Modelled regional labour force – Cairns SA4, October 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Labour Force,* released 26 November 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status, Cairns SA4

	Year ending			Annual change	
	Oct 25	Sep 26	Oct 26		
	— persons —			persons	%
Total employed	143,200	144,300	144,300	1,100	0.8
Total unemployed	7,000	7,100	7,200	200	3.5
Total labour force	150,200	151,400	151,500	1,300	0.9
Not in the labour force	73,000	74,400	74,500	1,500	2.1
Total persons 15+	223,200	225,800	226,000	2,800	1.3
Participation rate (%)	67.3	67.0	67.0	..	–0.3 (a)
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	4.7	4.8	..	0.1 (a)

(a) Percentage point change.

Employment growth, annual



Unemployment rate



Key data

Employment (annual change).....↑ 0.8%

Unemployment rate 4.8%

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

Participation rate 67.0%

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 October 2026 was 144,300 persons, an increase of 1,100 employed persons, or 0.8% over the year (Table 1).
- The unemployment rate in Cairns SA4 in October 2026 was 4.8%, 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 October 2026 was 67.0%, 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.

Figure 1 Unemployment rate, Cairns SA4 and Queensland

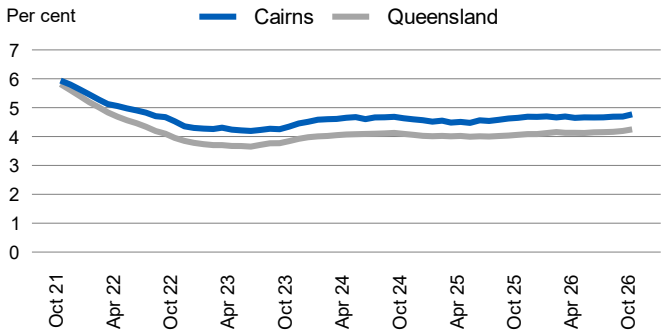
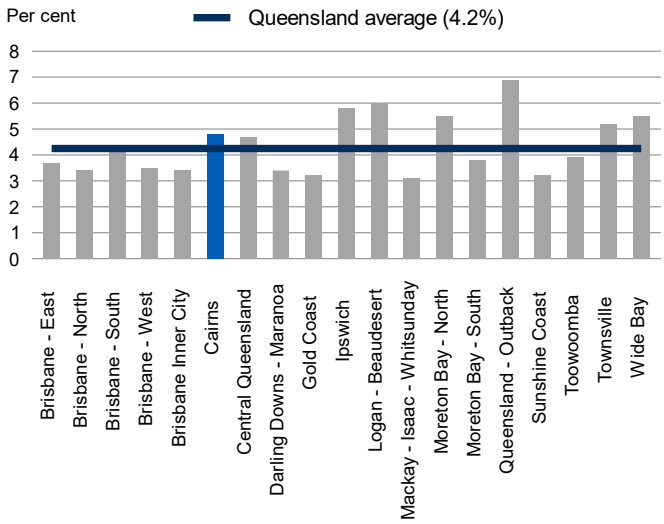


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, October 2026



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