

MEDIA RELEASE



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Construction Job Vacancies on the Rise

[Online job advert data published by the National Skills Commission \(March 2023\)](#) show that in the ACT the three-month rolling average for online job ads to the end of March 2023 was 8,254. This is 2.7% higher than last year (March 2022, 8,040 job ads) and is 16.7% above the 7,072 jobs advertised online last month.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkin explained, “Compared to last month, job ads are higher for 11 of the 15 key construction occupation groups with the highest increases for bricklayers, roof tilers, and fencers.”

“The construction occupation groups with the highest number of online job ads in March 2023 are Construction Manager (266 ads), Carpenters and joiners (35 ads), and Plumbers (33 ads)”, he said.

The release of the March 2023 job advert data follows MBA Australia’s release of its [blueprint for future-proofing the building and construction industry’s workforce](#).

Mr Hopkins said, “MBA’s workforce blueprint identifies 6,982 building and construction workers will be needed in the ACT by November 2026 to meet demand.”

“Around 3,000 additional technical and trade roles will be required in the ACT, meaning that it is vitally important that the ACT invest heavily in building and construction apprenticeships”, he said.

Mr Hopkins said, “The building and construction industry is the highest employer of apprentices, with the industry employing 30% of all apprentices and trainees currently in-training.”

“With the ACT providing the lowest apprentices training subsidies for carpenters and plumbers compared with any other Australian State or Territory it is vitally important that the ACT Government respond to the need for more construction workers in its upcoming budget”, he said.

Master Builders ACT’s [Skills and Training recommendations for the ACT budget](#) include:

- Increase the apprenticeship subsidies for all trade apprenticeships.
- Continue funding to diversify the construction workforce.
- Promote trade apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers.
- Work with the Commonwealth Government to prioritise skilled migration into the ACT.
- Develop a workforce transition plan to support the ACT’s electrification transition.

Overview of Blueprint Recommendations

Attracting workers	Recruiting workers	Train workers	Retain workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing the bias and improving careers education• Improving gender diversity• Reframing the apprenticeship story• The role of migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the options and testing the waters• Entering the industry• Nurturing success in the early stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving quality by improving information• Work-integrated learning pathways• Enhancing education integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occupational licensing• Embracing a culture of life-long learning• Improving business acumen

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