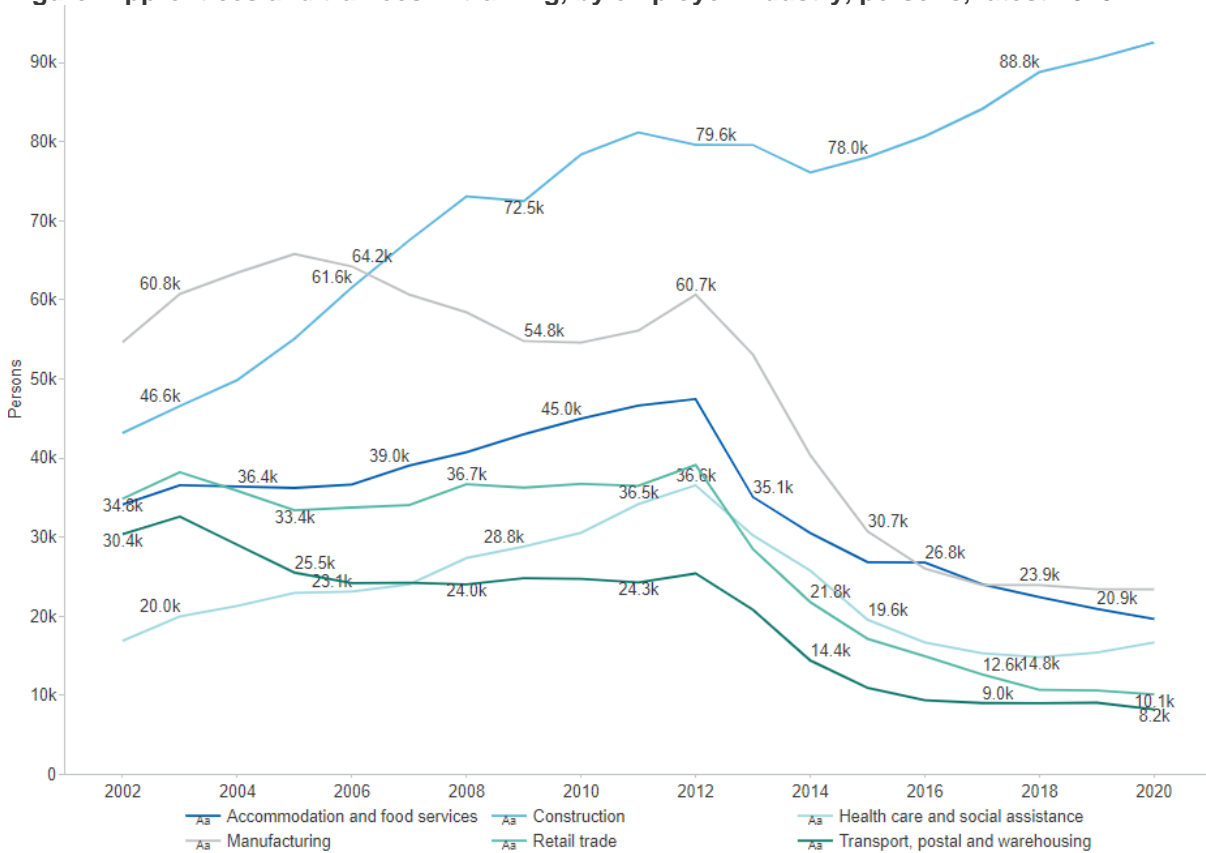


5.1.5 Apprentices and trainees by employer industry

Vocational study is most useful when students can work in the same field as their studies. The great majority of apprentices and trainees (in training) work in the *Construction* industry (93,000 in 2020). This has been the most popular industry of employment since 2007, and the only employer industry not to shrink significantly since 2012. All other major employer industries peaked in 2012 and have declined since then. *Manufacturing* declined by more than 60 per cent (from 61,000 in 2012 to 23,000 in 2020) and *Accommodation and food services* fell by almost 60 per cent (47,000 in 2012 to 20,000 in 2019). The peak in 2012 and subsequent decline were 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. The *Construction* industry was not affected, and its numbers have continued to climb since 2012.¹

Figure: Apprentices and trainees in training, by employer industry, persons, latest 2020



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