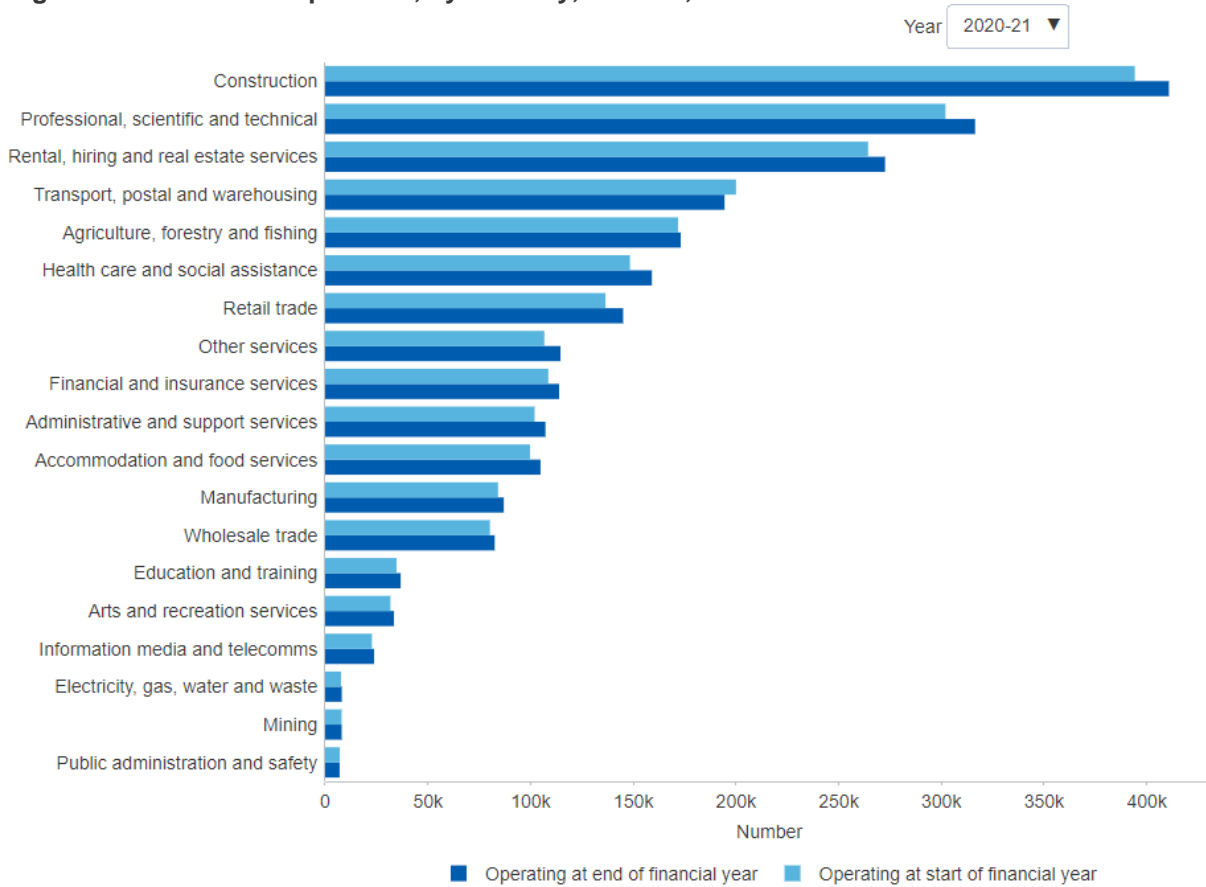


2.1.1 Businesses in operation by industry

The number of businesses operating in a given industry gives an indication of the market structure and level of competition, which in turn determines how businesses might innovate. At the end of June 2021, there were 2,398,926 actively trading businesses in Australia. This represents an increase of 3.8 per cent from 2,310,937 businesses at the end of June 2020. All industries saw positive growth including *Other services* (7.4 per cent) and *Health care and social assistance* (7.2 per cent), with the exception of *Transport, postal and warehousing* (2.8 per cent decrease) and *Public administration and safety* (1.4 per cent decrease). As at 30 June 2021, the highest number of businesses were in *Construction* (410,839 businesses or 17.1 per cent of total) and in *Professional, scientific and technical services* (316,462 businesses or 13.2 per cent of total). (Note: The totals shown in the chart exclude businesses where the industry is *Currently Unknown*, resulting in a small difference from the aggregate totals).¹

Figure: Businesses in operation, by industry, number, latest 2020–21



¹ ABS, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits*, Cat. No. 8165.0 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/counts-australian-businesses-including-entries-and-exits/latest-release>)