



ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS SERIES

Wide Bay region

Wide Bay is projected to be the fastest growing region in Queensland due, in part, to strong levels of population growth. It is a diverse region, with significant levels of employment across industries as varied as Education and Training, Construction and Manufacturing, but the dominant industry is Health Care and Social Assistance.



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

133,252 people employed in this region*

+15,926 additional workers since 2021-22

By 2025-26, Wide Bay is projected to experience the fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.6% 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 - Whitsundays	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 4 (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 Wide Bay 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	28,291	21.2	↑23.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aged and Disabled Carers ○ Registered Nurses ○ Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers ○ Child Carers
 Retail Trade	14,975	11.2	↑9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Retail Managers ○ Checkout Operators and Office Cashiers ○ Shelf Fillers
 Education and Training	11,709	8.8	↑14.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary School Teachers ○ Secondary School Teachers ○ Education Aides ○ Child Carers
 Construction	10,550	7.9	↑13.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Carpenters and Joiners ○ Construction Managers ○ Plumbers
 Accommodation and Food Services	9,917	7.4	↑18.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiters ○ Kitchenhands ○ Bar Attendants and Baristas ○ Chefs
 Manufacturing	9,417	7.1	↑7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Paper and Wood Processing Machine Operators ○ Production Managers
 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	9,095	6.8	↓3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock Farmers ○ Crop Farmers ○ Crop Farm Workers ○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers
 Public Administration and Safety	8,157	6.1	↑15.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police ○ General Clerks ○ Security Officers and Guards ○ Contract, Program and Project Administrators
 Other Services	5,539	4.2	↑11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motor Mechanics ○ Hairdressers ○ Beauty Therapists ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists
 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5,286	4.0	↑20.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accountants ○ Solicitors ○ Software and Applications Programmers ○ Civil Engineering Professionals
 Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5,019	3.8	↑12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Truck Drivers ○ Delivery Drivers ○ Automobile Drivers ○ Bus and Coach Drivers
 Administrative and Support Services	3,832	2.9	↑12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial Cleaners ○ Domestic Cleaners ○ Gardeners ○ Human Resource Professionals
 Wholesale Trade	2,347	1.8	↑7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storepersons ○ Sales Assistants (General) ○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers ○ Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks
 Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1,996	1.5	↑11.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricians ○ Truck Drivers ○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers ○ Electrical Engineers
 Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1,826	1.4	↑8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real Estate Sales Agents ○ Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers ○ General Clerks ○ Land Economists and Valuers
 Mining	1,655	1.2	↑12.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers ○ Metal Fitters and Machinists ○ Other Building and Engineering Technicians ○ Truck Drivers
 Financial and Insurance Services	1,629	1.2	↑13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank Workers ○ Credit and Loans Officers (Aus) \ Finance Clerks (NZ) ○ Financial Investment Advisers and Managers ○ Financial Brokers
 Arts and Recreation Services	1,191	0.9	↑13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials ○ Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers ○ Fitness Instructors ○ Sportspersons
 Information Media and Telecommunications	819	0.6	↑0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telecommunications Trades Workers ○ Journalists and Other Writers ○ Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors ○ Telecommunications Engineering Professionals