

Northern Region Profile



Population: 214,618

Local Councils:

- » Burdekin Shire Council
- » Charters Towers Regional Council
- » Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- » Palm Island Aboriginal Council
- » Townsville City Council

Estimated population

- As at 30 June 2007, the estimated population of the region was 214,618, representing 5.1% of the state's population.

Age profiles

- In June 2007, 21.4% of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 68.1% were aged 15 to 64 years and 10.5% were aged 65 years and over.

Urban centres and localities*

- The region comprises 31 urban centres and localities.
- Townsville-Thuringowa had the largest population at 30 June 2007, with 140,760 persons.
- Pallarenda had the highest population density in the region, with 1,118.7 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 12,908 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- This represents 6.6% of the region's total population.

Overseas-born persons

- At the 2006 Census, 21,258 persons were born overseas (10.8% of the total population).
- 162,828 persons were Australian-born (82.8% of the total population).
- Townsville had the largest number of overseas-born persons (17,982), followed by Burdekin (1,343).

Proficiency in spoken English

- At the 2006 Census, 5,949 persons born overseas stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (28.0% of the overseas-born population).
- Of these persons, 904 stated that they spoke English not well, or not at all.

One-parent families

- At the 2006 Census, there were 8,269 one-parent families in the region, representing 16.1% of all families.

School students

- In the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, there were 38,598 school students in the region.
- Townsville had the largest number of school students (29,636), followed by Burdekin with 3,128 school students.

Post-school qualifications

- At the 2006 Census, there were 72,979 persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification.
- This represents 47.5% 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 4,376 unemployed persons, representing an unemployment rate of 4.4%.
- The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7%.
- Within the region, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Palm Island (15.3%), followed by Charters Towers (5.6%).

Building approvals

- In the 12 months ending 30 September 2008, 2,735 dwelling units in new residential buildings were approved in the region.
- Valued at \$735.5 million, the approvals represented 6.8% of the total value of state's approvals.
- The value of non-residential building approvals was \$507.6 million, which represented 5.7% of the state's approvals.

Reference: www.oesr.qld.gov.au