Deloitte
Access Economics

GSEM: Australia's manufacturing powerhouse
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Contents

Executive Summary

Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) is Australia's manufacturing powerhouse, distinguished by its scale, advanced manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce, and proximity to key transport corridors that provide access to domestic and international markets.

The region is home to Australia's largest manufacturing workforce, employing 75,046 people. The sector has 3,801 employing businesses, which together produce approximately $89 billion in output.

GSEM has particular **strengths in advanced manufacturing** including advanced materials, pharmaceuticals and transport equipment. It is home to a range of high technology clusters that are underpinned by the talent pools provided by local universities and TAFEs.

These attributes make GSEM's manufacturing sector a **vital economic and strategic asset** to Victoria and Australia and a critical driver for national innovation and exports.

Yet **the region faces several pressing threats** that could constrain its future progress. These issues **require action to ensure the region continues to thrive** and support Australia's growth agenda:

- **Land availability,** particularly in inner metropolitan areas, is limited, acting as a barrier to new or expanding manufacturing operations and population growth.

- **Persistent skills shortages**, particularly in advanced manufacturing disciplines, could act as a drag on future sector growth.

- A lack of **freight infrastructure capacity** poses a risk to the reliability and competitiveness of the region's supply chain.

To safeguard and enhance GSEM's manufacturing sector, strategic priorities must focus on **proactive land use** to unlock additional industrial capacity, targeted **infrastructure investment** to bolster transport resilience, and **workforce development** initiatives to attract and retain skilled talent. Leveraging **government support** will also be critical to enable the sector to compete globally.

GSEM's manufacturing sector is a cornerstone of Victoria and Australia's industrial capability, yet it faces tangible threats that require **coordinated action from State and Federal Government**. By addressing these challenges through strategic planning and investment, **GSEM can continue to drive Australia's national prosperity into the future.**
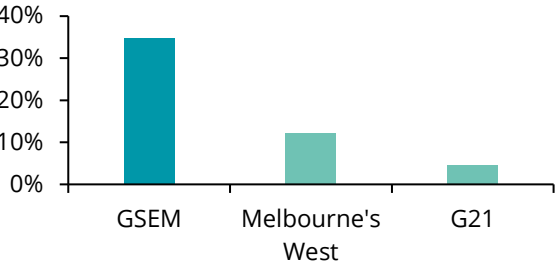
GSEM: a manufacturing powerhouse

GSEM is Victoria's leading manufacturing hub, generating more output and supporting more jobs in the industry than any other region in the state. With the right support, the region can drive Australia's future economic growth and prosperity.

The Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) region is a **dynamic and diverse economic zone**, encompassing the municipalities of Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Knox, Monash and the Mornington Peninsula.

Strategically located between central Melbourne and regional Victoria, GSEM is **one of Melbourne's fastest-growing regions**, home to over 1.5 million people and 83,000 businesses generating a total regional output of $278 billion.

Underpinning the region is a **nationally significant manufacturing** sector which comprises 3,800 employing businesses. Together, they employ 27% of Victoria's manufacturing workforce and produce 35% of the state's total manufacturing output. This makes GSEM the **largest and most important manufacturing hub in Victoria and Australia**.
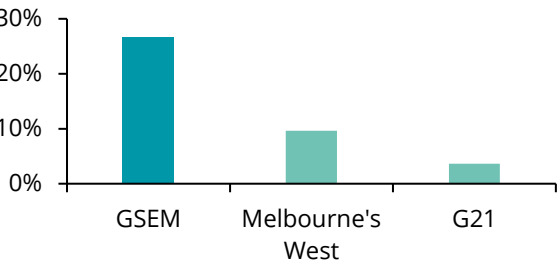
Manufacturing operations spread across multiple hubs within GSEM's eight municipalities. **Greater Dandenong** is the most significant, accounting for 34% of GSEM's manufacturing output including a large transport equipment sector. Other key precincts include **Kingston**, **Monash** and **Knox**, each of which bring their own strengths. Kingston has a large food manufacturing base, Monash is home to advanced materials and pharmaceutical clusters, and Knox has a large machinery and equipment sector.
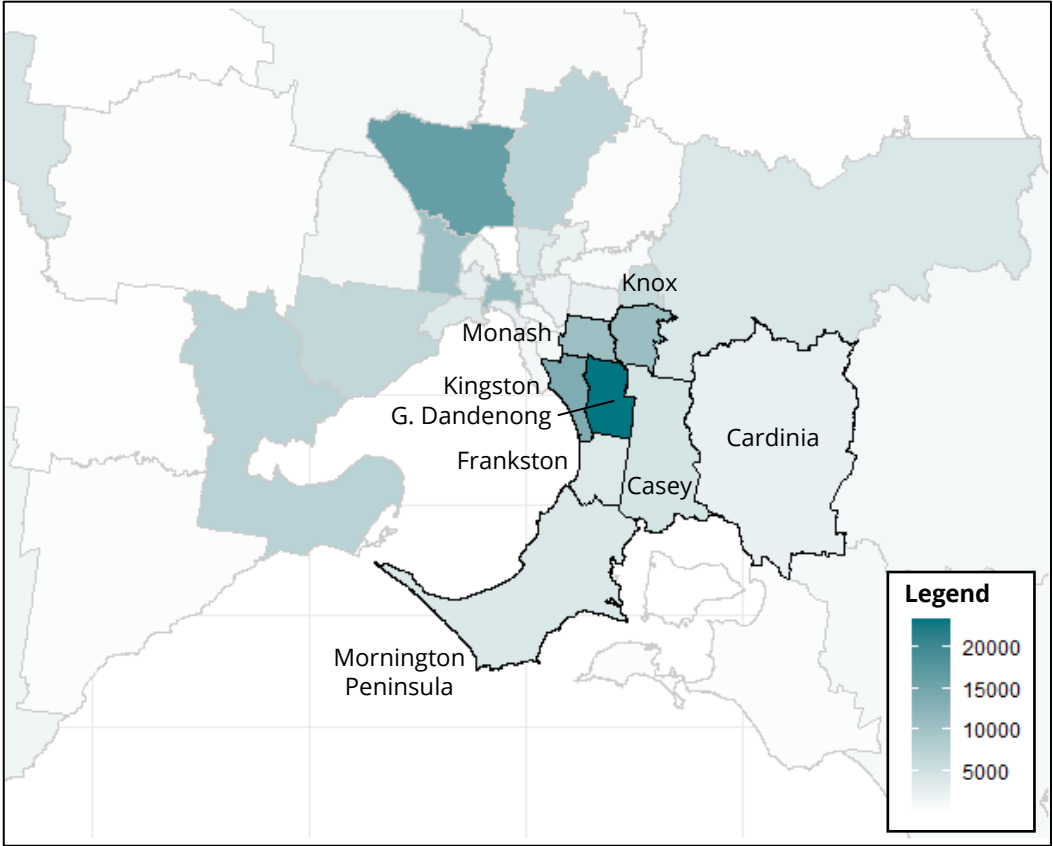
GSEM's manufacturing sector is not only crucial today, but **with the right support it can drive Australia's future economic growth**. The region combines scale with strategic advantages, including proximity to leading educational institutions and innovation clusters, international connectivity via Melbourne's major transport hubs and access to a large, skilled workforce.

Chart 1: Victoria's manufacturing employment by LGA, 2021

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022).

Chart 2: Share of Victoria's manufacturing output by region, 2024

Source: REMPLAN (2024).

Chart 3: Share of Victoria's manufacturing employment by region, 2025

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022), Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (Catalogue No. 6291.0, 24 July 2025).

Key strengths of the region

GSEM's key strengths are in advanced manufacturing with high-technology business clusters in advanced materials, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and transport equipment manufacturing. These capabilities provide a vital strategic and economic asset to Australia.

GSEM's strength spans across the manufacturing sector, with a higher share of its workforce employed in **every manufacturing sub-industry** than the national average, demonstrated by a Location Quotient score of greater than 1 in every 2-digit ANZSIC manufacturing subdivision (see Chart 4).

GSEM's largest manufacturing sector is food manufacturing, with around 15,000 employees. Yet the region's key **areas of relative strength are in advanced manufacturing**, with a range of high technology industry clusters across the region that employ highly skilled workers and export internationally (see Box 1).

GSEM's strength in these areas is **a key strategic and economic asset for Australia.** As manufacturing around the world becomes increasingly technology driven, demand for the advanced products and materials that GSEM specialises in is expected to grow.

In line with this, recent Federal and State initiatives including the *Future Made in Australia* and *Made in Victoria 2030* provide a range of incentives to support and grow Australia's advanced and low-emission manufacturing capabilities. These aim to ensure that Australia remains competitive in key industries that will shape the future of the global economy, to the benefit of Australian households and businesses.

Box 1: GSEM's advanced manufacturing capabilities

Advanced materials

The region's biggest strength is in advanced materials and polymer manufacturing. This is centered on the **Australian Manufacturing and Material Precinct** in Clayton. The cluster is home to the manufacturing, engineering and materials research hub of Australia's national science agency **CSIRO** which has partnered with industry to produce materials such as topcoat paints for Boeing and nanoparticle additives for consumer products like sunscreen.[1]

Chemicals & pharmaceuticals

In 2024, **Moderna** opened Australia's first end-to-end mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility at **Monash University's** Clayton campus. The facility provides an advanced biomanufacturing capability with the ability to produce up to 100 million vaccines per year, creating 140 direct jobs and up to 500 more across the advanced medical manufacturing and R&D supply chain.[2]

Transport equipment

The region is home to a large transport equipment manufacturing base. The cluster includes **Jayco**, a major RV manufacturer, and **Nissan Casting Australia**, which produces aluminium die-cast components used in electric vehicle models sold around the world.[3] Additionally, **Alstom** is a key manufacturer supporting Victoria's Big Build with next generation G-Class trams and VLocity regional trains.[4]

Chart 4: GSEM manufacturing sub-industry strengths
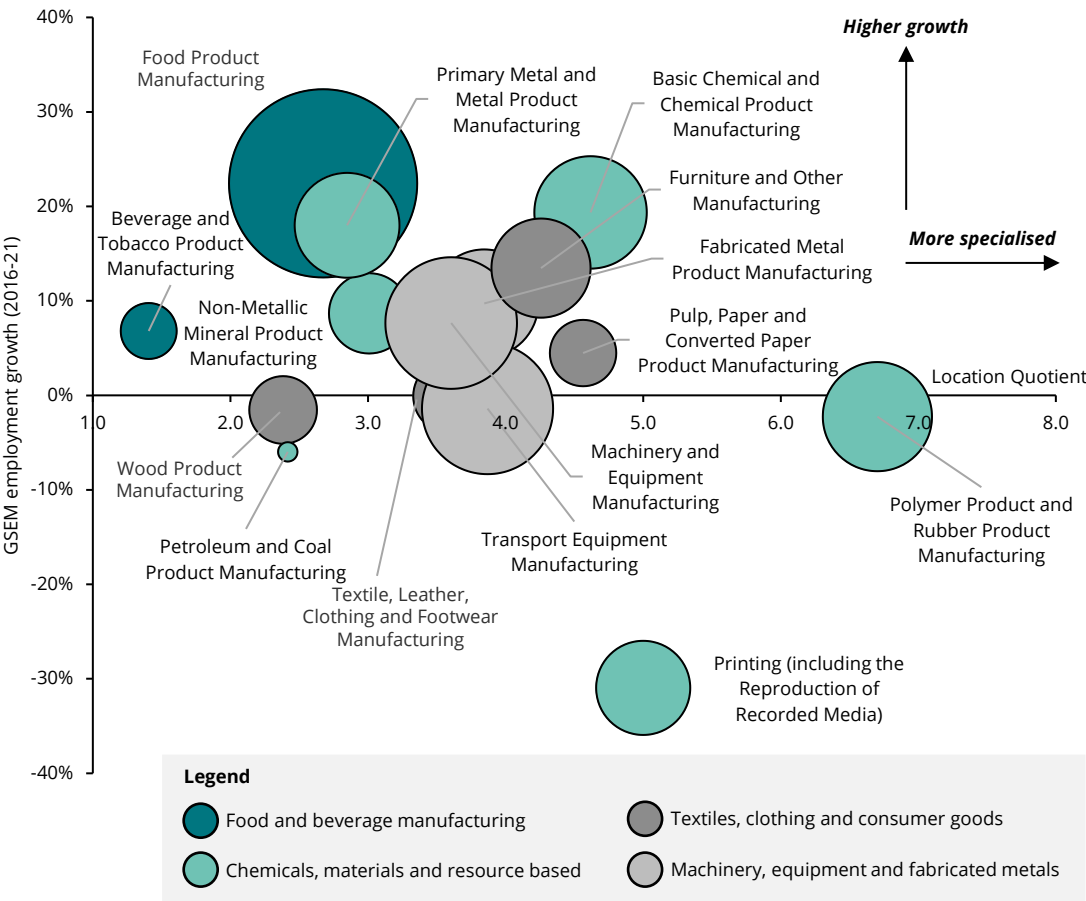
Note: Bubble size indicates level of employment in GSEM in 2021. Location Quotient is based on sub-sector share of total employment in GSEM relative to the national average.
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022).

GSEM versus other manufacturing hubs

GSEM is Australia's leading manufacturing region, with scale in workforce, output and business counts. This is despite its smaller population compared to other major manufacturing hubs.

A multi-criteria analysis undertaken for this report confirmed **GSEM's position as Australia's leading manufacturing region**.

The multi-criteria analysis benchmarked GSEM against other major manufacturing hubs across four key criteria; (1) Existing industrial presence, (2) Skilled workforce, (3) Regional infrastructure, and (4) National policy priority alignment. Full details of the analysis can be found in the **Appendix**.

Compared to other manufacturing regions, **GSEM stands out for the scale and concentration of its manufacturing activity as well as its strengths in key advanced manufacturing sectors**. This is despite the region having a relatively smaller population than other Australian manufacturing hubs, with its population of 1.5 million people far smaller than regions such as Western Sydney (2.8 million), Brisbane South (2.2 million) and South Australia (1.9 million).

Box 2: Key stats on GSEM's manufacturing base

75,046 employees

GSEM is home to **Australia's largest manufacturing workforce** by both size and share of regional employment.

Not only is the region's manufacturing workforce large, but it is **highly skilled**. Some 54% of GSEM's manufacturing workforce are employed in occupations at a skill level of 3 or higher, compared to 53% for Western Sydney, 52% for Brisbane South and 51% for Melbourne's West.

$89 billion in output

GSEM's manufacturing industry **outperforms its size**, producing $89 billion in output.

Compared to other manufacturing-intensive regions, only Western Sydney generates more output. However, **on a per capita basis, GSEM outperforms Western Sydney by nearly 60%.** This demonstrates that GSEM's manufacturing produces a much high level of manufacturing output relative to its population base.

3,801 employing businesses

GSEM has **more manufacturing businesses per capita** than any other manufacturing hub in Australia.

Of note, **8% of the region's manufacturing firms generate annual turnover of more than $10 million**. This suggests that the region has provided firms with access to skilled labour and a supportive business ecosystem to scale effectively.

Chart 5: Manufacturing employment by region, 2025

- Manufacturing employment (LHS)
- Manufacturing share of total region employment (RHS)
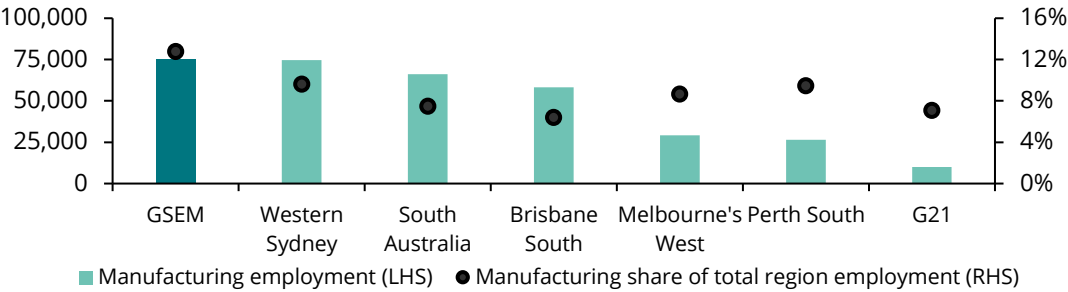
Chart 6: Manufacturing output by region, 2024

- Manufacturing output, $bn (LHS)
- Manufacturing share of total region output (RHS)

Chart 7: Manufacturing businesses by region, 2024

- Number of manufacturing businesses (LHS)
- Share of region businesses in manufacturing (RHS)

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022), ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (Catalogue No. 6291.0, 24 July 2025), ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (Catalogue No. 8165.0, 17 December 2024), REMPLAN (2024).

Focus on: supporting infrastructure

GSEM benefits from its international connections via the Port of Melbourne and Melbourne Airport, but capacity constraints are emerging with important road 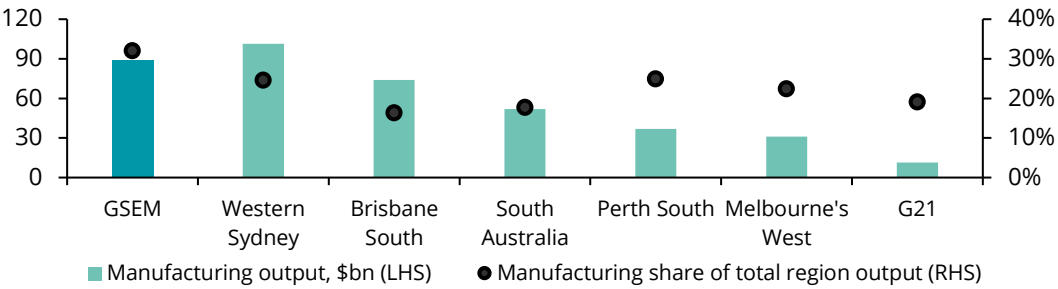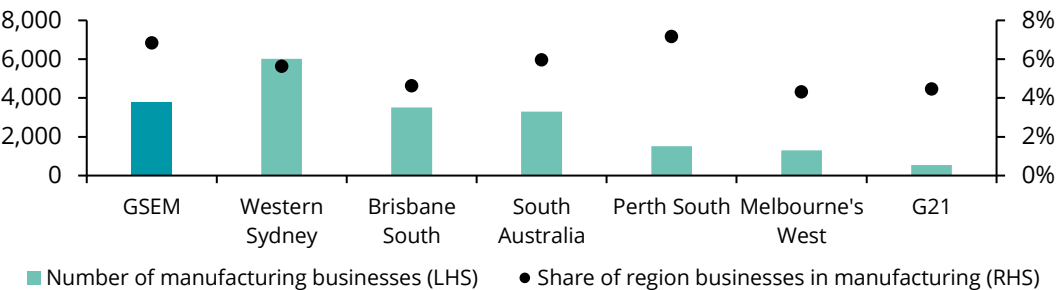links congested at peak times and limited availability of land in key Inner East and South East precincts which are hindering growth.

GSEM benefits from being a globally connected region, with its **manufacturing exports totaling $57 million in 2024**. These trade volumes are supported by the region's proximity to major national and international transport nodes (see Box 3). However, moving forward, **capacity constraints are a risk**.

Even with planned developments at the **Port of Melbourne**, constraints are expected to emerge in the early 2030s.[5] Meanwhile a heavy reliance on the congested road network for landside access and port throughput is a key challenge.[6]

In addition to capacity at key nodes, **'last mile' ground transportation** to and from the GSEM region is stretched, with key road links like the Monash Freeway, Princes Highway and EastLink heavily congested at peak times.[7] New industrial precincts like Officer South will also require access to freight routes to achieve their potential.

The **availability of land is another key constraint**, particularly in the Inner East and South East.

While GSEM has seen strong industrial building approvals in recent years, **the availability of industrial land remains a key barrier to business expansion.** In the Inner South East just 1.6% of industrial land is vacant with no unzoned land available, while in the Eastern Region, which includes Monash and Knox, just 5.3% of industrial land is vacant with no unzoned land available.[8]

Availability is better in the outer metropolitan Southern Region though where the Officer-Pakenham Industrial Precinct has nearly 1,000 hectares of unzoned land, while there is significant surplus land around the Port of Hastings in Mornington Peninsula that could be zoned for industrial uses.

Land constraints are also projected to hinder population growth, with 2023 Department of Transport and Planning forecasts showing that all GSEM LGAs except Casey and Cardinia are expected to see population growth below the state average to 2036.[9]

Chart 8: Victoria's industrial land parcels by LGA, 2022
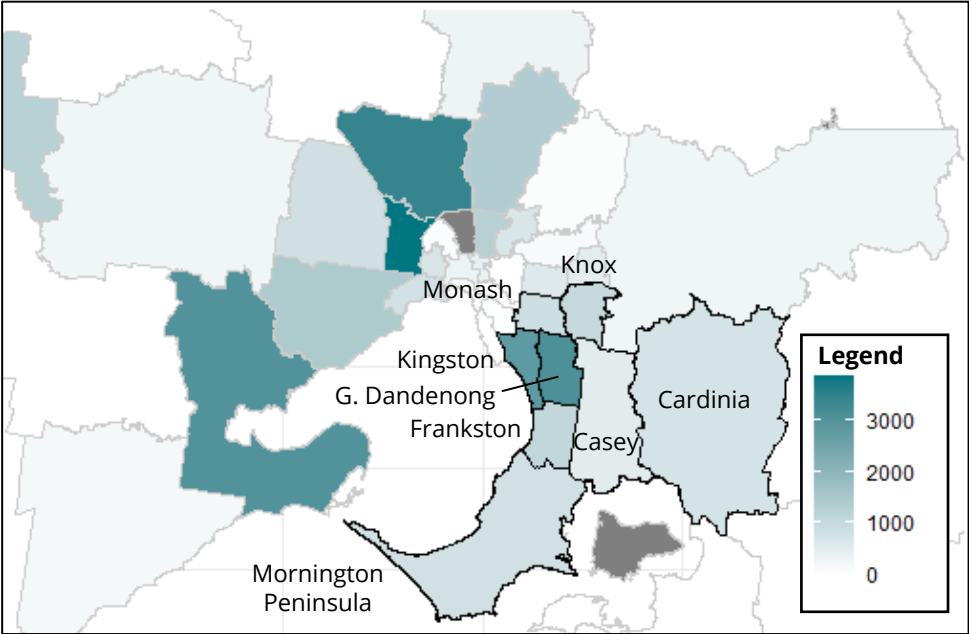
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Land and Housing Supply Indicators (15 June 2022).

Box 3: GSEM's connections to existing major international transport nodes

The Port of Melbourne

The Port of Melbourne is **Australia's largest container port**, handling more than a third of Australia's container trade.[10] Over a third of the containers coming into the Port are bound for Melbourne's Outer East and South East.[11] In 2024, the Port achieved its highest ever container trade volume, indicating **growing trade demand**.

Melbourne Airport

Melbourne Airport is Australia's busiest 24/7 curfew-free airport and handles over **40% of Australia's international air freight exports**.[12] In addition to over 2,300 weekly passenger services to an extensive **network of domestic and international destinations**, the airport operates more than 35 monthly freight services.[13]

Focus on: workforce

GSEM is home to a large, skilled and growing manufacturing workforce supported by a strong STEM graduate pipeline. To safeguard future growth, the sector must focus on attracting younger talent and addressing acute skill shortages.

GSEM is home to **Australia's largest manufacturing workforce** despite its relatively small population with 75,046 employees in 2025. The region's workforce is diverse and skilled (see Box 4), which supports innovation and underpins GSEM's advanced manufacturing capabilities.

The region's manufacturing workforce has expanded rapidly, with growth of 7% between 2016 and 2021. Projecting this forwards to 2025 using SA4 region approximations from the latest ABS data suggests growth of 9.3% since 2016. Over the same period the national manufacturing workforce has shrunk by 0.5%.

Employment growth has been strongest in GSEM's southern regions like Cardinia, which is indicative of businesses looking further out of Melbourne for space to set up and expand.

GSEM's manufacturing workforce is expanding at a faster pace than most of Australia's other major hubs, with only Perth South and South Australia recording stronger growth (see Chart 9). However, both these regions have a lower share of employment in manufacturing, suggesting their growth reflects industries that are maturing and 'catching up' to GSEM's established manufacturing base.

Employment growth in GSEM **comes against a backdrop of national skills shortages in the sector**, particularly in technical and trade roles. Jobs and Skills Australia's 2024 Occupational Shortage List highlights that 37% of workers in the manufacturing sector are in occupations that are in shortage nationally.[14] This can slow production, reduce efficiency, and limit the ability of firms to scale and innovate.

Chart 9: Manufacturing employment share and growth by region, 2016-2025

■ Manufacturing employment growth ● Manufacturing share of total region employment

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022), Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (Catalogue No. 6291.0, 24 July 2025).

Box 4: Characteristics of GSEMs manufacturing workforce

GSEM benefits from a relatively diverse manufacturing workforce that has a **high share of female employees.** At 30.9% the region has a higher share of female workers than all other major manufacturing hubs as well as the national average for the sector of 29.5%.

GSEM's manufacturing workforce is **highly skilled**, with the share of workers employed in an occupation at skill level 3 or higher greater than most other manufacturing regions, including Western Sydney. This is supported by a strong talent pipeline from universities in the region

including Monash University and Federation University which together account for 6.0% of the nation's STEM students. The region is also supported by a network of TAFE institutions, including Chisholm Institute, which play a critical role in technical training.

Despite its proximity to these institutions, at 16.9% the **share of young workers** (those aged under 30) in GSEM's manufacturing sector is below the national average of 20.1%. This means that strategies may be needed to attract younger talent to secure the sector's future.

Table 1: Demographics of manufacturing employment

Region	Skilled share	Female share	Youth share
GSEM	**54%**	**31%**	**17%**
Perth South	61%	24%	20%
G21	50%	29%	26%
South Australia	53%	28%	20%
Brisbane South	52%	29%	20%
Western Sydney	53%	30%	16%
Melbourne's West	51%	28%	16%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (Catalogue No. 2901.0, 28 June 2022).

Gap analysis

GSEM has a range of strengths in its workforce, advanced manufacturing capabilities and planned industrial developments. Yet, the region faces risks to its future growth with constraints around available land, regional freight capacity and skills that require coordinated action.

Strengths:

- GSEM has a **large, broad and skilled manufacturing workforce base,** with a higher proportion of its workforce employed in every manufacturing sub-industry than the national average.

- GSEM has **strengths in key advanced manufacturing sectors** including advanced materials, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and transport equipment manufacturing.

- GSEM ranks second nationally in the number of manufacturing businesses but holds the highest share of high-revenue firms (i.e. those with annual turnover <$10 million), suggesting it is a **key destination for large-scale manufacturers**.

- GSEM's manufacturing sector has a higher share of **female employees** than any other region illustrating its ability to attract a relatively diverse workforce.

Opportunities:

- **Alignment of GSEM's strengths with key federal and state initiatives** including the *Future Made in Australia* and *Made in Victoria 2030* provide funding, tax and procurement opportunities for GSEM manufacturers, as well as possible R&D, commercialisation and scaling support.

- **Major industrial precinct developments such as Officer South** are adding modern warehouse, light-manufacturing and logistics capacity. While there are further opportunities to unlock new industrial land around the Port of Hastings.

- Several major **infrastructure projects are proposed in the region to strengthen transport links,** including the Thompsons Road upgrade, the Dandenong South Intermodal Terminal, and the proposed South East Airport.

- Record TEU volumes at the Port of Melbourne demonstrate **strong trade demand and international connectivity**.
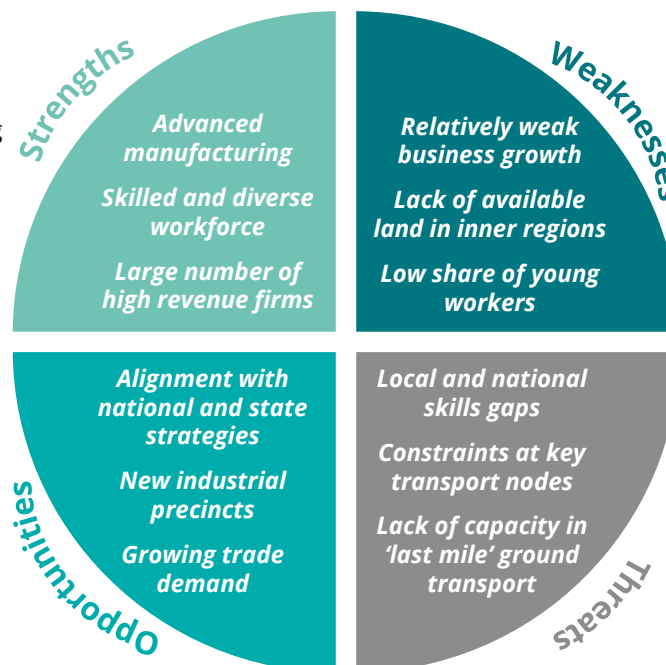
Weaknesses:

- While manufacturing employment is increasing, the number of manufacturing businesses in GSEM is falling, drawing momentum away from the region's expansion and indicating local **barriers to business growth**.

- GSEM has **limited available land,** with particular constraints in key Inner East and South East regions. The lack of available industrial land is limiting business growth, while broader residential land constraints are anticipated to act as a drag on population growth with possible implications for the future workforce in the area.

- Despite its proximity to major universities and TAFEs, GSEM's manufacturing workforce has a low share of **young workers,** pointing to challenges in attracting new, skilled workers.

Threats:

- Manufacturing in GSEM (and nationally) faces **skills gaps** for advanced manufacturing, digital and trades roles. If local training and national migration and skills policy do not keep pace, firms may struggle to scale advanced production lines in the region.

- **Key freight corridors feeding South-East precincts** (Monash Freeway / Princes Highway / EastLink connections) **have limited capacity** impacting freight reliability, while the limited direct rail servicing for GSEM industrial estates increases road dependence.

- While container volumes are high, **Port of Melbourne congestion, berth constraints and hinterland road and rail limits** mean supply-chain delays and increased costs are a medium-term risk.

SWOT diagram

Strengths
- *Advanced manufacturing*
- *Skilled and diverse workforce*
- *Large number of high revenue firms*

Weaknesses
- *Relatively weak business growth*
- *Lack of available land in inner regions*
- *Low share of young workers*

Opportunities
- *Alignment with national and state strategies*
- *New industrial precincts*
- *Growing trade demand*

Threats
- *Local and national skills gaps*
- *Constraints at key transport nodes*
- *Lack of capacity in 'last mile' ground transport*

Forward plan

For GSEM to continue to drive economic growth, effective State Government planning will be needed to manage pressures on the region's land availability and freight network. Meanwhile local action with Government support is required to address the industry's acute skills needs.

Develop an effective land use plan

- Work with State Government to conduct an updated **assessment of the available zoned industrial land** in the region against forecast industry demand to identify shortfalls.

- State Government should consider **actions to support release of new industrial land** where shortfalls are identified via precinct rezoning, strategic land releases, or targeted incentives for brownfield repurposing.

- State Government land use plans should ensure that sufficient consideration is given to **support residential housing and transport infrastructure** near new and existing industrial precincts to ensure necessary access for freight and close proximity for workers.

Invest in regional freight capacity

- Work with State Government to conduct modelling of **future freight and passenger demand against available supply** in GSEM to identify constraints and areas that require upgrades or road network optimisation to maintain competitiveness.

- **State Government has a role to invest in improved freight capacity** to serve new and expanding industrial precincts, including the extension of Thompsons Road and the development of a future South East airport.

- GSEM should **coordinate with key regional transport hubs** including the Port of Melbourne and Melbourne Airport to maintain and build freight capacity to key international destinations.

Build a balanced skills pipeline

- In line with GSEM's Jobs and Skills Roadmap, there is a need to **identify key local skills gaps** in the region and the underlying drivers of the skills gap for key manufacturing occupations.

- GSEM should **engage and build links with local schools and universities** to create a more formal regional skills pipeline between local education institutions and GSEM businesses.

- The Federal Government and relevant Jobs and Skills Councils must ensure **a balanced national migration and skills policy**, with expanded local TAFE offerings for key vocational occupations in shortage and improved recognition of overseas qualifications.

Maximise the benefits from national and state support

- GSEM should **conduct a detailed mapping** of which local firms and value chains (e.g., batteries, hydrogen appliances, medtech, food manufacturing, defence) are best placed to access Federal and State Government grants and tax credits.

- GSEM should **support aligned businesses that are looking to invest in the region to engage with relevant programs** and access the assistance available to adapt, innovate, and remain at the forefront of the evolving market. This is **particularly important for smaller businesses** looking to scale that may lack the knowledge or resources to navigate the complexity of these large government initiatives.

Appendix: Comparative Assessment Methodology
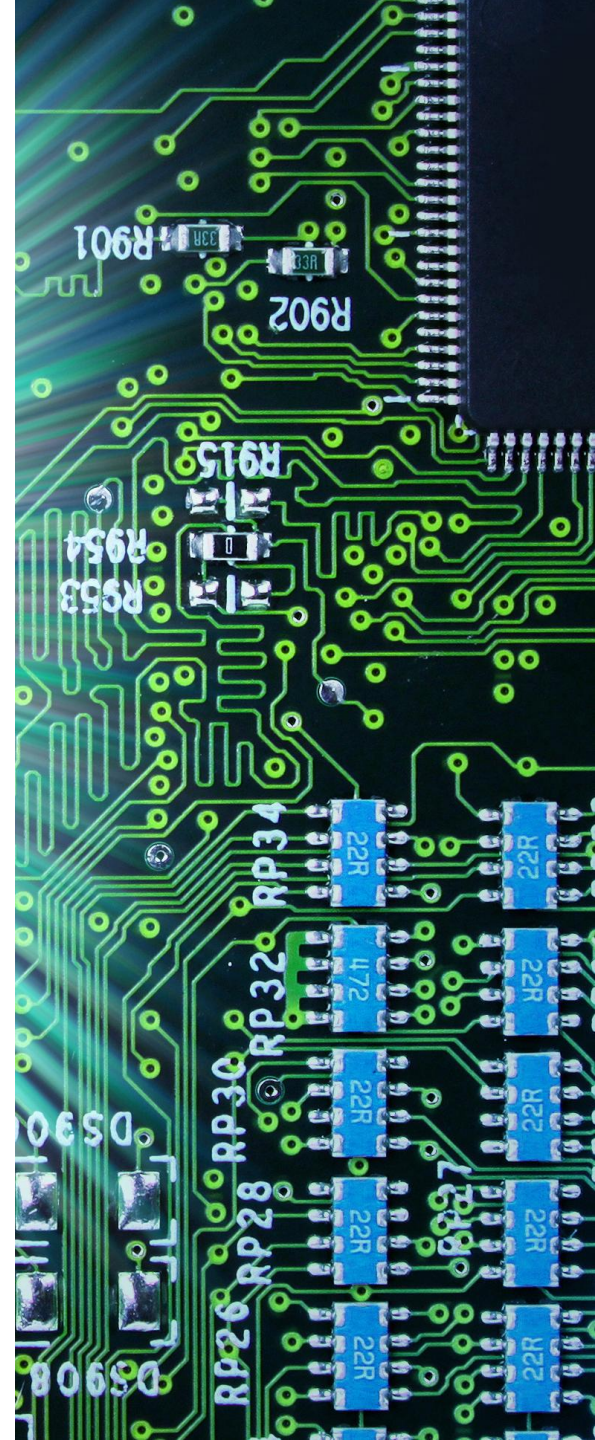
Appendix: Comparative Assessment - regional definitions

For this analysis, regional definitions of key manufacturing hubs have been aligned with standard public definitions where possible to ensure consistency and analytical integrity. The regions considered vary significantly in size, and some metrics have been standardised to account for these differences (e.g., by converting to percentages). Where public definitions of regions were overly broad or unavailable, LGAs were selected based on their geography and size/share of manufacturing output to ensure the analysis captured the most manufacturing-intensive areas.

Table A1: Regional definitions of key manufacturing hubs

GSEM	G21	Melbourne's West	Western Sydney	South Australia	Brisbane South	Perth South
LGA • Cardinia • Casey • Frankston • Greater Dandenong • Kingston • Knox • Monash • Mornington Peninsula	**LGA** • Greater Geelong • Colac Otway • Golden Plains • Queenscliffe • Surf Coast	**LGA** • Brimbank • Hobsons Bay • Maribyrnong • Melton • Moonee Valley • Wyndham	**LGA** • The Hills • Hawkesbury • Parramatta • Cumberland • Blacktown • Penrith • Blue Mountains • Canterbury-Bankstown • Fairfield • Liverpool • Campbelltown • Camden • Wollondilly	• Entire state	**LGA** • Brisbane • Ipswich • Logan • Redland	**LGA** • Fremantle • East Fremantle • Melville • Canning • Gosnells • Armadale • Cockburn • Kwinana • South Perth
Population: 1,558,000	**Population:** 381,000	**Population:** 1,074,000	**Population:** 2,800,000	**Population:** 1,878,000	**Population:** 2,178,000	**Population:** 753,000
Source: GSEM regional alliance	**Source:** G21 regional alliance	**Source:** Victorian Government definition of Western Metropolitan Region	**Source:** Western Sydney Budget Papers		**Source:** Deloitte Access Economics	**Source:** Deloitte Access Economics

Appendix: Comparative Assessment - full table of metrics

Key manufacturing regions in Australia were compared across a range of metrics under four broad criteria: (1) Existing industrial presence, (2) Skilled workforce, (3) Regional infrastructure, and (4) National policy priority alignment. The analysis draws on multiple sources, including ABS datasets, the Census, REMPLAN, and Federal Government data, using the most current LGA-level information available.

Table A2: Full list of manufacturing metrics by region

Criteria	Metric	Date	GSEM	G21	Melbourne's West	Western Sydney	South Australia	Brisbane South	Perth South
Existing industrial presence	Total manufacturing workforce	2025*	75,046	10,085	29,203	74,586	66,067	56,854	26,409
Existing industrial presence	Total manufacturing output ($bn)	2024	$88.95	$11.46	$31.10	$101.40	$51.87	$73.92	$36.95
Existing industrial presence	Manufacturing share of output	2024	32.0%	19.1%	22.5%	24.6%	17.7%	16.4%	25.0%
Existing industrial presence	Total number of manufacturing businesses	Jun-24	3,801	541	1,296	6,018	3,292	3,503	1,520
Existing industrial presence	Share of manufacturing businesses with revenues of over $10m	Jun-24	8.0%	3.8%	6.0%	5.9%	4.1%	5.6%	6.4%
Skilled workforce	Share of national STEM students	2023	6.0%	0.6%	0.5%	2.3%	6.5%	10.0%	1.9%
Skilled workforce	Share of manufacturing workers with higher occupational skill levels	2021	53.9%	50.2%	51.2%	52.7%	53.3%	52.4%	61.2%
Skilled workforce	Female share of manufacturing employment	2021	30.9%	29.4%	28.3%	30.5%	28.4%	28.9%	24.3%
Skilled workforce	Youth share of manufacturing employment	2021	16.9%	25.6%	16.4%	15.8%	19.8%	20.1%	20.3%
Skilled workforce	10-year manufacturing employment growth	2025*	9.3%	5.5%	8.0%	-4.7%	11.0%	-2.2%	24.7%
Regional infrastructure	Share of zoned land that is industrial	2022	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	1.6%	2.4%	1.3%	2.2 %
Regional infrastructure	Share of zoned land that is for infrastructure / utilities	2022	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%
Regional infrastructure	Share of building approvals that are industrial	FY23	16.5%	9.0%	13.3%	13.2%	7.0%	11.6%	14.6%
Regional infrastructure	Share of building approvals that are transportation	FY23	1.3%	8.2%	1.2%	4.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%
Regional infrastructure	Total manufacturing exports	2024	$56,826	$5,899	$17,068	$58,982	$16,708	$31,570	$26,277
Regional infrastructure	Manufacturing exports as a share of industry output	2024	63.9%	51.5%	54.9%	58.2%	32.2%	42.7%	71.1%
National policy priority alignment	Number of top five manufacturing sub-sectors that are advanced manufacturing**	2021	4	1	3	3	2	2	2

*Estimated based on uplifting 2021 Census data by growth in manufacturing employment in relevant SA4 areas between 2021 and 2025.

**Defined as transport equipment, machinery and equipment, chemicals, and polymer manufacturing.

Appendix: Comparative Assessment – Multi-Criteria Analysis output

The metrics in the previous slide were aggregated via a Multi-Criteria Analysis to form overall index scores for each region, which signify the relative strength of each region across the key manufacturing criteria outlined. For each metric, the region with the lowest value was assigned a score of 0, and the region with the highest value a score of 1, with all other regions scaled proportionally in between based on the distribution of the data. Metric scores within each criterion were summed and normalised to a score between 0 and 1 with equal weighting given to each metric within the criteria. These inform the sub-index scores. The resulting criterion scores were then aggregated and again normalised to a score of between 0 and 1 with equal weighting to calculate an overall index score for each region.

Table A3: Multi-Criteria Analysis output

Rank	Region	Existing industrial presence	Skilled workforce	Regional infrastructure	National policy alignment	Overall index score
1	GSEM	0.74	0.36	0.55	1.00	**0.66**
2	Western Sydney	0.67	0.19	0.60	0.67	**0.53**
3	Perth South	0.31	0.37	0.49	0.33	**0.38**
4	Melbourne's West	0.26	0.17	0.38	0.67	**0.37**
5	South Brisbane	0.40	0.35	0.20	0.33	**0.32**
6	South Australia	0.33	0.35	0.17	0.33	**0.30**
7	G21	0.03	0.30	0.40	0.00	**0.18**

References

References

[1] CSIRO, *Australian Manufacturing and Materials Precinct* (5 April 2019) <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/use-our-labs-facilities/Manufacturing-and-Materials-Precinct>

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Contact us

David Rumbens
Partner
drumbens@deloitte.com.au

Jennifer Storer
Director
jenniferstorer@deloitte.com.au

Andy Crossley
Manager
ancrossley@deloitte.com.au

Dan Kelly
Economist
dankelly@deloitte.com.au

Deloitte Access Economics
477 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

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