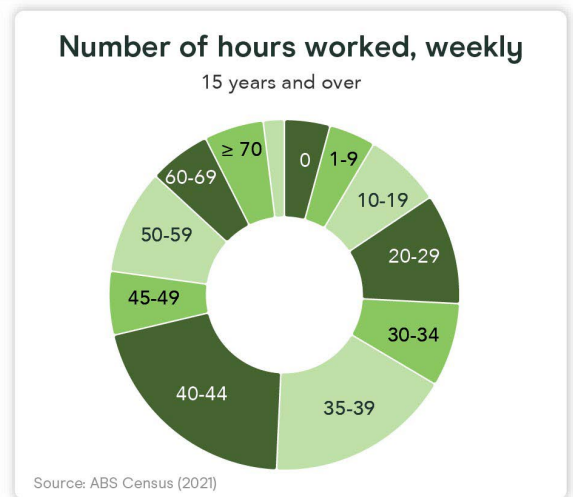
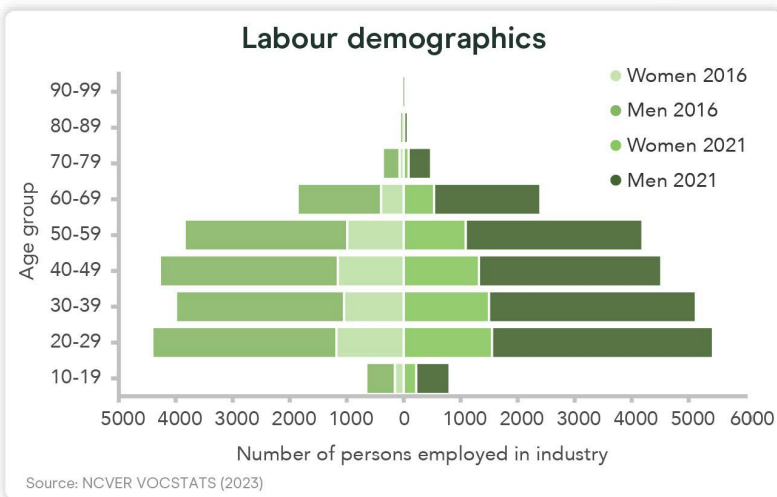
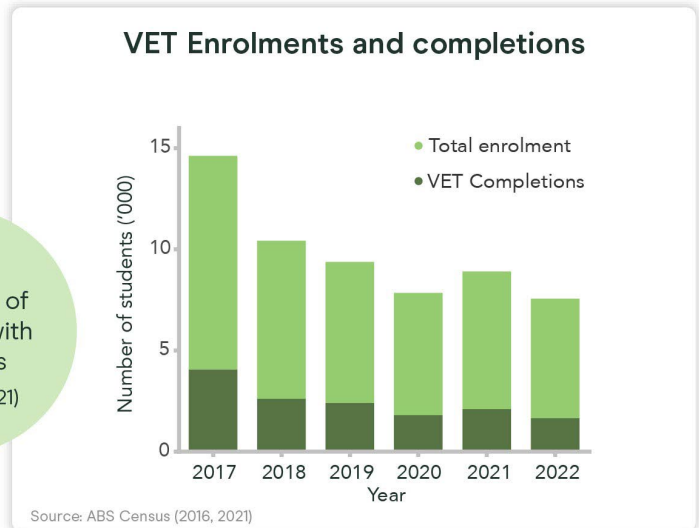
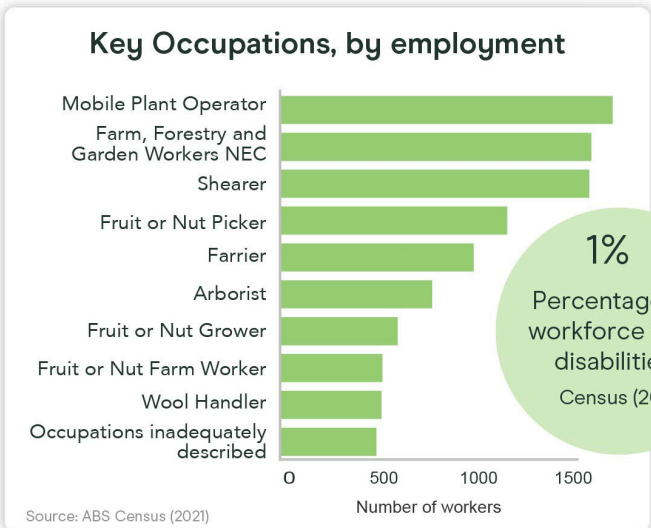
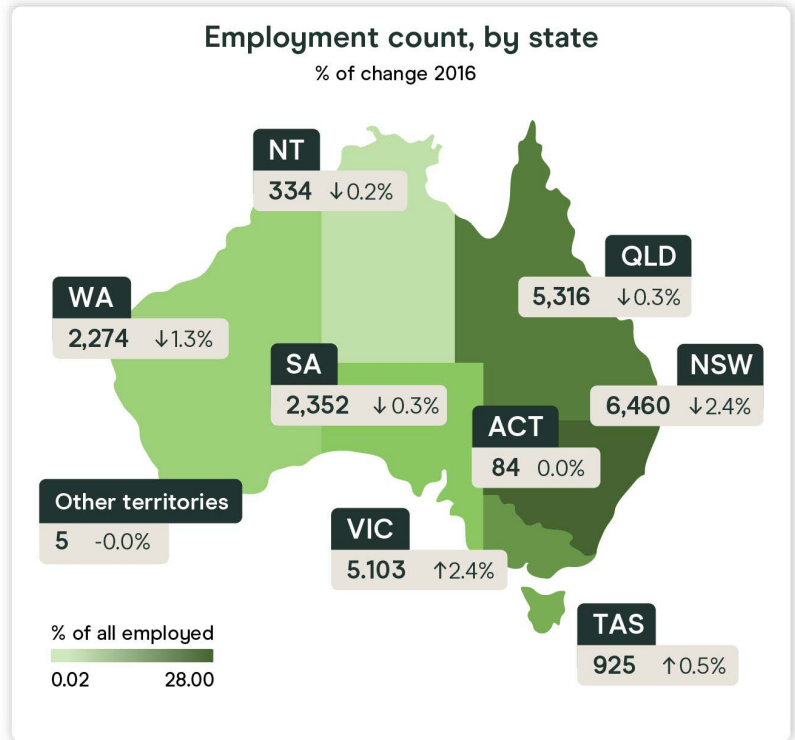
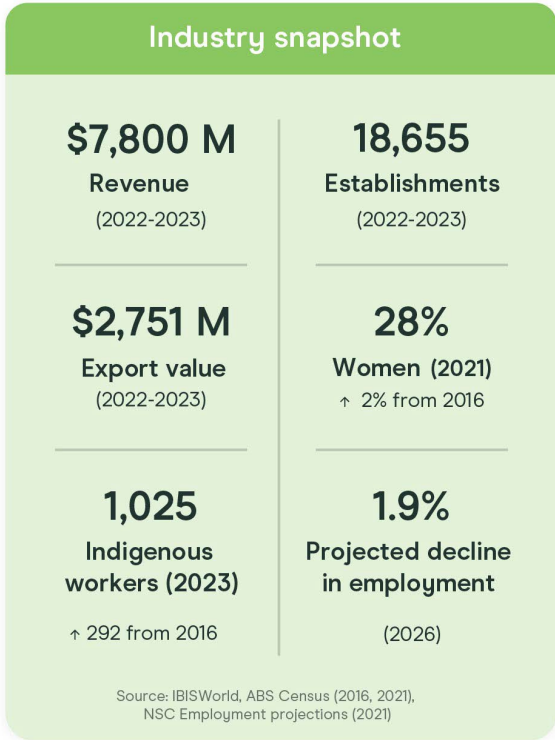


3.5. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services

ANZSIC A0111, A0112, A0113, A0114, A0115, A0121, A0122, A0123, A0131, A0132, A0133 A0134, A0135, A0136 A0137, A0139



3.5.1. Industry sectors (ANZSIC Classes)

- Hunting and Trapping
- Forestry Support Services
- Cotton Ginning
- Other Agriculture and Fishing Support Services
- Shearing Services
- Farm Animal and Bloodstock Leasing

Key insights from industry sector infographic and other data	Priority
Labour shortages	High
Declining VET programme enrolments and completions	High
Lack of gender diversity	Medium

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services are a highly specialised group of industry sectors, whose functions are critical to the safe and effective operations of multiple other industries, and in responding to external drivers of change, including climate change, digital practices and biosecurity threats. Businesses in *agriculture, forestry and fishing* have increasingly been seeking support services to improve efficiencies and productive capabilities in cropping, marketing and handling, irrigation, shearing and crutching, wool classing, aerial pest control or baiting, seed cleaning and grading, pruning, animal artificial insemination, reforestation, conservation and landcare. The skills and knowledge applied by the *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services* workforce relate to cross-industry needs, such as to ensure high animal welfare, but are highly contextualised and cannot be immediately transferred from job roles in other industries.

The National Training Register details qualifications corresponding to specialised job roles in *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services*. These include:

- Irrigation (Certificate II)
- Shearing (Certificates II and III)
- Wool Handling (Certificate II)
- Rural and Environmental Pest Management (Certificate III)
- Irrigation Technology (Certificate III)
- Rural Merchandising (Certificate III)
- Wool Clip Preparation (Certificate III)
- Advanced Wool Handling (Certificate III)
- Irrigation Management (Certificate IV)
- Wool Classing (Certificate IV)
- Pest Management (Certificate IV and Diploma)
- Irrigation Design (Diploma)
- Applied Agronomy (Diploma)

Below are examples of units of competency, which sit within these qualifications, that are unique to the skills and knowledge applied by competent workers in *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services*:

Unit title	Unique skills and knowledge
Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes (AHCPMG312)	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required for the safe preparation and distribution of poison baits for the control of vertebrate pest animals affecting the rural and natural environment according to legislative and regulatory requirements.
Collect samples for a rural production or horticulture monitoring program (AHCWRK313)	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to collect samples as part of a rural production or horticulture monitoring program or while conducting post-mortem examination of livestock or other animals.
Class fleece wool (AHCWOL405)	The unit applies to wool classers who class wool as a professional service after consultation with the grower or shed manager. This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to class fleece wool from merino and crossbred sheep into lines that meet the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Preparation of Australian Wool Clips. All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, work health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and codes.
Apply plant biology to agronomic practices (AHCBAC513)	This unit applies to individuals who apply specialised skills and knowledge to the application of plant biology, including plant taxonomy, plant morphology and plant physiology, to a wide range of agronomic practices, and take personal responsibility and exercise autonomy in undertaking complex analytical work.

3.5.2. Drivers of workforce dynamics

Labour shortages

The National Skills Commission's 2022 Skills Priority List data shows national shortages of the following occupations:

- Agronomist
- Agricultural Consultant
- Agricultural Research Scientist
- Agricultural and Agritech Technician

There are also regional and state-based shortages for the following occupations:

- Agricultural Engineer
- Agricultural and Agritech Technician
- Shearer
- Wool Classer
- Agricultural and Horticultural Mobile Plant Operator

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services Summary

Workforce challenges

- Labour shortages.
- Workforce diversity and culture: gender disparity, long working hours.
- Declining VET enrolments in sector-specific qualifications (though outcomes from general qualifications with multiple potential outcomes may be a mitigating factor).

Key evidence gaps

- No relevant qualifications outcomes data presented in NCVET's 'VET student outcomes 2022: qualification completion outcomes by qualification'.

Workforce planning priorities

- Support industry skills and workforce leadership development. **(2a)**
- Support industry to attract a diverse workforce to address imbalances and labour shortages. **(4b)**
- Research on declining enrolments, relevant outcomes from other qualifications (including ones with multiple potential outcomes, such as Certificate III in Agriculture), and other training pathways to/within Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services. This may support the identification of barriers to training delivery, skills gaps, duplication in existing training pathways, and the extent to which delivering more graduates may help to alleviate skills shortages. **(1a, 3a)**
- Support relationship building and collaboration between employers and training organisations, including to connect national training products with delivery of training 'on the ground'. **(3d)**