



Queensland
manufacturing

THE STATE OF THE SECTOR 2026



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FORWARD

Queensland manufacturing is in a strong position moving into 2026.

Like the rest of Australia, our industry has navigated a period of adjustment over the past two years. The post-pandemic boom has given way to more measured conditions, and manufacturers have faced rising costs and global trade uncertainties. But through it all, Queensland has shown remarkable resilience.

We've held onto the gains made during the recent cycle. Our workforce is larger than it was before the pandemic. Our investment pipeline is growing. And we've continued to outperform the traditional manufacturing heartlands in the southern states. That's no small achievement.

What sets Queensland apart is our deep connection to the resource sector. Food and beverage, petrochemicals, machinery and equipment – these are the industries driving our growth, and they all share one thing in common: strong links to our natural resource endowments. This isn't a new story, but it's one that continues to define our competitive advantage.

Our manufacturing footprint is also unique. Nearly half our workforce is based in regional areas, the highest share of any state in the country. This reflects the co-location between manufacturers and primary producers that has become a hallmark of Queensland's industrial landscape. It also creates

distinct challenges around workforce development, training access, and business support – particularly for the smaller, younger businesses that make up so much of our sector.

Looking ahead, the fundamentals are sound. Financial performance remains strong. Investment is rising. And while skills shortages persist, we're seeing encouraging signs in training and workforce. Enrolment and completion of manufacturing qualifications remain strong and job vacancy rates have eased back to pre-pandemic levels. The Brisbane 2032 Olympics will bring new opportunities, particularly in construction-related manufacturing.

This report provides a comprehensive snapshot of where we are and where we're headed. I hope it serves as a useful resource for industry, government, and training providers as we work together to secure the next phase of growth for Queensland manufacturing.

Kris McCue

Acting Chief Executive Officer
Manufacturing Skills Queensland



INTRODUCTION

In 2025 there was a minor contraction in both the Queensland and Australian manufacturing industries as business conditions normalised following a post-pandemic expansion. However, financial performance in the industry has improved, and a growing investment pipeline points towards a return to growth conditions in 2026.

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Queensland manufacturing has secured many of the gains from the recent cycle. Output, employment and investment are all higher than before the pandemic, and the state has performed more strongly than the traditional manufacturing bases in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.
- Links to the resource sector continue to shape Queensland manufacturing, with food, chemicals and machinery all driving its recent growth. The state has the most regionalised industry in Australia due to co-location between manufacturers and down- or upstream primary producers.
- Queensland manufacturing businesses are distinctive from their peers in other states. They are smaller, more regionalised, and more likely to be young businesses. This leads to distinctive needs around workforce, skills and training.
- Queensland manufacturing has faced mounting wage cost and workforce shortages since the pandemic. The state retains competitive workforce advantages relative to its peers, despite its more regionalised industrial footprint.
- The qualifications profile of Queensland manufacturing is dominated by VET and secondary-qualified employees. However, with younger employees having greater VET and higher education attainment, cohort effects are likely to see the profile strengthen over time.
- Manufacturing training completions declined during the pandemic and have yet to return to historical levels. Regional centres have stronger training supply relative to workforce size than metropolitan areas. Broadening the training pipeline will be critical to secure the industry's next stage of growth.
- The gender composition of Queensland manufacturing has steadily improved over the last decade. In the short-term, female workforce participation is sensitive to business cycles and eased slightly in 2024 and 2025. A return to growth conditions in 2026 will enable further uplift, improving diverse participation.

1

OUTPUT OF THE QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Rationalisation after pandemic boom but Queensland holds ground with national industry.

The Queensland manufacturing sector generated \$28.0 billion in real value-add in the year to June 2025, contracting 2% on the year prior. The industry accounted 5.3% of Gross State Product.

Manufacturing activity in Queensland enjoyed strong growth conditions in the years following the pandemic, as manufacturers responded to fill gaps caused by global supply chain disruptions. As industrial supply chain conditions have normalised from 2023, there has been a slight contraction in both Queensland and Australian manufacturing over the last two years. Global trade disruptions – associated with US tariffs announced in the first half of 2025 – weighed on Australian manufacturers over the last year.

Queensland manufacturing has consolidated the gains of the post-pandemic period. Despite two years of easing, real output (adjusted for inflation) remained higher in 2024-25 than

prior to the pandemic. Improved financial performance and a strengthening investment pipeline suggest output will rise again once the current contraction ends.

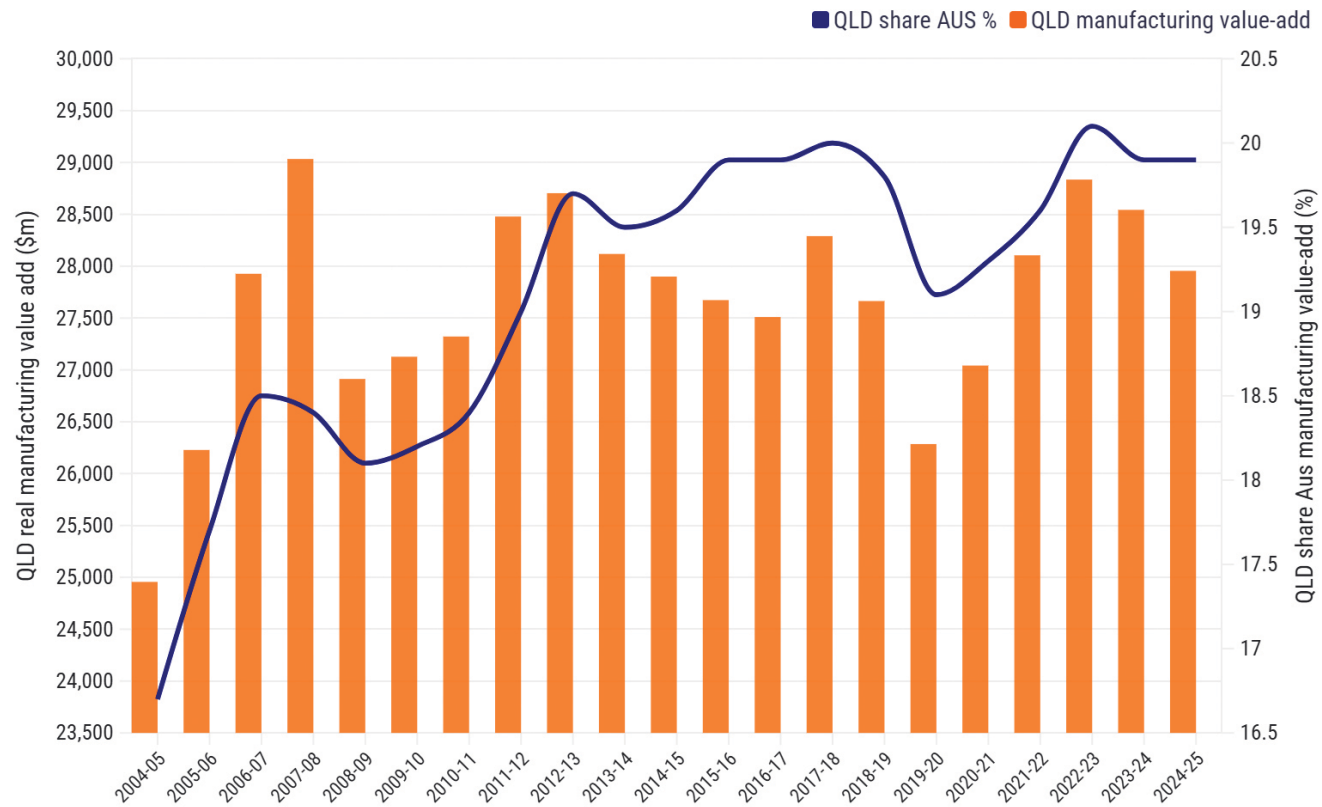
Over the long-term, Queensland has consistently improved its position within the broader Australian manufacturing industry. Since the mid-2000s, above-average growth has raised the state's share of national output from around 16.5% to 20%. The recent two-year contraction hasn't affected this trajectory, with Queensland maintaining its share of the national industry.

Queensland's relative strength reflects its underlying economic fundamentals: robust population growth, strong investment activity, and deep integration with resource and energy supply chains. These factors have helped position the state as a key contributor to national manufacturing output, even as short-term conditions fluctuate.



Queensland manufacturing value-added

Post-pandemic growth and consolidation cycle continues in 2025



Source: ABS State Accounts • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

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EMPLOYMENT IN THE QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Easing employment in 2025 as manufacturing contracts but Queensland remains resilient.

In November 2025, Queensland's manufacturing industry employed 171,000 people, a 5% reduction over the previous twelve months. The industry accounts for 5.7% of the state's total workforce, and 19.8% of the national manufacturing workforce.

Queensland manufacturing has been shaped by the boom-and-bust cycle in the national industry over the last five years. Following the pandemic, employment rapidly expanded as manufacturers rushed to fill shortages caused by global supply chain disruptions. Since 2024, employment has declined slightly as rising cost pressures – for inputs, energy and wages – have impacted industry.

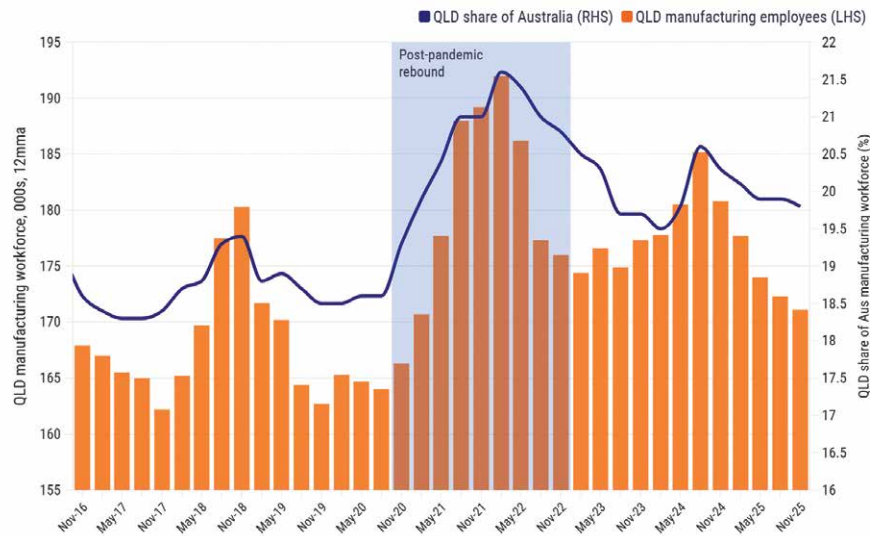
Although employment eased slightly in 2025, Queensland's manufacturing workforce remains around 3.5% above its pre-pandemic level,

indicating that some of the growth during this cycle has been retained. Notably, Queensland and Western Australia are the only states to have maintained their workforce growth, while manufacturing in other states has declined by 3-5% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

This resilience in Queensland manufacturing points to a structural shift in Australia's industrial geography. The resource-rich states of Queensland and Western Australia have consistently outperformed other states throughout the recent cycle, recording stronger growth during the boom and smaller employment declines during the downturn. The industry's close ties to major resource producers in regional centres remain a central force behind this national shift.

Queensland manufacturing employment

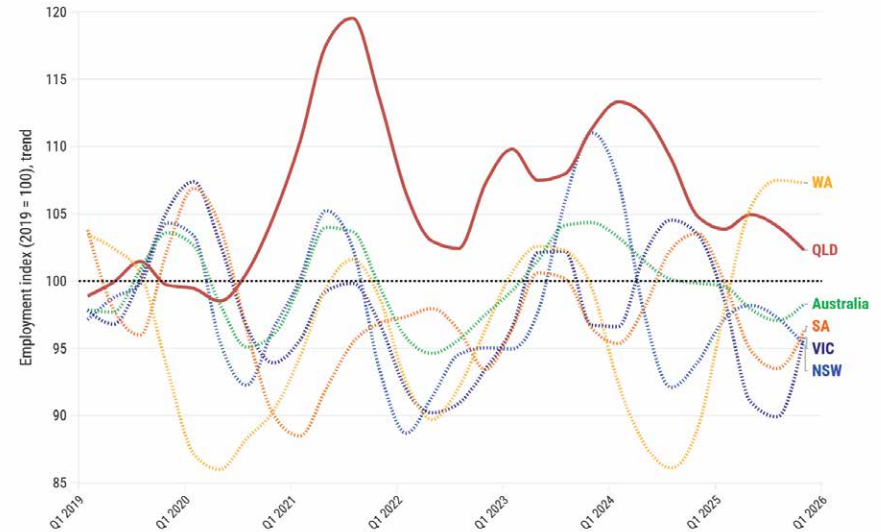
Queensland's share of national employment steadily increasing over two decades



Source: ABS LFS Detailed, Table 5 • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

Manufacturing employment growth in Australian states

Queensland and Western Australia are the only states to grow manufacturing jobs since the pandemic



Source: ABS LFS Detailed, Table 5 • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

THE CHANGING COMPOSITION OF QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

Natural resource linked sectors underpin Queensland's manufacturing resilience.

Links between manufacturing and natural resources are a critical factor behind the resilience of Queensland manufacturing. The sub-industries, which have driven recent growth, all have a clear link to the state's natural resource endowments. In the five years to the 2023-24 financial year, employment has grown by:

- **12.5%** in the food and beverage sub-industry
- **12.7%** in the petrochemicals sub-industry
- **20.7%** in the machinery and equipment sub-industry

Each of these sub-industries has a clear link to primary industry. For food and petrochemicals, the linkage is upstream – with Queensland's resource producers providing the local inputs needed for manufacturing. Conversely, the linkage is downstream for machinery and equipment, where demand generated by the

mining sector provides a growth market for Queensland manufacturers. In both cases, it is the co-location between natural resource producers and manufacturers that provides a foundation for manufacturing success.

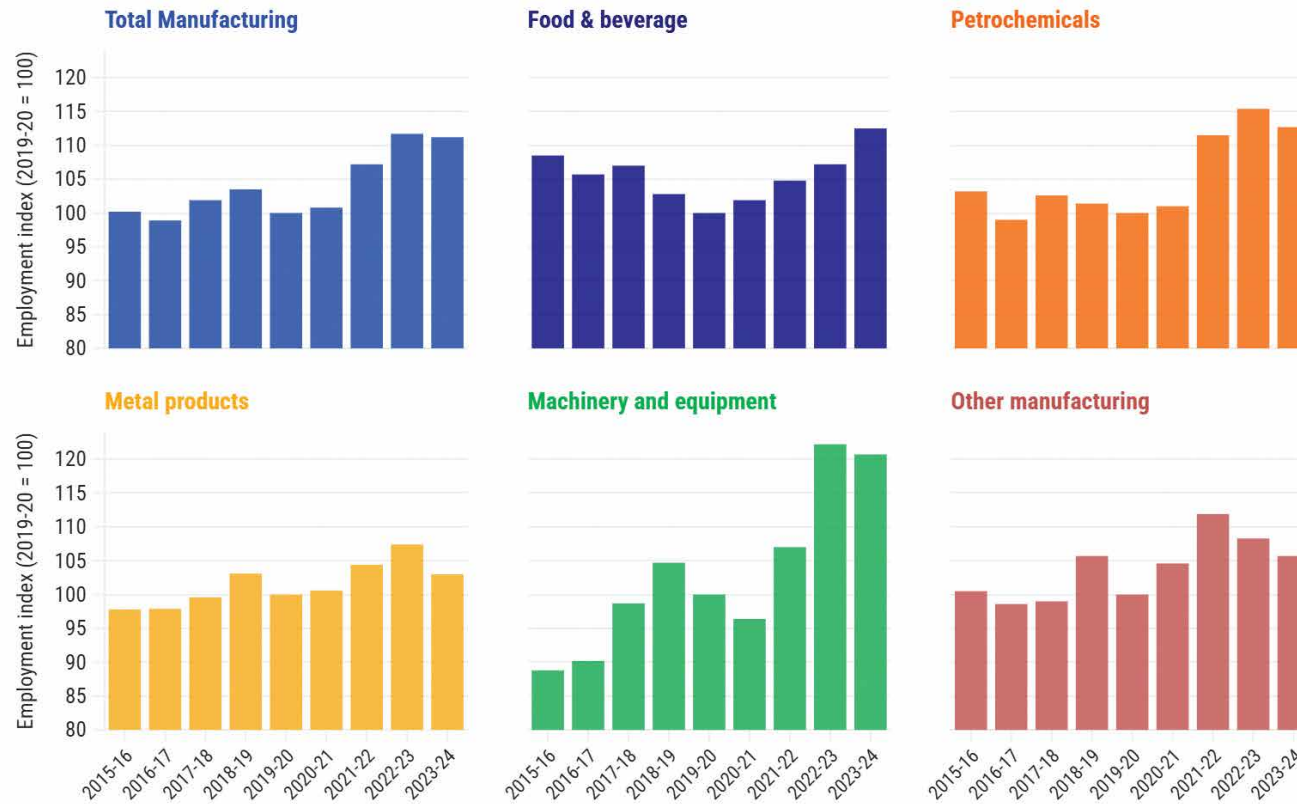
Metal products manufacturing is one sub-industry where Queensland has seen limited workforce growth – just 3% over the last five years. Much of Australia's metals industry – whether for steel, aluminium or copper products – have historically been based near key consumers in Victoria and New South Wales.

In metals, the need to co-locate mining and manufacturing is much less pronounced. This may change over time as Queensland's machinery industry steadily grows, but in the shorter-term it means metals have not been a key driver of Queensland's manufacturing success.

This resource-driven growth pattern suggests a re-balancing of Queensland's manufacturing composition. Success is increasingly concentrated in sub-industries where proximity to natural resource producers provides a competitive advantage. This shift has implications for workforce development, with rising demand for upstream manufacturing skills and training programs tailored to regional industrial hubs.

Queensland manufacturing employment by sub-industry

Co-location with natural resources drives sub-industry growth



Source: ABS Australian Industry • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

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REGIONALISATION IN QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

Regionalisation continues with strong growth of resource-connected manufacturers.

The importance of co-location with primary industry is revealed by the degree of regionalisation – the share of industry activity outside of metropolitan areas – in Queensland manufacturing.

In 2025, just under half of Queensland’s manufacturing workforce was based in regional areas. This is well above the national average of 30%. The degree of regionalisation has been steady at between 45–50% for the last decade, despite a minor decline over the last 12 months.

The regionalisation of Queensland manufacturing is significantly higher than the rest of Australia. Victoria and South Australia maintain regional shares between 25–30%, while Western Australia sits below 25%, despite its vast geography and strong resource sector. New South Wales, meanwhile, has remained relatively stable, with regionalisation hovering close to the national average.

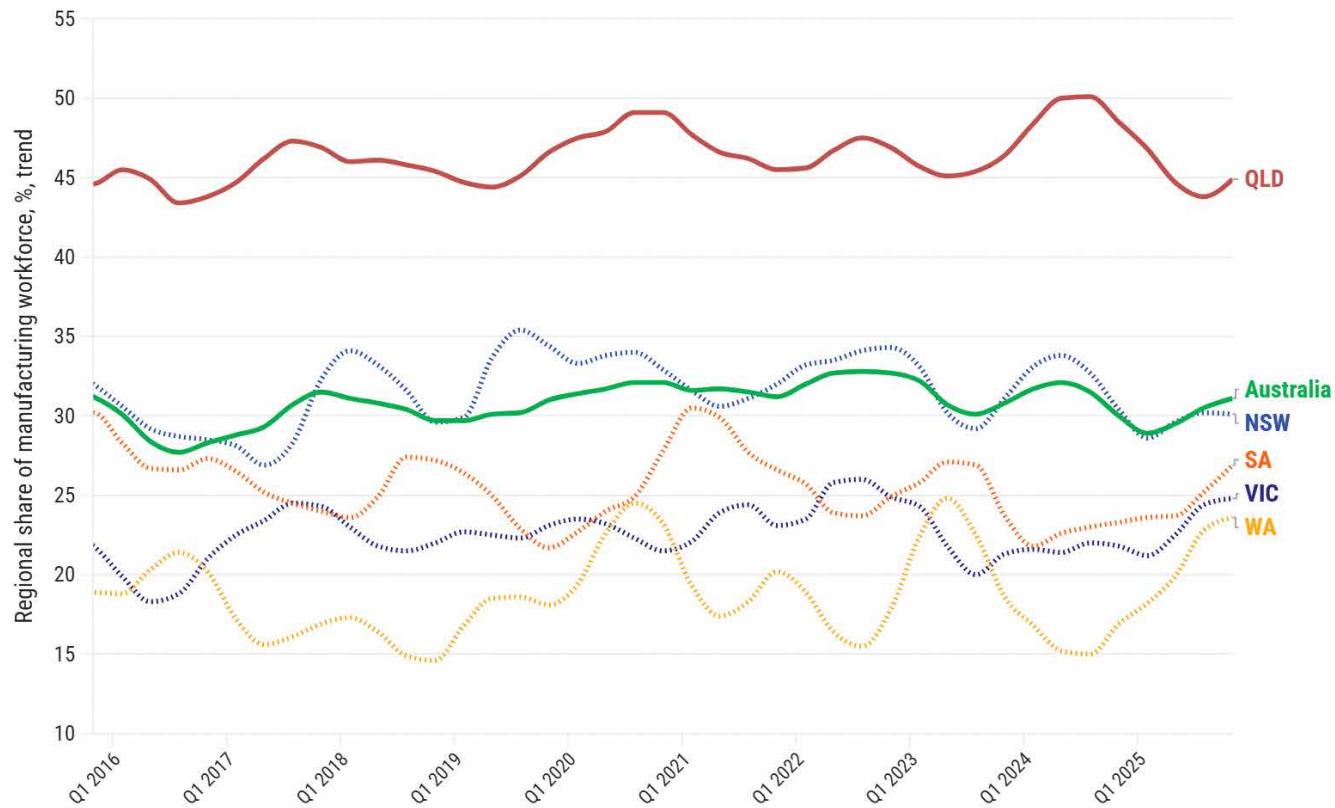
Queensland’s high regional share reflects the deep integration between its manufacturing and natural resource sectors, particularly those in the state’s central and northern centres. Manufacturing centres have grown around mining and energy projects, enabling firms to reduce transport costs, improve supply chain responsiveness, and recruit local workforce.

Despite both being resource-rich states, Queensland and Western Australia have developed different manufacturing geographies. Western Australia’s mining industry is widely dispersed, but its manufacturing remains concentrated in industrial areas south of Perth. Queensland, by contrast, has larger-scale resource regions that support local manufacturing clusters, enabling direct integration between producers and manufacturers across multiple regional centres.

The fact that regionalisation has been stable for a decade indicates it is a long-standing feature of Queensland manufacturing. Post-pandemic growth has been driven by industries with resource linkages; this was not a new phenomenon but built on a foundation of strong regional presence. It makes the Queensland workforce geographically distinctive – in terms of its recruitment and training needs – relative to other manufacturing industries across the country.

Regional share of Australian manufacturing workforce

Queensland has the most regionalised manufacturing base of Australia



Source: ABS LFS Detailed, Datacube EQ03 • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

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MANUFACTURING BUSINESS STRUCTURE INSIGHTS

Smaller, newer and more regionalised manufacturers than in other Australian states.

Queensland's manufacturing businesses are broadly distributed across the state, reflecting its regionalised geography and linkages to primary industries.

As of mid-2025, Brisbane metropolitan (2,219 businesses), Gold Coast (1,687), and Sunshine Coast (937) remain the largest concentration of manufacturing, accounting for just under half of the state's manufacturing businesses. The other half are distributed across a wide range of regional centres, including the Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Cairns, and Townsville regions.

Business size varies by location. Larger manufacturers are concentrated in Brisbane, Gold Coast, and Sunshine Coast, where access to infrastructure, skilled labour, and support services is stronger. In contrast, regional centres are dominated by smaller firms, which connect to local upstream and downstream partners. Large businesses – often serving the national market – are headquartered in Brisbane, while

the medium and small businesses connected to the resource sector are co-located in regional centres.

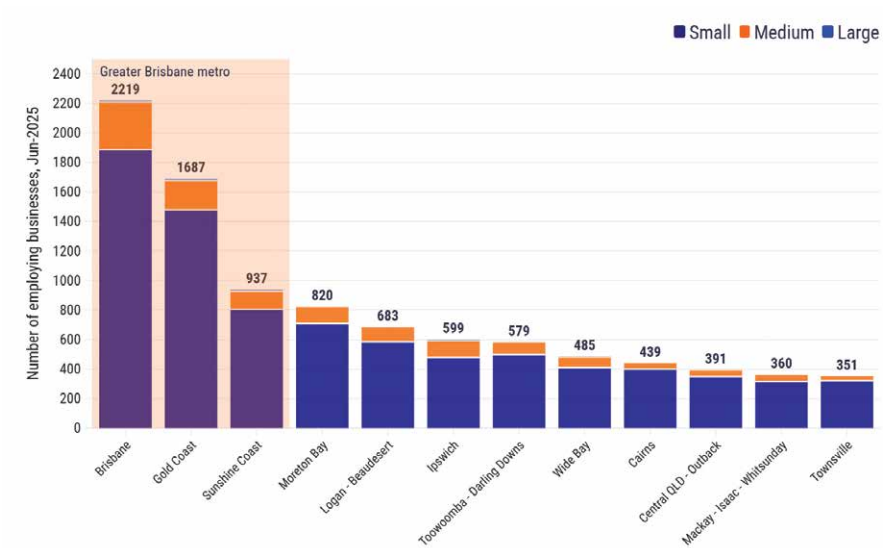
Queensland manufacturing has a greater share of new businesses than across the country. 33.9% of Queensland businesses are new – either startups or under 5 years old – the highest rate in the country. This reflects the stronger performance of manufacturing in the state in the last 5 years, leading to higher business creation rates.

These features of Queensland's manufacturing businesses – smaller, newer and more regionalised – leads to distinct workforce needs relative to the rest of Australia. Training and employment services need to be tailored to be accessible to smaller businesses, of a younger age and maturity, in regional centres. This will improve the success rate of the newer businesses as they navigate workforce, regulation and profitability.



Queensland manufacturing businesses by location and size

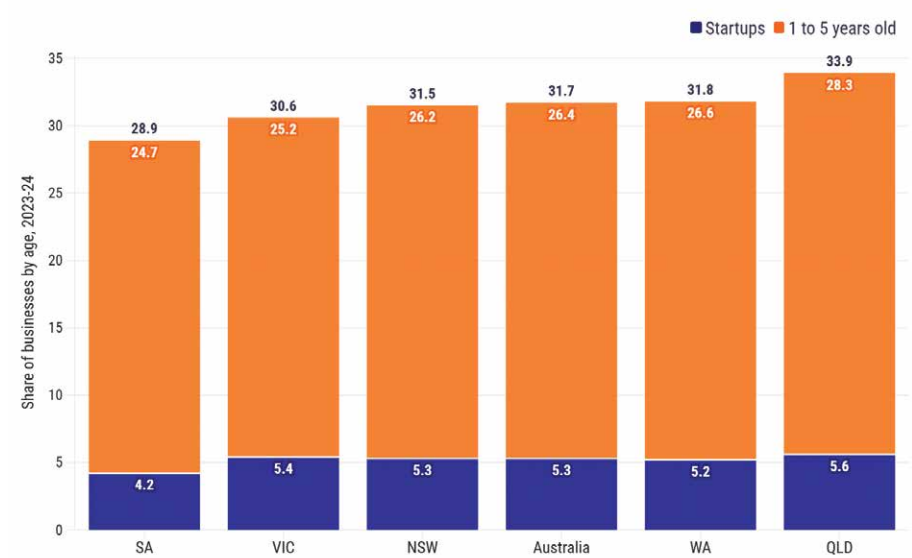
Small businesses dominate, with half outside the three main population centres



Source: ABS Counts of Australian Businesses Datacube 8
Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

New businesses in Australian manufacturing

Queensland has the highest share of startup and young manufacturers



Source: ABS BLADE microdata • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

THE GENDER COMPOSITION OF QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

Long-term improvement in women's participation is sensitive to short-term workforce patterns.

The manufacturing sector has traditionally been a male-dominated industry. However, the female share of the workforce has been increasing in both Australia and Queensland over the long-term, narrowing the gender gap in workforce participation.

Over the last decade, the female share of the manufacturing workforce increased by 3.0% to 29.7% in Australia, and by 3.1% to 26.6% in Queensland. This rise in female participation reflects a combination of factors, including changing occupational composition, increasing flexibility in working arrangements, directed efforts on the part of employers, and cultural change surrounding gender norms.

Queensland has historically had slightly lower female participation than Australia. This in part reflects its different industry composition, with more engineering-intensive branches of

manufacturing containing a greater share of traditionally male occupations. The fact that female participation is rising in Queensland at the same rate as Australia reflects consistent performance in improving gender outcomes over the long term.

There have been significant short-term variations in female participation in Queensland manufacturing. It has fluctuated before, during and after the pandemic, then declined again during the manufacturing slowdown of 2023 and 2024. Queensland's relatively stronger manufacturing performance in 2025 saw female participation rise again, relative to the rest of the country.

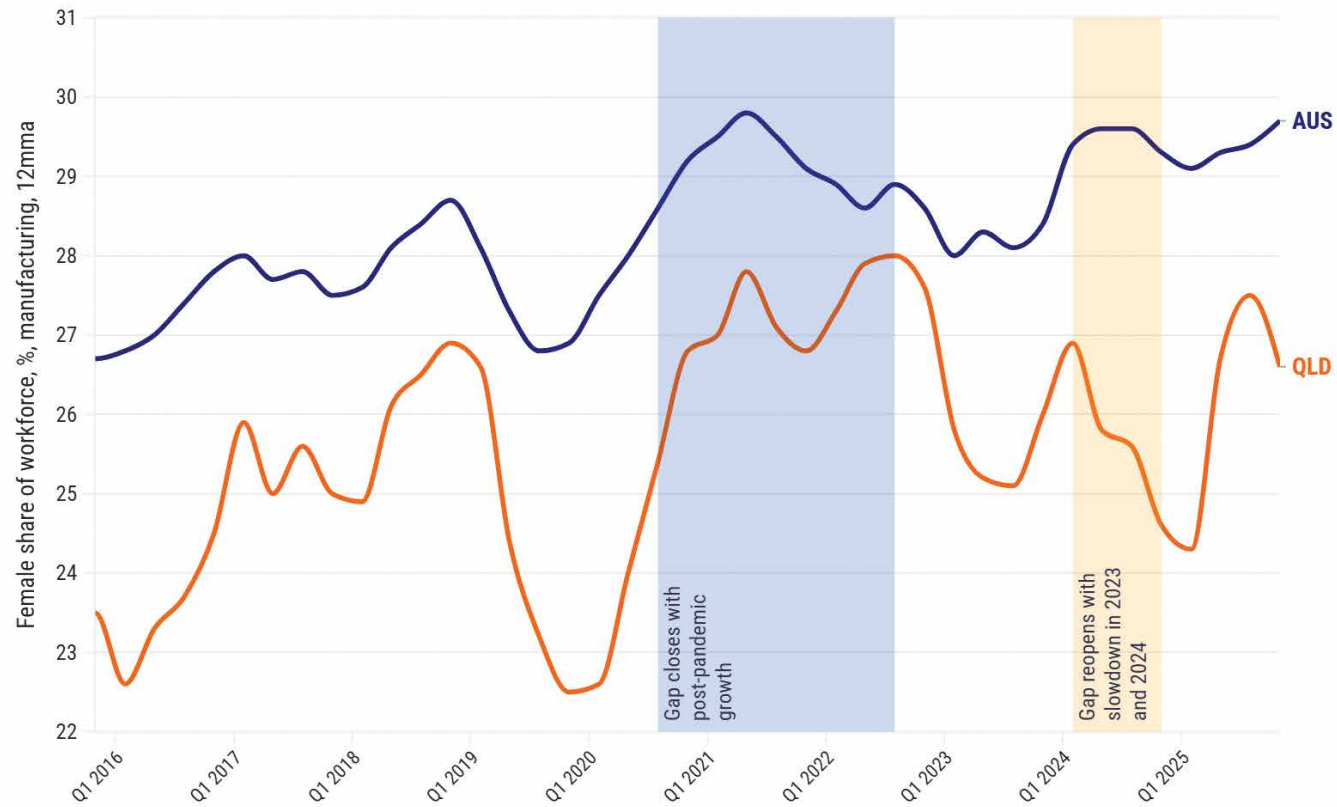
This volatility reflects a connection between gender and market cycles. In traditionally male-dominated industries, it is common for sudden improvements in female participation

to occur during periods of rapid workforce expansion, which necessitate that employers target less-traditional cohorts. During workforce contraction, less-traditional employees with looser ties to the industry depart.

Queensland's experience over the past five years illustrates the need for both short- and long-term approaches to improving female participation. In the short-term, market cycles create employment volatility that gender equity efforts need to address. In the longer-term, societal factors surrounding working, occupational and cultural practices can drive systemic and durable change.

Gender composition of Queensland manufacturing workforce

Long term increase in female participation punctuated by short-term volatility



Source: ABS LFS Detailed (EQ6 Datacube) • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

7

JOB VACANCIES IN QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

Job vacancies are easing as labour market conditions normalise.

It is estimated that there were 2,100 job vacancies in Queensland manufacturing in the March quarter of 2025, equivalent to 1.1% of all jobs. Manufacturing vacancies surged in Queensland and nationally during the post-pandemic recovery, peaking in early 2022 at nearly three times the historical level. Since then, the national vacancy rate has moderated, but continues to track above a long-term trend, suggesting that underlying workforce shortages persist.

Until the end of 2023, Queensland manufacturing vacancies were broadly on track with the national industry. Since then, they have declined and by 2025 had returned to their normal level. While national manufacturing vacancies have eased, they remain above long-term levels.

This improvement in Queensland manufacturing vacancies reflects several factors. The industry

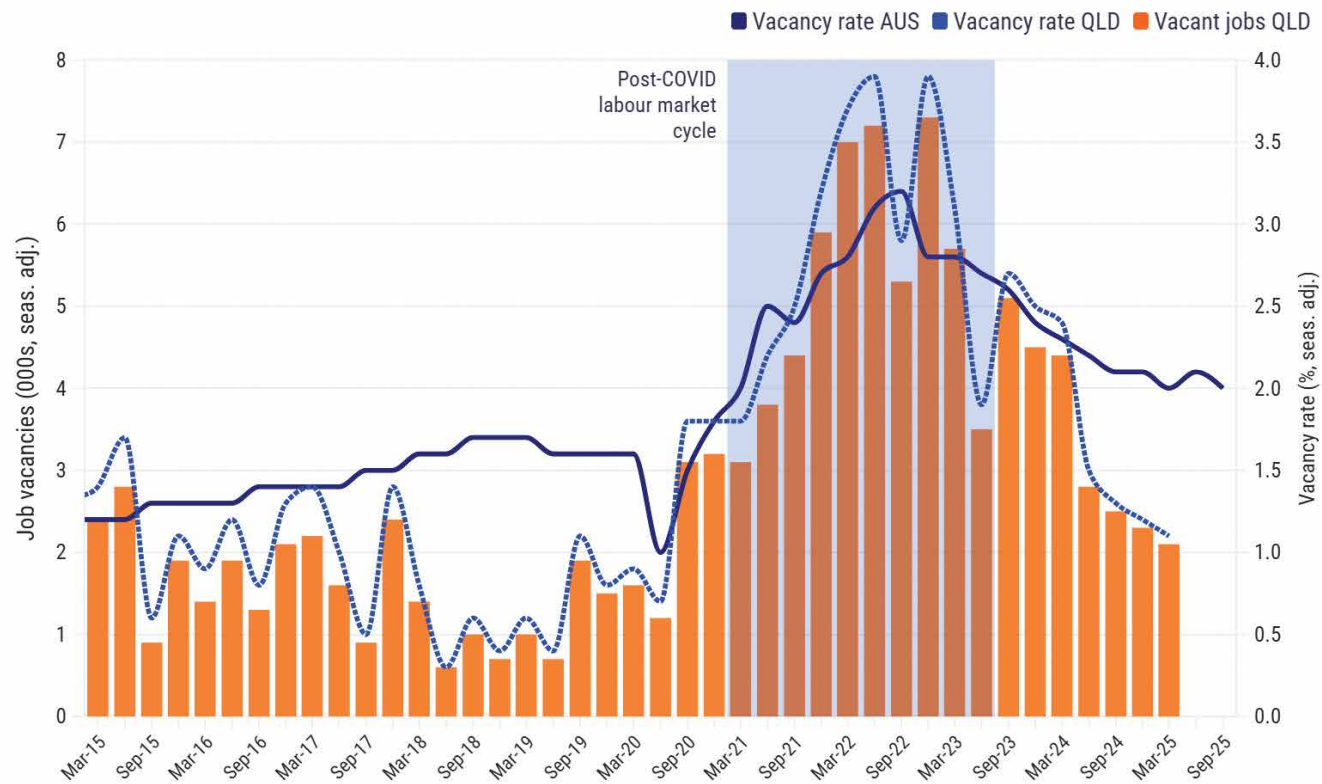
returning to more balanced conditions, and the state's ability to attract skilled workforce. This has historically been via internal migration from southern states, a major source of the industrial skills base.

Nonetheless, skills shortages remain a leading constraint for manufacturers. According to the Jobs and Skills Australia Recruitment Experience and Outlook Survey (REOS), 66% of manufacturing employers were unable to fill advertised roles in the December quarter of 2025. This suggests that while the number of vacancies is falling, manufacturers still struggle to fill the positions they advertise. It highlights the ongoing impact of skills shortages and the training system challenges discussed in subsequent sections.



Manufacturing job vacancies in Queensland

Queensland's vacancy rate has returned to normal as hiring pressures ease



Source: ABS Labour Account, ABS Modelled indicative state and territory level industry jobs and hours worked estimates • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE OF QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

Marked age cohort differences and needs as skills expectations have changed over time.

The highest qualification level held by Queensland's manufacturing workforce are predominantly secondary and vocational education, but major cohort differences reflect changing educational practices.

As of August 2025, 42% of all manufacturing employees hold a secondary qualification as their highest level, while 41% possess VET qualification. Higher education is relatively less common, with just 17% of workers holding undergraduate or postgraduate degrees. However, the qualifications profile is markedly different between the various age cohorts within the industry.

Among the 15-24 years cohort, nearly two-thirds (64.3%) have only secondary education, with the remainder having completed a VET certificate. Low qualification attainment amongst this group is a function of age - most employees have not had time to complete VET or higher education qualification.

In the 25-34 years cohort, VET (44.3%) and undergraduate (22.6%) qualifications become dominant as sufficient time has passed for training completion. This is the most educated cohort in the Queensland workforce, reflecting increasing expectations for and access to training amongst employees entering manufacturing today.

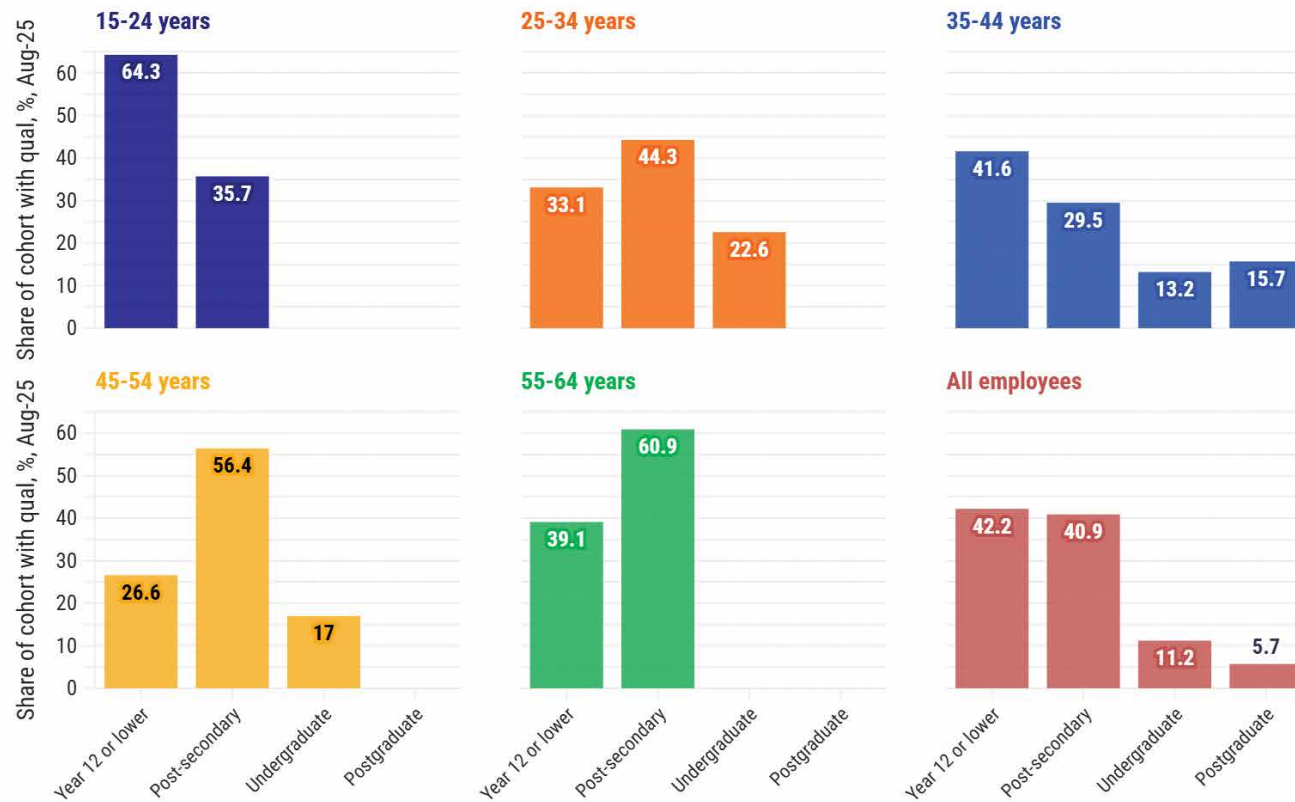
In the 35-44 years cohort, postgraduate education becomes prominent. This is typical of the age bracket, and reflective of requirements of senior roles. However, the share of employees with secondary qualifications is higher than 25-34 years, demonstrating increased access and opportunities to skill in recent years.

In the older cohorts (45-54 and 55-64), VET remains strong and higher education is nearly absent. Secondary education is still common, especially among those who entered the workforce in earlier decades when formal qualifications were less prevalent in manufacturing.

Data suggests there will be a cohort effect which lifts the qualifications of Queensland manufacturing over time. With younger cohorts achieving much higher rates of VET and higher education, the overall industry profile will rise as these groups pass through. It also points to the diversity of training needs across the different cohorts in the workforce. For example, older cohorts may need training which allows for a refresh of on-the-jobs skills for contemporary industry requirements.

Qualifications of Queensland manufacturing workforce

Dominance of secondary and VET qualifications, with large cohort differences



Source: ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey m • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

MANUFACTURING TRAINING PIPELINE IN QUEENSLAND

A narrow training pipeline since the pandemic, with metropolitan areas facing greater training shortages.

Analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) data shows that completions under the six core manufacturing training packages have declined in recent years. Completions declined from around 13,000 to 10,000 in the years since the pandemic. While enrolment numbers have remained relatively strong over the past six years, the decline in completions suggests other factors are affecting progression through training. These may include higher withdrawal rates, declining workforce numbers reducing the pool of experienced tradespeople able to supervise apprentices, and increased job mobility during the tight labour market following the pandemic. These factors suggest the decline in completions may reflect pressures within both the labour market and the training system rather than a collapse in training demand.

There has been a change in the type of manufacturing training in Queensland. The metals and engineering (MEM) package have seen a 50% uplift in completions since 2019, while the

manufacturing (MSM) and food, beverage and pharmaceuticals (FBP) packages have declined. This compositional change aligns to the broader shift in Queensland manufacturing, with recent expansion in the machinery and petrochemicals sub-industries driving growth in their aligned training packages.

There is a regional dimension to training outcomes in Queensland, with regional areas tending to perform better. Across the state there were 5.7 training completions per 100 manufacturing employees in the five years to 2024. Completion ratios were much lower in metropolitan locations such as Gold Coast (3.4) and Brisbane (4.1), and much higher in regional centres – with Cairns and Mackay achieving rates significantly above the state average.

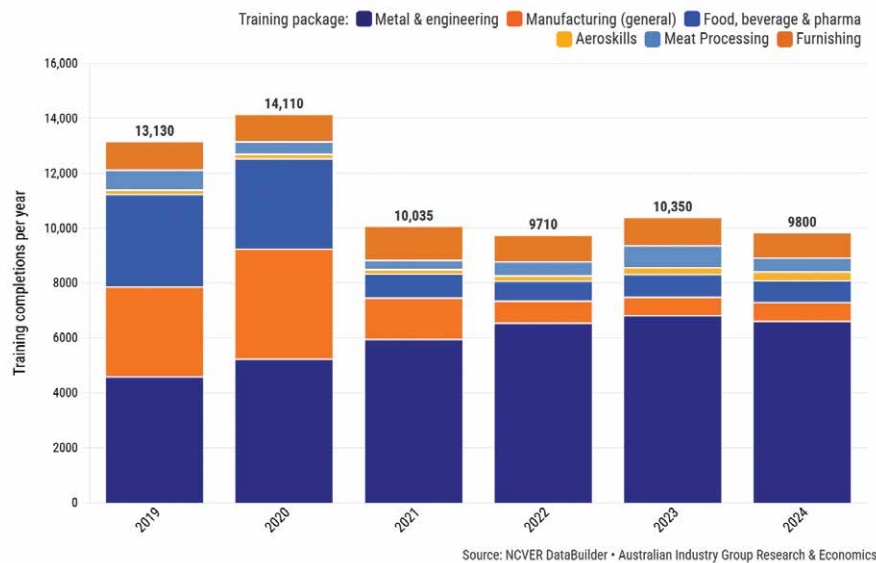
Regional centres with high completion ratios are typically those where primary industries dominate the local economy. In these regions, manufacturing and resources often share aligned training pipelines, supporting stronger

completion outcomes. In contrast, metropolitan regions must compete with a wider range of industries for training commencements. During periods of very tight labour markets, this competition can draw potential apprentices and trainees into alternative career pathways, spreading completions across multiple training packages and reducing the share captured by manufacturing. The supply of a skilled workforce to the Queensland manufacturing industry will in future rely on rebuilding the training pipelines disrupted by the pandemic. During this period, many employers reduced or delayed recruitment as business uncertainty increased, while training delivery and workplace supervision was also affected. As a result, fewer learners progressed through the system, creating a lag in the pipeline of qualification completions. Rebuilding this pipeline will require sustained investment in apprenticeships and traineeships, across all regions of Queensland, to ensure the next generation of skilled workers is available to support the industry.



Queensland manufacturing training completions

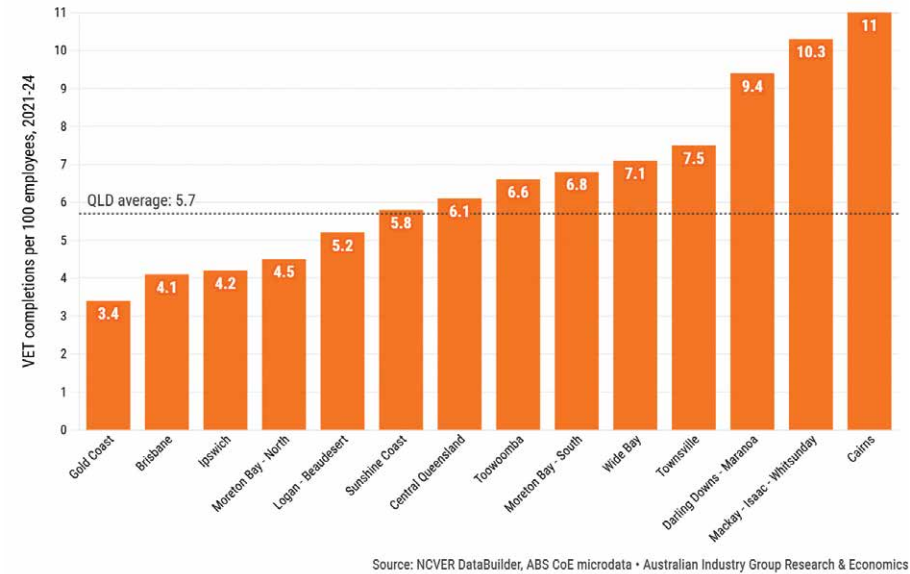
Completions have not recovered since the pandemic decline



Source: ABS LFS Detailed, Table 5 • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

Manufacturing training completion ratios in Queensland

Training rates higher in regional than metro areas



Source: ABS LFS Detailed, Table 5 • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

A man in a blue shirt is working with a microscope in a factory setting. The scene is viewed through a circular opening, possibly a doorway or a window. The background shows a busy industrial environment with various pieces of equipment and machinery.

10

MANUFACTURING WAGES IN QUEENSLAND

Higher wages growth continues in 2025 driving a workforce productivity focus.

Median hourly earnings for permanent full-time employees in Queensland manufacturing reached \$40.80 in August 2025, and 8.5% growth over the last year.

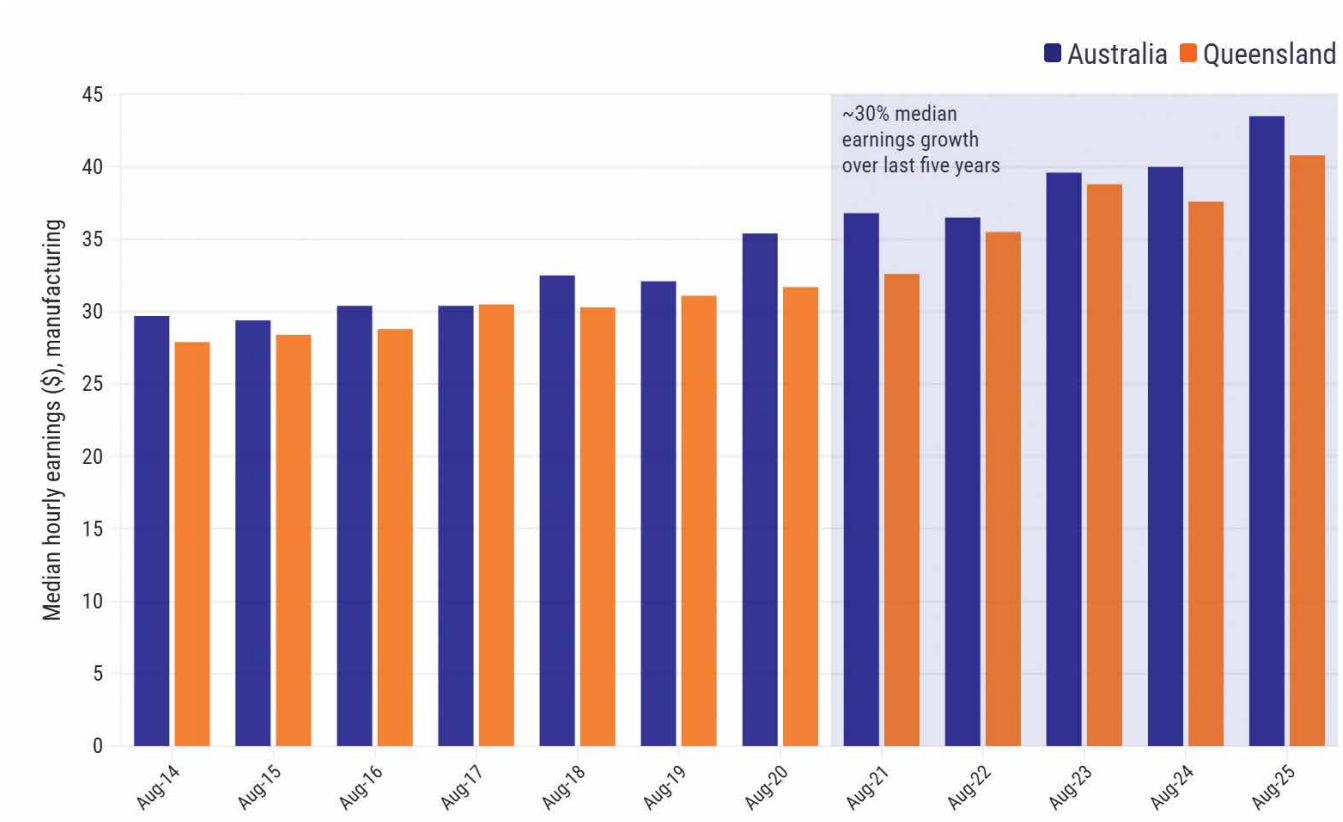
The post-pandemic labour market cycle triggered a sharp rise in manufacturing wages across Australia, driven by elevated job vacancies and skills shortages. Higher than usual inflation and increases to the National Minimum Wage contributed, raising manufacturing earnings by around 30% over the last five years. Queensland followed this trend, with the state's wages growth broadly in line with the national figures.

Queensland manufacturing has historically had a small wages gap: with median earnings approximately 5% below the broader Australian industry. This reflects cost-of-living factors – particularly in terms of housing costs – and provided a small competitive advantage for the industry relative to other states. This gap has been sustained during the recent period of high wages growth.

The trend of increases in wages – both nationally and in Queensland – has intensified the imperative of raising manufacturing labour productivity. With the wages bill growing faster than inflation, productivity uplifts are essential to avoid compressing margins, limiting business profitability and capacity to invest.

Employee earnings in Queensland manufacturing

Queensland follows Australian pattern of high wages growth since pandemic



Source: ABS Employee Earnings, Table 3 - Australian Industry Group Research & Economics

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING

Slight decline in margins during 2025, but performance remains above the long-term benchmark.

Business operating margins – a key indicator of industry financial health – reveal that Australian manufacturing has strengthened since the pandemic despite recent pressures.

Operating margins in Australian manufacturing were 10.5% in the September quarter of 2025. Margins have decreased slightly from 11.1% a year prior reflecting cost pressures on the industry, particularly rising wages and energy costs.

Despite the recent easing, the financial performance of Australian manufacturing remains above its long-term benchmark. In the decade prior to the pandemic, margins ranged between 7.5% to 10%, consistently below all-industry average of 10.5%. In the expansion following the pandemic, manufacturing margins increased rapidly as buoyant market conditions strengthened balance sheets. Since 2022, manufacturing has been stronger than the all-industry average, and consistently above its long-term level.

The easing of margins over the last twelve months does point to growing financial pressure on manufacturing as business conditions normalise. Manufacturers will increasingly be looking to control cost pressures so that the gains achieved since the pandemic can be sustained into the next growth cycle.

While state-level data on manufacturing margins is not available, Queensland's relatively strong industry performance, compared with other states, suggests that financial outcomes for manufacturers in the state are likely stronger than the national average.



Manufacturing margins in Australia

Despite easing in 2025, margins remain well above long-term benchmarks



Source: ABS Business Indicators • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics
"Operating margin" is estimated as operating profit before tax as share of sales income.

12

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing investment pipeline returns to growth in 2025.

Queensland manufacturing has continued to increase investment, with \$2.8 billion of new capital expenditure in 2024-25 – 6% higher than the year before. Investment in Australian manufacturing has steadily increased following the pandemic, driven by new opportunities arising from global supply chain disruptions. While output and employment growth slowed in 2025, new investment has not, maintaining its high levels.

Queensland manufacturing has participated in this investment boom, broadly tracking the national rise. A slowdown during 2024 proved temporary, with the state posting a particularly strong investment year in 2025 returning to track the national index.

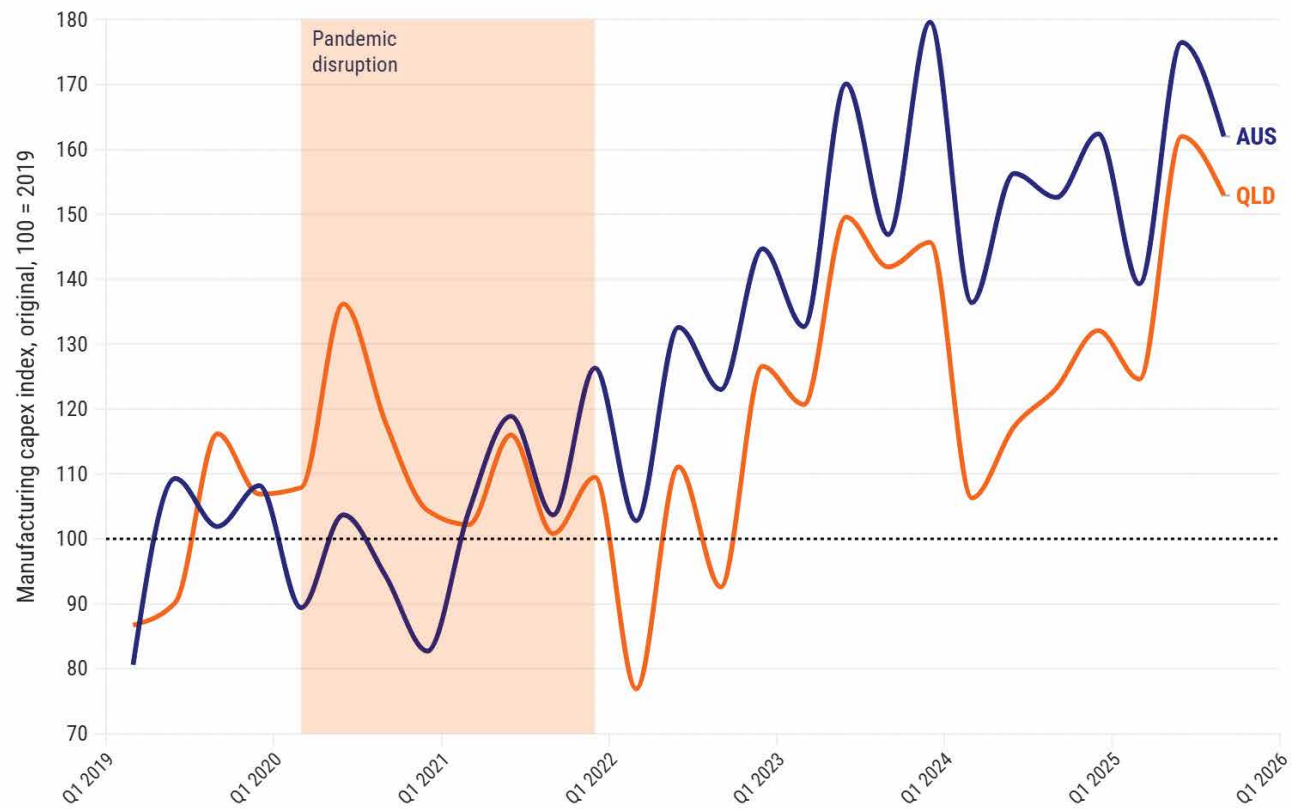
A contributing factor to Queensland's investment performance is the forthcoming Brisbane Olympics in 2032. The infrastructure works required will raise demand in the civil

engineering branch of the construction industry, with flow-on effects for demand for manufacturing inputs. For products where proximity offers supply chain benefits – such as steel fabrication – it is likely that much of the manufacturing will be performed in Queensland. Rising manufacturing capital expenditure in Queensland in part reflects pre-positioning by industrial firms for Olympics work.

This growing investment pipeline points to a strong future for Queensland manufacturing. The state has shown consistent capital expenditure resilience across multiple business cycles, supported by solid economic fundamentals, its ties to the resource and energy sectors, and Olympics-related opportunities. Investment is a leading indicator of economic activity, and rising levels in 2025 indicate that a rebound in employment and output growth is likely in 2026.

Capital expenditure Queensland manufacturing

Another strong year for the investment pipeline in 2025



Source: ABS Capex • Australian Industry Group Research & Economics



ABOUT MANUFACTURING SKILLS QUEENSLAND

Manufacturing Skills Queensland (MSQ) is building a sustainably skilled workforce for a future-proofed manufacturing industry. We're here to connect and support employers and the wider industry with the skills, opportunities, and information to build a thriving sector. Established as part of the Queensland Government's *Making it in Queensland: Building a Stronger Manufacturing Sector* policy, our vision is to create the skills pathways for the future of manufacturing in Queensland.



AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GROUP RESEARCH & ECONOMICS

Australian Industry Group monitors and analyses developments across the Australian economy. The Australian Industry Group Research & Economics team specialise in business, industrial and labour market economics issues affecting Australian industry. They work with businesses from across the industrial ecosystem—manufacturing, construction, engineering, supply chain and technology—to understand and analyse the challenges and opportunities for Australian industrial development.

Australian Industry Group Research & Economics publish business surveys, industry analyses, policy reports and economic briefs so business leaders can understand the changing national and global economic settings.



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