



ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS SERIES

# Cairns region

Health Care and Social Assistance is projected to be the fastest growing and largest employing industry in Cairns by 2025-26. Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services industries continue to be major employers, employing almost 1 in 5 workers in the region.



By 2025-26, it is projected that there will be:

**142,446** people employed in this region\*

**+9,920** additional workers since 2021-22

By 2025-26, Cairns is projected to experience the 10th fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.9% of the state's workforce.

| Region                      | Growth (%) between 2021-22 and 2025-26 | People employed in 2025-26 |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Wide Bay                    | 13.6                                   | 133,252                    |
| Sunshine Coast              | 12.5                                   | 203,940                    |
| Townsville                  | 12.0                                   | 134,375                    |
| Central Queensland          | 11.5                                   | 138,831                    |
| Moreton Bay - South         | 10.4                                   | 73,983                     |
| Toowoomba                   | 10.4                                   | 85,456                     |
| Moreton Bay - North         | 9.9                                    | 94,207                     |
| Logan - Beaudesert          | 9.3                                    | 142,093                    |
| Brisbane                    | 7.8                                    | 1,030,194                  |
| <b>Cairns</b>               | <b>7.5</b>                             | <b>142,446</b>             |
| Ipswich                     | 5.9                                    | 157,674                    |
| Far North                   | 4.5                                    | 12,590                     |
| Outback - North             | 2.7                                    | 22,310                     |
| Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday | 2.3                                    | 114,384                    |
| Gold Coast                  | 2.2                                    | 348,444                    |
| Outback - South             | -0.5                                   | 9,036                      |
| Darling Downs - Maranoa     | -0.9                                   | 70,207                     |

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 2025-26, it is projected that the Cairns workforce will be employed within:

| Industry   | People employed | % of regional workforce 2025-2026 | % change since 2021-22 | Largest occupational groupings  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
|  <b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>               | <b>25,136</b>   | <b>17.6</b>                       | <b>↑14.7</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurses</li> <li>Aged and Disabled Carers</li> <li>Child Carers</li> <li>Receptionists</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Retail Trade</b>                                    | <b>14,302</b>   | <b>10.0</b>                       | <b>↑2.1</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales Assistants (General)</li> <li>Retail Managers</li> <li>Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers</li> <li>Shelf Fillers</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>                 | <b>14,162</b>   | <b>9.9</b>                        | <b>↑11.9</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiters</li> <li>Kitchenhands</li> <li>Bar Attendants and Baristas</li> <li>Chefs</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Education and Training</b>                          | <b>12,241</b>   | <b>8.6</b>                        | <b>↑8.1</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary School Teachers</li> <li>Secondary School Teachers</li> <li>Education Aides</li> <li>Child Carers</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Construction</b>                                    | <b>11,578</b>   | <b>8.1</b>                        | <b>↑6.7</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricians</li> <li>Carpenters and Joiners</li> <li>Construction Managers</li> <li>Plumbers</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Public Administration and Safety</b>                | <b>10,551</b>   | <b>7.4</b>                        | <b>↑5.8</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police</li> <li>General Clerks</li> <li>Security Officers and Guards</li> <li>Contract, Program and Project Administrators</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Transport, Postal and Warehousing</b>               | <b>8,827</b>    | <b>6.2</b>                        | <b>↑11.6</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck Drivers</li> <li>Storepersons</li> <li>Marine Transport Professionals</li> <li>Automobile Drivers</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Professional, Scientific and Technical Services</b> | <b>7,660</b>    | <b>5.4</b>                        | <b>↑11.9</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountants</li> <li>Solicitors</li> <li>Civil Engineering Professionals</li> <li>Software and Applications Programmers</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</b>             | <b>6,767</b>    | <b>4.8</b>                        | <b>↓3.5</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop Farmers</li> <li>Crop Farm Workers</li> <li>Livestock Farmers</li> <li>Agricultural, Forestry and Horticultural Plant Operators</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Manufacturing</b>                                 | <b>6,736</b>    | <b>4.7</b>                        | <b>↑2.8</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers</li> <li>Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>Food and Drink Factory Workers</li> <li>Production Managers</li> </ul>                              |
|  <b>Other Services</b>                                | <b>5,977</b>    | <b>4.2</b>                        | <b>↑4.2</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor Mechanics</li> <li>Hairdressers</li> <li>Beauty Therapists</li> <li>Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Administrative and Support Services</b>           | <b>5,278</b>    | <b>3.7</b>                        | <b>↑5.9</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial Cleaners</li> <li>Domestic Cleaners</li> <li>Human Resource Professionals</li> <li>Gardeners</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Wholesale Trade</b>                               | <b>2,985</b>    | <b>2.1</b>                        | <b>↑1.0</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storepersons</li> <li>Sales Assistants (General)</li> <li>Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers</li> <li>Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks</li> </ul>                          |
|  <b>Arts and Recreation Services</b>                  | <b>2,786</b>    | <b>2.0</b>                        | <b>↑6.2</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials</li> <li>Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals</li> <li>Music Professionals</li> <li>Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers</li> </ul>         |
|  <b>Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services</b>       | <b>2,300</b>    | <b>1.6</b>                        | <b>↑1.2</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real Estate Sales Agents</li> <li>Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers</li> <li>General Clerks</li> <li>Land Economists and Valuers</li> </ul>                                       |
|  <b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>              | <b>2,048</b>    | <b>1.4</b>                        | <b>↑5.9</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Investment Advisers and Managers</li> <li>Bank Workers</li> <li>Financial Brokers</li> <li>Credit and Loans Officers</li> </ul>  |
|  <b>Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services</b>    | <b>1,402</b>    | <b>1.0</b>                        | <b>↑9.4</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical Distribution Trades Workers</li> <li>Truck Drivers</li> <li>Electricians</li> <li>Electrical Engineers</li> </ul>   |
|  <b>Mining</b>  | <b>903</b>      | <b>0.6</b>                        | <b>↑7.4</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers</li> <li>Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>Truck Drivers</li> <li>Other Building and Engineering Technicians</li> </ul>                                   |
|  <b>Information Media and Telecommunications</b>      | <b>806</b>      | <b>0.6</b>                        | <b>↓5.6</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telecommunications Trades Workers</li> <li>Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors</li> <li>Journalists and Other Writers</li> <li>Telecommunications Engineering Professionals</li> </ul> |