

Community report

Port Stephens (A)

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

AREA

Port Stephens (A)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

2 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

Port Stephens (A) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, car driver was the most common travel method among employed residents in Port Stephens (A), accounting for 56% (17,361 people). This share was lower than Regional NSW (60.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in working from home, which increased by 4,294 people and 13.3 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

Port Stephens (A) – Employed persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Train	14	0.0%	0.2%	78	0.3%	0.9%	-64	-0.3
Bus	168	0.5%	0.6%	272	1.0%	0.9%	-104	-0.5
Tram	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Ferry	3	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.1%	0.0%	-12	-0.1
Taxi/ride-share	14	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.1%	0.1%	-4	-0.1
Car – as driver	17,361	56.0%	60.3%	19,479	70.6%	68.4%	-2,118	-14.6
Car – as passenger	1,098	3.5%	4.2%	1,254	4.5%	5.0%	-156	-1.0
Truck	319	1.0%	1.0%	321	1.2%	1.2%	-2	-0.2
Motorbike	87	0.3%	0.4%	161	0.6%	0.6%	-74	-0.3
Bicycle	74	0.2%	0.4%	112	0.4%	0.6%	-38	-0.2
Walked only	557	1.8%	2.9%	685	2.5%	3.5%	-128	-0.7
Other	302	1.0%	1.0%	377	1.4%	1.3%	-75	-0.4

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Worked at home	5,614	18.1%	15.7%	1,320	4.8%	
Did not go to work	5,181	16.7%	12.5%	3,197	11.6%	
Not stated	194	0.6%	0.6%	310	1.1%	
Total employed persons aged 15+	30,989	100.0%	100.0%	27,603	100.0%	100.0%

Data basis: usual residence.