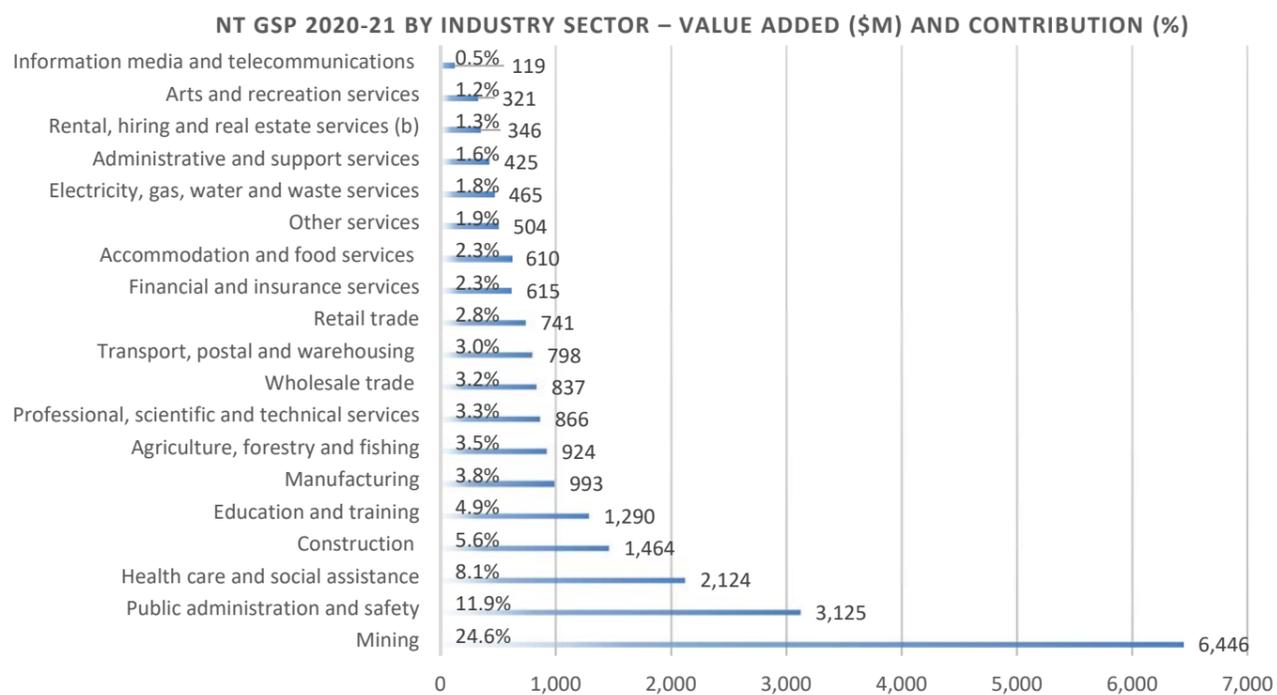
The Northern Territory Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) plays an integral, enabling role through the development and regulation of our industries, which are significant to our economy and advancing our regions. Primary industry and fisheries sectors include fisheries, livestock, 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 or supplies that are used in producing them. The value added of Territory primary industry and fisheries estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) exceeded \$900 million in 2020-21 (Figure 1), accounting for 3.5 per cent of the Territory's gross state product (GSP). Mining is the giant of the Territory resource industry, worth \$6.4 billion in 2020-21 and contributing over 24.6 per cent of Territory GSP.

Figure 1: Territory GSP 2020-21 by industry sector – value added (\$M) and contribution (%) chain volume



Source: ABS 5220.0 – Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2020-21

## 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 2020-21, the Territory economy fell by 0.6 per cent to \$26.1 billion, down from \$26.3 billion in 2019-20 (Table 1).

Table 1: Territory economy, 2019-20 and 2020-21

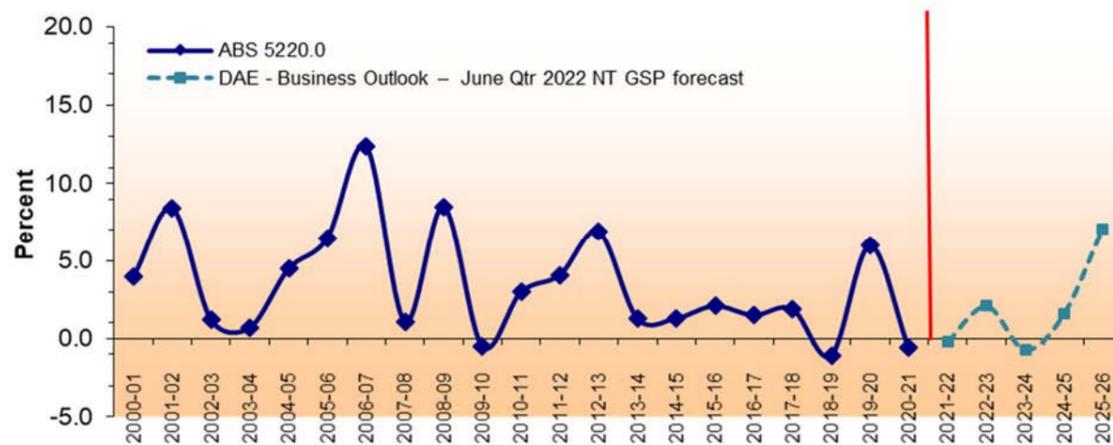
	2019-20	2020-21
Gross state product (\$m)	26 339	26 181
Population (persons)	246 500	245 865
Exports (\$m)	12 359	9 340
Imports (\$m)	1 341	1 142
Unemployment rate (original)	5.3%	4.6%
Inflation rate (Darwin)	0.2%	6.1%
Average weekly full-time adult earnings (persons)	\$1,777	\$1,789

Source: treasury.nt.gov.au

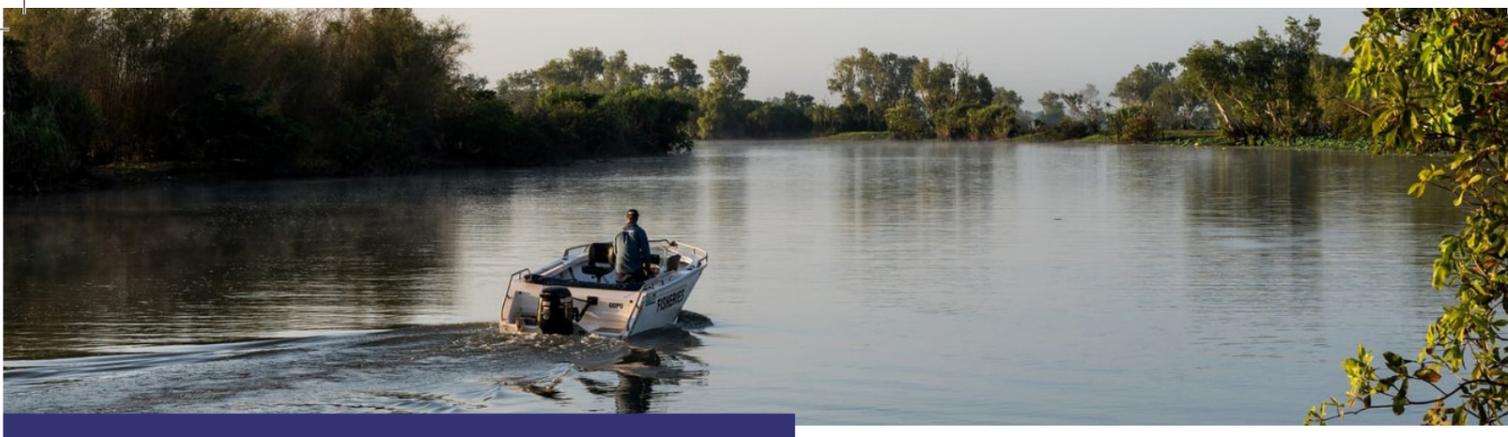
Deloitte Access Economics notes that the Territory's economic growth will be driven by a handful of major resource projects. Private investment will be elevated over the next five years, with Private engineering and commercial investment, increasing at an average rate of 12.6% per annum. Private equipment investment, increasing at an average rate of 3.6% per annum. Private housing investment, decreasing at an average rate of 2.8% per annum

Public investment is also expected to contribute to the Territory's growth over the next few years.

Figure 2: Territory economic outlook – GSP 2000-01 to 2025-26f



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 (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 market place). 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 market place.

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

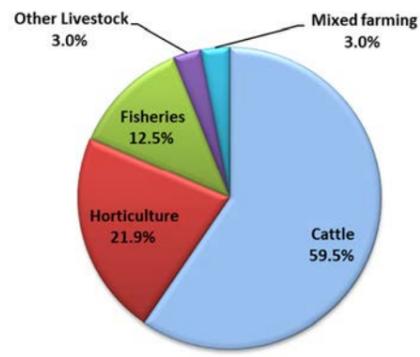
Primary industry and fisheries in the Territory include cattle (interstate movements and live export), other livestock (buffalo, crocodiles, horses, camels, donkeys and goats), horticulture (fruits, vegetables, nursery, cut flowers and turf), and mixed farming (hay and forestry). The fisheries industry 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 2020-21, the total estimated value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production was \$1,162.6 million (Table 3), a decrease of 10.8 per cent over the previous year. This result reflected challenging production and market conditions around the CoVID-19 pandemic. This decrease is primarily due to a fall in the value of cattle production to \$692.1million, a 13.9 per cent decrease on 2019-20, a 16.7 per cent fall in the value of horticulture production to \$254.9 million (mainly due to mangoes, melons and other fruits) and 4.5 per cent decrease in the value of mixed farming output to \$35.4 million (driven by hay/fodder production). These decreases were offset by fisheries production that increased by 17.2 per cent to \$145.3 million, and a 4.7 per cent rise in other livestock production (mainly crocodiles and buffalo) to \$34.9 million.



Figure 3: Contribution of industry to sector production value, 2020-21



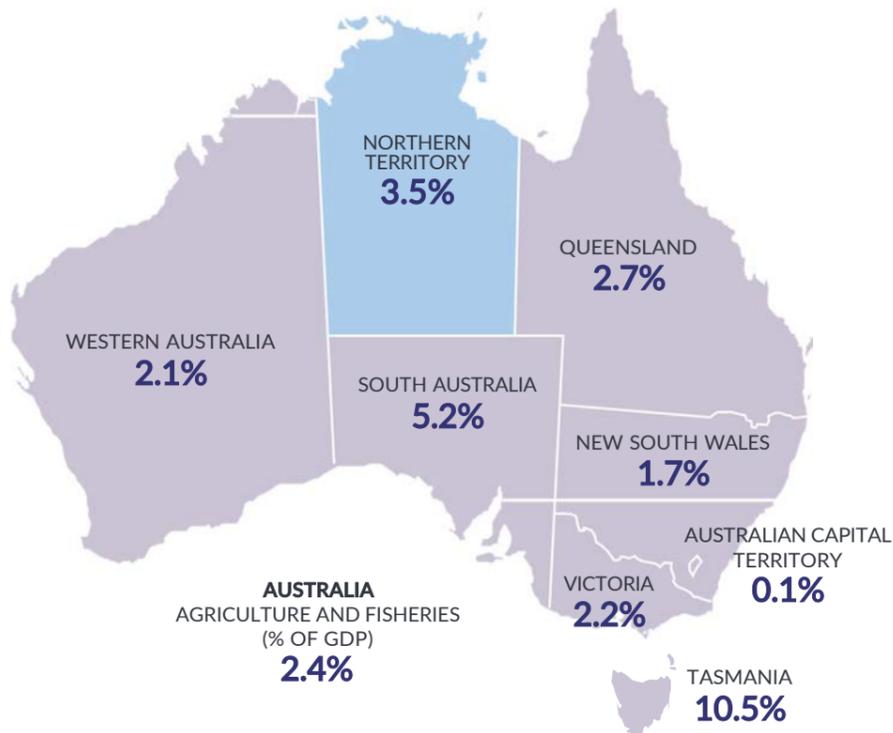
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

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 2,054 people in 2020-21 (ABS). This represents 1.6 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 3.5 per cent of Territory GDP in 2020-21. This is above the total primary industry and fisheries contribution (of all states and territories) to Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.4 per cent (Figure 4).

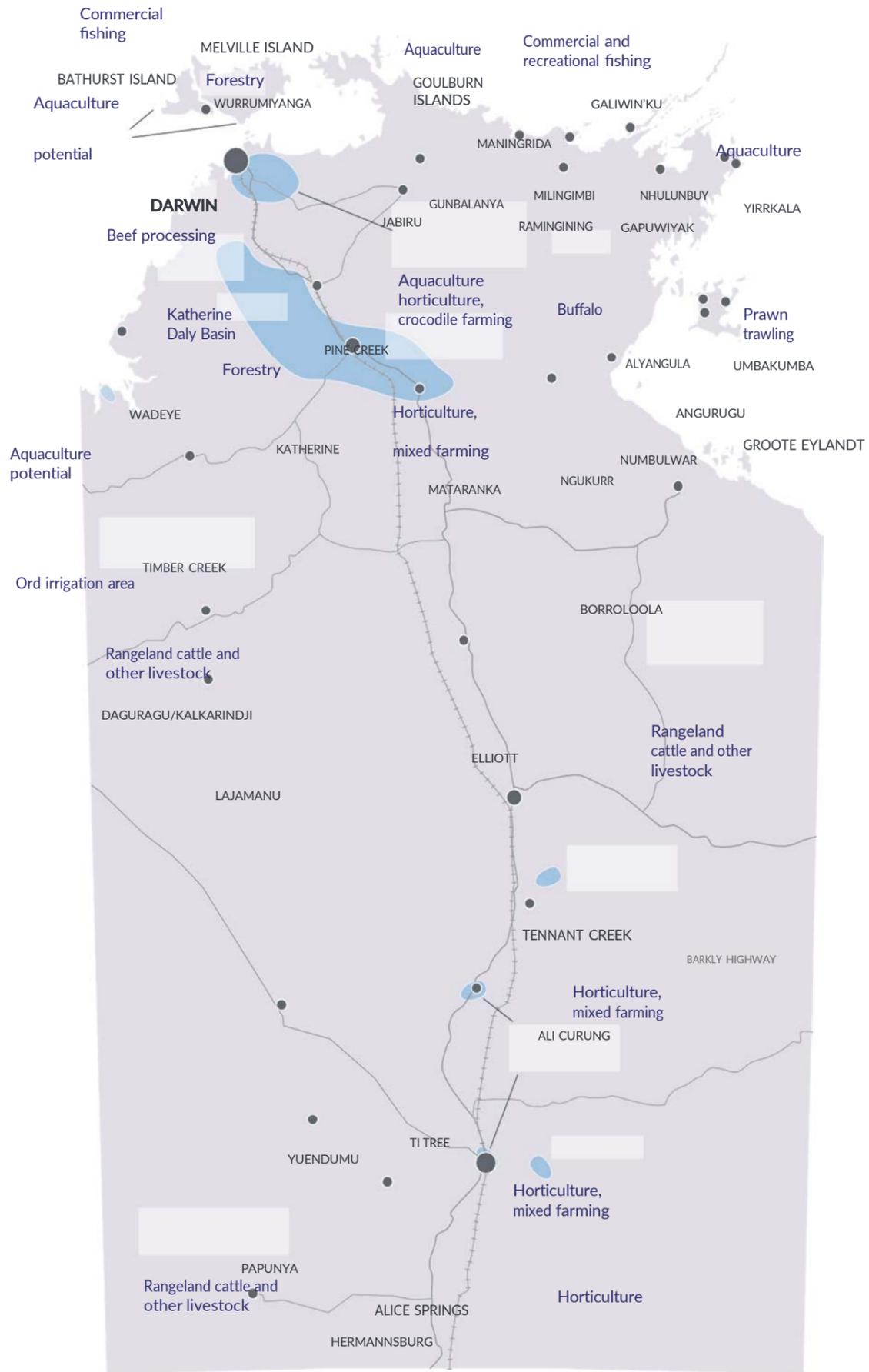
Exports of Territory primary industry and fisheries outputs are dominated by live cattle exports (mainly to Indonesia), fisheries, horticulture, forestry and, to a lesser extent, agriculture services.

Figure 4: States and territories – agriculture and fisheries contribution to GDP, 2020-21



Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts, Cat No. 5220.0, 2020-21

Figure 5: Agricultural and fishing areas in the Territory



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance



## Business overview

There were 935 agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses counted for the reference period June 2017 to June 2021. The sole trader or owner-operator was the most common form of business structure (66.6 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 (37.1 per cent) and 66.6 per cent of all agricultural and fisheries businesses are non-employing.

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 2017 to June 2021

Description	Non-employing	1-19	20-199	200+	Total	By business
Pastoral industries	231	112	4	0	347	37.1%
Plant industries	182	93	0	0	275	29.4%
Other agriculture and fishing support services	90	59	5	0	154	16.5%
Fisheries	65	15	0	0	80	8.6%
Forestry	15	10	0	0	25	2.7%
Other animals	28	8	0	0	36	3.9%
Aquaculture	6	3	0	0	9	1.0%
Hunting and trapping	6	3	0	0	9	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>% by employment</b>	<b>66.6%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Cat No. 8165.0, June 2017 to June 2021



## Industry production values overview

Table 3: Territory primary industry and fisheries production values

Horticulture	Gross value of production (\$M)			Annual change
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	19-20 to 20-21
Mangoes	108.7	128.8	100.0	-22.4%
Melons	57.4	69.4	54.3	-21.7%
Other fruits	19.1	22.4	11.2	-50.2%
Vegetables	41.3	61.0	62.8	3.0%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	15.5	15.0	16.8	11.9%
Territory markets	9.2	9.5	9.8	3.3%
<b>Total horticultural</b>	<b>251.2</b>	<b>306.1</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>
<b>Fisheries</b>				
Fish	33.6	31.1	38.8	24.7%
Crustaceans	8.7	5.5	5.1	-6.4%
Aquaculture	41.4	47.1	53.1	12.8%
Molluscs and echinoderms	0.5	0.4	0.3	-18.8%
Cnidarian & Other	0.0	0.9	1.2	41.7%
<b>Total Territory fisheries</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
NPF crustaceans	44.6	39.1	46.8	19.5%
<b>Total fisheries</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>124.0</b>	<b>145.3</b>	<b>17.2%</b>
<b>Livestock and other agriculture<sup>1</sup></b>				
Cattle	874.0	803.4	692.1	-13.9%
Other livestock	33.9	33.3	34.9	4.7%
<b>Total livestock</b>	<b>907.9</b>	<b>836.7</b>	<b>727.0</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>
Field crops	27.0	37.1	35.4	-4.5%
Forestry	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total other agriculture</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>
<b>Total livestock and other agriculture</b>	<b>945.5</b>	<b>873.8</b>	<b>762.4</b>	<b>-12.7%</b>
<b>Agriculture and Fisheries</b>				
Horticulture	251.2	306.1	254.9	-16.7%
Fisheries	128.7	124.0	145.3	17.2%
Livestock	907.9	836.7	727.0	-13.1%
Other agriculture	37.6	37.1	35.4	-4.5%
<b>TOTAL Agriculture and Fisheries</b>	<b>1325.4</b>	<b>1303.9</b>	<b>1162.6</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>

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
	2019-20	2020-21		
Territory cattle exported overseas	\$302.9	\$319.7	5.6%	↑
Territory cattle movements interstate	\$489.9	\$367.7	-25.0%	↓
Territory cattle slaughtered	\$10.6	\$4.7	-55.2%	↓
Buffalo	\$9.2	\$10.4	13.2%	↑
Other livestock	\$0.28	\$0.3	8.5%	↑
Crocodiles	\$23.8	\$24.2	1.4%	↑
Mangoes	\$128.8	\$100.0	-22.4%	↓
Melons	\$69.4	\$54.3	-21.7%	↓
Other fruits	\$22.4	\$11.2	-50.2%	↓
Vegetables	\$61.0	\$62.8	3.0%	↑
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$15.0	\$16.8	11.9%	↑
Territory markets	\$9.5	\$9.8	3.0%	↑
Hay and fodder	\$37.1	\$24.8	-33.2%	↓
Cotton	\$0.0	\$10.7	100.0%	↑
Fin fish	\$31.1	\$38.8	24.7%	↑
Territory crustaceans	\$5.5	\$5.1	-6.4%	↓
NPF crustaceans	\$39.1	\$46.8	19.5%	↑
Aquaculture	\$47.1	\$53.1	12.8%	↑
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.4	\$0.3	-18.8%	↓
Cnidarian & other	\$0.9	\$1.2	41.7%	↑

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

In 2020-21, primary industry and fisheries sectors produced \$574.8million in output value in the rest of the Territory economy (Table 6).

Table 5: Output multipliers by industry for the Territory economy, 2020-21

Industry	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy <sup>1</sup> per \$1 million industry output value
Beef cattle	\$510,000
Other agriculture <sup>2</sup>	\$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, 2020-21

Industry	Output value by industry (\$M)	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy <sup>1</sup> (\$M)
Beef cattle	\$692.1	\$353.0
Other agriculture <sup>2</sup>	\$70.3	\$33.8
Horticulture	\$254.9	\$130.0
Forestry	\$0.0	\$0.0
Commercial fishing	\$145.3	\$58.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,162.6</b>	<b>\$574.8</b>

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

## JOBS CREATED IN THE REST OF THE TERRITORY ECONOMY<sup>1</sup> 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 2020-21 consisted of live export trade (46.2 per cent), interstate movements (53.1 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 54.9 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2020-21 (Figure 3).

The estimated value of production for the cattle industry in 2020-21 was \$692.1million, down 13.9 per cent from 2019-20 (Table 7). In 2020-21, 536,525 head of Territory cattle were turned-off for exports, interstate movements or for slaughter, down 25.7 per cent from 2019-20. Turn-off for slaughter fell significantly in 2020-21 to reflect the operational suspension of the Australian Agricultural Company's Livingstone Beef processing facility in 2018. The current slaughter of NT cattle occurs at smaller abattoirs located across the Territory.

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

Turn-off (Territory cattle only)	2019-20		2020-21		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Live exports	272,153	\$302.9	247,860	\$319.7	-8.9%	5.6%
Interstate movements	440,205	\$489.9	285,004	\$367.7	-35.3%	-25.0%
Slaughter (Territory abattoirs)	9,480	\$10.6	3,661	\$4.7	-61.4%	-55.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>721,838</b>	<b>\$803.4</b>	<b>536,525</b>	<b>\$692.1</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>

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. Traditionally, 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 2020-21 was estimated at \$367.7million, down 25.0 per cent from 2019-20 (\$489.9 million). A total of 285,004 head of Territory cattle were sent interstate in 2020-21, a 35.3 per cent decrease over 2019-20 (440,205). This decreased turn-off was because of destocking due to dry conditions in the Barkly and Victoria River District.

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

Description	2019-20		2020-21		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Queensland	264,554	\$294.4	135,953	\$175.4	-48.6%	-40.4%
South Australia	73,408	\$81.7	73,800	\$95.2	0.5%	16.5%
Western Australia	26,534	\$29.5	27,615	\$35.6	4.1%	20.6%
Other states	75,709	\$84.3	47,636	\$61.5	-37.1%	-27.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>440,205</b>	<b>\$489.9</b>	<b>285,004</b>	<b>\$367.7</b>	<b>-35.3%</b>	<b>-25.0%</b>

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

## Live cattle exports

A total of 247,860 head of Territory cattle were exported to South East Asia in 2020-21 (Table 9), an 8.9 per cent decrease over 2019-20 (272,153 head). The value of production for Territory live cattle exports in 2020-21 was estimated at \$319.7 million, a 5.6 per cent increase over 2019-20 (\$302.9 million).

Indonesia is the largest export market for Territory cattle, accounting for 82.2 per cent of total cattle exports through the Port of Darwin in 2020-21. Vietnam is the next biggest market, accounting for over 6.7 per cent of exports. Other markets for Territory cattle include Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. In 2020-21, Territory cattle exports accounted for 27.8 per cent of Australia's total live cattle exports and 53.3 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	2019-20		2020-21		Annual change	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Brunei	4,390	\$4.9	6,784	\$8.8	54.5%	79.1%
Indonesia	225,472	\$251.0	207,671	\$267.9	-7.9%	6.8%
Philippines	8,409	\$9.4	10,656	\$13.7	26.7%	46.9%
Sarawak	1,858	\$2.1	2,028	\$2.6	9.1%	26.5%
West Malaysia	1,167	\$1.3	4,044	\$5.2	246.5%	301.6%
Vietnam	30,857	\$34.3	16,679	\$21.5	-45.9%	-37.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>272,153</b>	<b>\$302.9</b>	<b>247,860</b>	<b>\$319.7</b>	<b>-8.9%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>

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

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

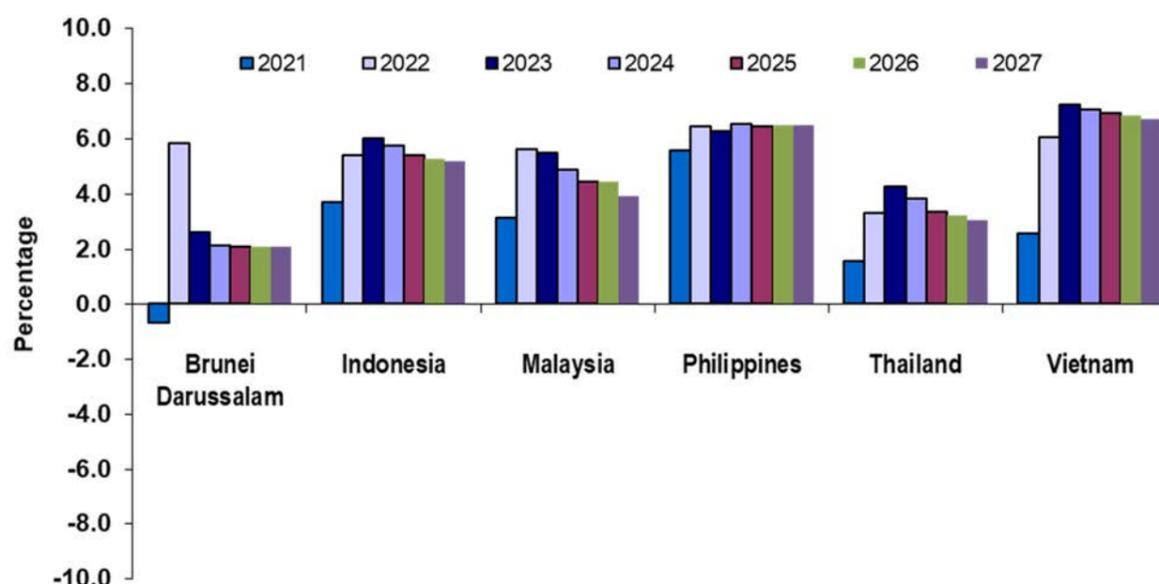
## IMF World Economic Outlook: Gloomy and More Uncertain

A tentative recovery in 2021 has been followed by increasingly gloomy developments in 2022 as risks began to materialise. Global output contracted in the second quarter of this year, owing to downturns in China and Russia, while US consumer spending undershot expectations. Several shocks have hit a world economy already weakened by the pandemic: higher-than-expected inflation worldwide—especially in the United States and major European economies triggering tighter financial conditions; a worse-than-anticipated slowdown in China, reflecting COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns; and further negative spillovers from the war in Ukraine.

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.

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Update, July 2022: Gloomy and More Uncertain

Figure 6: GDP growth forecasts 2021-2027f for Territory live cattle exports – major destinations



Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, July 2022

## 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 2.8 per cent to the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2020-21 (Figure 3).

In 2020-21, the total value of production in other livestock increased 4.7 per cent to an estimated \$34.9 million, from \$33.3 million in 2019-20 (Table 10).

For 2020-21, the value of the Territory's crocodile industry is estimated at \$24.2 million. This accounted for 69.3 per cent of the total value of production of the other livestock industry sector.

Buffalo turn-off increased 12.1 per cent to 12,062 head in 2020-21 with an estimated value of production of \$10.4 million.

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

Description	2019-20 (\$M)	2020-21 (\$M)	Annual change
Crocodiles	\$23.8	\$24.2	1.4%
Other livestock	\$0.28	\$0.30	8.5%
Buffalo	\$9.2	\$10.4	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33.3</b>	<b>\$34.9</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

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 2020-21 was \$290.3 million, a decrease of 15.4 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 2020-21 (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. In 2020-21, the Territory accounted for 1.9 per cent of national horticulture production.

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

Description	2019-20 (\$M)	2020-21 (\$M)	Annual change	% of Total production value 2020-21
Fruits	\$220.6	\$165.5	-25.0%	57.0%
Vegetables	\$61.0	\$62.8	3.0%	21.6%
Field crops	\$37.1	\$35.4	-4.5%	12.2%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$15.0	\$16.8	11.9%	5.8%
Territory markets	\$9.5	\$9.8	3.0%	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$343.2</b>	<b>\$290.3</b>	<b>-15.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

## Fruits

The main fruits produced in the Territory include mangoes, melons, and table grapes. Fruit production value in 2020-21 decreased by a 25.0 per cent to \$165.5 million on 2019-20 (Table 12). This was due to a decrease in the production values for mangos, melons, other fruits.

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

Description	2019-20		2020-21		Annual change	
	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M
Mangoes	32,300	\$128.8	38,892	\$100.0	20.4%	-22.4%
Melons	66,400	\$69.4	56,840	\$54.3	-14.4%	-21.7%
Other fruits	6,152	\$22.4	7,170	\$11.2	16.5%	-50.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,852</b>	<b>\$220.6</b>	<b>102,902</b>	<b>\$165.5</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>-25.0%</b>

Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

## 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 3.0 per cent in 2020-21 to \$ \$62.8 million. This increase was driven by increased output and higher prices for growers. Vegetable production was 22,145 tonnes for this period.

## Field crops

Historically, Territory mixed farming has included seed production, sorghum, maize and other crops, such as sesame and soybeans. Hay and fodder production (used to supply the Territory cattle industry) represented 69.9% of the total field crop value, while cotton production, accounted for 30.1% per cent of the total field crops production values in 2020-21.

Hay/fodder production was worth \$24.8 million while cotton production (value at \$10.7 million) was recorded for the first time since 2003-04.

Mixed farming contributed 3.0 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2018-19 (Figure 3).

The value of field crop production in 2020-21 was \$35.4 million, a 4.5 per cent decrease from 2019-20 (\$37.1 million).

## Territory markets

Local markets production value for 2020-21 was \$9.8 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 Aboriginal 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 2020-21 was \$145.3 million, an increase of 17.2 per cent compared to 2019-20 (Table 13). This increase is attributed to a 24.7 per cent rise in wild-stock catch, 12.8 per cent growth in aquaculture and a 19.5 per cent increase in the NPF crustaceans (Territory catch).

This increase was offset by decreases in Territory crustaceans (-6.4%) and, molluscs and echinoderms (-18.8%).

In 2020-21, fisheries contributed an estimated 11.5 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production value (Figure 3, page 7).

Table 13: Territory fisheries – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2019-20 (\$M)	2020-21 (\$M)	Annual change
Fish (wild-stock catch)	\$31.1	\$38.8	24.7%
Territory crustaceans	\$5.5	\$5.1	-6.4%
Aquaculture	\$47.1	\$53.1	12.8%
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.35	\$0.29	-18.8%
Cnidarian & Other	\$0.88	\$1.24	41.7%
<b>Total Territory fisheries</b>	<b>\$84.9</b>	<b>\$98.5</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
NPF crustaceans (Territory catch)	\$39.1	\$46.8	19.5%
<b>Total fisheries</b>	<b>\$124.0</b>	<b>\$145.3</b>	<b>17.2%</b>

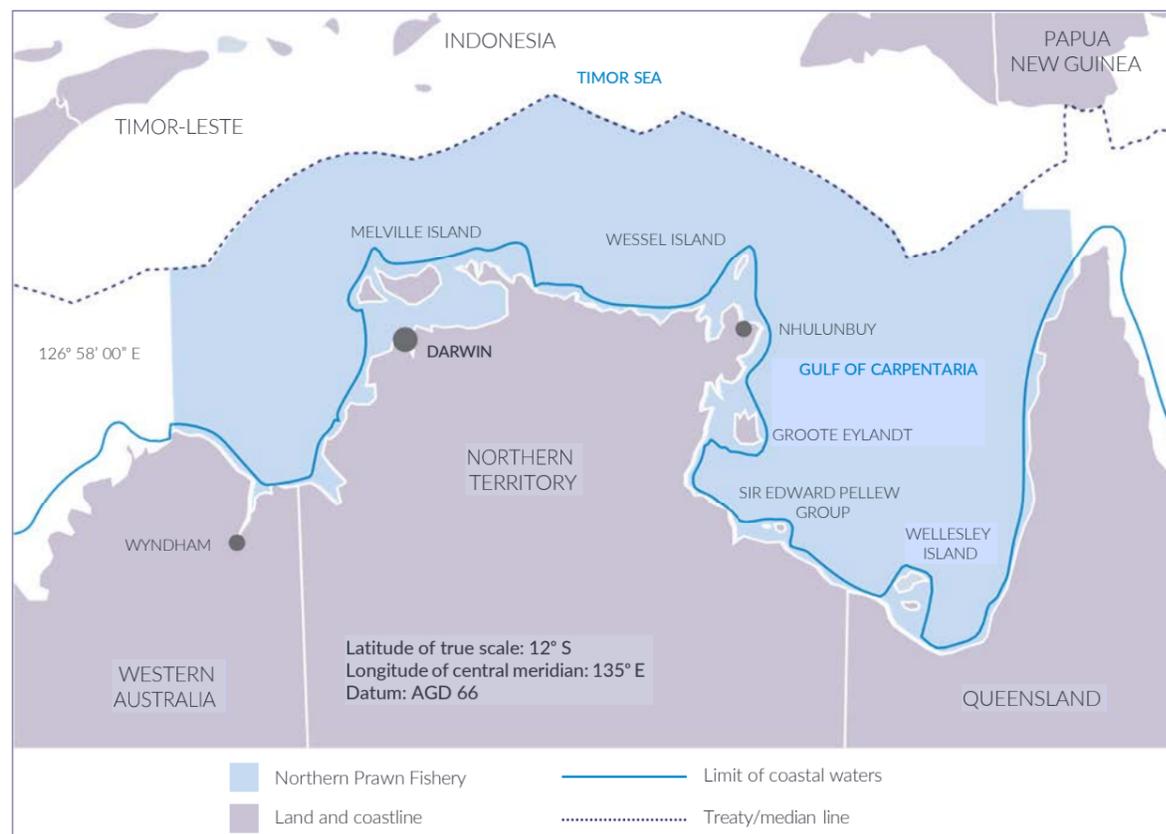
Source: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade data collections

### 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 40 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](http://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](http://dpir.nt.gov.au/fisheries/fisheries-publications)
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Industry Development Plan 2013-2017  
[dpir.nt.gov.au/publications](http://dpir.nt.gov.au/publications)
- Department of Treasury and Finance: Economic briefs  
[treasury.nt.gov.au/df/economic-group/economic-briefs](http://treasury.nt.gov.au/df/economic-group/economic-briefs)

## Useful links

- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
[agriculture.gov.au/abares](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics  
[abs.gov.au/](http://abs.gov.au/)
- Innovation: business and economic data  
[business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data](http://business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data)
- Department of Treasury and Finance  
[treasury.nt.gov.au/](http://treasury.nt.gov.au/)
- NT Cattlemen's Association  
[ntca.org.au/](http://ntca.org.au/)
- NT Farmers Association  
[ntfarmers.org.au/](http://ntfarmers.org.au/)



Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade  
GPO Box 3000  
Darwin NT 0801

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