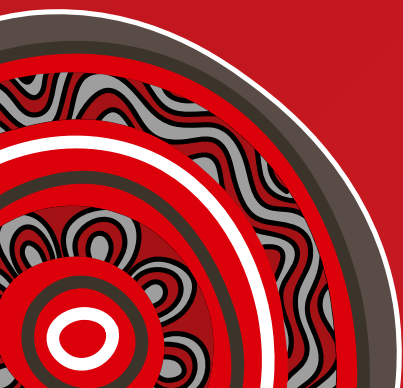




Industry Snapshot

November 2025



ctf.wa.gov.au

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Welcome to the Construction Training Fund's Industry Snapshot, providing news and information relating to the workforce in Western Australia's construction industry for our stakeholders.

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It should be noted that some data is taken from previous monthly or quarterly results to ensure they are the most recent. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data relates to the most recent quarter released. Unless otherwise stated, all apprenticeship and overall training data is current from the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) as of June 2025. All interpretations and conclusions drawn from all the data are those of the Construction Training Fund.

The National Construction Workforce

National Construction Workforce

1,348,200

Construction Workforce WA

155,500

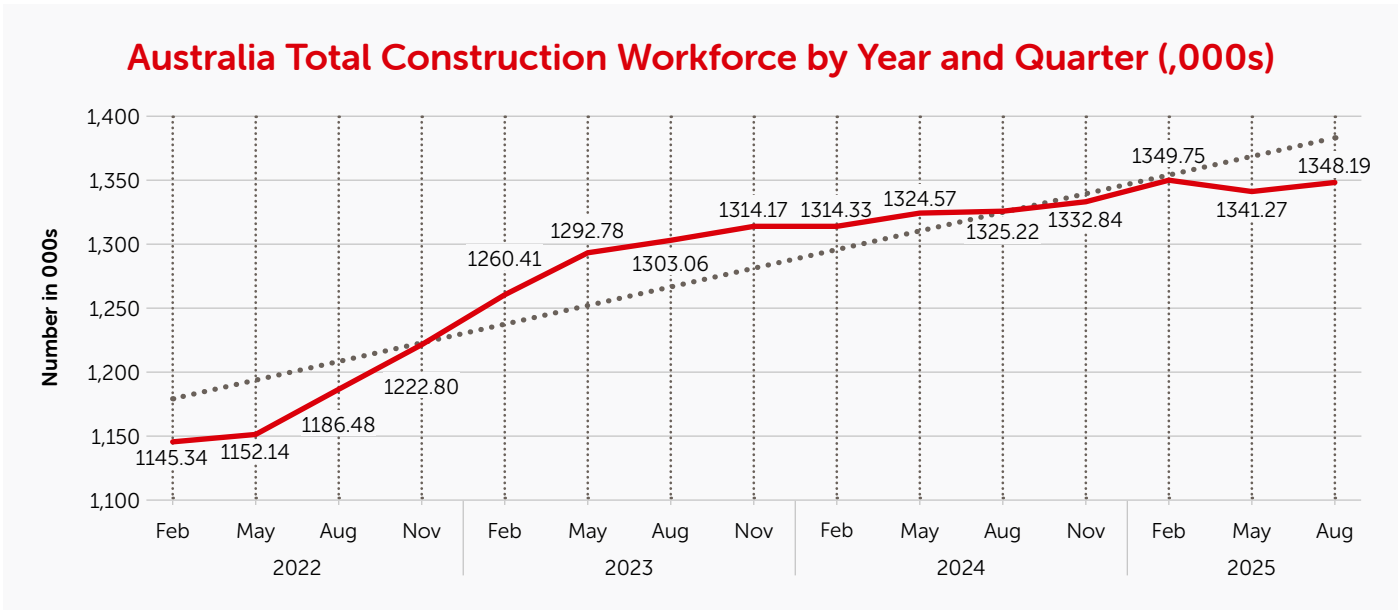
Trade Workforce WA

90,800

ABS August 2025

The national construction workforce continued its robust expansion through to mid-2025, reaching a record high of nearly 1.35 million workers in February. As of August 2025, the workforce stands at 1.348 million, maintaining levels well above pre-pandemic figures. This growth has been underpinned by strong demand across all major construction sectors, with the workforce consistently exceeding 1.3 million since August 2023. The sector’s resilience is evident in its ability to sustain high employment levels despite ongoing challenges.

Graph 1



Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia Detailed Table 5, four quarter moving average, Feb 2022 – Aug 2025. Note: Labour Force estimates are based on a sample survey rather than the entire population and are subject to sampling and other errors.

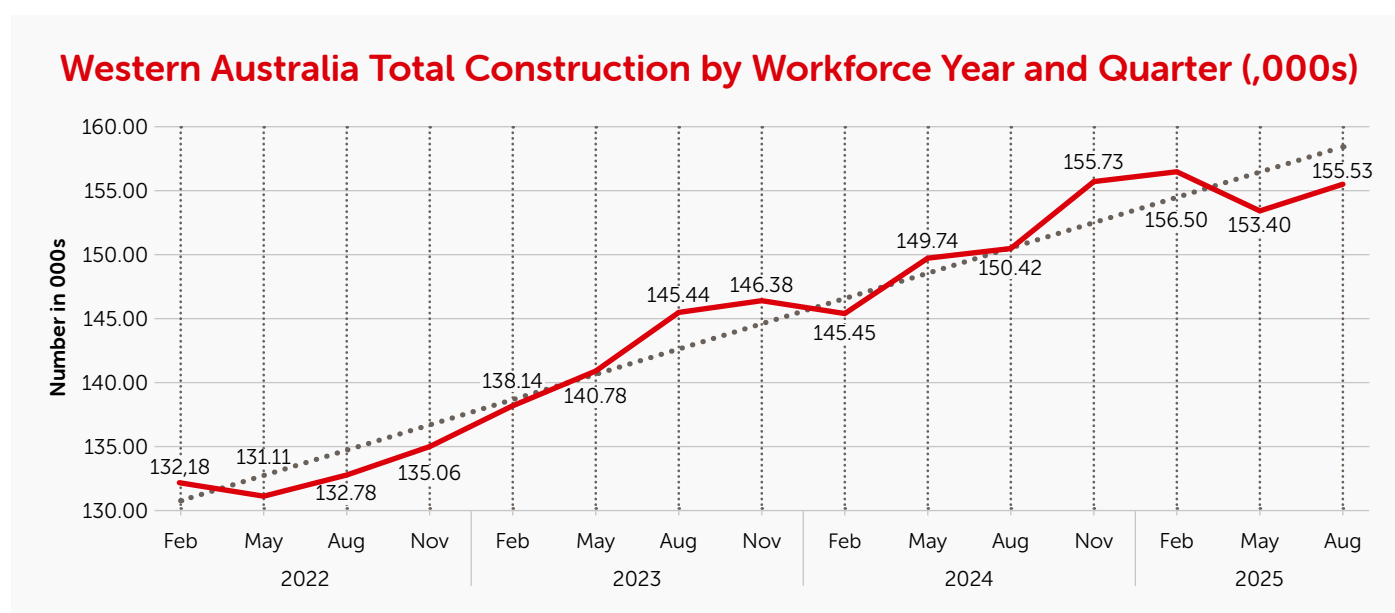
13.6% Increase

August 2022 and August 2025

The Western Australian Construction Workforce

Western Australia's construction workforce has continued its upward trajectory, reaching 155,000 workers in August 2025. This marks a significant increase from 132,200 in early 2022 and follows a record peak of 156,500 in August 2024. Despite some fluctuations, most notably a dip in early 2025, the workforce has consistently remained above 140,000 for nearly three years.

Graph 2



Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia Detailed Table 5, four quarter moving average, Feb 2022 – Aug 2025. Note: Labour Force estimates are based on a sample survey rather than the entire population and are subject to sampling and other errors.

17.1% Increase

August 2022 and August 2025

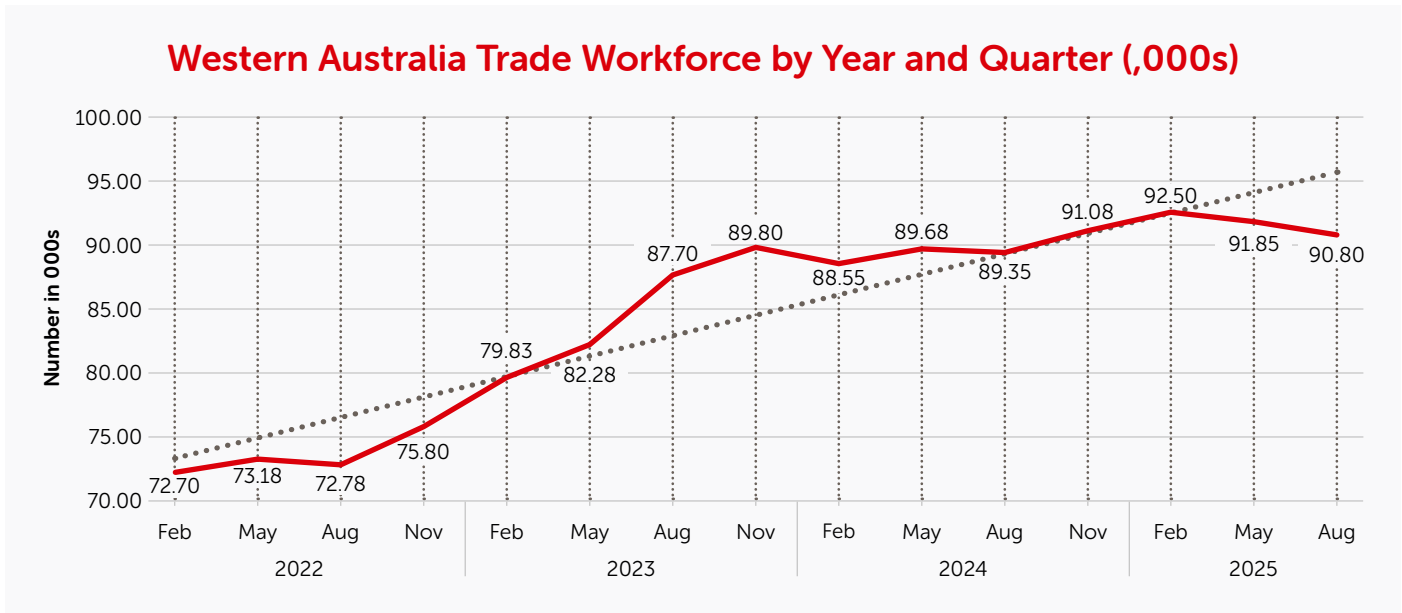
The data highlights the construction sector's resilience and the ongoing demand for skilled workers across the state. Major infrastructure projects, a robust pipeline of residential construction, strong population growth, and significant commercial developments have all contributed to this sustained expansion. Importantly, large-scale resource projects in the mining and energy sectors continue to play a pivotal role, driving substantial construction activity and underpinning workforce demand. The construction workforce remains a cornerstone of the state's economic strength.

These trends reinforce the importance of ongoing investment in training, apprenticeships, and workforce skills to ensure the industry can continue to meet future demand.

The Western Australian Construction Trade Workforce

The trade workforce is the number of tradespeople that work in the Western Australian construction industry. In the Construction Training Fund’s reporting, “trades” are defined as those working onsite such as electricians, plumbers, bricklayers, carpenters, tilers, and other hands-on construction roles.

Graph 3



Source: ABS Western Australia, Division E (ANZSIC), and then further refined by selected ANZSCO occupational codes, four quarter moving average, Feb 2022 – Aug 2025. Note: Labour Force estimates are based on a sample survey rather than the entire population and are subject to sampling and other errors.

24.8% Increase

August 2022 and August 2025

Despite the overall construction workforce in Western Australia increasing from 153,400 workers in May to 155,530 in August 2025, the number of onsite trades declined slightly. This indicates that recent workforce growth has occurred in non-onsite roles such as project management, engineering, compliance, and administrative support, rather than in the core trades that deliver work on the ground. This trend highlights the importance of monitoring not just the total workforce, but also the composition of roles, to ensure the industry maintains a strong pipeline of skilled tradespeople.

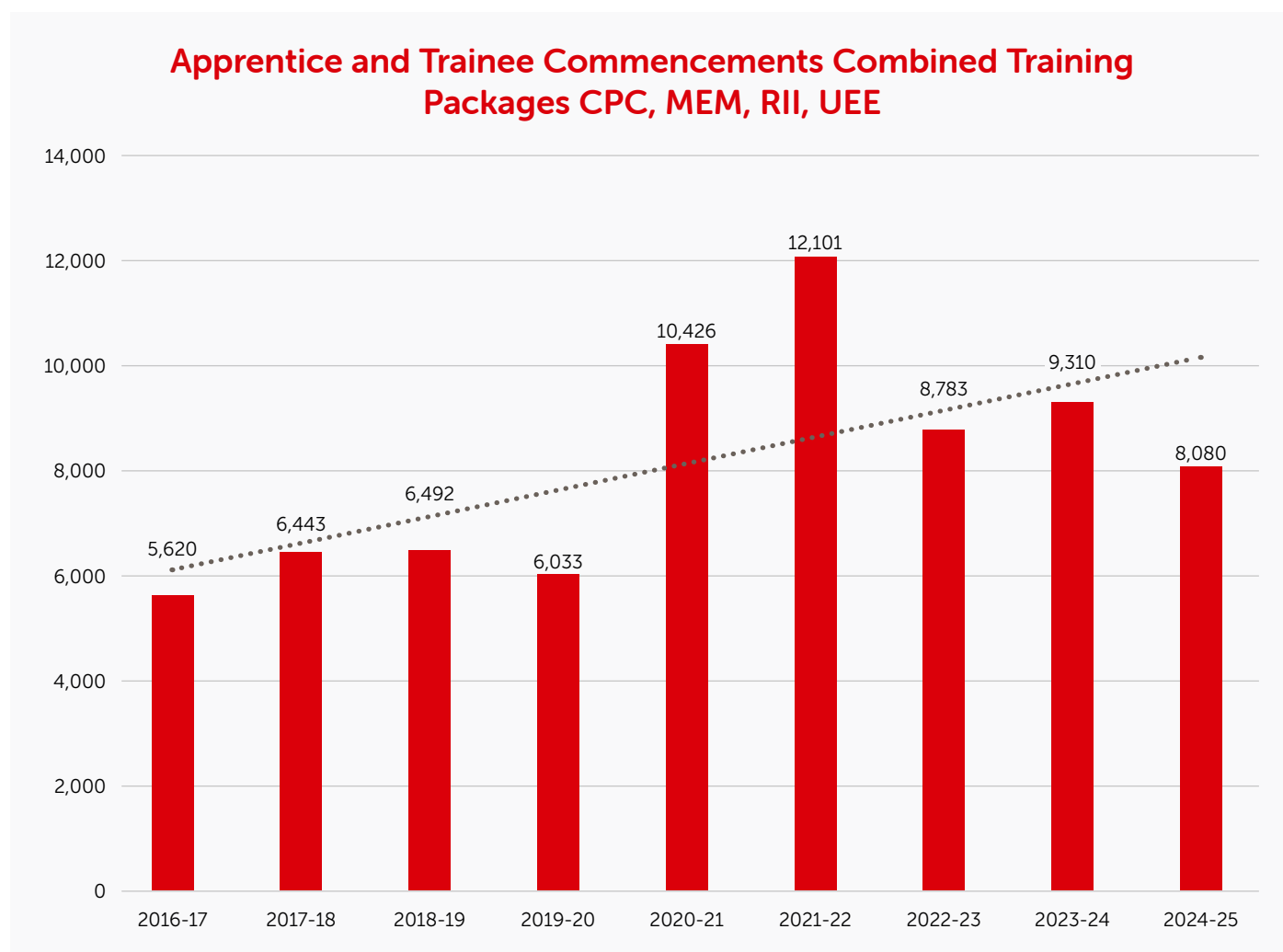
Apprentice and Trainee Commencements

'Commencements' is the term used to describe the number of apprentices and trainees who commenced in a training contract.

Commencements Combined Training Packages

Graph 4 illustrates the number of apprentices or trainees that commenced training in Western Australia in four of the main building and construction related training packages over the past nine financial years from 2016-17 through to 2024-25.

Graph 4



Source: DTWD Commencements in financial years 2016-17 to 2024-25 Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

Apprentice and Trainee Commencements

Apprentice and trainee commencements across the combined CPC, MEM, RII, and UEE training packages have experienced considerable growth over the past nine years. After a period of low numbers, commencements surged from 5,620 in 2016-17 to a record high of 12,101 in 2021-22, driven by strong demand and government stimulus.

While commencements declined to 8,783 in 2022-23 as incentives tapered off, the sector demonstrated resilience with 9,310 commencements in 2023-24. The commencement data for 2024-25 suggests a slight easing to around 8,080, indicating a stabilisation at levels well above those seen prior to 2020.

If commencements stay at the current level, in-training numbers will continue to fall for several years before levelling at a new, lower baseline. This is because in-training numbers are a rolling sum of commencements over several years, minus completions and withdrawals.

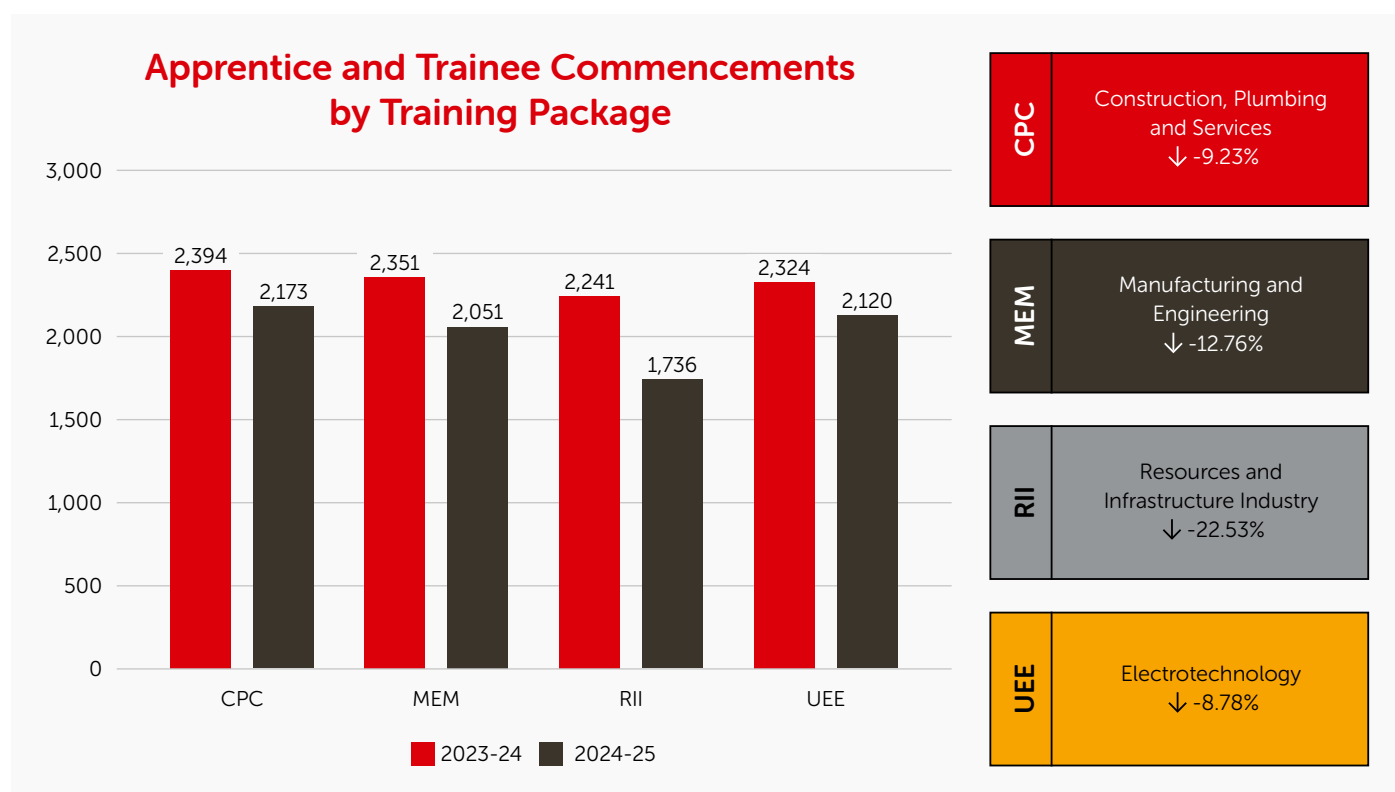
This trend underscores the importance of continued investment in apprenticeships and traineeships to meet the needs of Western Australia's construction industry, and to ensure a robust pipeline of skilled workers for the future.



Apprentice and Trainee Commencements by Training Package

Graph 5 below illustrates the numbers of apprentices and trainees that commenced in the four main building and construction related training packages across the last financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Graph 5



Source: DTWD 2023-24 and 2024-25 Commencements financial years, Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

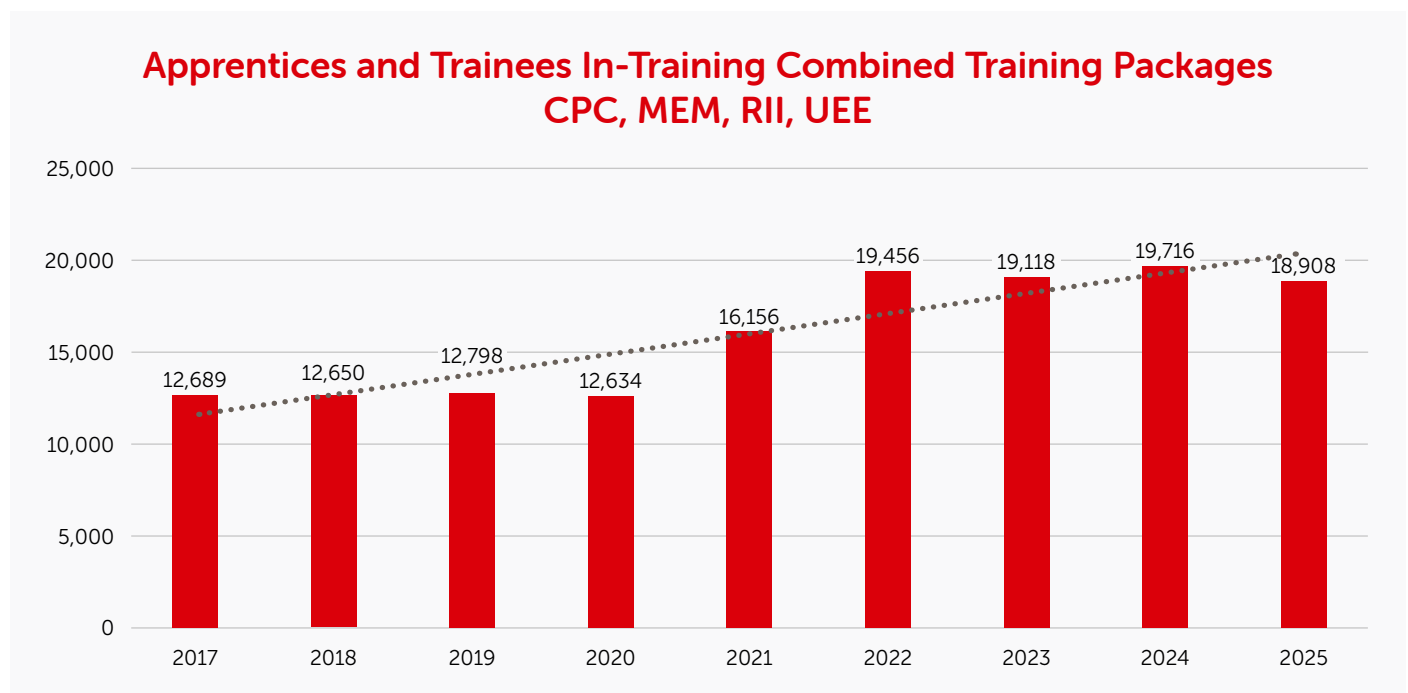
Apprentice and trainee commencements have decreased across all four major training packages in 2024-25 compared to the previous year. The most pronounced decrease occurred in the Resources and Infrastructure Industry (RII) package, falling from 2,241 to 1,736 commencements. Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) also saw notable reductions, while Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC) and Electrotechnology (UEE) commencements declined more moderately.

Apprentices and Trainees In-Training

Apprentices and trainees 'in-training' are the combined number of apprentices and trainees in training contracts.

Graph 6 illustrates the numbers of apprentices and trainees in-training in the four training packages in June every year from 2017 to 2025.

Graph 6



Source: DTWD June 2017 to June 2025 in-training (every June), Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

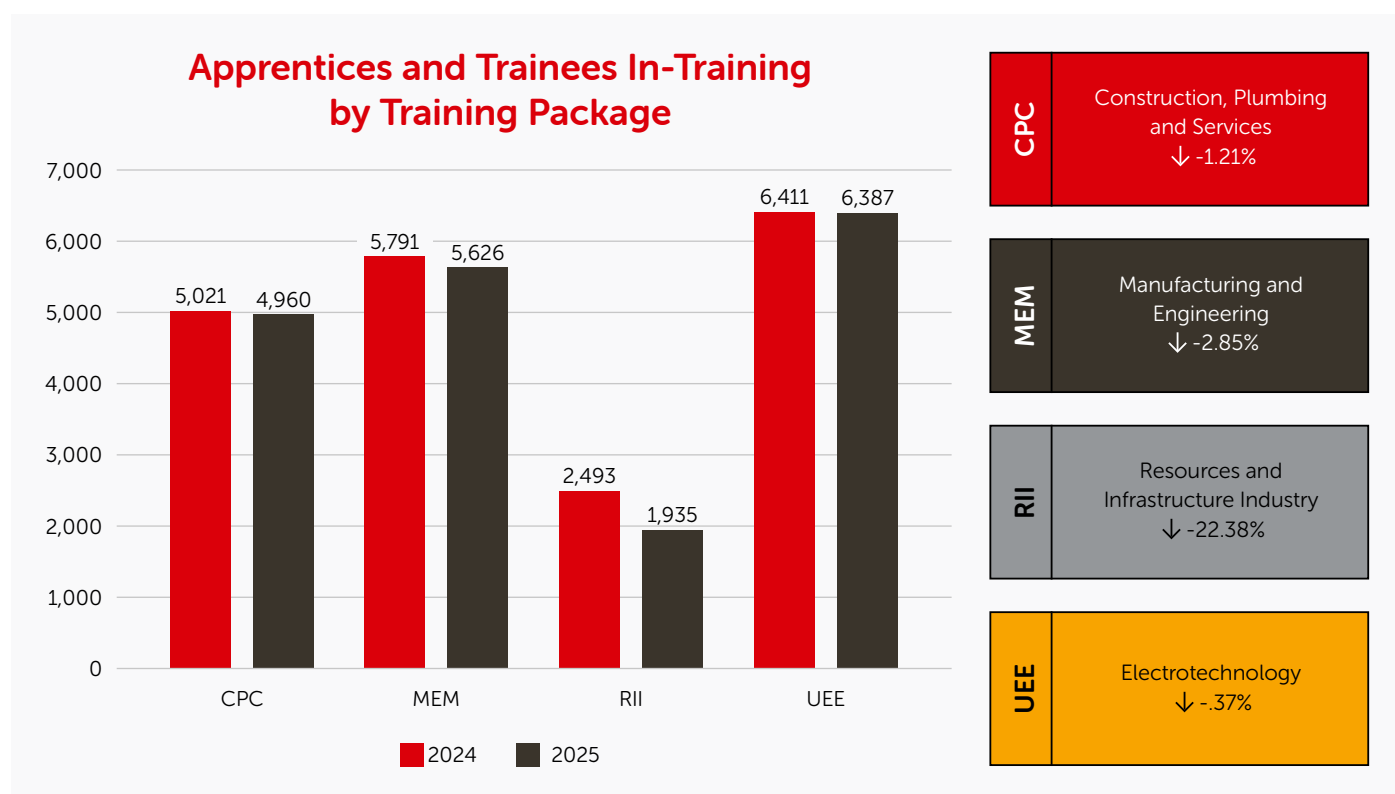
The number of apprentices and trainees in-training across the combined CPC, MEM, RII, and UEE training packages has remained at historically high levels in recent years, reflecting the surge in commencements between 2020 and 2022. In-training numbers peaked at 19,716 in 2024 and remained above 18,000 through to 2025.

As commencements have now eased, in-training numbers are forecast to gradually decline in the coming years. This is a natural lag effect: as fewer new apprentices and trainees enter the system, the total number of apprentices and trainees in-training will fall as the current cohort complete their qualifications, and fewer new entrants replace them.

Apprentices and Trainees In-Training by Training Package

Graph 7 shows the number of apprentices and trainees in-training in the four major construction training packages in June each year for the years 2024 and 2025.

Graph 7



Source: DTWD June 2024 and June 2025 in-training, Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

The number of apprentices and trainees in-training in June remains historically high across the four major training packages in 2025. Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM), and Electrotechnology (UEE) have all maintained relatively stable in-training numbers compared to 2024, with only minor decreases observed. UEE continues to lead, with over 6,300 apprentices and trainees in-training. In contrast, the Resources and Infrastructure Industry (RII) package has experienced a notable decline, dropping from 2,493 in 2024 to 1,935 in 2025.

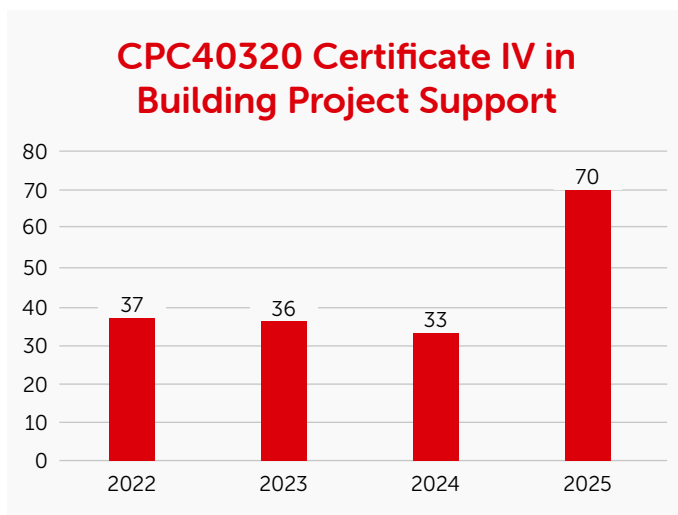
Maintaining steady increases in training numbers is a focus with investment from government in Fee-Free TAFE and the CTF Apprentice Support program encouraging commencements and completions.

In-Training Apprenticeships and Traineeships Defying the Trend

While overall apprenticeship and traineeship numbers in Western Australia's construction sector have begun to stabilise, several key trades continue to show strong growth defying the broader pattern.

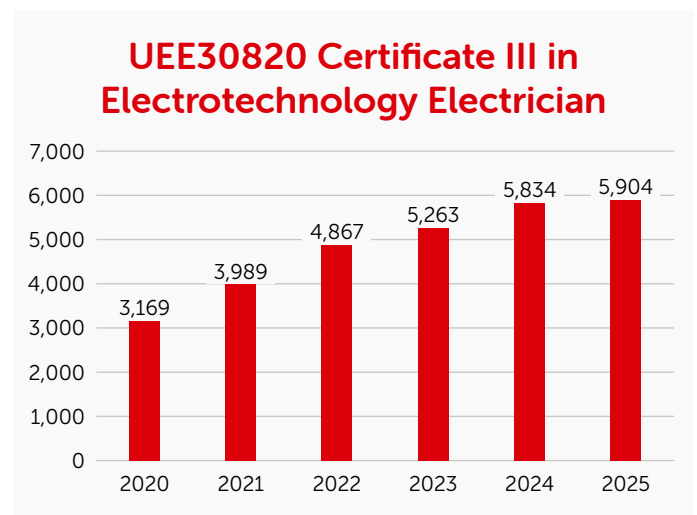
This resilience in critical trades is significant for Western Australia's future construction workforce needs. It suggests that, despite broader market fluctuations, demand remains robust for skills that are essential to major projects, the energy transition, and ongoing infrastructure development.

Graph 8



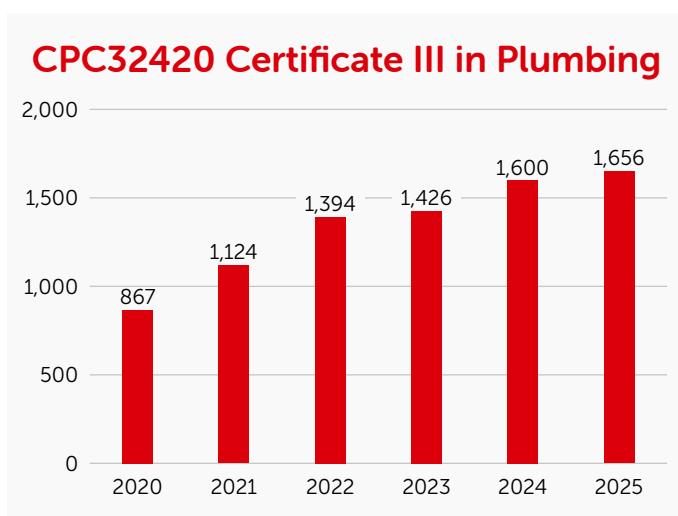
Source: DTWD June 2022 to June 2025 in-training.

Graph 10



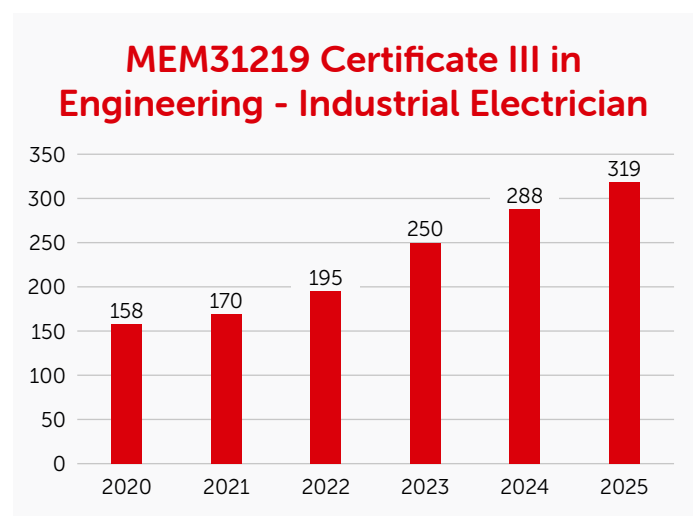
Source: DTWD June 2020 to June 2025 in-training.

Graph 9



Source: DTWD June 2020 to June 2025 in-training.

Graph 11

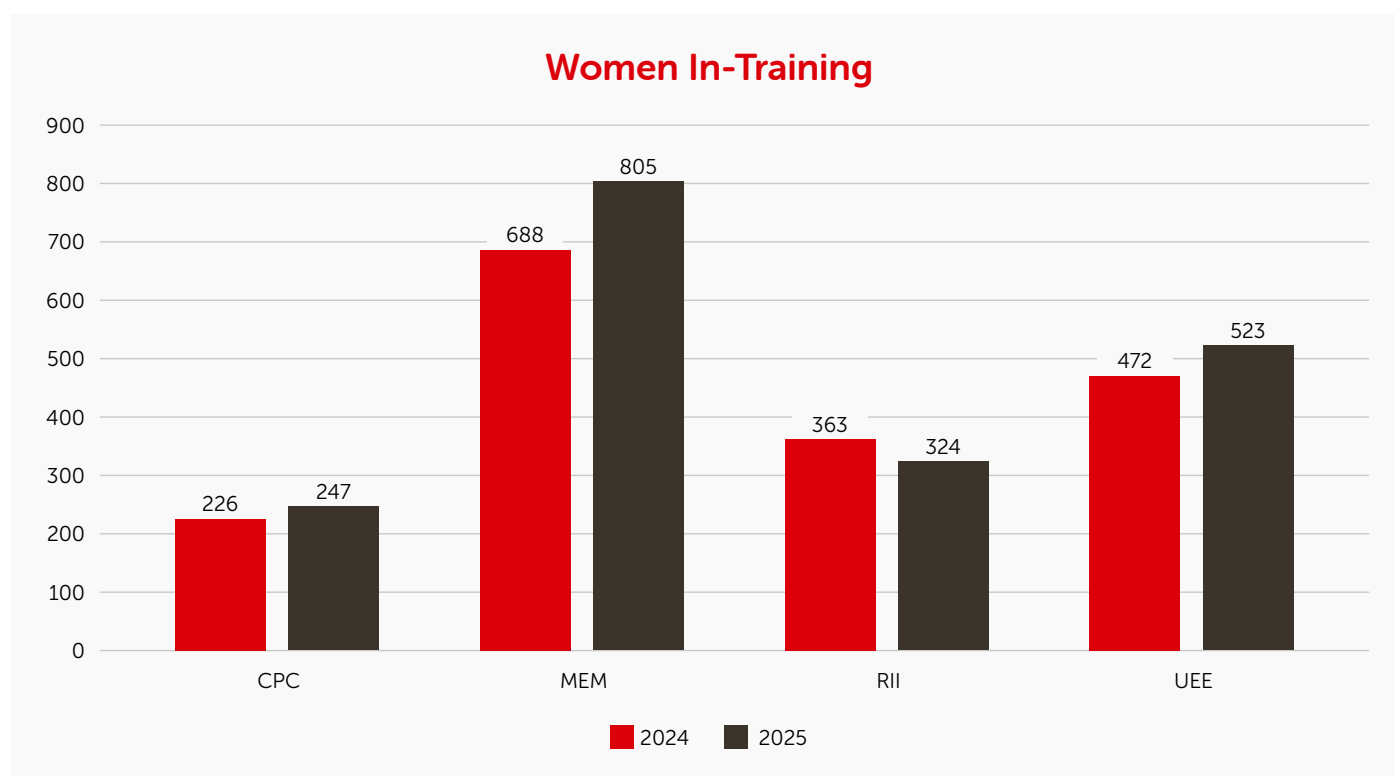


Source: DTWD June 2020 to June 2025 in-training.

Women In-Training (Apprentices and Trainees)

Graph 12 shows the number of women in-training in the four training packages in June each year for the years 2024 and 2025.

Graph 12



Source: DTWD June 2024 and 2025 Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

An overall percentage of the apprenticeship and traineeship cohort in each training package.

Training Package	2024	2025
CPC - Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package	4.50%	4.98%
MEM - Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package	11.88%	14.31%
RII - Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package	14.56%	16.74%
UEE - Electrotechnology Training Package	7.36%	8.19%

Women In-Training (Apprentices and Trainees)

Despite overall declines in apprenticeship commencements and in-training numbers across the sector, the number of women in-training increased in 2025 compared to the previous year. This is a significant achievement for the industry and reflects ongoing efforts to attract and retain women in construction trades.

Electrotechnology (UEE) and Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) continue to lead in the number of women in-training, with MEM showing the largest increase year-on-year. Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC) also saw a notable rise, while the Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII) experienced a small decline in the number of apprentices and trainees but an increase in the number of women as a percentage of the total cohort.

In addition to these trends, the *BuildSkills Housing Workforce Capacity Study*¹ highlights the strategic importance of increasing female participation in construction. The report finds that raising the share of women in residential construction to levels seen in manufacturing could add up to 51,000 workers by 2029, closing nearly half of the projected workforce gap nationally. The report also recommends scaling up successful initiatives such as paid mid-career transition programs and the adoption of the Construction Industry Culture Standard on government projects to further accelerate gender diversity and ensure the construction workforce is equipped to meet Australia's housing targets.

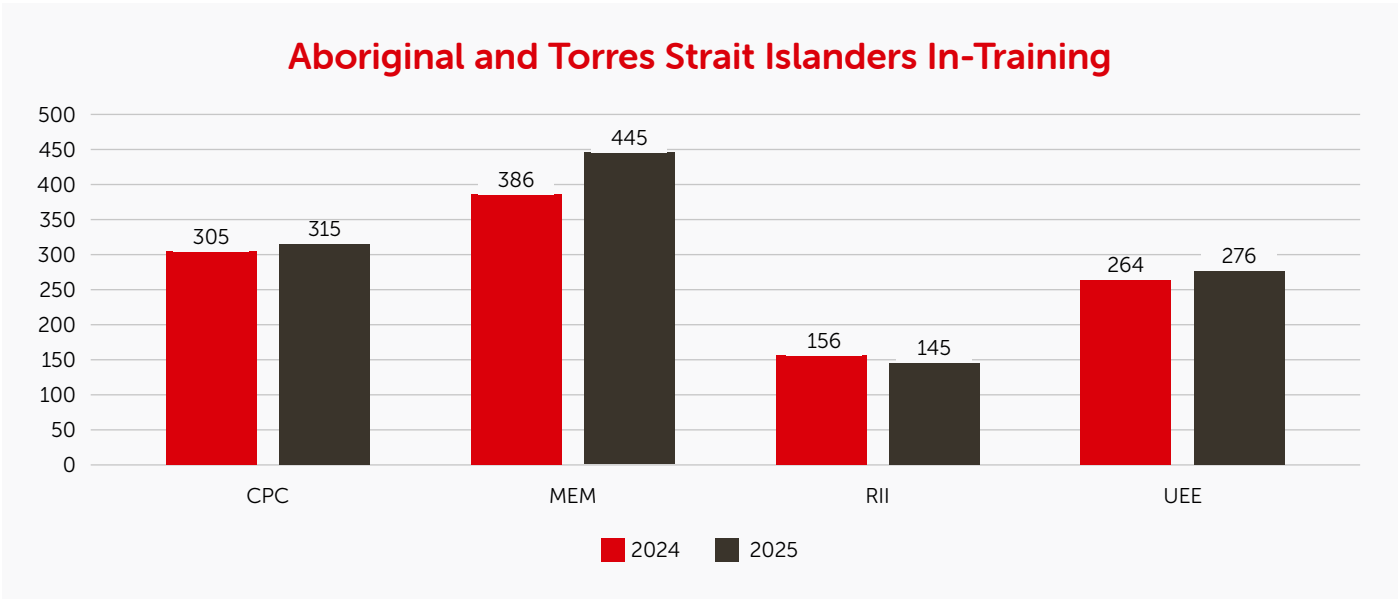
¹ Housing Workforce Capacity Study | BuildSkills Australia.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders In-Training (Apprentices and Trainees)

Graph 13 shows the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices and trainees in the four training packages.

Graph 13



Source: DTWD June 2024 and 2025 in-training Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

Participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices and trainees in Western Australia’s construction sector is both strong and, in key areas, growing. From 2024 to 2025, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices and trainees increased in most major construction training packages, with Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) showing the largest growth from 386 to 445.

Although there was a slight decline in absolute numbers in Resources and Infrastructure (RII) occupations, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices and trainees in this training package increased. Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders level of representation is high, highlighting the construction sector as a relatively accessible and attractive pathway for Indigenous Australians and reflecting the positive impact of targeted support and culturally safe training pathways.

An overall percentage of the apprenticeship and traineeship cohort in each training package.

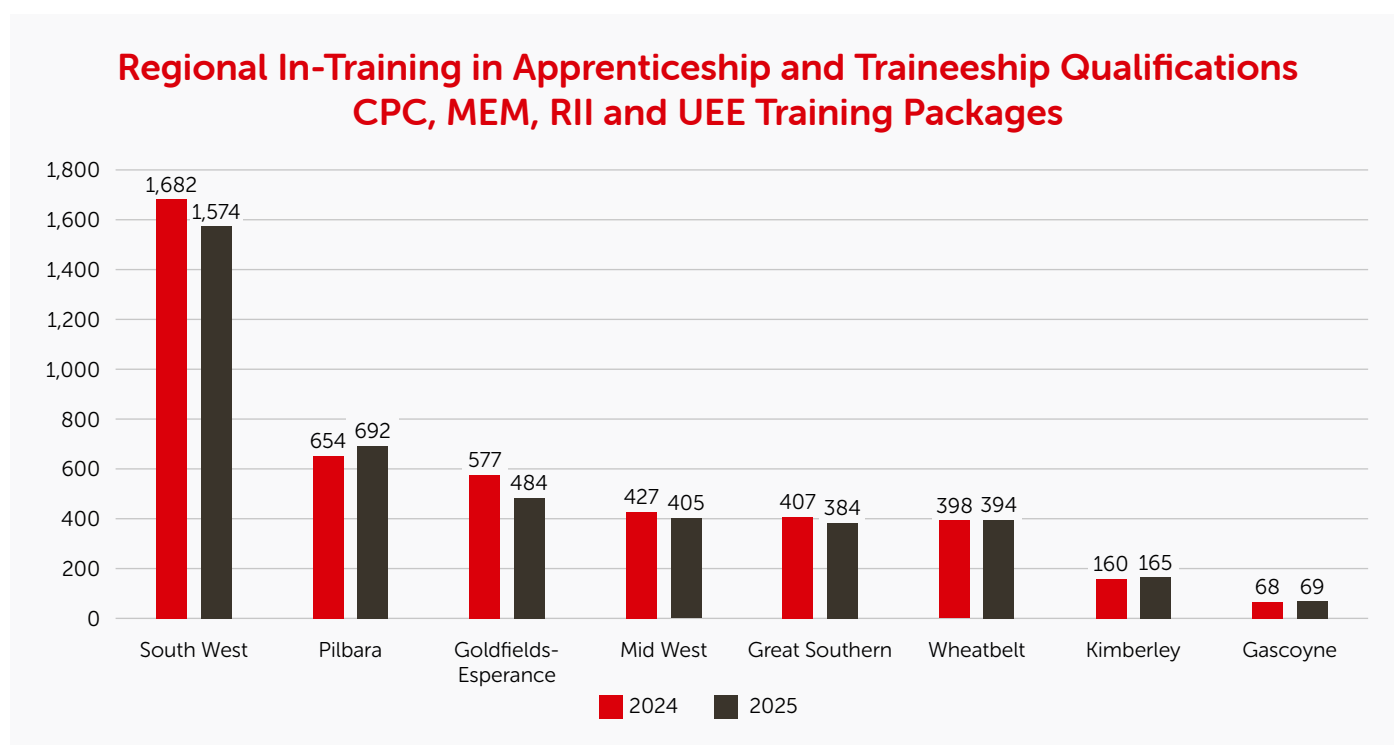
Training Package	2023	2024
CPC - Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package	6.07%	6.35%
MEM - Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package	6.67%	7.91%
RII - Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package	6.26%	7.49%
UEE - Electrotechnology Training Package	4.12%	4.32%

Regional Snapshot Western Australia

Regional Apprentices and Trainees In-Training

Graph 14 shows the June in-training data for 2024 and 2025 in the four main Building and Construction Training Packages.

Graph 14



Source: DTWD June 2024 and 2025 in-training, Resource and Infrastructure Industry (RII), Construction, Plumbing and Services (CPC), Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

Across Western Australia, the total number of apprentices and trainees in-training has remained historically high, though there are signs of gradual decline in some areas as commencements ease. The regional graph shows that the Southwest continues to be the largest training hub, although numbers have dipped slightly, mirroring the modest overall decrease seen statewide.

Other regions, like the Pilbara, have bucked the trend with an increase in in-training numbers, likely due to ongoing resources and infrastructure activity. Meanwhile, regions such as Goldfields-Esperance, Mid-West, and Great Southern have seen small declines, which aligns with the broader pattern of stabilisation of in-training numbers.

Regional Snapshot Western Australia



Regional Visits

The CTFs Industry Training Advisors continue to promote training in the regions and have conducted 15 regional visits to 14 locations over the past 6 months. In addition, the Building and Construction Industry Training Board held a regional board meeting in Broome in August this year.

Upskilling and Short Courses

The CTF supports skills development by subsidising training courses for eligible workers in the construction industry who are seeking to access new skills and knowledge, diversify their expertise and help build a safer and more sustainable construction workforce.

Between January and June 2025, a total of 7,268 people, including those who have submitted multiple claims, received funding from CTF to subsidise their supplementary skills and Work Health and Safety training.

The ten courses with the highest number of people supported between January and June 2025 were:

Supplementary Skills

Top 10 Courses (Training Products)	Number of subsidies
CPCCLDG3001 Licence to perform dogging	412
TLILIC0003 Licence to operate a forklift truck	374
CPCCLRG3001 Licence to perform rigging basic level	251
RIIMPO320F Conduct civil construction excavator operations	237
RIIHAN309F Conduct telescopic materials handler operations	203
CPCCLRG3002 Licence to perform rigging intermediate level	165
CPCCLRG4001 Licence to perform rigging advanced level	164
Checking, testing and installation	138
RIIHAN211D Conduct basic scaffolding operations	127
Track access permit- supervised worker	121
TOTAL	2192



Upskilling and Short Courses

The CTF subsidises work health and safety skills courses for those working in on-site construction across Western Australia.

The ten courses with the highest number of subsidised claims between January and June 2025 were:

Work Health and Safety

Top 10 Courses (Training Products)	Number of subsidies
RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights	997
HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation	831
HLTAID011 Provide First Aid	494
TLILIC0005 Licence to operate a boom-type elevating work platform (boom length 11 metres or more)	384
RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces	364
MSMWHS217 Gas test atmospheres	338
UETDRRF004 Perform rescue from a live LV panel	290
Asbestos Training	242
MSMPER200 Work in accordance with an issued permit	236
MSMPER205 Enter confined space	188
TOTAL	4364

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