Drillers, miners and shot firers assemble, position and operate drilling rigs and mining equipment, and detonate explosives to extract materials from the earth and demolish structures.

**Job title examples**

- Driller/Drilling Plant Operator
- Miner/Mining Plant Operator
- Shot Firer/Powder Monkey

**Other jobs in this field of work**

**What drillers, miners and shot firers do**

- dismantle, move and reassemble drilling rigs and mining equipment
- take samples of ore, liquids and gases and package them
- perform minor maintenance and repairs, and lubricate and clean plant
- record performance details and information obtained from wells, and keep logs detailing operations
- operate surface and underground mining equipment
- undertake development work such as opening up new shafts, drives, air vents, rises and crib rooms
- position explosives in bore holes and prime explosives using detonators and explosive cartridges
- connect wires, fuses and detonating cords to explosive cartridges and detonators, and detonating explosives
- monitor operation of mining equipment and ensure the safety of workers on mining sites and during drilling operations
- operate other equipment (auxiliary plant) such as pumps to expel air, water and mud

**Main employing industries**

- Mining
Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate II in Underground Coal Mining available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate II in Underground Metalliferous Mining available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Drilling Oil/Gas (On shore) available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Drilling Operations available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Surface Extraction Operations available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Underground Coal Operations available as a traineeship or qualification
Certificate III in Underground Metalliferous Mining available as a traineeship or qualification

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the Course Finder to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay

- There are around 11,490 drillers, miners and shot firers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):
- Drillers, miners and shot firers: $2,294
- All occupations: $1,200

Related jobs

- Engineering production worker
- Other stationary plant operator (e.g. boiler, engine or cement production etc.)

To find out more about other jobs, visit the Job Guides Homepage.

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0
Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16
Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23