

# Modelled regional labour force – Cairns SA4, January 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, released 26 February 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

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

	Year ending			Annual change	
	Jan 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	persons	%
	— persons —				
Total employed	143,100	144,300	144,400	1,400	0.9
Total unemployed	6,700	7,000	7,000	300	5.1
Total labour force	149,800	151,300	151,500	1,700	1.1
Not in the labour force	71,100	72,500	72,600	1,500	2.1
Total persons 15+	220,900	223,800	224,100	3,200	1.4
Participation rate (%)	67.8	67.6	67.6	..	-0.2 (a)
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	4.6	4.6	..	0.2 (a)

(a) Percentage point change.

## Key data

Employment (annual change).....↑ 0.9%  
 Unemployment rate ..... 4.6%  
 Unemployment rate (annual change).....↑ 0.2 ppt  
 Participation rate ..... 67.6%

## 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 January 2026 was 144,400 persons, an increase of 1,400 employed persons, or 0.9% over the year (Table 1).
- The unemployment rate in Cairns SA4 in January 2026 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 January 2026 was 67.6%, a decrease of 0.2 of a percentage point 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.

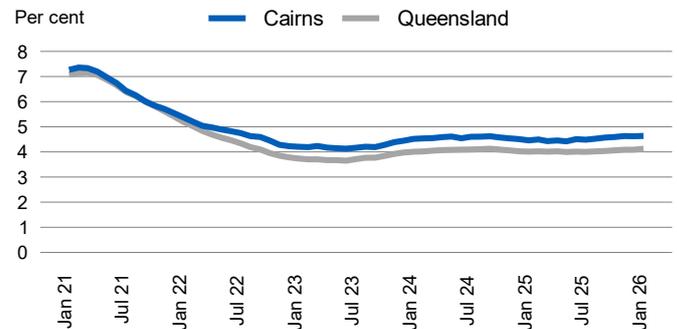
**Employment growth, annual**



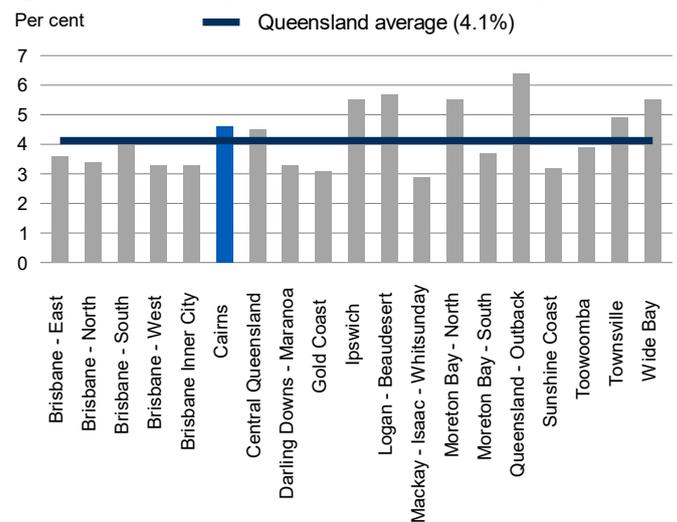
**Unemployment rate**



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



**Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, January 2026**



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