



# State of the Industry - Quarrying

Employment in the Quarrying industry exhibits clear seasonal fluctuation largely influenced by construction activity.<sup>1</sup>

The sector supplies materials for residential buildings, commercial construction, and infrastructure projects. Consequently, employment levels tend to rise and fall in tandem with the construction cycle, reflecting periods of higher and lower demand for building materials (Figure M20).

Employment is concentrated in Western Australia and Queensland

Employment in this sector is concentrated in WA and QLD, while businesses are more evenly distributed across the country (Figure M21). WA and QLD account for most of the employment, though Victoria (VIC) shows a relatively stronger presence compared to other subsectors. In contrast, businesses are more evenly distributed, with 28.9% located in NSW, despite the state accounting for 9.7% of total employment, suggesting a higher concentration of smaller enterprises there.

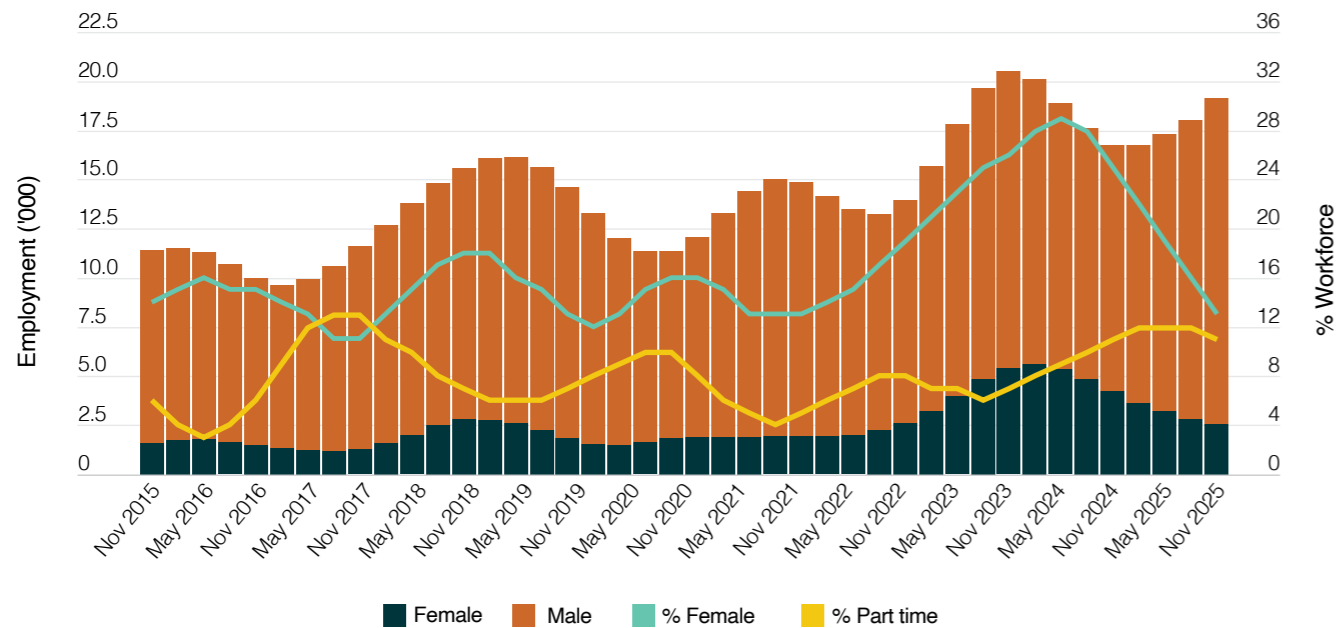
There is a clear disparity between enrolment and employment locations. QLD hosts the largest share of enrolments (59.1%), yet it accounts for 30.4% of employment. This may reflect state-specific requirements, particularly in mineral mining and RII units, which may lead workers in QLD to undertake additional training.<sup>2</sup>

The sector is a key enabler of the construction industry

The Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying sector primarily supplies the construction industry, providing both materials and services (Figure M22). Specifically, about 48.1% of the sector's output supports construction services, while 14% goes to the manufacturing of cement, lime, and concrete. This highlights the sector's critical role in underpinning Australia's building and infrastructure activities.



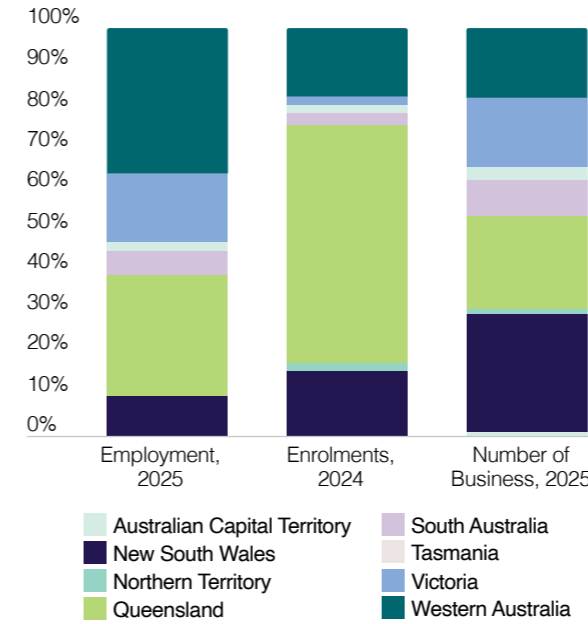
Figure M20: Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying employment, 2015–2025



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

<sup>1</sup> Quarrying corresponds to the ANZSIC sub-division non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying.  
<sup>2</sup> Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health, "Mineral mining and quarrying competencies", 2023.

Figure M21: 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.

7 out of 11 key occupations are experiencing shortages.

The industry's key occupations largely mirror those of the overall mining sector, with Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers, and truck drivers playing a particularly prominent role (Table M5), and more than half of these key occupations are currently experiencing skills shortages. The industry reports an acute skills shortage, particularly for heavy automotive drivers and the skills ecosystem around road transport. In the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, these skills shortages are expected to exacerbate. The workforce, on the other hand, is less mobile and tends to remain in its respective state. There have also been reports

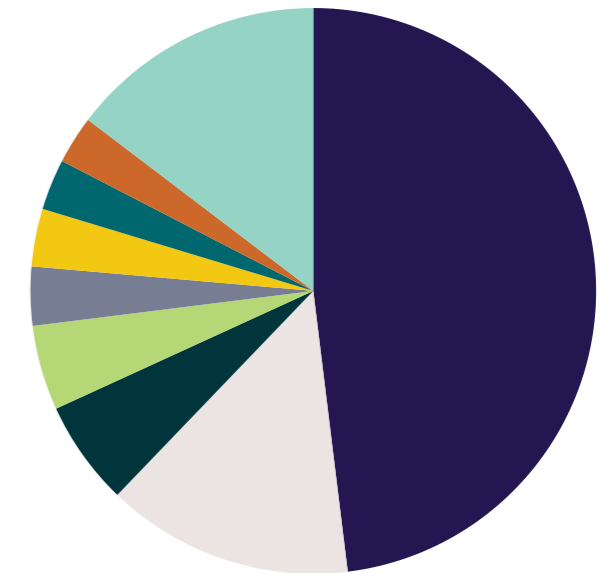
Table M5: Key occupations, 2025

| Occupations                                   | Employed | 10-Yr vacancies change | Included in CSOL? | Shortage |
|---|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers              | 1,800    | 178%                   | No                | RS       |
| Metal Fitters and Machinists                  | 1,300    | 148%                   | Yes               | S        |
| Other Building and Engineering Technicians    | 1,100    | 20%                    | Yes               | NS       |
| Earthmoving Plant Operators                   | 1,100    | 67%                    | No                | S        |
| Truck Drivers                                 | 1,000    | 63%                    | No                | S        |
| Production Managers                           | 900      | 59%                    | Yes               | NS       |
| Geologists, Geophysicists and Hydrogeologists | 700      | 247%                   | Yes               | S        |
| Electricians                                  | 600      | 140%                   | Yes               | S        |
| Other Stationary Plant Operators              | 600      | 165%                   | No                | NS       |
| Accountants                                   | 500      | -25%                   | Yes               | NS       |
| Diesel Motor Mechanic                         | 10       | 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.

of psychosocial risk for drivers from diverse backgrounds in the truck driver occupation, particularly in construction sites, leading to retention challenges. The industry relies on both employees and contractors to meet its skills demand in the logistics space.

Figure M22: What does the sector support in 2023?



- Construction services \$3,110m
- Other \$948m
- Other non-metallic mineral product manufacturing \$177.8m
- Non-residential building construction \$188m
- Residential building construction \$213.6m
- Ceramic product manufacturing \$217.5m
- Heavy and civil construction engineering \$314.4m
- Glass and glass product manufacturing \$387.4m
- Cement, lime and ready-mixed concrete manufacturing \$914.2m

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