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Statistical Note – Census 2021 CAIRNS REGION LEADERSHIP IN POPULATION GROWTH CONTINUES

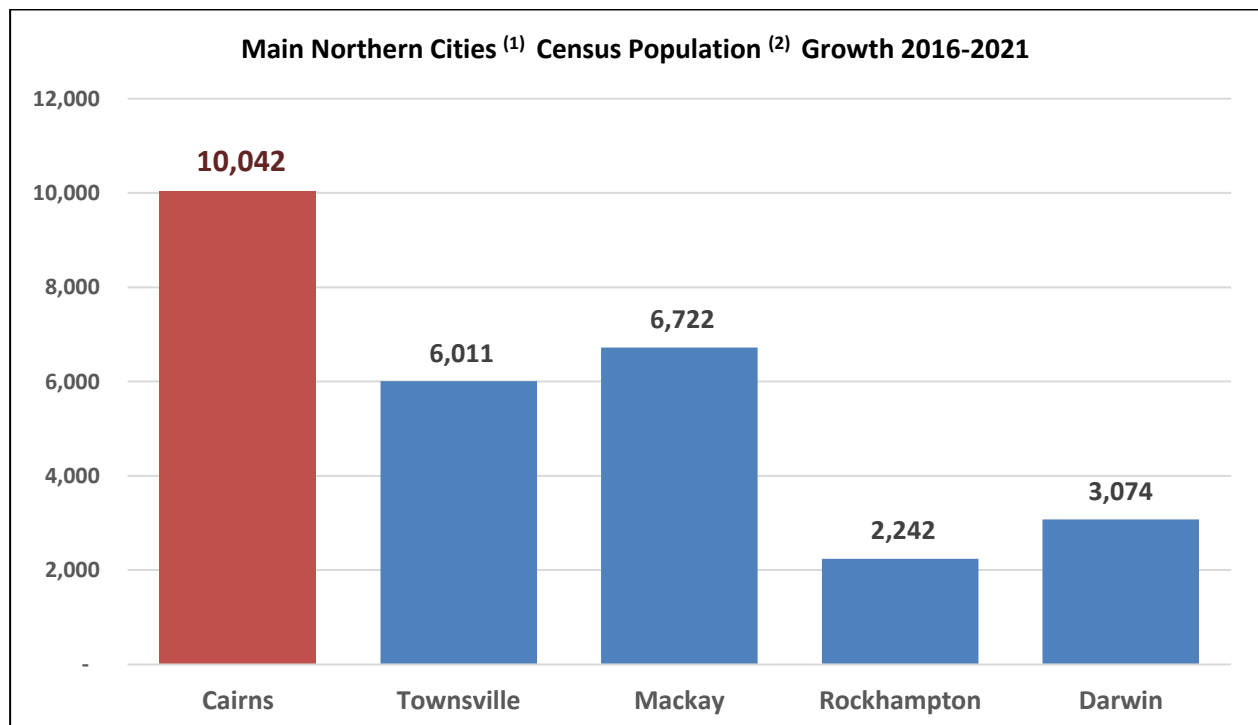
CITY & REGIONAL GROWTH

While population growth over the last intercensal period 2016 to 2021 has been relatively lower than long-term historical trends, Cairns and the region it services continued to lead in population growth across northern Australia.

Despite the impacts of losses of international and domestic tourism due to Covid, the Cairns city and region has won through over the 2016-2021 intercensal period to again record leading population growth across the north.

Chart 1 illustrates that among the main northern cities, Cairns led with a growth in population by 'Usual Place of Residence' (UPR) of 10,000 with Mackay next at 6,700 and above Townsville at 6,000.

Chart 1: Main Northern Cities Census Population Growth 2016–2021



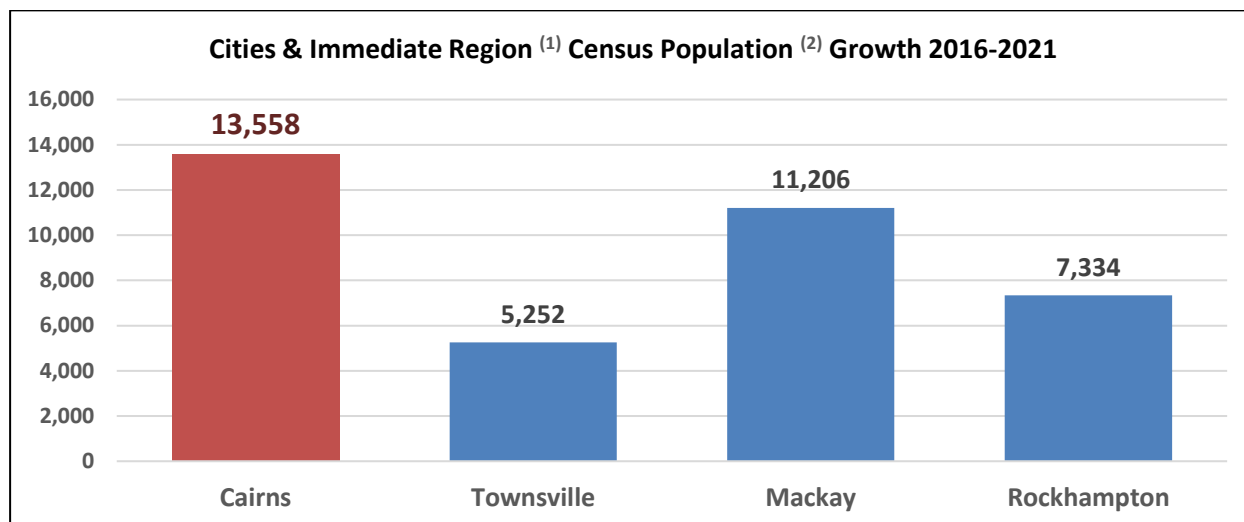
Source: Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census 2016 & 2021.

Note ⁽¹⁾: City Local Government Areas except for Darwin Statistical Level 4 (SA4).

Note ⁽²⁾: UPR Population.

For the cities and their immediate regions, the pattern was much the same but with Cairns' immediate region adding a further 3,600 taking the total growth to about 13,600. Townsville's immediate region recorded a fall in population giving a total growth for the city and region of 5,300 (see [Chart 2](#)).

Chart 2: Cities & Immediate Regions Census Population Growth 2016-2021



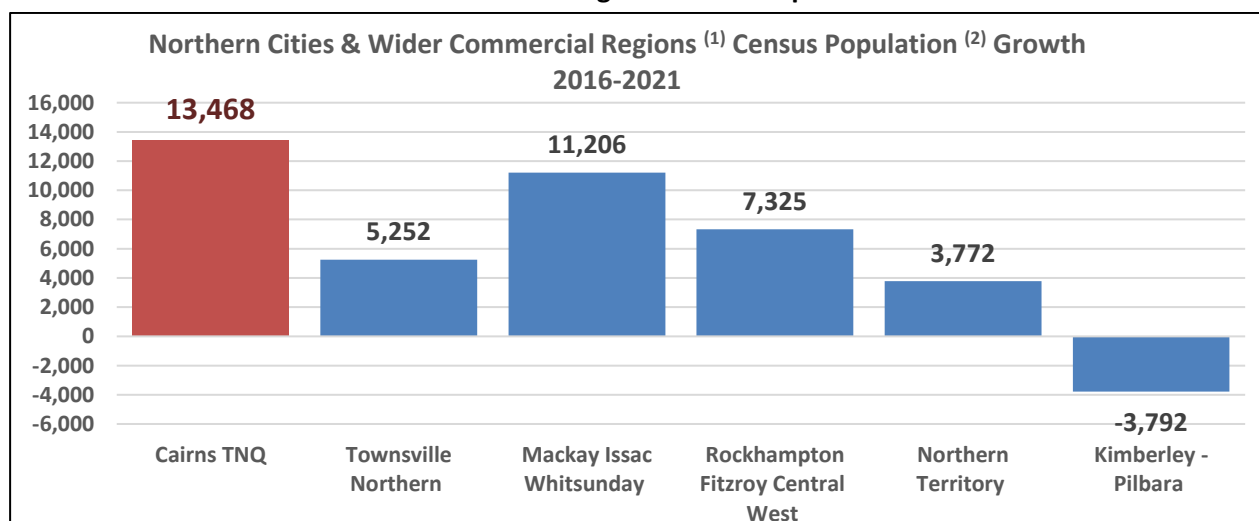
Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016 & 2021.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Statistical Level 4 (SA4) regions. The Cairns region includes Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Douglas and main population area Mareeba Shire. There is no equivalent area defined for Darwin NT.

Note ⁽²⁾: UPR Population.

In terms of wider city commercial regions, where Cairns includes the Gulf and Peninsula/ Torres area and Townsville the Mt Isa area, the Cairns region continued to lead population growth (see [Chart 3](#)) and as indicated by [Chart 4](#) continued to expand its leadership position among northern regions.

Chart 3: Northern Cities & Wider Commercial Regions Census Population Growth 2016-2021

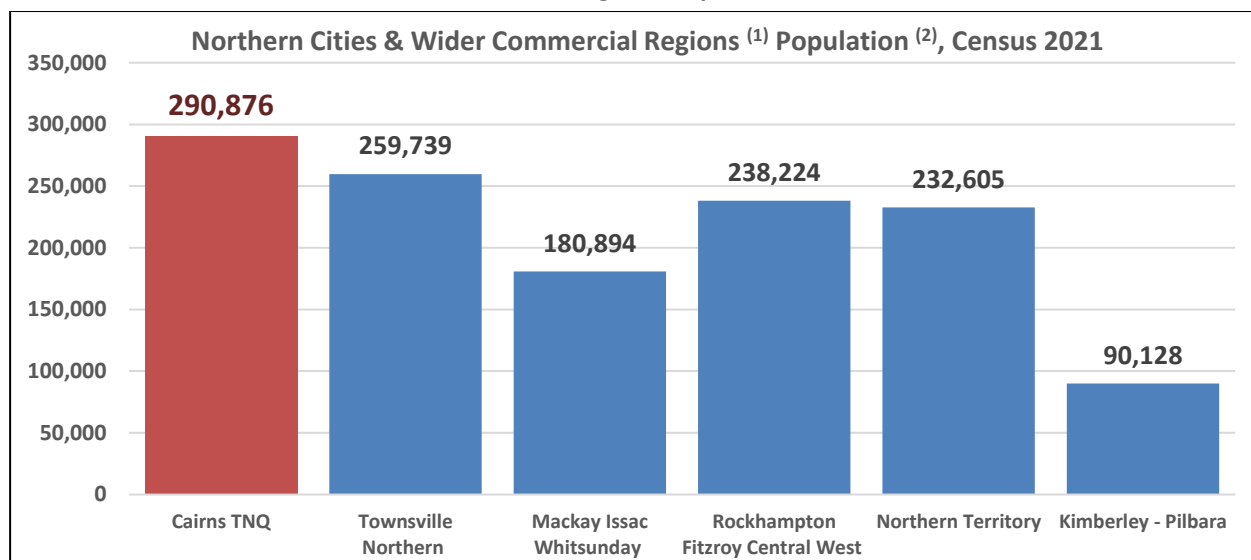


Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016 & 2021.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Cairns includes Gulf, Peninsula & Torres. Townsville includes Mt Isa area. Mackay SA4. Rockhampton includes Central West LGAs. Kimberley Pilbara WA Outback North.

Note ⁽²⁾: UPR Population.

Chart 4: Northern Cities & Wider Commercial Regions Population, Census 2021



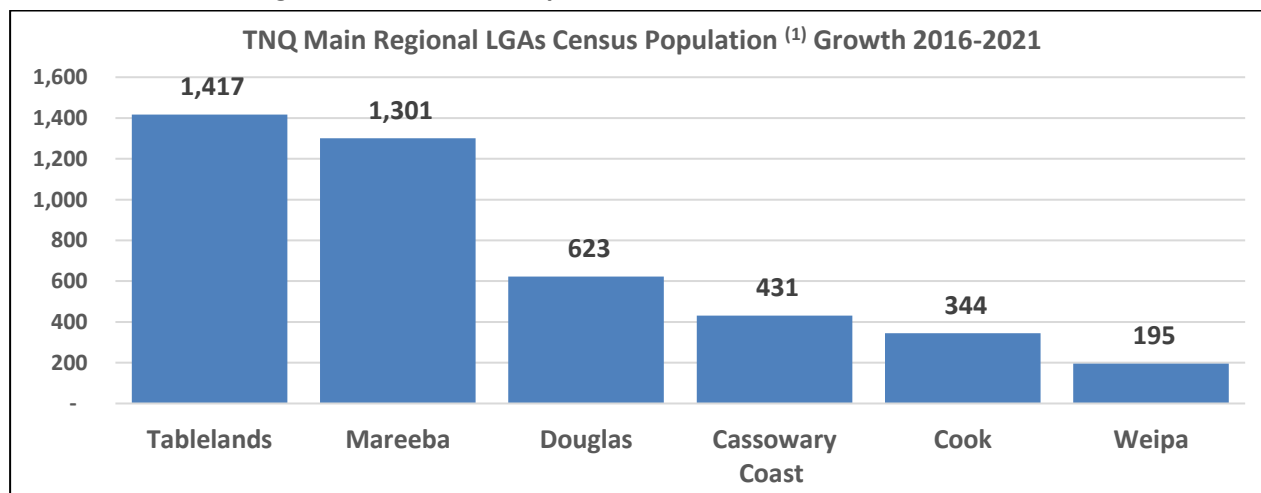
Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2021 data.

Note ⁽¹⁾: Cairns includes Gulf, Peninsula & Torres. Townsville includes Mt Isa area. Mackay SA4. Rockhampton includes Central West LGAs. Kimberley Pilbara WA Outback North. Note ⁽²⁾: UPR Population.

REGIONAL HINTERLAND GROWTH CONTINUES

Part of the reason for Cairns city’s continuing relatively strong growth is that, unlike many regions in Australia, its main hinterland areas continue to increase their population (see [Chart 5](#)).

Chart 5: TNQ Main Regional LGAs Census Population Growth 2016-2021



Source: Cummings Economics from ABS Census 2016 & 2021.

Note ⁽¹⁾: UPR Population.

CAIRNS DOES BETTER THAN PREDICTED

A feature of the Census growth figures is that Cairns has fared better in population growth than predicted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics intercensal population estimates of residential population. The Census growth figure of 10,000 compares with the intercensal estimates of residential population growth of 7,300. Average growth rate over the five (5) years was 1.25% per annum.