

# Regional labour force – Cairns SA4, May 2025

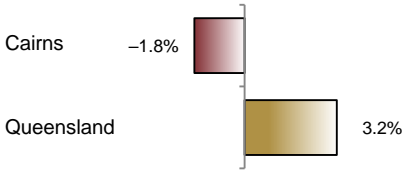
Source: ABS, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, released 26 June 2025, 11:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status Cairns SA4

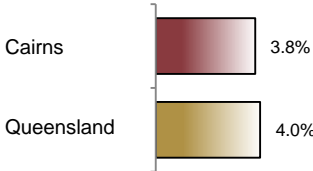
	Year ending			Annual change	
	May 24	Apr 25	May 25	persons	%
	— persons —			persons	%
Total employed	141,800	139,700	139,300	-2,500	-1.8
Total unemployed	5,000	5,300	5,400	500	9.1
Total labour force	146,800	145,000	144,800	-2,000	-1.4
Not in the labour force	71,600	76,600	77,100	5,500	7.7
Total persons 15+	218,400	221,600	221,900	3,500	1.6
Participation rate (%)	67.2	65.4	65.3	..	-2.0 (a)
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	3.7	3.8	..	0.4 (a)

(a) Percentage point change.

Employment growth, annual



Unemployment rate



## Key data

Employment (annual change) ..... ↓ 1.8%  
Unemployment rate ..... 3.8%  
Unemployment rate (annual change) ..... ↑ 0.4 ppt  
Participation rate ..... 65.3%

## Main findings

Note: Due to the high standard errors associated with regional labour force direct survey estimates, the ABS and QGSO recommend using 12-month averages to reduce the volatility of the underlying original data.  
All data in this brief are based on 12-month moving averages of direct survey estimates.

The ABS has imputed sample responses in Townsville SA4 for February 2025, March 2025 and April 2025 and Moreton Bay - North SA4 for March 2025 due to recent natural disasters. The ABS recommends caution when using data from these impacted regions for analysis.

- The number of employed persons in Cairns SA4 in May 2025 was 139,300 persons, a decrease of 2,500 employed persons, or 1.8% over the year (Figure 1).
- The unemployment rate in Cairns SA4 in May 2025 was 3.8%, an increase of 0.4 percentage point over the year. The unemployment rate for this area was the ninth-lowest of all 19 SA4s within Queensland (Figure 2).
- The participation rate in Cairns SA4 in May 2025 was 65.3%, a decrease of 2.0 percentage points over the year (Table 1).

Figure 1 Annual change in employment, Cairns SA4

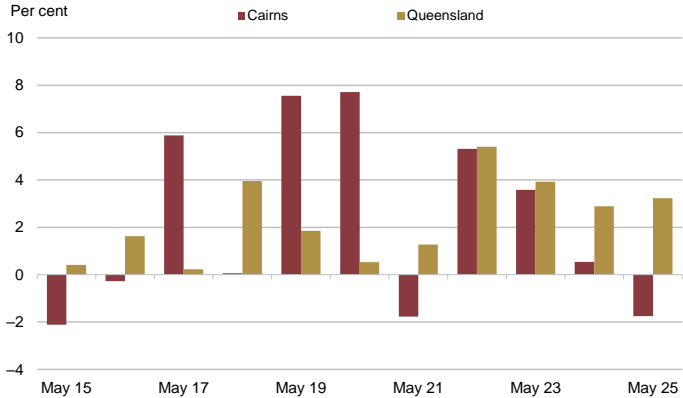
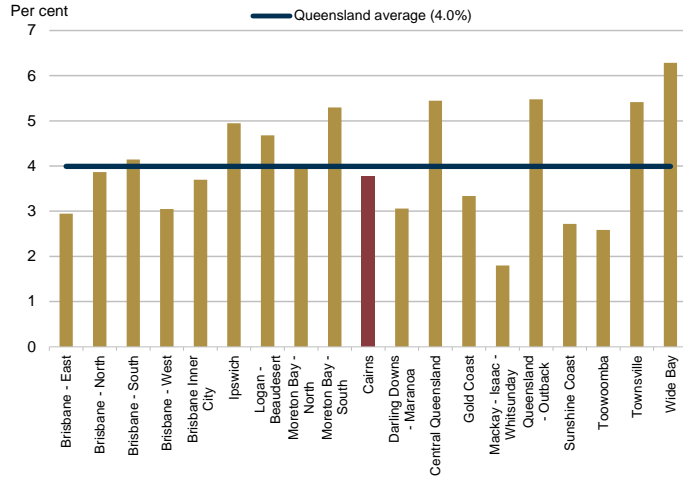


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, May 2025



SA4 = Statistical Area Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)  
Notes (refer to website for more detailed notes):  
Data for Queensland as a whole are provided for reference purposes only.  
The labour force statistics presented in this brief are on a sample basis and will include a sampling error.  
Totals may differ due to rounding. Figures are rounded to nearest 100 persons. Calculations are based on pre-rounded figures.

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