Construction activity is expected to sustain its recovery from previous year’s low levels and a shortage of trade labour is likely to develop. Now is the time for employers to refocus on developing the apprentice pipeline. The region is now creating more jobs than it is losing, bringing the overall unemployment rate into line with the state average.

**Central Region**

- **0.9%** expected annual population growth
- **236,000** population
- **6%** unemployment rate
- **10,400** employed in construction
- **500** construction apprentices
- **3%** of QLD construction apprentices are in the Central region

### Construction Apprentice Intake Rate
Apprentice commencements per 100 workers

### Construction Apprentice Training Rate
Apprentices in-training per 100 workers

### Construction Workforce Outlook

### Trade Availability

*NB: These figures reflect the overall balance of supply and demand for trades labour across all industries for 2019*
Sectors in Focus for Central 2019-20

Activity – Residential

RESIDENTIAL – 12% of overall activity in Central

Activity – Commercial

COMMERCIAL – 5% of overall activity in Central

Activity – Engineering

ENGINEERING – 83% of overall activity in Central

4% of QLD construction businesses are located in this region

2,900 construction businesses

55% Sole traders
44% SMEs (1-20)
2% Large (over 20)