

Community report

Central Desert (R)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

Central Desert (R)

COMPARISON

Regional NT

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

31 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Employment status

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.

Employment status

Central Desert (R) | Regional NT comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, Employed was the most common category among residents aged 15 and over in Central Desert (R), accounting for 82% (744 people). This share was lower than Regional NT (91.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Unemployed (Unemployment rate), which decreased by 371 people and 21.8 percentage points.

About this topic

Employment status shows whether people aged 15 years and over are employed full-time or part-time, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It is one of the main Census indicators of labour market participation and economic engagement.

This topic is useful for understanding workforce participation, unemployment, and the broader socio-economic profile of an area. Results from 2021 should be read carefully because COVID-19 restrictions increased the number of people who were employed but away from work around Census time.

Interpretation notes

- Labour force status is based on the week before Census night for people aged 15 years and over.

- In 2021, lockdown instructions could shift more people into 'employed, away from work', so over-time comparisons need care.

- The 'away from work' group also includes people who reported having a job but did not state hours worked.

Labour force status

Central Desert (R) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	pp
Employed	744	82.0%	91.1%	792	59.2%	88.1%	-48	+22.8
Employed full-time	465	51.3%	63.3%	501	37.5%	62.4%	-36	+13.8
Employed part-time	194	21.4%	20.6%	215	16.1%	18.9%	-21	+5.3
Employed, away from work	78	8.6%	7.2%	76	5.7%	6.8%	+2	+2.9
Unemployed (Unemployment rate)	167	18.4%	8.9%	538	40.2%	11.9%	-371	-21.8
Looking for full-time work	148	16.3%	6.2%	487	36.4%	9.2%	-339	-20.1
Looking for part-time work	21	2.3%	2.7%	53	4.0%	2.7%	-32	-1.7
Total labour force	907	100.0%	100.0%	1,337	100.0%	100.0%	-430	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.