ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS
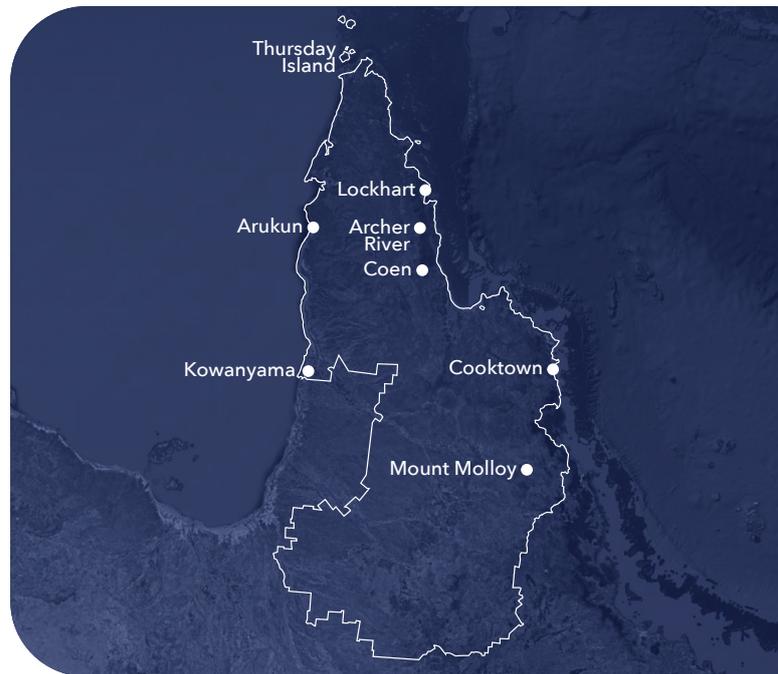# Far North Region

Jobs Queensland

Employment in the sparsely populated Far North region is dependent on four key industries. Public administration and safety, and health care and social assistance, are the two largest-employing industries. However, rental, hiring and real estate services is projected to be the fastest-growing industry by 2027–28. Employment in Mining is projected to fall slightly, positioning it as the fourth-largest industry in the region.

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

14,268
people employed in this region

+159
additional workers since 2023–24

Thursday Island
Lockhart
Arukun
Archer River
Coen
Kowanyama
Cooktown
Mount Molloy

By 2027–28, Far North is projected to experience the fourteenth-fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 0.5% 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
Central Queensland	3.8%	135,361
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 Far North workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
Public administration and safety	2,758	19.3	↑2.6	○ General Clerks ○ Police ○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators ○ Inspectors and Regulatory Officers
Health care and social assistance	1,909	13.4	↑5.2	○ Registered Nurses ○ Aged and Disabled Carers ○ Child Carers ○ Receptionists
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,556	10.9	↑6.0	○ Livestock Farmers ○ Crop Farmers ○ Crop Farm Workers ○ Livestock Farm Workers
Mining	1,548	10.8	0.0	○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians ○ Electricians
Construction	1,345	9.4	↓4.5	○ Carpenters and Joiners ○ Construction Managers ○ Electricians ○ Architectural, Building and Surveying Technicians
Education and training	1,082	7.6	↓6.7	○ Secondary School Teachers ○ Primary School Teachers ○ Education Aides ○ Child Carers
Accommodation and food services	1,022	7.2	↑2.7	○ Bar Attendants and Baristas ○ Waiters ○ Chefs ○ Kitchenhands
Retail trade	809	5.7	↑0.8	○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Retail Managers ○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers ○ Shelf Fillers
Transport, postal and warehousing	407	2.9	↑3.8	○ Truck Drivers ○ Travel Attendants ○ Marine Transport Professionals ○ Automobile Drivers
Manufacturing	372	2.6	↓7.5	○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Industrial Spraypainters ○ Production Managers
Administrative and support services	349	2.4	↑4.3	○ Commercial Cleaners ○ Human Resource Professionals ○ Domestic Cleaners ○ Tourism and Travel Advisers
Other services	336	2.4	↓2.3	○ Motor Mechanics ○ Ministers of Religion ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Automotive Electricians
Arts and recreation services	221	1.5	↓0.3	○ Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals ○ Music Professionals ○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Environmental Scientists
Professional, scientific and technical services	174	1.2	↑6.8	○ Management and Organisation Analysts ○ Accountants ○ Solicitors ○ Advertising and Marketing Professionals
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	121	0.8	↑6.6	○ Truck Drivers ○ Electricians ○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers ○ Electrical Engineers
Wholesale trade	100	0.7	↑3.7	○ Storepersons ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers ○ Technical Sales Representatives
Rental, hiring and real estate services	95	0.7	↑9.0	○ Real Estate Sales Agents ○ Land Economists and Valuers ○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers
Information media and telecommunications	34	0.2	↓9.4	○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors ○ Library Assistants ○ Librarians
Financial and insurance services	31	0.2	↓1.1	○ Bank Workers ○ Credit and Loans Officers ○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers ○ Financial Brokers

For more detailed analysis and to access interactive data tools, visit www.jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/afs