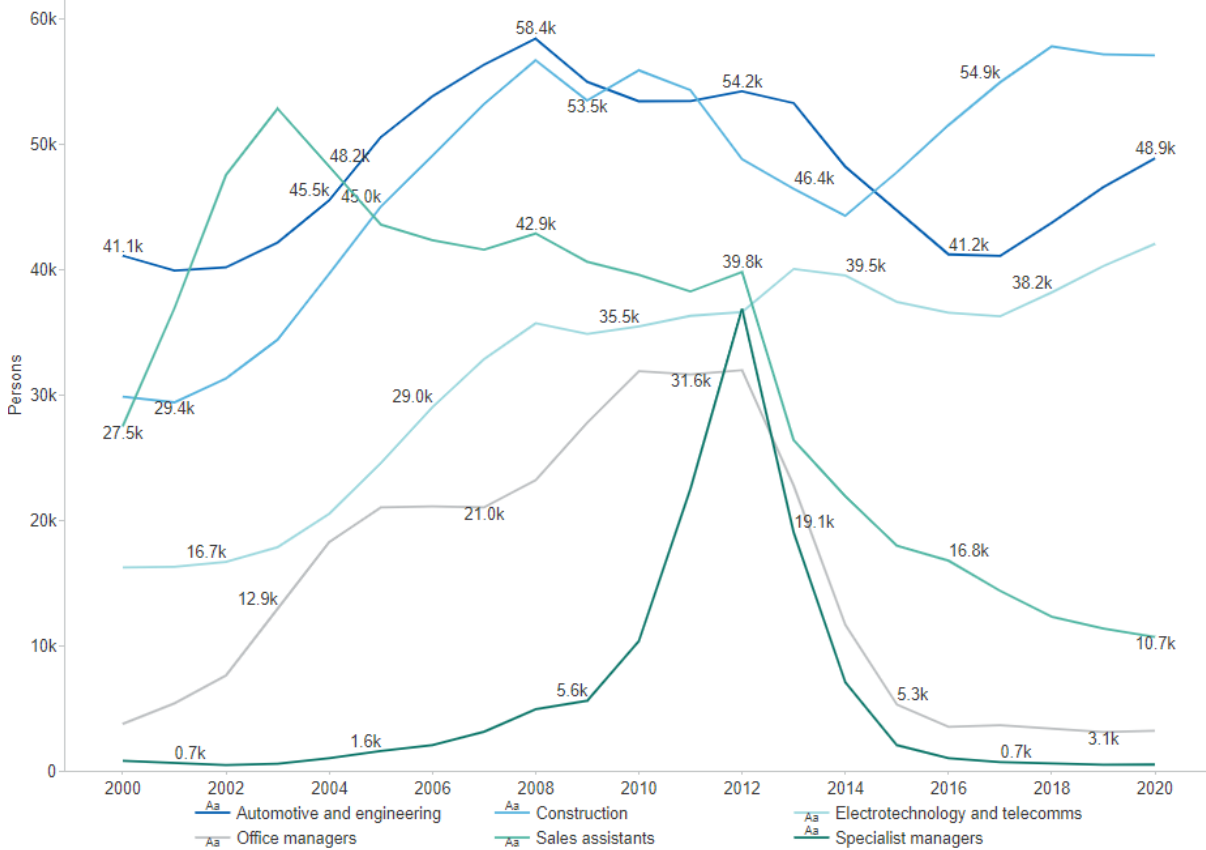


### 5.1.4 Apprentices and trainees by occupation

The labour force in a modern economy requires diverse skills and qualifications. However, evidence suggests that the occupations of apprentices and trainees (i.e. labour force in the pipeline) have become less diverse in recent years. In 2020, over half of all apprentices and trainees worked in just three fields: *Construction* (57,000 in 2020), *Automotive and engineering* (49,000) and *Electrotechnology and telecommunications* (42,000). *Construction* and *Automotive and engineering* have been very popular since at least 2000, while *Electrotechnology and telecommunications* has gradually gained popularity over time. Other occupations peaked in 2012 and have fallen since then, particularly *Sales assistants* (from 40,000 in 2012 to 11,000 in 2020), *Specialist managers* (from 37,000 in 2012 to 526 in 2020) and *Office managers* (32,000 in 2012 to around 3,200 in 2020). This is partly driven by changes to the financial incentives under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program since 2012. These changes have primarily affected non-National Skills Needs Lists apprenticeships and traineeships.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure: Apprentices and trainees in training, by occupation, persons, latest 2020**



<sup>1</sup> NCVET VOCSTATS – National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, extracted on 08/07/2021 (<https://www.ncvet.edu.au/research-and-statistics/collections/apprentices-and-trainees-collection>)