# Central Highlands (Qld) Profile

Report generated on 06 March 2025.

## Overview

**Total Area:** 59,835 sqkm          **Population:** 28,973          **Major Town:** Emerald

## Demographics

| **Median Age** | **Labour Force Median Age** | **Labour Force Population** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 34 | 39 | 16,117 |

## Vulnerability

| **Homelessness Population** | **Unemployment Rate** | **SEIFA - IRSD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 161 | 3.6% | 7 |

## Support Payments LGA and State Comparison

| **Rates** | **Central Highlands (Qld)** | **Queensland** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Pension | 1,465 | 536,840 |
| Commonwealth Rent Assistance | 1,020 | 337,180 |
| Disability Support Pension | 650 | 177,500 |
| Carer Allowance | 485 | 139,030 |

## Economy

**Median Income:** $64,994          **Gross Regional Product:** $10,685 Million          **Employed Residents:** 15,766

| **Ranked Industries With Most Value** | **Value ($Million)** | **Ranked Employing Industries** | **No. Employees** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining | 8,272 | Mining | 7,077 |
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 588 | Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 1,745 |
| Construction | 171 | Retail Trade | 1,337 |
| Transport, Postal and Warehousing | 118 | Construction | 1,296 |
| Administrative and Support Services | 95 | Accommodation and Food Services | 1,216 |

## Number of Businesses

| **Small Businesses (<20 employees)** | **Total Businesses** |
| --- | --- |
| 6,878 | 7,030 |

## Disaster History

The following Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been declared in since 01 July 2022. For a full list of declarations visit [Disaster Assist](https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/).

| **AGRN** | **Event Name** | **DRFA Category** | **AGDRP** | **DRA** | **Hazard Type(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1165 | AGRN 1165 - Mount Tabor Bushfire (22 September to 8 October 2024) | AB | N | N | Bushfire |
| 1148 | AGRN 1148 - Central and Southern Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (12-14 August 2024) | B | N | N | Flood |
| 1102 | AGRN 1102 - Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, associated rainfall and flooding (25 January - 26 February 2024)) | B | N | N | Cyclone |
| 1078 | AGRN 1078 - Southern Queensland Bushfires (8 September - 7 November 2023) | ABCD | N | N | Bushfire |
| 1046 | AGRN 1046 - Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and flooding (20 Dec 2022 - March 2023) | B | N | N | Flood |

## Disaster History Cumulative Payment

The following payments have been made based on disaster events occurring in since 01 July 2022. For a break down of disaster history payment please visit [Data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/disaster-history-payment-by-lga)

Note – some AGDRP/DRA payment information is aggregated from suburb level to LGA. As such there may be duplication of records as the boundaries of some suburbs may overlap two or more LGAs.

| **Payment** | **Applications Approved (no.)** | **Applications Received (no.)** | **Applications Approved ($)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Primary Producer Grants | < 20 | < 20 | 75,000 |
| Small Business Grants | 0 | < 20 | 0 |

## Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship initiative for disaster resilience and risk reduction. The Australian Government is providing up to one billion dollars through the DRF. The funding runs over five years from 1 July 2023.

\*Some program costs are shared amongst multiple LGAs

| **Program** | **Number of Programs** | **Total Commonwealth agreed funding\*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Disaster Ready Fund Round Two | 9 | 8,056,556 |
| Disaster Ready Fund Round One | 1 | 396,490 |

### Data Sources

These profiles utilise data from a number of third-party providers, including:

* Services Australia
* State and Territory Governments
* [Regional population, 2021-22 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [DSS Benefit and Payment Recipient Demographics - quarterly data | Datasets | data.gov.au - beta](https://data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-cff2ae8a-55e4-47db-a66d-e177fe0ac6a0/details)
* [Estimating Homelessness: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Small Area Labour Markets | National Skills Commission](https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/topics/small-area-labour-markets#UpdatedLGAstructure)
* [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [EconomyID](https://economy.id.com.au/)
* [Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, July 2018 - June 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/counts-australian-businesses-including-entries-and-exits/latest-release)
* [Regional population by age and sex, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population-age-and-sex/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, May 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release)
* [Personal Income in Australia, 2015-16 to 2019-20 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/personal-income-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)

The data is maintained by these third-party providers. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, no guarantee is given.