The last 12 months saw the region turn the page on what has been a particularly punishing period for the region’s construction industry. Solid growth will materialise in 2019-20 across the residential and commercial sectors, and we see a high probability of better-than-expected growth in engineering works on the back of public infrastructure spending.

1.4% expected annual population growth
236,000 population
6,200 employed in construction
600 construction apprentices
8% unemployment rate
4% of QLD construction apprentices are in the Northern region

Source: NCVER, ABS, CSQ

Construction Apprentice Intake Rate
Apprentice commencements per 100 workers

Source: NCVER, ABS, CSQ

Construction Apprentice Training Rate
Apprentices in-training per 100 workers

Source: NCVER, ABS, CSQ

Construction Workforce Outlook

Source: NIEIR

Trade Availability

Source: NIEIR

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

Activity – Residential

RESIDENTIAL – 29%
of overall activity in Northern

Activity – Commercial

COMMERCIAL – 19%
of overall activity in Northern

Activity – Engineering

ENGINEERING – 52%
of overall activity in Northern

4% of QLD construction businesses are located in this region

2,900 construction businesses

- 54% Sole traders
- 45% SMEs (1-20)
- 1% Large (over 20)

Source: NIEIR