

# Modelled regional labour force – Central Queensland 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, Central Queensland SA4**

	Year ending			Annual change	
	Jan 25	Dec 25	Jan 26		
	— persons —			persons	%
Total employed	128,300	129,800	129,900	1,600	1.2
Total unemployed	6,000	6,100	6,200	100	2.2
Total labour force	134,400	135,900	136,100	1,700	1.3
Not in the labour force	58,200	59,100	59,100	1,000	1.7
Total persons 15+	192,500	195,000	195,200	2,700	1.4
Participation rate (%)	69.8	69.7	69.7	..	-0.1 (a)
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	4.5	4.5	..	0.0 (a)

(a) Percentage point change.

## Key data

Employment (annual change) ..... ↑ 1.2%

Unemployment rate ..... 4.5%

Unemployment rate (annual change) ..... 0.0 ppt

Participation rate ..... 69.7%

## 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 Central Queensland SA4 in January 2026 was 129,900 persons, an increase of 1,600 employed persons, or 1.2% over the year (Table 1).
- The unemployment rate in Central Queensland SA4 in January 2026 was 4.5%, higher than the Queensland average of 4.1% (Figure 1). The unemployment rate for this area was the eighth-highest of all 19 SA4s within Queensland (Figure 2).
- The participation rate in Central Queensland SA4 in January 2026 was 69.7%, a decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point over the year (Table 1).

SA4 = Statistical Area Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)

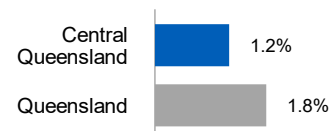
Participation rate refers to the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

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.

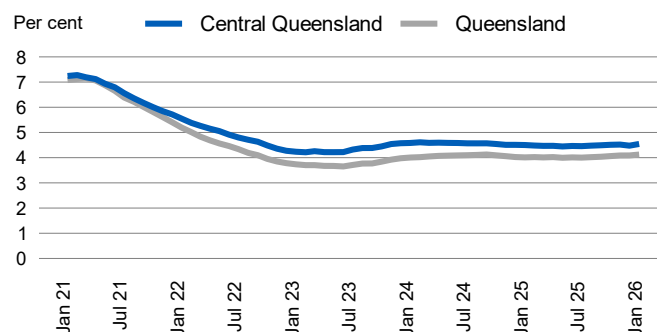
**Employment growth, annual**



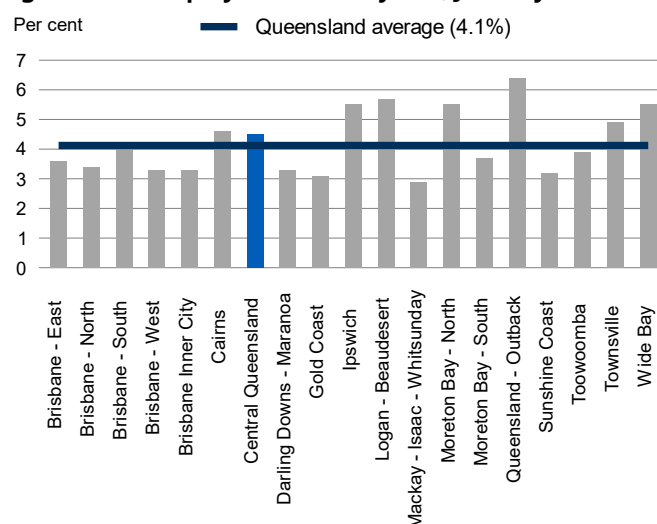
**Unemployment rate**



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



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



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