

Labour Market Dashboard

Data current as at 24 September 2026

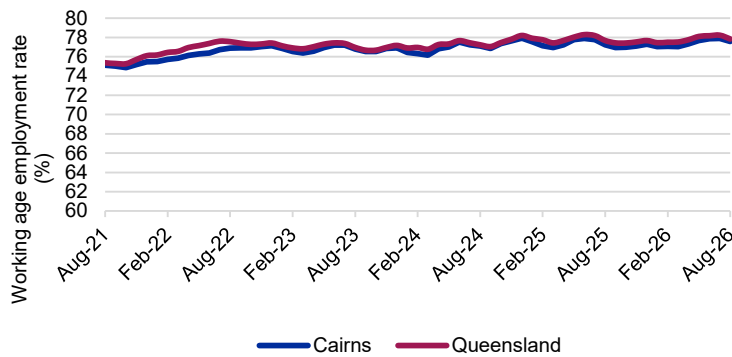
Refer to source notes for data reference periods

This **Labour Market Dashboard** provides key indicators for the labour market by Employment Region and is updated monthly.

Labour market summary table											
	Working age employment rate		Unemployment			Unemployment rate		Working age participation rate		Youth unemployment rate	
	Aug-26 (%)	Aug-25 (%)	Aug-26 ('000)	Aug-25 ('000)	Change (%)	Aug-26 (%)	Aug-25 (%)	Aug-26 (%)	Aug-25 (%)	Aug-26 (%)	Aug-25 (%)
Cairns	77.6	77.2	7.5	7.3	3.0	4.9	4.8	81.7	81.3	11.4	10.9
Queensland	77.8	77.7	143.3	134.3	6.6	4.5	4.3	81.4	81.1	9.7	9.3
Australia	77.1	77.1	722.9	642.9	12.4	4.6	4.2	81.0	80.6	10.8	9.7

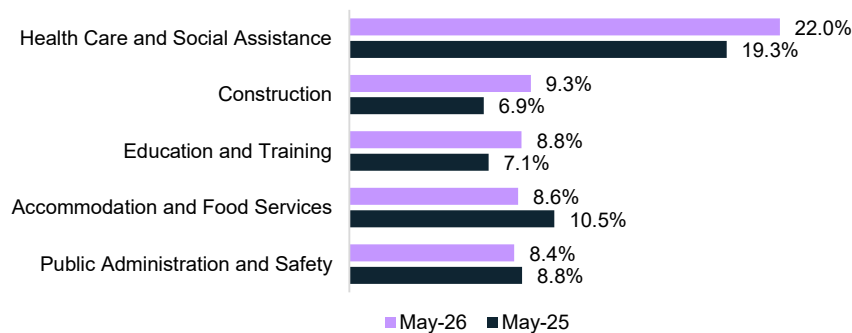
National data are from the ABS Labour Force Survey (seasonally adjusted). State & Territory and Employment Region data are based on ABS Labour Force Survey MLF1 (3-month average) estimates August -26, except youth unemployment rates, which use 12-month average of MLF1 estimates. State and Territory unemployment and unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted.

Working age employment rate (%)



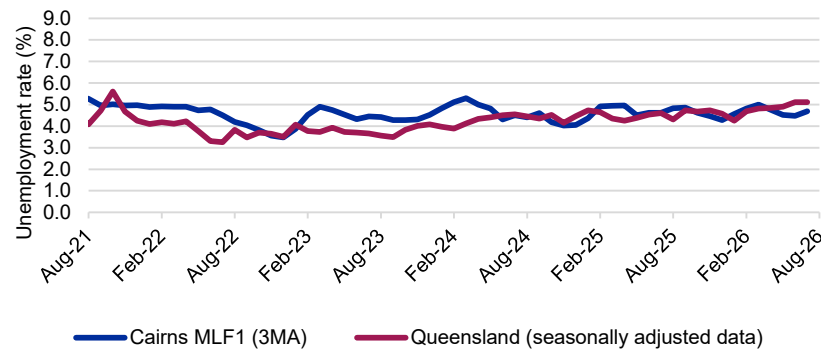
Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, MLF1, (3MA), August 2026

Largest employing industries



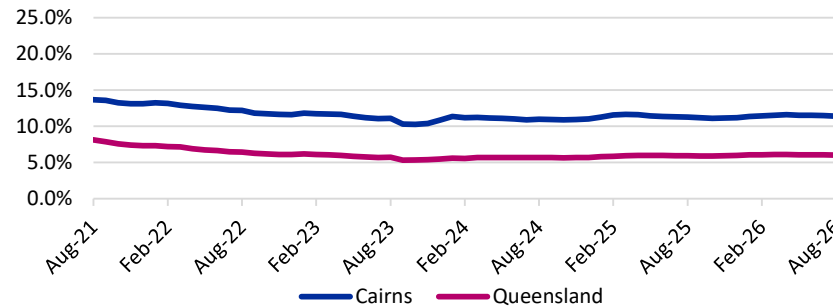
Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, 4 quarter averages, May-26 quarter

Unemployment rate



Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, seasonally adjusted data, MLF1, (3MA), August 2026

JobSeeker income support payments



Change in JobSeeker income support payments

	Cairns	Queensland
Payments - August 2025	19,575	217,410
Payments - August 2026	19,850	224,305
Change from August 2025 to August 2026	275	6,895
	1.4%	3.2%

% of 15-64 year olds on JobSeeker income support payments

	total persons on JobSeeker income support	% of 15-64 year olds on JobSeeker income support
Cairns	19,850	11.4%
Queensland	224,305	6.0%
Australia	1,033,140	5.7%

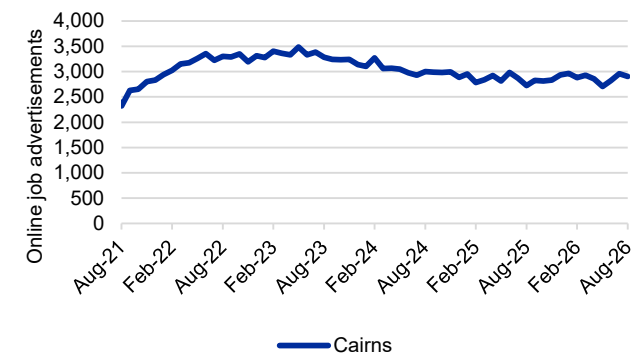
Source: Department of Social Services, JobSeeker income support payment recipients, August 2026; ABS, Labour Force Survey, MLF1 (3MA) August 2026

LGAs with highest unemployment rates (%)

Local Government Area (LGA)	Mar-26	Mar-25
Yarrabah*	74.5	42.7
Mareeba	7.5	4.8
Cassowary Coast	7.1	4.2
Tablelands	6.0	3.5
Douglas	5.1	3.2

Note: * data should be used with caution due to the small size of the labour force. For more insights, access SALM data via DEWR Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Small Area Labour Markets, smoothed data, March-26 quarter

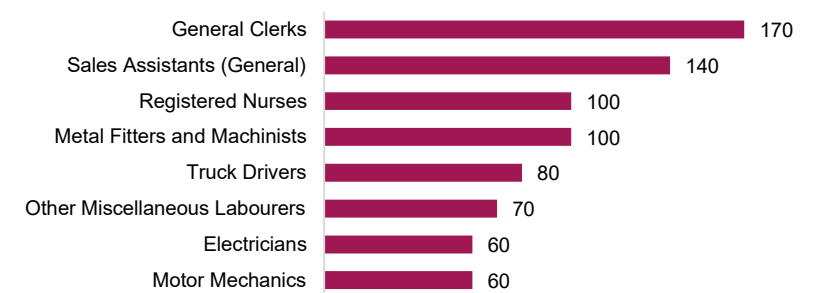
Online job advertisements



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, August 2026

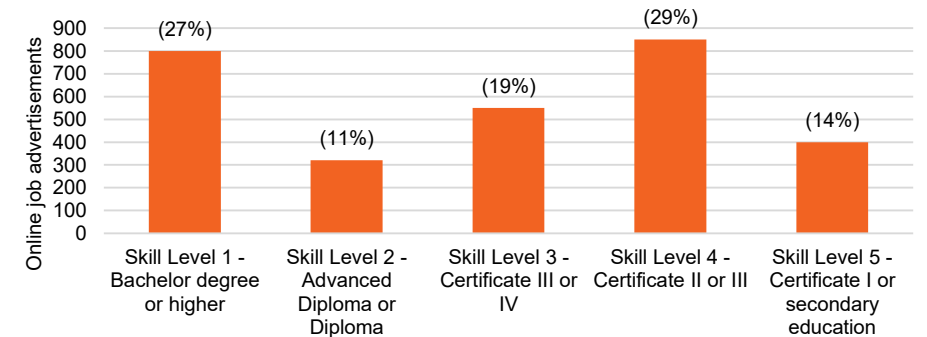
Number of job ads
2,900
Change over the month
-1.8%
(200 job advertisements)
Annual change
6.6%
(-100 job advertisements)

Online job advertisements by occupation



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, original data (3MA), August 2026

Online job advertisements by skill level



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, August 2026

Note: Employment Region data are not directly available. Employment Regions were derived from ABS Labour Force and JobSeeker Income support payments are aggregated and apportioned using a SA4 to ER concordance. Working age population refers to those aged 15-64 years and youth age population refers to those aged 15-24 years. For enquiries related to this dashboard, contact RegionalWorkforceAssessment@jobsandskills.gov.au.