

# Cairns region

More than one in five new jobs in the Cairns region will be in industries supporting tourism. While Health Care and Social Assistance is projected to be the largest employing industry by June 2025, the Accommodation and Food Services industry is projected to experience the fastest growth.<sup>#</sup>



By 2024-25, it is projected that there will be:

**134,873** people employed in the Cairns region\*

**+12,873** additional workers since 2020-21

By 2024-25, Cairns is projected to experience the 10th fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 4.7% of the State's workforce.

Region	Growth (%) between 2020-21 and 2024-25	People employed in 2024-25
Outback - North	15.1	28,803
Sunshine Coast	13.7	198,273
Ipswich	12.4	154,123
Moreton Bay - North	11.6	95,099
Gold Coast	11.4	344,307
Logan - Beaudesert	11.3	138,679
Moreton Bay - South	10.9	73,470
Wide Bay	10.8	129,454
Central Queensland	10.6	134,829
<b>Cairns</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>134,873</b>
Townsville	10.5	129,261
Brisbane	10.5	1,001,615
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	10.4	109,032
Far North	9.3	14,721
Toowoomba	9.0	87,997
Outback - South	7.8	11,735
Darling Downs - Maranoa	6.7	76,257

<sup>#</sup> The Anticipating Future Skills series provides employment projections for Queensland between 2020-21 and 2024-25, enabling Queenslanders to identify job opportunities across industries, occupations and regions. As these projections are high level and indicative, 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 2024-25, it is projected that the Cairns workforce will be employed within:

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce	% change since 2020-21	Largest occupational groupings
 <b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	<b>22,086</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>↑15.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Nurses</li> <li>Aged and Disabled Carers</li> <li>Receptionists</li> <li>Child Carers</li> </ul>
 <b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>14,727</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>↑12.3</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>13,589</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>↑16.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiters</li> <li>Kitchenhands</li> <li>Bar Attendants and Baristas</li> <li>Sales Assistants (General)</li> </ul>
 <b>Education and Training</b>	<b>11,592</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>↑13.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary School Teachers</li> <li>Secondary School Teachers</li> <li>Education Aides</li> <li>Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers</li> </ul>
 <b>Construction</b>	<b>10,788</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>↑8.5</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>9,195</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>↑4.1</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>7,751</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>↑5.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truck Drivers</li> <li>Storepersons</li> <li>Automobile Drivers</li> <li>Bus and Coach Drivers</li> </ul>
 <b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>↑10.2</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>Professional, Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>↑9.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountants</li> <li>Solicitors</li> <li>Software and Applications Programmers</li> <li>Bookkeepers</li> </ul>
 <b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>6,232</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>↑2.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers</li> <li>Food and Drink Factory Workers</li> <li>Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>Production Managers</li> </ul>
 <b>Other Services</b>	<b>5,977</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>↑11.9</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>4,847</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>↑5.6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial Cleaners</li> <li>Domestic Cleaners</li> <li>Gardeners</li> <li>Human Resource Professionals</li> </ul>
 <b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>↑10.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storepersons</li> <li>Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers</li> <li>Sales Assistants (General)</li> <li>Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers</li> </ul>
 <b>Arts and Recreation Services</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>↑0.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials</li> <li>Fitness Instructors</li> <li>Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers</li> <li>Gaming Workers</li> </ul>
 <b>Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>↑13.9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real Estate Sales Agents</li> <li>General Clerks</li> <li>Other Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers</li> <li>Other Sales Assistants and Salespersons</li> </ul>
 <b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>↑12.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Workers</li> <li>Financial Investment Advisers and Managers</li> <li>Financial Brokers</li> <li>Credit and Loans Officers</li> </ul>
 <b>Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>↑8.8</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>1,064</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>↑16.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers</li> <li>Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>Other Building and Engineering Technicians</li> <li>Truck Drivers</li> </ul>
 <b>Information Media and Telecommunications</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>↑3.9</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>Artistic Directors, and Media Producers and Presenters</li> </ul>

