

# 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

**27 March 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Occupation 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.

# Occupation of employment

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, Professionals was the most common occupation group among employed residents in Cairns (R), accounting for 20.4% (16,235 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (18%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Professionals, which increased by 2,303 people and 1.2 percentage points.

## About this topic

Occupation of employment classifies employed residents by the kind of work they do in their main job. It describes the roles, skills, and tasks people perform rather than the industry they work in.

This topic is useful for understanding the skill profile and socio-economic characteristics of the resident workforce. It is best interpreted with qualifications, individual income, and industry sector of employment.

## Interpretation notes

- Occupation classifies the kind of work done in a person's main job, not the employer's industry.
- It applies to employed people aged 15 years and over, so it should be read with employment status when assessing labour market conditions.

## Occupation of employment

Cairns (R) – Employed persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Total Occupation Managers	8,814	11.1%	12.4%	7,928	10.9%	12.4%	+886	+0.2
Total Occupation Professionals	16,235	20.4%	18.0%	13,932	19.2%	16.7%	+2,303	+1.2
Total Occupation Technicians And Trades Workers	11,931	15.0%	15.1%	10,827	15.0%	15.7%	+1,104	0.0
Total Occupation Community And Personal Service Workers	11,887	14.9%	13.0%	9,952	13.7%	11.8%	+1,935	+1.2
Total Occupation Clerical And Administrative Workers	9,531	12.0%	11.8%	9,542	13.2%	12.5%	-11	-1.2
Total Occupation Sales Workers	7,525	9.4%	9.1%	7,770	10.7%	10.2%	-245	-1.3
Total Occupation Machinery Operators And Drivers	4,478	5.6%	7.3%	4,085	5.6%	7.6%	+393	0.0
Total Occupation Labourers	7,874	9.9%	11.2%	7,136	9.9%	11.6%	+738	0.0
Total Occupation Inadequately Described Not Stated	1,366	1.7%	2.0%	1,232	1.7%	1.6%	+134	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
<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.