

Greater Darwin is carrying the Territory's growth and ageing fastest while doing it
Northern Territory population by service region, 1986 to 2025

NT population, 2025

264K

Aged 65 and over, was 2.5% in 1986

9.7%

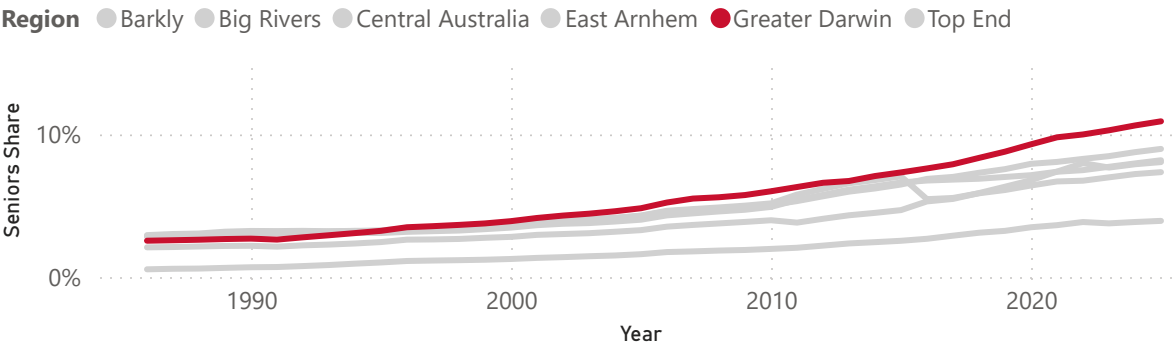
Dependants per 100 working age

42.6

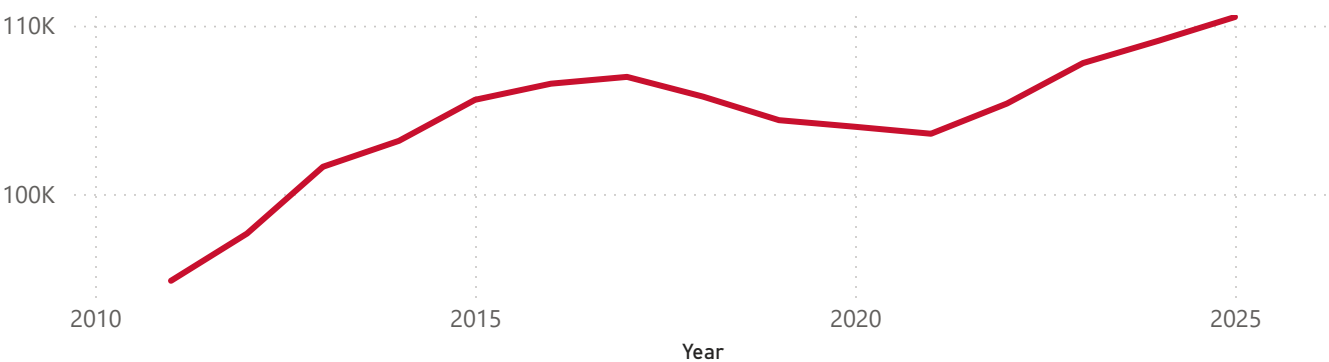
Working age share, down from 71.7% in 2011

70.1%

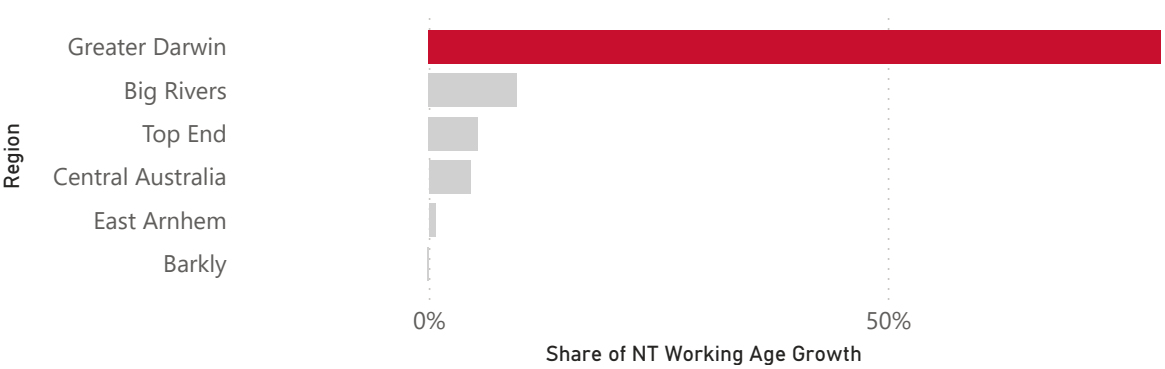
Greater Darwin's 65+ share has risen from 6.3% to 10.9% since 2011, the steepest climb in the Territory



Greater Darwin's working age population fell every year from 2017 to 2021, then rebounded to a new high



Greater Darwin absorbed 80% of the Territory's working age growth since 2011



What this shows. The region absorbing the Territory's growth is also the region ageing fastest. Between 2011 and 2025 Greater Darwin added 15,665 working age residents, 80 percent of the NT total, while its population aged 65 and over more than doubled from 8,142 to 17,248. Barkly is the only region with fewer working age residents than in 2011, and Central Australia has not returned to its 2010 peak. This raises a question about how service capacity, particularly health and aged care, is distributed against a population whose growth and whose ageing are concentrating in the same place.

Source: NT Government Open Data Portal, Population estimates for NTG Service Regions 1986 to 2025, licensed CC BY 4.0. Estimates for 2022 to 2024 are revised; 2025 is preliminary. Analysis excludes disaggregation by Aboriginal status; trends reported hold across both cohorts.