

Redlands Coast Industry Snapshot Advanced Manufacturing

August 2026

Advanced manufacturing is emerging as a key economic driver, underpinned by new technologies, rising capital investment, and a shift away from traditional labour-intensive practices. With supportive export conditions, including a relatively stable Australian dollar, advanced manufacturing is well placed to strengthen its global competitiveness, particularly through innovation, productivity gains and growing international demand.

Manufacturing employs just 7% of Redland Coast's workforce, yet ranks second in output and leads in exports, reflecting its strong supply chain integration. With gross regional product per employee exceeding health and education, it delivers high productivity and value. Advanced manufacturing drives local value-add and exports, cementing its strategic role in the city's future economy.

Trends affecting the sector

- **Technological advancements.** The manufacturing industry in Redland City is being re-shaped by emerging technologies, automation, and a shift towards advanced, capital-intensive production methods.
- **Supply chain challenges.** Global supply chain disruptions have encouraged local firms to reassess offshore dependencies, while sustainability pressures are promoting circular economy practices such as recycling and energy efficiency.
- **Skills shortage.** The sector is grappling with skills shortages, particularly in STEM fields, amid a growing need for a digitally capable workforce.

Opportunities

- The adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies including automation, robotics, and digital manufacturing offers the potential to improve productivity, reduce costs, and position local firms as competitive players in global supply chains. With supportive state-level initiatives like the Queensland Advanced Manufacturing Roadmap, businesses can access grants, training, and innovation programs to accelerate their growth.
- The shift toward clean energy and circular economy practices creates new avenues for sustainable product development and green manufacturing solutions.

Future outlook

- Global demand for sustainable, high-quality products positions Redland manufacturers to capitalise on advanced techniques and digital transformation. With investment, coordination, and innovation, the sector can drive sustainable growth and become a high-value contributor to south-east Queensland's economy.
- Government strategies and initiatives promoting industry resilience, export development, and workforce upskilling will likely strengthen the sector's competitiveness over the next decade.
- Growth is expected to be strongest in specialised areas such as food processing, green technologies, metal fabrication and precision engineering. The emerging marine industry is also set to play a role in facilitating niche market opportunities.

Industry profile*

AUD \$1.7b
Output/total sales

AUD \$452m
Value added

2,723
Local workers in the industry

61.9% males,
38% females
Gender breakdown of local workers

\$152,818
Average productivity per worker
(Accommodation and food services)

569
Registered businesses

1 in 3
manufacturing workers have certificate level qualification

Top 3 occupations:
Labourers, technicians and trades workers, managers

*Data on manufacturing from sources has been treated as advanced manufacturing.

Sources: economy id, Ibisworld, ABR, ABS

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