# Brisbane Economic Snapshot – October to December 2019

## Key Facts Highlights

* $171 billion: Greater Brisbane Economy
* 205,747: Greater Brisbane Businesses
* 2,462,637: Greater Brisbane Population
* 1,259,013: Greater Brisbane Employment
* 1,622,626: Greater Brisbane Employment Forecast 2041
* 127,895: Businesses in Brisbane LGA

Sources: Brisbane City Council uses a range of sources (available at time of print) to compile this information, including Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Queensland Treasury.

For the full Brisbane Economic Snapshot, please visit [**brisbane.qld.gov.au/business**](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/business) and search ‘Economic Snapshot’.

## Small in Size, Big in Stature

Small businesses are the backbone of the Brisbane economy and sit at the core of every industry sector. They form the foundation of our neighbourhoods, providing innovation and diversity, and often giving our youth their first taste of working life. Small businesses may be small in size, but they are big in stature.

Council uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) guidelines to define businesses.

• **Small business:** Those with 0-19 employees, which are further categorised as small non-employing businesses (sole proprietorships and partnerships without employees) and small employing businesses (employing 1-19 persons).

• **Medium businesses:** Those employing 20-199 employees.

• **Large businesses:** Those employing 200 or more employees. According to figures from the ABS, in June 2018 there were more than 124,000 small businesses in Brisbane, accounting for 97.4% of total registered businesses. Medium size businesses accounted for 2.5% of businesses, while large businesses accounted for 0.1% of businesses in the Brisbane Local Government Area (LGA).

The highest concentration of small businesses is in the inner city. Brisbane City, Paddington–Milton, Newstead–Bowen Hills, Fortitude Valley and Spring Hill had the highest number of small businesses in the Brisbane LGA in 2018.

Small businesses are an integral part of almost every industry sector in Brisbane. The professional, scientific and technical services industry has the largest share of small business (17%), followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (13%), and construction (13%).

## Top 10 Small Business Industries in Brisbane

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Industry** | **Percentage share of small businesses** |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 17 |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services | 13 |
| Construction | 13 |
| Financial and insurance services | 12 |
| Health care and social assistance | 8 |
| Transport, postal and warehousing | 8 |
| Retail trade | 5 |
| Administrative and support services | 4 |
| Accommodation and food services | 4 |
| Others services | 4 |
| All other industries | 13 |

Council is committed to building Australia’s most small business-friendly city. While small businesses are known for providing local services, many are also leading innovation, developing new markets and becoming global leaders.

For more information, visit the ‘Business in Brisbane’ web page at [**brisbane.qld.gov.au**](https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/) or call the Business Hotline **133 BNE (133 263).**

*Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2014 to June*

*2018, Catalogue No. 8165.0*