

# Modelled regional labour force – Cairns SA4, December 2025

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, released 29 January 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

**Table 1 Labour force status, Cairns SA4**

	Year ending			Annual change	
	Dec 24	Nov 25	Dec 25		
	— persons —			persons	%
Total employed	143,200	145,100	145,100	1,900	1.3
Total unemployed	6,800	7,000	7,000	200	3.7
Total labour force	150,000	152,100	152,100	2,100	1.4
Not in the labour force	70,600	71,500	71,700	1,100	1.6
Total persons 15+	220,600	223,600	223,800	3,200	1.5
Participation rate (%)	68.0	68.0	68.0	..	-0.0 (a)
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	4.6	4.6	..	0.1 (a)

(a) Percentage point change.

## Key data

Employment (annual change).....↑ 1.3%

Unemployment rate ..... 4.6%

Unemployment rate (annual change).....↑ 0.1 ppt

Participation rate ..... 68.0%

## Main findings

Note: All data in this brief are based on 12-month moving averages of modelled estimates due to seasonal variation and noise associated with regional labour force modelled estimates. The modelled regional labour force estimates enhance the direct survey estimates of regional labour market data using administrative data and statistical modelling.

- The number of employed persons in Cairns SA4 in December 2025 was 145,100 persons, an increase of 1,900 employed persons, or 1.3% over the year (Table 1).
- The unemployment rate in Cairns SA4 in December 2025 was 4.6%, higher than the Queensland average of 4.1% (Figure 1). The unemployment rate for this area was the seventh-highest of all 19 SA4s within Queensland (Figure 2).
- The participation rate in Cairns SA4 in December 2025 was 68.0%, unchanged over the year (Table 1).

SA4 = Statistical Area Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)

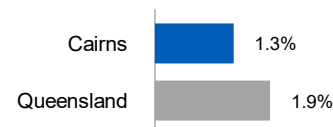
Participation rate refers to the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

Notes (refer to website for more detailed notes):

Data for Queensland are provided for reference purposes only.

Totals may differ due to rounding. Figures are rounded to nearest 100 persons. Calculations are based on pre-rounded figures.

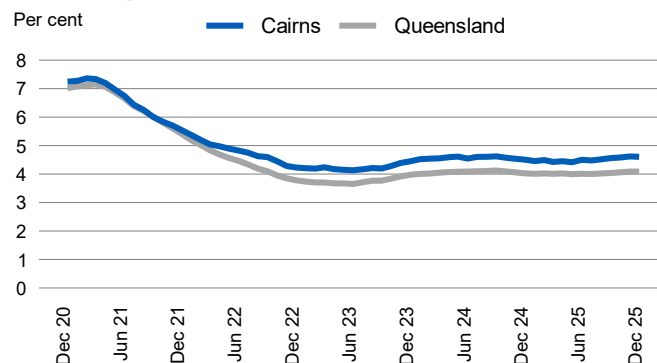
**Employment growth, annual**



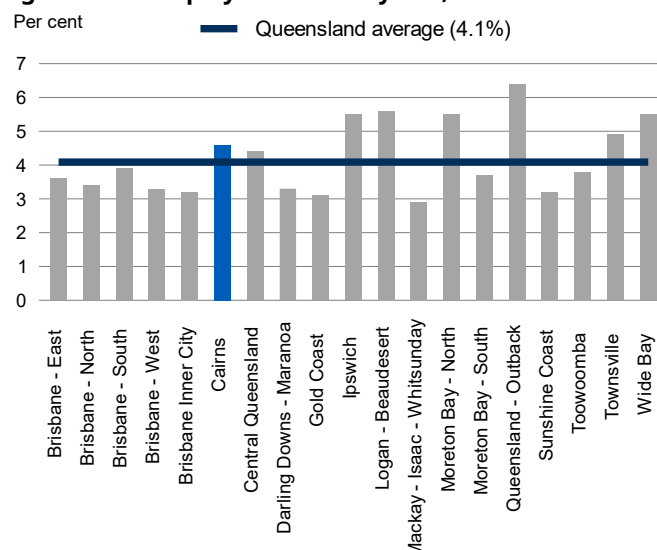
**Unemployment rate**



**Figure 1 Unemployment rate, Cairns SA4 and Queensland**



**Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, December 2025**



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