

# 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 •

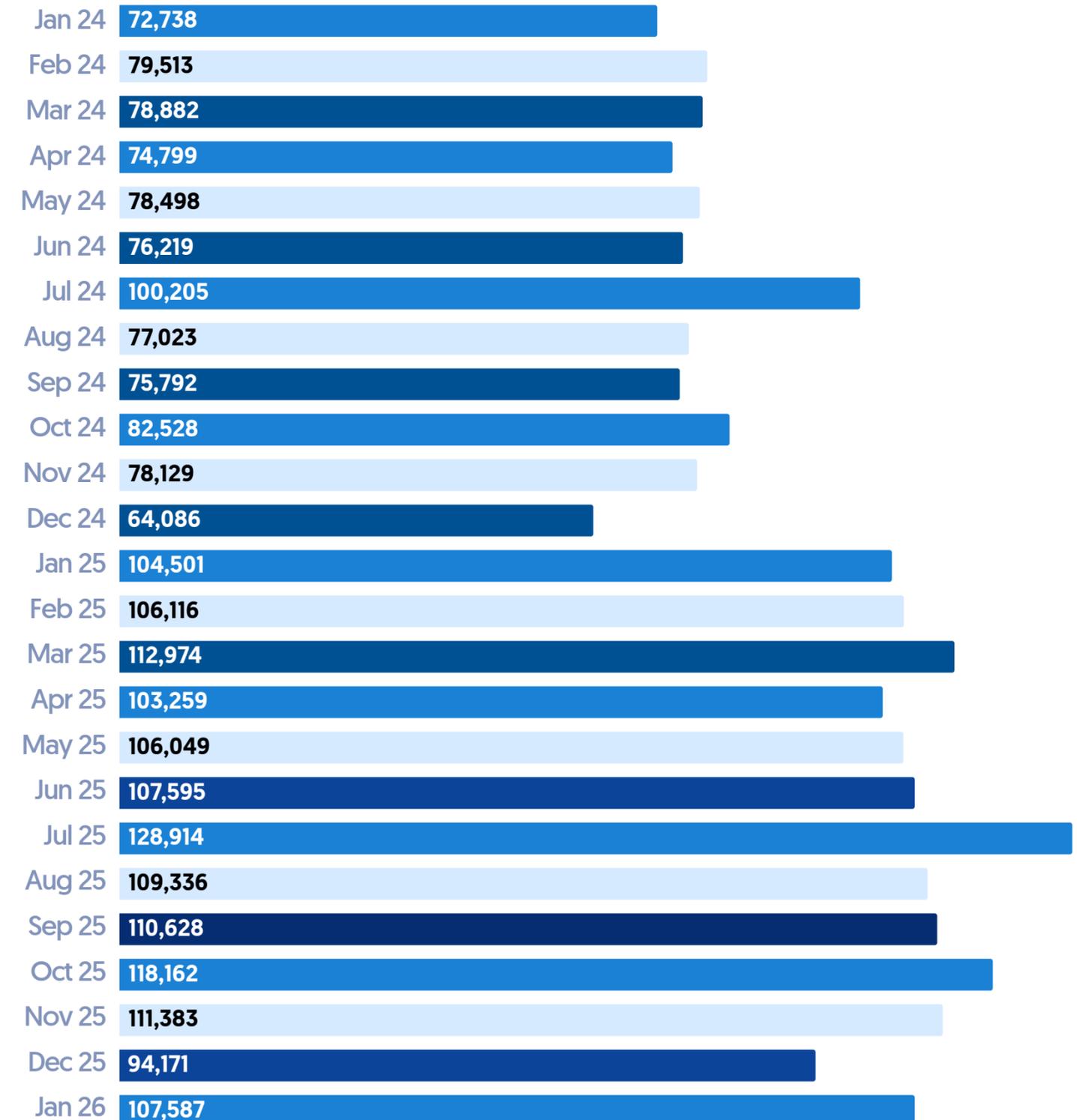
NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

+2.95% YoY

# 107,587

Total ABN registrations this month

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



# Monthly ACN registrations

• January 2024 - January 2026 •

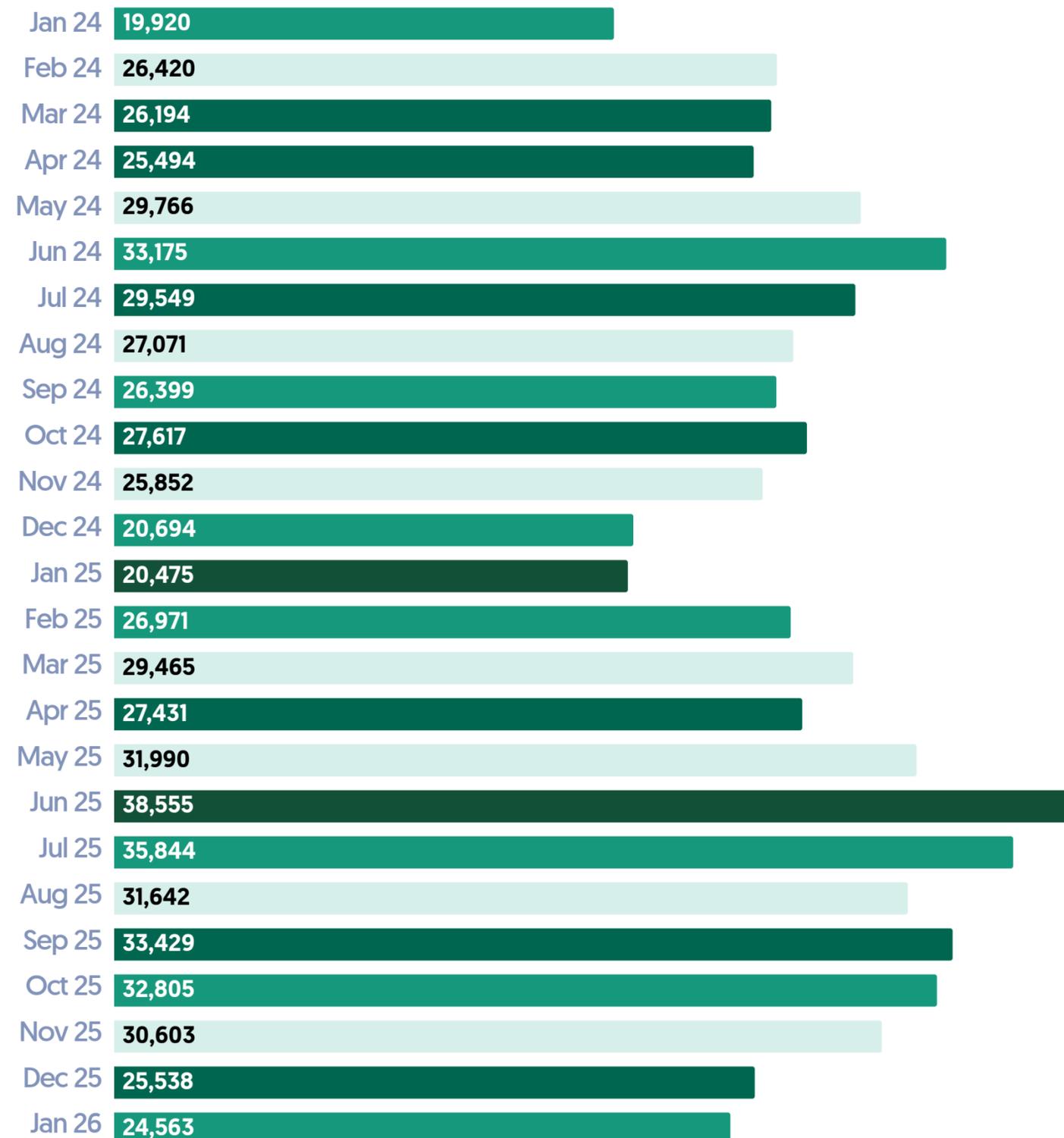
NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

+19.97% YoY

# 24,563

Total ACN registrations this month

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



# Monthly GST registrations

• January 2024 - January 2026 •

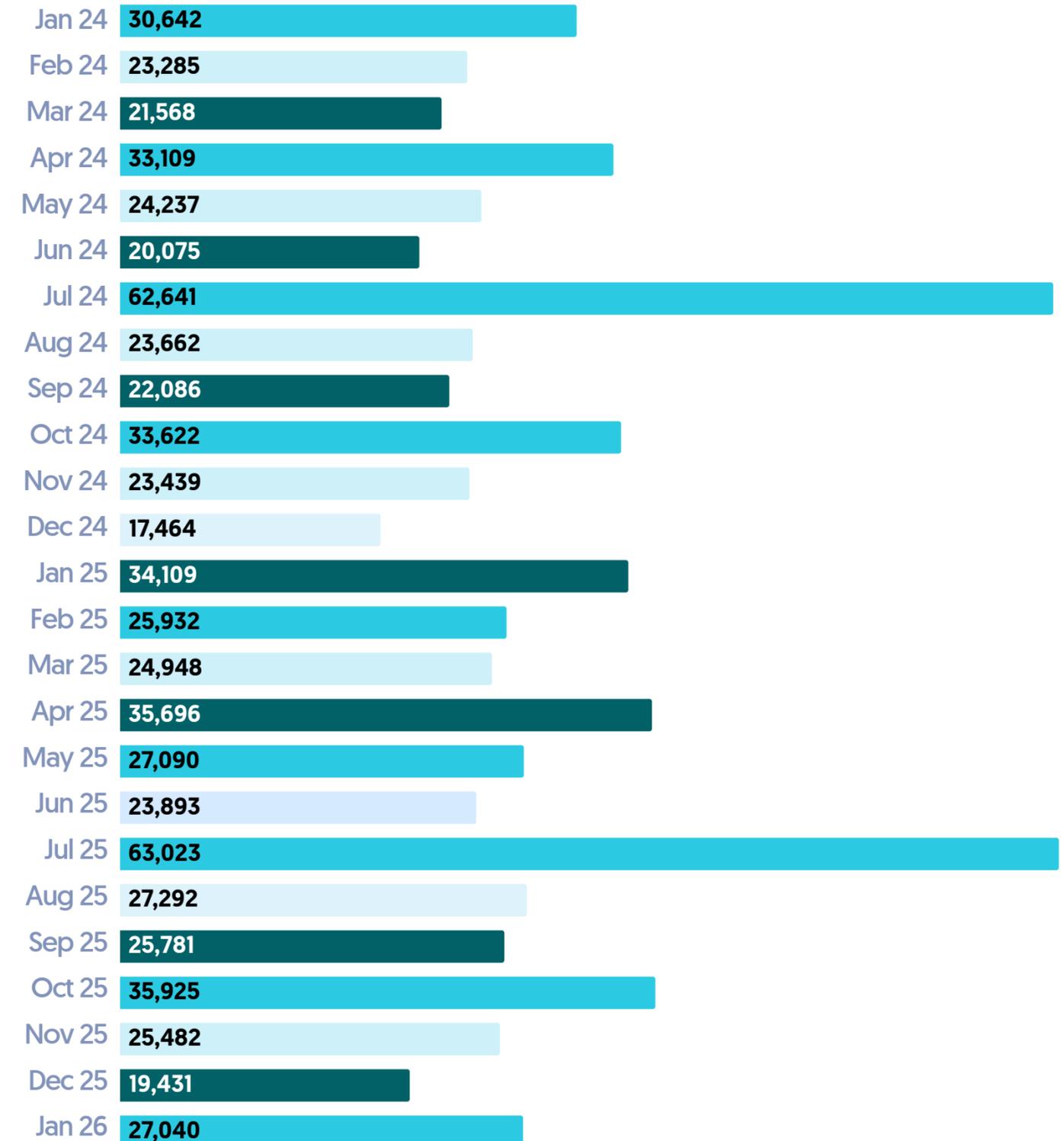
## GST STATUS

-20.72% YoY

# 27,040

Businesses registered for GST

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



# Statistics For January 2026

## NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

**107,587** +2.95% YoY

Total ABN registrations this month

## NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

**24,563** +19.97% YoY

Total ACN registrations this month

## GST STATUS

**27,040** -20.72% 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, a 2% increase year-on-year and one of the strongest January results in recent years. At the same time, 24,563 new companies were registered, marking nearly 20% annual growth. Unlike previous months, a higher share of founders chose to incorporate, prioritising asset protection and long-term scalability from day one.

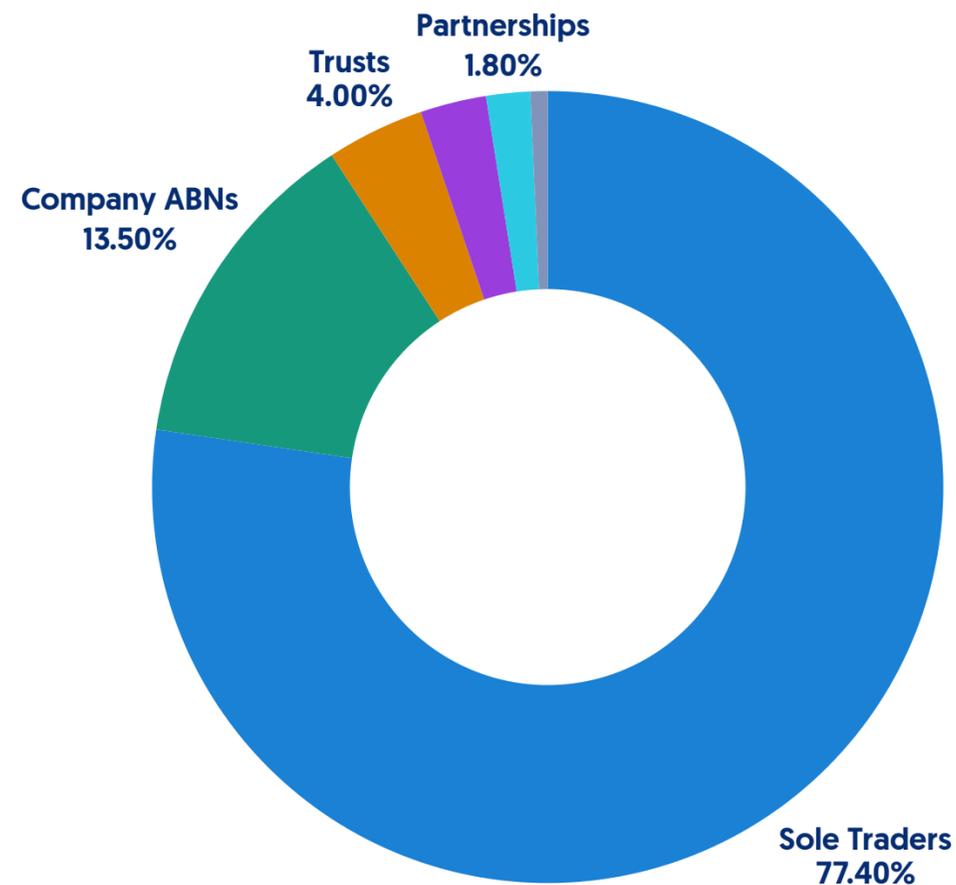
Yet GST registrations told a different story. Just 27,040 businesses registered for GST, down 20.72% year-on-year. The widening gap between ABN growth and GST decline reveals a cautious approach. Many new businesses are either trading below the \$75,000 threshold or testing concepts before committing to tax obligations. Founders are prioritising flexibility and lower compliance burdens in the early stages, delaying formalisation until revenue streams are validated.

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

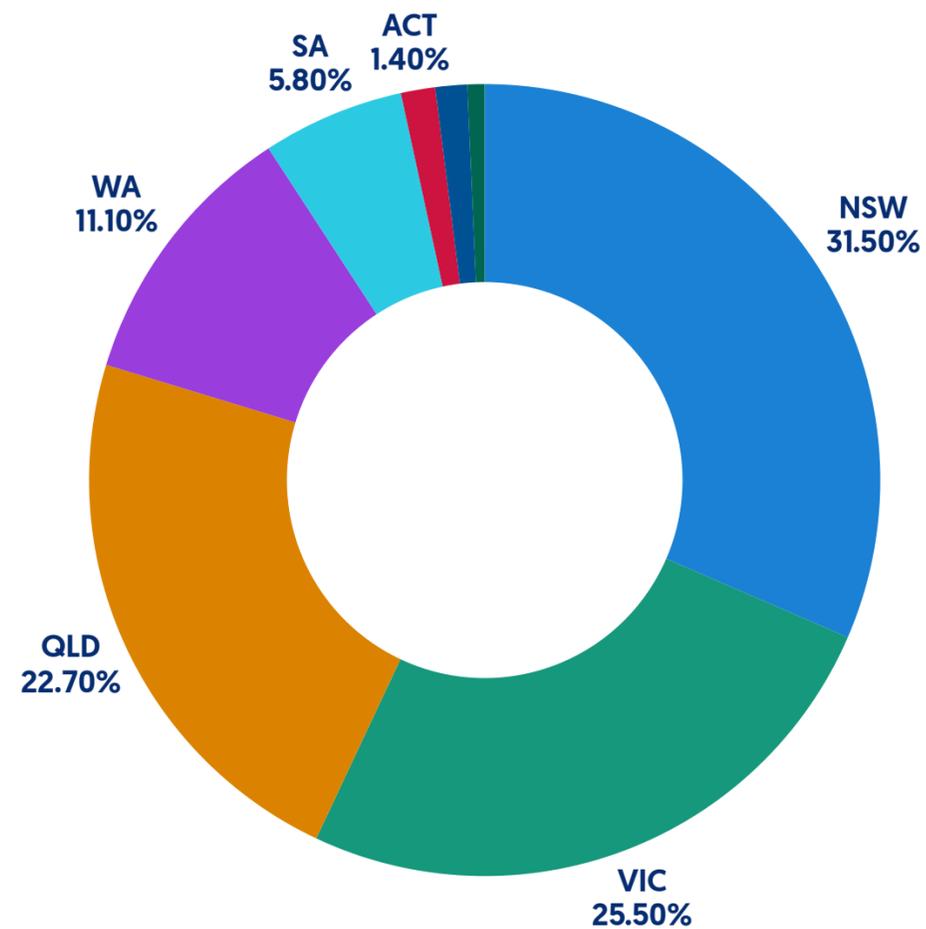


CATEGORY	VALUE	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Sole Traders	82,812	77.40%	4.66%
• Company ABNs	14,427	13.50%	1.61%
• Trusts	4,229	4.00%	-15.18%
• Super Funds	2,870	2.70%	0.35%
• Partnerships	1,905	1.80%	-18.13%
• Other	715	0.70%	-24.82%

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)

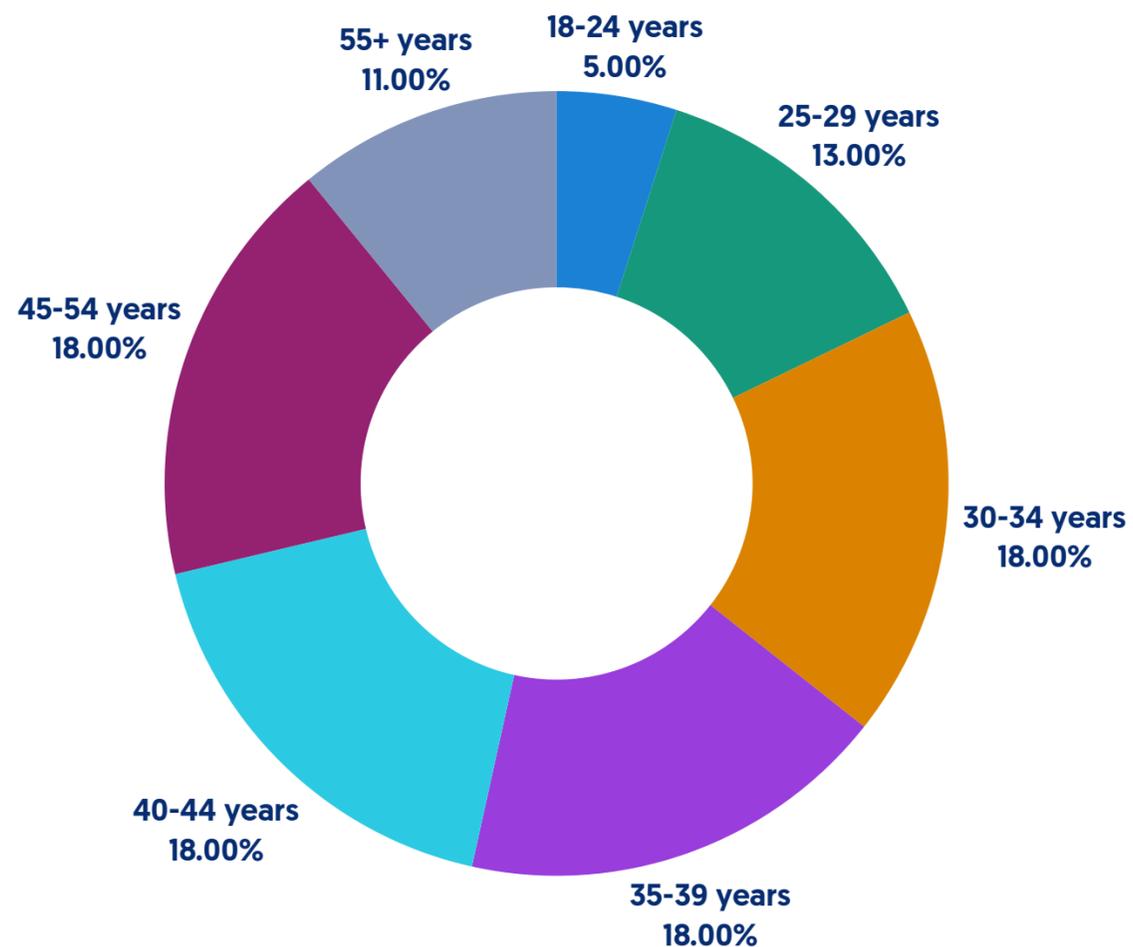
# Suburbs On The Rise

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

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

# Age Distribution of Founders

## Demographic Analysis

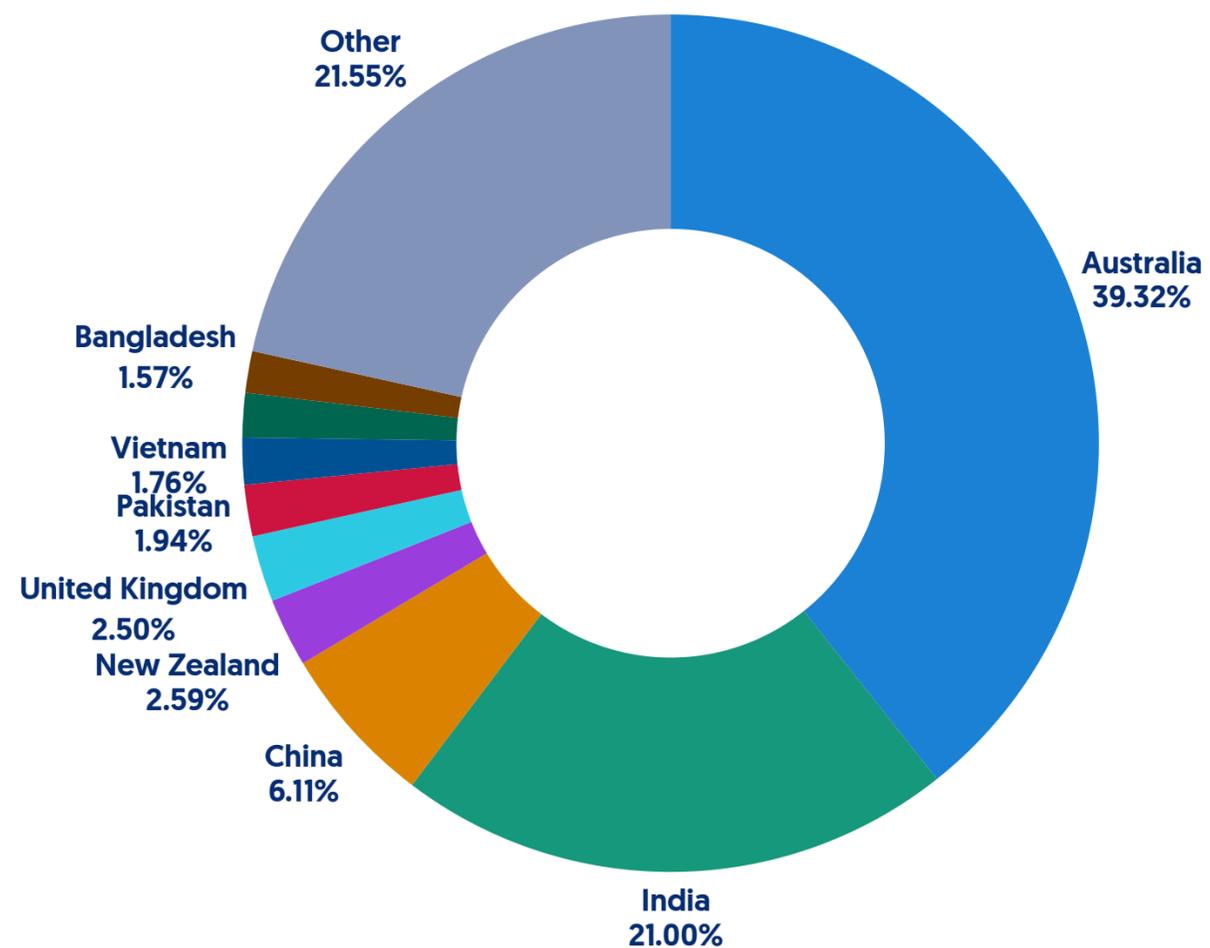


CATEGORY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• 18-24 years	5.00%	13%
• 25-29 years	13.00%	32%
• 30-34 years	18.00%	41%
• 35-39 years	18.00%	13%
• 40-44 years	18.00%	18%
• 45-54 years	18.00%	36%
• 55+ years	11.00%	46%

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

# Countries of Birth

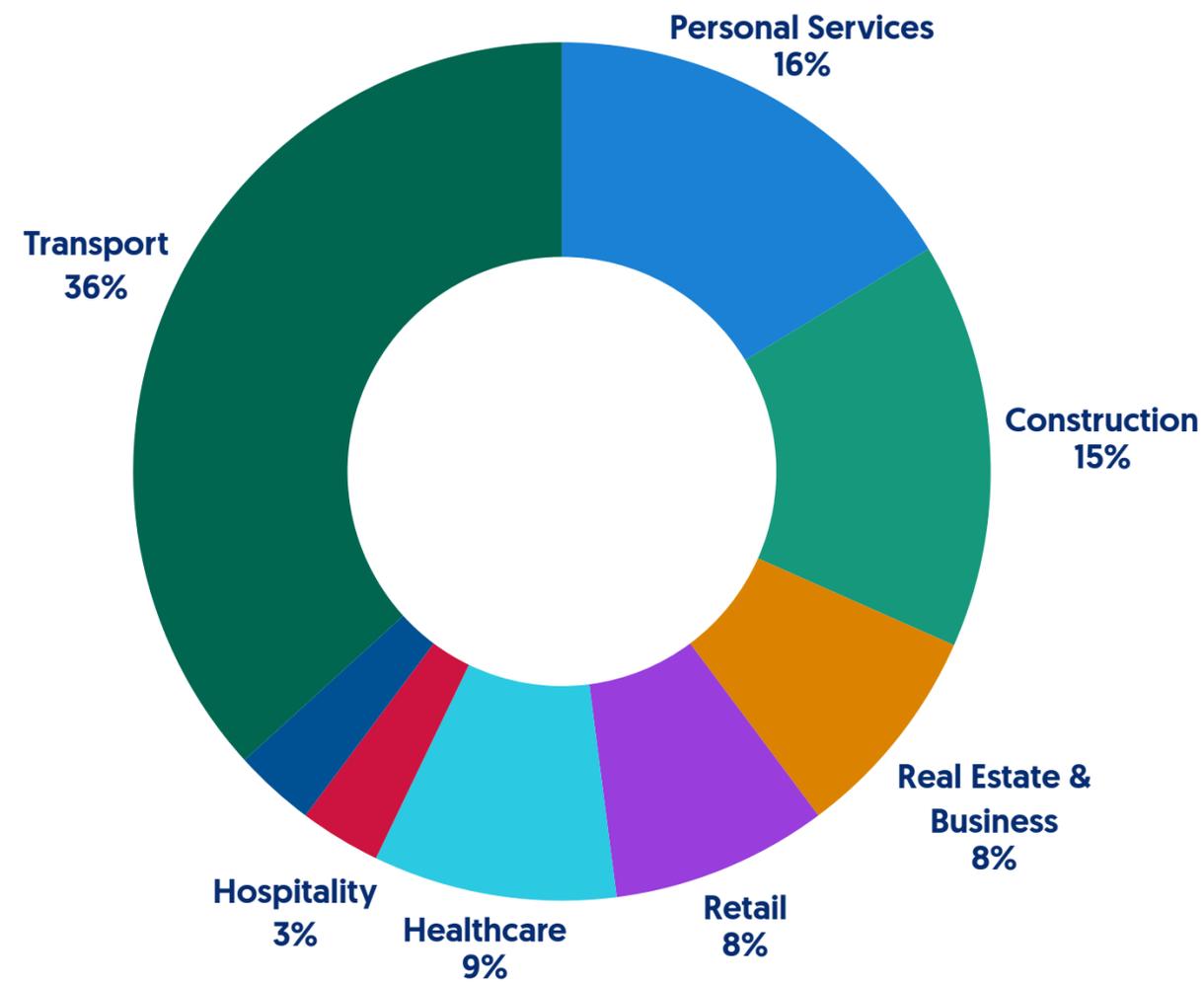
Demographic Analysis



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<sup>®</sup>**