



# The Residential Building Workforce

## Key Points:

- ☺ The residential building industry employs 1,003,200 people.
- ☺ There are 708,771 workers employed in construction roles within the industry, and a further 294,429 people employed in non-construction roles.
- ☺ Of those in construction roles:
  - ☺ 345,829 are estimated to be predominantly engaged in detached home building, and around 362,942 are predominantly engaged in construction of multi-unit dwellings.
  - ☺ 460,910 of those in construction roles are employed in construction trade occupations. It is likely that many of these workers will work across a range of new dwelling types, and renovations work. Some may also work across residential and non-residential construction projects.

## Industry Workforce

- ☺ Given the size of residential building industry, it is important that businesses and policy makers are well informed about the nature and scale of employment in the residential building industry, separately from the broader building and construction industry.
- ☺ HIA has undertaken an analysis of the ABS data to present an accurate estimate of the number of workers engaged directly within the residential building industry.
- ☺ The HIA estimate of employment in the residential building industry includes:
  - ☺ Builders;
  - ☺ Construction trades workers;
  - ☺ Non-construction workers employed by building and trade contracting businesses.
- ☺ The estimate of employment does not include the extended workforce of the supply chain such as those employed by building product manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers.
- ☺ It is likely that many of those employed in construction trade occupations work across a range of dwelling types and renovations work and that some also work across residential and commercial construction projects.

Estimate of the Residential Building Industry Workforce

	Construction roles	Non-construction roles	Total
New South Wales	248,389	105,978	354,367
Victoria	207,481	83,844	291,325
Queensland	141,894	58,393	200,287
South Australia	36,734	13,956	50,690
Western Australia	45,052	19,303	64,355
Tasmania	12,629	5,616	18,245
Norther Territory	3,400	1,778	5,178
Australian Capital Territory	13,193	5,560	18,753
<b>Australia</b>	<b>708,771</b>	<b>294,429</b>	<b>1,003,200</b>

Note: The ABS reports that there are more than one million people employed in construction, this is based on occupations classified within the 'Construction' division of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). These are workers engaged in on-site construction work. There is a misalignment between the narrow scope of the roles within the ANZSIC Construction division and the wider range of roles that actually exist within the residential building industry. There are many workers employed and engaged within the residential building industry whose occupations are classified elsewhere within the ANZSIC system. HIA's estimate aims to reflect the true size and diversity of the industry's workforce. For more information about this is estimate see:

[<<<click here for method note>>>](#)