

New Business Index

• January 2026 •

Executive Summary

Statistics For January 2026

Key growth signals from the ABN registry and Australia's latest new business registrations.

Australia's Business Formation

A closer look at how Australia's new businesses are taking shape, from the structures they choose to the regions driving growth.

Demographic Analysis

Age distribution and geographic origins of Lawpath company founders

Started this month with Lawpath

Celebrating founders who chose Lawpath's faster, easier, and more affordable way to launch their business.

Monthly ABN registrations

• January 2024 - January 2026 •

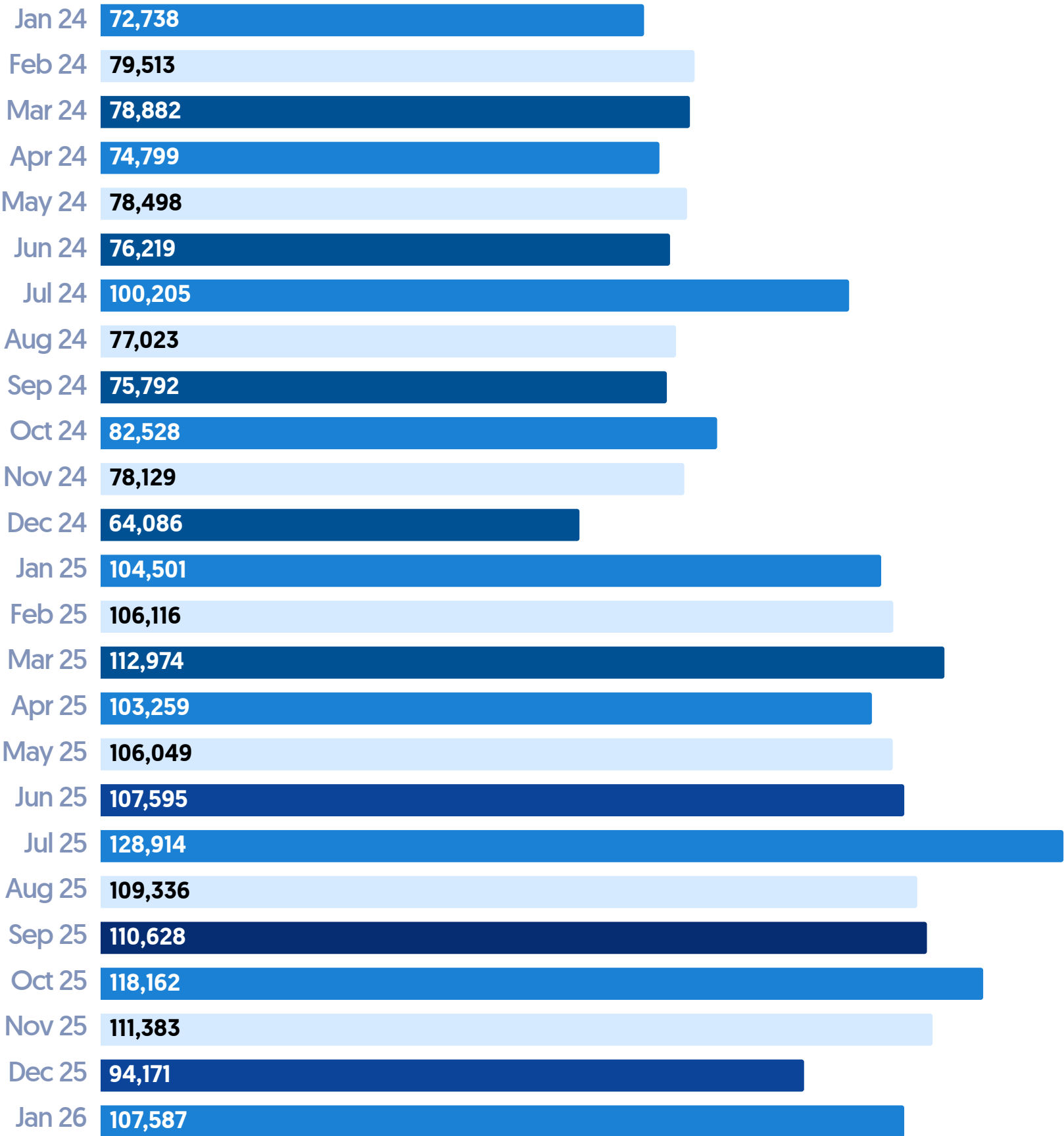
NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

+39.9% YoY

107,587

Total ABN registrations this month

Source: [Australian Business Register](#) – ABN Bulk Extract



Monthly ACN registrations

• January 2024 - January 2026 •

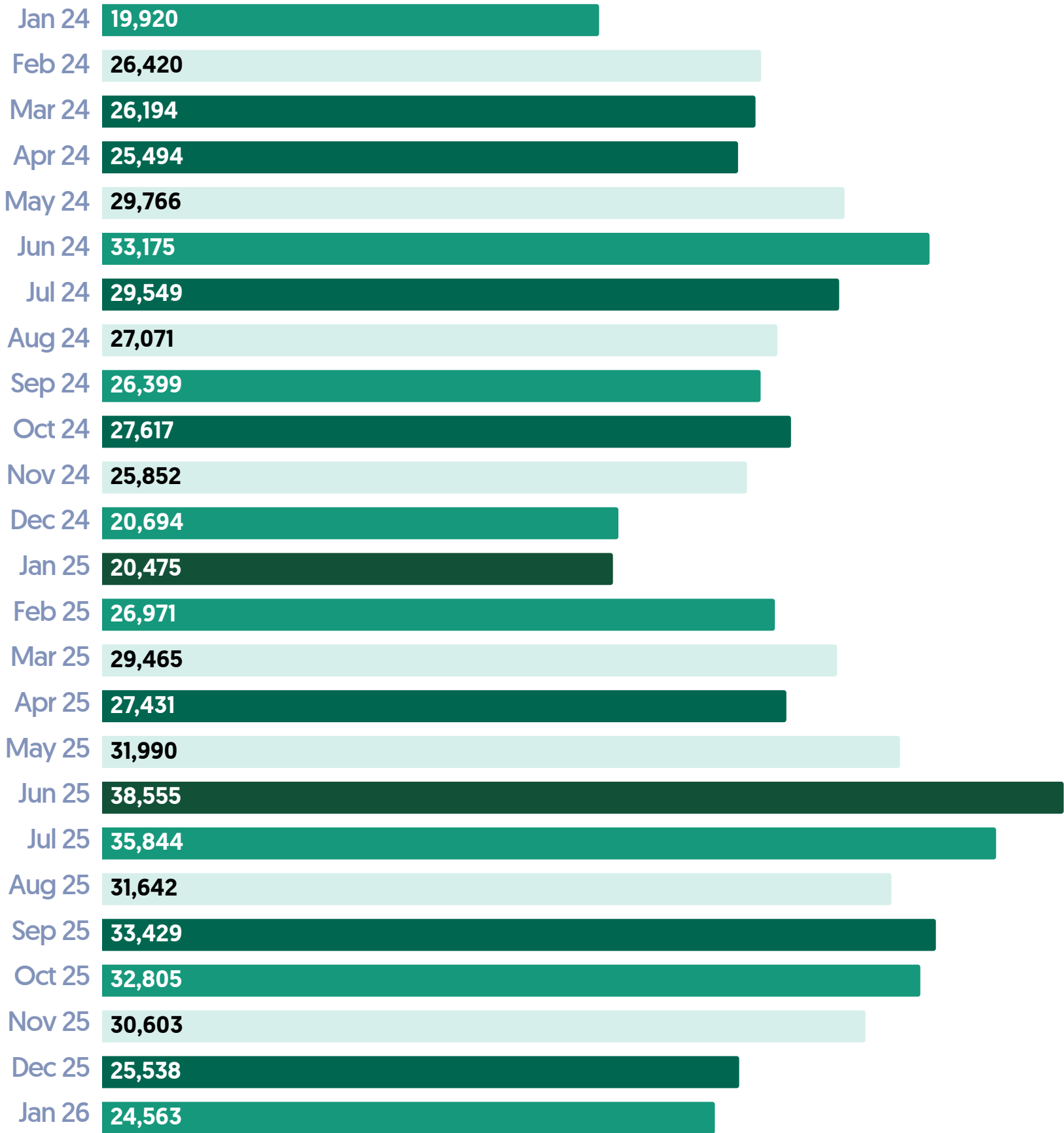
NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

+14.7% YoY

24,563

Total ACN registrations this month

Source: [ASIC – Company registration statistics](#)



Monthly GST registrations

• January 2024 - January 2026 •

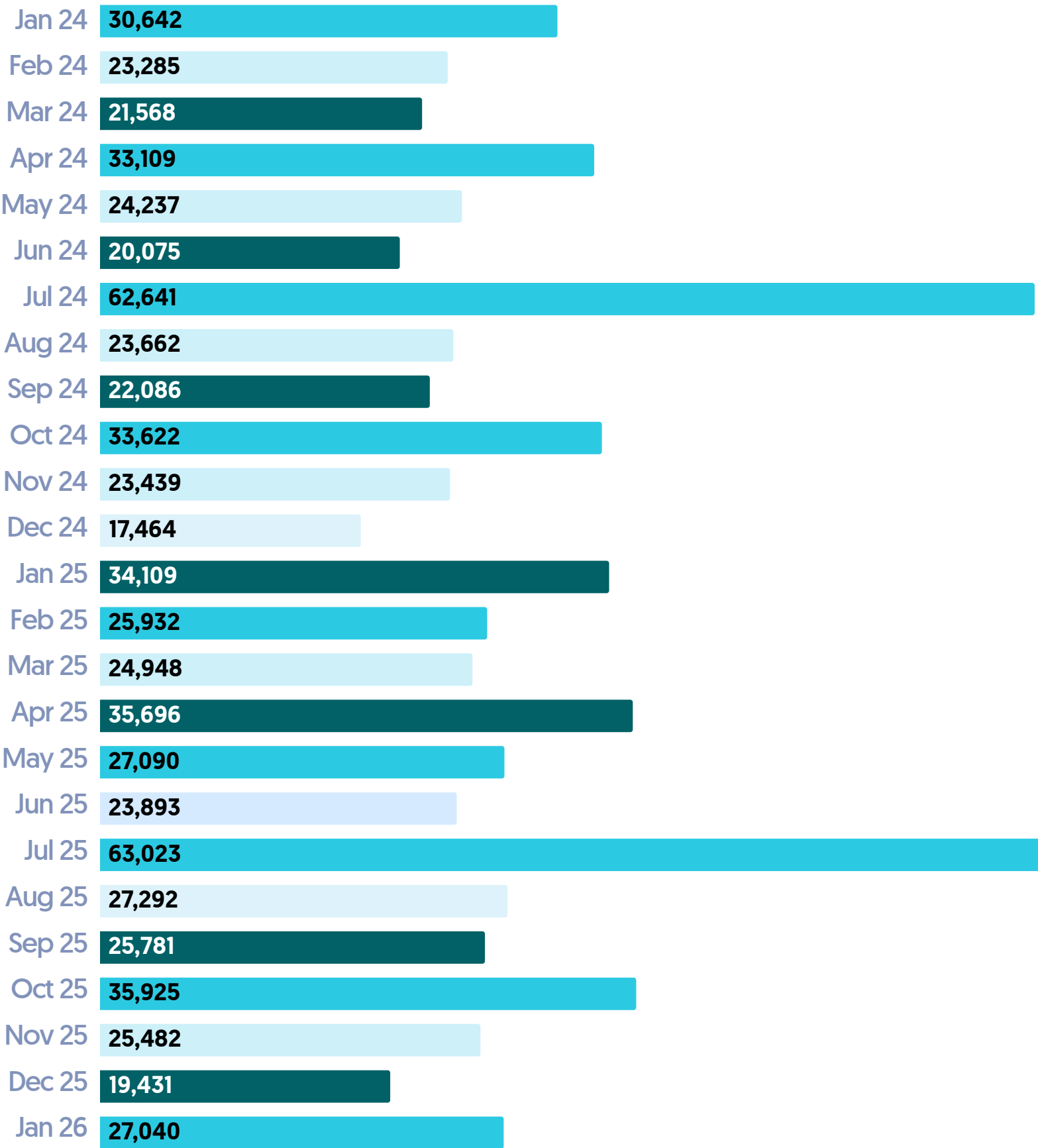
GST STATUS

+9.8% YoY

27,040

Businesses registered for GST

Source: [Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract](#)



Statistics For January 2026

NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

107,587 +39.9% YoY

Total ABN registrations this month

NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

24,563 +14.7% YoY

Total ACN registrations this month

GST STATUS

23,185 +9.8% YoY

Businesses registered for GST

January often signals a fresh start, but this year, it also marked a return to structure. More than 107,000 new businesses were registered, yet unlike previous months, a higher share chose to incorporate. Company formations rose nearly 15% year-on-year, outpacing sole trader growth for the first time in recent quarters.

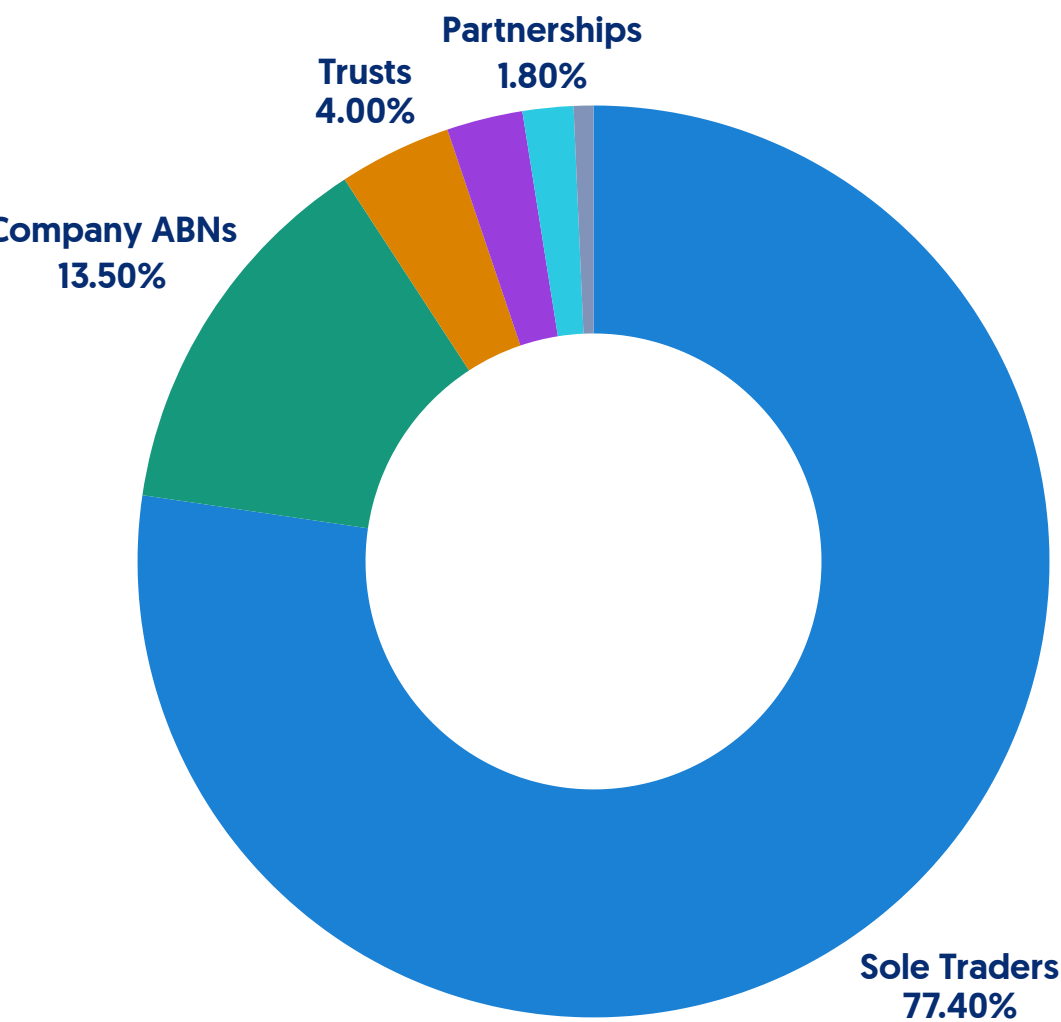
At the same time, GST registrations rebounded, up 9.8% year-on-year. It suggests that more founders are starting with formal plans in place, not just testing ideas, but committing earlier to structured growth.

The data also showed a demographic shift. Founders aged 55 and over saw the sharpest increase in activity, while younger age groups, though still active, grew at a slower pace. And in a notable change from previous months, the Northern Territory recorded the fastest growth nationally, driven almost entirely by sole traders.

It's a reminder that Australia's entrepreneurial energy isn't one-size-fits-all. The year began with more structure, more intent, and a broader spread of who and where new businesses are being built.

Business Structures

Australia’s Business Formation

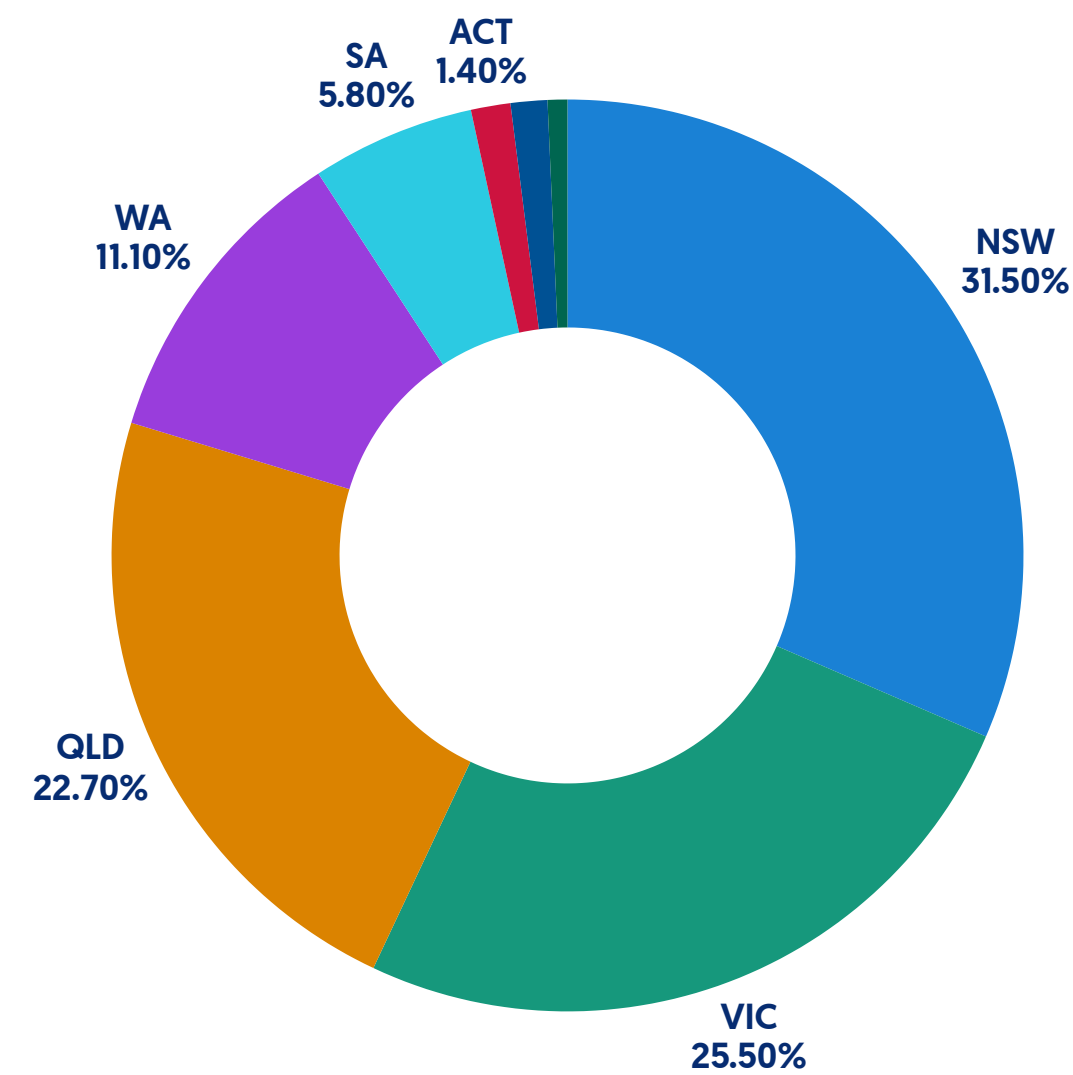


CATEGORY	VALUE	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Sole Traders	82,812	77.40%	4.66%
• Company ABNs	14,427	13.50%	1.61%
• Trusts	4,229	4.00%	-15.18%
• Super Funds	2,870	2.70%	0.35%
• Partnerships	1,905	1.80%	-18.13%
• Other	715	0.70%	-24.82%

Source: [Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract](#) (monthly new company registrations)

States & Territories

Australia’s Business Formation



State	VALUE	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• NSW	33,656	31.50%	2.50%
• VIC	27,253	25.50%	-2.10%
• QLD	24,267	22.70%	5.83%
• WA	11,828	11.10%	10.00%
• SA	6,239	5.80%	0.32%
• ACT	1,458	1.40%	-4.33%
• TAS	1,392	1.30%	-0.85%
• NT	770	0.70%	11.27%

Source: [Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract](#) (monthly new company registrations)

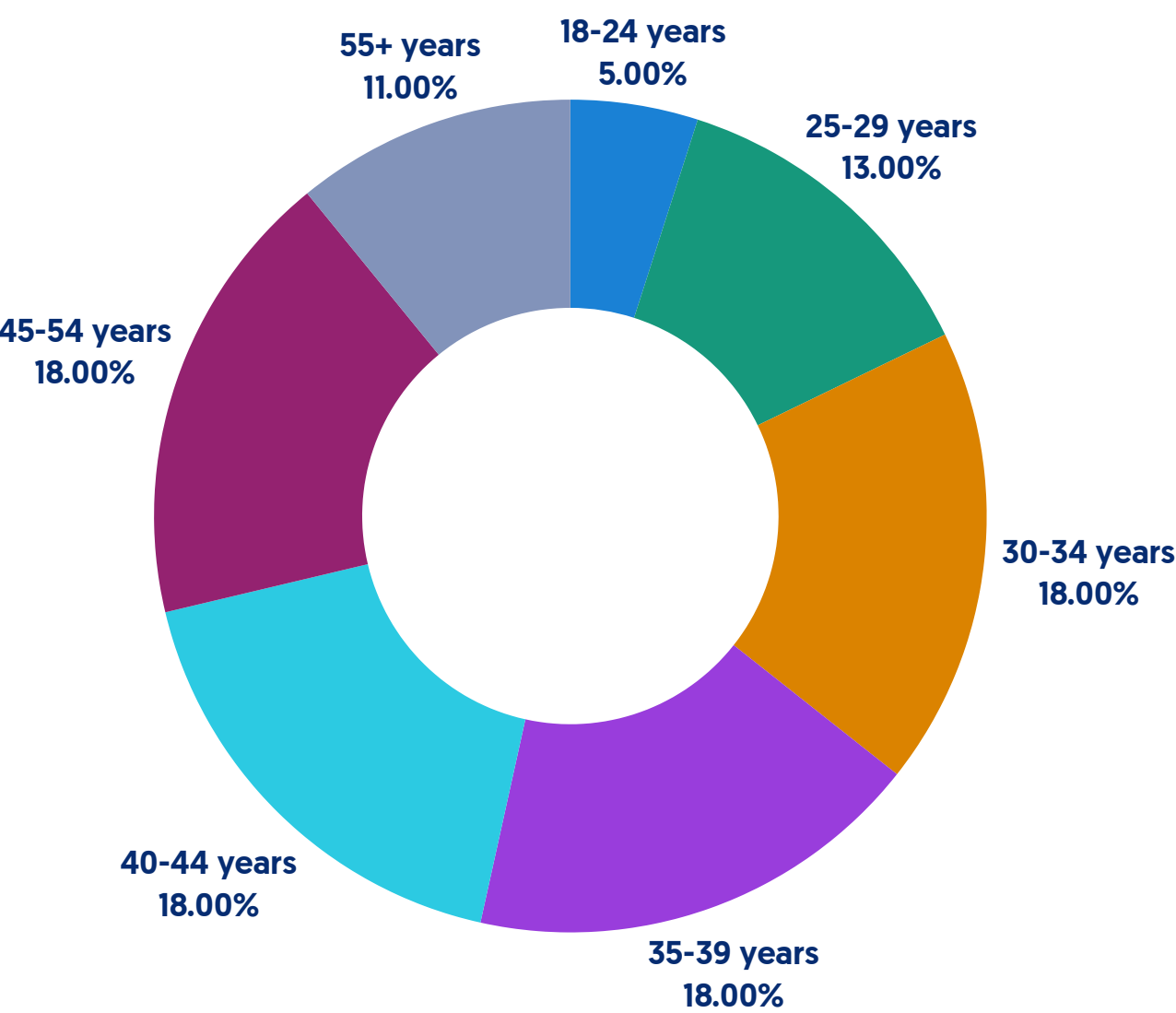
Suburbs On The Rise

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	STATE	BUSINESSES REGISTERED (January 2025)	BUSINESSES REGISTERED (January 2026)	YOY GROWTH
Brisbane CBD	Queensland	436	520	19.27%
Gold Coast CBD	Queensland	408	476	16.67%
Sunshine Coast Regional	Queensland	362	412	13.81%
The Hills Shire	New South Wales	361	402	11.36%
Whittlesea / Darebin	Victoria	631	679	7.61%
Wyndham	Victoria	552	585	5.98%
Toowoomba Regional	Queensland	427	450	5.39%
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Victoria	405	425	4.94%

Source: [Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract](#) (monthly new company registrations)

Age Distribution of Founders

Demographic Analysis

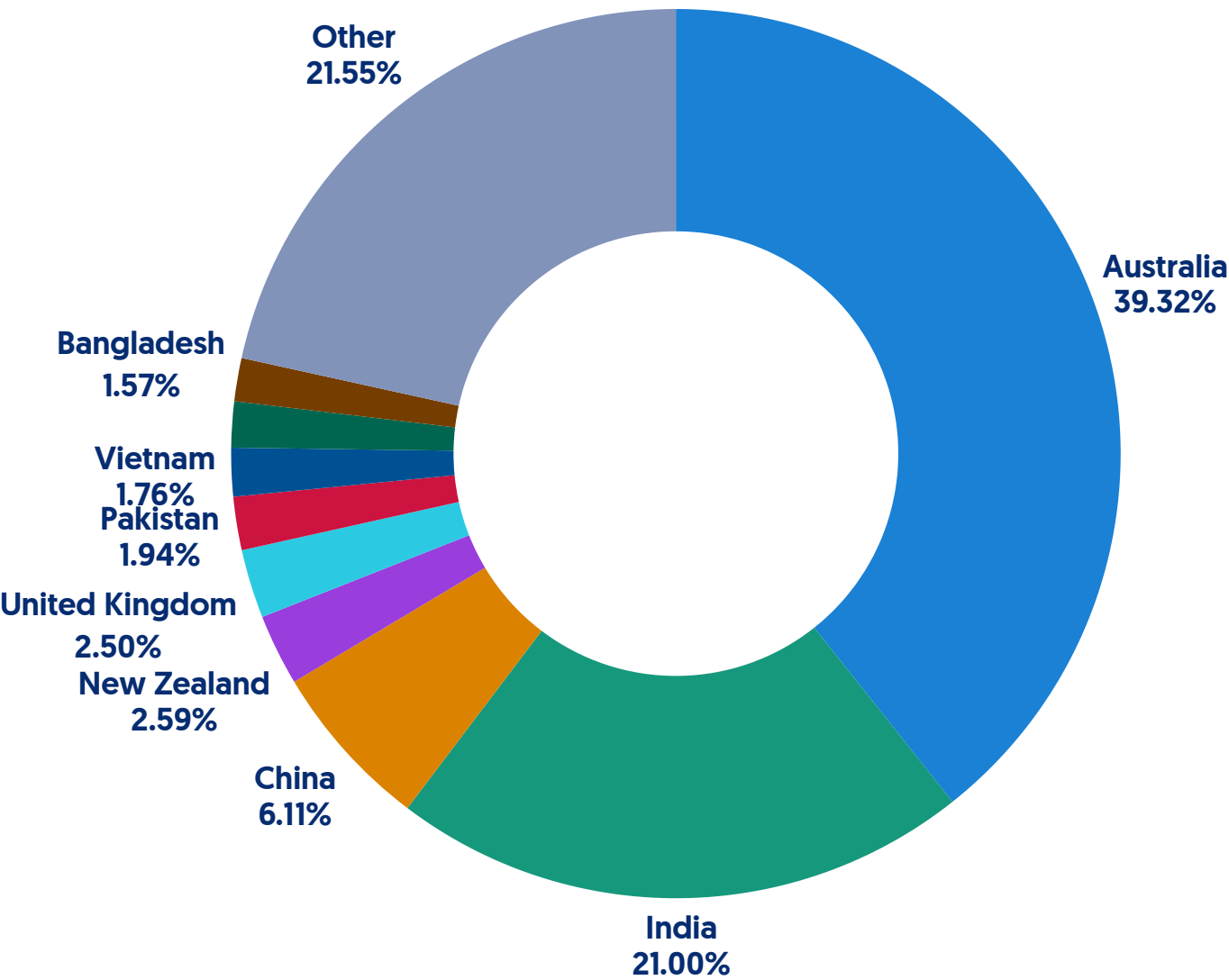


CATEGORY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• 18-24 years	5.00%	13%
• 25-29 years	13.00%	32%
• 30-34 years	18.00%	41%
• 35-39 years	18.00%	13%
• 40-44 years	18.00%	18%
• 45-54 years	18.00%	36%
• 55+ years	11.00%	46%

Source: [The Lawpath Business Index: Uncovering Australia's Hidden Entrepreneurs](#)

Countries of Birth

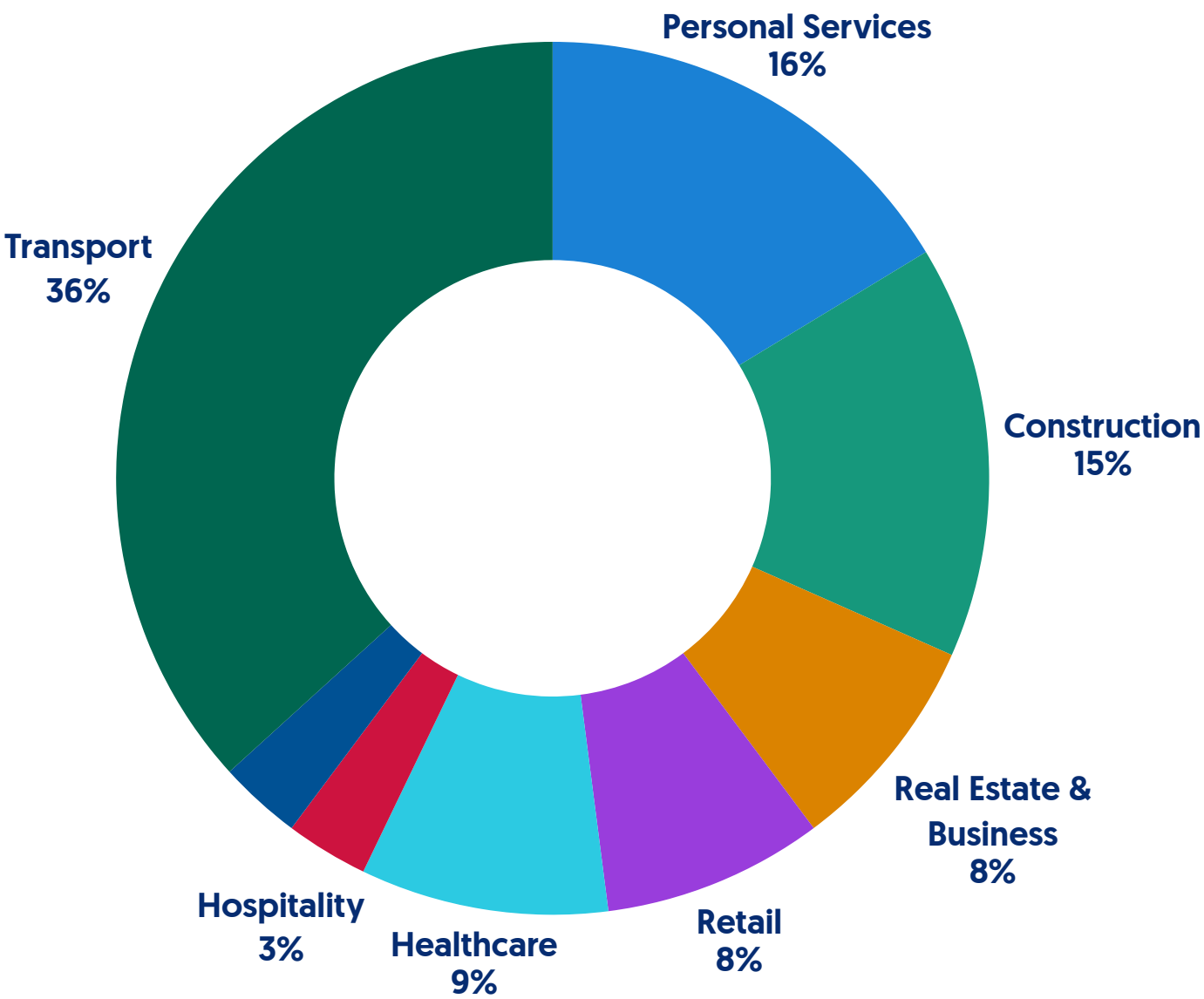
Demographic Analysis



COUNTRY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Australia	39.32%	60%
• India	21.00%	36%
• China	6.11%	-21%
• New Zealand	2.59%	33%
• United Kingdom	2.50%	93%
• Pakistan	1.94%	31%
• Vietnam	1.76%	36%
• Nepal	1.67%	20%
• Bangladesh	1.57%	55%
• Other	21.55%	8%

Source: [The Lawpath Business Index: Uncovering Australia's Hidden Entrepreneurs](#)

Industry Distribution



CATEGORY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Personal Services	16%	54.76%
• Construction	15%	74.29%
• Real Estate & Business	8%	32.00%
• Retail	8%	-10.81%
• Healthcare	9%	-24.49%
• Wholesale Trade	3%	-7.14%
• Finance and Insurance	3%	8.33%
• Other	36%	156.14%

Source: [The Lawpath Business Index: Uncovering Australia's Hidden Entrepreneurs](#)

Methodology

Each month, the Lawpath New Business Index captures how entrepreneurship in Australia is evolving.

Using verified data from the Australian Business Register (ABR) and ASIC, combined with anonymised insights from thousands of registrations processed through the Lawpath platform, we deliver a verified, month-by-month view of who is starting businesses, where they are based, and the industries they are choosing.





Lawpath®