

Building and Trades

2023



Data shows 2023 is the year to upskill or retrain for a career in building and trades.

The construction industry is continuing to embrace growth and change as Australia's economy recovers from COVID-19. The infrastructure boom brings a greater need for women in construction, new technologies and skilled workers of all experience levels, signalling that building and trades job prospects will only increase in the coming years.

Key takeaways from 2022



Victoria's Big Build continues to grow the career opportunities for apprentices and trainees¹

Victoria's Big Build aims to overhaul and build upon the infrastructure of rails and roads in Melbourne. It's a massive multi-year project that is delivering 165 major road and rail projects¹.

The Big Build has created more than 18,000 positions as part of the project, and this number increases as new apprentices and trainees join every year. It presents an exciting opportunity for workers to kick start their careers by building experience with some of Victoria's largest and most iconic projects.



The construction industry will continue to work towards gender diversity and inclusion

With women only making up 13% of the workers in the Australian construction industry², gender diversity and inclusion continue to be strategic priorities.

The Victorian Government rolled out the Women in Construction Strategy from 2019 to 2022, backed by \$500,000 in state funding. The program achieved its goals of encouraging more girls in school to explore trades as a viable career, rethinking existing recruitment strategies and retaining current female staff.

The success of the program also came with the suggestion that it's Strategy be refined, maintained, and expanded in the future.³



Building and Trades at a glance

What were the four most in-demand trades and jobs in 2022⁴?



Residential Estimators

- + Employers are looking for skills and experience in residential and civil construction
- + 8.6% projected job growth for this role in the next five years⁵



Welders

- + Employers are looking for welders and fabricators in response to an increase in Australian manufacturing and reduced imports
- + Due to the pandemic, and the low supply of skilled and available tradespeople with welding skills, there is increase demand⁴



Carpenters

- + Employers are looking for carpenters with experience in commercial builds and home and high-rise projects
- + 8.6% projected job growth for this role in the next five years⁶



Electrician⁷

- + Employers are looking for tradespeople qualified in industrial electricals, as well as general electrical experience
- + 10.9% projected job growth for this role in the next five years⁷

The average Australian full-time construction role earns \$1,305 in a week. How much do these building professionals earn?



Average construction worker⁸



Contract, Program and Project Administrators⁹



Architectural, Building and Surveying Technicians¹⁰



Electricians¹¹



Building and Trades at a glance

Quick facts ^{2,12}

- + The construction industry makes up 8.7% of Australia's workforce
- + In the last five years, the construction industry has grown by 4.6% and it is expected to by a further 6.8% in the coming years
- + Over 1,000,000 workers are employed in the Australian construction industry
- + The five largest construction occupations in 2021 were Carpenters and Joiners, Electricians, Construction Managers, Plumbers, and Building and Plumbing Labourers
- + The number of women in construction grew by 34% from 2015-2020

In 2022, 66% of trades workers have a vocational qualification or higher.² Where could a building and construction qualification take you?

- + Building and construction firms, either on site or in head offices
- + Interior design and renovation companies
- + Government departments
- + Manufacturing companies
- + Staging and rigging in the entertainment industry
- + Your own business.



What's next for 2023



Federal investment in infrastructure signals job growth in building and trades

The Australian Government's record-breaking \$120 billion investment in infrastructure, which was featured in the 2022-23 Budget¹³, is designed to drive job growth as we approach a new normal. The investment predominantly includes nationwide road and transport upgrades, such as light rail and highway funding.

As more projects commence, the industry will demand more skills in building and trades. In fact, experts believe that 15,000 workers in structural and civil trades will be needed to cover the skills shortages. Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland present the biggest career opportunities as a result of new major projects like the North East Link upgrade in Melbourne.¹⁴

Gain the building and trades skills you need now and in the future at RMIT. Our courses are developed alongside industry and respond to the changing needs of the construction workforce. We offer Certificate IIs and apprenticeship courses in three trade disciplines: electrical and instrumentation, plumbing and gas-fitting, and refrigeration and air-conditioning.



[Click here to learn more about RMIT's building and trades courses](#)



Building Equality Policy will create construction industry opportunities for women¹⁵

Gender diversity and equality have been a focus of the construction industry in recent years. As such, the Victorian Government has introduced several new initiatives to promote jobs within the construction industry, but equitable opportunities.

One such initiative is the Building Equality Policy (BEP) which seeks to disrupt the existing gender stereotypes, norms and roles in the construction sector. As of 2022, this new policy requires construction projects valued at \$20 million or more to implement key actions aimed at breaking down structural and cultural barriers facing women in the industry, such as requirements for gender equality targets.

Learn how project planning, coordination and control work together in RMIT's Diploma of Building and Construction (Building). You'll learn in real and simulated industry conditions and emerge with the skills to pursue a career in building supervision, construction management, estimating or contracts administration. Through VTAC's SEAS, female applicants receive bonus points towards their application. This diploma is also a Free TAFE and JobTrainer course, meaning you could be eligible for free or low-fee tuition.



[Click here to learn more about the Diploma of Building and Construction \(Building\)](#)

What's next...



Leaders in building and construction are looking to digital technologies for the future of site mapping¹⁶

Innovation has become a centrepiece of discussion in the construction industry. Digital technology, such as drone mapping and AI integration, have begun to revolutionise the future of site mapping.

Paul Nunn, National Building Information Modelling (BIM) Manager at Hansen Yucken, is excited about combining digital tech with construction and building its relationship with construction. "Cloud-based project collaboration and management systems integrated with innovative technology, such as 3D cameras, drone deployment and AI, can now be used to save time and money for clients and contractors alike, at almost all stages of the construction process."

Launch your career in surveying, mapping and geographical information systems (GIS) in RMIT's one-year Diploma of Surveying. You'll gain hands-on experience with the digital technologies, surveying tools and data analysis techniques that you'll use on the job. As part of your assessment, you'll also conduct an engineering surveying project in a work-integrated learning (WIL) environment.



[Click here to learn more about the Diploma of Surveying](#)

Sources

¹ Victoria's Big Build 'About Us' 2022

² Australian Government, Labour Market Information Portal for the Construction industry

³ Victorian Government 'Victoria's Women in Construction Strategy'

⁴ Hays 'The most in-demand skills for 2022' report 2022

⁵ Seek job ads (Building Estimator)

⁶ Seek job ads (Carpenter)

⁷ Seek job ads (Electrician)

⁸ Labour Market Insights, Industry profile 'Construction', Accessed September 2022

⁹ Labour Market Insights, Occupation profile 'Contract, Program and Project Administrator', Accessed September 2022.

¹⁰ Labour Market Insights, Occupation profile 'Architectural, Building & Surveying Technician', Accessed September 2022.

¹¹ Labour Market Insights, Occupation profile 'Electrician', Accessed September 2022

¹² ABC News 'Increasing number of Australian women putting up their hand to work in trades' 2021

¹³ Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications '2022-23 Budget'

¹⁴ The Sydney Morning Herald 'Big build cut down by shortage of workers, cost blowouts' 2021

¹⁵ Victorian Government, 'Building Equality Policy', 2022

¹⁶ Building Connection 'Digital Innovation: The Future of Australia Construction Industry', Accessed Sept 2022