



Building and Construction Occupations

1996 to 2006

Key Points:

- **General Construction Trades increased by 52.3 per cent between 2001 and 2006.**
- **The number of concreters increased 23.9 per cent over the five years to 2006.**
- **The number of Electricians increased by 17.4 per cent between 2001 and 2006.**

•
The Australian Construction Industry is a key sector in the national economy, both in its own right as the largest component of capital expenditure and as a driver of associated activity in other sectors such as Manufacturing, Transport, Finance, etc. Construction constitutes approximately 6% of Industry Gross Value Added.

The Construction workforce, amounting to about 8% of the total, is a highly diverse mix of Occupations, incorporating job skills ranging from the most sophisticated engineering and management activities to the most elementary labouring tasks.

The traditional skilled trades remain highly prominent in the Construction Industry. This wide breadth of skill requirements may be unique amongst industries by providing opportunities for participation in the workforce by members of the community with differing levels of aptitude and capacity.

The Industry is also prominent in the scope it offers individuals for self-employment and work in an outdoor, non-office environment.

A full outline of the definition of each occupation can be found in the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), which is readily accessible on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.



Building and Construction Occupations, 1996 to 2006

	Numbers employed at the 1996 Census	Numbers Employed at the 2001 Census	Numbers Employed at the 2006 Census	% change
Architects and Landscape Architects	11,283	13,101	15,738	20.1%
Bricklayers	19,433	19,995	21,938	9.7%
Building and Construction Managers	42,507	43,727	60,001	37.2%
Building and Engineering Associate Professionals	11,388	9,587	10,991	14.6%
Building and Engineering Professionals	25,307	18,703	22,039	17.8%
Building Architectural & Surveying Assoc. Professionals	28,143	33,113	36,824	11.2%
Cabinetmakers	20,740	21,786	n/a	-
Carpentry and Joinery Tradespersons	69,362	73,504	87,028	18.4%
Civil Engineering Associate Professionals	5,089	5,079	6,619	30.3%
Civil Engineers	12,280	15,322	19,176	25.2%
Clay Stone Concrete Processing Machine Operators	1,971	2,033	n/a	-
Concreters	17,181	20,808	25,781	23.9%
Construction and Plumber's Assistants	20,213	25,063	35,950	43.4%
Construction Tradespersons General	557	1,153	1,756	52.3%
Crane Hoist and Lift Operators	7,231	7,295	n/a	-
Earthmoving Labourers	2,629	2,320	2,217	-4.4%
Electricians	75,149	76,495	89,828	17.4%
Fibrous Plasters	14,302	17,610	21,409	21.6%
Final Finishes Construction tradespersons	87	156	3,493	2139.1%
Floor Finishes	6,121	7,314	8,499	16.2%
Glass Tradespersons	5,761	6,358	7,484	17.7%
Insulation and Home Improvements Installers	8,422	10,018	13,892	38.7%
Labourers and Related Workers	48,253	26,421	n/a	-
Other Building and Engineering Associate Professionals	7,139	7,164	11,490	60.4%
Other Building and Engineering Professionals	4,644	5,800	8,940	54.1%
Painters and Decorators	31,980	35,129	37,874	7.8%
Paving and Surfacing labourers	5,024	5,244	6,800	29.7%
Plumbers	44,044	47,811	56,697	18.6%
Quantity Surveyors	1,585	1,583	1,987	25.5%
Real Estate Associate Professionals	39,779	48,526	n/a	-
Roof Slaters and Tilers	5,406	6,091	5,802	-4.7%
Solid Plasters	1,727	2,708	5,193	91.8%
Structural Construction Tradespersons	782	2,176	2,723	25.1%
Structural Steel and Welding Tradesperson	51,270	48,698	n/a	-
Structural Steel Construction Workers	8,166	9,385	n/a	-
Wall and Floor Tilers and Stonemasons	11,270	13,912	17,666	27.0%
Wood Machinists and Turners	4,514	3,598	n/a	-
Wood Processing Machine Operators	4,510	4,909	n/a	-
Wood Products Factory Hands	8,888	8,668	n/a	-
Wood Tradespersons	115	209	n/a	-

Source: ABS Census, 1996, 2001 and 2006

For State by State breakdowns or for any other data on Australia's Housing and Renovation Industries, please contact HIA Economics Group at economics@hia.com.au