



# A Workforce Report and Action Plan for the Manufacturing Industry in Ipswich

The Ipswich Manufacturing Workforce project seeks to support skills and employment growth in the Ipswich region. By focusing on the manufacturing industry, this place-based project aligns with and leverages existing economic development priorities and strategies for the region.

Engaging with key industry and regional stakeholders, Jobs Queensland coordinated the development of a strategy to strengthen the relationships between supply and demand for skills in the region.

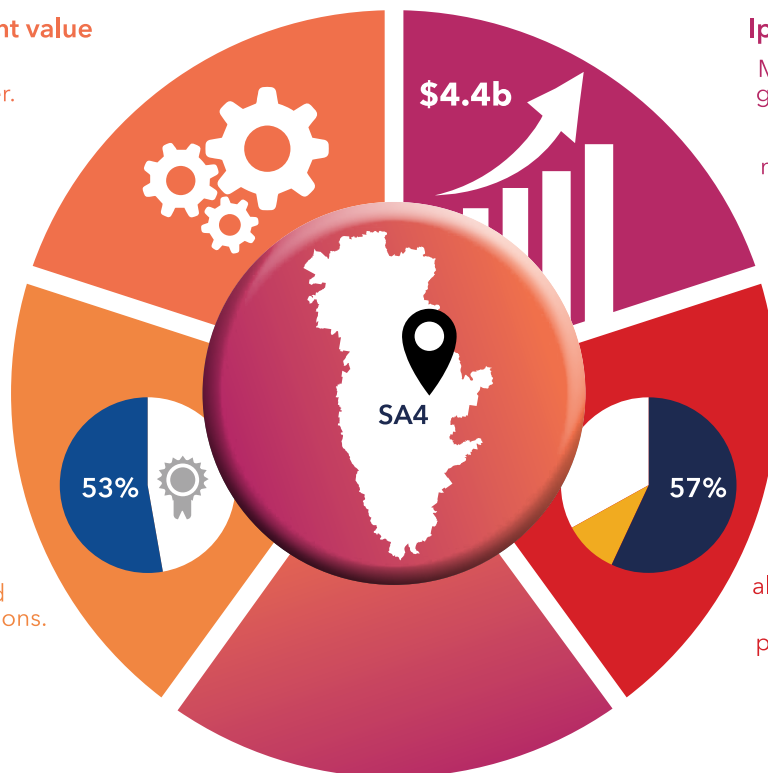
An environmental scan identifies the current employment and training trends in manufacturing-related industries in the Ipswich region and underpins the final workforce report:

## Ipswich employment value

Manufacturing is the third largest employer.

## Ipswich economic value

Manufacturing businesses generated export revenue of more than \$4.4 billion in 2016–17, representing more than 50% of exports from this LGA.



## Manufacturing workforce: upskilling opportunities

53% of the manufacturing workforce do not hold post-school qualifications.

## Manufacturing workforce: demographic challenges

The manufacturing workforce is ageing with almost 57% aged over 40.

Around 10% is young people aged 15–24 years.



## Forging the future of Ipswich

While, historically, the region has been a hub for rail manufacturing, the industry is diversifying with a growing food manufacturing zone, a modern engineering sector, and a growing centre for aerospace and defence manufacturing.

Over the coming years, multiple workforce challenges are likely to converge, with the potential to create skills and labour shortages for the industry.

Four key themes emerged as key to building a strong manufacturing workforce into the future to support the industry to continue to grow and prosper:

Four key themes



Building  
business  
capability



Upskilling the  
current  
workforce



Engaging and  
building the  
future workforce



Industry support  
and networks

## Ipswich Manufacturing Action Plan

Developing a long-term skilled workforce so that the industry is positioned to optimise future growth opportunities will rely on the continued collaboration between industry, government and other stakeholders that was achieved through this project.

The Action Plan proposes 14 key responses to the four themes identified in the workforce report.

Explore these actions and read more at [www.jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/ipswichmanufacturing](http://www.jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/ipswichmanufacturing).