

# 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** Industry sector of employment

### 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.

# Industry sector of employment

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, Health Care And Social Assistance was the most common industry of employment among employed residents in Cairns (R), accounting for 18.1% (14,389 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (15.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Health Care And Social Assistance, which increased by 3,944 people and 3.7 percentage points.

## About this topic

Industry sector of employment shows the industry in which employed residents work, based on the main business activity of their employer. It describes the sectors residents are connected to through work, whether they work locally or commute elsewhere.

This topic helps explain the economic profile and skill base of a resident workforce. It is best read together with occupations, employment status, and travel to work, because it reflects resident employment rather than the number of jobs located in the area.

## Interpretation notes

- Industry describes the main business activity of the employer in a person's main job, not the occupation they perform.
- It applies to employed people aged 15 years and over and reflects resident workers, not the number of jobs located in the area.

## Industry sector of employment

Cairns (R) – Employed persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Agriculture Forestry And Fishing	1,262	1.6%	4.3%	1,175	1.6%	4.7%	+87	0.0
Mining	1,368	1.7%	3.5%	1,051	1.5%	3.5%	+317	+0.2
Manufacturing	2,877	3.6%	5.4%	2,700	3.7%	5.5%	+177	-0.1
Electricity Gas Water And Waste Services	863	1.1%	1.2%	663	0.9%	1.1%	+200	+0.2
Construction	6,903	8.7%	9.6%	5,901	8.1%	9.3%	+1,002	+0.6
Wholesale Trade	1,660	2.1%	2.1%	1,705	2.4%	2.3%	-45	-0.3
Retail Trade	7,706	9.7%	9.6%	7,690	10.6%	10.3%	+16	-0.9
Accommodation And Food Services	7,908	9.9%	8.0%	7,273	10.0%	8.2%	+635	-0.1
Transport Postal And Warehousing	4,487	5.6%	4.1%	4,590	6.3%	4.5%	-103	-0.7
Information Media And Telecommunications	454	0.6%	0.8%	591	0.8%	1.0%	-137	-0.2
Financial And Insurance Services	1,038	1.3%	1.8%	1,085	1.5%	1.9%	-47	-0.2

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regiona
Rental Hiring And Real Estate Services	1,351	1.7%	1.7%	1,456	2.0%	
Professional Scientific And Technical Services	3,745	4.7%	4.8%	3,392	4.7%	
Administrative And Support Services	2,888	3.6%	3.3%	3,099	4.3%	
Public Administration And Safety	5,852	7.3%	5.6%	5,796	8.0%	
Education And Training	7,056	8.9%	8.7%	6,503	9.0%	
Health Care And Social Assistance	14,389	18.1%	15.4%	10,445	14.4%	
Arts And Recreation Services	1,249	1.6%	1.6%	1,440	2.0%	
Other Services	3,622	4.5%	4.1%	3,050	4.2%	
Inadequately Described Not Stated	2,978	3.7%	4.4%	2,830	3.9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,649</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>72,405</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data basis: usual residence.