

## Apprentices: The COVID Effect



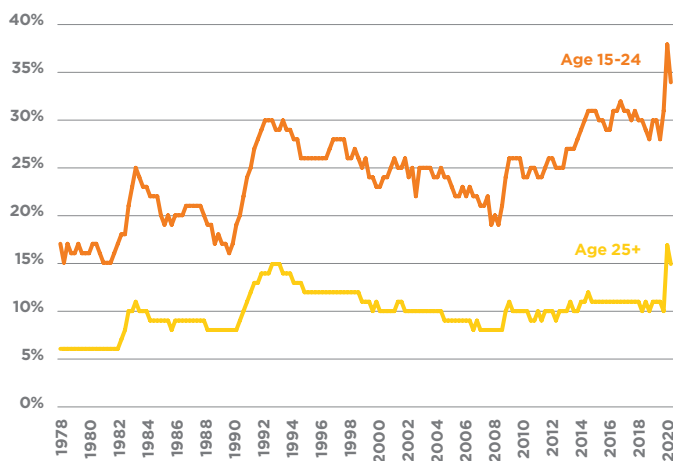
Despite the widespread economic and employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, some industries and occupations have fared better than others. Official apprentice statistics do not yet capture the impact of the pandemic, however CSQ has analysed program data to understand how Queensland's construction apprentices are being affected during the pandemic.

### The school-to-work transition has never been harder

The COVID-19 pandemic is compounding an already entrenched youth employment problem in Australia. The rate of employment among Australians aged 15-24 is now as low as 50%. As a result, record numbers of young Australians are unable to find enough work.

#### Australia has a young labour problem

Labour underutilisation rate\*, Australia



\* The sum of unemployed and underemployed people as a % of the labour force.

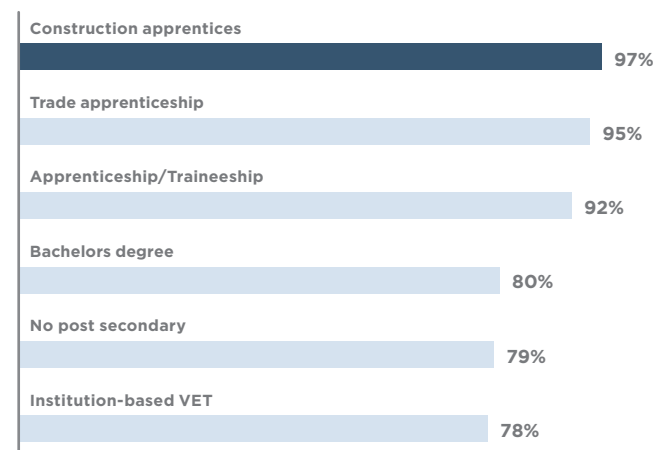
Source: ABS

### The apprenticeship system has never been more important

Training is most effective when it is connected to real jobs in the real economy. Young people who complete an apprenticeship are more likely to be employed full-time at age 25, and enjoy an earnings premium over their non-apprentice peers.

#### The apprenticeship value proposition is compelling

Likelihood of being full-time employed at age 25



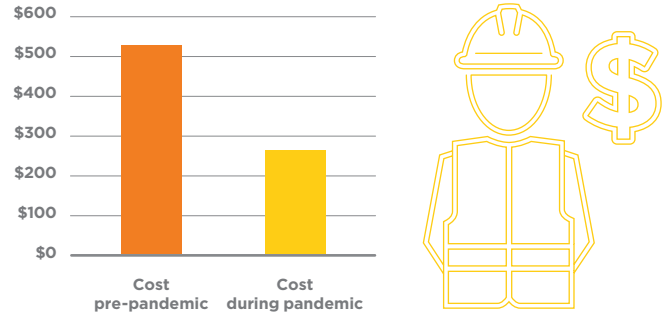
Source: CSQ

## It's never been cheaper to hire an apprentice

Convincing employers to sponsor apprentices is no easy task. But governments at all levels are providing unprecedented COVID subsidies to encourage employers to retain and recruit apprentices. These come on top of the already substantial supports available to Australian employers.

## The price of an apprentice has been slashed

First year apprentice wage cost to employer, per week



Source: CSQ

## Government policies are working

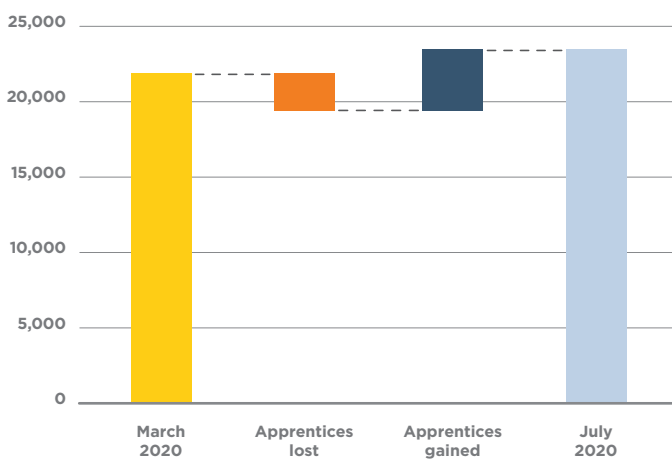
Government policies combined with robust building activity has translated into a resilient market for apprentices in Queensland's construction industry. The stock of construction apprentices has actually increased in Queensland during the pandemic, with an increase of 1,540 apprentices; up 7%.

## The outlook for construction apprentices is bright

Governments have committed to support apprentice employment well into 2021. Combine this with a growing pipeline of building projects, and the future for Queensland's construction apprentices looks relatively secure.

## Construction apprentices increase during pandemic

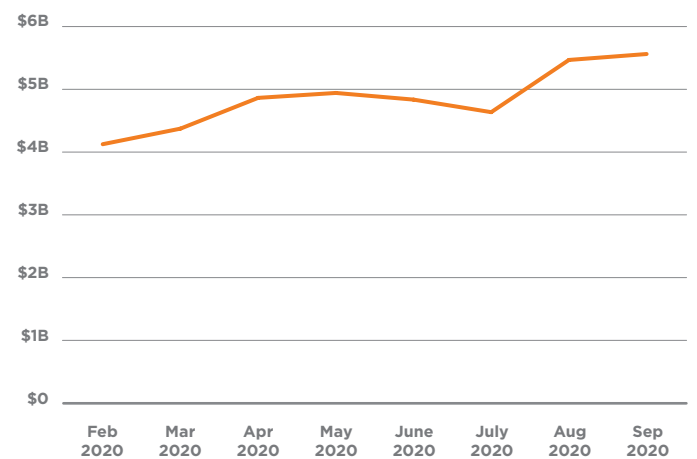
Apprentice stocks and flows during pandemic, Queensland



Source: CSQ

## Building pipeline fills during pandemic

Building approvals, Queensland



Source: ABS, CSQ

**WANT  
MORE  
DETAIL?**

CSQ's interactive **Apprentice Chartpack** contains all of our key apprentice statistics broken down by occupation, region and demographics. Updated quarterly.

[www.csq.org.au/knowledge-centre](http://www.csq.org.au/knowledge-centre)