

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS

Sunshine Coast Region



High population growth is projected to drive high employment growth in the Sunshine Coast region, with nine industries projected to experience growth above the state average by 2027-28. Health care and social assistance is set to be the largest-employing and fastest-growing industry. The top four industries are projected to employ over half of the region's total workforce.

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

216,818 people employed in this region
+14,708 additional workers since 2023-24



By 2027-28, Sunshine Coast is projected to experience the fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 7.1% 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 Sunshine Coast workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2023-24	Largest occupational groupings
 Health care and social assistance	45,915	21.2	↑14.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurses Aged and Disabled Carers Child Carers Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
 Retail trade	22,576	10.4	↑6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Assistants (General) Retail Managers Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers Shelf Fillers
 Accommodation and food services	22,346	10.3	↑6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Attendants and Baristas Waiters Kitchenhands Chefs
 Construction	21,406	9.9	↑2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpenters and Joiners Electricians Construction Managers Plumbers
 Education and training	18,816	8.7	↑7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary School Teachers Secondary School Teachers Education Aides Private Tutors and Teachers
 Professional, scientific and technical services	16,184	7.5	↑8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitors Accountants Software and Applications Programmers Civil Engineering Professionals
 Manufacturing	9,878	4.6	0.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinetmakers Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers Production Managers Metal Fitters and Machinists
 Other services	9,607	4.4	↑5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hairdressers Motor Mechanics Beauty Therapists Animal Attendants and Trainers
 Public administration and safety	8,585	4.0	↑9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Clerks Police Contract, Program and Project Administrators Inspectors and Regulatory Officers
 Administrative and support services	8,091	3.7	↑5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Cleaners Domestic Cleaners Gardeners Garden and Nursery Labourers
 Transport, postal and warehousing	6,866	3.2	↑6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Automobile Drivers Delivery Drivers Couriers and Postal Deliverers
 Financial and insurance services	6,211	2.9	↑5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Brokers Insurance, Money Market and Statistical Clerks Financial Investment Advisers and Managers Insurance Agents
 Arts and recreation services	4,946	2.3	↑5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals Fitness Instructors Music Professionals
 Rental, hiring and real estate services	3,810	1.8	↑6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Estate Sales Agents Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers General Clerks Land Economists and Valuers
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,450	1.6	0.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop Farmers Livestock Farmers Crop Farm Workers Livestock Farm Workers
 Wholesale trade	3,256	1.5	↑1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storepersons Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers Sales Assistants (General)
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,991	0.9	↑8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truck Drivers Other Stationary Plant Operators Electricians Electrical Distribution Trades Workers
 Mining	1,535	0.7	↑4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers Metal Fitters and Machinists Other Building and Engineering Technicians Truck Drivers
 Information media and telecommunications	1,350	0.6	↑2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journalists and Other Writers Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors Telecommunications Trades Workers Artistic Directors, and Media Producers and Presenters

