



Employment in South East Queensland

Employment snapshot



1.93 million employed persons live in SEQ, as of August 2021, with a labour force participation rate of **66.7%**.



Brisbane was the main LGA for place of work with **48% of SEQ's employment**, followed by the Gold Coast (18%), in 2016.



There are significantly **more employed people who work in the Brisbane** LGA than live in it (Figure 1). In contrast, the Redland and Moreton Bay LGAs have a notable shortfall of local jobs relative to employed residents.



The Brisbane City SA2 is the main place of work with **122,500 employed persons**, representing 8.3% of the SEQ total in 2016, followed by South Brisbane (**27,500**), Southport-North (**24,200**) and Rocklea-Acacia Ridge (**23,300**).



14.5% of SEQ employment is in the Health care and social assistance industry as of August 2021, followed by Retail trade (**10.2%**) and Construction (**9.1%**). (Figure 2).



23.9% of SEQ's employment was in knowledge-intensive industries in 2016.

Figure 1: Employed persons by LGA of work, 2016

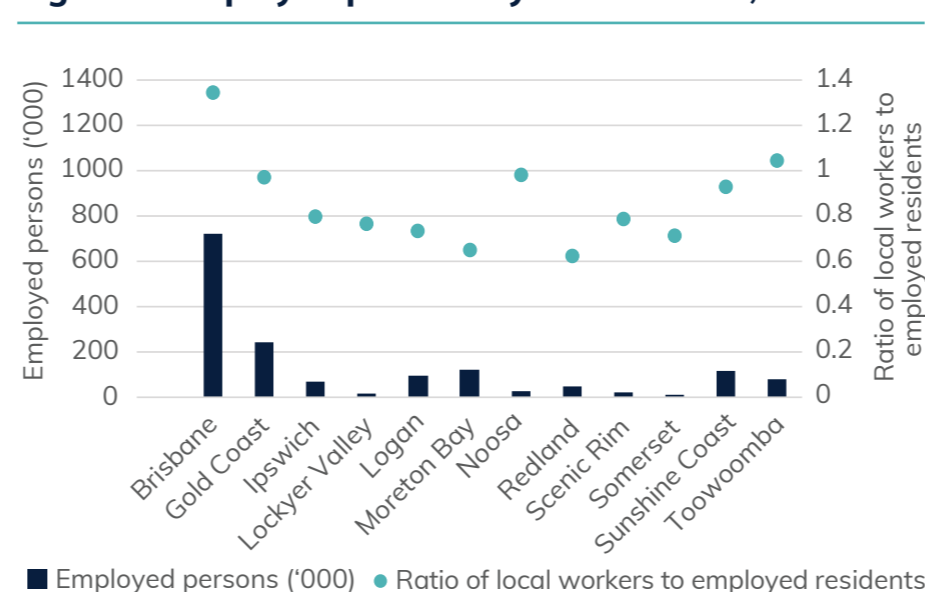
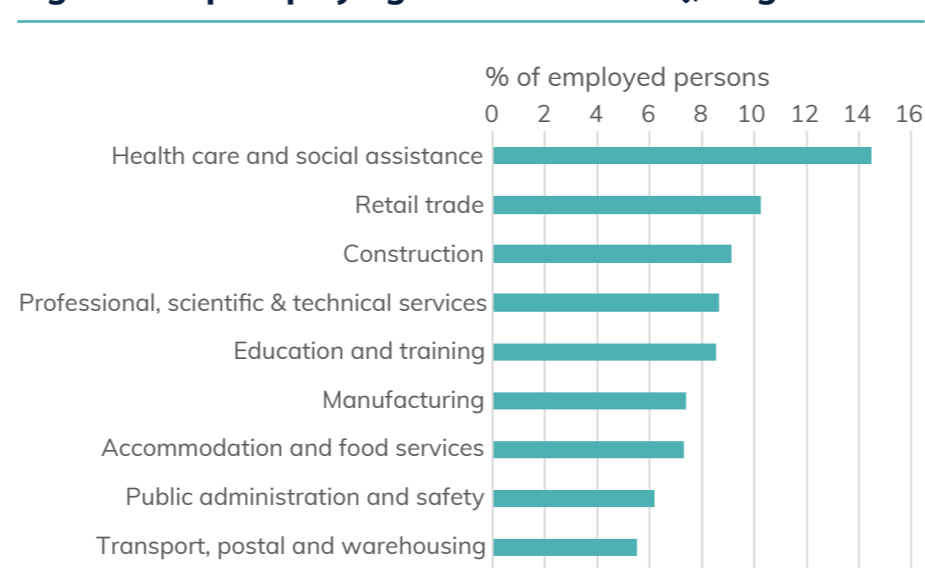


Figure 2: Top employing industries in SEQ, August 2021



SEQ added **186,800** employed residents between 2016 and 2021, representing an **average annual growth rate of 2.1%**.



The **Gold Coast** SA4 had the largest increase in employed residents of all SA4s in SEQ, with employment rising by **44,700** employed persons between 2016 and 2021 (Table 1).

Employment growth

Table 1: Growth in employed residents, 2016 to 2021

SA4 of residence	Change in employed persons, 2016 to 2021 (per cent)	Average annual growth rate, 2016 to 2021 (per cent)	Share of SEQ total growth (per cent)
Brisbane Inner City	29.1	3.3	15.6
Brisbane East	8.2	1.3	4.4
Brisbane North	13.3	2.2	7.1
Brisbane South	5.9	0.6	3.1
Brisbane West	6.1	1.2	3.3
Ipswich	28.9	3.5	15.5
Logan-Beaudesert	24.3	3.4	13.0
Moreton Bay North and South (combined)	6.5	0.6	3.5
Total – Greater Brisbane	122.3	2.0	65.5
Gold Coast	44.7	2.7	23.9
Sunshine Coast	16.3	1.9	8.7
Toowoomba	3.5	1.0	1.9
Total – SEQ	186.8	2.1	100.0



Skills in South East Queensland

Occupations of the workforce



Professionals (e.g. Accountants, Economists, Engineers and Pharmacists) were the largest occupational group in the 12 LGAs of SEQ in 2016, at **328,587** employed persons.

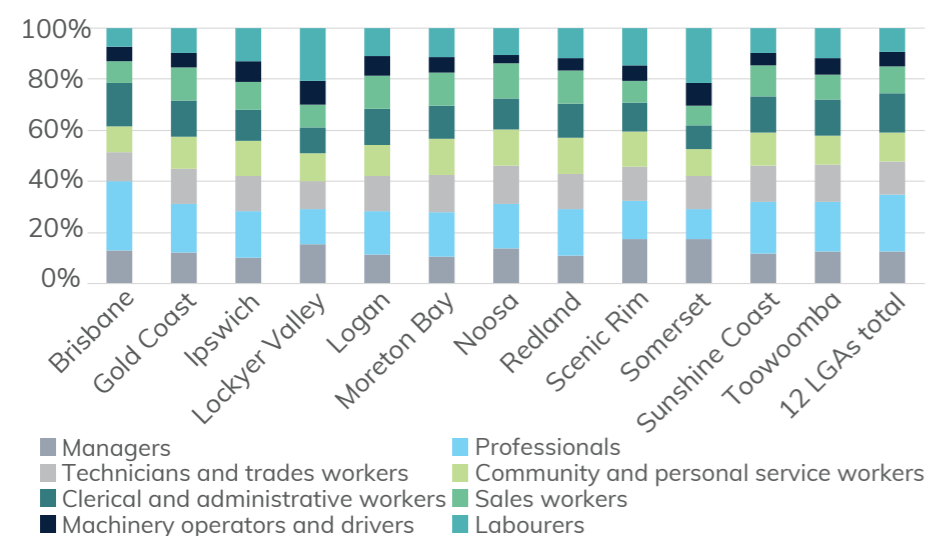


The **Brisbane LGA** has the highest proportion of Professionals (**27%**), followed by the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba (both **20%**) (Figure 3).



Professionals were the biggest occupational contributor to SEQ's employment growth from 2016 to 2021, with an increase of 82,200 persons, which is **44%** of the total increase.

Figure 3: Occupational mix by LGA of work, 2021



Educational attainment of the workforce



30% of the working population of the 12 LGAs of SEQ had a **Bachelor's degree or higher qualification** in 2016, the same as the national level (30%).

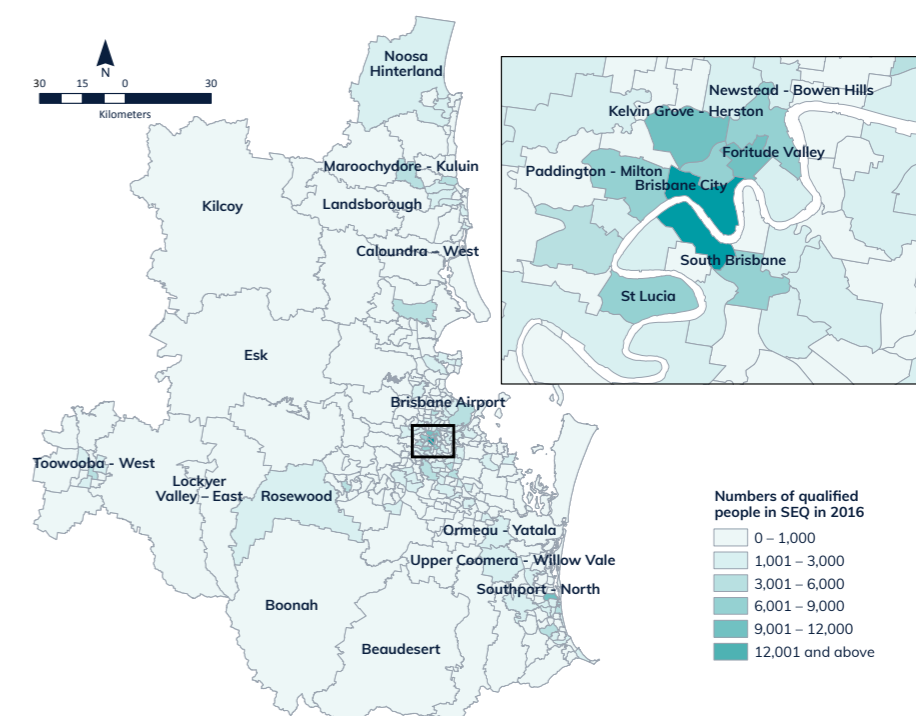


Of the 12 LGAs, the **Brisbane LGA** has the largest share of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher qualification, at **35%**.



Inner Brisbane is the focal point of SEQ's knowledge economy, with **48%** of its working population holding a Bachelor's degree or higher qualification (Figure 4).

Figure 4: University qualified employed persons by SA2 of work, 2016



Future projections across Queensland



Professionals are **projected to increase by 16.1%** by 2024 (compared to 2019), followed by Community and personal service workers (14.3%) and Managers (12.1%) in Queensland.



By 2024, the **Postgraduate degree** qualifications are **projected to experience** the highest growth at **26.9%**, followed by Bachelor's degree (15.9%) and Graduate diploma and graduate certificate (14.2%) in Queensland.