

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS

Townsville Region



Employment in public administration and safety is projected to experience the fastest growth of all industries by 2027-28, reflecting the region's role as a major defence hub and provider of government services. Health care and social assistance is projected to be the second-fastest growing industry, comprising the largest share of Townsville's workforce – 18% of all workers.

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

137,989 people employed in this region

+6,091 additional workers since 2023-24



By 2027-28, Townsville is projected to experience the ninth-fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.5% 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 Townsville workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 Health care and social assistance	24,165	17.5	↑9.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurses Aged and Disabled Carers Child Carers Receptionists
 Public administration and safety	15,179	11.0	↑9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence Force Members - Other Ranks General Clerks Commissioned Officers (Management) Police
 Construction	13,511	9.8	↑4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricians Carpenters and Joiners Construction Managers Plumbers
 Education and training	13,203	9.6	↑4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary School Teachers Primary School Teachers Education Aides University Lecturers and Tutors
 Retail trade	12,243	8.9	↑0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Assistants (General) Retail Managers Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers Shelf Fillers
 Accommodation and food services	9,611	7.0	↑3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Attendants and Baristas Waiters Kitchenhands Chefs
 Manufacturing	8,959	6.5	↑1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers Metal Fitters and Machinists Production Managers Food and Drink Factory Workers
 Professional, scientific and technical services	7,728	5.6	↑7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitors Accountants Civil Engineering Professionals Management and Organisation Analysts
 Transport, postal and warehousing	5,566	4.0	↑2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Automobile Drivers Storepersons Delivery Drivers
 Other services	5,292	3.8	↓1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor Mechanics Hairdressers Beauty Therapists Metal Fitters and Machinists
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,924	2.8	-4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop Farmers Livestock Farmers Crop Farm Workers Livestock Farm Workers
 Administrative and support services	3,399	2.5	↑2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Cleaners Domestic Cleaners Gardeners Garden and Nursery Labourers
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	3,309	2.4	↑8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical Distribution Trades Workers Electricians Truck Drivers Electrical Engineers
 Wholesale trade	3,241	2.3	↑6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storepersons Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers Sales Assistants (General)
 Mining	2,433	1.8	↑1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers Metal Fitters and Machinists Other Building and Engineering Technicians Truck Drivers
 Rental, hiring and real estate services	2,143	1.6	↑3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Estate Sales Agents Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers Land Economists and Valuers General Clerks
 Information media and telecommunications	1,405	1.0	↓2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications Trades Workers Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors Journalists and Other Writers ICT Managers
 Arts and recreation services	1,372	1.0	↓6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials Gaming Workers Fitness Instructors Sportspersons
 Financial and insurance services	1,305	0.9	↓5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Brokers Bank Workers Financial Investment Advisers and Managers Credit and Loans Officers

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

