Journey to Work – Northern Territory

How do we compare with other states and territories?
December 2012

The five-yearly census by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) includes questions on usual place of residence and method of travel to work. Combining this information gives statistics on the mode (or type) of transport used by Territorians and other Australians. Comparisons can be made with other states and territories, capital cities and region centres, and analysis of this data can assist Government and private agencies in planning for future transport needs in this rapidly growing region. All the data in this fact sheet has been obtained from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Key Points

- Most journeys to work in the Northern Territory were by Motor Vehicle (78.7%) and walking (12.9%). Only 5.2% travelled by public transport and 3.3% travelled by cycle.
- NT has the highest proportion of people travelling to work by walking and cycling than any other State or Territory.
- NT has the second lowest proportion of people using public transport or motor vehicle for travelling to work.
- Greater Darwin had the highest rate of motor vehicle use (86.2%) and lowest rate of public transport use (5.0%) for the journey to work of all capital cities in Australia.
- Active transport use is high in comparison with other capital cities. Darwin had the second highest rate of walking to work (5.7%) and highest rate of cycling to work (3.1%).
- Darwin and Alice Springs have a relatively low motor vehicle mode share, of 86% and 82.6% respectively, when compared to regional cities of a similar size.
- Public transport use for both Darwin (5.1%) and Alice Springs (4.5%) is above average compared to similar sized regional cities.
- Alice Springs had the highest cycling figure (5.4%) and Darwin the second highest (3.1%) of similar sized Australian regional cities. Darwin and Alice Springs had above average walking figures of 5.7% and 7.5% respectively.
- It should be noted that 67% of the NT population live in Darwin and Alice Springs. Therefore, the Darwin and Alice Springs journey to work figures are more representative of how most Territorians travel to work. For example, the walking figure for the NT as a whole is much higher than urban areas in the NT, which is likely to be due to the shorter distance required for the journey to work in rural and remote communities.
Northern Territory comparison with other States and Territories

Journey to work by motor vehicle, State and Territory comparison, 2011

Journey to work by public transport, State and Territory comparison, 2011
Journey to work by cycling, State and Territory comparison, 2011

Journey to work by walking, State and Territory comparison, 2011
Darwin and capital city comparisons

Journey to work by motor vehicle, Darwin comparison with capital cities, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>85.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Journey to work by public transport, Darwin comparison with capital cities, 2011

City

Percentage (%)

Darwin 5.0%
Hobart 6.9%
Canberra 8.2%
Adelaide 10.2%
Perth 13.0%
Brisbane 15.3%
Melbourne 16.4%
Sydney 23.7%

Journey to work by cycling, Darwin comparison with capital cities, 2011

City

Percentage (%)

Sydney 0.9%
Brisbane 1.2%
Hobart 1.1%
Perth 1.3%
Melbourne 1.6%
Adelaide 1.4%
Canberra 2.8%
Darwin 3.1%
Journey to work by walking, Darwin comparison with capital cities, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Journey to work by public transport, cycling and walking, Greater Darwin comparison with capital cities, 2011

- Public Transport
- Cycled
- Walked
Darwin, Alice Springs and Regional Cities Comparison

### Journey to work by motor vehicle

**Regional cities comparison - 2011 Census Data**

- **Alice Springs**: 82.6%
- **Hobart**: 84.6%
- **Darwin**: 86.0%
- **Geelong**: 89.6%
- **Cairns**: 90.6%
- **Launceston**: 91.3%
- **Gladstone**: 91.5%
- **Mackay**: 91.6%
- **Townsville**: 92.7%
- **Albury - Wodonga**: 93.0%

### Journey to work by public transport

**Regional cities comparison - 2011 Census Data**

- **Albury - Wodonga**: 1.3%
- **Toowoomba**: 1.5%
- **Townsville**: 2.7%
- **Launceston**: 2.9%
- **Cairns**: 3.4%
- **Mackay**: 3.8%
- **Gladstone**: 4.4%
- **Alice Springs**: 4.5%
- **Darwin**: 5.1%
- **Geelong**: 6.8%
- **Hobart**: 7.3%
Journey to work by cycling
Regional cities comparison - 2011 Census data

Journey to work by walking
Regional cities comparison - 2011 Census data
Darwin and Alice Springs journey to work mode (%) comparison with regional cities - 2011 census data

-_walked
- cycled
- public transport
- motor vehicle