

Senate Standing Committees on Economics

The Australian manufacturing industry

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Date of hearing: 11 November 2021

Outcome: Skills

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ21-000158

Senator Rex Patrick on 11 November 2021, Proof Hansard pages 68-69

VET data breakdown

Question

Senator PATRICK: But do you have statistics on how we're performing in terms of numbers coming through—across that broad description that you've provided us?

Ms Livingston: Across the full suite of manufacturing related qualifications—which is kind of everything from textiles, clothing, footwear and traditional metals manufacturing, all the way through to aerospace, for example—in 2020 the total number of enrolments was 101,685.

Senator PATRICK: And what was the previous year? So that's this year? Or last year?

Ms Livingston: So the latest data is 2020. In 2019 it was 104,690.

Senator PATRICK: So there's a slight drop. What are you seeing this year? Do you have any sort of feel for what's happening this year?

Ms Livingston: Unfortunately, there is quite a long lag with the collection of VET data, so the 2021 data will be available probably close to this time next year.

Senator PATRICK: Alright. Can you provide those datasets to the committee, broken down into the different categories, and maybe just as a function over the last five years?

Ms Livingston: Sure.

Senator PATRICK: Set out a table for each year and each category?

Ms Livingston: Yes.

Senator PATRICK: Thank you.

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Senator PATRICK: Okay. So that 29,000 really ties in with the other number of 101,000 trainees. Just going back to the previous evidence about total numbers of trainees—it was 101,000.

Ms Houston: It's a little different. The total numbers before were all people in training, which, as Rachel said, ranges from those who are doing diploma level and all sorts of VET courses versus the data which is people who are actually doing it via an apprenticeship pathway. I should note that for the manufacturing apprenticeships, the data for 2021, as we said, was 29,665, and that's up from 23,325 in 2020. So it has trended up.

Senator PATRICK: I understand that 29,000 is a subset of the 101,000. But you're saying they're not all apprenticeships. So, again, could I perhaps just get you to expand that question, on notice, to apprentices as well, just to give us a feel for that, if you would?

Ms Houston: Yes. We can look at the [inaudible] data that's most useful, to capture that broad picture.

Senator PATRICK: Thank you.

Answer

Table 1 details vocational education and training (VET) enrolments in manufacturing-related training packages.

Table 1 – VET program enrolments

Training package	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Aeroskills (MEA)	1,130	1,250	1,450	1,930	1,570
Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining (PMA)	3,440	2,720	2,345	1,940	1,725
Furnishing (LMF, MSF)	21,310	20,350	18,750	20,080	19,880
Laboratory Operations (MSL, PML)	6,825	6,465	5,775	6,945	7,460
Manufacturing (MCM, MSA, MSM)	8,435	8,950	7,625	8,485	8,980
Metal and Engineering (MEM)	52,625	52,545	47,695	54,605	53,220
Plastics, Rubber and Cablemaking (PMB)	900	935	645	945	705
Sustainability (MSS)	13,085	12,390	6,780	5,200	3,800
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear (LMT, MST)	6,685	6,560	5,080	4,555	4,350
TOTAL	114,430	112,165	96,140	104,690	101,685

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) 2021, Total VET students and courses 2020: Program enrolments.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.

Data as at 22 November 2021.

The number of apprentices and trainees in-training who were employed by employers in Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Division C – Manufacturing as at 31 March 2021 is 29,665. This number in training is up from the 23,325 at the same time in 2020.

Table 2 below provides a subset of the total number of apprentices and trainees in training studying a qualification in a Manufacturing related training package, split by training package to allow comparison with the broader qualifications data in Table 1. It is important to note the numbers provided below will include apprentices and trainees employed in industries other than ANZSIC Division C - Manufacturing, and as such the total numbers are not able to be compared directly.

Table 2 – Apprentices and trainees in-training in manufacturing related training packages.

Training package	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
Aeroskills (MEA)	1,255	1,185	1,110	1,255	1,285
Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining (PMA)	400	460	615	415	420
Furnishing (LMF, MSF)	6,220	6,565	6,745	6,385	7,240
Laboratory Operations (MSL, PML)	575	565	630	775	1,250
Manufacturing (MCM, MSA, MSM)	720	750	720	715	1,370
Metal and Engineering (MEM)	16,850	17,705	19,305	20,130	22,050
Plastics, Rubber and Cablemaking (PMB)	180	255	330	345	350
Sustainability (MSS)	2,055	1,175	935	540	1,405
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear (LMT, MST)	135	125	115	125	170
TOTAL	28,395	28,790	30,505	30,680	35,545

Source: Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2021 —
 March quarter, NCVET, Adelaide
 Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.