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Redlands Coast Economic Snapshot

This report delves into the economic indicators of the Redlands Coast, providing key quantitative data and metrics to support strategic planning and policy formulation.

Business Profile

The business ecosystem of Redlands Coast reflects sustained growth and diversification.

Total Number of Businesses	12,821 active businesses (2024), a 2.1% increase from 2023.	
Top 5 Industries with the most registered businesses	Construction	24.6%
	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	13.9%
	Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	10.9%
	Health Care and Social Assistance	6.9%
	Retail Trade	6.2%
Business Size	Micro (0-4 employees)	88.5%
	Small (5-19 employees)	9.5%
	Medium (20-199 employees)	2%
	Large (200+ employees)	0.05%



Workforce Characteristics

Redlands Coast’s workforce profile aligns with its economic structure.

Total Workforce	53,820	
Top Industries by Employment	Health Care and Social Assistance	20.2%
	Construction	13.1%
	Retail Trade	12.4%
	Education and Training	9.7%
	Accommodation and Food Services	7.6%
Skills and Qualifications	Bachelor or Higher degree	24.6%
	Advanced Diploma or Diploma	12.9%
	Certificate III & IV Level	24.2%
	Certificate I and II Level	1.6%
	No qualification or not stated	32.6%
Workforce Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of workforce worked part-time. • Remote work adoption has risen to 15% since 2016 Census period. • 63% of local workers have a qualification 	
Insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workforce is highly skilled in trades and technical areas, reflecting industry demands. • Increasing flexibility in work arrangements supports workforce retention and diversity. 	

Labour Force and Unemployment Rate

Key indicators reveal the region’s robust labour market

Labour Force Participation Rate	61.4%	
Unemployment Rate	3.2% (Sept 2024 Quarter), down from 3.6% (Sept 2023 Quarter).	
Youth Unemployment Rate	Redland City Mainland	9.6%
	Redland City Islands	19.7%
	Queensland	11.1%
	Australia	10.8%
Insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city’s unemployment rate is lower than the state average (4.1%). • Targeted youth employment programs are yielding positive outcomes. • The Redland City Islands hold a large untapped workforce, with a striking 19.7%—double the mainland’s 9.6%. This gap signals a prime opportunity to better connect island talent with local employment. 	

Workforce Gaps, Opportunities, and Threats

Gaps

Healthcare Workers

A shortage of skilled healthcare professionals is evident, with demand projected to grow over the next five years

Technical Trades

Key gaps exist in construction-related trades, particularly electricians and carpenters, as infrastructure projects expand.

Digital Skills

Limited availability of workers with advanced digital and technological expertise restricts growth in emerging sectors.

Opportunities

Green Energy Transition

Investments in renewable energy projects create demand for specialised skills in engineering and sustainable technologies.

Education and Training

Strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and industries to upskill workers in high-demand fields.

Remote Work

Increased adoption of remote work provides opportunities to attract a geographically diverse workforce.

Threats

Aging Workforce

With 19.3% of the population aged 65+, labour force participation may decline without targeted engagement of younger workers.

Growing Skills Gap

Rapid tech advancements outpace education, leaving skills gaps as industry needs evolve faster than curricula.

Global Competition

Local businesses face increasing competition for skilled workers in a globalised market.

Recommendations

- Expand apprenticeship and internship programs to fill technical trade gaps.
- Incentivise healthcare training and recruitment programs through subsidies and grants.
- Foster innovation hubs to attract and retain digitally skilled professionals.

Job-to-Worker Ratio

The job-to-worker ratio remains a critical metric for evaluating economic sustainability and capacity.

Overall Ratio	0.62 jobs per worker		Insights
Sector-Specific Ratios: which indicates there were less jobs than resident workers.	Healthcare	0.8	
	Retail	0.79	
	Construction	0.61	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare exhibits a strong demand for skilled workers. • Balancing sectoral disparities is vital for sustained economic stability.

Gross Value Added (GVA) by Industry

The region's economic output is driven by key industries

Total GVA (2023)	\$5.3 billion, a 3% increase from 2022.		Insights
Top Contributors	Healthcare and Social Assistance	\$912 million (17.3%)	
	Construction Retail Trade	\$561 million (10.6%) \$485 million (9.2%)	

- The consistent growth in healthcare reflects demographic trends and increased service demands.
- Investments in technology and green energy are essential for future economic diversification.

Projected Population Growth

Demographic trends highlight the region's evolving population dynamics:

Current Population (2023)	166,809	Insights
Projected Population (2046)	183,649 (+10.1%)	
Annual Growth Rate	1.1%	
Age Distribution (2023)	0-14 years: 17.6% 15-64 years: 61.1% 65+ years: 21.3%	

- Population growth will be driven by urban expansion and lifestyle appeal.
- The aging population will increase demand for healthcare and aged care services.

Age and Sex Indicators

Detailed demographic analysis provides further insights:

Gender Ratio	97 males per 100 females	Insights
Median Age	43 years	
Youth Population	20.1% under 25 years	
Elderly Dependency Ratio	35%	

- The aging trend necessitates investments in elder care infrastructure.
- A sizable youth demographic offers potential for future workforce development.

Conclusion

Redlands Coast exhibits a resilient and dynamic economy supported by steady business growth, a skilled workforce, and strong economic outputs. However, addressing sectoral workforce gaps, fostering emerging industries, and preparing for demographic shifts are critical for ensuring long-term prosperity.



Links to all data sets and references can be found at www.redlandscoastchamber.org.au/snapshot2025

The raw data outlined in this report has been sourced from document "011 - Redlands Economic Snapshot - Jan 2025", collated thanks to the following RJC Committee Members:

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