



State of the industry - Oil and Gas Extraction

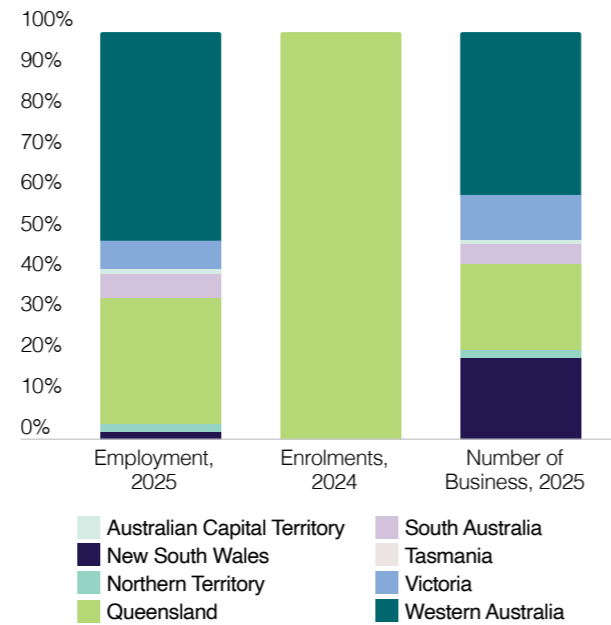
In 2025, Australia's Oil and Gas Extraction sector employed about 25,000 people, with declining female participation and a sharp reduction in part-time work.

The oil and gas extraction industry employed around 25,000 people in 2025. Female participation was approximately 16.5% in 2025, declining from a peak of 25.1% in 2022 (Figure M14). The proportion of the part-time workforce fell to about 1%.

The Oil and Gas Extraction sector employed is concentrated in Western Australia, while the training provision is concentrated in Queensland

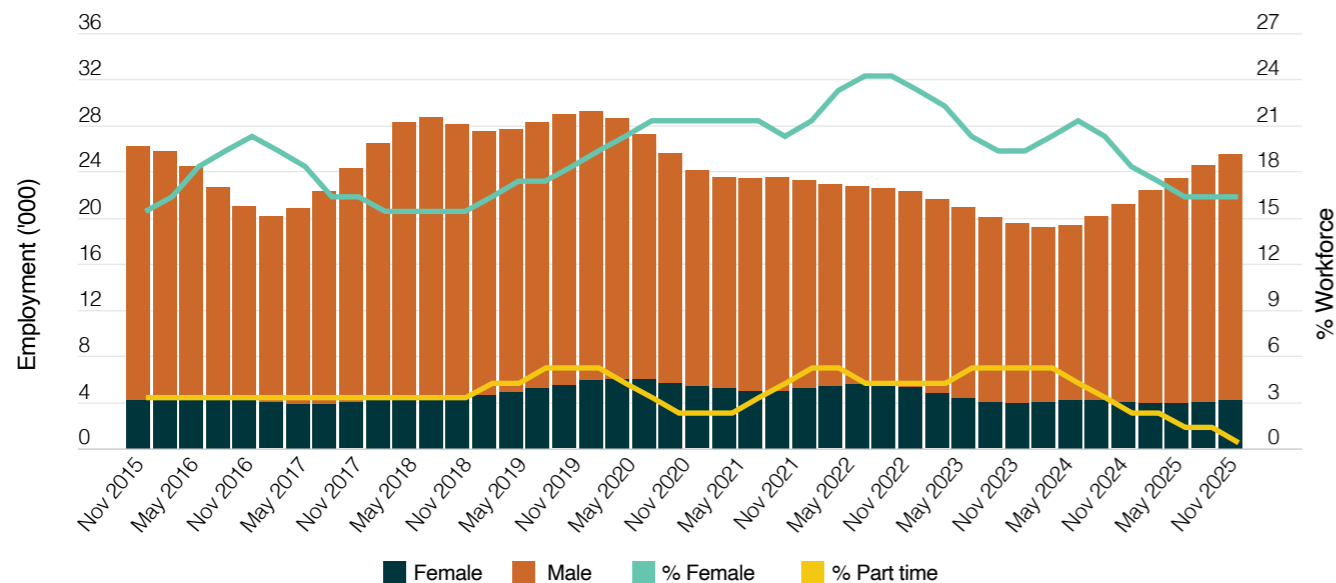
Employment in the sector is highly concentrated in WA (50.5%) and followed by QLD (30.2%) (Figure M15). In contrast, businesses are more evenly distributed across the states, though still with a concentration in WA. The industry tends to rely on on-shore qualifications to also service off-shore activities, along with industry-provided non-accredited training. Notably, the key qualifications, including certificates in Drilling Oil and Gas and Well Servicing Operations, are delivered exclusively in Queensland as of 2024.

Figure M15: Employment size, number of enrolments and businesses by state and territory, 2024–2025



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, November 2025; Trended by AUSMASA; ABS, "Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2021 to June 2025", December 2025; VOCSTATS, "Total VET students and courses 2015-2024", 2024.

Figure M14: Oil and Gas Extraction employment, 2015–2025



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, November 2025; Trended by AUSMASA.

The Oil and Gas Extraction sector is a key enabler of electricity generation and petroleum manufacturing

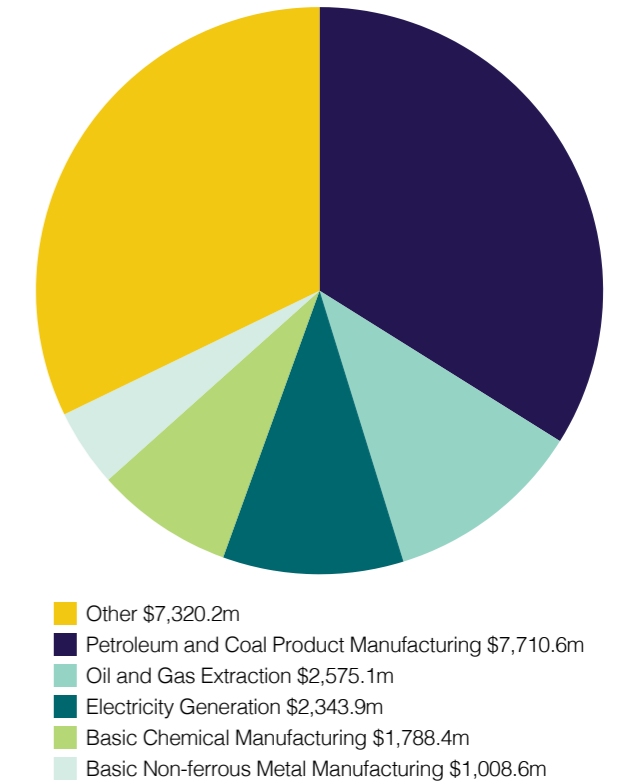
The Oil and Gas Extraction sector primarily supports the manufacturing of petroleum and coal products (Figure M16). Output is mainly utilised in power generation, petroleum and coal manufacturing, and other metal manufacturing. Often needed as both a processing input and a power-generation input. The shift away from fossil fuels will need to address supply chain gaps to maintain current levels of economic activity. Skills-related succession planning will also be needed to ensure employment outcomes are not compromised. While some roles can be directly absorbed into other industries (e.g., drillers in construction), the mapping is not as clear for other occupations. A comprehensive skills mapping exercise would be required to coordinate economy-wide responses and planning.



5 of 11 key occupations in the industry are not in shortage, according to the OSL

5 out of 11 key occupations are reported as being in shortage at either the national or regional level (Table M3). The industry has struggled with skills shortages in crucial occupations and roles.¹ The sector also faces challenges around decommissioning. As decommissioning matures in Australia, it is expected that the existing workforce may be unable to meet skills demand.²

Figure M16: What does the sector support in 2023?



Source: ABS, "Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables, 2022-23", March 2025.

Table M3: Key occupations, 2025

Occupations	Employed	10-Yr vacancies change	Included in CSOL?	Shortage
Mining Engineers	2,500	185%	Yes	S
Metal Fitters and Machinists	2,100	148%	Yes	S
Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	1,700	69%	Yes	NS
Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers	1,200	178%	No	RS
Chemical, Gas, Petroleum and Power Generation Plant Operators	1,100	33%	Yes	NS
Electricians	900	140%	Yes	S
Production Managers	800	59%	Yes	NS
Engineering Managers	800	161%	Yes	NS
ICT Business and Systems Analysts	800	-30%	Yes	NS
Other Building and Engineering Technicians	700	20%	Yes	NS
Diesel Motor Mechanic	8	No data	Yes	S

Source: ABS, Labour Force Estimate: Customised Report, 2026; JSA, "Occupation Shortage List", 2025; JSA, "Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)", February 2026; Department of Home Affairs, "The Core Skills Occupation List", 2024; Note: 1. RS: Regional Shortage; S: Shortage; NS: Not in Shortage 2. Employment is calculated as the four-quarter average for 2025 across occupation unit groups within each sub-industry, rounded to the nearest 100. For Diesel Motor Mechanics, the 2021 census employment figure is used instead.

¹ Mining Magazine, "Predicting the jobs of tomorrow", 2024.

² CODA, "Skills Review of the Australian Oil and Gas Decommissioning Industry", 2024.