



ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS SERIES

Darling Downs - Maranoa region

Due to a declining population, employment in the Darling Downs - Maranoa region is projected to fall slightly by 2025-26. 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 some other industries, such as Construction, will expand. While a relatively small workforce, employment in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services is projected to grow at the highest rate.

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

70,207 people employed in this region*

-634 fewer workers since 2021-22



By 2025-26, Darling Downs - Maranoa is projected to experience a slight decline in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 2.4% 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 Darling Downs - Maranoa workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce 2025-2026	% change since 2021-22	Largest occupational groupings
 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	12,563	17.9	↓16.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock Farmers ○ Livestock Farm Workers ○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers ○ Crop Farmers
 Health Care and Social Assistance	7,330	10.4	↑8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registered Nurses ○ Aged and Disabled Carers ○ Child Carers ○ Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
 Construction	6,390	9.1	↑5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Carpenters and Joiners ○ Construction Managers ○ Plumbers
 Retail Trade	5,743	8.2	↓3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Retail Managers ○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers ○ Shelf Fillers
 Manufacturing	5,653	8.1	↑1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packers ○ Meat, Poultry and Seafood Process Workers ○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists
 Education and Training	4,888	7.0	↓0.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary School Teachers ○ Secondary School Teachers ○ Education Aides ○ Child Carers
 Accommodation and Food Services	4,156	5.9	↑8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiters ○ Kitchenhands ○ Bar Attendants and Baristas ○ Chefs
 Public Administration and Safety	4,119	5.9	↑1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Clerks ○ Police ○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators ○ Inspectors and Regulatory Officers
 Transport, Postal and Warehousing	3,573	5.1	↑4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Truck Drivers ○ Automobile Drivers ○ Delivery Drivers ○ Bus and Coach Drivers
 Mining	3,242	4.6	↑4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Mining Engineers ○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians
 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,666	3.8	↑12.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accountants ○ Solicitors ○ Software and Applications Programmers ○ Civil Engineering Professionals
 Other Services	2,533	3.6	↑0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motor Mechanics ○ Hairdressers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Beauty Therapists
 Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	2,059	2.9	↑2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Truck Drivers ○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers ○ Chemical, Gas, Petroleum and Power Generation Plant Operators
 Wholesale Trade	1,793	2.6	↑0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storepersons ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers ○ Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks
 Administrative and Support Services	1,379	2.0	↑3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial Cleaners ○ Domestic Cleaners ○ Gardeners ○ Garden and Nursery Labourers
 Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	793	1.1	↓3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real Estate Sales Agents ○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers ○ General Clerks ○ Land Economists and Valuers
 Financial and Insurance Services	679	1.0	↑4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank Workers ○ Credit and Loans Officers ○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers ○ Financial Brokers
 Arts and Recreation Services	419	0.6	↑2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials ○ Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers ○ Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals ○ Fitness Instructors
 Information Media and Telecommunications	228	0.3	↓8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Librarians ○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Telecommunications Trades Worker ○ Library Assistants