

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

3 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Household income quartiles

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.
- Enumerated topics describe where people or dwellings were counted on Census night.

Household income quartiles

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, the medium-low household income quartile held the largest share among households with income in Cairns (R), accounting for 27.1%.

About this topic

Household income quartiles group households into four evenly sized income ranges so relative income position can be compared across places and across Census years. They provide a distribution view of household income rather than a simple count in fixed dollar brackets.

This topic is useful because raw household income amounts are influenced by inflation and broader economic shifts. Quartiles make it easier to see whether an area's households are concentrated toward lower, middle, or higher income positions over time.

Interpretation notes

- This is a derived distribution of total household income, so each quartile shows relative position rather than a fixed income bracket.

- It is useful for over-time comparison because quartile groupings are less distorted by inflation than raw dollar bands.

Household income quartiles

Cairns (R) – Households (Enumerated)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Lowest group	13,950	25.2%	27.9%	12,816	25.9%	28.0%	–	–
Medium lowest	14,976	27.1%	26.0%	13,122	26.5%	26.5%	–	–
Medium highest	14,381	26.0%	24.5%	12,881	26.0%	24.3%	–	–
Highest group	11,945	21.6%	21.6%	10,729	21.7%	21.2%	–	–
Total Households	55,252	100.0%	100.0%	49,548	100.0%	100.0%	–	–

Data basis: enumerated.