

## ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS

# Central Queensland Region



Employment in Central Queensland is projected to grow by 3.8% over the next four years. Close to 25% of the Central Queensland workforce will be employed in blue-collar industries such as construction, mining and manufacturing. However, the health care and social assistance industry is projected to be the fastest-growing and largest-employing industry by 2027-28.

By 2027-28, it is projected\* that there will be:

**135,361** people employed in this region  
**+4,965** additional workers since 2023-24



By 2027-28, Central Queensland is projected to experience the eleventh-fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.4% of the state's workforce.

Region	Growth (%) between 2023-24 and 2027-28	People employed in 2027-28
Sunshine Coast	7.3%	216,818
Logan - Beaudesert	6.6%	151,192
Moreton Bay - North	6.4%	95,923
Gold Coast	6.2%	376,740
Brisbane	6.1%	1,074,452
Ipswich	5.9%	170,959
Moreton Bay - South	5.5%	80,034
Toowoomba	4.7%	86,785
Townsville	4.6%	137,989
Cairns	4.5%	149,082
<b>Central Queensland</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>135,361</b>
Wide Bay	3.5%	137,460
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	3.4%	119,334
Outback - Far North	1.1%	14,268
Outback - North	0.2%	24,998
Darling Downs - Maranoa	-0.7%	68,429
Outback - South	-2.4%	10,093

\* Projections are based on the 2024-25 State Budget and are not directly comparable to subsequent Budget Update forecasts for aggregate employment growth. As these projections are high level, indicative and subject to change, it is recommended that the focus be on employment trends rather than the numbers in isolation. The regions used in this project are based on Statistical Area Level (SA4) regions, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. There are 19 SA4s in Queensland; the five Brisbane SA4s have been combined in this report to take into account the larger natural labour market. Queensland - Outback SA4 has been disaggregated into its SA3 components. Data is based on Place of Work.

## By 2027-28, it is projected that the Central Queensland workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 <b>Health care and social assistance</b>	<b>21,535</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>↑11.7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aged and Disabled Carers</li> <li>○ Registered Nurses</li> <li>○ Child Carers</li> <li>○ Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers</li> </ul>
 <b>Mining</b>	<b>14,067</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>↑2.9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers</li> <li>○ Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians</li> <li>○ Truck Drivers</li> </ul>
 <b>Retail trade</b>	<b>12,706</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>↑2.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sales Assistants (General)</li> <li>○ Retail Managers</li> <li>○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers</li> <li>○ Shelf Fillers</li> </ul>
 <b>Construction</b>	<b>12,694</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>↑1.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electricians</li> <li>○ Carpenters and Joiners</li> <li>○ Construction Managers</li> <li>○ Plumbers</li> </ul>
 <b>Education and training</b>	<b>10,568</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>↑4.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secondary School Teachers</li> <li>○ Primary School Teachers</li> <li>○ Education Aides</li> <li>○ Child Carers</li> </ul>
 <b>Public administration and safety</b>	<b>8,919</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>↑6.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Clerks</li> <li>○ Police</li> <li>○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators</li> <li>○ Security Officers and Guards</li> </ul>
 <b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>↓0.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers</li> <li>○ Engineering Production Workers</li> <li>○ Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>○ Production Managers</li> </ul>
 <b>Accommodation and food services</b>	<b>8,561</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>↑2.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bar Attendants and Baristas</li> <li>○ Waiters</li> <li>○ Kitchenhands</li> <li>○ Chefs</li> </ul>
 <b>Transport, postal and warehousing</b>	<b>7,391</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>↑4.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Truck Drivers</li> <li>○ Storepersons</li> <li>○ Automobile Drivers</li> <li>○ Transport and Despatch Clerks</li> </ul>
 <b>Professional, scientific and technical services</b>	<b>6,132</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>↑9.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solicitors</li> <li>○ Accountants</li> <li>○ Civil Engineering Professionals</li> <li>○ Management and Organisation Analysts</li> </ul>
 <b>Other services</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>↑0.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motor Mechanics</li> <li>○ Hairdressers</li> <li>○ Beauty Therapists</li> <li>○ Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> </ul>
 <b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>↓16.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Livestock Farmers</li> <li>○ Livestock Farm Workers</li> <li>○ Crop Farmers</li> <li>○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers</li> </ul>
 <b>Administrative and support services</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>↓0.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commercial Cleaners</li> <li>○ Domestic Cleaners</li> <li>○ Human Resource Professionals</li> <li>○ Gardeners</li> </ul>
 <b>Electricity, gas, water and waste services</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>↑6.7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electricians</li> <li>○ Electrical Engineers</li> <li>○ Chemical, Gas, Petroleum and Power Generation Plant Operators</li> <li>○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers</li> </ul>
 <b>Wholesale trade</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>↑5.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storepersons</li> <li>○ Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers</li> <li>○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers</li> <li>○ Sales Assistants (General)</li> </ul>
 <b>Arts and recreation services</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>↑8.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials</li> <li>○ Fitness Instructors</li> <li>○ Sportspeople</li> <li>○ Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers</li> </ul>
 <b>Rental, hiring and real estate services</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>↑0.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Real Estate Sales Agents</li> <li>○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers</li> <li>○ Land Economists and Valuers</li> <li>○ General Clerks</li> </ul>
 <b>Information media and telecommunications</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>↑8.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Telecommunications Trades Workers</li> <li>○ Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors</li> <li>○ Journalists and Other Writers</li> <li>○ Artistic Directors, and Media Producers and Presenters</li> </ul>
 <b>Financial and insurance services</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>↑1.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial Brokers</li> <li>○ Bank Workers</li> <li>○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers</li> <li>○ Credit and Loans Officers</li> </ul>

