

Australian Apprenticeships Summary Statistics

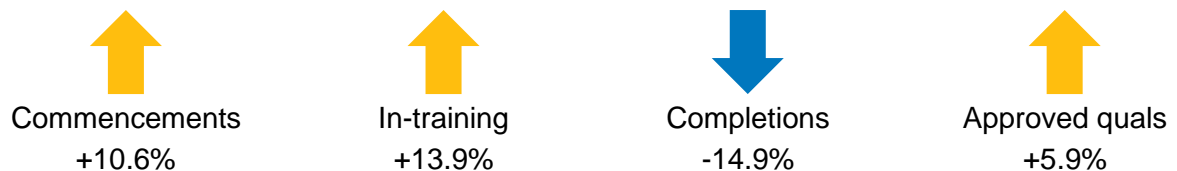
This report uses 2020 annual data from NCVER’s Apprentice and Trainee Collection. More information about the collection can be found in the [Notes and Definitions](#) at the end of this document.

There were several major trends in 2020 that have affected Australian Apprenticeship commencements. From March onward, COVID-19 significantly disrupted economic activity across Australia. While some states returned to a more normal state in the second half of the year, Victoria remained impacted due to the longer lockdown.

On 5 October 2020, the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy started. More information about the wage subsidy can be found in the [Notes](#). The effect of the subsidy is shown in the December quarter, with a large spike in commencements.

Australia-wide highlights

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:



Qualification overview

As of 31 December 2020, there were 1,496 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in Australia. This is an increase of 5.9% from 31 December 2019.

There were 509 new qualifications approved by the States and Territories in 2020. This was a slight increase from the previous year (447). Qualifications are also removed throughout the year. More information can be found in the [Notes](#).

The number of approved qualifications has increased more rapidly than usual in 2021. From January to July 2021 there have already been 1093 qualifications approved.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 1,378 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 1: Qualification Classification by State, 31 December 2020

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Apprenticeship	122	115	108	88	132	NA	111	128
Traineeship	631	431	348	429	569	NA	413	931
Total	753	546	456	517	701	370	524	1059

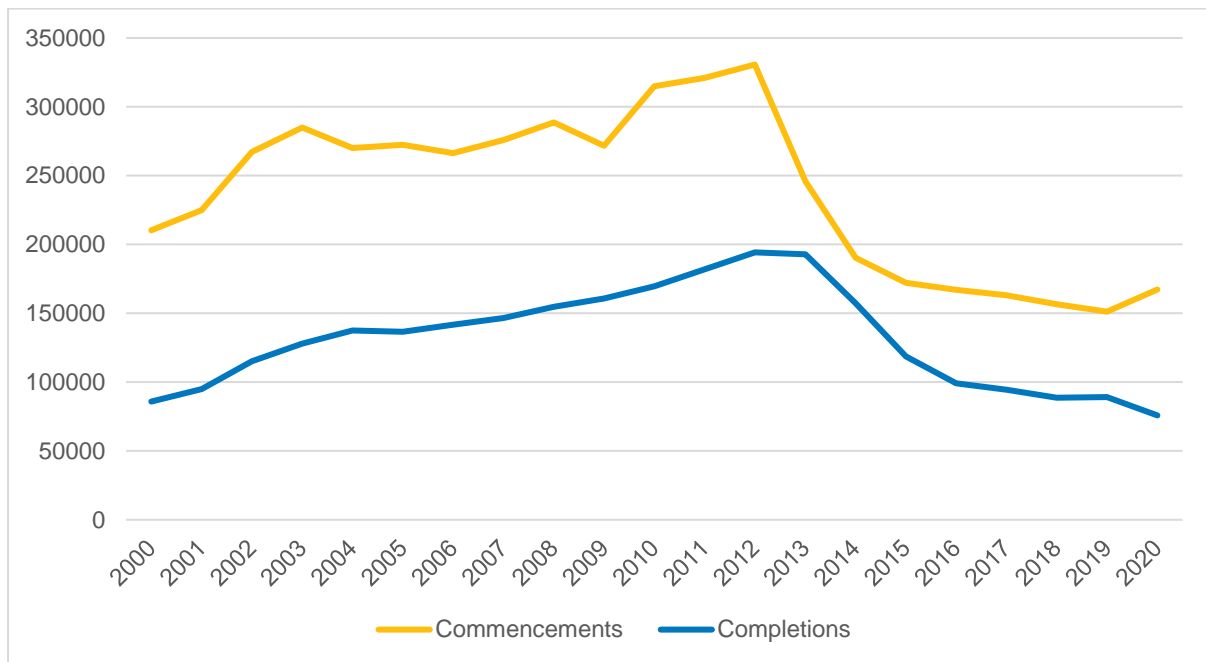
Note: Tasmania does not provide classification data

Australian Apprenticeship statistics overview

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 10.6% to 167,240
- Completions decreased by 14.9% to 75,815
- In-training numbers on 31 December increased by 13.9% to 297,920

Figure 1: Australian Apprenticeship commencements and completions, annual, 2000 to 2020

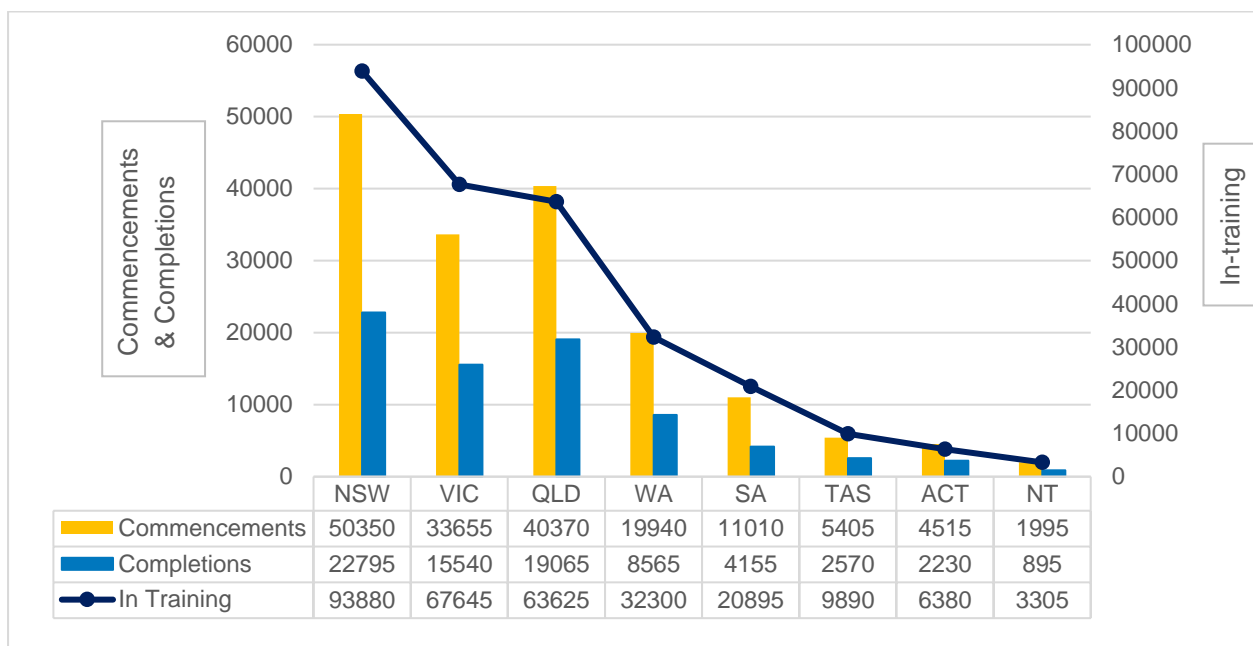


State and Territory commencements compared with the previous year, showed:

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
+15.2%	+1.1%	+11.4%	+20.5%	+21.5%	+0.2%	-5.7%	-8.7%

Note: For more information on trends within each State and Territory, please visit the relevant summaries later in this document.

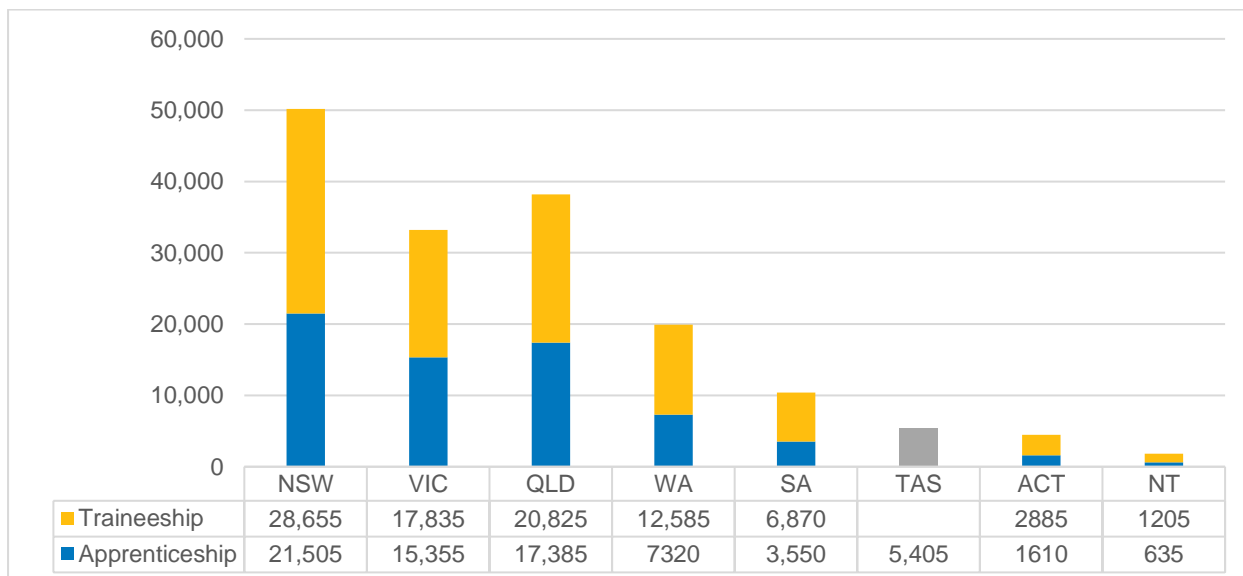
Figure 2: Commencement, completion, and in-training numbers, by state and territory



Note: Commencements and completions statistics are for 12 months. In training numbers are for the 31 December 2020.

Across Australia, commencements in qualifications classified as traineeships were higher than commencements in qualifications classified as apprenticeships. For information about the number of approved apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications, and their related commencements, visit each state and territory breakdown.

Figure 3: Annual apprenticeship and traineeship commencements, by state and territory



Note: This report uses 2020 qualifications data when referencing apprenticeship and traineeship classifications. Tasmania shows all commencements against ‘apprenticeships’ as they do not classify qualifications. The commencements numbers in this graph exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

Industry and occupation breakdowns

Table 2: Australian Apprenticeships Commencements in the Top Training Packages in the 12 months ending December 2020 ('000)

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUS
BSB Business Services	6.9	3.9	6.7	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.7	0.2	24.0
CPC Construction	6.9	6.7	5.1	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.2	22.9
SIT Tourism, Hospitality	3.3	2.9	4.1	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.1	13.1
CHC Community Services	5.4	1.8	2.1	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	13.0
UEE Electrotechnology	4.2	2.7	2.7	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.2	12.5
AUR Auto RS&R	3.3	2.0	3.1	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	11.5
SIR Retail Services	2.9	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	9.7
MEM Metal & Engineering	1.9	1.1	2.5	1.9	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	8.1
RII Resources & Infra.	1.0	0.4	2.5	2.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.9
AHC Argi, Hort, Conserv.	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	6.7

Table 3: Australian Apprenticeships Commencements in the Top Qualifications in the 12 months ending December 2020

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUS
UEE30811 C3 in Electrotechnology Electrician	3025	2320	1995	1155	665	165	295	105	9725
CPC30211 C3 in Carpentry	3200	2885	2055	30	505	395	315	110	9495
SIR30216 C3 in Retail	2235	1370	1305	700	1170	300	80	70	7230
SIT30616 C3 in Hospitality	1625	1495	2595	695	125	105	375	65	7080
* BSB30115 C3 in Business	1070	1050	3240	445	795	185	70	70	6925
CPC32413 C3 in Plumbing	1445	2350	715	360	315	80	150	40	5455
CHC30113 C3 in Early Childhood Education and Care	3095	435	930	445	125	40	215	50	5335
* BSB42015 C4 in Leadership and Management	1960	835	500	475	385	325	115	15	4610
* AUR30616 C3 in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology	1260	755	1100	515	210	85	125	35	4080
SHB30416 C3 in Hairdressing	970	645	985	410	200	85	120	20	3435

Note: BSB30115 Certificate III in Business, BSB42015 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management and AUR30616 Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology are all superseded qualifications and are now not approved in any states or territory.

Table 4: Australian Apprenticeships Commencements by occupation and state/territory, 12 months ending September 2020 ('000)

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUS
Technician & Trade Workers	22.4	17.9	17.5	8.5	4.8	2.2	1.6	0.7	75.5
Community and personal service workers	8.9	5.2	6.1	3.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.5	27.2
Clerical and administrative workers	6.9	3.3	6.5	2.5	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.2	22.9
Sales Workers	4.8	2.6	2.3	1.2	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	13.1
Machinery operators and drivers	3.0	1.1	4.3	2.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	11.7
Labourers	2.8	2.3	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	11.4
Managers	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	4.3
Professionals	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Technician & Trade Workers are classified as 'trades', and all other groups as classified as 'non-trades'.

Table 5: Australian Apprenticeships Commencements in the Top 10 Employer Industries (ANZSIC) in the 12 months ending September 2020 ('000)

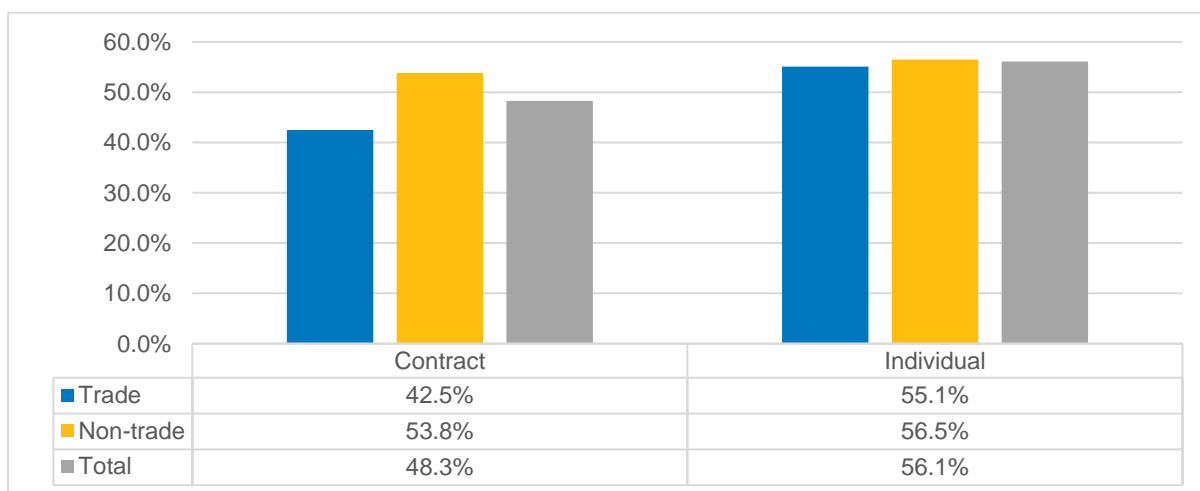
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUS
Construction (E)	11.7	10.9	8.8	3.3	1.8	1.0	1.0	0.4	38.8
Accommodation (H)	5.7	3.9	5.5	1.7	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.1	19.6
Administrative and Support Services (N)	3.8	3.5	3.6	2.3	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	15.9
Health Care and Social Assistance (Q)	5.5	2.1	3.3	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	15.0
Manufacturing (C)	4.0	3.9	3.3	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	14.9
Other Services (S)	4.4	2.4	4.1	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.1	14.4
Retail Trade (G)	2.4	1.4	2.7	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	8.1
Public Administration and Safety (O)	2.2	0.2	.2	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.2	5.8
Education and Training (P)	1.5	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	5.7
Mining (B)	0.4	0.1	1.1	3.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	5.3

Completion rate summary

Completion rates are released annually for cohorts who commenced 5 years previously. This data is sourced from NCVER’s Completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2020 report. For those who commenced in 2016:

- Contract completion rates fell 1.5 percentage points to 48.3%
- Individual completion rates fell 1.4 percentage points to 56.1%

Figure 4: Contract and individual completion rates for those commencing in 2016, trade and non-trade (%)

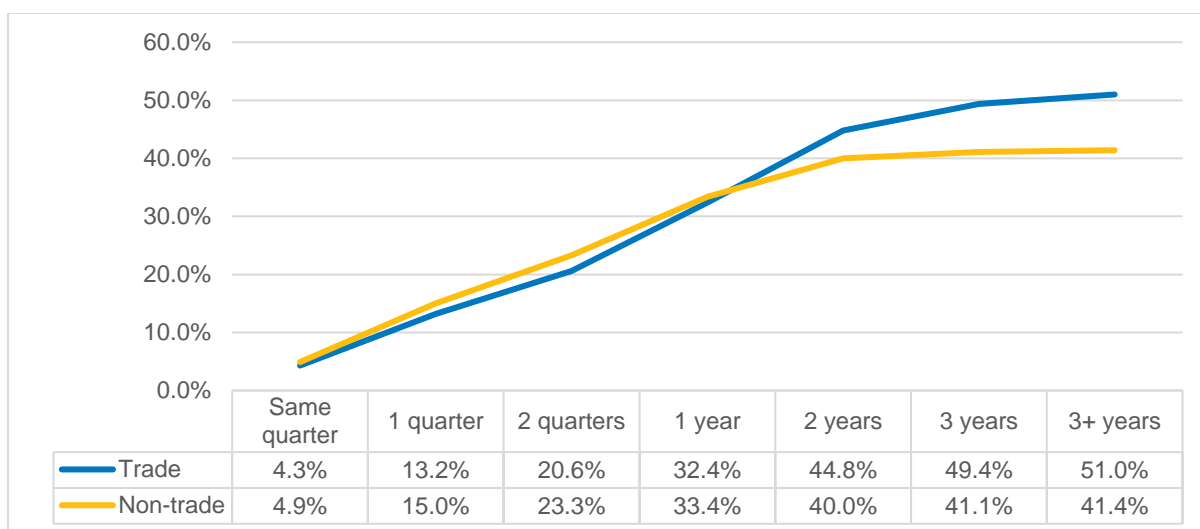


Note: The effects of COVID-19 on completion rates would be small, as most apprentices and trainees completed prior to 2020.

Attrition rates refer to the number of contracts that are cancelled or withdrawn and can be described as non-completions. Attrition rates remained steady between 2015 and 2016, at approximately a third of contracts within the first year.

It is important to note that 2015 attrition rates up to 3 years are not affected by COVID-19.

Figure 5: Attrition rates over time for 2015 commencements (%)



Contract completion rates vary across occupation groups, but trades typically have lower completion rates than non-trades.

Attrition rates for trades are similar to those of non-trades up to a year but increase beyond this point. This is predominantly due to the higher duration of trades qualifications, with many non-trades apprentices and trainees completing within a year while trades apprentices and trainees continue with their training.

Table 6: 2016 commencement numbers and contract completion rates for key occupation groups

	Commencements	1-year attrition rates	Completion rates
Technician & trade workers	72730	32.4%	42.5%
Community & personal service workers	29595	33.1%	54.9%
Clerical & administrative workers	18380	36.1%	52.5%
Sales workers	17505	30.5%	59.5%
Machinery operators & drivers	12520	31.5%	51.2%
Labourers	11750	39.3%	50.0%
Managers	3930	23.7%	44.6%
Professionals	510	26.3%	55.7%
Other	0	NA	NA

NSW summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 753 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in New South Wales. This is a decrease of 2.2% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 702 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 7: Qualification Classification by State

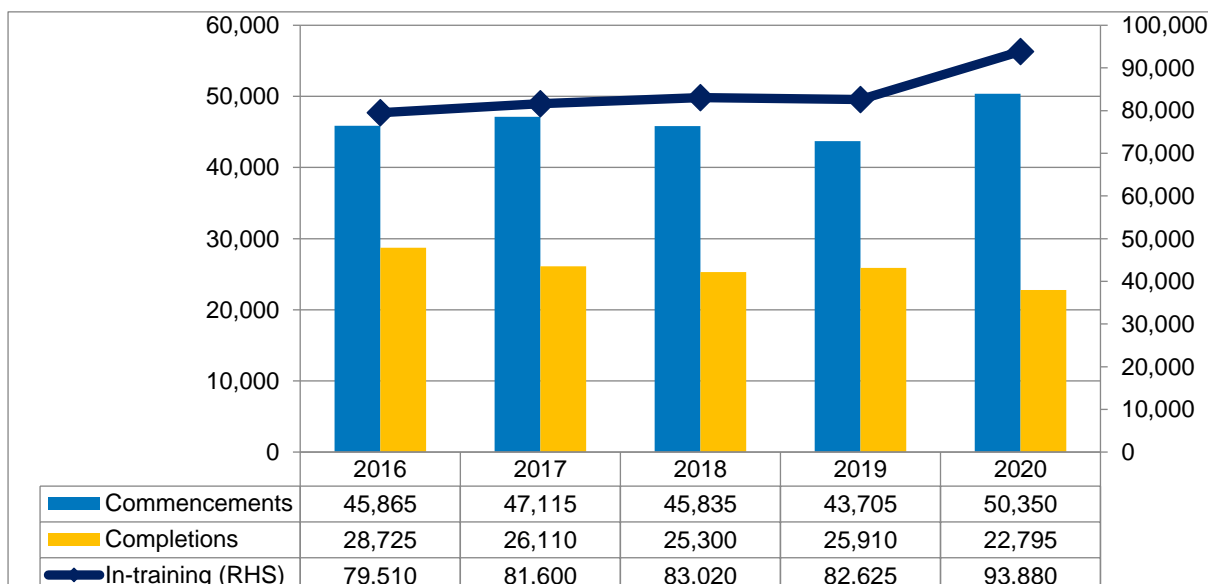
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	122	21,505
Traineeship	631	28,655
Total	753	50,160

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 15.2% to 50,350
- Completions decreased by 12.0% to 22,795
- There were 93,880 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 13.6% from the previous year

Figure 6: NSW commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



VIC summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 546 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in the Victoria. This is a decrease of 9.5% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 516 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 8: Qualification Classification by State

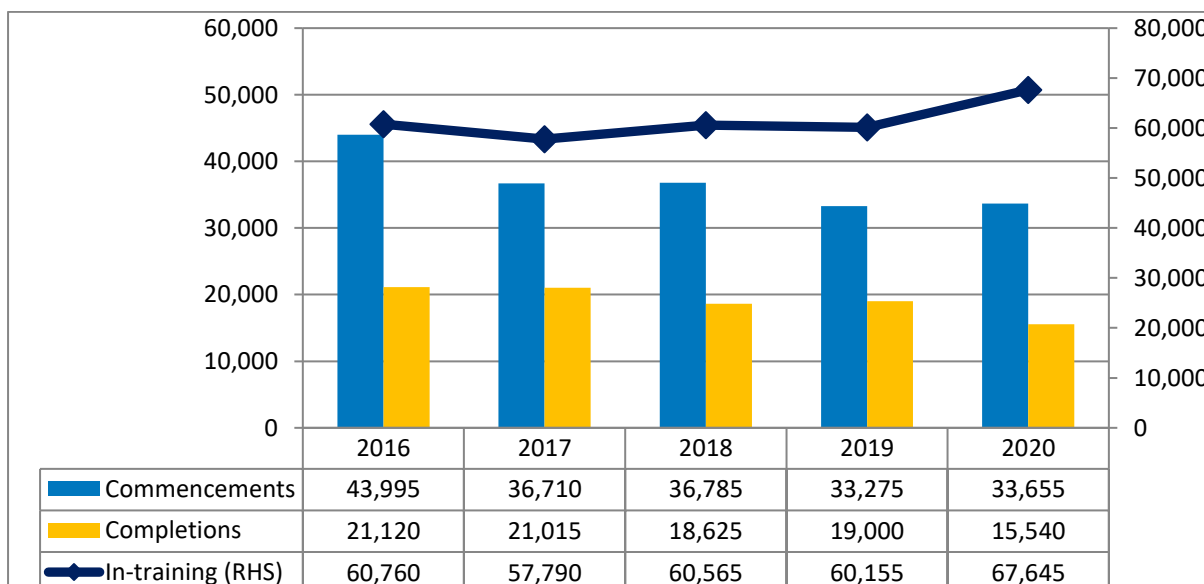
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	115	15,355
Traineeship	431	17,835
Total	546	33,190

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 1.1% to 33,655
- Completions decreased by 18.2% to 15,540
- There were 67,645 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 12.5% from the previous year

Figure 7: VIC commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



QLD summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 456 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in Queensland. This is an increase of 2.8% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 433 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 9: Qualification Classification by State

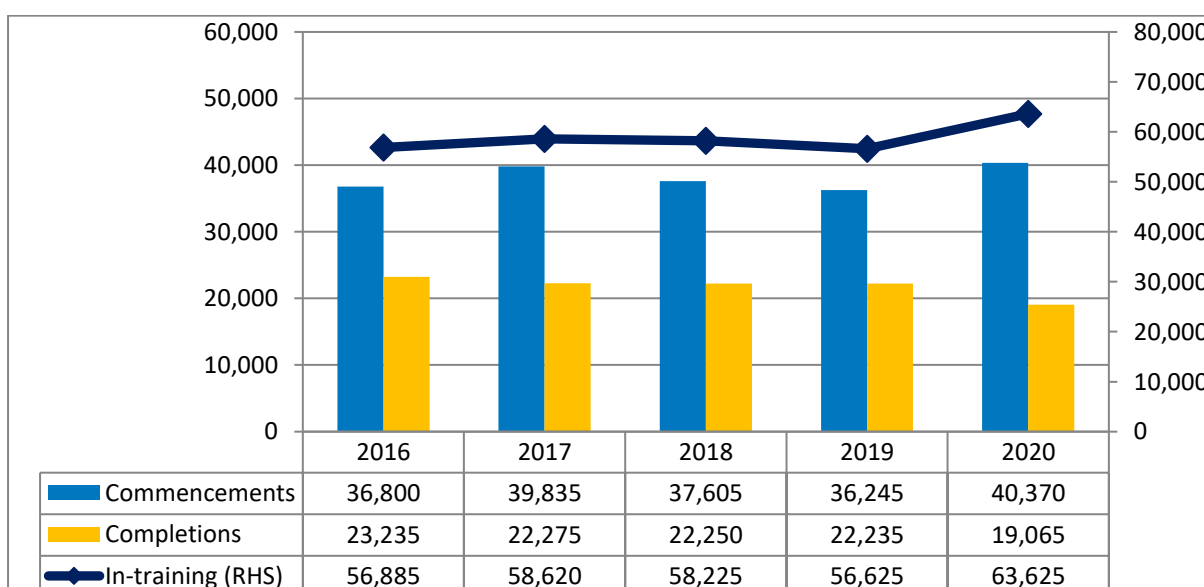
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	108	17,385
Traineeship	348	20,825
Total	456	38,210

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures. There were 2126 commencements in Certificate I qualifications, which are not included in classifications data.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 11.4% to 40,370
- Completions decreased by 14.3% to 19,065
- There were 63,625 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 12.4% from the previous year

Figure 8: QLD commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



WA summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 517 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in Western Australia. This is a decrease of 2.6% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 493 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 10: Qualification Classification by State

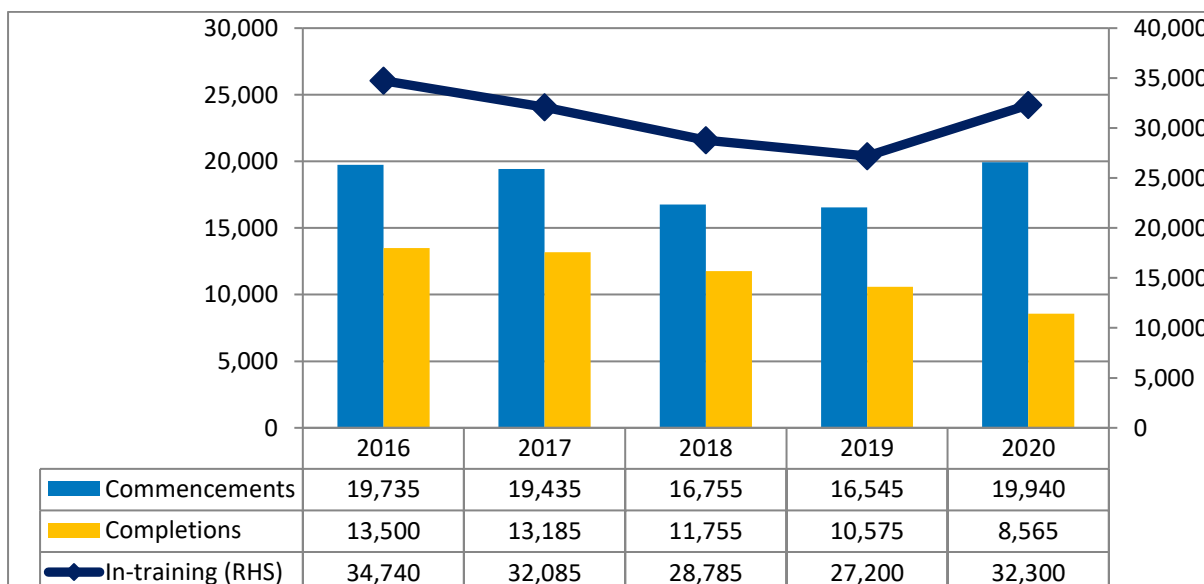
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	88	7320
Traineeship	429	12,585
Total	517	19,905

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 20.5% to 19,940
- Completions decreased by 19.0% to 8,565
- There were 32,300 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 18.7% from the previous year

Figure 9: WA commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



SA summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there 701 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in South Australia. This is a decrease of 2.8% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 634 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 11: Qualification Classification by State

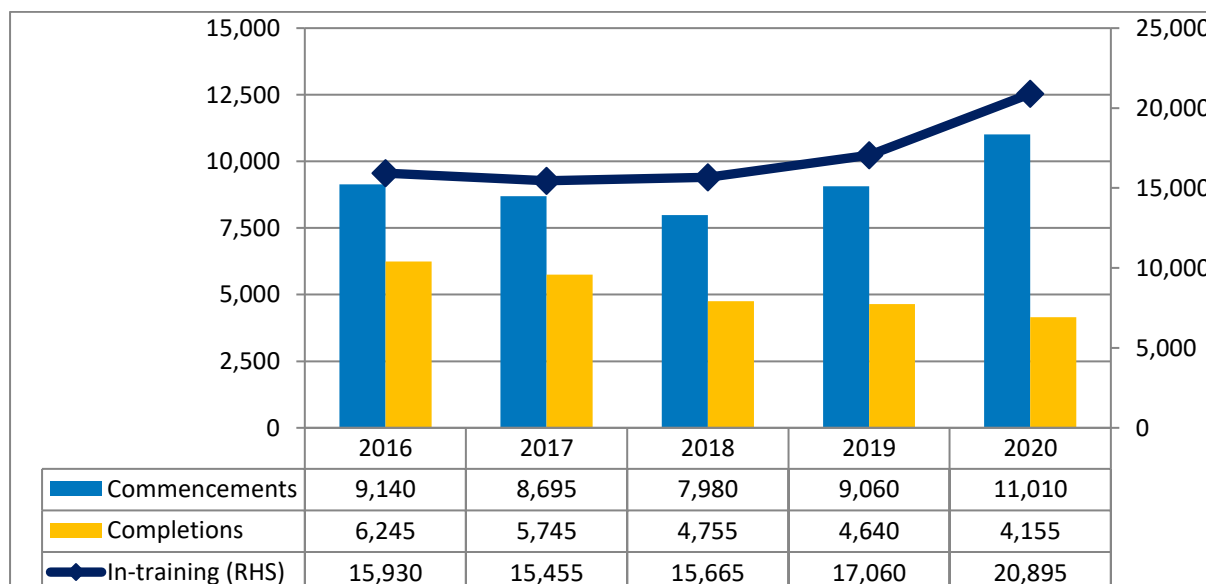
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	132	3,550
Traineeship	569	6,870
Total	701	10,420

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 21.5% to 11,010
- Completions decreased by 10.5% to 4,155
- There were 20,895 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 22.5% from the previous year

Figure 10: SA commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



TAS summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there 370 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in Tasmania. This is a decrease of 0.3% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications increased to 385 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 12: Qualification Classification by State: Classification data is not provided by Tasmania

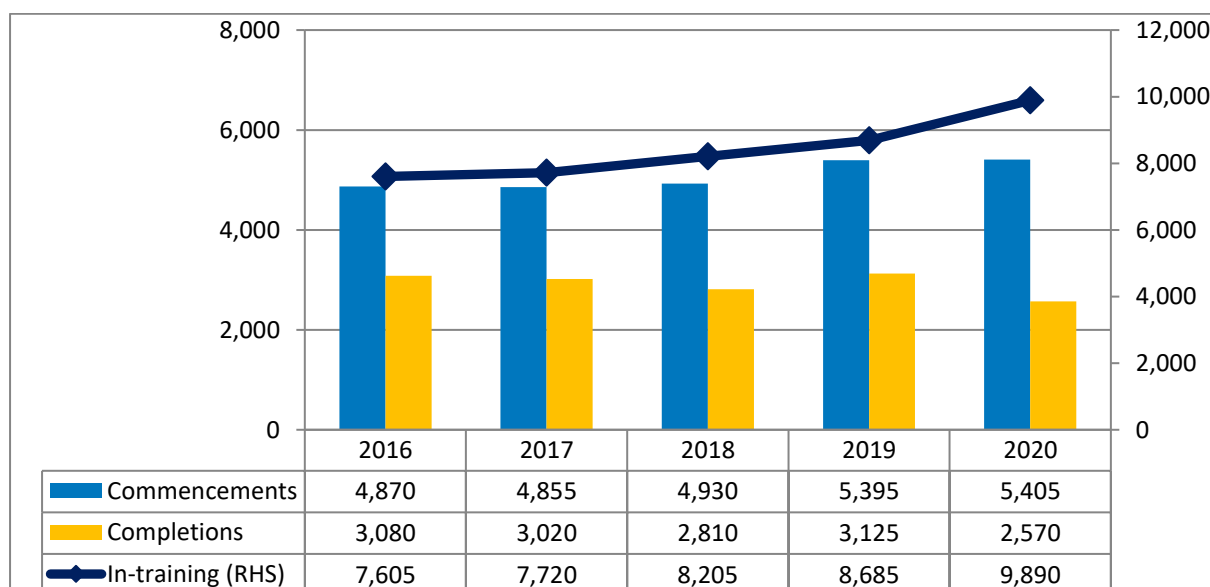
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	NA	NA
Traineeship	NA	NA
Total	370	5,405

Note: Tasmania does not provide classifications data. Total figures refer to the number of qualifications approved as an Australian Apprenticeship, and total commencements figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements increased by 0.2% to 5,405
- Completions decreased by 17.7% to 2,570
- There were 9,890 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 13.8% from the previous year

Figure 11: TAS commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



ACT summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 524 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in the ACT. This is an increase of 1.7% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 467 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 13: Qualification Classification by State

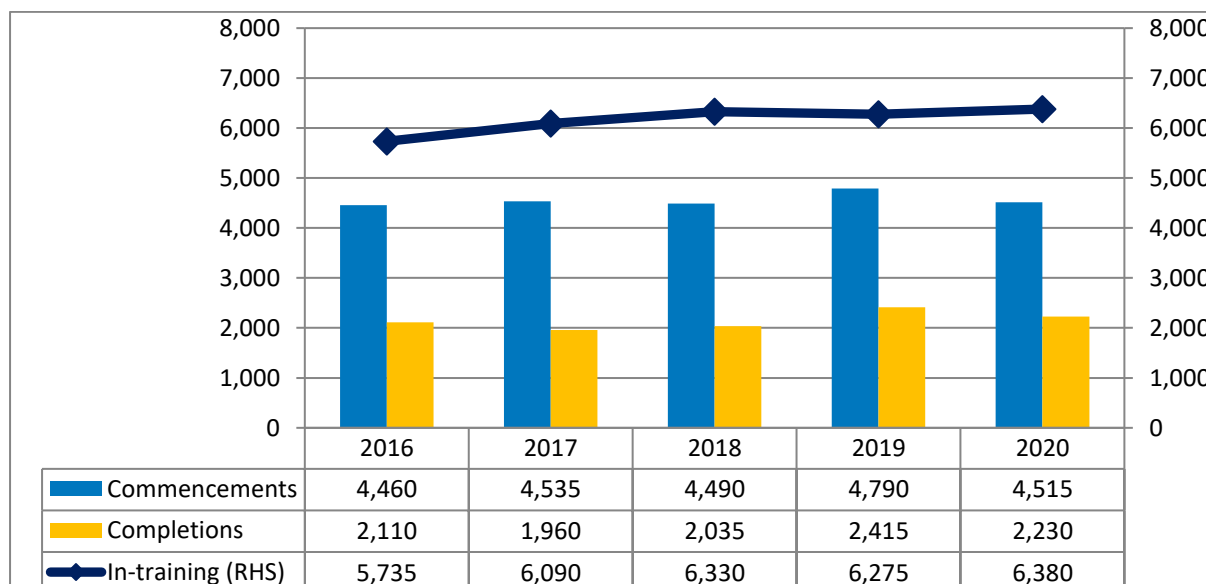
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	111	1610
Traineeship	413	2885
Total	524	4495

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements decreased by 5.7% to 4,515
- Completions decreased by 7.5% to 2,230
- There were 6,380 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 1.7% from the previous year

Figure 12: ACT commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



NT summary: 12 months ending December 2020

As of 31 December 2020, there were 1059 approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications in NT. This is a decrease of 2.5% from 31 December 2019.

Note: The number of approved Australian Apprenticeship qualifications decreased to 741 as of 23 July 2021.

Table 14: Qualification Classification by State

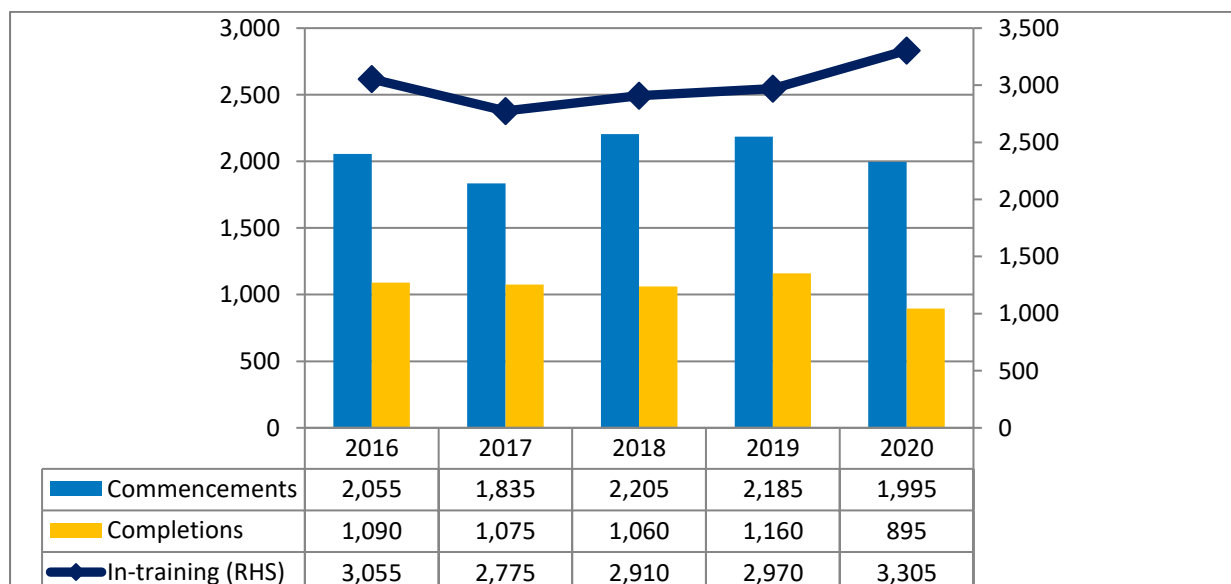
	Approved qualifications	Commencements
Apprenticeship	128	635
Traineeship	931	1205
Total	1059	1840

Note: The commencements figures in this table exclude qualifications that were not able to be matched against a classification, therefore may not match those shown in overall commencement figures.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with the previous year:

- Commencements decreased by 8.7% to 1,995
- Completions decreased by 22.8% to 895
- There were 3,305 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 11.2% from the previous year

Figure 13: NT commencement, completion & in-training numbers, annual, 2016-2020



Notes and definitions

Data sources

Data for this report were sourced from:

- [State and Territory Training Authorities](#)
- [NCVER Apprentices and trainees 2020: December quarter - Australia](#)
- [NCVER Completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2020](#)

All commencement, completion and in-training numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.

Notes

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements

[Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements \(BAC\)](#) is an Australian government wage subsidy which supports businesses to take on new apprentices and trainees. Eligible businesses may receive up to 50% or \$7000 per quarter, for 12 months from commencement of the apprentice or trainee.

This initiative was a response to COVID-19 and the related decline of Australian Apprenticeship commencements. BAC was initially announced for 100,000 places but has subsequently been expanded until 31 March 2022. As anticipated, since the start of BAC there has been a large increase in commencements.

Qualification classifications and commencements totals

The states and territories maintain schedules of qualifications that are approved to be undertaken as an Australian Apprenticeship. Each state and territory, excluding Tasmania, classifies Australian Apprenticeships into two groupings: apprenticeships and traineeships.

AATIS collects data on which qualifications are approved as an Australian Apprenticeship, and on their classification as an apprenticeship or traineeship. There are several caveats around this data:

- Apprenticeship and traineeship qualification totals exclude qualifications with a status of deleted
- When a state includes both a superseded and current qualification, only the most recent qualification is used and the superseded qualification is excluded
- Where a qualification has streams with different classifications across streams, the most common classification is used for the full qualification
- States and territories frequently remove qualifications, particularly when replacing them with a newly approved qualification. The total approved qualifications accounts for the qualifications that are removed, and for those which are added

Definitions

Australian Apprenticeship: Including both apprenticeships and traineeships; a contract of training approved by the relevant State or Territory Training Authority.

Apprenticeship: Qualifications classified by the relevant State or Territory Training Authority (STA) as an apprenticeship. [Further details can be found from each STA.](#)

Traineeship: Qualifications classified by the relevant State or Territory Training Authority (STA) as a traineeship. [Further details can be found from each STA.](#)

Trade: Occupations classified as group 3, Technical and Trade Workers, under ANZSCO. Each qualification has an ANZSCO code assigned from which this is taken. [Codes can be found on training.gov.au.](#)

Non-trade: Occupations classified in an ANZSCO group other than group 3. This includes: Community and personal service workers, Clerical and administrative workers, Sales Workers, Machinery operators and drivers, Labourers, Managers, Professionals, and Other. [Codes can be found on training.gov.au.](#)

Superseded qualification: Qualifications with a status of 'superseded' on [training.gov.au.](#)

Deleted qualification: Qualifications with a status of 'deleted' on [training.gov.au.](#)

The following definitions are taken from NCVET. For more information on their definitions, please see the ['Terms & definitions' information for the Apprentices and Trainees Collection.](#)

Commencement: "The number of apprenticeship/traineeship training contracts that started in a given period."

In-training: "The number of apprenticeship/traineeship training contracts where the apprentice/trainee is actively training under the terms of their contract, and who have not completed, cancelled or withdrawn from their training, or had their training contract expired without meeting all of the prescribed requirements of their program at a given point in time."

Completion: "The number of apprenticeship/traineeship training contracts where all of the prescribed requirements have been met in a given period."

Contract completion rate: "Refers to the proportion of apprentices and trainees who have commenced a contract in a given period and who have since completed the requirements of training for that contract."

Individual completion rate: "An estimate of the individual completion rate for apprentices and trainees, derived by adjusting the original contract completion rate by a recommencement factor."