### Northern Territory

This fact sheet provides an overview of the major causes of change in relativities and the distribution of the GST pool since the 2020 Review.

#### Relativities and estimated GST distribution

The Northern Territory’s recommended GST revenue sharing relativity will increase to 4.79985 in 2021-22, resulting in it receiving an estimated GST pool distribution of $2,984 million.

This year is the first year of the legislated transition arrangements, moving from distributing the GST pool solely on the basis of the Commission’s assessment of relative fiscal capacities, to new arrangements where States will be equalised to the fiscally stronger of New South Wales and Victoria.

Relativities, shares and estimated GST distributions, 2020-21 and 2021‑22

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Relativities | | GST shares | | GST distribution | |  |
|  | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Change |
|  |  |  | % | % | $m | $m | $m |
| New South Wales | 0.91808 | 0.95617 | 29.2 | 30.3 | 18,453 | 20,347 | 1,894 |
| Victoria | 0.95992 | 0.92335 | 25.1 | 24.1 | 15,876 | 16,220 | 344 |
| Queensland | 1.04907 | 1.05918 | 21.2 | 21.5 | 13,387 | 14,411 | 1,023 |
| Western Australia | 0.44970 | 0.41967 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 2,941 | 2,918 | -23 |
| South Australia | 1.35765 | 1.34719 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 5,906 | 6,207 | 301 |
| Tasmania | 1.89742 | 1.96067 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2,530 | 2,783 | 253 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 1.15112 | 1.16266 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1,222 | 1,310 | 89 |
| Northern Territory | 4.76893 | 4.79985 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 2,835 | 2,984 | 149 |
| Total | 1.00000 | 1.00000 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 63,150 | 67,180 | 4,030 |

Note: The estimated GST pool distribution for 2021‑22 was calculated by applying 2021 Update relativities to estimated State populations (as of December 2021) and the estimated GST pool for 2021‑22 (which includes the $600 million top-up).

Implementation of new arrangements, 2021-22

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Fiscal capacities (a) |  | Standard State (b) |  | Blended capacities (c) |  | Implement floor (d) |  | GST relativities |
| NSW | 0.96451 |  | 0.90258 |  | 0.95617 |  | n/a |  | 0.95617 |
| Vic | 0.93169 |  | 0.86976 |  | 0.92335 |  | n/a |  | 0.92335 |
| Qld | 1.06753 |  | 1.00559 |  | 1.05918 |  | n/a |  | 1.05918 |
| WA | 0.32852 |  | 0.86359 |  | 0.41967 |  | n/a |  | 0.41967 |
| SA | 1.35554 |  | 1.29360 |  | 1.34719 |  | n/a |  | 1.34719 |
| Tas | 1.96901 |  | 1.90707 |  | 1.96067 |  | n/a |  | 1.96067 |
| ACT | 1.17101 |  | 1.10907 |  | 1.16266 |  | n/a |  | 1.16266 |
| NT | 4.80820 |  | 4.74626 |  | 4.79985 |  | n/a |  | 4.79985 |
| Total | 1.00000 |  | 1.00000 |  | 1.00000 |  |  |  | 1.00000 |

(a) Relative fiscal capacities refer to the previous arrangements.

(b) Standard State capacities refer to the new arrangements (equalising to the stronger of New South Wales or Victoria). Victoria was fiscally stronger than New South Wales in two assessment years. New South Wales was fiscally stronger than Victoria in one assessment year. For this reason, Western Australia’s standard State capacity is not equal to that of either New South Wales or Victoria.

(c) The blended capacities are 5/6th relative fiscal capacities and 1/6th standard State fiscal capacities.

(d) No internal floor applies to 2021-22.

n/a not applicable.

#### Change in fiscal capacity

Under the new GST relativities, which include the transition arrangements, the Northern Territory’s GST pool share would fall from 4.5% to 4.4%. Combined with pool growth, its GST pool entitlement would rise by an estimated $149 million, or 5.3%.

The Northern Territory’s GST pool requirement increased. This was due to expenses growing faster than the GST pool, which meant that expense disabilities became more important. The Northern Territory also has well above average expenses. Increases in its GST pool requirement were partly offset by a decrease in relative wage costs and revisions to the costs of providing some health and welfare services in more remote areas. While the growth in Western Australia’s iron ore royalties contributed to increasing the GST pool share of other States, this influence was offset in the Northern Territory because of increases in royalties from other mineral resources.

Change in estimated GST distribution since the 2020 Review, Northern Territory

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | $m | $pc |
| Change in population | -41 | -171 |
| Growth in GST pool | 178 | 748 |
| Changes in relative fiscal capacity |  |  |
| Data revisions | -43 | -181 |
| State circumstances | 66 | 276 |
| Total | 23 | 95 |
| Transition to new arrangements (a) | -11 | -46 |
| Total change | 149 | 626 |

Note: Table may not add due to rounding.

(a) This represents the difference between applying the GST relativities and relative fiscal capacities to the GST pool. It is not the basis of the ‘no worse off’ calculation, which is a State’s relative fiscal capacity applied to the GST pool without the top-up.

Main changes for the Northern Territory, 2021 Update

Data revisions: Population dispersion: -$49m; Indigenous status -$17m. Changes in circumstances: Growth in expenses $85m; Wage costs -$55m; Capital improvements $34m; Capital requirement -$33m; Indigenous status $21m

**For more information about these changes, see the 2021 Update report.**