

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

CURRENT INSIGHTS AND 2026-27 FORECAST

Queensland's construction industry is moving through a defining period of activity, shaped by strong population growth, the energy transition and the build-up to the 2032 Games. With the 2026-27 State Budget allocating a record \$119.2 billion to infrastructure over four years, the state now has the largest infrastructure commitment in its history. This pipeline creates a major opportunity for industry, communities and workers to help deliver the projects that will support Queensland's next chapter.



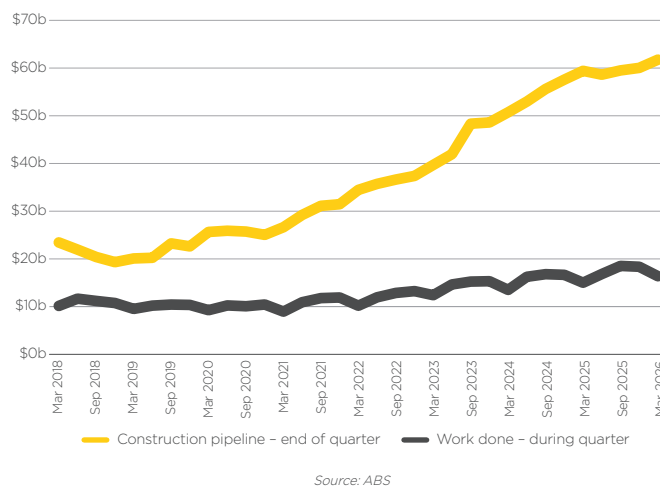
STRONGER FUTURES
IN CONSTRUCTION

Steady growth in Queensland's construction pipeline

Queensland's construction pipeline has continued to build, rising from \$26.7 billion in March 2021 to \$61.8 billion in March 2026 — more than double over five years (**Figure 1**). Over the same period, the gap between the pipeline and work done widened significantly, increasing from \$17.7 billion to \$45.3 billion.

Building projects account for around 66 per cent of the pipeline, or \$41.1 billion. This includes \$24.5 billion in residential building and \$16.6 billion in non-residential building. Engineering makes up the remaining 34 per cent, or \$20.7 billion, with public sector projects contributing the largest share. Public sector-led engineering work totals \$15 billion, with bridges, railways and harbours accounting for the largest share of this segment at 39 per cent, followed by water, sewerage and drainage at 27 per cent and roads, highways and subdivisions at 23 per cent. Private sector engineering work accounts for \$5.8 billion, driven mainly by heavy industry at 47 per cent, and roads, highways and subdivisions at 24 per cent.

Figure 1: CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE VERSUS WORK DONE, QLD



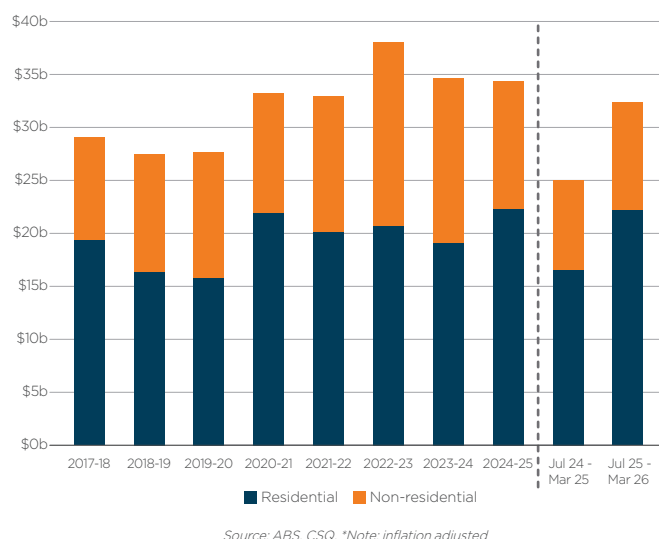
Building approvals gain momentum across the state

Building approvals are beginning to strengthen after two years of decline. In the first nine months of 2025–26, approvals reached \$32.4 billion, up 30 per cent on the same period in 2024–25 (**Figure 2**). This uplift was supported by growth in both residential approvals, which increased by 34 per cent, and non-residential approvals, which rose by 21 per cent.

The improvement was evident across Queensland. Approvals increased by 30 per cent in Southeast Queensland and 27 per cent in regional Queensland over the same period. Southeast Queensland continues to account for most of the activity, with 79 per cent, or \$25.7 billion of approvals located in the region, led by Greater Brisbane at 49 per cent, followed by the Gold Coast at 22 per cent and the Sunshine Coast at 9 per cent. Regional Queensland accounts for the remaining 21 per cent, or \$6.7 billion.

While residential approvals are recovering, completed dwellings have not yet followed the same trajectory. In the first nine months of 2025–26, dwelling completions were 3.2 per cent lower than the same period a year earlier.

Figure 2: VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS BY TYPE, QLD



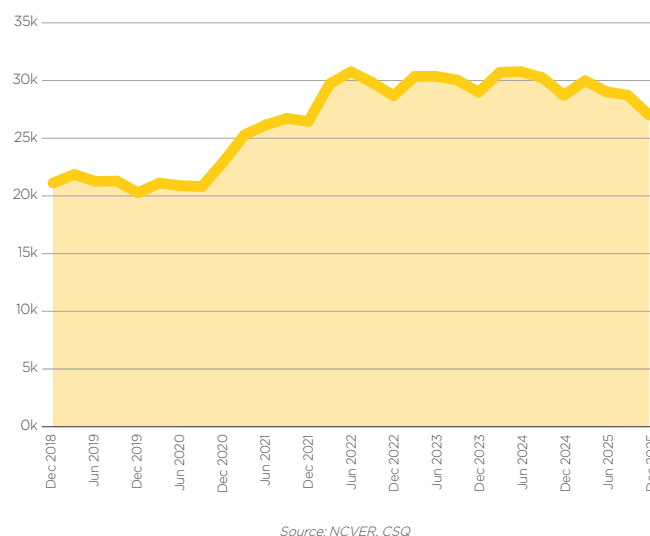
Diversity and apprenticeships are key workforce supply levers

Women account for 13.6 per cent of Queensland's construction workforce, representing 38,900 of the state's 285,785 workers¹. Female employment has increased by 18 per cent since February 2023, highlighting growing participation and an opportunity to further expand the industry's talent pool.

Apprenticeships remain a critical entry pathway, with around 27,000 construction apprentices in training in Queensland in December 2025, up 18 per cent since 2020 (**Figure 3**). Around 68 per cent were based in Southeast Queensland and 32 per cent in regional Queensland.

Queensland recorded approximately 11,100 apprenticeship commencements in 2025, a five per cent increase since 2020, although below the 2022 peak of 14,100. New and expanded employer incentive programs will help strengthen apprentice recruitment, training and retention to support future workforce demand.

Figure 3: NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICES IN-TRAINING, QLD



¹ Preceding 4 quarter average, as of February 2026.

Construction pipeline and labour forecast for 2026-27

Queensland is in a concentrated construction delivery period, with major projects progressing across sectors and regions. Time-sensitive 2032 Games projects are also adding momentum as they move further into construction².

The state's construction pipeline is forecast to reach \$70.1 billion in 2026-27 (**Figure 4**). This includes \$46 billion in building work — made up of \$30.2 billion residential and \$15.8 billion non-residential — and \$24.1 billion in engineering work. Delivering this pipeline will require an average of 142,300 construction workers (**Figure 5**).

Figure 4: CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE FORECAST (2026-27), QLD

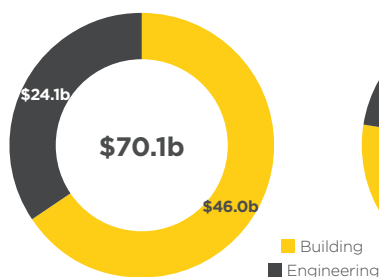
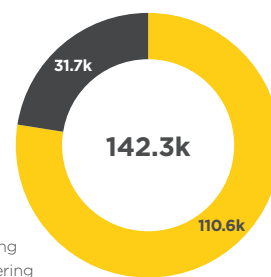


Figure 5: AVERAGE LABOUR REQUIREMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE (2026-27), QLD



Source: CSQ

Southeast Queensland leads the forecast building pipeline

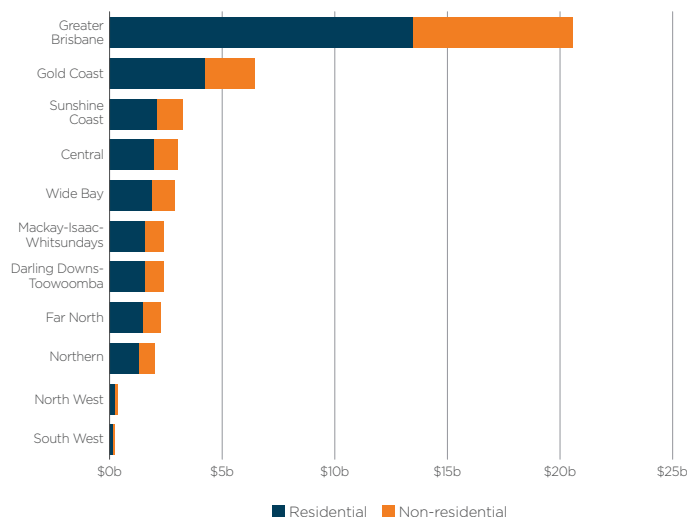
Southeast Queensland is expected to carry the largest share of the forecast building pipeline (**Figure 6**), accounting for around 66 per cent or \$30.4 billion. Greater Brisbane represents the largest component at \$20.6 billion, followed by the Gold Coast at \$6.5 billion and the Sunshine Coast at \$3.3 billion. The remaining 34 per cent of the building pipeline, or \$15.6 billion, is distributed across regional Queensland.

Key occupations needed to deliver the building pipeline include:

- carpenters and joiners
- labourers
- painters
- plumbers
- plasterers
- electricians
- concreters
- bricklayers
- stonemasons.



Figure 6: BUILDING PIPELINE FORECAST (2026-27) BY REGION, QLD



Source: CSQ

Central Queensland represents the largest share of the engineering pipeline

The 2026-27 engineering workload will be led by mining and heavy industry, electricity and transport. Together, these sub-sectors account for around 84 per cent of forecast engineering work (**Figure 7**) and 83 per cent of average labour demand across the engineering sector (**Figure 8**).

Regional Queensland is expected to deliver most of the engineering pipeline, accounting for around 78 per cent of forecast work (**Figure 9**). Central Queensland leads the regions with \$6.1 billion in forecast engineering activity, mainly across electricity and mining and heavy industry projects. It is followed by Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, with \$4.7 billion largely driven by mining and heavy industry, and Greater Brisbane, with \$3 billion mainly linked to transport projects.

Key occupations in demand for the engineering pipeline include:

- concreters
- plant operators
- labourers
- electricians
- construction managers
- structural steel workers
- civil engineers.



Figure 7: ENGINEERING PIPELINE FORECAST BY SUB-SECTOR (2026-27), QLD

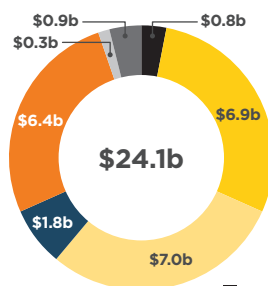


Figure 8: AVERAGE LABOUR REQUIREMENT (2026-27) BY ENGINEERING SUB-SECTOR, QLD

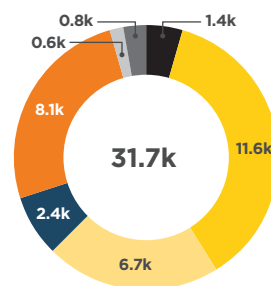
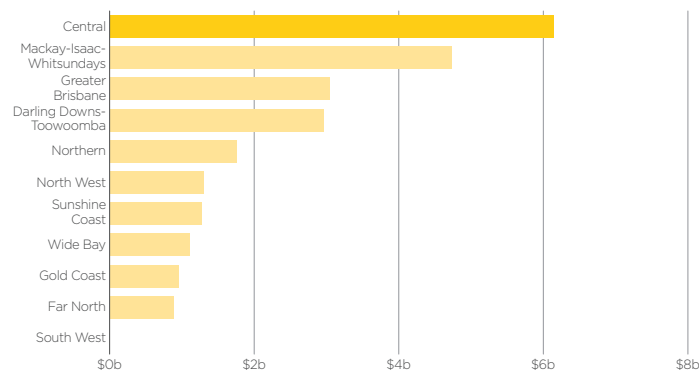


Figure 9: ENGINEERING PIPELINE FORECAST (2026-27) BY REGION, QLD



Source: CSQ. *Note: No engineering projects for South West in 2026-27.

² The Industry Outlook only provides a one-year construction pipeline and labour demand outlook, from CSQ's Horizon 2032 report available at www.csq.org.au. The full report can be referenced for forecasts from 2025-26 to 2031-32. The labour forecasts include only workers in construction relevant occupations.



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