

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS

Darling Downs - Maranoa region



Due to a declining population, employment in the Darling Downs - Maranoa region is projected to fall slightly by 2027-28. Some of this loss will be in agriculture, forestry and fishing but the industry will continue to be a dominant force in the region. Employment in rental, hiring and real estate services is projected to grow at the highest rate, despite having a relatively small workforce.

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

68,429 people employed in this region

-475 fewer workers since 2023-24



By 2027-28, Darling Downs - Maranoa is projected to experience a slight decrease in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 2.2% 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
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 Darling Downs - Maranoa workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12,402	18.1	↓1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock Farmers ○ Livestock Farm Workers ○ Crop Farmers ○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers
 Construction	6,821	10.0	↓4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Carpenters and Joiners ○ Construction Managers ○ Plumbers
 Health care and social assistance	6,349	9.3	↑4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registered Nurses ○ Aged and Disabled Carers ○ Child Carers ○ Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
 Manufacturing	6,217	9.1	↓3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packers ○ Meat, Poultry and Seafood Process Workers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers
 Retail trade	5,363	7.8	↓5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Retail Managers ○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers ○ Shelf Fillers
 Education and training	4,975	7.3	↓0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secondary School Teachers ○ Primary School Teachers ○ Education Aides ○ Child Carers
 Public administration and safety	4,257	6.2	↓0.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Clerks ○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators ○ Inspectors and Regulatory Officers ○ Police
 Transport, postal and warehousing	2,960	4.3	↑2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Truck Drivers ○ Automobile Drivers ○ Delivery Drivers ○ Bus and Coach Drivers
 Accommodation and food services	2,932	4.3	↓2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bar Attendants and Baristas ○ Waiters ○ Kitchenhands ○ Chefs
 Professional, scientific and technical services	2,801	4.1	↑9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solicitors ○ Accountants ○ Civil Engineering Professionals ○ Management and Organisation Analysts
 Other services	2,791	4.1	↓2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motor Mechanics ○ Hairdressers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Beauty Therapists
 Wholesale trade	2,461	3.6	↑5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storepersons ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers
 Mining	2,256	3.3	↓2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Mining Engineers ○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	2,125	3.1	↑0.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Electrical Engineers ○ Chemical, Gas, Petroleum and Power Generation Plant Operators ○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers
 Administrative and support services	1,522	2.2	↑1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial Cleaners ○ Domestic Cleaners ○ Gardeners ○ Garden and Nursery Labourers
 Rental, hiring and real estate services	974	1.4	↑10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real Estate Sales Agents ○ Land Economists and Valuers ○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers ○ General Clerks
 Financial and insurance services	688	1.0	↓2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank Workers ○ Credit and Loans Officers ○ Financial Brokers ○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers
 Arts and recreation services	370	0.5	↓6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals ○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials ○ Music Professionals ○ Fitness Instructors
 Information media and telecommunications	165	0.2	↓5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Telecommunications Trades Workers ○ Library Assistants ○ Librarians

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

