

Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers

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

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

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

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014