



ANTICIPATING FUTURE SKILLS SERIES

# Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday region

Mining is projected to remain an important industry in the Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday region, employing almost 17% of the region’s workforce. However, above average employment growth in industries such as Accommodation and Food, Health Care and Social Assistance and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services reflect the region’s diversity.



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

**114,384** people employed in this region\*

**+2,582** additional workers since 2021-22

By 2025-26, Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday is projected to experience the 14th fastest increase in employment in Queensland. It is projected to comprise 6.0% 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
<b>Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>114,384</b>
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 Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday workforce will be employed within:**

Industry	People employed	% of regional workforce 2025-2026	% change since 2021-22	Largest occupational groupings
 <b>Mining</b>	<b>19,242</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>↑0.3</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>○ Electricians</li> </ul>
 <b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	<b>13,312</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>↑11.3</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>9,991</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>↓0.2</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>9,444</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>↑8.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiters</li> <li>○ Kitchenhands</li> <li>○ Bar Attendants and Baristas</li> <li>○ Chefs</li> </ul>
 <b>Construction</b>	<b>8,221</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>↑3.8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electricians</li> <li>○ Carpenters and Joiners</li> <li>○ Construction Managers</li> <li>○ Plumbers</li> </ul>
 <b>Education and Training</b>	<b>7,610</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>↑4.9</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>Transport, Postal and Warehousing</b>	<b>7,264</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>↑3.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Truck Drivers</li> <li>○ Storepersons</li> <li>○ Automobile Drivers</li> <li>○ Delivery Drivers</li> </ul>
 <b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>6,605</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>↓3.4</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>5,503</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>↑0.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motor Mechanics</li> <li>○ Hairdressers</li> <li>○ Metal Fitters and Machinists</li> <li>○ Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics</li> </ul>
 <b>Public Administration and Safety</b>	<b>5,192</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>↑4.4</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>Professional, Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>4,910</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>↑7.7</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>4,700</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>↓13.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crop Farmers</li> <li>○ Livestock Farmers</li> <li>○ Crop Farm Workers</li> <li>○ Mixed Crop and Livestock Farmers</li> </ul>
 <b>Administrative and Support Services</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>↑1.3</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>3,355</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>↓2.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storepersons</li> <li>○ Sales Assistants (General)</li> <li>○ Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers</li> <li>○ Importers, Exporters and Wholesalers</li> </ul>
 <b>Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>↓4.9</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>○ Other Sales Assistants and Salespersons</li> </ul>
 <b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>↑2.1</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 (Aus) \ Finance Clerks (NZ)</li> </ul>
 <b>Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>↑5.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Truck Drivers</li> <li>○ Electrical Distribution Trades Workers</li> <li>○ Electricians</li> <li>○ Electrical Engineers</li> </ul>
 <b>Arts and Recreation Services</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>↑1.7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials</li> <li>○ Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers</li> <li>○ Fitness Instructors</li> <li>○ Sportspersons</li> </ul>
 <b>Information Media and Telecommunications</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>↓9.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Telecommunications Trades Workers</li> <li>○ Film, Television, Radio and Stage Directors</li> <li>○ Librarians</li> <li>○ Journalists and Other Writers</li> </ul>