



ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS SERIES

Central Queensland region

Employment in Central Queensland is projected to grow at above the state average. While almost 25% of the Central Queensland workforce will be employed in blue collar industries such as Construction, Mining and Manufacturing, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is projected to be both the fastest growing and largest employing industry by 2025-26.



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

138,831 people employed in this region*

+14,274 additional workers since 2021-22

By 2025-26, Central Queensland is projected to experience the fourth fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.8% 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
Cairns	7.5	142,446
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 Central Queensland workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce 2025-2026	% change since 2021-22	Largest occupational groupings
 Health Care and Social Assistance	19,368	14.0	↑22.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aged and Disabled Carers ○ Registered Nurses ○ Child Carers ○ Receptionists
 Retail Trade	13,008	9.4	↑9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Retail Managers ○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers ○ Shelf Fillers
 Construction	12,089	8.7	↑14.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Carpenters and Joiners ○ Construction Managers ○ Plumbers
 Education and Training	11,680	8.4	↑15.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary School Teachers ○ Secondary School Teachers ○ Education Aides ○ Child Carers
 Mining	11,309	8.1	↑7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians ○ Electricians
 Manufacturing	9,947	7.2	↑1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers ○ Engineering Production Workers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Production Managers
 Accommodation and Food Services	9,888	7.1	↑17.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiters ○ Kitchenhands ○ Bar Attendants and Baristas ○ Chefs
 Public Administration and Safety	8,611	6.2	↑15.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police ○ General Clerks ○ Security Officers and Guards ○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators
 Transport, Postal and Warehousing	8,372	6.0	↑12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Truck Drivers ○ Storepersons ○ Automobile Drivers ○ Train and Tram Drivers
 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6,965	5.0	↑18.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accountants ○ Solicitors ○ Civil Engineering Professionals ○ Software and Applications Programmers
 Other Services	6,005	4.3	↑10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motor Mechanics ○ Hairdressers ○ Beauty Therapists ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists
 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5,140	3.7	↓14.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock Farmers ○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers ○ Crop Farmers ○ Livestock Farm Workers
 Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	4,534	3.3	↑8.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers ○ Electrical Engineers ○ Truck Drivers
 Administrative and Support Services	3,621	2.6	↑11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial Cleaners ○ Domestic Cleaners ○ Gardeners ○ Human Resource Professionals
 Wholesale Trade	3,184	2.3	↑7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storepersons ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers ○ Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks
 Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1,875	1.4	↑5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real Estate Sales Agents ○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers ○ General Clerks ○ Other Sales Assistants and Salesperson
 Financial and Insurance Services	1,608	1.2	↑12.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank Workers ○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers ○ Credit and Loans Officers ○ Financial Brokers
 Arts and Recreation Services	1,056	0.8	↑12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials ○ Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers ○ Fitness Instructors ○ Sportspersons
 Information Media and Telecommunications	570	0.4	↔0.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telecommunications Trades Workers ○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors ○ Artistic Directors, and Media Producers and Presenters