

MANUFACTURING TRAINING, SKILLS AND WORKFORCE UPDATE

| SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

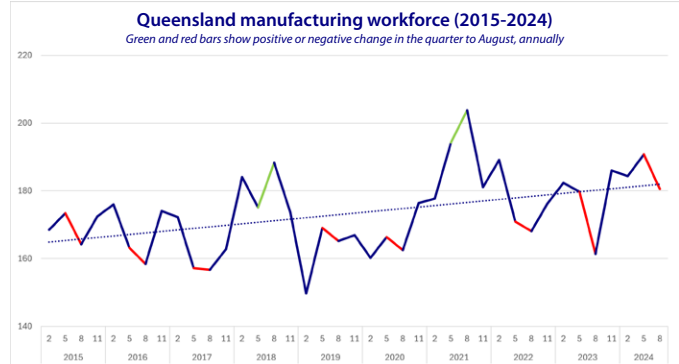
1. Queensland's manufacturing workforce is up **19,100 workers** from this time last year.
2. Strong workforce growth is seen in regional areas of Queensland.
3. A lower number of people, with their last job being in manufacturing, report being unemployed, but the average duration of a job search for this cohort has increased.
4. Significant disparity (20.1%) exists between the percentage of females engaging in manufacturing qualifications, and the percentage across all VET qualifications.
5. Outside of Brisbane, greatest engagement in manufacturing VET qualifications is in Gold Coast, Ipswich and Logan – Beaudesert regions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Queensland manufacturing industry demonstrates resilience and growth, with the current workforce standing at 180,500 individuals. This represents a significant year-over-year increase of 19,100 employees. While there has been an adjustment from the previous quarter's workforce figure of 190,000+, it's important to note that August typically marks a seasonal low point in employment figures. Since 2014, this pattern has been observed eight times, reflecting normal cyclical variations in the industry. Looking ahead, the outlook remains positive. Historical data suggests a strong tendency for growth in the quarter ending November, and current projections anticipate a similar upward trend in workforce numbers.

Workforce growth remains strong in regional areas of Queensland with an additional 14,600 compared to this quarter in 2023. Job vacancies have lowered in the last quarter, but the average duration of a job search for an individual last employed in the manufacturing industry increased. This could be attributed to skilling or job suitability, among other factors.

Recently published data of the engagement in all VET qualifications within manufacturing training packages, shows a significant difference between state averages for females. 44% of all enrolments in Queensland are female, but when filtering for manufacturing qualifications, this value drops to 23.9%. The metal and engineering training package dominates the commencement and completion landscape within manufacturing training packages, with the Certificate II in Engineering Pathways being the most enrolled qualification in 2023. More than 17,000 individuals completed a qualification in 2023, increasing the skill and capacity of the current and future workforce.



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, detailed (September, 2024)

WORKFORCE SUMMARY



Jobs

- The manufacturing workforce in Queensland is currently **180,500** persons. This is an **increase of 19,100** since this time last year. The workforce is **20.5%** of the total Australian manufacturing workforce, and **84.9%** of Queensland employees are full-time.
- The increase in workforce has been largely driven by the extra **8,600** employees in Primary Metal and Metal Product, and **8,000** in Machinery and Equipment. The Beverage Product sector has seen a decrease of **4,800** employees in the last 12 months, while the Transport Equipment sub-industry workforce has fallen by **3,500** in the same time period.
- On a four-quarter average, the manufacturing workforce in Greater Brisbane has fallen by **3,900**, while the regional workforce has increased by **14,600** when compared to one year ago. Strongest growth is seen in Gold Coast, Cairns and Central Queensland areas.



Job Vacancies

- In Queensland, there are currently **5,800** unemployed persons in which their last job was in the manufacturing industry, and the average duration of job search for a Queenslanders who last worked in the manufacturing industry is **23.5 weeks** (four-quarter average is 18.8 weeks).
- Manufacturing has **14,700 job vacancies** across Australia (4.4% of Australia's vacant jobs), **10,400 less** than 12 months ago. There are **67,500 job vacancies** in Queensland, and approximately **3,005** are in the manufacturing industry.



Gross Value Added

- In the 2022/23 financial year, manufacturing in Queensland added **\$27.3 billion** to the economy. Since then, gross value added on a national level fell by 0.3% and 1.1% in the last two quarters of 2023, before 1% and 0.7% increases in the first two quarters of 2024.



Earnings

- The average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time employees is **\$1,706.70 (highest recorded)**. This is a **0.7% increase** since the end of 2023. Men earn **11.8% more** than women.

TRAINING AND SKILLS SUMMARY

Diversity

- Creating a diverse workforce will ensure that manufacturing in Queensland continues to thrive. Currently, Queensland manufacturing has **44,400 female employees**. This is **24.6%** of the workforce and **4,000** higher than 12 months ago. However, training percentages are lower than the workforce percentage.

Cohort	Commencements		Completions	
	Manufacturing	Queensland	Manufacturing	Queensland
Females	23.9% (+1.6)	44.0% (+1.1)	28.6% (+0.8)	46.5% (-0.7)
First Nation people	7.0% (+0.9)	7.3% (+0.3)	5.8% (+0.0)	6.6% (+0.2)
People with a Disability	6.1% (-0.5)	6.6% (+0.0)	5.7% (-0.6)	6.2% (-0.1)

** Values in this table reflect commencements and completions in 2023 for all VET courses. Value in brackets represents the difference to 2022.

Skills Pipeline (by Region)

- The percentage of commencements and completions for each region is similar across the state, showing that completion performance is not significantly higher or lower in any area. Completions are strongest in **Central Queensland** and **Gold Coast**, as these regions have a higher percentage of the state completions than commencements.
- The most popular training package in each region is **Metal and Engineering**, except for Brisbane – West and Gold Coast, where **Laboratory Operations** has the highest engagement.
- Commencements – enrolment in a qualification for the first time, within the time period (2023 calendar year).
- Completions – completing a qualification within the time period (2023 calendar year).

Region	Commencements		Completions	
Brisbane – East	1,660	4.9%	660	3.8%
Brisbane – North	1,000	2.9%	450	2.6%
Brisbane – South	1,975	5.8%	1,080	6.2%
Brisbane – West	1,025	3.0%	605	3.5%
Brisbane – Inner City	975	2.9%	545	3.1%
Cairns	1,355	4.0%	695	4.0%
Central Queensland	1,530	4.5%	1,025	5.9%
Darling Downs – Maranoa	1,165	3.4%	645	3.7%
Gold Coast	4,035	11.8%	2,315	13.3%
Ipswich	3,170	9.3%	1,620	9.3%
Logan – Beaudesert	3,100	9.1%	1,675	9.7%
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	1,680	4.9%	830	4.8%
Moreton Bay – North	1,880	5.5%	730	4.2%
Moreton Bay – South	1,890	5.5%	870	5.0%
Queensland – Outback	430	1.3%	195	1.1%
Sunshine Coast	2,150	6.3%	910	5.2%
Toowoomba	1,450	4.2%	745	4.3%
Townsville	1,505	4.4%	790	4.6%
Wide Bay	2,190	6.4%	970	5.6%
Queensland Total	34,160		17,345	

** Some students may have commenced and completed in the same year.

Skills Pipeline (by Training Package)

- The Metal and Engineering training package has significant commencement and completion data. Within the 16,020 individuals that enrolled in a Metal and Engineering qualification in 2023, **8,985** enrolled in a **Certificate II in Engineering Pathways**. This represents **23.6%** of all Queensland manufacturing enrolments.
- In the Furnishing and Laboratory Operations training packages, most engagement is in the **Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways (2,690 enrolments)** and **Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement (3,255 enrolments)** respectively.

Training Package	Commencements		Completions	
Aeroskills	425	1.2%	245	1.4%
Australian Meat Processing	1,470	4.3%	1,180	6.8%
Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining	270	0.8%	105	0.6%
Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical	1,640	4.8%	1,095	6.3%
Furnishing	5,370	15.7%	1,415	8.2%
Laboratory Operations	5,185	15.2%	4,560	26.3%
Manufacturing	2,645	7.7%	695	4.0%
Metal and Engineering	16,020	46.9%	7,135	41.1%
Plastics, Rubber and Cablemaking	55	0.2%	50	0.3%
Printing and Graphic Arts	35	0.1%	15	0.1%
Sustainability	425	1.2%	425	2.5%
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear	620	1.8%	425	2.5%
Queensland Total	34,160		17,345	

Source: ABS, Labour force, Australia, detailed and NCVET, Apprentices & trainees, released 8 October 2024 11:00am AEST

Notes: Workforce Summary data is based on August 2024 data, unless stated. Training and Skills Summary data is based on totals for the 12 months to 31 December 2023 and utilises the 12 training packages associated with manufacturing and the usual residence of individuals, unless stated.