

Australian apprentice and trainee statistics

Mechanical engineering and fabrication trades **1995 – 1999**



995-1999

revised and updated

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Australian Apprentice & Trainee Statistics: Mechanical Engineering and Fabrication Trades 1995 to 1999.

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E-mail: Telephone: Facsimile: Web page: ats_req@ncver.edu.au (08) 8333 8400 (08) 8331 9211 http://www.ncver.edu.au

Table of content

Forewordi
Table of contentiii
1 Introduction1
2 Commencements, number in training and completions, 1995 to 1999
3 Age
4 AQF level
5 Geographic region by State/Territory
6 School attendance status
7 Other training
8 Comparison with projected employment trends
References

1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide information on trends over the years 1995 to 1998 in the realm of contracts of training in vocational education and training in the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations in Australia. Initial raw data are also provided for 1999. This information will be used to provide an indication of where skill shortages may be occurring or likely to occur in relation to specific mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations.

The mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations for which apprentice and trainee data are considered in this report are:

- Mechanical engineering trades (ASCO code 411)
- Fabrication engineering trades (412)
- Mechanical engineering associate professionals (3125)
- Metallurgical and materials technician (3129-13).

A more detailed, sub-category investigation of apprentice and trainee numbers is provided for each of these trade occupation areas.

Comparisons of apprentice and trainee numbers are also made with projections of employment growth in the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations.

Provision of this information will help to identify skill shortages for, or within, particular mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations or whether current shortages in trade occupations are likely to be overcome in the short-term.

Factors including widespread technological changes, the requirement of trade industries for more highly skilled and productive apprentices, increased competition in world trade and the need to improve the transition from school to work have had a major impact on the employment-based training system in Australia.

The government has reformed the apprenticeship and trainee system by making it more flexible and responsive to employer needs and ensuring that quality training is provided. The new training arrangements covering apprenticeships and traineeships are collectively known as New Apprenticeships which the government began introducing from 1 January 1998.

This report focuses on providing more detailed information on such factors as trends in numbers in training, commencements and completions, in relation specifically to mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupation contracts of training (that is, predominately apprenticeships). This information is provided in the context of relevant economic and labour market information.

The employment forecast information utilised in this report is based on the data provided by Chris Murphy and Justin Douglas of Econtech in their report commissioned by the NCVER entitled *The Outlook for Jobs*.

Contract of training data considerations

The contract of training figures for 1995 through 1998 in this report have been derived from apprentice and trainee information available in the NCVER's December 1999 Contracts of Training collection. It should be noted that the figures may change slightly in subsequent collections owing to the processing of late returns. It also follows that any growth rates presented may also change in the future.

The contract of training figures for 1999 in this report are estimated figures calculated by the NCVER based on the latest data available (preliminary reported data for December quarter 1999) at the time of this report. These estimates are used to take into account data reporting lags that occur resulting in all 1999 activity not yet being reported to or known by the NCVER. The figures for 1999 used in this report may therefore differ from those published at a later date and should be used with caution.

Figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 100, whereas growth rates have been based on unrounded figures.

Owing to missing historic information for one jurisdiction, 1995 and 1996 completions data has been derived from the December 1998 Apprentice and Trainee data.

2 Commencements, number in training and completions, 1995 to 1999

This section focuses on trends in commencements and numbers in training from 1995 to 1999.

For commencements (table 1):

- From 1995 to 1998, both the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupation groups experienced a decline in commencements with annual growth rates of -4.5% and -2.1% respectively.
- Strong growth in commencements in 1998 occurred for both the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupation groups (18.9% and 41.7% respectively).
- Based on preliminary 1999 data, indications are that commencements for mechanical engineering have risen in 1999. Commencements in fabrication trades have fallen in 1999.

For the number in training (table 2):

- Over the period 1995 to 1998, both the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupation groups experienced a decline in the number in training with annual growth rates of -4.4% and -0.7% respectively.
- Based on preliminary 1999 data, indications are that the number in training for all mechanical engineering and fabrication trades fell to around 18,850 at the end of 1999.

For completions¹ (table 3):

- From 1995 to 1998, the mechanical engineering trade occupation group experienced a decline in completions with an annual growth rate of –2.9%. On the other hand, the fabrication trade occupation group experienced growth in completions from 1995 to 1998 with an annual growth rate of 10.0%.
- Based on preliminary 1999 data, indications are that completions for all mechanical engineering and fabrication trades fell slightly in 1999.

¹ It should be noted that completions data should be treated with caution due to the possibility of underreporting.

Trends in specific occupations, 1995 to 1998

This sections comments on trends specifically in relation to the 4-digit occupations under review. These trends should be viewed with some caution however as 4-digit occupation codes are unknown for relatively large numbers of apprentices and trainees.

For commencements over the period 1995 to 1998:

- Within mechanical engineering, all 4-digit groups experienced strong declines except the general mechanical engineering tradespersons occupation.
- Within fabrication, most 4-digit groups experienced strong declines except the general fabrication engineering tradespersons occupation.
- The number of commencements in the mechanical engineering technicians occupation grew strongly from 470 in 1995 to 2,220 in 1997 however commencements in this occupation fell to 2,030 during 1998.

For the number in training over the period 1995 to 1998:

- Within mechanical engineering, all 4-digit groups experienced declines except the general mechanical engineering tradespersons occupation which experienced growth over the period 1995 to 1998, particularly from 1997 to 1998 (69.1%).
- Within fabrication, most 4-digit groups experienced strong declines in commencements. The major exception was the general fabrication engineering tradespersons occupation which experienced steady growth.
- While the number in training in the mechanical engineering associates occupation category remained steady over 1995 to 1998, there was strong growth in the number in training for the mechanical engineering technicians occupation category, from 410 at the end of 1995 to 1970 at the end of 1997. The number in training fell to 1,820 by the end of 1998.

For completions over the period 1995 to 1998²:

- Within mechanical engineering, most 4-digit groups experienced declines. The general mechanical engineering tradespersons and toolmakers occupations however experienced strong growth.
- Within fabrication, most 4-digit groups experienced declines in completions. The notable exception was the general fabrication engineering tradespersons occupation.
- The number of commencements in the mechanical engineering technicians occupation grew strongly from 10 in 1995 to 810 in 1998.

 $^{^2}$ It should be noted that completions data should be treated with caution due to the possibility of underreporting.

			Number			Annual	Annual	Growth rate
						growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
Mechanical engineering	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 (p)	1995-1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mech. engineering tradespersons	160	130	200	530	1200	50.3	13.1	165.2
4112 Metal fitters and machinists	1980	1350	920	500	320	-36.7	-31.9	-45.3
1113 Toolmakers	50	50	40	(a)	<i>(a)</i>	-47.7	-13.1	-81.1
4114 Aircraft maintenance engineers	320	270	230	140	120	-24.3	-15.3	-39.5
4115 Precision metal tradespersons	220	130	110	80	60	-29.3	-30.1	-27.6
Other 411 Mechanical engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	970	1190	1210	1950	1640	26.4	11.8	61.8
All 411 sub total	3690	3120	2700	3210	3,330	-4.5	-14.5	18.9
Fabrication								
4121 General fabrication engineering tradespersons	610	660	600	740	860	6.6	-0.4	22.1
4122 Structural steel and welding tradespersons	800	510	270	220	80	-35.3	-42.4	-18.4
4123 Forging tradespersons	30	40	30	30	30	-4.5	-8.4	3.8
1124 Sheetmetal tradespersons	320	160	60	60	30	-43.6	-55.1	-10.9
4125 Metal casting tradespersons	70	30	30	10	20	-46.3	-38.3	-59.3
4126 Metal finishing tradespersons	10	10	(a)	(a)	<i>(a)</i>	-57.5	-72.3	0.0
Other 412 Fabrication engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	1270	1160	1080	1870	1380	13.9	-7.9	74.2
All 412 sub total	3110	2560	2060	2920	2390	-2.1	-18.6	41.7
Other								
3125-11 Mechanical engineering associates	30	20	20	20	30	-11.6	-17.0	0.0
3125-13 Mechanical engineering technicians	470	1270	2220	2030	1490	62.7	116.9	-8.4
3129-13 Metallurgical and materials technicians	0	0	0	0	0	ľ	I	
All 'Other' sub total	500	1290	2240	2050	1520	60.0	111.4	-8.3
TOTAL	7300	6970	7000	8180	7240	3.9	-2.1	16.9
Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates								

Table 1: Mechanical and fabrication engineering trade occupation commencements, 1995 to 1999

Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
 (p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating
 (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Australian Apprentice & Trainee Statistics: Mechanical engineering and fabrication trades 1995 to 1999

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			Number			Annial	Annial	Growth rate
						arowth rata*	arowth rata*	1007 - 1008
Mechanical engineering	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 (p)	1995-1998	910Will 1415 1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mech. engineering tradespersons	360	410	490	820	1860	31.3	15.7	69.1
4112 Metal fitters and machinists	6780	6070	4990	3510	2070	-19.7	-14.2	-29.6
4113 Toolmakers	190	190	170	110	70	-17.7	-5.3	-37.9
4114 Aircraft maintenance engineers	1020	1020	940	800	610	-7.9	-3.9	-15.4
4115 Precision metal tradespersons	690	610	500	390	290	-17.7	-15.4	-22.2
Other 411 Mechanical engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	2380	2920	3380	4380	4750	22.6	19.3	29.4
All 411 sub total	11430	11210	10470	10000	9660	-4.4	-4.3	-4.5
Fabrication								
4121 General fabrication engineering tradespersons	1590	1840	1920	1950	2140	7.0	9.7	1.7
4122 Structural steel and welding tradespersons	2470	2270	1780	1220	670	-21.0	-15.1	-31.5
4123 Forging tradespersons	100	100	80	60	80	-2.1	-6.5	7.1
4124 Sheetmetal tradespersons	920	820	600	370	170	-26.1	-19.4	-37.8
4125 Metal casting tradespersons	210	180	150	60	60	-24.0	-15.0	-39.2
4126 Metal finishing tradespersons	60	50	30	20	(a)	-31.8	-28.1	-38.7
Other 412 Fabrication engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	3060	3520	3770	4500	4470	13.7	10.9	19.6
All 412 sub total	8410	8760	8330	8240	7600	-0.7	-0.5	-1.0
Other								
3125-11 Mechanical engineering associates	02	20	20	20	09	1.5	4.4	-4.2
3125-13 Mechanical engineering technicians	410	1060	1970	1820	1530	64.9	120.5	-7.7
3129-13 Metallurgical and materials technicians	0	0	0	0	0	I	T	1
All 'Other' sub total	470	1120	2040	1890	1600	58.8	108.2	-7.6
TOTAL	20310	21090	20840	20130	18850	-0.3	1.3	-3.4
 * Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data 								

Australian Apprentice & Trainee Statistics: Mechanical engineering and fabrication trades 1995 to 1999

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Table 3: N

			Number			Annual	Annual	Growth rate
						growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
Mechanical engineering	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 (p)	1995-1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mech. engineering tradespersons	30	30	80	110	210	47.9	54.3	35.8
4112 Metal fitters and machinists	1990	1740	1670	1660	1310	-5.8	-8.3	-0.7
4113 Toolmakers	30	40	40	60	40	29.0	24.7	38.1
4114 Aircraft maintenance engineers	560	220	230	260	260	-22.4	-35.9	13.5
4115 Precision metal tradespersons	200	150	160	130	110	-13.8	-10.2	-20.8
Other 411 Mechanical engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	310	370	520	640	740	26.5	28.4	22.6
All 411 sub total	3120	2550	2700	2850	2,660	-2.9	-6.9	5.5
Fabrication								
4121 General fabrication engineering tradespersons	160	270	340	450	460	40.1	43.1	34.2
4122 Structural steel and welding tradespersons	620	530	570	610	500	-0.3	-4.0	7.4
4123 Forging tradespersons	20	20	20	10	20	-8.6	5.7	-31.6
4124 Sheetmetal tradespersons	230	180	200	200	160	-3.7	-6.2	1.5
4125 Metal casting tradespersons	40	40	40	60	40	9.0	-3.5	39.0
4126 Metal finishing tradespersons	20	20	10	(a)	(a)	-30.7	-25.5	-40.0
Other 412 Fabrication engineering tradespersons								
not known at 4-digit level	440	450	590	690	810	16.2	16.0	16.7
All 412 sub total	1530	1500	1770	2030	1990	10.0	7.6	15.0
Other								
3125-11 Mechanical engineering associates	30	10	10	20	20	-15.7	-27.9	15.4
3125-13 Mechanical engineering technicians	10	160	530	810	790	333.4	630.1	52.7
3129-13 Metallurgical and materials technicians	0	0	0	0	0	1	I	I
All 'Other' sub total	40	170	550	830	810	187.2	295.0	51.8
TOTAL	4680	4220	5010	5710	5460	6.9	3.5	13.9
 * Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data 								

Australian Apprentice & Trainee Statistics: Mechanical engineering and fabrication trades 1995 to 1999

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3 Age

This section focuses on trends in commencements and numbers in training from 1995 to 1998 by age.

For commencements:

- Mechanical engineering trade occupation commencements declined for each age group (15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 25 plus years) over the period 1995 to 1997. However, all age groups experienced growth in commencements during 1998 (table 4).
- Fabrication trade occupation commencements declined for each age group (15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 25 plus years) over the period 1995 to 1997. However, all age groups experienced growth in commencements during 1998 (table 5).
- The number of mechanical engineering technician commencements increased strongly over the period 1995 to 1998 for each age cohort (table 6).

For the number in training:

- The mechanical engineering trade occupation number in training declined for each age group (15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 25 plus years) over the period 1995 to 1997. However, the 15 to 19 age group experienced growth in the number in training during 1998 (table 7).
- The fabrication trade occupation number in training declined for the 15 to 19 year old age cohort over 1995 to 1998, grew slightly for the 20 to 24 year old age cohort, and grew strongly for the 25 years and over age cohort (table 8).
- The number of mechanical engineering technicians in training increased strongly over the period 1995 to 1998 for each age cohort. However, there were declines in the number of 20 to 24 year olds in training and those over 25 during 1998 (table 9).

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Nun	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mecha	anical engi	neering tra	desperson	s			
15 to 19 years	70	90	90	290	57.8	12.3	212.0
20 to 24 years	20	20	40	120	75.3	28.5	226.3
25 years and over	60	10	70	120	26.0	7.9	71.8
Sub total ¹	160	130	200	530	50.3	13.1	165.2
4112 Metal fitters ar	nd machinis	sts					
15 to 19 years	1450	1020	700	340	-38.4	-30.4	-51.6
20 to 24 years	310	190	130	90	-33.4	-34.8	-30.5
25 years and over	230	140	90	70	-31.4	-37.7	-16.9
Sub total ¹	1980	1350	920	500	-36.7	-31.9	-45.3
4113 Toolmakers							
15 to 19 years	40	50	30	(a)	-54.7	-15.1	-87.1
20 to 24 years	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-20.6	0.0	-50.0
25 years and over	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total ¹	50	50	40	(a)	-47.7	-13.1	-81.1
4114 Aircraft mainte	enance eng	ineers					
15 to 19 years	220	190	160	80	-28.4	-15.6	-48.4
20 to 24 years	80	70	60	50	-14.6	-11.0	-21.3
25 years and over	20	10	(a)	(a)	-23.7	-33.3	0.0
Sub total ¹	320	270	230	140	-24.3	-15.3	-39.5
4115 Precision meta	al tradespe	rsons					
15 to 19 years	150	100	70	50	-31.1	-33.5	-26.2
20 to 24 years	50	20	20	20	-24.2	-29.3	-13.0
25 years and over	20	20	20	(a)	-28.6	-12.1	-52.9
Sub total ¹	220	130	110	80	-29.3	-30.1	-27.6
Other 411 Mechanic	al enginee	ring trades	persons no	ot known a	t 4-digit level		
15 to 19 years	760	930	930	1480	25.0	10.6	59.7
20 to 24 years	150	170	210	340	31.7	19.3	60.4
25 years and over	60	90	70	130	30.8	7.4	94.1
Sub total ¹	970	1190	1210	1950	26.4	11.8	61.8
ALL MECHANICAL	ENGINEER	ING TRADE	ESPERSON	S			
15 to 19 years	2690	2380	1970	2240	-5.9	-14.3	13.4
20 to 24 years	610	470	470	630	0.9	-12.1	32.9
25 years and over	390	260	250	340	-4.0	-19.4	36.0
	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 5: Fabrication	n engineering trade	commencements by age	e, 1995 to 1998
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					Annual	Annual	
		Num	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4121 General fabric	ation engin	eering trad	lespersons	;			
15 to 19 years	440	490	440	500	4.0	-0.6	13.9
20 to 24 years	120	120	120	170	12.1	-1.7	45.7
25 years and over	40	50	50	70	15.0	4.4	39.6
Sub total ¹	610	660	600	740	6.6	-0.4	22.1
4122 Structural stee	el and weld	ing tradesp	persons				
15 to 19 years	660	430	220	70	-51.8	-42.2	-66.5
20 to 24 years	120	70	30	80	-13.1	-47.3	136.4
25 years and over	20	20	10	70	43.5	-26.1	441.7
Sub total ¹	800	510	270	220	-35.3	-42.4	-18.4
4123 Forging trades	spersons						
15 to 19 years	20	20	20	20	-1.7	-2.5	0.0
20 to 24 years	(a)	10	(a)	(a)	0.0	0.0	0.0
25 years and over	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-26.3	-55.3	100.0
Sub total ¹	30	40	30	30	-4.5	-8.4	3.8
4124 Sheetmetal tra	desperson	s					
15 to 19 years	250	140	50	40	-45.0	-53.7	-22.2
20 to 24 years	50	20	10	10	-35.8	-56.6	40.0
25 years and over	10	(a)	0	(a)	-56.3	-100.0	-
Sub total ¹	320	160	60	60	-43.6	-55.1	-10.9
4125 Metal casting	tradesperse	ons					
15 to 19 years	50	20	20	(a)	-48.7	-36.5	-66.7
20 to 24 years	10	(a)	(a)	(a)	-45.0	-35.5	-60.0
25 years and over	(a)	0	(a)	(a)	-34.1	-62.2	100.0
Sub total	70	30	30	10	-46.3	-38.3	-59.3
4126 Metal finishing	tradesper	sons					
15 to 19 years	(a)	(a)	0	(a)	-51.9	-100.0	-
20 to 24 years	(a)	(a)	(a)	0	-100.0	-50.0	-100.0
25 years and over	0	(a)	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	10	10	(a)	(a)	-57.5	-72.3	0.0
Other 412 Fabricatio	on enginee	ring trades	persons no	ot known a	t 4-digit level		
15 to 19 years	850	880	780	1420	18.7	-4.3	82.7
20 to 24 years	300	180	190	300	0.3	-21.2	62.6
25 years and over	120	100	110	150	8.1	-3.3	35.1
Sub total	1270	1160	1080	1870	13.9	-7.9	74.2
ALL FABRICATION	ENGINEER	ING TRADE	ESPERSON	IS			
15 to 19 years	2280	1980	1530	2060	-3.4	-18.2	34.7
20 to 24 years	620	400	360	570	-2.3	-23.7	60.1
	210	180	180	290	11.1	-8.9	65.3
TOTAL	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates

 (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
 Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64
 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 6: All mechanical and	d fabrication engineering trade	commencements by age, 1995 to 1998	8
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					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Nun	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
411 Mechanical eng	ineering tra	ades					
15 to 19 years	2690	2380	1970	2240	-5.9	-14.3	13.4
20 to 24 years	610	470	470	630	0.9	-12.1	32.9
25 years and over	390	260	250	340	-4.0	-19.4	36.0
Sub total ¹	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9
412 Fabrication eng	ineering tra	ades					
15 to 19 years	2280	1980	1530	2060	-3.4	-18.2	34.7
20 to 24 years	620	400	360	570	-2.3	-23.7	60.1
25 years and over	210	180	180	290	11.1	-8.9	65.3
Sub total ¹	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7
3125-11 Mechanical	engineerir	ng associat	es				
15 to 19 years	20	10	10	10	-14.0	-23.1	7.7
20 to 24 years	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-10.6	0.0	-28.6
25 years and over	0	(a)	0	(a)	-	-	-
Sub total ¹	30	20	20	20	-11.6	-17.0	0.0
3125-13 Mechanical	engineerir	ng technici	ans				
15 to 19 years	170	440	820	810	69.0	120.4	-0.6
20 to 24 years	130	360	580	450	49.8	108.6	-22.8
25 years and over	170	470	820	770	65.3	119.5	-6.2
Sub total ¹	470	1270	2220	2030	62.7	116.9	-8.4
3129-13 Metallurgic	al and mate	erials techr	nicians				
15 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
20 to 24 years	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
25 years and over	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total ¹	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
ALL MECHANICAL	AND FABR	ICATION E	NGINEERIN	IG TRADES	SPERSONS		
15 to 19 years	5160	4810	4330	5120	-0.3	-8.4	18.3
20 to 24 years	1360	1240	1420	1650	6.6	1.9	16.7
25 years and over	770	920	1250	1400	22.1	27.2	12.5
TOTAL ¹	7300	6970	7000	8180	3.9	-2.1	16.9

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 7: Mechanical	engineering trade number	in training by age, 31 Dece	mber 1995 to 1998
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					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	nber		growth rate	growth rate	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mecha	anical engi	neering tra	despersons	S			
15 to 19 years	110	130	130	310	39.4	6.4	139.1
20 to 24 years	160	180	210	320	25.9	14.7	51.7
25 years and over	90	100	150	200	29.8	28.2	33.1
Sub total ¹	360	410	490	820	31.3	15.7	69.1
4112 Metal fitters an	d machinis	sts					
15 to 19 years	2070	1710	1260	800	-27.3	-21.9	-36.9
20 to 24 years	3980	3730	3170	2290	-16.9	-10.7	-27.9
25 years and over	730	630	560	430	-16.2	-12.8	-22.8
Sub total ¹	6780	6070	4990	3510	-19.7	-14.2	-29.6
4113 Toolmakers							
15 to 19 years	80	80	60	20	-32.6	-8.3	-63.5
20 to 24 years	120	110	110	80	-10.9	-3.5	-24.1
25 years and over	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sub total ¹	190	190	170	110	-17.7	-5.3	-37.9
4114 Aircraft mainte	nance eng	ineers					
15 to 19 years	210	200	180	120	-16.4	-6.9	-32.6
20 to 24 years	710	720	670	590	-6.1	-2.6	-12.7
25 years and over	100	100	90	90	-5.2	-7.1	-1.1
Sub total ¹	1020	1020	940	800	-7.9	-3.9	-15.4
4115 Precision meta	al tradespe	rsons					
15 to 19 years	200	160	120	90	-24.0	-21.5	-28.7
20 to 24 years	320	320	280	240	-9.4	-5.9	-16.1
25 years and over	180	130	90	60	-29.0	-27.5	-31.9
Sub total ¹	690	610	500	390	-17.7	-15.4	-22.2
Other 411 Mechanic	al enginee	ring trades	persons no	ot known at	t 4-digit level		
15 to 19 years	1080	1320	1470	1970	22.2	16.9	33.7
20 to 24 years	1100	1370	1640	2040	23.0	22.3	24.3
25 years and over	200	240	270	370	22.6	16.1	36.5
Sub total ¹	2380	2920	3380	4380	22.6	19.3	29.4
ALL MECHANICAL E	ENGINEER	ING TRADE	SPERSON	S			
15 to 19 years	3740	3590	3230	3300	-4.1	-7.1	2.3
20 to 24 years	6380	6430	6080	5550	-4.6	-2.3	-8.8
25 years and over	1310	1190	1160	1150	-4.1	-5.7	-0.9
TOTAL	11430	11210	10470	10000	-4.4	-4.3	-4.5

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates ¹ Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 8: Fabrication e	engineering trade number	er in training by age, 31	December 1995 to 1998
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					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	ıber		growth rate	growth rate	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4121 General fabrica	ation engin	eering trad	espersons				
15 to 19 years	660	720	690	680	1.1	1.9	-0.4
20 to 24 years	830	980	1050	1070	9.1	12.8	2.0
25 years and over	110	140	180	190	22.3	29.8	8.5
Sub total ¹	1590	1840	1920	1950	7.0	9.7	1.7
4122 Structural stee	l and weldi	ng tradesp	ersons				
15 to 19 years	1040	850	570	280	-35.3	-25.7	-51.0
20 to 24 years	1320	1310	1110	800	-15.2	-8.2	-27.6
25 years and over	120	110	100	140	4.8	-8.8	38.4
Sub total ¹	2470	2270	1780	1220	-21.0	-15.1	-31.5
4123 Forging trades	persons						
15 to 19 years	40	30	30	30	-10.0	-16.2	3.8
20 to 24 years	40	50	40	50	5.3	2.4	11.4
25 years and over	20	20	10	10	-6.3	-9.3	0.0
Sub total ¹	100	100	80	90	-2.1	-6.5	7.1
4124 Sheetmetal tra	desperson	S					
15 to 19 years	370	300	170	90	-37.4	-32.7	-45.8
20 to 24 years	510	480	400	270	-19.7	-11.3	-34.1
25 years and over	40	40	30	20	-26.6	-16.5	-43.3
Sub total ¹	920	820	600	370	-26.1	-19.4	-37.8
4125 Metal casting t	radesperso	ons					
15 to 19 years	70	50	40	20	-31.3	-29.8	-34.3
20 to 24 years	120	110	100	60	-21.1	-8.1	-41.7
25 years and over	20	20	20	10	-19.3	-11.1	-33.3
Sub total ¹	210	180	150	90	-24.0	-15.0	-39.2
4126 Metal finishing	tradespers	sons					
15 to 19 years	20	10	(a)	0	-100.0	-47.3	-100.0
20 to 24 years	40	30	20	10	-28.9	-23.2	-39.1
25 years and over	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	18.6	0.0	66.7
Sub total ¹	60	50	30	20	-31.8	-28.1	-38.7
Other 412 Fabricatio	on engineer	ring trades	persons no	ot known at	t 4-digit level		
15 to 19 years	1150	1260	1290	1760	15.2	6.0	36.2
20 to 24 years	1520	1740	1880	2160	12.3	11.1	14.9
25 years and over	390	520	600	590	14.8	23.9	-1.5
Sub total ¹	3060	3520	3770	4500	13.7	10.9	19.6
ALL FABRICATION	ENGINEER	ING TRADE	SPERSON	S			
15 to 19 years	3340	3220	2780	2860	-5.0	-8.7	2.9
20 to 24 years	4380	4700	4610	4420	0.3	2.6	-4.1
25 years and over	700	840	940	960	11.5	16.0	3.0
TOTAL	8410	8760	8330	8240	-0.7	-0.5	-1.0

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates ¹ Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 9: All mechanical and fabrication engineering trade number in training by age, 31 December 1995 to 1998

							0
					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Nun	nber		growth rate	growth rate	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
411 Mechanical engi	ineering tra	ades					
15 to 19 years	3740	3590	3230	3300	-4.1	-7.1	2.3
20 to 24 years	6380	6430	6080	5550	-4.6	-2.3	-8.8
25 years and over	1310	1190	1160	1150	-4.1	-5.7	-0.9
Sub total ¹	11430	11210	10470	10000	-4.4	-4.3	-4.5
412 Fabrication engi	ineering tra	ades					
15 to 19 years	3340	3220	2780	2860	-5.0	-8.7	2.9
20 to 24 years	4380	4700	4610	4420	0.3	2.6	-4.1
25 years and over	700	840	940	960	11.5	16.0	3.0
Sub total ¹	8410	8760	8330	8240	-0.7	-0.5	-1.0
3125-11 Mechanical	engineerin	ig associat	es				
15 to 19 years	10	(a)	10	10	0.0	-11.4	27.3
20 to 24 years	50	60	60	50	0.0	8.5	-15.0
25 years and over	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	58.7	0.0	300.0
Sub total ¹	70	70	70	70	1.5	4.4	-4.2
3125-13 Mechanical	engineerin	g technicia	ans				
15 to 19 years	130	300	530	600	68.4	105.3	13.3
20 to 24 years	130	320	610	530	58.8	115.1	-13.4
25 years and over	150	430	840	700	67.1	136.9	-16.9
Sub total ¹	410	1060	1970	1820	64.9	120.5	-7.7
3129-13 Metallurgica	al and mate	erials techn	nicians				
15 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
20 to 24 years	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
25 years and over	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total ¹	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
ALL MECHANICAL A	AND FABRI	CATION EI	NGINEERIN	IG TRADES	PERSONS		
15 to 19 years	7220	7110	6550	6770	-2.1	-4.8	3.5
20 to 24 years	10940	11520	11360	10540	-1.2	1.9	-7.2
25 years and over	2150	2460	2930	2810	9.3	16.7	-4.1
TOTAL ¹	20310	21090	20840	20130	-0.3	1.3	-3.4

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates ¹ Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64 Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

4 AQF level

This section focuses on trends in commencements and numbers in training from 1995 to 1998 by Australian Qualification Level (AQF).

For both mechanical and fabrication trade occupations and for each year 1995 to 1998, AQF Certificate I & II level qualifications comprised a very small proportion of all commencements (tables 10 and 11).

Over the period 1995 to 1999, both mechanical engineering and fabrication engineering trade occupations experienced declines in commencements at AQF Certificate III and above qualifications.

Growth in AQF Certificate I & II level qualifications was particularly strong for mechanical engineering technicians, growing from 20 in 1995 to 1200 in 1998. Although growth occurred in AQF level III and above qualification, Certificate I & II level qualifications outnumbered Certificate III and higher level qualifications for this occupation in 1998 (table 12).

With respect to numbers in training, for both mechanical and fabrication occupations, AQF Certificate I & II level qualifications made up an insignificant proportions of all in training (tables 13 and 14).

Growth in AQF Certificate I & II level qualifications was particularly strong for mechanical engineering technicians. For mechanical engineering technicians, the number in training in AQF Certificate I & II level or equivalent qualifications grew from 30 in 1995 to 920 in 1998. Certificate I & II level qualifications outnumbered Certificate III and higher level qualifications for this occupation in 1998.

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mech	nanical eng	ineering tr	adesperso	ns			
Certificate I & II	(a)	0	(a)	30	40.6	-42.3	733.3
Cert. III & higher	140	120	200	510	55.4	20.8	157.4
Not known	10	(a)	(a)	(a)	-57.5	-72.3	0.0
Sub total	160	130	200	530	50.3	13.1	165.2
4112 Metal fitters a	nd machin	ists		•			
Certificate I & II	(a)	0	0	30	196.2	-100.0	-
Cert. III & higher	1960	1340	920	480	-37.5	-31.5	-48.0
Not known	20	(a)	(a)	0	-100.0	-69.8	-100.0
Sub total	1980	1350	920	500	-36.7	-31.9	-45.3
4113 Toolmakers				•			
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	50	50	40	(a)	-47.7	-13.1	-81.1
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	50	50	40	(a)	-47.7	-13.1	-81.1
4114 Aircraft maint	tenance en	gineers					
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-20.6	-18.4	-25.0
Cert. III & higher	310	260	220	130	-25.2	-14.9	-42.2
Not known	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	14.5	-50.0	500.0
Sub total	320	270	230	140	-24.3	-15.3	-39.5
4115 Precision me	tal tradesp	ersons					
Certificate I & II	0	(a)	(a)	0	-	-	-100.0
Cert. III & higher	200	120	100	80	-27.4	-30.9	-20.0
Not known	20	10	(a)	0	-100.0	-25.0	-100.0
Sub total	220	130	110	80	-29.3	-30.1	-27.6
Other 411 Mechani	cal engine	ering trade	spersons r	not known	at 4-digit level		
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	0	(a)	10.1	-100.0	-
Cert. III & higher	770	1030	1100	1950	36.1	19.2	77.6
Not known	190	150	110	0	-100.0	-23.9	-100.0
Sub total	970	1190	1206	1950	26.4	11.8	61.8
ALL MECHANICAL	ENGINEER	RING TRAD	ESPERSO	NS			
Certificate I & II	20	(a)	(a)	60	45.1	-35.1	625.0
Cert. III & higher	3420	2930	2570	3140	-2.8	-13.4	22.5
Not known	250	180	120	(a)	-69.4	-29.1	-94.3
TOTAL	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9

Table 10: Mechanical engineering trade commencements by AQF, 1995 to 1998

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	ıber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4121 General fabrie	cation engi	neering tra	desperson	S			
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	610	660	600	730	6.5	-0.4	21.9
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	610	660	600	740	6.6	-0.4	22.1
4122 Structural ste	el and welc	ling trades	persons				
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	800	510	270	220	-35.2	-42.2	-18.4
Not known	(a)	(a)	0	0	-100.0	-100.0	-
Sub total	800	510	270	220	-35.3	-42.4	-18.4
4123 Forging trade	spersons						
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	30	40	30	30	-3.5	-6.9	3.8
Not known	(a)	(a)	0	0	-100.0	-100.0	-
Sub total	30	40	30	30	-4.5	-8.4	3.8
4124 Sheetmetal tr	adespersor	าร					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	320	160	60	60	-43.4	-54.9	-10.9
Not known	(a)	(a)	0	0	-100.0	-100.0	-
Sub total	320	160	60	60	-43.6	-55.1	-10.9
4125 Metal casting	tradespers	ons					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	70	30	30	10	-46.3	-38.3	-59.3
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	70	30	30	10	-46.3	-38.3	-59.3
4126 Metal finishin	g tradespe	rsons					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	10	10	(a)	(a)	-53.6	-68.4	0.0
Not known	(a)	0	0	0	-100.0	-100.0	-
Sub total	10	10	(a)	(a)	-57.5	-72.3	0.0
Other 412 Fabricat	ion enginee	ering trade	spersons n	ot known	at 4-digit level		
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-15.7	-55.3	200.0
Cert. III & higher	1130	1010	950	1870	18.4	-8.5	98.0
Not known	140	140	130	0	-100.0	-2.2	-100.0
Sub total	1270	1160	1080	1870	13.9	-7.9	74.2
ALL FABRICATION	I ENGINEEF	RING TRAD	ESPERSO	NS			
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-7.2	-55.3	300.0
Cert. III & higher	2960	2410	1930	2920	-0.4	-19.2	51.1
Not known	150	150	130	0	-100.0	-6.6	-100.0
TOTAL	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7

Table 11: Fabrication engineering trade commencements by AQF, 1995 to 1998

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Australian Apprentice & Trainee Statistics: Mechanical engineering and fabrication trades 1995 to 1999

Table 12: All mechanical and fabrication engineering trade commencements by AQF, 1995 to 1	998
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					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
411 Mechanical en	gineering t	rades					
Certificate I & II	20	(a)	(a)	60	45.1	-35.1	625.0
Cert. III & higher	3420	2930	2570	3140	-2.8	-13.4	22.5
Not known	250	180	120	(a)	-69.4	-29.1	-94.3
Sub total	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9
412 Fabrication en	gineering t	rades					
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-7.2	-55.3	300.0
Cert. III & higher	2960	2410	1930	2920	-0.4	-19.2	51.1
Not known	150	150	130	0	-100.0	-6.6	-100.0
Sub total	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7
3125-11 Mechanica	l engineeri	ng associa	ates				
Certificate I & II	0	(a)	10	20	-	-	81.8
Cert. III & higher	30	20	(a)	0	-100.0	-44.3	-100.0
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	30	20	20	20	-11.6	-17.0	0.0
3125-13 Mechanica	l engineeri	ng technic	ians				
Certificate I & II	20	140	940	1200	267.9	525.8	27.1
Cert. III & higher	90	360	840	830	107.0	198.9	-0.7
Not known	350	770	440	0	-100.0	11.0	-100.0
Sub total	470	1270	2220	2030	62.7	116.9	-8.4
3129-13 Metallurgi	cal and mat	terials tech	nicians				
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
ALL MECHANICAL	AND FABF	RICATION E	ENGINEER	NG TRADE	SPERSONS		
Certificate I & II	50	160	960	1280	198.5	347.2	33.0
Cert. III & higher	6500	5720	5350	6900	2.0	-9.3	29.0
Not known	750	1090	690	(a)	-78.9	-4.0	-99.0
TOTAL	7300	6970	7000	8180	3.9	-2.1	16.9

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4111 General mech	nanical eng	ineering tr	adesperso	ns			
Certificate I & II	10	10	10	40	47.1	12.8	150.0
Cert. III & higher	300	360	450	770	36.5	21.8	71.6
Not known	50	30	20	10	-38.4	-34.8	-45.0
Sub total	360	410	490	820	31.3	15.7	69.1
4112 Metal fitters a	nd machin	ists		•			
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	0	20	76.5	-100.0	-
Cert. III & higher	6700	6010	4960	3480	-19.6	-14.0	-29.9
Not known	80	70	30	10	-47.9	-38.0	-63.3
Sub total	6780	6070	4990	3510	-19.7	-14.2	-29.6
4113 Toolmakers				•			
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	190	190	170	110	-17.7	-5.3	-37.9
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	190	190	170	110	-17.7	-5.3	-37.9
4114 Aircraft main	tenance en	gineers		•			
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	10	10	26.0	41.4	0.0
Cert. III & higher	980	980	910	770	-7.8	-3.6	-15.6
Not known	30	30	20	20	-22.3	-25.0	-16.7
Sub total	1020	1020	940	800	-7.9	-3.9	-15.4
4115 Precision me	tal tradesp	ersons		•			
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	26.0	58.1	-20.0
Cert. III & higher	660	570	460	360	-18.1	-16.3	-21.5
Not known	30	30	30	20	-15.4	-4.7	-33.3
Sub total	690	610	500	390	-17.7	-15.4	-22.2
Other 411 Mechani	ical engine	ering trade	spersons r	not known	at 4-digit level		
Certificate I & II	10	10	(a)	(a)	-47.7	-24.4	-75.0
Cert. III & higher	1670	2260	2830	4010	33.8	30.0	41.6
Not known	690	650	550	370	-18.8	-10.9	-32.4
Sub total	2380	2920	3380	4380	22.6	19.3	29.4
ALL MECHANICAL	ENGINEER	RING TRAD	ESPERSO	NS			
Certificate I & II	40	40	40	80	26.6	2.7	92.3
Cert. III & higher	10510	10360	9790	9500	-3.3	-3.5	-3.0
Not known	880	820	640	430	-21.4	-14.4	-33.9
TOTAL	11430	11210	10470	10000	-4.4	-4.3	-4.5

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	ber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
4121 General fabric	cation engi	neering tra	desperson	S			
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	1590	1840	1920	1950	6.9	9.7	1.7
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	1590	1840	1920	1950	7.0	9.7	1.7
4122 Structural ste	el and welc	ling trades	persons				
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	2430	2240	1770	1220	-20.6	-14.7	-31.4
Not known	40	20	(a)	(a)	-56.7	-56.5	-57.1
Sub total	2470	2270	1780	1220	-21.0	-15.1	-31.5
4123 Forging trade	spersons						
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	100	100	80	90	-1.8	-6.0	7.1
Not known	(a)	(a)	0	0	-100.0	-100.0	-
Sub total	100	100	80	90	-2.1	-6.5	7.1
4124 Sheetmetal tr	adespersor	าร					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	910	820	600	370	-25.9	-19.1	-37.6
Not known	10	(a)	(a)	(a)	-53.6	-45.2	-66.7
Sub total	920	820	600	370	-26.1	-19.4	-37.8
4125 Metal casting	tradespers	ons					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	200	170	150	90	-22.9	-14.0	-38.0
Not known	(a)	(a)	(a)	0	-100.0	-42.3	-100.0
Sub total	210	180	150	90	-24.0	-15.0	-39.2
4126 Metal finishin	g tradespe	rsons					
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	50	40	30	20	-30.7	-25.9	-39.3
Not known	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-39.4	-42.3	-33.3
Sub total	60	50	30	20	-31.8	-28.1	-38.7
Other 412 Fabricat	ion enginee	ering trade	spersons n	ot known a	at 4-digit level		
Certificate I & II	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-50.0	-50.0	-50.0
Cert. III & higher	2620	3070	3370	4220	17.2	13.3	25.3
Not known	430	440	390	280	-13.4	-4.3	-29.0
Sub total	3060	3520	3770	4500	13.7	10.9	19.6
ALL FABRICATION	I ENGINEEF	RING TRAD	ESPERSO	NS			
Certificate I & II	200	200	170	180	-2.8	-7.3	7.1
Cert. III & higher	7910	8280	7910	7960	0.2	0.0	0.5
Not known	690	670	580	470	-12.2	-8.4	-19.4
TOTAL	8410	8760	8330	8240	-0.7	-0.5	-1.0

Table 14: Fabrication engineering trade number in training by AQF, 31 December 1995 to 1998

Table 15:	All mechanical and fabrication engineering trade number in training by AQF, 31 December 1995 to
	1998

							a
					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Nun	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
411 Mechanical en	gineering t	rades					
Certificate I & II	40	40	40	80	26.6	2.7	92.3
Cert. III & higher	10510	10360	9790	9500	-3.3	-3.5	-3.0
Not known	880	820	640	430	-21.4	-14.4	-33.9
Sub total	11430	11210	10470	10000	-4.4	-4.3	-4.5
412 Fabrication en	gineering t	rades					
Certificate I & II	200	200	170	180	-2.8	-7.3	7.1
Cert. III & higher	7910	8280	7910	7960	0.2	0.0	0.5
Not known	690	670	580	470	-12.2	-8.4	-19.4
Sub total	8410	8760	8330	8240	-0.7	-0.5	-1.0
3125-11 Mechanica	al engineeri	ng associa	ates				
Certificate I & II	0	(a)	10	30	-	-	133.3
Cert. III & higher	70	70	60	40	-14.7	-4.7	-31.7
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	70	70	70	70	1.5	4.4	-4.2
3125-13 Mechanica	al engineeri	ng technic	ians				
Certificate I & II	30	150	900	920	224.5	476.7	2.8
Cert. III & higher	90	280	710	870	116.9	189.8	21.4
Not known	290	620	360	30	-54.8	10.4	-92.4
Sub total	410	1060	1970	1820	64.9	120.5	-7.7
3129-13 Metallurgi	cal and mat	terials tech	inicians				
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cert. III & higher	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Not known	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sub total	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
ALL MECHANICAL	AND FABF	RICATION E	ENGINEER	ING TRADE	SPERSONS		
Certificate I & II	260	390	1120	1210	66.4	106.7	8.0
Cert. III & higher	18570	18990	18480	18360	-0.4	-0.3	-0.6
Not known	1860	2110	1580	920	-20.9	-7.8	-41.8
TOTAL	20310	21090	20840	20130	-0.3	1.3	-3.4

5 Geographic region by State/Territory

This section focuses on trends in commencements from 1995 to 1998 by geographic region of the residential location of apprentices and trainees by State/Territory for all occupations considered together.

- Looking at Australia as a whole for mechanical engineering trades and comparing 1995 with 1998, the number of commencements fell significantly in capital city and other metropolitan areas. Little change occurred in rural or remote areas (table 16).
- Looking at Australia as a whole for fabrication trades and comparing 1995 with 1998, the number of commencements changed little for each geographic region (table 17).
- Commencements for mechanical engineering trades fell from 1995 to 1998 for every State and Territory except Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- Commencements for fabrication trades rose from 1995 to 1998 for every State and Territory except New South Wales and Western Australia.
- Commencements for mechanical engineering technicians increased strongly for each geographic region over the period 1995 to 1998, although declines in capital city and rural regions occurred during 1998.

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	ıber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
New South Wa	ales						
Capital city	520	480	480	320	-14.4	-3.2	-33.1
Other metro.	210	220	240	140	-14.2	5.0	-42.8
Rural	210	220	250	310	13.3	8.4	23.7
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-5.0	6.9	-25.0
Total ¹	1000	940	1000	800	-7.0	0.2	-19.7
Victoria							
Capital city	590	280	100	470	-7.5	-58.5	358.8
Other metro.	60	30	(a)	40	-11.6	-62.9	400.0
Rural	210	120	30	200	-1.9	-61.1	521.9
Remote	(a)	(a)	0	(a)	26.0	-100.0	-
Total ¹	870	430	150	720	-6.1	-58.9	389.8
Queensland							
Capital city	280	220	230	310	4.4	-8.7	36.7
Other metro.	60	50	50	100	20.5	-7.4	104.2
Rural	380	290	290	350	-2.3	-12.9	23.0
Remote	110	150	130	120	5.7	9.5	-1.6
Total ¹	820	730	690	890	3.1	-7.9	29.2
Western Austr	ralia						
Capital city	360	430	350	300	-5.9	-1.3	-14.4
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	110	110	120	100	-1.9	4.2	-13.0
Remote	60	60	60	50	-4.7	0.8	-14.8
Total ¹	530	600	530	450	-5.3	-0.4	-14.4
South Austral	ia						
Capital city	200	150	130	140	-11.9	-20.6	8.6
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	70	80	50	50	-9.5	-11.2	-5.8
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-30.7	-18.4	-50.0
Total ¹	270	240	180	190	-11.3	-18.5	4.9
Tasmania	I						
Capital city	30	40	20	20	-15.4	-16.5	-13.0
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	90	80	70	60	-12.0	-13.1	-9.9
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-20.6	0.0	-50.0
Total ¹	130	130	100	90	-13.4	-14.4	-11.5
Northern Terri	tory						
Capital city	20	20	20	30	10.5	4.9	22.7
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	0.0	-36.8	150.0
Remote	20	20	10	10	-6.3	-12.6	7.7
Total ¹	40	50	40	50	3.1	-6.1	24.3
Australian Ca	oital Territor	ry					
Capital city	30	10	20	20	-14.9	-19.1	-5.9
Other metro.	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Rural	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Remote	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total ¹	30	10	20	20	-11.6	-21.2	11.1
AUSTRALIA	I						
Capital city	2020	1640	1350	1600	-7.4	-18.2	18.7
Other metro.	330	290	290	270	-5.8	-5.6	-6.2
Rural	1070	890	810	1080	0.2	-13.2	33.5
Remote	200	250	210	200	0.8	4.3	-5.7
TOTAL ¹	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
 ¹ Totals include other regions such as interstate and outside Australia, and may include unknown information.

					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	nber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
New South Wa	ales						
Capital city	350	290	260	260	-9.5	-14.1	0.4
Other metro.	160	180	180	130	-8.4	3.3	-28.0
Rural	200	230	130	180	-4.8	-19.6	33.3
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-5.9	8.0	-28.6
Total ¹	980	770	590	580	-16.0	-22.1	-2.4
Victoria							
Capital city	350	110	20	320	-3.3	-79.2	2000.0
Other metro.	20	(a)	0	20	11.2	-100.0	-
Rural	210	100	(a)	260	7.7	-84.4	5040.0
Remote	(a)	0	Ó	(a)	-20.6	-100.0	-
Total ¹	590	220	20	610	1.3	-81.5	2940.0
Queensland							
Capital city	220	250	210	270	6.6	-2.3	26.9
Other metro.	50	50	60	100	23.1	7.4	61.7
Rural	270	290	250	320	5.1	-4.7	27.8
Remote	50	60	60	60	3.7	7.4	-3.3
Total ¹	610	650	580	750	7.1	-1.9	27.6
Western Austr	ralia						
Capital city	320	290	260	250	-8.6	-9.5	-6.8
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	100	110	100	110	2.7	0.5	7.1
Remote	130	130	130	100	-8.5	-1.1	-21.5
Total ¹	560	540	500	460	-6.1	-5.5	-7.3
South Australi	ia						
Capital city	130	140	130	130	0.3	-2.3	5.5
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	60	80	70	100	15.5	2.4	47.0
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	32.6	41.4	16.7
Total ¹	200	230	200	240	5.9	-0.7	20.5
Tasmania							
Capital city	50	50	50	160	50.6	-1.1	248.9
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	90	60	60	70	-6.6	-15.1	12.9
Remote	0	(a)	(a)	0	-	-	-100.0
Total ¹	130	100	110	230	19.7	-9.9	111.1
Northern Terri	tory						
Capital city	20	20	20	30	15.2	16.3	13.0
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-12.6	22.5	-55.6
Remote	10	20	10	10	-8.4	-8.0	-9.1
Total ¹	40	40	40	40	3.6	10.6	-9.1
Australian Cap	oital Territor	ry					
Capital city	10	10	10	20	14.5	8.0	28.6
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Remote	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total ¹	10	10	20	20	15.4	10.9	25.0
AUSTRALIA							
Capital city	1450	1160	960	1430	-0.6	-18.7	48.5
Other metro.	230	230	240	250	1.8	0.6	4.3
Rural	940	870	620	1030	3.2	-18.5	65.5
Remote	210	230	220	180	-4.3	1.4	-14.9
TOTAL	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
 ¹ Totals include other regions such as interstate and outside Australia, and may include unknown information.

Table 18: All selected occupation commencements by	geographic region by State/Territory, 1	995 to 1998
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					Annual	Annual	Growth rate
		Num	ıber		growth rate*	growth rate*	1997 - 1998
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 - 1998	1995 - 1997	(%)
Mechanical en	igineering t	rades					
Capital city	2020	1640	1350	1600	-7.4	-18.2	18.7
Other metro.	330	290	290	270	-5.8	-5.6	-6.2
Rural	1070	890	810	1080	0.2	-13.2	33.5
Remote	200	250	210	200	0.8	4.3	-5.7
Total	3690	3120	2700	3210	-4.5	-14.5	18.9
Fabrication en	igineering t	rades					
Capital city	1450	1160	960	1430	-0.6	-18.7	48.5
Other metro.	230	230	240	250	1.8	0.6	4.3
Rural	940	870	620	1030	3.2	-18.5	65.5
Remote	210	230	220	180	-4.3	1.4	-14.9
Total	3110	2560	2060	2920	-2.1	-18.6	41.7
Mechanical en	igineering a	issociates					
Capital city	20	20	20	20	-7.8	-14.0	5.9
Other metro.	(a)	(a)	(a)	0	-100.0	-29.3	-100.0
Rural	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	-20.6	-29.3	0.0
Remote	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total	30	20	20	20	-11.6	-17.0	0.0
Mechanical en	igineering t	echnicians					
Capital city	290	630	1100	960	49.5	96.5	-13.5
Other metro.	80	220	300	430	72.2	89.0	43.0
Rural	80	320	700	520	84.7	191.5	-25.8
Remote	(a)	60	50	90	133.4	167.3	78.0
Total	470	1270	2220	2030	62.7	116.9	-8.4
Metallurgical a	and materia	Is technicia	ns				
Capital city	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Remote	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
ALL MECHAN	ICAL AND F	ABRICATIC		ERING TRA	DESPERSONS		
Capital city	3780	3430	3430	4000	1.9	-4.7	16.6
Other metro.	650	740	830	950	13.6	13.2	14.5
Rural	2090	2070	2130	2630	7.8	0.8	23.4
Remote	410	540	480	470	4.7	7.7	-1.0
TOTAL	7300	6970	7000	8180	3.9	-2.1	16.9

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates (a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Totals include other regions such as interstate and outside Australia, and may include unknown information.

6 School attendance status

This section looks at commencements from 1996 to 1998 by the school attendance status of apprentices and trainees (tables 19, 20 and 21).

- For mechanical engineering tradespersons, the number of apprentices and trainees who commenced their apprenticeship or traineeship while still attending school comprised a very small proportion of all apprentices and trainees in this occupation.
- Similarly, for fabrication engineering tradespersons, the number of apprentices and trainees who commenced their apprenticeship or traineeship while still attending school comprised a very small proportion of all apprentices and trainees in this occupation.
- Although, for mechanical engineering technicians, the number of apprentices and trainees who commenced their apprenticeship or traineeship while still attending school comprised a very small proportion of all apprentices and trainees in this occupation, there were 80 commencements in this occupation during 1998.

Table 19: Mechanical engineering trade commencements by school attendance status, 1996 to 1998

		Number							
	1996	1997	1998						
4111 General mechanical engine	4111 General mechanical engineering tradespersons								
Still attending school	0	0	(a)						
Finished school	100	180	470						
Not known	30	20	60						
Sub total	130	200	530						
4112 Metal fitters and machinist	S								
Still attending school	0	(a)	(a)						
Finished school	1280	860	430						
Not known	60	60	70						
Sub total	1350	920	500						
4113 Toolmakers									
Still attending school	0	0	0						
Finished school	50	40	(a)						
Not known	0	0	0						
Sub total	50	40	(a)						
4114 Aircraft maintenance engir	neers								
Still attending school	0	0	0						
Finished school	160	150	120						
Not known	120	80	20						
Sub total	270	230	140						
4115 Precision metal tradespers	ons								
Still attending school	0	0	(a)						
Finished school	110	90	70						
Not known	20	20	(a)						
Sub total	130	110	80						
Other 411 Mechanical engineering	ng tradespersons n	ot known at 4-digit	level						
Still attending school	20	(a)	(a)						
Finished school	890	1160	1890						
Not known	280	40	60						
Sub total	1190	1210	1950						
ALL MECHANICAL ENGINEERIN	IG TRADESPERSO	NS							
Still attending school	20	(a)	20						
Finished school	2590	2470	2980						
Not known	510	230	210						
TOTAL	3120	2700	3210						

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 20: Fabrication engineering trade commencements by school attendance status, 1996 to 1998

		Number	
	1996	1997	1998
4121 General fabrication engine	ering tradesperson	S	
Still attending school	0	10	(a)
Finished school	620	550	610
Not known	40	50	120
Sub total	660	600	740
4122 Structural steel and weldin	g tradespersons		
Still attending school	0	0	(a)
Finished school	500	260	180
Not known	10	(a)	30
Sub total	510	270	220
4123 Forging tradespersons			
Still attending school	0	0	0
Finished school	30	10	30
Not known	(a)	10	0
Sub total	40	30	30
4124 Sheetmetal tradespersons			
Still attending school	0	0	(a)
Finished school	160	60	40
Not known	(a)	(a)	10
Sub total	160	60	60
4125 Metal casting tradespersor	IS		
Still attending school	0	0	0
Finished school	30	30	(a)
Not known	(a)	(a)	(a)
Sub total	30	30	10
4126 Metal finishing tradesperse	ons		
Still attending school	0	0	0
Finished school	(a)	(a)	0
Not known	(a)	0	(a)
Sub total	10	(a)	(a)
Other 412 Fabrication engineering	ng tradespersons n	ot known at 4-digit	level
Still attending school	10	20	(a)
Finished school	900	1000	1820
Not known	240	60	50
Sub total	1160	1080	1870
ALL FABRICATION ENGINEERIN	IG TRADESPERSO	NS	
Still attending school	10	30	20
Finished school	2240	1910	2690
Not known	310	120	220
TOTAL	2560	2060	2920

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 21: All selected occupation commencements I	by school attendance status, 1996 to	o 1998
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	Number						
	1996	1997	1998				
411 Mechanical engineering tra	des						
Still attending school	20	(a)	20				
Finished school	2590	2470	2980				
Not known	510	230	210				
Sub total	3120	2700	3210				
412 Fabrication engineering tra	des						
Still attending school	10	30	20				
Finished school	2240	1910	2690				
Not known	310	120	220				
Sub total	2560	2060	2920				
3125-11 Mechanical engineering	g associates						
Still attending school	0	0	0				
Finished school	20	20	20				
Not known	0	0	(a)				
Sub total	20	20	20				
3125-13 Mechanical engineering	g technicians						
Still attending school	0	0	80				
Finished school	1250	2200	1690				
Not known	20	20	260				
Sub total	1270	2220	2030				
3129-13 Metallurgical and mate	rials technicians						
Still attending school	0	0	0				
Finished school	0	0	0				
Not known	0	0	0				
Sub total	0	0	0				
ALL MECHANICAL AND FABRICATION ENGINEERING TRADESPERSONS							
Still attending school	30	30	110				
Finished school	6100	6600	7380				
Not known	830	370	690				
TOTAL	6970	7000	8180				

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

7 Other training

This section looks at the general vocational education and training (VET) student population in 1998 for mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations but excluding those in streams in which apprentices and trainees would be expected to be most likely enrolled (that is, streams 3211, 3212 and 3221).

It should be noted that for the apprentice and trainee data presented elsewhere in this report, the ASCO code is based on apprentices' and trainees' declared vocation, that is, the actual job that they are employed in. The data presented in this section are based on occupation codes assigned to courses to indicate the most likely occupation relevant to each course. However, students undertaking a VET course may not be employed in the occupation assigned to the course, or even employed.

The data in this section therefore provide a rough estimate of the amount of non-apprentice and non-trainee VET activity relevant to the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations – regardless of whether or not this training is actually utilised in these occupations.

Indications are that around 32,630 students were enrolled in a non-apprentice or non-trainee VET course in 1998 relating to the mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations (table 22).

Just under three quarters (73.5%) were at AQF level III or equivalent or higher levels.

In relation to non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments relevant to the mechanical engineering trade occupations specifically, despite falling enrolments generally from 1997 to 1998, the number of enrolments from those still attending school rose from 150 in 1997 to 210 in 1998 (table 23).

The opposite was the case for fabrication engineering trade courses. Here, despite an overall rise in the number of non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments, there was a fall in the number of enrolments from those still attending school from 460 in 1997 to 300 in 1998 (table 24).

In relation to non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments relevant to mechanical engineering associates, considerable growth in enrolments generally from 1997 to 1998 was matched by strong growth in the number of enrolments from those still attending school, from less than 10 in 1997 to 170 in 1998.

For mechanical engineering technician occupation courses, a fall in the number of non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments generally from 1997 to 1998 was matched by a fall in the number of enrolments from those still attending school, from 180 in 1997 to 120 in 1998 (table 25).

The number of enrolments from those still attending school for courses relevant to metallurgical and materials technicians was insignificant.

	Diplomas	AQF Certificate IV and	AQF Certificate III and	AQF Certificates I and II	Other certificates, endorsement	Statements of Attainment	Non award courses	Total Students
411 Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	710	3,090	069	100	2,090	2,190	70	8,830
412 Fabrication Engineering Tradespersons	(a)	2,640	3,930	210	80	270	520	7,660
NET SUB TOTAL	720	5,730	4,620	310	2,170	2,460	590	16,460
3125-11 Mechanical engineering associates	8,560	30	20	20	(a)	250	0	8,880
3125-13 Mechanical engineering technicians	1,320	2,510	260	1,210	0	1,740	0	7,040
3129-13 Metallurgical and materials technicians	80	80	50	0	10	20	0	250
NET SUB TOTAL	9,960	2,620	330	1,240	20	2,010	0	16,170
TOTAL	10,670	8,340	4,950	1,550	2,190	4,460	590	32,630

Table 22: All selected occupations: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET students by AQF, 1998

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

Table 23:	Mechanical engineering trades: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments by school
	attendance status, 1997 to 1998 (Number)

	1997	1998
4111 General mechanical engineering tr	adespersons	
Still attending school	120	140
Finished school	7610	2270
Not known	620	510
Sub total	8340	2920
4112 Metal fitters and machinists		
Still attending school	30	70
Finished school	2260	3840
Not known	1120	1000
Sub total	3420	4910
4113 Toolmakers		
Still attending school	0	0
Finished school	50	30
Not known	10	(a)
Sub total	60	40
4114 Aircraft maintenance engineers		
Still attending school	(a)	(a)
Finished school	1100	1110
Not known	60	130
Sub total	1160	1230
4115 Precision metal tradespersons		
Still attending school	(a)	0
Finished school	40	20
Not known	(a)	(a)
Sub total	50	20
ALL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TRAD	DESPERSONS	
Still attending school	150	210
Finished school	11060	7280
Not known	1820	1640
Total Enrolments	13020	9120

(b) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

Table 24:	Fabrication engineering trades: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments by school
	attendance status, 1997 to 1998 (Number)

	1997	1998			
4121 General fabrication engineering tradespersons					
Still attending school	180	50			
Finished school	820	2940			
Not known	110	210			
Sub total	1110	3200			
4122 Structural steel and welding trade	spersons				
Still attending school	280	250			
Finished school	3750	3470			
Not known	860	1030			
Sub total	4890	4750			
4123 Forging tradespersons					
Still attending school	0	0			
Finished school	0	10			
Not known	0	0			
Sub total	0	10			
4124 Sheetmetal tradespersons					
Still attending school	0	0			
Finished school	0	(a)			
Not known	0	0			
Sub total	0	(a)			
4125 Metal casting tradespersons					
Still attending school	(a)	(a)			
Finished school	110	130			
Not known	20	(a)			
Sub total	120	140			
4126 Metal finishing tradespersons					
Still attending school	0	0			
Finished school	20	(a)			
Not known	20	(a)			
Sub total	40	(a)			
ALL FABRICATION ENGINEERING TRA	DESPERSONS				
Still attending school	460	300			
Finished school	4690	6550			
Not known	1000	1260			
Total Enrolments	6160	8110			

(c) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

Table 25: All selected occupations: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments by school attendance status, 1997 to 1998

	1997	1998		
411 Mechanical engineering trades				
Still attending school	150	210		
Finished school	11060	7280		
Not known	1820	1640		
Sub total	13020	9120		
412 Fabrication engineering trades				
Still attending school	460	300		
Finished school	4690	6550		
Not known	1000	1260		
Sub total	6160	8110		
3125-11 Mechanical engineering associ	ates			
Still attending school	(a)	170		
Finished school	550	9050		
Not known	80	70		
Sub total	640	9280		
3125-13 Mechanical engineering technicians				
Still attending school	180	120		
Finished school	8090	5010		
Not known	2610	2220		
Sub total	10870	7350		
3129-13 Metallurgical and materials tech	nnicians			
Still attending school	0	(a)		
Finished school	260	210		
Not known	50	60		
Sub total	320	260		
ALL MECHANICAL AND FABRICATION	ENGINEERING TRAD	ESPERSONS		
Still attending school	800	800		
Finished school	24650	28090		
Not known	5560	5240		
Total Enrolments	31010	34130		

(d) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

8 Comparison with projected employment trends

For mechanical and fabrication engineering tradespersons considered together, the total number in employment is forecast to grow from 207,600 in 1997/98 to around 209,700 in 2000/01 representing an average annual growth rate of 0.3%.³ Given the annual growth rate for the number of apprentices and trainees in training in these occupation categories of -2.8% over the period 1995 to 1998, indications are that the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category will decrease from its current level of around 9%. This is further supported by the fact that the annual growth rate for commencements over the period 1995 to 1998 was -3.4%. However, if the recent strong growth in commencements persists (28.8% from 1997 to 1998) the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category could be expected to increase.

For mechanical engineering tradespersons considered separately (table 26), the total number in employment is forecast to grow from 131,900 in 1997/98 to 132,400 in 2000/01 representing an average annual growth rate of 0.1%.⁴ Given the annual growth rate for the number of apprentices and trainees in training in this occupation category of -4.4% over the period 1995 to 1998, indications are that the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category will decrease from its current level of around 8%. This is further supported by the fact that the annual growth rate for commencements over the period 1995 to 1998 was -4.5%.

		Average annual	Tot	al	Share of	of total
		growth	employ	/ment	employ	/ment
		97/98 - 00/01	1997/98	2000/01	1997/98	2000/01
Mecha	anical engineering	(% pa)	('000)	('000)	(%)	(%)
4111	General mech. engineering tradespersons	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
4112	Metal fitters and machinists	0.3	96.7	97.5	1.1	1.1
4113	Toolmakers	0.2	10.1	10.2	0.1	0.1
4114	Aircraft maintenance engineers	-0.6	14.5	14.2	0.2	0.2
4115	Precision metal tradespersons	-0.2	9.4	9.3	0.1	0.1
Sub to	otal	0.1	131.9	132.4	1.5	1.5
Fabric	ation					
4121	General fabrication engineering tradespersons	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
4122	Structural steel and welding tradespersons	0.8	59.1	60.5	0.7	0.7
4123	Forging tradespersons	-1.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
4124	Sheetmetal tradespersons	0.8	10.6	10.8	0.1	0.1
4125	Metal casting tradespersons	0.4	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
4126	Metal finishing tradespersons	0.4	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Sub total		0.7	75.7	77.3	0.8	0.8
Other						
3125	Mech. engineering associate professionals	0.9	7.2	7.4	0.1	0.1
3129	Other building & eng. ass. professionals	0.8	10.2	10.4	0.1	0.1
Sub to	otal	0.8	17.4	17.8	0.2	0.2
Total		0.4	225.0	227.5	2.5	2.5

Table 26: Mechanical engineering and fabrication trade occupations employment forecasts.

Source: Unpublished forecasts provided to NCVER by ECONTECH. The ECONTECH modelling methodology is described in Murphy, C. "Where the jobs are: the outlook for jobs" in P. Curtin ed *Future training issues in Australia's industries,* NCVER, Adelaide, 1999.

³ Unpublished forecasts provided to NCVER by ECONTECH, Kingston, ACT.

⁴ Ibid.

However, if the recent strong growth in commencements persists (18.9% from 1997 to 1998) the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category could be expected to increase.

Within the mechanical engineering tradespersons occupation, aircraft maintenance engineers and precision metal tradespersons are both forecast to decline in number in employment from 1997/98 to 2000/01.

For fabrication engineering tradespersons considered separately, the total number in employment is forecast to grow from 75,700 in 1997/98 to 77,300 in 2000/01 representing an average annual growth rate of 0.7%.⁵ Given the annual growth rate for the number of apprentices and trainees in training in these occupation categories of –0.7% over the period 1995 to 1998, indications are that the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category will decrease slightly from its current level of around 11%. However, if the recent strong growth in commencements persists (41.7% from 1997 to 1998) the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category could be expected to increase.

Within the fabrication engineering tradespersons occupation, all sub-categories were forecast to grow in number in employment except for forging tradespersons.

Economic considerations

The trend in manufacturing employment has been fundamentally flat since 1994/95. However, with the Asian Economic Crisis came a lowering of commodity prices which triggered a depreciation in the Australian dollar. This in turn made imports dearer thereby improving the competitiveness of local producers against imports. Employment in manufacturing is therefore expected to experience low growth over the short term.

There are differences between growth rates for various sub-divisions within the manufacturing industry. Strong employment growth in the Printing, Publishing and Recorded Media subdivision is expected to continue. On the other hand, employment is expected to fall in the textile, clothing, footwear and leather sub-division due primarily to tariff cuts to the year 2000. Strong productivity growth is also limiting employment growth in this sub-division.

⁵ Ibid.

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