



MASTER BUILDERS
A U S T R A L I A

The Building and Construction Industry Workforce

July 2024



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Overview

In May 2024, approximately 1.37 million people were employed in Australia's building and construction industry.

- Of these, about 57 per cent were employed in residential building with an additional 34 per cent in commercial building. The remaining 9 per cent were in civil and heavy engineering construction.
- Women accounted for 13.6 per cent of the workforce and 3.1 per cent of trades workers.
- Of the building and construction workforce, the largest share was based in New South Wales (30.8 per cent), followed by Victoria (27.3 per cent), Queensland (20.2 per cent) and Western Australia (11.7 per cent). The remaining 10 per cent is shared across South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
- At the end of December 2023, there were 116,560 construction industry apprentices in training. This was 1.7 per cent down on the same time last year.
- A total of 21,415 construction apprentices successfully completed their studies during 2023 – a 14.7 per cent reduction on 2022.
- In 2023, a total of 41,934 new construction apprentices commenced. This was a reduction of 22.4 per cent from the same period in 2022.
- There was a slight decrease in cancellations and withdrawals between December 2022 (33,460) and December 2023 (33,290).

The size of Australia's construction workforce expanded by 51,120 over the year to May 2024, equivalent to growth of 3.9 per cent. While there are no details around the flows into and out of the industry, new entrants outnumbered those departing by more than 50,000.

Even so, workforce supply remains in critical shortage and there are still not enough new entrants to the industry to meet building and construction targets, including 1.2 million new dwellings under the Housing Accord, or the transition to net zero by 2050.

Sustained effort is needed to ensure the industry remains attractive to traditional cohorts of potential workers, while also improving the attractiveness to under-represented cohorts, such as women, people with a disability and skilled migrants.

The Building and Construction Workforce

OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT BY STATE AND TERRITORY – MAY 2024

	AUS	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Total BCI employment	1,368,300	421,600	373,048	275,840	80,148	159,663	29,937	11,279	16,785
BCI share of total employment (%)	9.5%	9.4%	9.9%	9.3%	8.5%	9.8%	10.4%	8.1%	6.2%
State/territory share of total BCI employment - May 2024	100.0%	30.8%	27.3%	20.2%	5.9%	11.7%	2.2%	0.8%	1.2%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly (6291.0.55.003) (Table EQ06)

In May 2024, the most prevalent building and construction trades workers were carpenters/joiners (145,025), followed by plumbers (99,797) and painting trades workers (62,428). The table below provides a more comprehensive breakdown for each of the states and territories.

NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION TRADES WORKERS BY DETAILED OCCUPATION LEVEL – MAY 2024

	AUS	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Carpenters and Joiners	145,025	53,180	39,015	24,054	9,059	14,253	3,330	580	1,554
Plumbers	99,797	31,525	32,590	17,510	4,691	7,788	2,587	921	2,185
Painting Trades Workers	62,428	17,788	17,937	12,409	4,845	6,014	2,332	38	1,066
Plasterers	31,990	9,392	11,222	6,349	1,381	1,747	871	288	739
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	26,974	9,020	7,627	3,358	1,354	5,278	201	135	1
Wall and Floor Tilers	23,259	8,165	6,064	2,895	2,753	2,435	594	352	0
Roof Tilers	18,522	7,151	3,564	6,002	301	1,103	1	113	287
Floor Finishers	8,419	2,037	2,838	21	939	1,848	336	1	399
Glaziers	7,613	522	1,604	2,128	370	2,816	170	1	2

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly (6291.0.55.003) (Table EQ08)



Building and construction workers by industry sub-division and state

Within the building and construction industry there are three sub-divisions: residential building is the largest with over 775,700 people employed during May 2024. A further 464,728 people were employed in non-residential building and just under 128,000 people in the heavy and civil engineering subsector.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT BY SUBSECTOR IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY – MAY 2024

	AUS	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Residential Building	775,754	258,719	227,505	126,228	41,553	87,269	21,590	6,019	6,870
Non-Residential Building	464,728	124,111	114,379	122,127	32,144	51,914	5,977	4,354	9,721
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	127,818	38,769	31,163	27,485	6,451	20,479	2,371	906	193
Total BCI Employment	1,368,300	421,600	373,048	275,840	80,148	159,663	29,937	11,279	16,785

SOURCE: MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA ANALYSIS OF ABS LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, DETAILED QUARTERLY (6291.0.55.003) (TABLE EQ06)

Building and construction workers by occupation group and employment status

In May 2024, the building and construction industry had the fourth highest full-time employment rate. The mining industry was highest (94.7 per cent) followed by utilities (90.0 per cent), financial services (87.2 per cent) and then building and construction (85.5 per cent).

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BY OCCUPATION GROUP – MAY 2024

	Managers	Professionals	Technicians and Trades Workers	Community and Personal Service Workers	Clerical and Administrative Workers	Sales Workers	Machinery Operators and Drivers	Labourers
Employed full time	144,130	60,990	625,500	660	75,780	10,460	93,140	158,550
Full time share of total (%)	91.9%	87.6%	90.0%	24.7%	59.0%	69.1%	92.6%	79.2%
Employed part time	12,780	8,660	69,230	2,010	52,590	4,670	7,490	41,660
Part-time share of total (%)	8.1%	12.4%	10.0%	75.3%	41.0%	30.9%	7.4%	20.8%
Total number of employees	156,910	69,650	694,730	2,670	128,370	15,130	100,630	200,210

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly (6291.0.55.003) (Table EQ09)

Within the building and construction sector, the highest full-time employment rate was amongst machinery operators/drivers (92.6 per cent), followed by managers (91.9 per cent) and technicians/trades workers (90.0 per cent). Administrators (59.0 per cent) and sales workers (69.1 per cent) had the lowest full-time employment rate.

During May 2024, full-time building and construction workers averaged 40.0 working hours per week, slightly fewer (-1.7 per cent) than a year earlier. For those employed on a part-time basis, building and construction jobs typically involved 18.7 hours' work per week. Average full-time hours in building and construction were slightly higher than for the economy as a whole (39.2 hours per week).

The gender divide in Australia's building and construction workforce

Building and construction continues to be male dominated. Women made up 13.6 per cent of the industry in May 2024, a total of 186,696.

Gender-based representation is not evenly spread across occupation subgroups. During May 2024, women accounted for 77.3 per cent of those employed in administrative occupations. However, just 3.7 per cent of technicians/trades workers were women. Just 5.3 per cent of all labourers in the industry are women.

OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT BY SEX – MAY 2024

	AU	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Total BCI employment	1,368,300	421,600	373,048	275,840	80,148	159,663	29,937	11,279	16,785
Women	186,696	49,088	52,134	45,912	9,105	23,130	3,960	1,937	1,430
Men	1,181,604	372,512	320,913	229,928	71,043	136,533	25,978	9,342	15,355
Women as a share of total (%)	13.6%	11.6%	14.0%	16.6%	11.4%	14.5%	13.2%	17.2%	8.5%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly (6291.0.55.003) (Table EQ06)

The proportion of women in some occupation groups presents an opportunity to meet future workforce needs. By addressing the barriers to female entry and retention in trade and labouring roles and actively recruiting women in these areas the industry will be able to draw from a larger pool of potential workers.

Building and construction workforce in recent times

OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT BY STATE AND TERRITORY – MAY 2024

	AU	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Total BCI employment	1,368,300	421,600	373,048	275,840	80,148	159,663	29,937	11,279	16,785
Change in BCI employment - year to May 2024	+51,120	-4,167	+22,556	-619	+8,375	+17,520	+6,521	+353	+580
Percentage change in BCI employment over year to May 2024	+3.9%	-1.0%	+6.4%	-0.2%	+11.7%	+12.3%	+27.8%	+3.2%	+3.6%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Quarterly (6291.0.55.003) (Table EQ06)

The national building and construction workforce is the largest it has ever been. This is also true for workforce numbers in most states and territories.

Demand for building and construction workers remains high with many employers reporting difficulty recruiting suitable workers and builders experiencing hefty wait times for subcontractors.

With the unemployment rate at 4.0 per cent during May 2024 and labour shortages across many industries, workforce needs cannot be met by the domestic workforce alone, reinforcing the continued need to fast track skilled migrants with comparable or better qualifications.

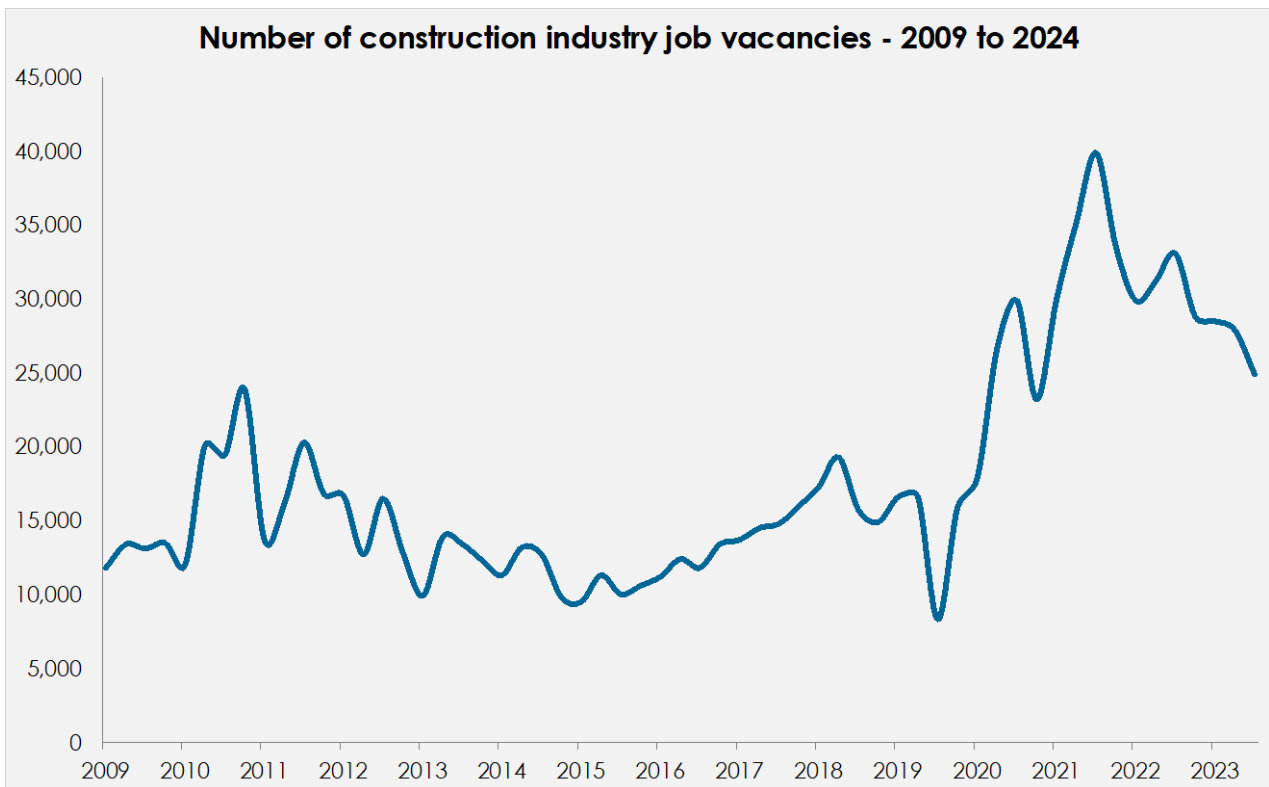
Consideration also needs to be given to education and training pathways to ensure the way into the industry is flexible and fit for purpose for the full range of potential workers. This includes women, people from diverse backgrounds, and emerging generations.

Workforce Shortages and Job Vacancies

Building and construction job vacancies

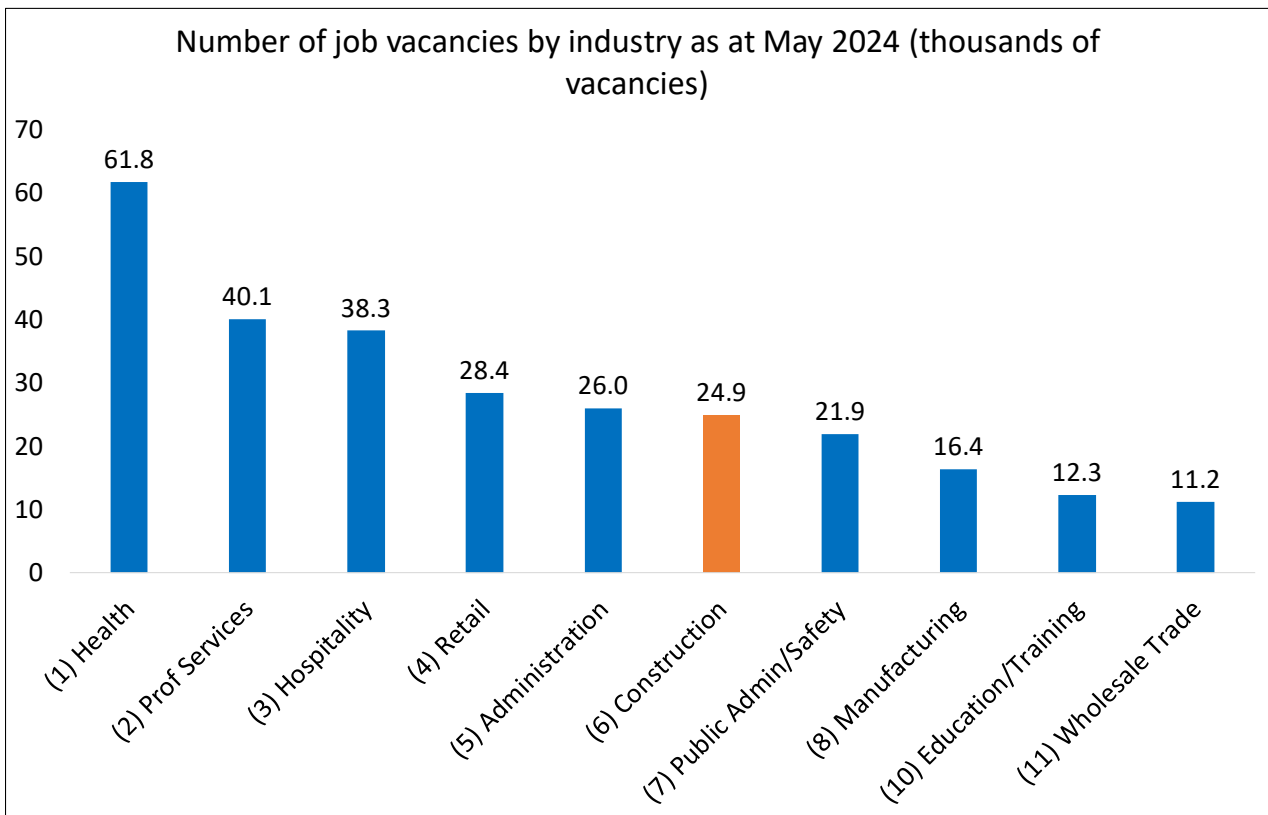
Of the vacant jobs in Australia in May 2024, 7.6 per cent percent were in the building and construction industry. According to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), there were 24,900 vacant jobs in the building and construction industry in May 2024.

Job vacancies peaked in May 2022 at 39,900 and have since fallen.



Job vacancies by industry sector

Building and construction is in the top six industries facing significant vacancies alongside health, professional services, hospitality, retail and administration.



In seasonally adjusted terms, there were 352,600 job vacancies across Australia during May 2024. This was 2.7 per cent fewer than in February 2024 and represents a 17.7 per cent reduction on one year earlier.

National job vacancies

There are 15 key occupation groups in the building and construction industry. These groups include construction managers, trades, and labouring roles.

NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	4,020	-0.7%	-19.3%	4,049	4,982
Bricklayers and stonemasons	69	-13.8%	-46.1%	80	128
Carpenters and Joiners	909	-5.6%	-27.0%	963	1,246
Floor finishers	25	-13.8%	-35.9%	29	39
Painting trades workers	567	-2.4%	-13.3%	581	654
Glaziers	102	0.0%	-28.7%	102	143
Plasterers	58	0.0%	-31.0%	58	84
Roof tilers	89	+4.7%	-19.8%	85	111
Wall and floor tilers	91	-2.2%	+7.1%	93	85
Plumbers	1,336	+0.7%	-8.1%	1,327	1,453
Building and Plumbing labourers	940	-5.6%	-28.3%	996	1,311
Concreters	154	-6.7%	-29.4%	165	218
Fencers	37	-7.5%	-21.3%	40	47
Insulation and home improvement Installers	79	-14.1%	-20.2%	92	99
Structural steel Construction Workers	341	-0.9%	-15.6%	344	404

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia internet Vacancy index, May 2024

State and Territory job vacancies

NEW SOUTH WALES – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	1,197	+0.7%	-23.0%	1,189	1,555
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	13	-23.5%	-66.7%	17	39
Carpenters and Joiners	247	-5.7%	-30.4%	262	355
Floor Finishers	3	+50.0%	-70.0%	2	10
Painting Trades Workers	124	-3.9%	-18.4%	129	152
Glaziers	26	+4.0%	-21.2%	25	33
Plasterers	14	+7.7%	-26.3%	13	19
Roof Tilers	26	+8.3%	-36.6%	24	41
Wall and Floor Tilers	23	0.0%	-4.2%	23	24
Plumbers	289	+0.7%	-16.0%	287	344
Building and Plumbing Labourers	200	-9.9%	-32.4%	222	296
Concreters	34	-15.0%	-34.6%	40	52
Fencers	8	-20.0%	-20.0%	10	10
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	19	-13.6%	-24.0%	22	25
Structural Steel Construction Workers	67	0.0%	-17.3%	67	81

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

VICTORIA – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	923	-2.1%	-28.9%	943	1,298
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	15	-6.3%	-55.9%	16	34
Carpenters and Joiners	173	+0.6%	-32.4%	172	256
Floor Finishers	6	-14.3%	-40.0%	7	10
Painting Trades Workers	113	0.0%	-10.3%	113	126
Glaziers	13	-18.8%	-62.9%	16	35
Plasterers	11	+22.2%	-45.0%	9	20
Roof Tilers	13	-7.1%	-23.5%	14	17
Wall and Floor Tilers	13	+8.3%	+8.3%	12	12
Plumbers	420	+4.2%	-11.4%	403	474
Building and Plumbing Labourers	121	-0.8%	-44.2%	122	217
Concreters	21	-12.5%	-38.2%	24	34
Fencers	7	0.0%	-36.4%	7	11
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	13	-7.1%	-51.9%	14	27
Structural Steel Construction Workers	32	+3.2%	-20.0%	31	40

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, MAY 2024

QUEENSLAND – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	873	-0.2%	-14.4%	875	1,020
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	18	-14.3%	0.0%	21	18
Carpenters and Joiners	230	-7.3%	-28.3%	248	321
Floor Finishers	4	-20.0%	-60.0%	5	10
Painting Trades Workers	158	-7.1%	-13.2%	170	182
Glaziers	33	+3.1%	-8.3%	32	36
Plasterers	21	-4.5%	-8.7%	22	23
Roof Tilers	33	+6.5%	-5.7%	31	35
Wall and Floor Tilers	25	0.0%	-10.7%	25	28
Plumbers	268	-5.0%	+5.9%	282	253
Building and Plumbing Labourers	320	-5.3%	-23.1%	338	416
Concreters	36	-7.7%	-47.1%	39	68
Fencers	10	+11.1%	+11.1%	9	9
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	20	-25.9%	0.0%	27	20
Structural Steel Construction Workers	78	-6.0%	-6.0%	83	83

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	243	0.0%	-0.8%	243	245
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	7	-12.5%	-12.5%	8	8
Carpenters and Joiners	64	-8.6%	-12.3%	70	73
Floor Finishers	2	0.0%	0.0%	2	2
Painting Trades Workers	34	+6.3%	-10.5%	32	38
Glaziers	4	-20.0%	-42.9%	5	7
Plasterers	3	0.0%	-62.5%	3	8
Roof Tilers	5	-16.7%	-16.7%	6	6
Wall and Floor Tilers	10	-16.7%	+66.7%	12	6
Plumbers	95	+3.3%	+9.2%	92	87
Building and Plumbing Labourers	77	-4.9%	-19.8%	81	96
Concreters	18	+5.9%	0.0%	17	18
Fencers	3	-25.0%	-50.0%	4	6
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	9	-10.0%	0.0%	10	9
Structural Steel Construction Workers	22	0.0%	+10.0%	22	20

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	508	+0.2%	+3.0%	507	493
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	14	-12.5%	-41.7%	16	24
Carpenters and Joiners	131	-8.4%	-21.1%	143	166
Floor Finishers	10	-16.7%	+42.9%	12	7
Painting Trades Workers	115	-0.9%	-12.9%	116	132
Glaziers	22	+4.8%	-8.3%	21	24
Plasterers	6	-14.3%	-40.0%	7	10
Roof Tilers	7	+16.7%	-22.2%	6	9
Wall and Floor Tilers	16	-20.0%	+23.1%	20	13
Plumbers	214	+3.9%	-6.1%	206	228
Building and Plumbing Labourers	188	-3.6%	-17.9%	195	229
Concreters	35	0.0%	-12.5%	35	40
Fencers	4	-20.0%	-20.0%	5	5
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	16	-5.9%	+33.3%	17	12
Structural Steel Construction Workers	508	+0.2%	+3.0%	507	493

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

TASMANIA – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	39	+5.4%	+25.8%	37	31
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	0	No data	-100.0%	0	1
Carpenters and Joiners	22	+4.8%	-8.3%	21	24
Floor Finishers	0	-100.0%	No data	1	0
Painting Trades Workers	6	+20.0%	-33.3%	5	9
Glaziers	1	0.0%	-75.0%	1	4
Plasterers	1	0.0%	0.0%	1	1
Roof Tilers	0	No data	-100.0%	0	2
Wall and Floor Tilers	0	No data	-100.0%	0	1
Plumbers	14	-17.6%	-12.5%	17	16
Building and Plumbing Labourers	13	-18.8%	-53.6%	16	28
Concreters	4	0.0%	+33.3%	4	3
Fencers	0	No data	-100.0%	0	1
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	0	No data	-100.0%	0	2
Structural Steel Construction Workers	8	0.0%	+60.0%	8	5

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

NORTHERN TERRITORY – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	60	-3.2%	+1.7%	62	59
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	0	-100.0%	-100.0%	1	1
Carpenters and Joiners	17	+6.3%	-19.0%	16	21
Floor Finishers	0	No data	No data	0	0
Painting Trades Workers	11	0.0%	0.0%	11	11
Glaziers	2	+100.0%	-33.3%	1	3
Plasterers	0	-100.0%	-100.0%	1	1
Roof Tilers	1	0.0%	No data	1	0
Wall and Floor Tilers	0	-100.0%	-100.0%	1	1
Plumbers	19	0.0%	-13.6%	19	22
Building and Plumbing Labourers	10	-9.1%	-28.6%	11	14
Concreters	3	0.0%	+50.0%	3	2
Fencers	1	0.0%	No data	1	0
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	0	-100.0%	No data	1	0
Structural Steel Construction Workers	4	+33.3%	-33.3%	3	6

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY – NUMBER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOB ADS MAY 2024

	Job ads in May 2024	Change on April 2024 (%)	Change on May 2023 (%)	Job ads in April 2024	Job ads in May 2023
Construction Managers	177	-8.8%	-37.2%	194	282
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	1	0.0%	-50.0%	1	2
Carpenters and Joiners	26	-7.1%	-10.3%	28	29
Floor Finishers	1	No data	No data	0	0
Painting Trades Workers	7	+40.0%	+75.0%	5	4
Glaziers	2	0.0%	0.0%	2	2
Plasterers	1	-50.0%	0.0%	2	1
Roof Tilers	4	+33.3%	+100.0%	3	2
Wall and Floor Tilers	3	+200.0%	+200.0%	1	1
Plumbers	17	-19.0%	-41.4%	21	29
Building and Plumbing Labourers	11	-8.3%	-26.7%	12	15
Concreters	2	-33.3%	0.0%	3	2
Fencers	3	-25.0%	-40.0%	4	5
Insulation and Home Improvement Installers	1	-50.0%	-66.7%	2	3
Structural Steel Construction Workers	1	0.0%	-50.0%	1	2

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancy Index, May 2024

Apprentices in Australia

Over the year to December 2023, a total of 41,935 new apprentices started in the building and construction industry. This represents a 22 per cent reduction on the previous 12-month period.

Despite this reduction, building and construction remains by far the largest employer of apprentices of any industry. Latest figures show that 116,560 building and construction apprentices were in training at the end of December 2023 – representing 34 per cent of all Australian apprentices.

Building and construction is the #1 apprentice employer in Australia

41,935
New starts

116,560
In-training

21,415
Graduates

In the year to December 2023

Commencements, completions and the number of apprentices in training in building and construction all decreased between December 2022 and 2023.

The number of apprentices in training decreased by 2 per cent from 118,615 in December 2022 to 116,560 in December 2023.

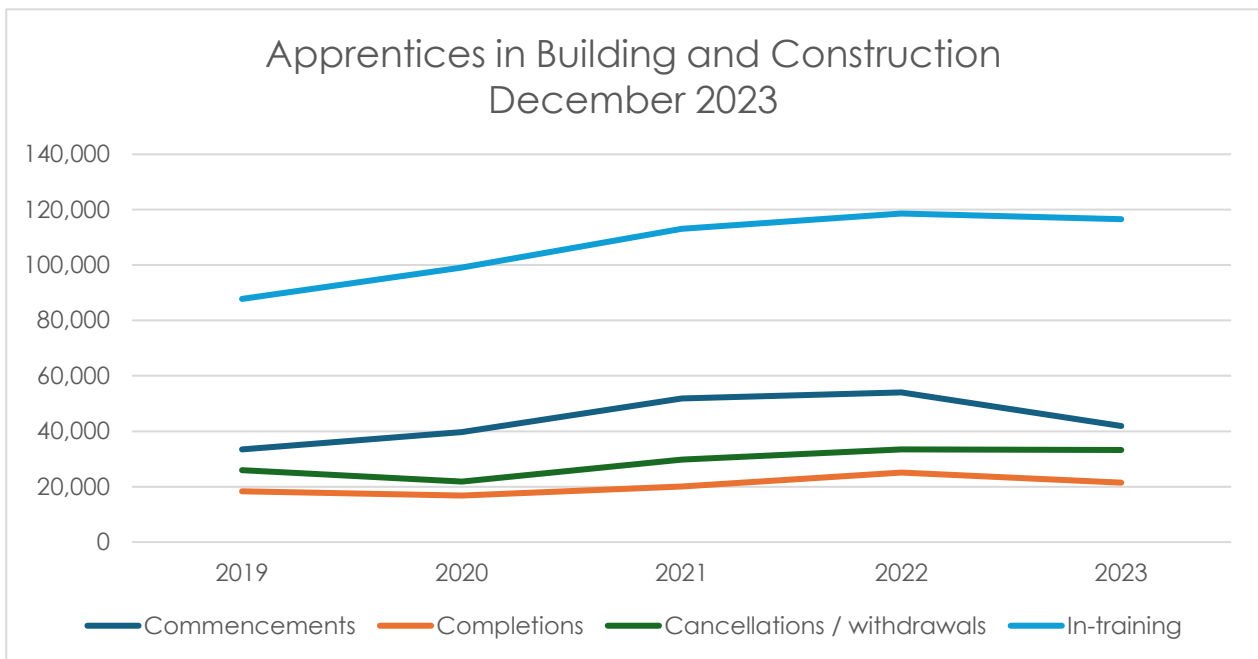
Commencements decreased by 22 per cent from 54,035 to 41,935. Apprentices in training decreased by 2 per cent from 33,460 to 33,290. Completions decreased from 25,095 to 21,415, or 15 per cent.

Cancellations/withdrawals only decreased slightly from 33,460 to 33,290 (-1 per cent). It should be noted that withdrawals to commence another apprenticeship are counted as incompletes and new commencements in these numbers.

APPRENTICESHIP SNAPSHOT, DECEMBER 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	DIFF..	%
COMMENCEMENTS	33,455	39,755	51,855	54,035	41,935	-12,100	-22%
COMPLETIONS	18,285	16,795	20,110	25,095	21,415	-3,680	-15%
CANCELLATIONS / WITHDRAWALS	25,925	21,840	29,720	33,460	33,290	-170	-1%
IN-TRAINING	87,795	99,065	113,130	118,615	116,560	-2,055	-2%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVET Vocstats, December 2023 quarter



Apprentices in-training across all industries

The largest single cohort of apprentices in Australia are employed in building and construction (34 per cent).

NUMBER OF APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY INDUSTRY AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

RANK	INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF APPRENTICES	SHARE OF TOTAL (%)
1	Construction	116,558	33.9%
2	Health Care and Social Assistance	32,378	9.4%
3	Manufacturing	29,750	8.7%
4	Administrative and Support Services	27,152	7.9%
5	Accommodation	22,490	6.5%
	Other sectors	114,967	33.6%
	Total number of apprentices in training	343,295	100.0%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVER Vocstats, December 2023 quarter

Most apprentices are in training at TAFE (62 per cent) followed by private providers (31 per cent).

APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY PROVIDER TYPE, DECEMBER 2023

	NUMBER OF APPRENTICES	%
TAFE institutes	72,795	62.45%
Universities	6,860	5.89%
Schools	130	0.11%
Community education providers	420	0.36%
Enterprise providers	60	0.05%
Private training providers	36,295	31.14%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVER Vocstats, December 2023 quarter

The state and territory breakdown by gender shows that a large cohort of apprentices are males at TAFE in New South Wales and Victoria.

APPRENTICES BY GENDER, TRAINING PROVIDER AND STATE/TERRITORY

	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
TAFE institutes	24.70%	0.70%	14.00%	0.60%	10.40%	0.40%
Universities	0.00%	0.00%	4.40%	0.10%	0.60%	0.00%
Schools	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Community education providers	0.20%	0.10%	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enterprise providers	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Private training providers	4.70%	0.60%	8.10%	0.50%	9.80%	0.80%
Totals	29.70%	1.40%	26.60%	1.20%	20.90%	1.20%

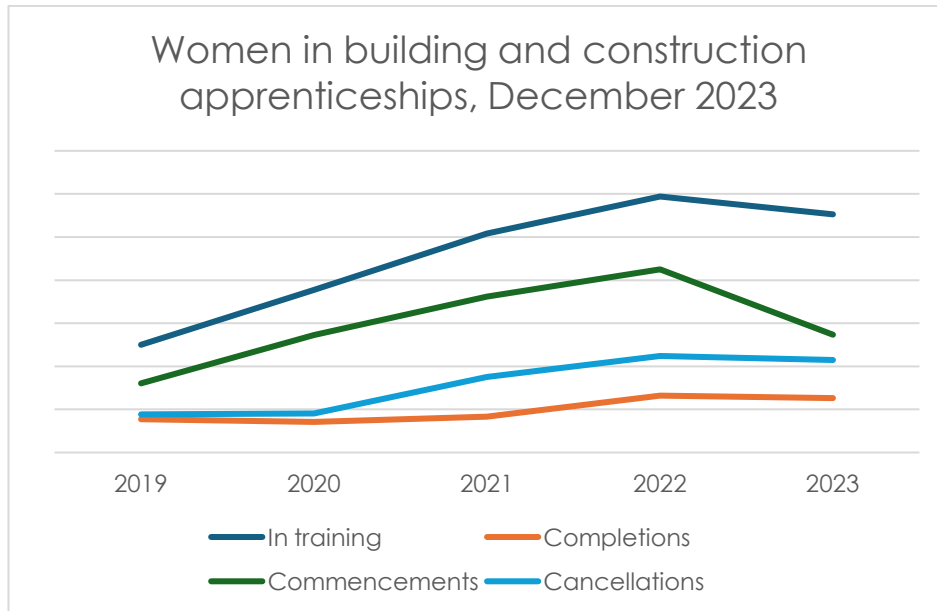
	South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
TAFE institutes	2.60%	0.10%	5.80%	0.20%	1.70%	0.10%
Universities	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Schools	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Community education providers	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Enterprise providers	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Private training providers	2.50%	0.10%	2.60%	0.20%	0.60%	0.10%
Totals	5.10%	0.20%	8.40%	0.40%	2.20%	0.20%

	Northern Territory		Australian Capital Territory		Totals
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
TAFE institutes	0.10%	0.00%	1.00%	0.10%	62.40%
Universities	0.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.90%
Schools	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%
Community education providers	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.40%
Enterprise providers	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%
Private training providers	0.10%	0.00%	0.50%	0.00%	31.10%
Totals	0.80%	0.00%	1.60%	0.10%	100.00%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVER Vocstats, December 2023 quarter

Diversity in apprenticeships

Women made up 4.7 per cent of building and construction apprentices in training but 6.4 per cent of cancellations/withdrawals. The number of women completing their building and construction apprenticeship increased from 5.2 per cent in 2022 to 5.9 per cent in 2023.



The trades where female apprentices were more highly represented were in painters (20 per cent of all painter apprentices), wall and floor tilers (4.5 per cent) and glaziers (3.5 per cent of all glazier apprentices).

CONSTRUCTION TRADES APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY SEX AND OCCUPATION GROUP AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Female	Female share of total (%)	Male	Not stated	Total
3300 Construction Trades Workers - nfd	4	3.7%	106	0	106
3311 Bricklayers and Stonemasons	51	2.1%	2,455	1	2,456
3312 Carpenters and Joiners	993	2.9%	33,956	7	33,963
3321 Floor Finishers	13	1.5%	855	0	855
3322 Painters	484	19.8%	2,447	1	2,448
3331 Glaziers	37	3.6%	1,029	2	1,031
3332 Plasterers and Renderers	59	3.2%	1,856	0	1,856
3333 Roof Tilers	5	1.0%	495	1	496
3334 Wall and Floor Tilers	58	4.5%	1,310	1	1,311
3341 Plumbers	438	2.1%	20,909	1	20,910
Total	2,143	3.3%	65,419	14	65,433

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVET Vocstats, December 2023

The breakdown of apprentices by gender and state/territory shows that the largest cohort of female apprentices are in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, although when looking at it as a percentage of total, the states with the highest female apprentice representation are Tasmania (7.6 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (6.1 per cent).

NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY SEX AND LOCATION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	AU	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Male	111,002	34,563	31,042	24,386	5,929	9,759	2,584	914	1,825
Female	5,533	1,575	1,400	1,448	222	508	213	49	118
Not stated	24	8	4	9	2	1	0	0	0
Total	116,558	36,146	32,445	25,843	6,153	10,267	2,797	963	1,943
Female share of total (%)	4.7%	4.4%	4.3%	5.6%	3.6%	4.9%	7.6%	5.1%	6.1%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVET Vocstats, December 2023

Most apprentices in the industry are male, non-indigenous and do not live with a disability. That said, 4.9 per cent of apprentices are indigenous and 2.2 per cent are people live with a disability.

COMPOSITION OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	With a disability	Without a disability	Not known	Total
Indigenous	0.2%	4.6%	0.1%	4.9%
Not indigenous	2.0%	89.6%	0.8%	92.4%
Not known	0.0%	2.2%	0.5%	2.7%
Total	2.2%	96.4%	1.3%	100.0%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVER Vocstats, December 2023

Top ten apprentice occupations

Of all building and construction apprentices in training in December 2024, 15 per cent were bricklayers and carpenters and joiners (occupation code 331), 27 per cent were plumbers (code 334), 14 per cent were electricians (code 341), 1 per cent were floor finishers and painters (code 332) and 2 per cent were glaziers, plasterers and tilers (code 333). This trends similarly to the make-up of apprentices in December 2022.

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

APPRENTICES DECEMBER 2023

	Commencements		In training		Completions	
	People	% of total	People	% of total	People	% of total
3311 - Bricklayers and Stonemasons	795	2%	795	2%	390	2%
3312 - Carpenters and Joiners	9,835	23%	9,835	23%	4,320	20%
3321 - Floor Finishers	145	0%	145	0%	80	0%
3322 - Painters	920	2%	920	2%	500	2%
3331 - Glaziers	230	1%	230	1%	145	1%
3332 - Plasterers and Renderers	605	1%	605	1%	245	1%
3333 - Roof Tilers	230	1%	230	1%	85	0%
3334 - Wall and Floor Tilers	460	1%	460	1%	205	1%
3341 - Plumbers	7,295	17%	7,295	17%	3,920	18%
3411 - Electricians	10,385	25%	10,385	25%	5,210	24%

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVET Vocstats

The majority of apprentices are in carpentry and joinery trades, followed by electricians and plumbers.

NUMBER OF APPRENTICES IN TRAINING BY OCCUPATION AND LOCATION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	AU	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
3300 Construction Trades Workers - nfd	110	29	1	80	0	0	0	0	0
3310 Bricklayers, and Carpenters and Joiners - nfd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3311 Bricklayers and Stonemasons	2,507	781	578	463	263	325	70	5	23
3312 Carpenters and Joiners	34,956	11,914	9,498	7,620	2,014	1,948	1,180	247	535
3320 Floor Finishers and Painting Trades Workers - nfd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3321 Floor Finishers	868	285	242	202	45	38	48	2	6
3322 Painters	2,933	762	552	1,014	157	265	142	18	23
3330 Glaziers, Plasterers and Tilers - nfd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3331 Glaziers	1,068	257	159	379	58	125	72	11	7
3332 Plasterers and Renderers	1,915	482	361	627	128	175	123	4	15
3333 Roof Tilers	500	152	301	36	1	4	6	0	0
3334 Wall and Floor Tilers	1,370	526	166	439	116	86	21	0	16
3340 Plumbers - nfd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3341 Plumbers	21,349	6,199	7,486	3,591	1,456	1,746	381	151	339
341 Electricians	41,071	11,601	10,057	9,098	2,854	5,698	658	413	692
Total	108,647	32,987	29,400	23,548	7,091	10,410	2,702	851	1,658

Source: Master Builders Australia analysis of NCVET Vocstats, December 2023



Apprentices in-training by age group

72 per cent of apprentices in building and construction are 24 years of age or younger. This is slightly higher than all industries combined, where 63 per cent of apprentices commence their training before they turn 24.

APPRENTICES IN-TRAINING BY AGE, DECEMBER 2023

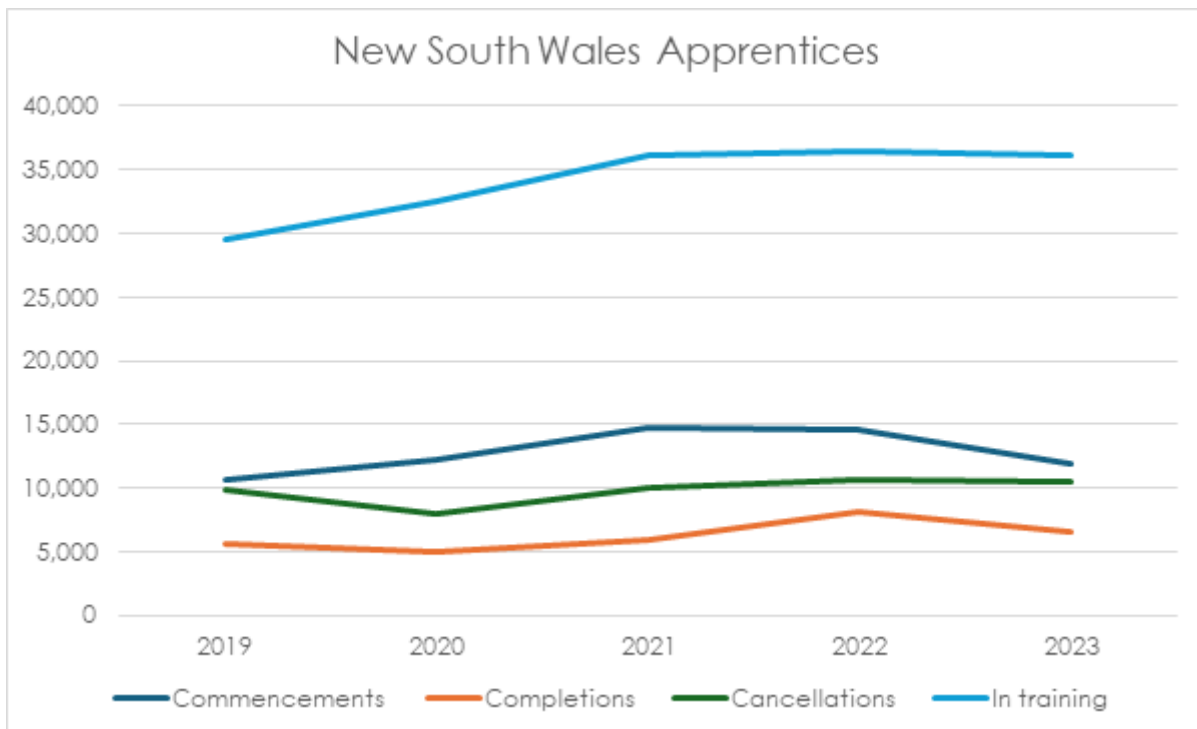
Age Group	BCI apprentices	% of all BCI apprentices	All apprentices	% of all apprentices
14 years and under	20	0%	100	0%
15 to 19 years	38,945	33%	104,955	31%
20 to 24 years	44,510	38%	111,390	32%
25 to 29 years	14,625	13%	44,265	13%
30 to 39 years	12,870	11%	46,880	14%
40 to 49 years	4,065	3%	22,085	6%
50 to 59 years	1,230	1%	10,960	3%
60 to 64 years	200	0%	2,175	1%
65 years and over	85	0%	805	0%
Not known	0	0%	20	0%

State and Territory apprentice breakdowns

New South Wales

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

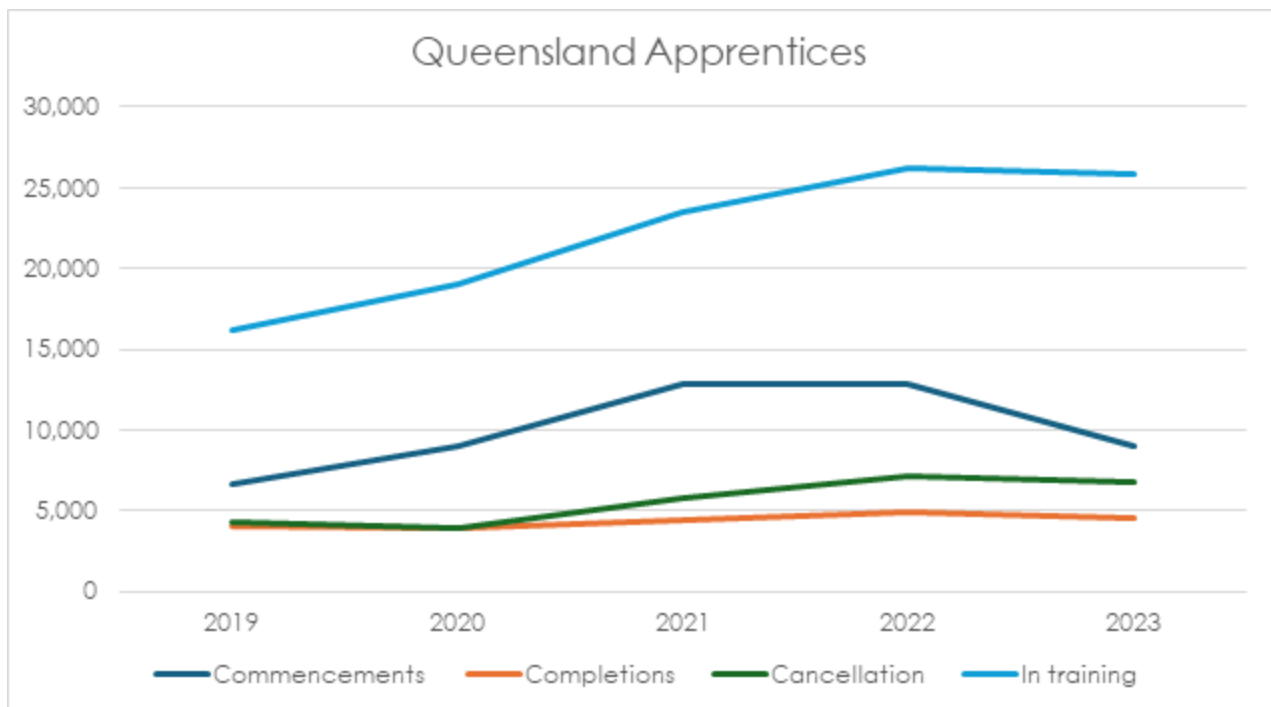
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	10,660	12,235	14,755	14,605	11,975	-2,630	-18%
Completions	5,650	4,965	5,855	8,190	6,540	-1,650	-20%
Cancellations	9,815	7,960	10,025	10,635	10,535	-100	-1%
In training	29,450	32,560	36,125	36,460	36,145	-315	-1%



Queensland

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

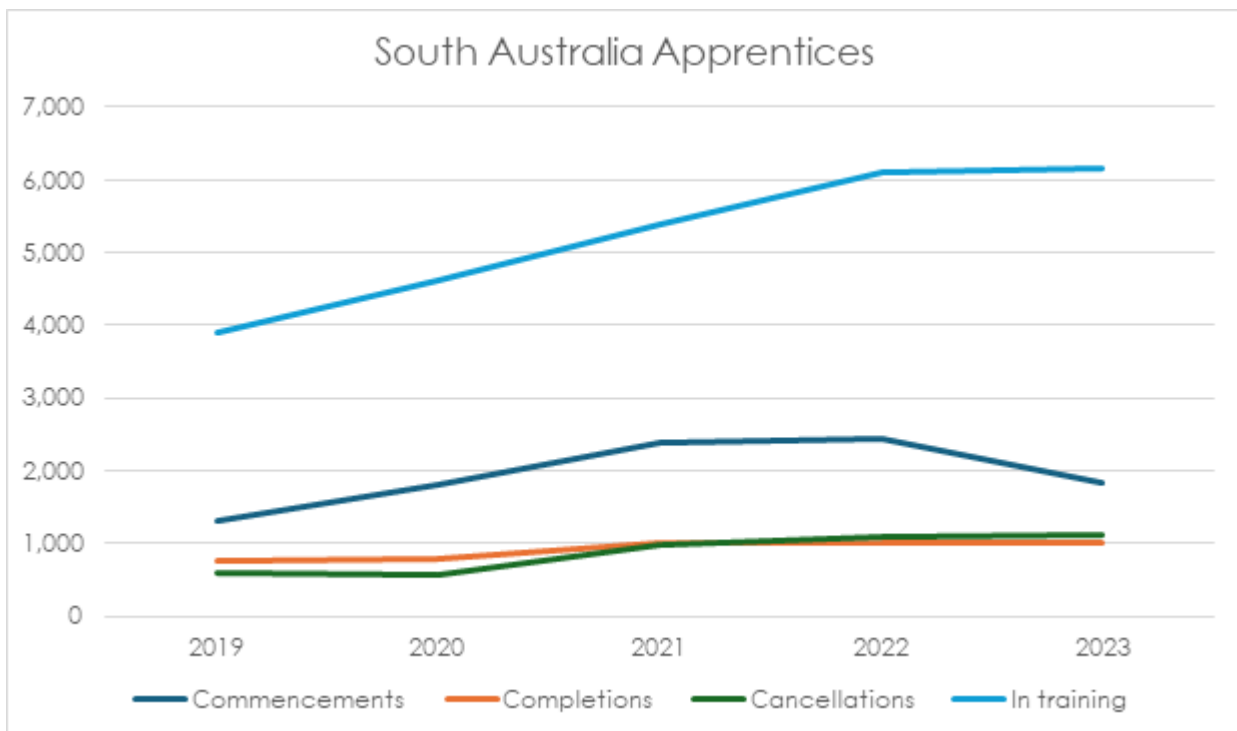
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	6,600	9,010	12,835	12,855	9,020	-3,835	-30%
Completions	4,025	3,860	4,455	4,955	4,500	-455	-9%
Cancellation	4,340	3,900	5,780	7,080	6,730	-350	-5%
In training	16,145	19,005	23,525	26,190	25,845	-345	-1%



South Australia

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

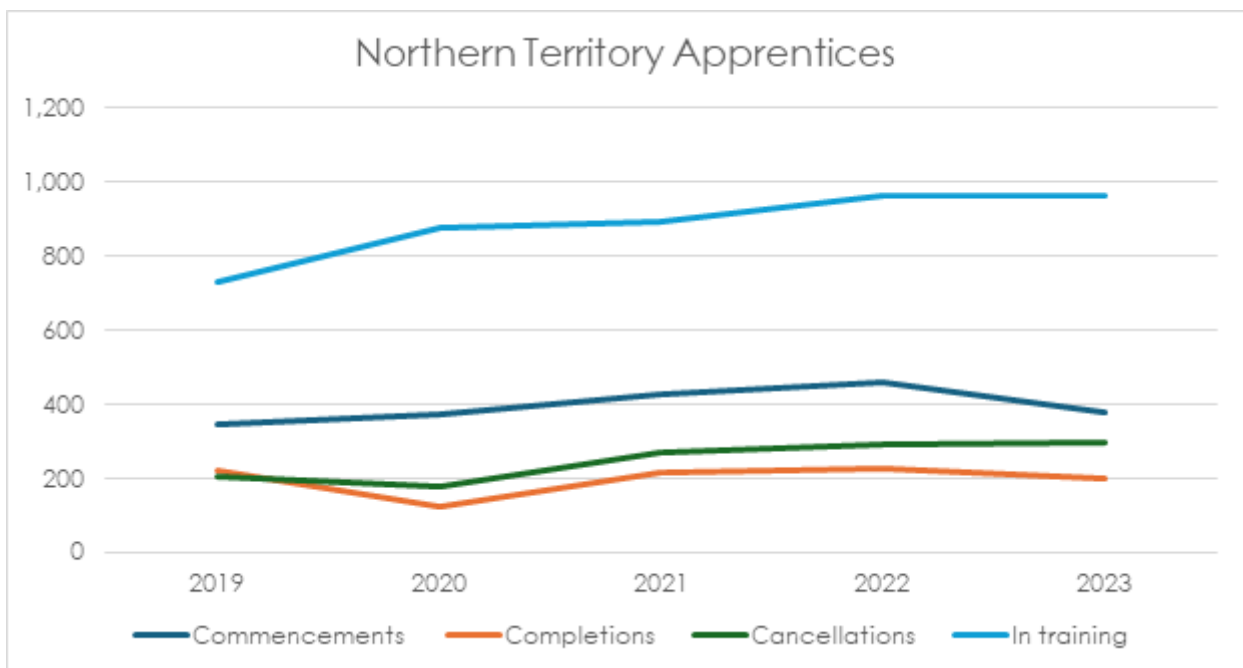
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	1,310	1,805	2,390	2,440	1,845	-595	-24%
Completions	755	780	1,010	1,005	1,005	0	0%
Cancellations	585	570	970	1,085	1,125	40	4%
In training	3,900	4,620	5,390	6,115	6,155	40	1%



Northern Territory

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

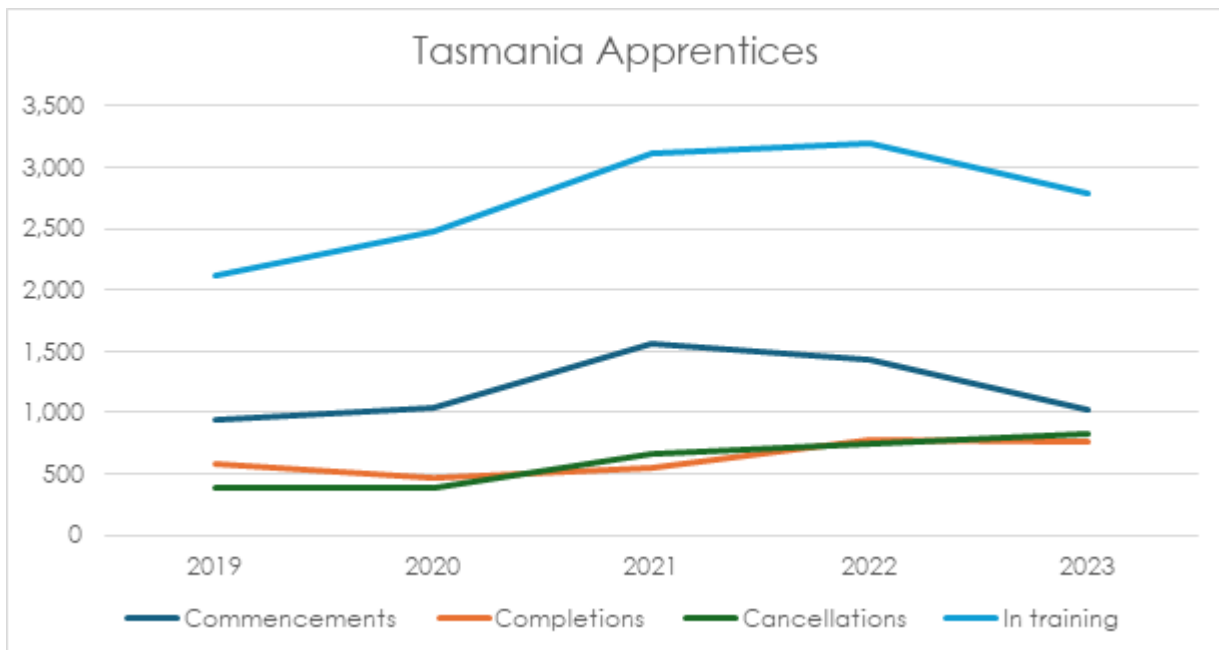
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	345	370	425	460	375	-85	-18%
Completions	220	120	215	225	200	-25	-11%
Cancellations	205	175	270	290	295	5	2%
In training	730	875	895	965	965	0	0%



Tasmania

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

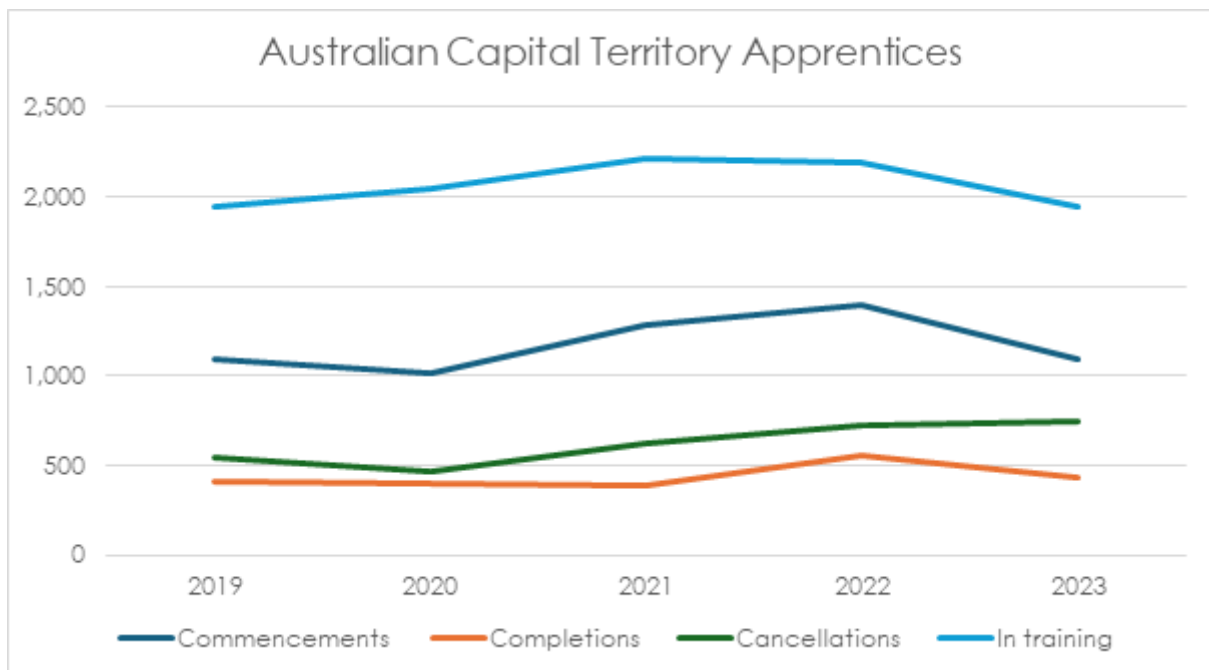
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	945	1,045	1,560	1,435	1,015	-420	-29%
Completions	575	460	555	785	765	-20	-3%
Cancellations	385	385	660	750	825	75	10%
In training	2,125	2,475	3,110	3,200	2,795	-405	-13%



Australian Capital Territory

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

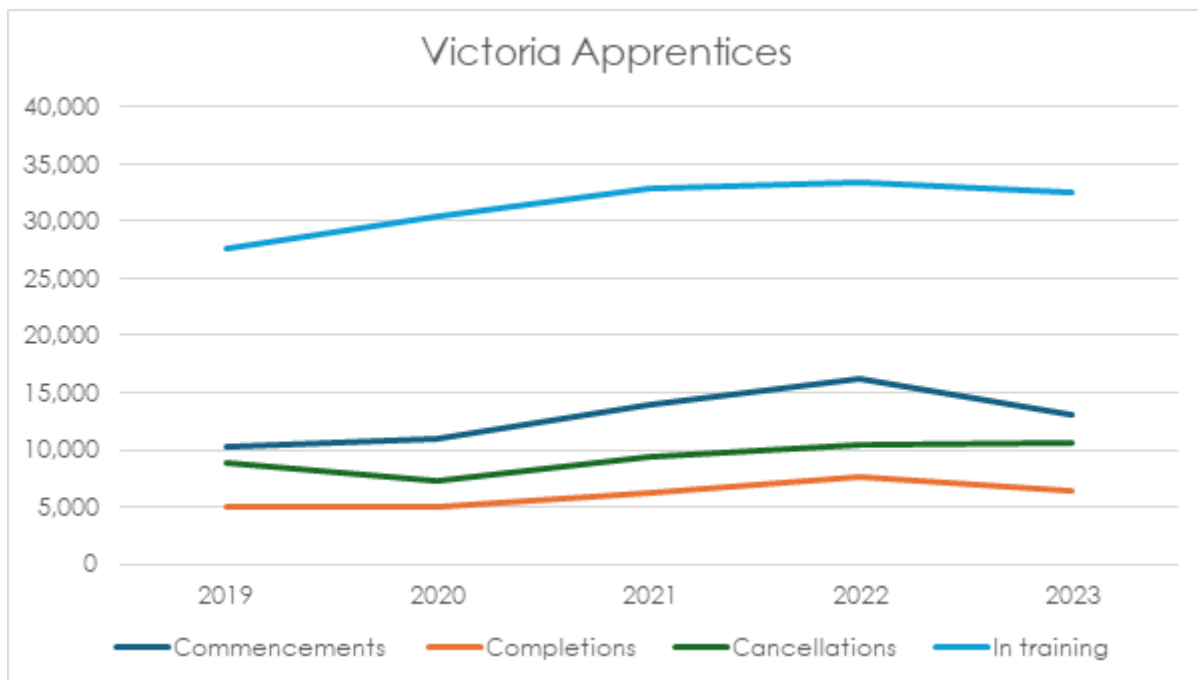
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	1,095	1,015	1,280	1,400	1,095	-305	-22%
Completions	415	400	390	555	430	-125	-23%
Cancellations	540	470	620	725	745	20	3%
In training	1,950	2,040	2,215	2,190	1,945	-245	-11%



Victoria

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	10,330	11,020	13,945	16,180	13,070	-3,110	-19%
Completions	4,995	4,920	6,190	7,665	6,330	-1,335	-17%
Cancellations	8,875	7,265	9,465	10,465	10,690	225	2%
In training	27,690	30,415	32,885	33,390	32,445	-945	-3%



Western Australia

Apprentices in building and construction, December 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference	%
Commencements	2,175	3,260	4,670	4,660	3,540	-1,120	-24%
Completions	1,645	1,285	1,435	1,720	1,645	-75	-4%
Cancellations	1,180	1,120	1,925	2,430	2,345	-85	-3%
In training	5,810	7,075	8,985	10,095	10,265	170	2%

