

# 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

**2 April 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Individual 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.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

# Individual income quartiles

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, the medium-high income quartile held the largest share among residents aged 15 and over in Cairns (R), accounting for 27.9%.

## About this topic

Individual income quartiles group people aged 15 years and over into four evenly sized income ranges so the distribution of personal income can be compared objectively across areas and over time. The quartile method focuses on relative position in the income distribution rather than raw dollar brackets.

This topic is useful because direct income amounts are affected by inflation and wider economic change. Quartiles provide a clearer way to compare whether an area is becoming relatively lower, middle, or higher income over time.

## Interpretation notes

- This is a derived distribution of personal income for people aged 15 years and over, with each quartile representing a quarter of the income distribution.
- Quartiles show relative position rather than fixed dollar brackets, which makes them more

## Individual income quartiles

Cairns (R) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Lowest group	27,208	22.5%	24.2%	23,409	21.2%	22.6%	+3,799	+1.3
Medium lowest	32,926	27.2%	28.9%	28,252	25.6%	28.7%	+4,674	+1.6
Medium highest	33,773	27.9%	25.5%	32,182	29.2%	26.1%	+1,591	-1.3
Highest group	27,164	22.4%	21.3%	26,538	24.0%	22.6%	+626	-1.6
<b>Total persons aged 15+</b>	<b>121,071</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>110,381</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+10,690</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Data basis: usual residence.