



# State of the Industry - Marine

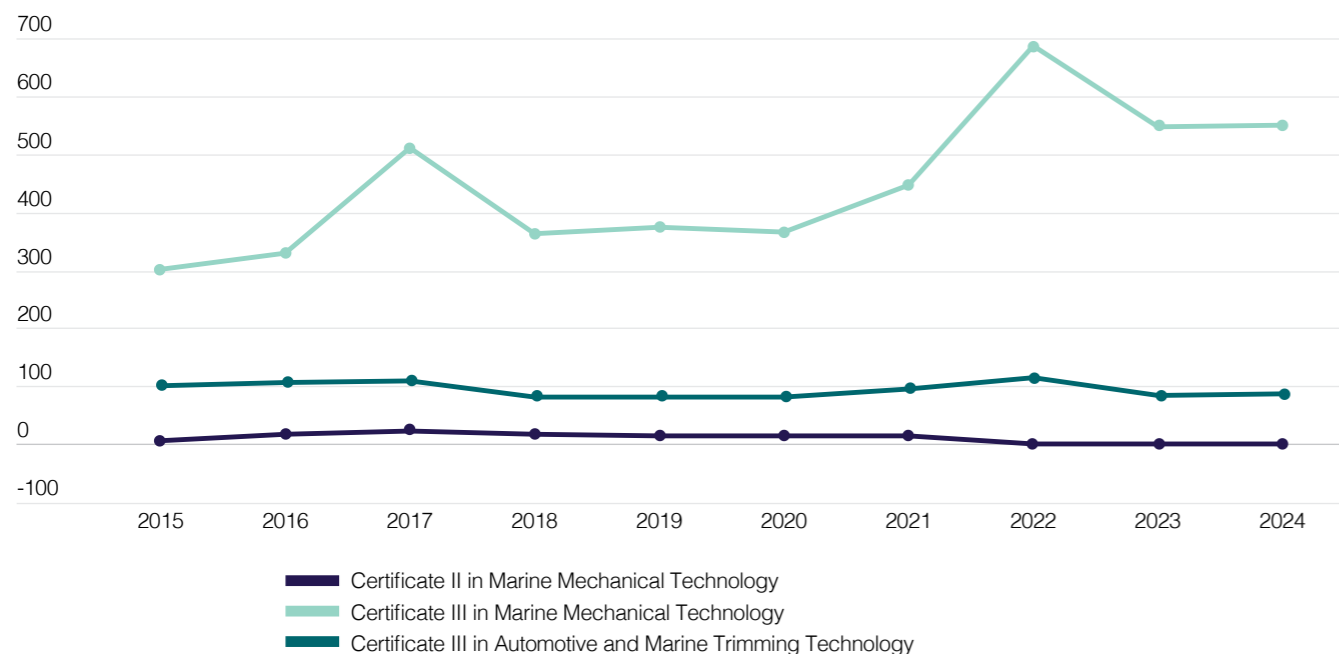
## Critical roles are facing skills shortages in the Marine Automotive industry

27,500 people were directly employed by the industry in 2024.<sup>1</sup> Data on those employed in the industry can be difficult to classify under ANZSCO occupations, as boating supports a range of activities. Various occupations of interest to the Marine Automotive industry are in critical shortage (Table A8), mostly core technical and trade-aligned roles such as Marine mechanics and Technicians, Composite construction, Electrical Restricted and Trimmers.

## Stable completions and enrolments in the Marine Automotive VET space

Although Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology has the highest enrolments, completions are greater for Certificate III in Automotive and Marine Trimming Technology. In 2024, Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology recorded 17 completions, whereas Certificate III in Automotive and Marine Trimming Technology recorded 110 completions, exceeding its enrolments for the year. This trend may indicate a potential misalignment between students' expectations and the content of the Marine Mechanical Technology program, or a lack of incentives to complete the course, contributing to lower completion rates than enrolments.

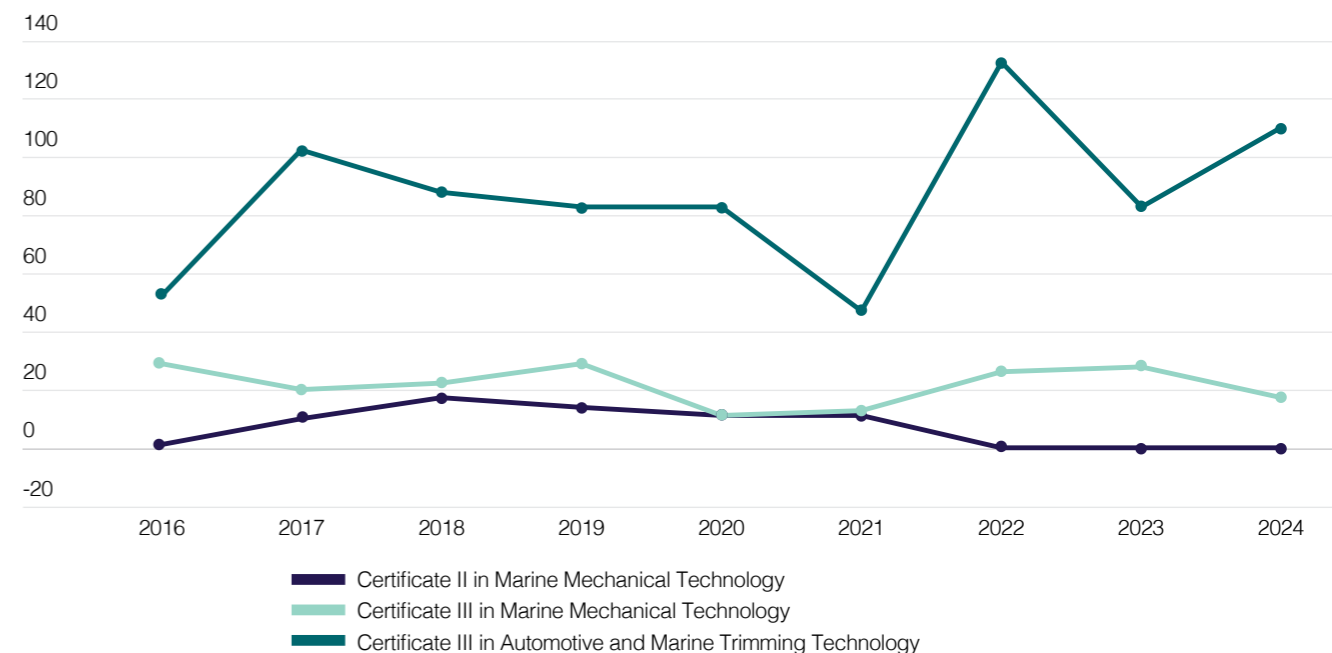
Figure A22: Marine AUR enrolments, 2016–2024



Source: VOCSTATS, "TVA program enrolments 2015-2024".  
Note: Superseded and current qualifications added together

<sup>1</sup> Boating Industry Association, "Industry Data", 2024.

Figure A23: Marine AUR completions, 2016–2024



Source: VOCSTATS, TVA program completions 2015-2024.  
Note: Superseded and current qualifications added together

## All key roles for the Marine Automotive industry are in shortage

Industry anticipates systems integration and autonomous operations as future skills shortages. Furthermore, Boatbuilders and Shipwrights are included on the Australian Apprentice Priority List and the Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL) (Table A8), providing access to funding and incentive measures that support apprenticeship uptake and workforce development in response to identified skills shortages and limited female participation. However, given that the Marine Automotive industry intersects with other industries (marine, automotive, and fishing), identifying its exact size and changes due to various federal and state initiatives can be complicated.

The industry also faces challenges in recruiting, attracting, and retaining skilled workers, particularly younger cohorts.



Table A8: Key occupations, 2021

Occupation	Employed	Shortage	In CSOL?
Boat Builder and Repairer	2,600	S	Yes
Shipwright	800	S	Yes
Marine Surveyor	500	NS	No
Marine Transport Professionals nec	500	NS	No
Ship's Engineer	1,900	S	Yes
Vehicle Body Builder	3,900	S	Yes
Vehicle Trimmer	1,300	S	Yes
Motor Mechanic (General)	79,300	S	Yes

Source: ABS, 2021 Census Data, 2022; JSA, "Occupation Shortage List", 2025; Department of Home Affairs, "The Core Skills Occupation List", 2024. Note: 1. RS: Regional Shortage; S: Shortage; NS: Not in Shortage. 2. The key occupations have been selected based on AUSMASA's remit. Since it is difficult to measure the drilling workforce within ANZSIC classification, the occupation figures presented reflect the total number of workers in relevant occupations (ANZSCO 6-digit level) across all Australian industries. 3. The employment figure is rounded to the nearest 10.