

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 Method of travel to work

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.

Method of travel to work

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, car driver was the most common travel method among employed residents in Cairns (R), accounting for 58.1% (46,270 people). This share was lower than Regional Qld (64.2%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in working from home, which increased by 6,567 people and 7.9 percentage points.

About this topic

Method of travel to work shows how employed residents usually got to work on Census day, including private vehicle, public transport, active travel, and working from home. It provides a snapshot of commuting behaviour rather than the full transport system.

This topic supports transport and infrastructure planning and helps show how residents access employment. The 2021 results need caution because many parts of Australia were affected by COVID-19 lockdowns, which increased working from home and reduced some other travel modes.

Interpretation notes

- Method of travel to work captures the journey to work on Census day, not a person's usual weekly travel pattern.
- It applies only to employed people and is most useful with place of work or car ownership when considering transport access.
- The 2021 Census occurred during COVID-19 restrictions in many places, so work-from-home and some travel modes need caution in trend comparisons.

Method of travel to work

Cairns (R) – Employed persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Train	38	0.0%	0.4%	56	0.1%	0.6%	-18	-0.1
Bus	1,024	1.3%	1.1%	1,507	2.1%	1.7%	-483	-0.8
Tram	3	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	0.2%	-3	0.0
Ferry	36	0.0%	0.0%	58	0.1%	0.1%	-22	-0.1
Taxi/ride-share	215	0.3%	0.2%	218	0.3%	0.2%	-3	0.0
Car – as driver	46,270	58.1%	64.2%	49,455	68.3%	67.0%	-3,185	-10.2
Car – as passenger	3,972	5.0%	4.9%	4,423	6.1%	5.5%	-451	-1.1
Truck	460	0.6%	0.8%	511	0.7%	1.0%	-51	-0.1
Motorbike	504	0.6%	0.6%	675	0.9%	0.8%	-171	-0.3
Bicycle	905	1.1%	0.7%	1,357	1.9%	0.9%	-452	-0.8
Walked only	1,989	2.5%	3.0%	2,398	3.3%	3.7%	-409	-0.8
Other	1,419	1.8%	1.5%	1,455	2.0%	1.7%	-36	-0.2

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Worked at home	9,375	11.8%	10.6%	2,808	3.9%	
Did not go to work	13,052	16.4%	11.2%	6,771	9.4%	
Not stated	393	0.5%	0.6%	713	1.0%	
Total employed persons aged 15+	79,655	100.0%	100.0%	72,411	100.0%	100.0%

Data basis: usual residence.