Australian Government | Jobs and Skills Australia

# Cairns
## Employment Region
Queensland

# Labour Market Dashboard

**Data current as at 15 October 2026**

**Refer to source notes for data reference periods**

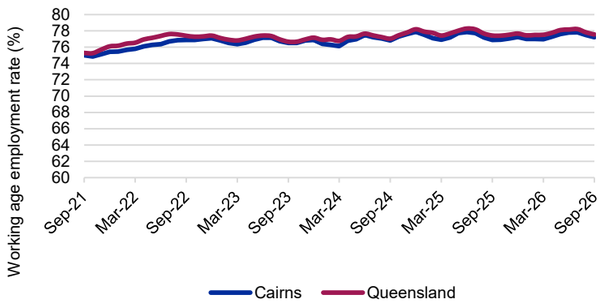
This **Labour Market Dashboard** provides key indicators for the labour market by Employment Region and is updated monthly.

## Labour market summary table

| | Working age employment rate | | Unemployment | | | Unemployment rate | | Working age participation rate | | Youth unemployment rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sep-26 (%) | Sep-25 (%) | Sep-26 ('000) | Sep-25 ('000) | Change (%) | Sep-26 (%) | Sep-25 (%) | Sep-26 (%) | Sep-25 (%) | Sep-26 (%) | Sep-25 (%) |
| Cairns | 77.2 | 76.9 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 81.4 | 81.0 | 11.4 | 11.2 |
| Queensland | 77.6 | 77.4 | 144.4 | 130.6 | 10.5 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 81.2 | 80.9 | 9.8 | 9.3 |
| Australia | 76.6 | 77.1 | 732.0 | 676.8 | 8.2 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 80.5 | 80.7 | 11.1 | 10.5 |

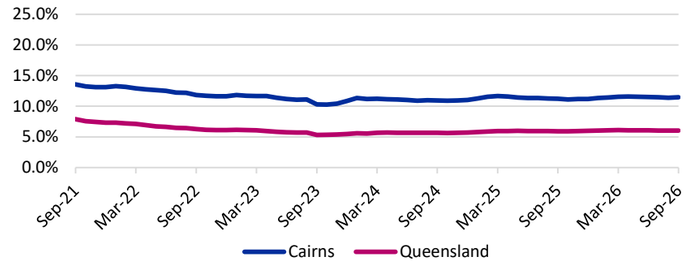
National data are from the ABS Labour Force Survey (seasonally adjusted). State & Territory and Employment Region data are based on ABS Labour Force Survey MLF1 (3-month average) estimates September -26, except youth unemployment rates, which use 12-month average of MLF1 estimates. State and Territory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

## Working age employment rate (%)




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

## JobSeeker income support payments




## Change in JobSeeker income support payments

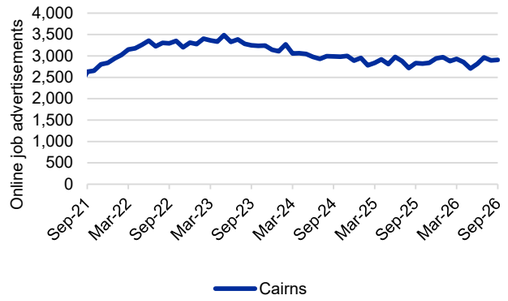
| | Cairns | Queensland |
|---|---|---|
| Payments - September 2025 | 19,515 | 216,970 |
| Payments - September 2026 | 19,900 | 223,990 |
| Change from September 2025 to September 2026 | ↑ 385 | ↑ 7,020 |
| | ↑ 2.0% | ↑ 3.2% |

## % 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 | 19,900 | 11.5% |
| Queensland | 223,990 | 6.0% |
| Australia | 1,032,535 | 5.7% |

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

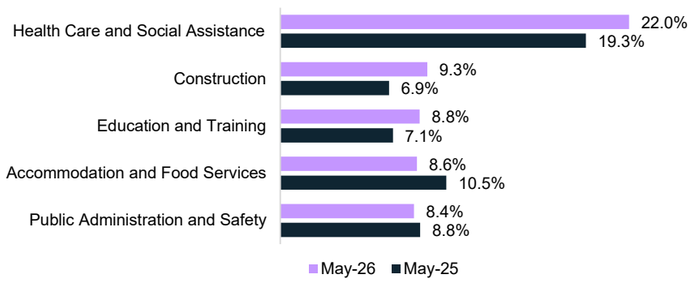
## Online job advertisements




**Number of job ads**
2,900
**Change over the month**
0.3%
(100 job advertisements)
**Annual change**
2.6%
( job advertisements)

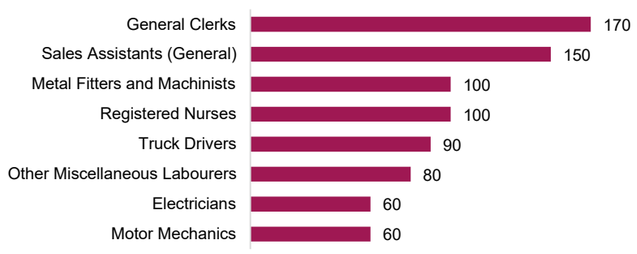
Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, September 2026

## Largest employing industries



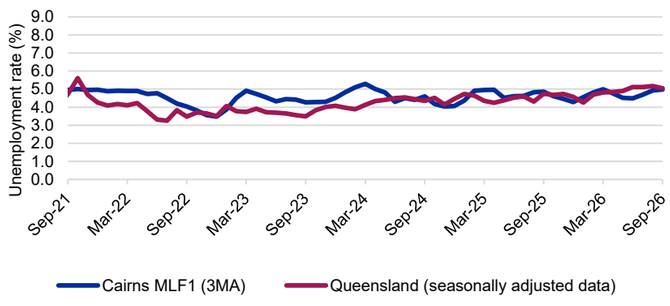

Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, 4 quarter averages, May-26 quarter

## Online job advertisements by occupation




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

## Unemployment rate



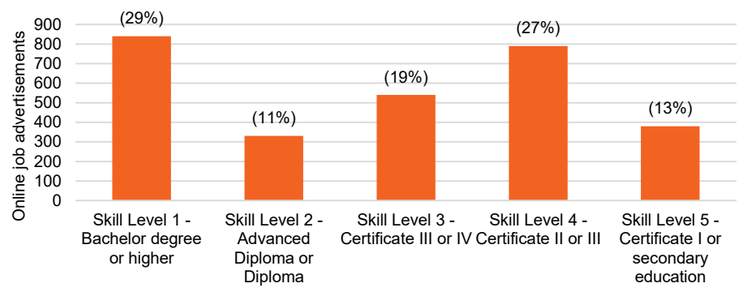

Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, seasonally adjusted data, MLF1, (3MA), September 2026

## LGAs with highest unemployment rates (%)

| Local Government Area (LGA) | Jun-26 | Jun-25 |
|---|---|---|
| Yarrabah* | 71.3 | 54.2 |
| Mareeba | 7.1 | 5.8 |
| Cassowary Coast | 6.7 | 5.4 |
| Tablelands | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| Douglas | 4.6 | 4.0 |

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: Deparment of Employment and Workplace Relations Small Area Labour Markets, smoothed data, June-26 quarter

## Online job advertisements by skill level




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

Note: Employment Region data are not directly available. Employment Regions were derived from ABS Labour Force and JobSeeker Income support payments are aggreagated 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.