Construction activity is expected to sustain its recovery from previous year’s low levels, narrowing the labour surplus and enabling employers to refocus on the development of apprentices. Relatively less favourable conditions outside of the construction industry leaves the region with an unemployment rate above the state average and an abundant pool of skilled trade labour.

1.4% expected annual population growth

237,000 population

7% unemployment rate

9,900 employed in construction

580 construction apprentices

4% of QLD construction apprentices are in the Central region

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

Workers required

Workers available

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 Central 2018-19

**Activity - Residential**

- RESIDENTIAL - 13% of overall activity in Central

**Activity - Commercial**

- COMMERCIAL - 5% of overall activity in Central

**Activity - Engineering**

- ENGINEERING - 82% of overall activity in Central

- 4% of QLD construction businesses are located in this region

- 3,000 construction businesses
  - 55% Sole traders
  - 44% SMEs (1-20)
  - 1% Large (over 20)