

Community report

Cairns (R)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

Cairns (R)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Birthplace

Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

Birthplace

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, 22.3% (37,252) of people in Cairns (R) were born overseas, compared with 18.4% in Regional Qld. A further 69.1% (115,273) of people were born in Australia.

About this topic

Birthplace records the country in which a person was born. It is a core measure of migration history and cultural diversity and helps distinguish Australia-born and overseas-born populations.

This topic is useful for understanding settlement patterns and the likely language, service, and support needs of different communities. It should be interpreted together with ancestry, language used at home, and religion for a fuller view of cultural diversity.

Interpretation notes

- Country of birth measures birthplace only; it does not capture ancestry, ethnicity, or current citizenship on its own.
- Use birthplace with ancestry and language when interpreting cultural background, because many cultural groups include both Australia-born and overseas-born people.

Birthplace - Ranked by size

Cairns (R) - Overseas born (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	94	0.1%	0.0%	85	0.1%	0.0%	+9	0.0
At sea	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Australia	115,273	69.1%	74.3%	108,007	68.9%	74.3%	+7,266	+0.2
Norfolk Island	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
New Zealand	4,715	2.8%	3.7%	4,799	3.1%	3.9%	-84	-0.3
New Caledonia	15	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	0.0%	+9	0.0
Papua New Guinea	2,361	1.4%	0.3%	2,294	1.5%	0.3%	+67	-0.1
Solomon Islands	45	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	0.0%	+2	0.0
Vanuatu	36	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	0.0%	+15	0.0
Micronesia, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Guam	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Kiribati	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Micronesia, Federated States of	7	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Nauru	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Northern Mariana Islands	—	—	—	—	—	
Palau	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Cook Islands	244	0.1%	0.0%	236	0.2%	
Fiji	278	0.2%	0.1%	250	0.2%	
French Polynesia	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Niue	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Samoa	120	0.1%	0.0%	87	0.1%	
Samoa, American	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tokelau	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Tonga	27	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Tuvalu	9	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Wallis and Futuna	—	—	—	—	—	
Australian Antarctic Territory	—	—	—	—	—	
United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, nfd	45	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
England	6,522	3.9%	3.7%	6,170	3.9%	
Isle of Man	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Northern Ireland	128	0.1%	0.1%	125	0.1%	
Scotland	749	0.4%	0.4%	683	0.4%	
Wales	207	0.1%	0.1%	197	0.1%	
Guernsey	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Jersey	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Ireland	410	0.2%	0.2%	347	0.2%	
Austria	139	0.1%	0.1%	147	0.1%	
Belgium	56	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	
France	374	0.2%	0.1%	307	0.2%	
Germany	1,112	0.7%	0.4%	1,022	0.7%	
Luxembourg	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Monaco	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Netherlands	529	0.3%	0.3%	528	0.3%	
Switzerland	209	0.1%	0.1%	231	0.1%	
Northern Europe, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Denmark	103	0.1%	0.0%	107	0.1%	
Faroe Islands	–	–	–	–	–	
Finland	98	0.1%	0.0%	89	0.1%	
Greenland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iceland	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Norway	33	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Sweden	110	0.1%	0.1%	84	0.1%	
Andorra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gibraltar	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Italy	703	0.4%	0.3%	650	0.4%	
Malta	89	0.1%	0.1%	78	0.0%	
Portugal	61	0.0%	0.0%	55	0.0%	
Spain	119	0.1%	0.1%	78	0.0%	
South Eastern Europe, nfd	66	0.0%	0.0%	70	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Albania	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Bulgaria	13	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Croatia	106	0.1%	0.1%	116	0.1%	
Cyprus	27	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
North Macedonia	13	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Greece	64	0.0%	0.0%	62	0.0%	
Moldova	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Romania	57	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	
Slovenia	25	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Montenegro	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Serbia	53	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	
Kosovo	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Eastern Europe, nfd	29	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Belarus	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Czechia	80	0.0%	0.0%	91	0.1%	
Estonia	17	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Hungary	130	0.1%	0.1%	133	0.1%	
Latvia	12	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Lithuania	10	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Poland	225	0.1%	0.1%	164	0.1%	
Russian Federation	108	0.1%	0.1%	74	0.0%	
Slovakia	41	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
Ukraine	57	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
North Africa and the Middle East, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Africa, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Algeria	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
Egypt	82	0.0%	0.1%	58	0.0%	–
Libya	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Morocco	11	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Sudan	18	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	–
Tunisia	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
South Sudan	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Middle East, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Bahrain	7	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Gaza Strip and West Bank	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	–
Iran	64	0.0%	0.1%	71	0.0%	–
Iraq	16	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	–
Israel	33	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	–
Jordan	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Kuwait	13	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Lebanon	35	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	–
Oman	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Qatar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Saudi Arabia	34	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	–
Syria	10	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Turkey	60	0.0%	0.0%	42	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
United Arab Emirates	40	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Yemen	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
South-East Asia, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mainland South-East Asia, nfd	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Myanmar	163	0.1%	0.0%	96	0.1%	
Cambodia	61	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	
Laos	272	0.2%	0.0%	291	0.2%	
Thailand	826	0.5%	0.2%	628	0.4%	
Vietnam	393	0.2%	0.2%	267	0.2%	
Maritime South-East Asia, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Brunei Darussalam	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Indonesia	429	0.3%	0.1%	312	0.2%	
Malaysia	329	0.2%	0.2%	306	0.2%	
Philippines	2,132	1.3%	0.9%	1,808	1.2%	
Singapore	162	0.1%	0.1%	128	0.1%	
Timor-Leste	95	0.1%	0.0%	76	0.0%	
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	875	0.5%	0.5%	787	0.5%	
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	271	0.2%	0.1%	225	0.1%	
Macau (SAR of China)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolia	5	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Taiwan	249	0.1%	0.1%	309	0.2%	
Japan	1,634	1.0%	0.3%	1,662	1.1%	
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Korea, Republic of (South)	713	0.4%	0.2%	897	0.6%	
Southern Asia, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bangladesh	32	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	
Bhutan	480	0.3%	0.0%	427	0.3%	
India	1,854	1.1%	0.8%	1,374	0.9%	
Maldives	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nepal	551	0.3%	0.2%	357	0.2%	
Pakistan	75	0.0%	0.1%	68	0.0%	
Sri Lanka	283	0.2%	0.1%	222	0.1%	
Afghanistan	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Armenia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Azerbaijan	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Georgia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kazakhstan	10	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tajikistan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkmenistan	–	–	–	–	–	
Uzbekistan	6	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Northern America, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bermuda	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Canada	537	0.3%	0.3%	523	0.3%	
United States of America	713	0.4%	0.4%	604	0.4%	
South America, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Argentina	130	0.1%	0.1%	35	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Bolivia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brazil	208	0.1%	0.3%	102	0.1%	
Chile	130	0.1%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Colombia	100	0.1%	0.1%	41	0.0%	
Ecuador	20	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Falkland Islands	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
French Guiana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Guyana	10	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Paraguay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Peru	39	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Suriname	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uruguay	29	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Venezuela	21	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Central America, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Belize	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Costa Rica	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
El Salvador	14	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Guatemala	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Honduras	14	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mexico	25	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Nicaragua	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Panama	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Caribbean, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Anguilla	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Antigua and Barbuda	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Aruba	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Bahamas	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Barbados	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Cayman Islands	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Cuba	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Dominica	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Dominican Republic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Grenada	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Haiti	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Jamaica	20	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Martinique	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Puerto Rico	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
St Kitts and Nevis	—	—	—	—	—	
St Lucia	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
St Vincent and the Grenadines	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Trinidad and Tobago	18	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Virgin Islands, British	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Virgin Islands, United States	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Curacao	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Central and West Africa, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Benin	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Burkina Faso	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Cameroon	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Central African Republic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chad	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congo, Republic of	33	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Congo, Democratic Republic of	112	0.1%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Cote d'Ivoire	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gambia	–	–	–	–	–	
Ghana	28	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Guinea	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Liberia	8	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Mali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niger	–	–	–	–	–	
Nigeria	36	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Senegal	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leone	28	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Togo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East Africa, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Angola	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Botswana	11	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Burundi	25	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Djibouti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eritrea	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopia	25	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Kenya	114	0.1%	0.0%	89	0.1%	
Lesotho	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Madagascar	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Malawi	13	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Mauritius	78	0.0%	0.0%	80	0.1%	
Mozambique	7	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Namibia	18	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Reunion	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Rwanda	33	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
St Helena	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Seychelles	54	0.0%	0.0%	54	0.0%	
Somalia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Africa	849	0.5%	0.9%	715	0.5%	
Eswatini	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tanzania	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Uganda	26	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Zambia	32	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Zimbabwe	220	0.1%	0.2%	204	0.1%	
Not stated	14,392	8.6%	7.3%	15,182	9.7%	
Total	166,917	100.0%	100.0%	156,835	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes countries of birth with fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.