The flurry of large commercial projects around Toowoomba of recent years is now receding and a trade labour surplus is expected to open-up over the coming years. This will be offset by a number of workers choosing to leave the region in search of opportunities elsewhere, which will keep the headline unemployment rate low.

- **0.7%** expected annual population growth
- **286,000** population
- **6%** unemployment rate
- **14,300** employed in construction
- **1,000** construction apprentices
- **6%** of QLD construction apprentices are in the Darling Downs-Toowoomba region

### Trade Availability

- **Darling Downs - Toowoomba**
- **Sunshine Coast**
- **Gold Coast**
- **Northern**
- **Central**
- **South West**
- **South West**
- **North West**
- **Far North**

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

Activity – Residential

- Source: NIEIR

Activity – Commercial

- Source: NIEIR

Activity – Engineering

- Source: NIEIR

Residential - 17% of overall activity in Darling Downs - Toowoomba

Commercial - 9% of overall activity in Darling Downs - Toowoomba

Engineering - 74% of overall activity in Darling Downs - Toowoomba

6% of QLD construction businesses are located in this region

4,400 construction businesses

- 58% Sole traders
- 41% SMEs (1-20)
- 1% Large (over 20)