Lawpath®

New Business Index

· October 2026 ·

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Executive Summary

Statistics For October 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

Monthly ABN registrations

· January 2024 – October 2026 ·

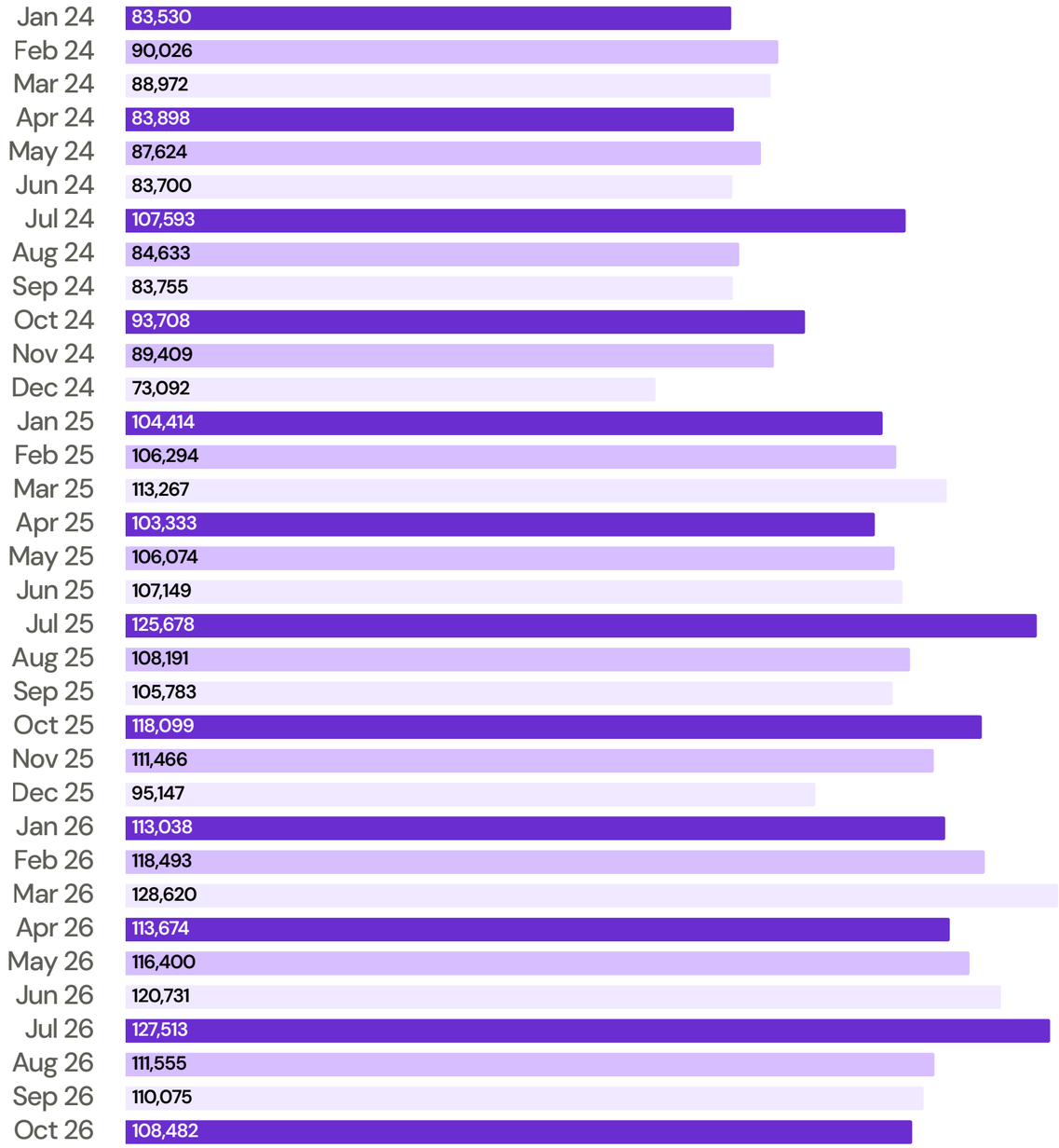
NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

-3.56% YoY

108,482

Total ABN registrations this month

Source: Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract



Monthly ACN registrations

· January 2024 – October 2026 ·

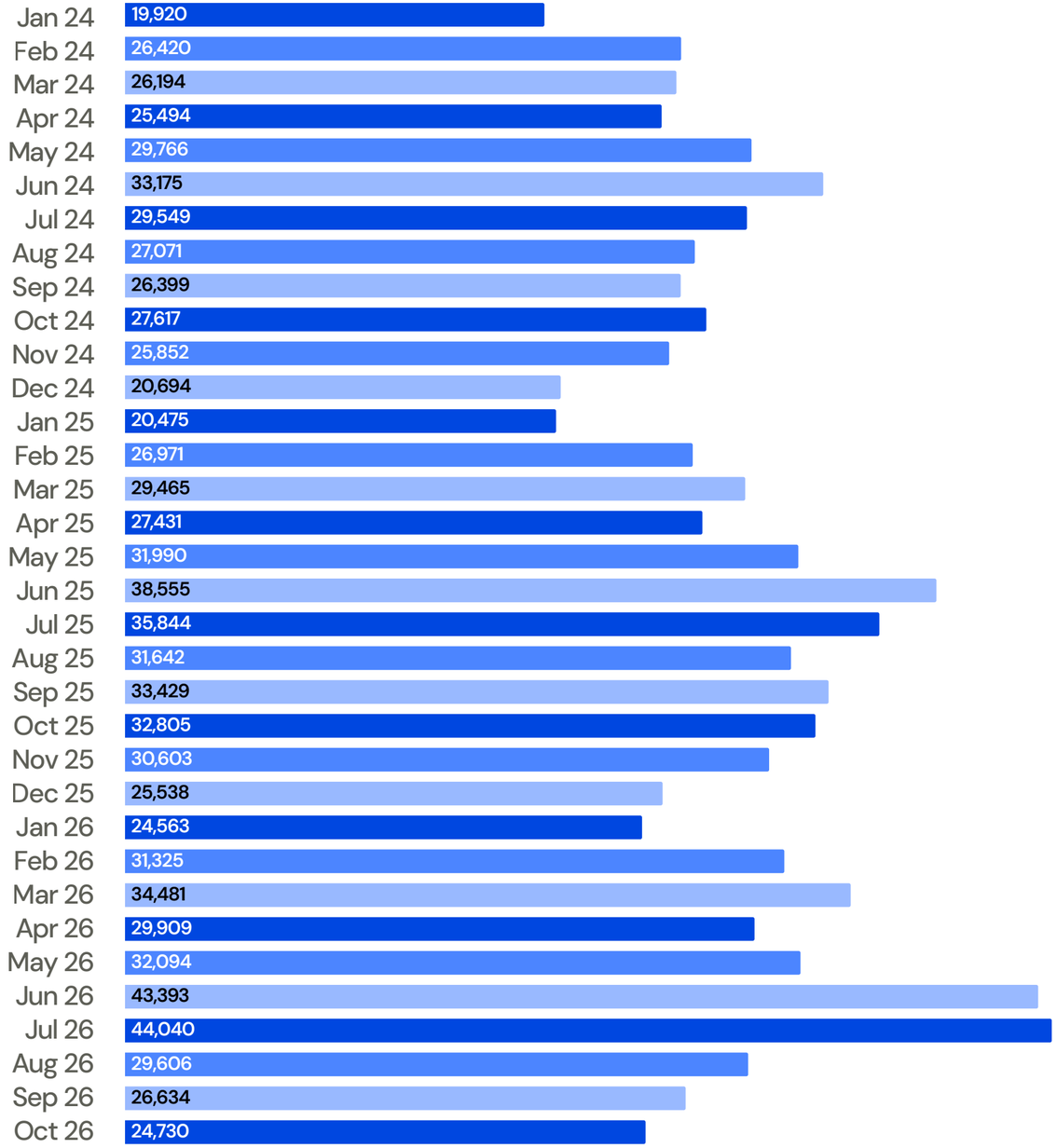
NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

-24.62% YoY

26,634

Total ACN registrations this month

Source: ASIC – Company registration statistics



Monthly GST registrations

· January 2024 – October 2026 ·

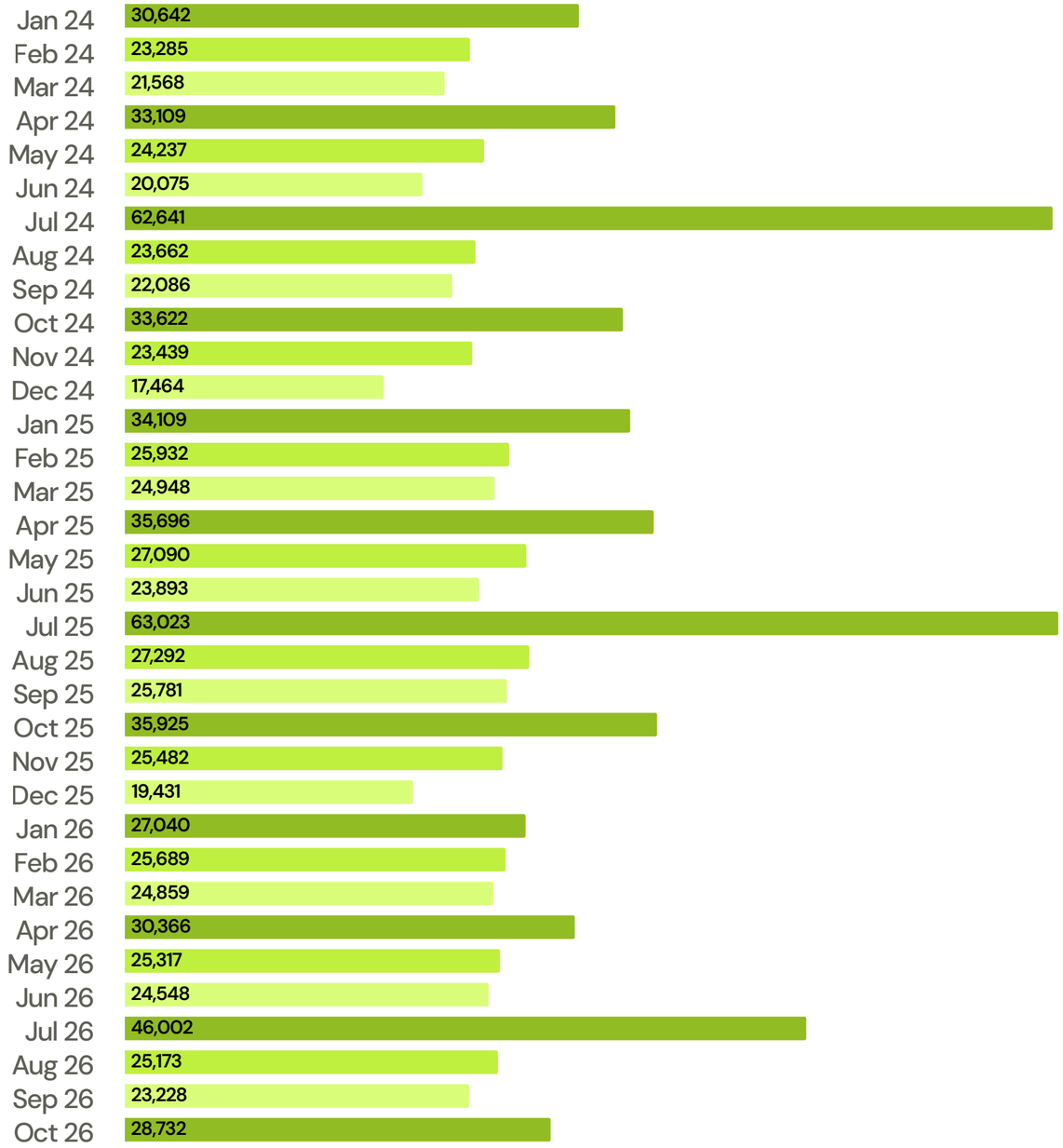
GST STATUS

-5.07% YoY

23,228

Businesses registered for GST

Source: Australian Business Register – ABN Bulk Extract



Statistics For October 2026

NEW BUSINESS REGISTERED

108,482 -3.56% YoY

Total ABN registrations this month

NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

24,730 -24.62% YoY

Total ACN registrations this month

GST STATUS

28,732 -5.07% YoY

Businesses registered for GST

October 2026's numbers show new business formation slipping into decline while company incorporations fell for a third straight month, with only Tasmania still growing and both CBDs pulling back. 108,482 new businesses were registered, down 3.56% YoY, while 24,730 companies were registered, down 24.62%.

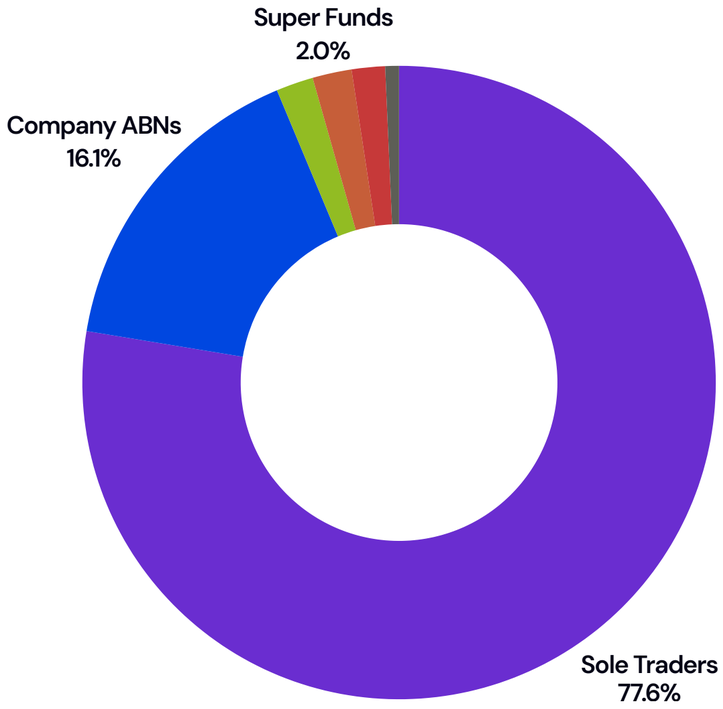
Growth at a state level turned negative almost across the board. Tasmania was the only state or territory to grow, up 0.53%, while Queensland was essentially flat (-0.25%). Victoria (-3.58%), the Northern Territory (-3.69%) and South Australia (-3.77%) eased modestly, while NSW (-5.13%), the ACT (-5.39%) and Western Australia (-6.29%) fell furthest. NSW and Victoria still carry the highest registration volumes, and NSW was the larger drag this month.

At a suburb level, both CBDs fell: Sydney CBD 2000 slid 24.52% YoY and Melbourne CBD 3000 fell 9.60%. Point Cook 3029 is now the largest postcode by volume and held steady, up 0.73%, while Clyde/Cranbourne 3977 edged up 1.04%. The bigger gains came from growth corridors, with 4215 on the Gold Coast up 14.38% and Craigieburn 3064 up 11.88%, while Liverpool 2170 fell 9.21%.

The founder profile shifted younger. 35 to 39 year olds were the largest cohort at 20.5% share, and 30 to 34 year olds gained the most ground, up 3.2 percentage points to 17.7%. The 55+ group also grew its share (+2.0 points), while 40 to 44 year olds lost the most (-4.0 points) and 45 to 54 year olds slipped 1.6 points. Property & Business Services and Construction topped the industry mix at 21.8% and 18.9% share, with Property & Business Services also posting the largest share gain (+5.6 points). Communication Services rose to 7.4% (+3.0 points), while Retail Trade (-4.6 points) and Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants (-3.7 points) lost the most ground. Together, the data points to a formation wave that's cooling, with registrations down YoY for the first time in 2026 and growth now confined to Tasmania, even as company incorporations keep stepping back.

Business Structures

Australia's Business Formation

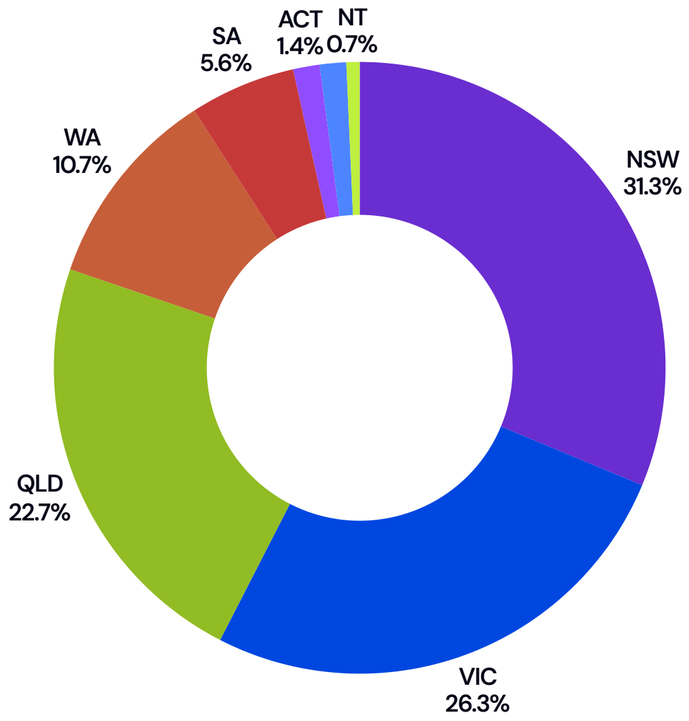


CATEGORY	VALUE	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Sole Traders	84,209	77.6%	2.36%
• Company ABNs	17,456	16.1%	0.90%
• Trusts	2,040	1.9%	-66.41%
• Super Funds	2,167	2.0%	-47.81%
• Partnerships	1,803	1.7%	-5.16%
• Other	798	0.7%	-13.16%

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

States & Territories

Australia's Business Formation



STATE	VALUE	SHARE	YOY GROWH
• NSW	33,936	31.3%	-5.13%
• VIC	28,452	26.3%	-3.58%
• QLD	24,557	22.7%	-0.25%
• WA	11,602	10.7%	-6.29%
• SA	6,052	5.6%	-3.77%
• ACT	1,473	1.4%	-5.39%
• TAS	1,505	1.4%	0.53%
• NT	756	0.7%	-3.69%

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

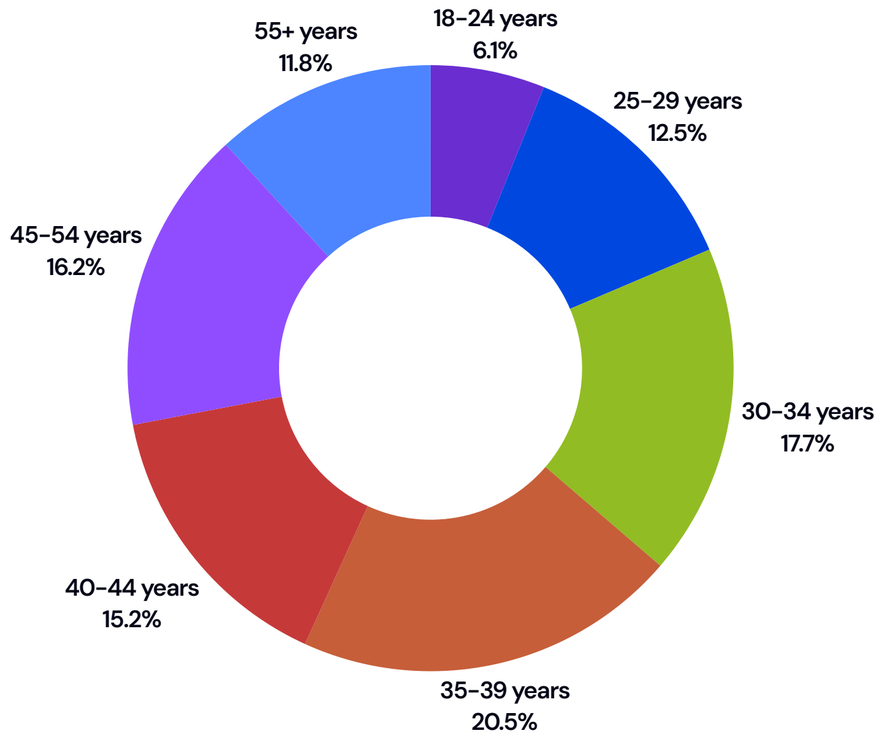
Suburbs On The Rise

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	STATE	BUSINESSES REGISTERED (October 2025)	BUSINESSES REGISTERED (October 2026)	YOY GROWH
Wyndham	Victoria	1,099	1,107	0.73%
Melbourne	Victoria	1,052	951	-9.60%
Sydney	New South Wales	1,142	862	-24.52%
Hume	Victoria	724	810	11.88%
Wyndham	Victoria	594	565	-4.88%
Casey	Victoria	578	584	1.04%
Liverpool	New South Wales	543	493	-9.21%
Brisbane	Queensland	660	649	-1.67%

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

Age Distribution of Founders

Demographic Analysis

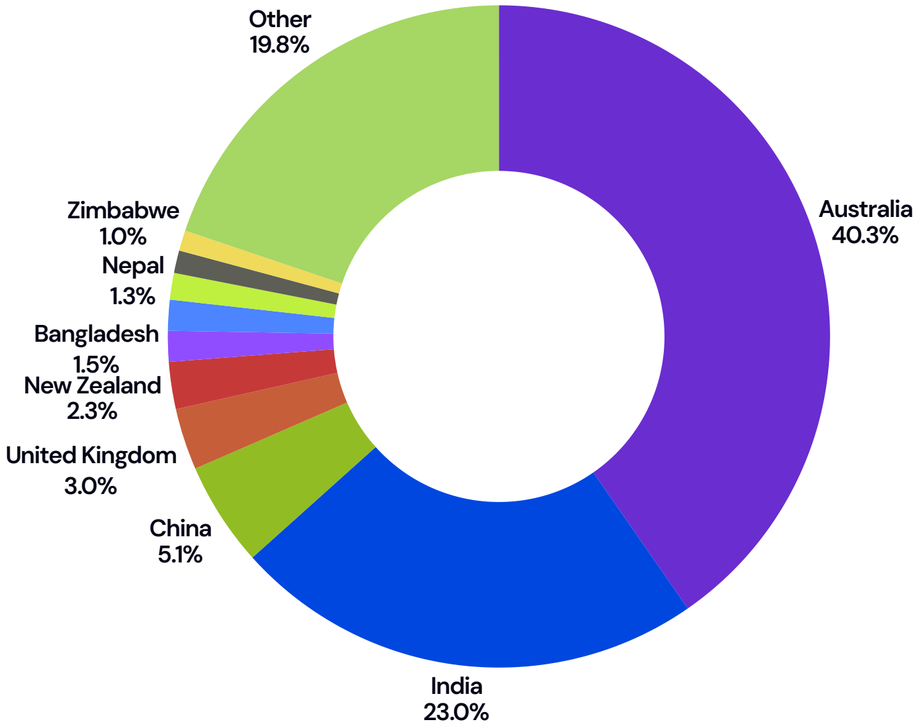


CATEGORY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• 18–24 years	6.1%	-0.1%
• 25–29 years	12.5%	0.3%
• 30–34 years	17.7%	3.2%
• 35–39 years	20.5%	0.3%
• 40–44 years	15.2%	4.0%
• 45–54 years	16.2%	-1.6%
• 55+ years	11.8%	2.0%

Source: The Lawpath Business Index: Uncovering Australia's Hidden Entrepreneurs

Countries of Birth

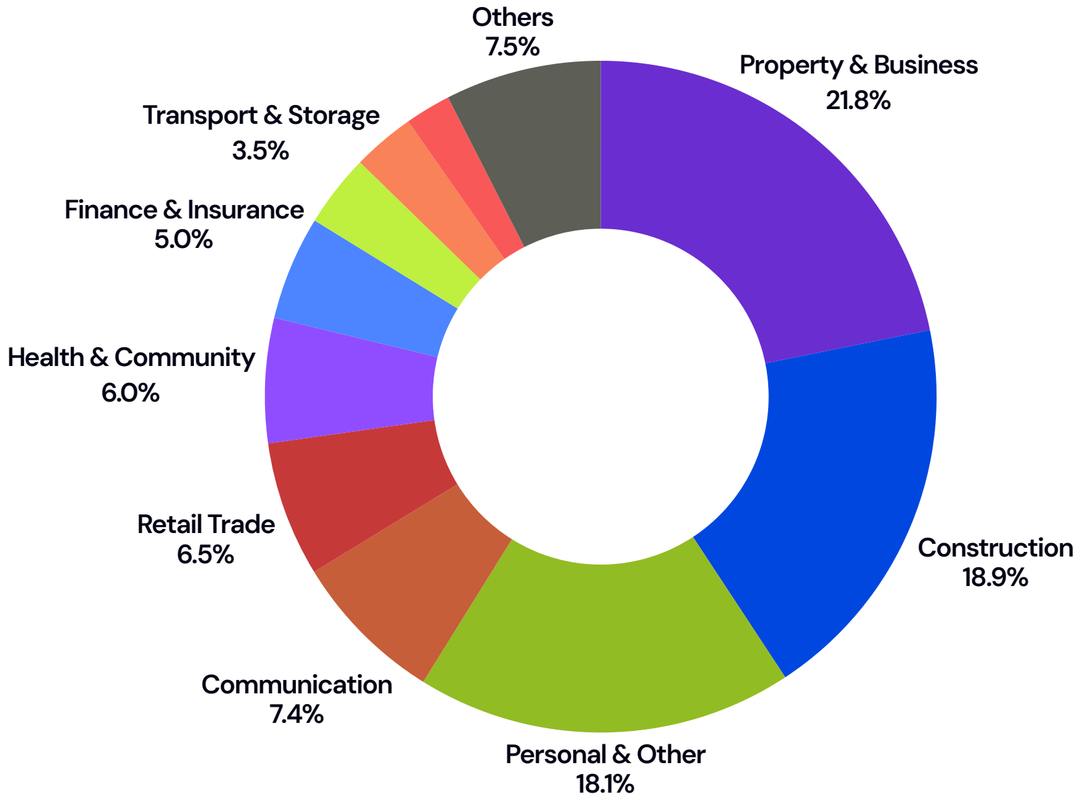
Demographic Analysis



COUNTRY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Australia	40.3%	23.0%
• India	23.0%	4.0%
• China	5.1%	1.0%
• United Kingdom	3.0%	1.7%
• New Zealand	2.3%	1.4%
• Bangladesh	1.5%	0.0%
• Sri Lanka	1.5%	0.7%
• Nepal	1.3%	-0.1%
• Pakistan	1.1%	-2.0%
• Zimbabwe	1.0%	0.7%
• Other	19.8%	-15.6%

Source: The Lawpath Business Index: Uncovering Australia's Hidden Entrepreneurs

Industry Distribution



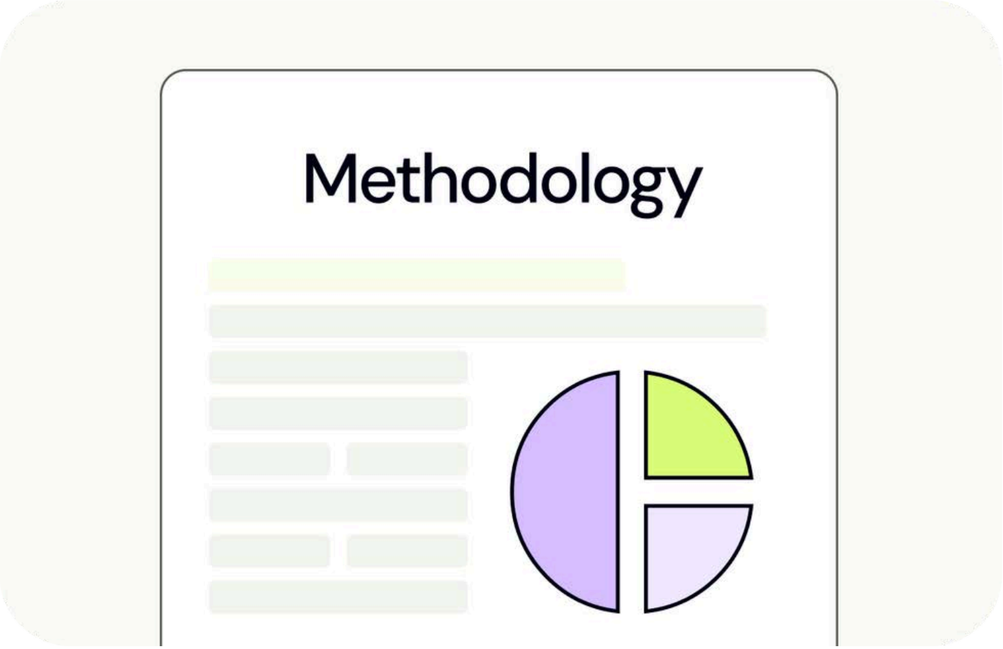
CATEGORY	SHARE	YOY GROWTH
• Property & Business	21.8%	5.60%
• Construction	18.9%	2.80%
• Personal & Other	18.1%	-1.60%
• Communication	7.4%	3.00%
• Retail Trade	6.5%	-4.60%
• Health & Community	6.0%	-1.10%
• Finance & Insurance	5.0%	1.60%
• Transport & Storage	3.5%	0.00%
• Wholesale Trade	3.0%	0.60%
• Agriculture & Forestry	2.2%	0.40%
• Others	7.5%	-0.96%

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.



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