NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2025

ISACNT
INDUSTRY SKILLS ADVISORY COUNCIL NT

Central Australia

This region comprises the Local Government Areas of Alice Springs, Central Desert, Yulara and MacDonnell.

Resident Population (2021)
by age, gender and Indigenous status

40,558
Total Resident Population

Age (years)		
0-24	51%	49%
25-44	48%	52%
45-64	48%	52%
65+	46%	54%

43%
Indigenous Population

Central Australia's population is expected to be 43,617 in 2031.

Examples of Occupations in Demand for Top 5 Industries (2025)

Barista

Chef

Child Care Worker

Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teacher

General Practitioner

Motor Mechanic (General)

Prison Officer

Retail Supervisor

Security Officer

Total Workforce
21,769
(August 2025)

Vocational Education and Training (VET)
(January - December 2024)

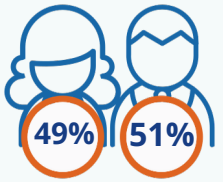
3,945
VET Enrolments
7% decrease since 2023

920
VET Completions
14% decrease since 2023

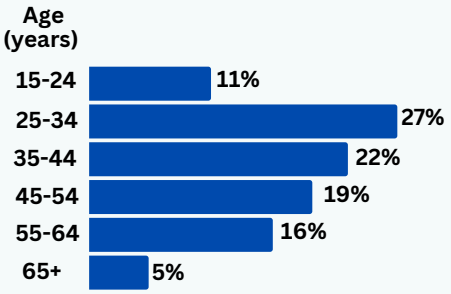
Top 3 Qualifications by Enrolments
- Cert III in Individual Support
- Cert III in Business
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

Top 3 Occupation Pathways by Enrolments
- Welfare Support Workers
- General Clerks
- Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers

Workforce



Employment by Gender (June 2021)



Age Breakdown (June 2021)

2,170
Total Registered Businesses
(2024)

4%
Unemployment Rate
(June 2025)

Top 5 Industries by Workforce Count (2023/24)

- **Health Care and Social Assistance** 25%
- **Public Administration and Safety** 16%
- **Education and Training** 9%
- **Retail Trade** 7%
- **Mining** 6%

Workforce Challenges

- Shortage of locally skilled workforce
- High employee turnover
- Limited access to training
- Difficulty in attracting workers
- High relocation costs

Workforce Solutions

- Providing in-house training for workers
- Work visa sponsorship for overseas skilled workers
- Providing flexible working arrangements
- More government funding towards employee counselling and group therapy
- Incentivising high performance workers at the workplace

WHAT DOES ISACNT DO

- Workforce development
- Support training package development
- Promote vocational education and training
- Provide advice and intelligence

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ISACNT

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References: ABS 2021 Census data; ABS ANZSCO 2022; ABS ANZSIC; ISACNT Regional Workforce estimates August 2025; ISACNT Stakeholder Engagements; NCVER - VocStats 2023 & 2024; NTSOPL 2025 ; RDA Northern Territory 2023 & 2024 data; Small Area Labour Market June 2025. [Release date: December 2025]