

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS

Outback North Region



Employment in Outback - North is dominated by the mining industry, which is projected to employ almost one third of all workers. Health care and social assistance is projected to be the second-largest employing industry by 2027-28.

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

24,998 people employed in this region
+61 additional workers since 2023-24



By 2027-28, Outback - North is projected to experience the fifteenth-fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 0.8% 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 Outback - North workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 Mining	7,669	30.7	↓0.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers Metal Fitters and Machinists Other Building and Engineering Technicians Electricians
 Health care and social assistance	2,353	9.4	↑5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurses Aged and Disabled Carers Child Carers Receptionists
 Retail trade	2,164	8.7	↑1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Assistants (General) Retail Managers Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers Shelf Fillers
 Public administration and safety	1,969	7.9	↑2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Clerks Contract, Program and Project Administrators Police Inspectors and Regulatory Officers
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,849	7.4	↓2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock Farmers Livestock Farm Workers Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers Crop Farmers
 Construction	1,744	7.0	↓6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricians Carpenters and Joiners Plumbers Construction Managers
 Accommodation and food services	1,550	6.2	↑2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiters Kitchenhands Bar Attendants and Baristas Chefs
 Education and training	1,040	4.2	↓5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary School Teachers Primary School Teachers Education Aides Child Carers
 Transport, postal and warehousing	871	3.5	↑3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Automobile Drivers Storepersons Delivery Drivers
 Other services	825	3.3	↓2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor Mechanics Metal Fitters and Machinists Hairdressers Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics
 Manufacturing	814	3.3	↓2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers Metal Fitters and Machinists Production Managers Engineering Production Workers
 Wholesale trade	564	2.3	↑3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storepersons Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks Automotive Electricians
 Administrative and support services	501	2.0	↑4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Cleaners Human Resource Professionals Domestic Cleaners Garden and Nursery Labourers
 Professional, scientific and technical services	357	1.4	↑6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitors Accountants Civil Engineering Professionals Management and Organisation Analysts
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	237	0.9	↑7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricians Electrical Distribution Trades Workers Truck Drivers Electrical Engineers
 Rental, hiring and real estate services	177	0.7	↑9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Estate Sales Agents Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers Land Economists and Valuers Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers
 Financial and insurance services	141	0.6	↓1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Workers Credit and Loans Officers Financial Brokers Insurance, Money Market and Statistical Clerks
 Information media and telecommunications	94	0.4	↓9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors Journalists and Other Writers Artistic Directors, and Media Producers and Presenters Performing Arts Technicians
 Arts and recreation services	80	0.3	↓0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals Music Professionals Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials Environmental Scientists

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

