

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS



Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday Region

Mining is projected to remain an important industry in the Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday region, employing more than 17% of the region's workforce. However, above-average employment growth in industries such as health care and social assistance, public administration and safety, and arts and recreation services reflects the region's diversity.

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

119,334 people employed in this region
+3,918 additional workers since 2023-24



Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday is projected to experience the thirteenth-fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 3.9% 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 Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 Mining	20,838	17.5	↓0.8	<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	15,787	13.2	↑12.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurses Aged and Disabled Carers Child Carers Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
 Retail trade	11,993	10.1	↑2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Assistants (General) Retail Managers Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers Shelf Fillers
 Construction	9,860	8.3	↑1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricians Carpenters and Joiners Construction Managers Plumbers
 Transport, postal and warehousing	7,452	6.2	↑5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Storepersons Automobile Drivers Transport and Despatch Clerks
 Other services	7,414	6.2	↑3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor Mechanics Hairdressers Metal Fitters and Machinists Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics
 Accommodation and food services	7,301	6.1	↑2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Attendants and Baristas Waiters Kitchenhands Chefs
 Public administration and safety	6,197	5.2	↑8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Clerks Police Contract, Program and Project Administrators Inspectors and Regulatory Officers
 Education and training	5,804	4.9	↑2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary School Teachers Primary School Teachers Education Aides Child Carers
 Manufacturing	5,462	4.6	↓2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal Fitters and Machinists Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers Production Managers Food and Drink Factory Workers
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4,874	4.1	↑3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock Farmers Crop Farmers Crop Farm Workers Livestock Farm Workers
 Professional, scientific and technical services	3,654	3.1	↑3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitors Accountants Civil Engineering Professionals Management and Organisation Analysts
 Administrative and support services	3,484	2.9	↑0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Cleaners Human Resource Professionals Domestic Cleaners Tourism and Travel Advisers
 Wholesale trade	3,310	2.8	↑2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storepersons Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers Sales Assistants (General)
 Financial and insurance services	1,688	1.4	↑3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Brokers Financial Investment Advisers and Managers Bank Workers Credit and Loans Officers
 Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,511	1.3	↑4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Estate Sales Agents Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers Land Economists and Valuers General Clerks
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,317	1.1	↑0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Electrical Distribution Trades Workers Electricians Electrical Engineers
 Arts and recreation services	932	0.8	↑6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials Fitness Instructors Sportspersons Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers
 Information media and telecommunications	456	0.4	↓0.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications Trades Workers Journalists and Other Writers Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors Library Assistants

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

