

Mackay/Whitsunday Region Profile



Population: 163,060

Local Councils:

- » Isaac Regional Council
- » Mackay Regional Council
- » Whitsunday Regional Council

Estimated population

- As at 30 June 2007, the estimated population of the region was 163,060, representing 3.9% of the state's population.

Age profiles

- In June 2007, 21.2% of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 69.2% were aged 15 to 64 years and 9.6% were aged 65 years and over.

Urban centres and localities*

- The region comprises 36 urban centres and localities.
- Mackay had the largest population at 30 June 2007, with 72,449 persons.
- Moranbah had the highest population density in the region, with 945.0 persons per square kilometre.

*An urban centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people while a locality is a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people (Source: www.oesr.qld.gov.au).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

- At the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the region had 5,481 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- This represents 3.6% of the region's total population.

Overseas-born persons

- At the 2006 Census, 14,719 persons were born overseas (9.8% of the total population).
- 120,991 persons were Australian-born (80.6% of the total population).
- Mackay had the largest number of overseas-born persons (9,417), followed by Whitsunday (3,832).

Proficiency in spoken English

- At the 2006 Census, 3,205 persons born overseas stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (21.8% of the overseas-born population).
- Of these persons, 368 stated that they spoke English not well or, not at all.

One-parent families

- At the 2006 Census, there were 4,822 one-parent families in the region, representing 12.5% of all families.

School students

- In the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, there were 27,860 school students in the region.
- Mackay had the largest number of school students (19,546), followed by Whitsunday with 4,727 school students.

Post-school qualifications

- At the 2006 Census, there were 57,037 persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification.
- This represents 48.6% of the population in this age group, which was lower than that for Queensland (50.4%).

Unemployment rate and labour force

- At the 2006 Census, the region had 2,653 unemployed persons, representing an unemployment rate of 3.5%.
- The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7%.
- Within the region, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Mackay (3.8%), followed by Whitsunday (3.7%).

Building approvals

- In the 12 months ending 30 September 2008, 1,448 dwelling units in new residential buildings were approved in the region.
- Valued at \$393.2 million, the approvals represented 3.6% of the total value of state's approvals.
- The value of non-residential building approvals was \$294.6 million, which represented 3.3% of the state's approvals.

Reference: www.oesr.qld.gov.au