

# CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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## **STATISTICAL NOTE – REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, 2015-16 CAIRNS/PENINSULA AUSTRALIA REGION CONTINUES TO LEAD**

Recently released residential population figures for Queensland and Australia indicate another disappointing year for the North and regional Queensland.

However, in the pattern, the Cairns/Peninsula Australia geographical region, continued the long-term pattern of leading population growth.

The Peninsula Australia (Tropical (Far) North Queensland) region based on Cairns and stretching north to the Papua New Guinea border and west to the Northern Territory border increased population by 2,664 to 285,452 with Cairns City increasing by 1,661 or 1.1% and the rest of the region by 1,003.

While Townsville led city growth at 1,976 or 1.0%, its hinterland population (immediate) and Mt Isa area collapsed by (-983) to take regional increase down to 993

Mackay City and the rest of the Mackay region went backwards by (-510) to 181,786.

Rockhampton grew by only 111, but the rest of the region went backwards and the total Fitzroy/Central West region dropped by (-565).

Wide Bay Burnett region grew by 1,491.

Toowoomba/Darling Downs/Maranoa Southwest region increased by 1,206.

In the Northern Territory, Darwin grew by 1,147 but the rest of the Northern Territory declined, so net growth for the Northern Territory was 534.

Kimberley and Pilbara region dropped by (-111).

On a national basis, the Cairns/Peninsula Australia region (TNQ) at a growth of 2,664 was ahead of the State of Tasmania with a growth of 2,471.

The non-metropolitan regions of Western Australia fell by (-291) and of South Australia by (-109).

The only regions in New South Wales and Victoria that exceeded the Cairns/Peninsula Australia region were Gippsland, Hunter, Illawarra and Richmond Tweed.

Within the region, growth outside of Cairns in 2015-16 was led by the areas north of the city, Mareeba 192, Douglas 180, Cook 119 and Weipa 76, but was slower to the south, Tablelands 65 and Cassowary Coast 32.

By and large, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities registered steady growth.

**Table #1: Estimated Residential Population Growth**

<u>Regional Queensland</u>	<u>2015-16 Growth</u>
<b>Cairns Peninsula Australia (1)</b>	<b>2664</b>
Townsville/Mt Isa	993
Mackay	(-510)
Fitzroy/Central West	(-565)
Wide Bay	1491
Toowoomba/Darling Downs/Maranoa/Southwest	1206
<b>Other Northern Australia</b>	
Darwin/Northern Territory	534
Kimberley Pilbara	(-111)

Note (1): Peninsula Australia – Cairns SA4 plus Outback Far North SA2 plus Carpentaria SA2

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS stats.

**Table #2: Northern Australia – Cities and Regions, Est Population, 2016**

	<u>City</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Hinterland</u>
Cairns (2)	158,490		
Peninsula Australia Region		285,452	126,953
Townsville (2)	195,561		
Townsville/Mt Ida Region		268,735	73,174
Mackay (2)	123,540		
Mackay Region		181,786	58,246
Rockhampton (2)	120,764		
Fitzroy/Central West Region		247,381	126,617
Darwin (2)	143,629		
Northern Territory		245,191	101,562
Kimberley Pilbara	na	104,500	na

Note (2): Cities defined by ABS Regional SA3 boundaries and Darwin SA4.

Source: Cummings Economics from ABS stats.