

# Community report

## Lake Macquarie (C)

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

AREA

**Lake Macquarie (C)**

COMPARISON

**Regional NSW**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**4 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

Lake Macquarie (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, car driver was the most common travel method among employed residents in Lake Macquarie (C), accounting for 56% (54,550 people). This share was lower than Regional NSW (60.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in working from home, which increased by 16,604 people and 16.6 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

Lake Macquarie (C) – Employed persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Train	286	0.3%	0.2%	957	1.1%	0.9%	-671	-0.8
Bus	564	0.6%	0.6%	965	1.1%	0.9%	-401	-0.5
Tram	5	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	0.0%	-2	0.0
Ferry	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	+1	0.0
Taxi/ride-share	60	0.1%	0.1%	62	0.1%	0.1%	-2	0.0
Car – as driver	54,550	56.0%	60.3%	62,129	72.9%	68.4%	-7,579	-16.9
Car – as passenger	3,309	3.4%	4.2%	3,758	4.4%	5.0%	-449	-1.0
Truck	797	0.8%	1.0%	898	1.1%	1.2%	-101	-0.3
Motorbike	392	0.4%	0.4%	519	0.6%	0.6%	-127	-0.2
Bicycle	229	0.2%	0.4%	335	0.4%	0.6%	-106	-0.2
Walked only	1,059	1.1%	2.9%	1,219	1.4%	3.5%	-160	-0.3
Other	712	0.7%	1.0%	812	1.0%	1.3%	-100	-0.3

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Worked at home	19,933	20.5%	15.7%	3,329	3.9%	
Did not go to work	15,133	15.5%	12.5%	9,577	11.2%	
Not stated	367	0.4%	0.6%	686	0.8%	
<b>Total employed persons aged 15+</b>	<b>97,401</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>85,257</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data basis: usual residence.