

# EDUCATION & TRAINING PROFILE 2017



TOOWOOMBA  
REGION



## The Toowoomba Region is known for having some of the best educational facilities in Queensland

The region is home to a number of highly regarded schools that service the broader Darling Downs, eight of which offer quality boarding facilities to regional, interstate and overseas students. The Toowoomba region is also the founding location of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), with programs offered at three campuses, via online education and with national and international education partners. Education and Training is the third largest employing sector in the Toowoomba Region, supporting almost 10% of all jobs, above the Queensland benchmark of 8%. In fact, the region provides 4.1% of all Queensland jobs in the sector, despite its population base being only 3.4% of Queensland's total.

## Education and Training is a growing source of economic value to the region

The sector generates considerable value for the Toowoomba Region's economy and in 2015/16 was the 6th largest contributor to total value added. The share of total value added was 7.8%, far exceeding the share of the sector at a state level (5.6%). This highlights the region's specialisation in Education and Training.



**+35% | \$628 million**

### VALUE ADDED 2006-2016

The economic contribution of Education and Training increased by \$162 million over the last 10 years.



**+17% | 7,849 jobs**

### EMPLOYMENT 2006-2016

The sector employed an extra 1,152 people in Toowoomba in 2016 compared to 2006.



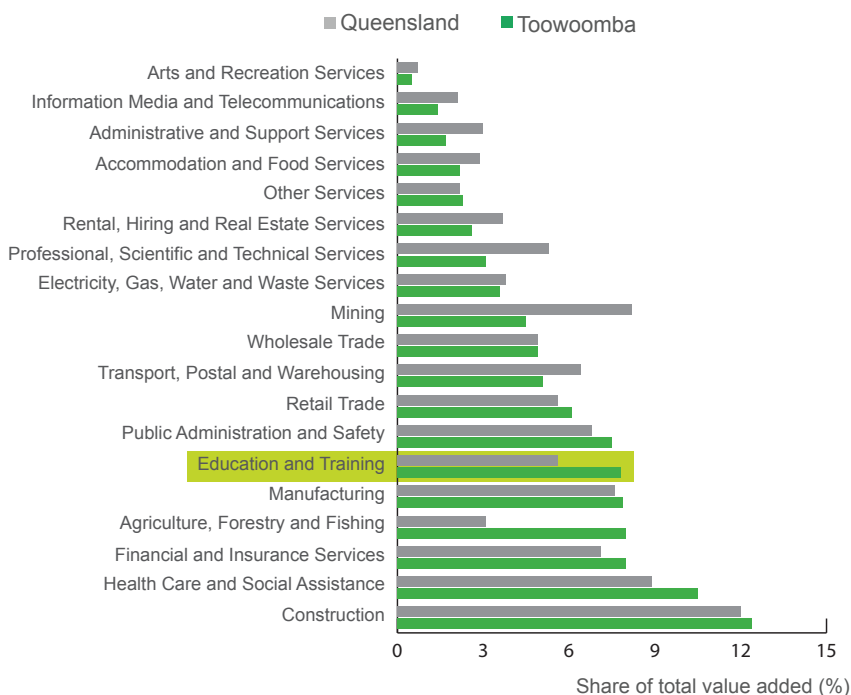
**+105% | \$205 million**

### EXPORTS 2006-2016

Education and Training exports increased by \$105 million over the last 10 years.



## Sector Shares of Total Value Added, 2015/16

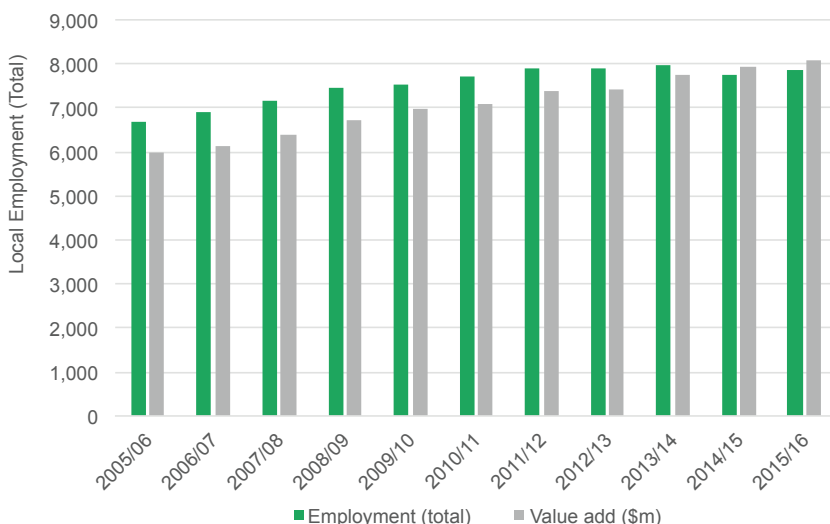


Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2016.  
Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id, the population experts.

The value added generated by the sector has grown consistently over the last decade, rising from \$465m in 2005/06 to \$628m in 2015/16 (see next chart). This has occurred even with weak employment growth in the last five years (+ 122 jobs), which suggests an increase in worker productivity. The sector experienced the second highest rate of growth in exports value out of all sectors in the Toowoomba Region between 2005/06 and 2015/16.

Contributing to this is USQ which has a substantial international student population and a growing proportion of students studying on-campus. In addition, the region is one of the only locations in Queensland to generate significant export value out of school education, largely a factor of hosting eight quality boarding schools. The Toowoomba region generated 7.1% of Queensland's Preschool and School Education industry exports in 2015/16.

## Change in Employment and Value added, Education and Training, 2005/06 to 2015/16



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2016.  
Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id, the population experts.

## Sub-Sector Values 2015/16 and Ten-year growth

Preschool and School Education	5,250 +810	\$362.2m +\$96.4m	\$39.9m +\$39.7m
Tertiary Education	2,053 +282	\$240.5m +\$59.7m	\$164.5m +\$65.1m
Adult, Community and Other Education	547 +60	\$24.9m +\$6.3m	\$0.7m +\$0.4m

■ EMPLOYMENT  
■ VALUE ADDED  
■ EXPORTS





## Importance of international education

In 2015/16, Tertiary Education was estimated to be the 5th largest generator of international exports for the Toowoomba Region (\$62m). Exports are crucially important for development as they see external earnings brought into the local area and increase demand for local services through multiplier effects, creating a virtuous cycle of economic growth. Research by Deloitte Access Economics has estimated that for every direct dollar of value added contributed by international education in QLD, an extra \$0.46 is contributed indirectly to the economy via expenditure on supporting goods and services<sup>1</sup>.

International students also help drive regional tourism by motivating family and friends to visit them during their study or inspiring future holidays. Based on Toowoomba's share of international students in Queensland, an estimated \$0.7m in value added is generated by family and friends visiting international students each year.

## Recognised for the provision of quality services

Toowoomba Region offers a range of educational opportunities that support learning from early to adult years. These include:

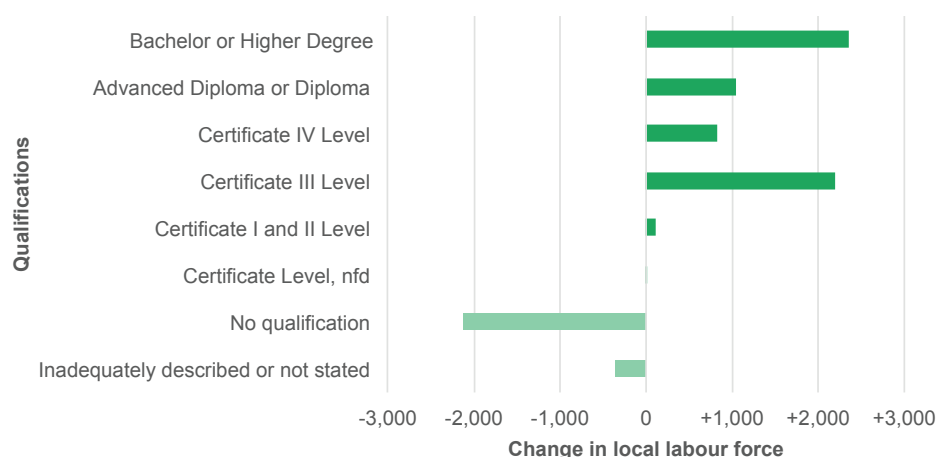
- 86 schools - Five primary schools and seven high schools in Toowoomba were in the top 100 ranked schools in Queensland in 2016 based on Naplan results<sup>2</sup>.

- University of Southern Queensland - a founding member of the Regional Universities Network and internationally awarded for its world class online learning platforms and research expertise in Agriculture and Environment Sciences<sup>3</sup>. USQ Artsworx is a respected performing and visual arts centre supporting the McGregor Summer School.
- TAFE South West Queensland – a major asset for the region's industries with its courses tailored in consultation with employers. The campus incorporates realistic training facilities including Futures, a fully licensed training restaurant.
- Two clinical schools - Darling Downs Clinical Training Centre (Griffith University) and University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School.
- Various vocational educational centres including The Community Education Development and Research Centre (CEDAR Centre) established in 1976.

## Facilities supporting growth in human capital

The strength of Toowoomba Region's education and training facilities is a key factor in improvements to the local employed resident's qualifications and skill levels. In 2011, around 53.5% of the labour force held education qualifications, up significantly from 46.8% in 2006. Substantial growth occurred in Bachelor or Higher Degrees and Certificate III level attainment. In 2011, 18.9% of Toowoomba region's local labour force held at least a Bachelor Degree, compared to only 16.4% for the rest of regional QLD.

## Change in local labour force qualifications, 2006 to 2011.



<sup>1</sup> Australian Government/DAE, 2016, *The value of international education to Australia*

<sup>2</sup> Source: [bettereducation.com.au](http://bettereducation.com.au), 2017

<sup>3</sup> *Excellence in Research for Australia, State of Australian University Research 2015–16: Volume 1 ERA National Report*

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011*. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts.



## Research excellence in growth industries

The Education and Training sector has created important research links with the private sector and government to support industry development. The development of the Centre of Excellence in Engineered Fibre Composites (CEEFC) at the University of Southern Queensland is a recent example of a research partnership. The centre focuses on research and development of different applicable fibre reinforced polymer/cement composite materials for engineering operations. Another example is Food Leaders Australia, a collaboration between businesses Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) and researchers (USQ) to harness the collective intelligence of the broader agriculture industry to create efficiencies and generate new, value-added food products.

Other research centres include:

- Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD) focuses on improving profitability, sustainability and resilience of SME
- Centre for Crop Health
- Centre for Health Sciences research
- National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture
- Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (UQ)

## Key attractor for new residents

The region's educational assets are often cited as a deciding factor in encouraging interstate and metropolitan residents to make the move to Toowoomba. The quality of the schools is well known and the region has one of the best teacher-to-student ratios in the country<sup>4</sup>. The attraction of working families supports population based industries in the region and boosts the local labour supply.

## Major investment expanding the education offering

There is ongoing investment in the Education and Training sector with many schools upgrading facilities to meet growing demand and provide a more competitive offer. Some examples are:

- University of Southern Queensland's Agricultural Engineering and Technology Precinct will provide a new home for USQ's Centre for Crop Health, and includes an expansion of field trials and laboratory facilities for its National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA). A growing number of research

partners and international collaborations support ongoing research and development.

- Mary Mackillop Catholic High School redevelopment to offer high school education on top of existing primary school services
- Toowoomba Grammar School's new Grammar Stadium to provide upgraded basketball, volleyball courts, multipurpose courts and supporting facilities
- Toowoomba State High School - New Multipurpose School Hall building development

## Study Toowoomba collaboration to enhance international education industry

Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) has partnered with USQ, TSBE and TAFE Queensland South West to initiate the establishment of an education and training cluster in the Toowoomba Region. It is envisioned Study Toowoomba will function in a similar way to established clusters across Queensland that aim to attract additional students, improve their experience while they are in the region, develop the capacity of the industry and increase awareness within the community of the value of students.

International education is a growing and lucrative market, worth over \$20 billion nationally which makes it Australia's third largest export after coal and iron ore. The Queensland Government has recently supported TRC and USQ by providing matching funding under the International Education & Training Partnership Fund for the delivery of two projects in the region that aim to progress the formal establishment of a cluster and improve the experience of international students currently studying in the region.

<sup>4</sup> Suncorp Bank's Family Friendly City Report, January 2014

### Sources:

- Economic and employment data - National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2017
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2006 and 2011
- Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise 2016 Development Status Report
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- University of Southern Queensland



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