

# Modelled regional labour force – Cairns SA4, July 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force, Australia*, released 20 August 2026, 11:30 am (AEST)

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

|                         | Year ending |         |         | Annual change |          |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------|----------|
|                         | Jul 25      | Jun 26  | Jul 26  |               |          |
|                         | — persons — |         |         | persons       | %        |
| Total employed          | 143,400     | 144,300 | 144,500 | 1,100         | 0.8      |
| Total unemployed        | 6,800       | 7,000   | 7,000   | 300           | 3.7      |
| Total labour force      | 150,200     | 151,400 | 151,600 | 1,400         | 0.9      |
| Not in the labour force | 72,300      | 73,800  | 73,800  | 1,500         | 2.1      |
| Total persons 15+       | 222,500     | 225,100 | 225,400 | 2,900         | 1.3      |
| Participation rate (%)  | 67.5        | 67.2    | 67.2    | ..            | -0.3 (a) |
| Unemployment rate (%)   | 4.5         | 4.6     | 4.6     | ..            | 0.1 (a)  |

(a) Percentage point change.

## Key data

Employment (annual change) ..... ↑ 0.8%

Unemployment rate ..... 4.6%

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

Participation rate ..... 67.2%

## 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 July 2026 was 144,500 persons, an increase of 1,100 employed persons, or 0.8% over the year (Table 1).
- The unemployment rate in Cairns SA4 in July 2026 was 4.6%, higher than the Queensland average of 4.2% (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 July 2026 was 67.2%, a decrease of 0.3 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.

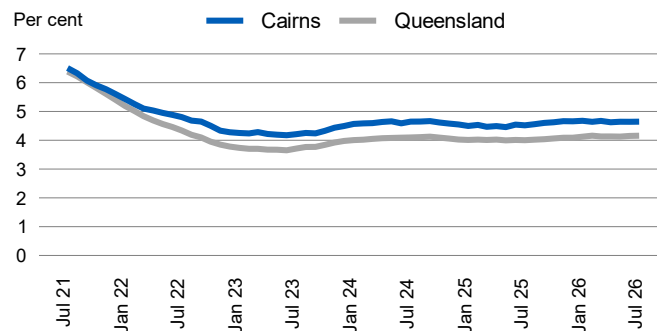
**Employment growth, annual**



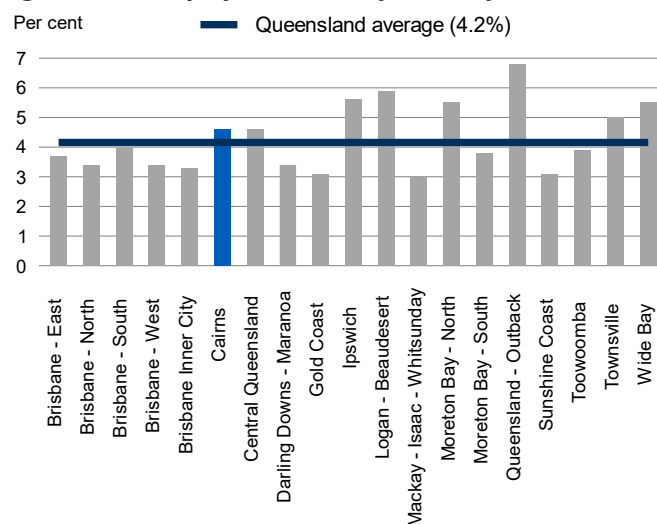
**Unemployment rate**



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



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



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