



Vacancy Report

December 2005

MAIN POINTS

The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) fell by 0.1% in December 2005 to 105.9, and is now 6.4 % lower than the 2005 peak of 113.2 in April 2005. Vacancies for Professionals increased by 0.6%, while skilled vacancies fell by 0.4% for Associate Professionals and by 0.6% for Trades. In annual terms the SVI is 5.0% lower than in December 2004.

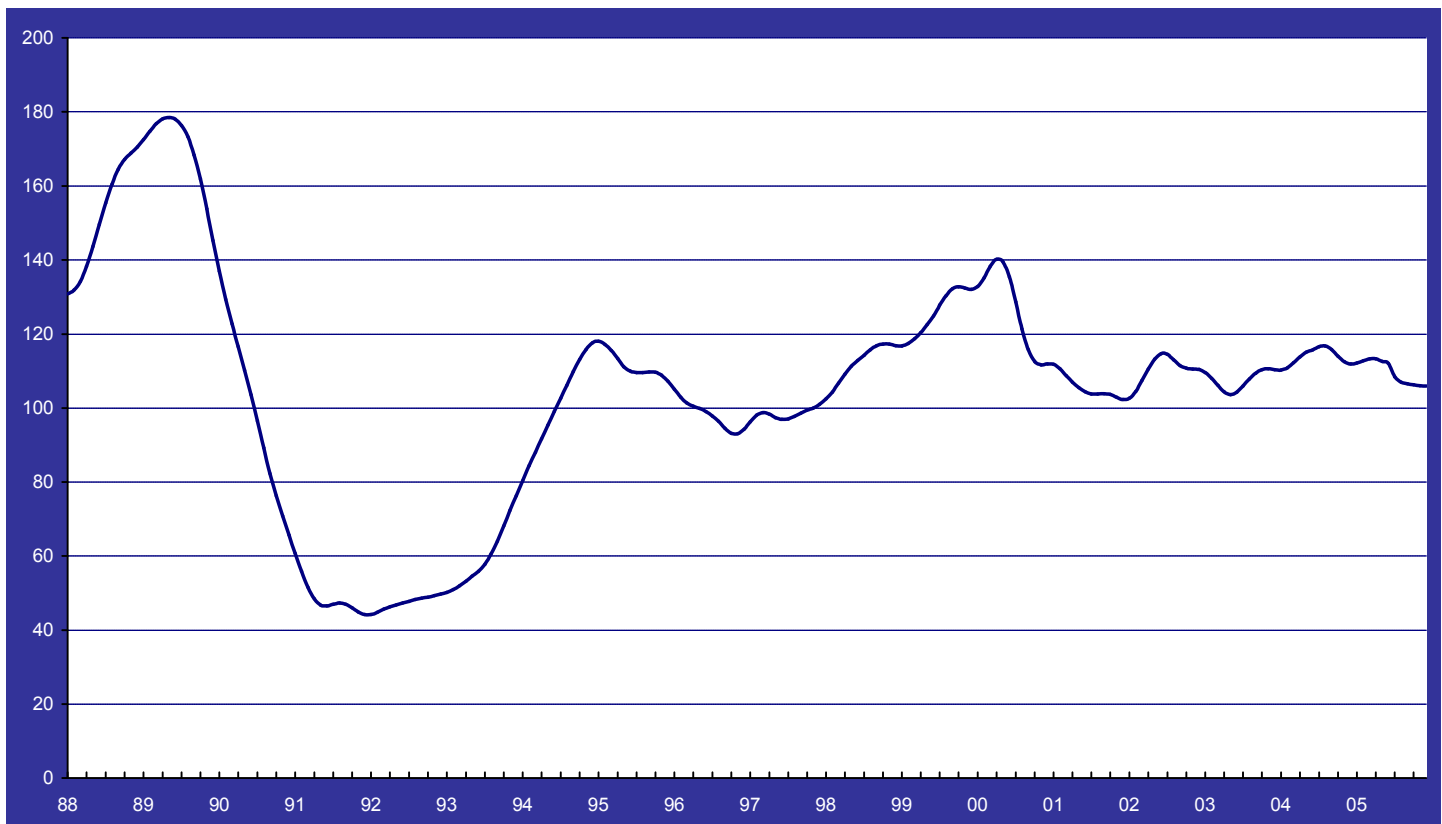
The DEWR ICT vacancy index fell by 3.5% over the four weeks to mid December 2005 to 235.2 but is 27.1% higher than in December 2004. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 17,300 vacancies in the four weeks to mid December 2005.

The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment site, was around 79,600 in mid December 2005. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (18,000); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (6900); Sales Assistants and Storepersons (4200); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (4000).

SKILLED VACANCIES – AUSTRALIA

January 1988 to December 2005

(Index November 1997=100)



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SKILLED VACANCIES

- The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) fell by 0.1% in December 2005 to 105.9, and is now 6.4% lower than the 2005 peak of 113.2 in April 2005. Vacancies for Professionals increased by 0.6%, while skilled vacancies fell by 0.4% for Associate Professionals and by 0.6% for Trades. In annual terms the SVI is 5.0% lower than in December 2004.
- Skilled vacancies fell for nine occupational groups in December. The strongest falls were for Hairdressers (down by 5.9%), Automotive Trades (4.3%), Science Professionals (3.1%) and Chefs (3.0%).
- Of those groups which experienced increases over the month, Wood Trades had the strongest percentage increase (up by 6.7%), followed by Medical Science Technical Officers (4.2%), Building and Engineering Professionals (3.9%) and Accountants and Auditors (2.2%).
- Two States recorded decreases in December: New South Wales and Western Australia (both down by 1.9%). Tasmania (up by 2.8%), Victoria (1.3%) and South Australia (1.2%) recorded the strongest rises.
- Over the year to December 2005, vacancies fell in New South Wales (down by 13.8%), Victoria (10.6%), South Australia (3.2%), Western Australia (1.4%) and the Northern Territory (16.8%). Tasmania and Queensland recorded increases of 24.2% and 2.2% respectively.

Skilled Vacancies — Summary Table

| | Index Dec-05 | % change | | No. of Vacancies Dec-05 |
|--|-----------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | | Monthly | Annual | |
| PROFESSIONALS | 89.1 | 0.6 | 6.8 | 1620 |
| Science | 58.6 | -3.1 | -13.2 | 57 |
| Building and Engineering | 84.9 | 3.9 | -6.0 | 280 |
| Accountants and Auditors | 75.8 | 2.2 | -1.9 | 243 |
| Marketing and Advertising | 25.3 | 1.5 | -0.5 | 27 |
| Organisation and Information ¹ | 48.3 | -1.3 | -24.0 | 70 |
| Health | 129.5 | -0.1 | 21.7 | 758 |
| Social | 76.6 | 1.3 | 13.5 | 187 |
| ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONALS² | 61.4 | -0.4 | -3.1 | 172 |
| Medical/Science Technical Officers | 113.5 | 4.2 | 32.6 | 30 |
| Building/Engineering Associates | 56.6 | -1.6 | -10.2 | 130 |
| TRADES² | 129.8 | -0.6 | -11.2 | 2360 |
| Metal | 141.8 | -1.1 | -19.1 | 478 |
| Automotive | 115.5 | -4.3 | -14.2 | 258 |
| Electrical and Electronics | 141.5 | 0.1 | -1.8 | 306 |
| Construction | 173.6 | -0.2 | -4.4 | 597 |
| Chefs | 179.0 | -3.0 | -15.4 | 252 |
| Food | 74.6 | 0.3 | -5.8 | 166 |
| Printing | 63.4 | 2.1 | -27.4 | 54 |
| Wood | 145.5 | 6.7 | -0.7 | 93 |
| Hairdressers | 83.5 | -5.9 | -26.0 | 123 |
| STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY | | | | |
| New South Wales | 59.4 | -1.9 | -13.8 | 779 |
| Victoria | 68.3 | 1.3 | -10.6 | 669 |
| Queensland | 138.4 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 932 |
| South Australia | 141.6 | 1.2 | -3.2 | 368 |
| Western Australia | 203.3 | -1.9 | -1.4 | 1228 |
| Tasmania ³ | 236.2 | 2.8 | 24.2 | 76 |
| Northern Territory ³ | 225.4 | 0.2 | -16.8 | 90 |
| AUSTRALIA⁴ | 105.9 | -0.1 | -5.0 | 4153 |

1. Does not include ICT occupations.

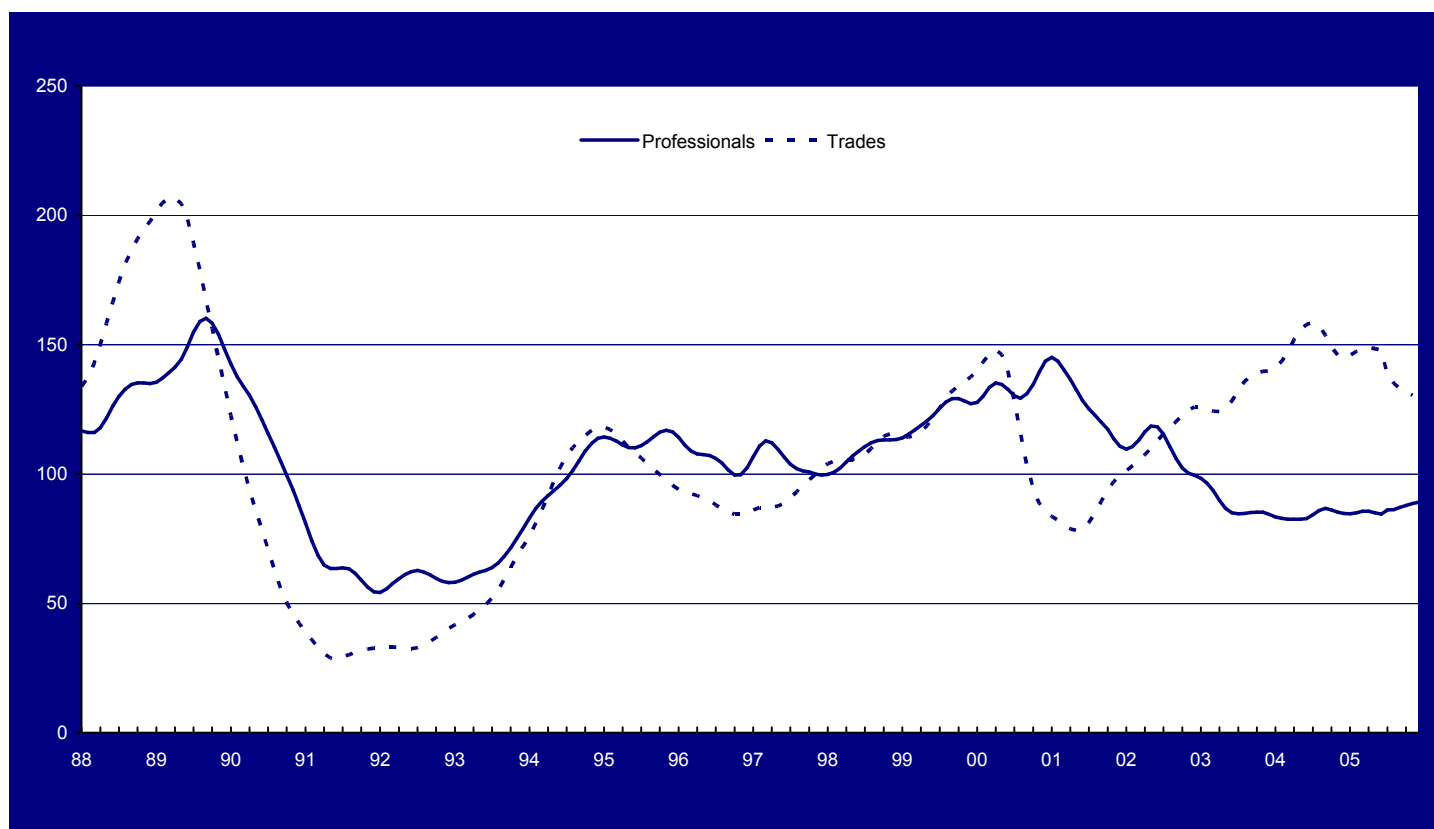
2. Group total includes some residual occupations not counted in the 18 occupational groups.

3. The Tasmanian and Northern Territory counts are small and may be volatile. Results should be used cautiously.

4. Trend data, totals do not add as series are separately trended.

SKILLED VACANCIES PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES

January 1988 to December 2005
(Index November 1997=100)



Historical data for the Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) can be found at:

<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Category/Publications/LabourMarketAnalysis/VacancyReports/>

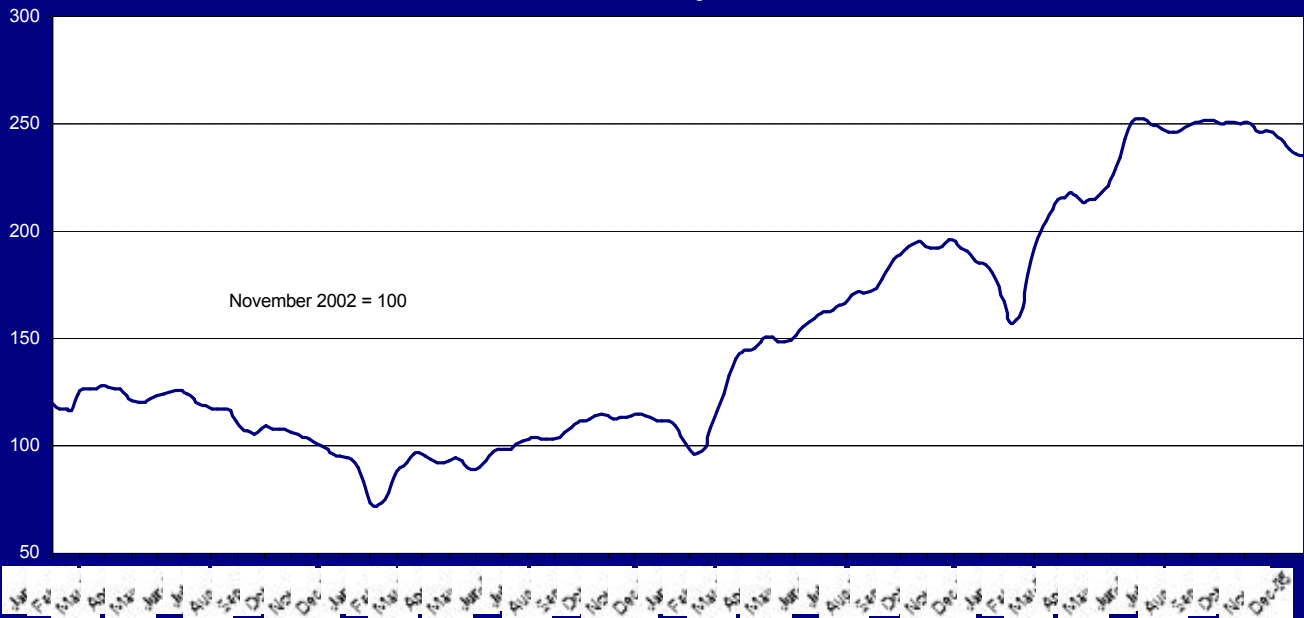
Explanatory note: The Skilled Vacancies Index is released monthly. The Index is based on a count of skilled vacancies in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, usually on the first Saturday of each month (the count is conducted on the second Saturday in January and when the first Saturday is part of a national long weekend). The data published are **trend** data (November 1997=100). In view of the procedure used for trending, the figures for the six months prior to the current month are subject to revision.

ICT VACANCY INDEX

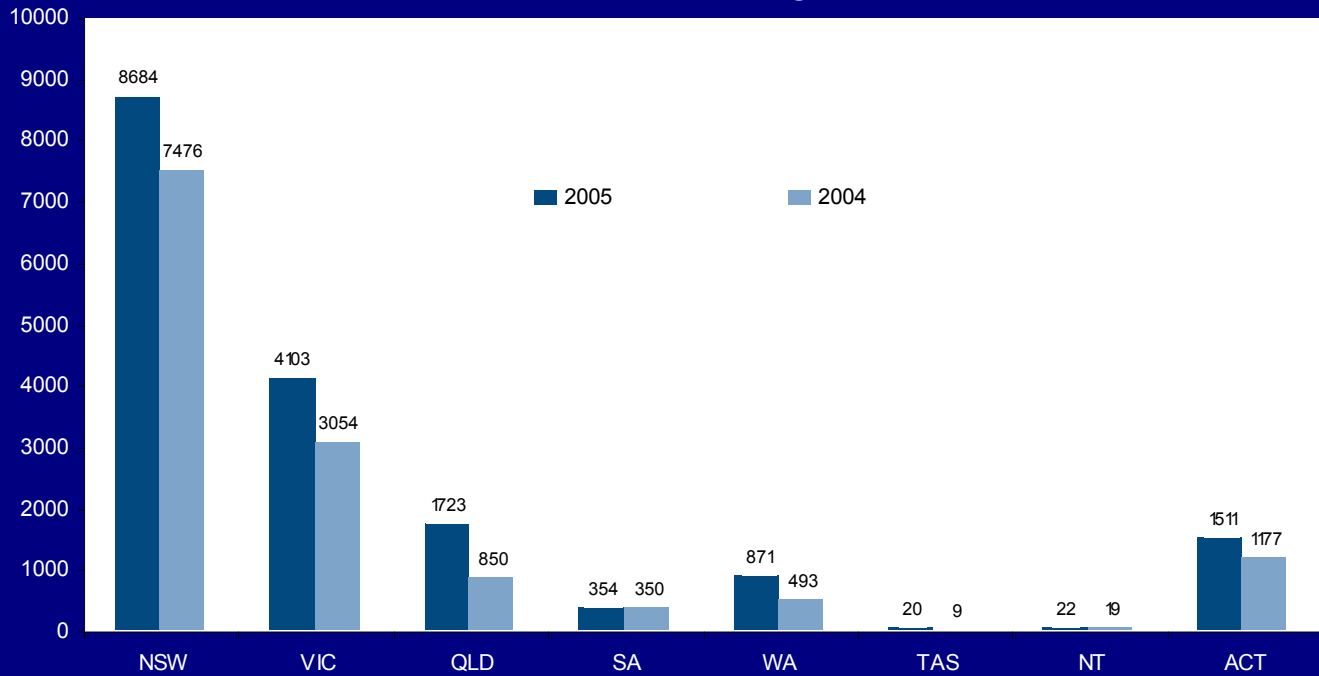
The DEWR ICT vacancy index fell by 3.5% over the four weeks to mid December 2005 to 235.2 but is 27.1% higher than in December 2004. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 17,300 vacancies in the four weeks to mid December 2005, although it should be noted that ICT positions may be advertised on more than one site. Accordingly, the number of advertisements is an indicator of demand for ICT skills and not a measure of the number of ICT jobs available. The ICT vacancy series is based at November 2002 = 100 and, unlike the SVI, is not seasonally adjusted.

- Despite the increase over the past 12 months the ICT Index is nearly 65% lower than in 2000 during the peak of ICT demand.
- In December, New South Wales had 50.2% of ICT online vacancies (about 8,700), followed by Victoria with 23.7% (4,100).

ICT VACANCY INDEX - January 2002 to December 2005



ICT VACANCIES BY STATE - 4 week average to mid December 2005



Explanatory note: the ICT Vacancy Index is based on a weekly count of ICT vacancies advertised on three sites: jobnet.com.au, seek.com.au and mycareer.com.au (ITJobs). The composite series commenced in January 2000 and a four-weekly average has been applied to smooth the volatility in the data. The series includes only vacancies lodged within the 14 days prior to counting. Some ICT vacancies are duplicated and a small number relate to overseas vacancies. Many ICT vacancies are advertised on more than one site and, consequently, the number of advertisements should not be viewed as a measure of the number of ICT jobs available. These sites are quite dynamic and operate in a sector with very high vacancy turnover. Consequently, the ICT Vacancy Index should be viewed as a broad indicator of trends in the demand for ICT skills.

VACANCIES ON AUSTRALIAN JOBSEARCH (AJS)

Note: The number of vacancies displayed on Australian JobSearch cannot be used as an indicator of skill shortages. The information presented is a count of vacancies advertised at a point in time and data are not collected about the number of applicants for these vacancies or how easily they are filled.

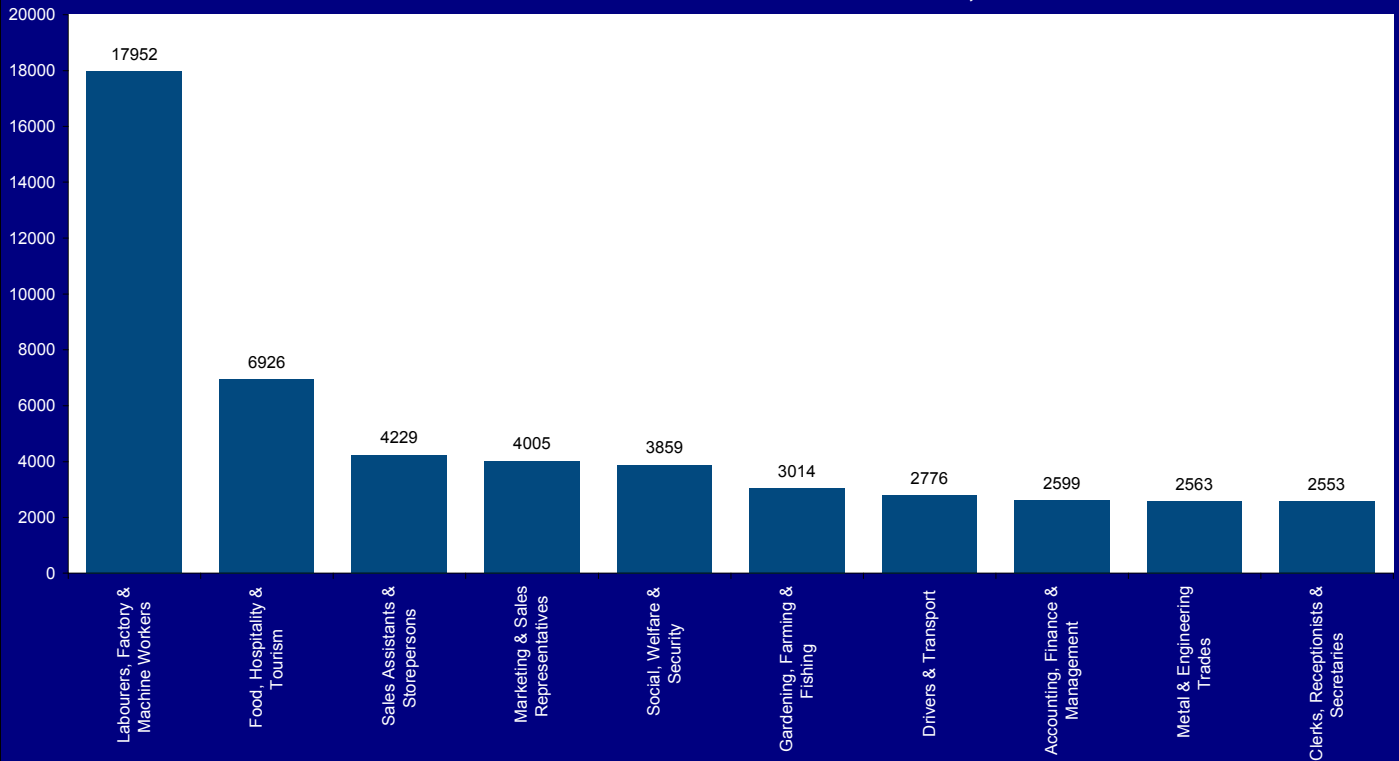
The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment site, was around 79,600 in mid December 2005. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (18,000); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (6900); Sales Assistants and Storepersons (4200); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (4000).

The largest number of vacancies were in Victoria (22,900) followed by New South Wales (22,800), and Queensland (18,800).

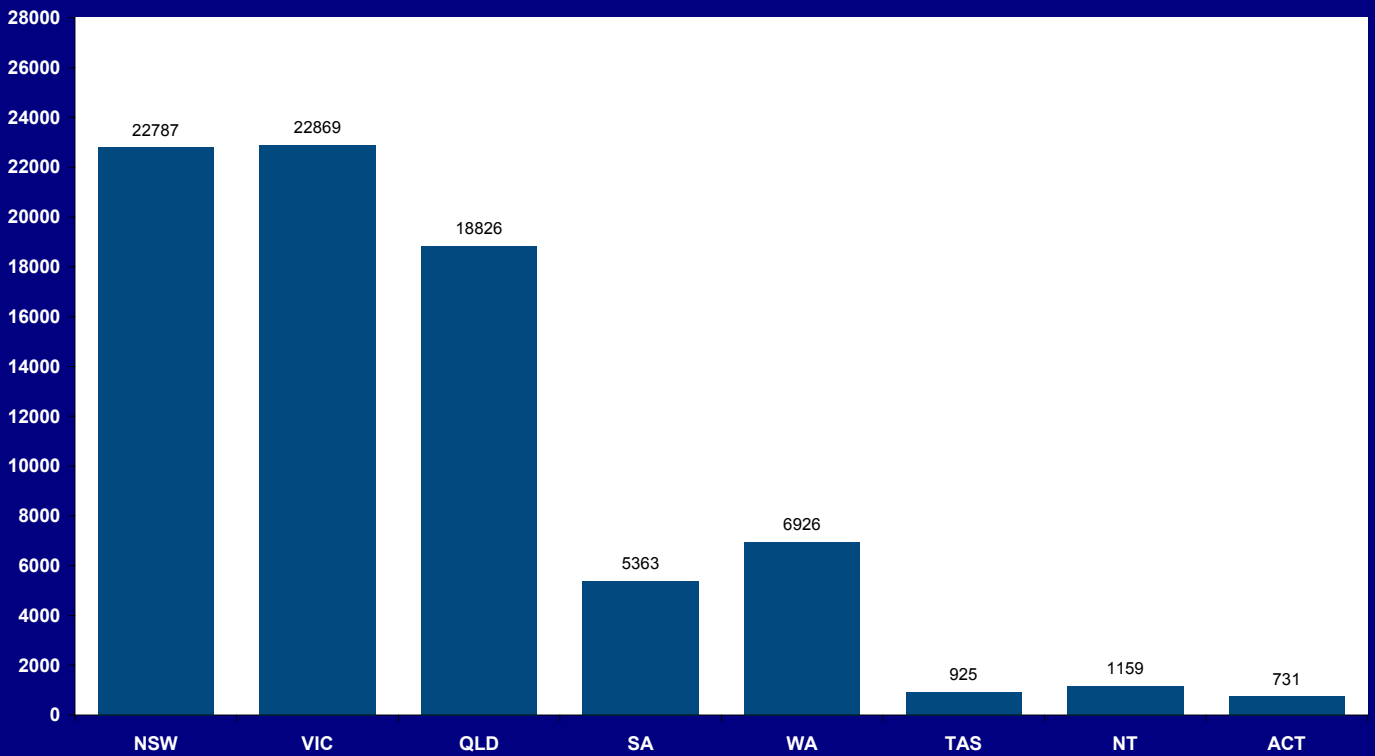
Australian JobSearch Vacancies — December 2005

| Occupation | AUST | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Accounting, Finance & Management | 2,599 | 1,306 | 432 | 442 | 106 | 248 | 9 | 25 | 31 |
| Building & Construction | 2,346 | 580 | 379 | 910 | 107 | 269 | 46 | 36 | 19 |
| Cleaning | 2,545 | 554 | 637 | 833 | 140 | 259 | 7 | 94 | 21 |
| Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries | 2,553 | 1,045 | 418 | 662 | 127 | 205 | 22 | 28 | 46 |
| Computing & IT | 288 | 88 | 69 | 90 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 18 |
| Drivers & Transport | 2,776 | 715 | 573 | 761 | 149 | 436 | 60 | 37 | 45 |
| Electrical & Electronics Trades | 1,252 | 335 | 215 | 464 | 76 | 121 | 18 | 18 | 5 |
| Engineering, Science & the Environment | 823 | 273 | 154 | 194 | 45 | 138 | 11 | 7 | 1 |
| Food, Hospitality & Tourism | 6,926 | 1,640 | 1,407 | 2,114 | 723 | 790 | 83 | 153 | 16 |
| Gardening, Farming & Fishing | 3,014 | 869 | 523 | 1,084 | 267 | 198 | 41 | 29 | 3 |
| Government & Defence | 815 | 138 | 102 | 50 | 41 | 41 | 8 | 34 | 401 |
| Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty | 2,245 | 608 | 869 | 372 | 121 | 227 | 10 | 27 | 11 |
| Labourers, Factory & Machine Workers | 17,952 | 3,785 | 8,308 | 2,627 | 1,460 | 1,404 | 221 | 117 | 30 |
| Marketing & Sales Representatives | 4,005 | 1,635 | 1,062 | 912 | 149 | 166 | 35 | 21 | 25 |
| Media, the Arts & Printing | 728 | 481 | 93 | 65 | 30 | 51 | 2 | 6 | - |
| Metal & Engineering Trades | 2,563 | 620 | 447 | 884 | 271 | 292 | 31 | 13 | 5 |
| Motor Vehicle Service & Repair | 1,623 | 374 | 428 | 524 | 60 | 191 | 14 | 26 | 6 |
| Sales Assistants & Storepersons | 4,229 | 1,098 | 1,070 | 1,250 | 233 | 418 | 32 | 108 | 20 |
| Social, Welfare & Security | 3,859 | 672 | 1,896 | 856 | 103 | 231 | 13 | 70 | 18 |
| Teaching, Child Care & Library | 874 | 298 | 127 | 310 | 33 | 50 | 23 | 23 | 10 |
| Regional location not specified* | 15,571 | 5,673 | 3,660 | 3,422 | 1,113 | 1,185 | 232 | 286 | - |
| Total | 79,586 | 22,787 | 22,869 | 18,826 | 5,363 | 6,926 | 925 | 1,159 | 731 |

AJS – TOP TEN VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION AUSTRALIA, December 2005



AJS VACANCIES BY STATE, December 2005

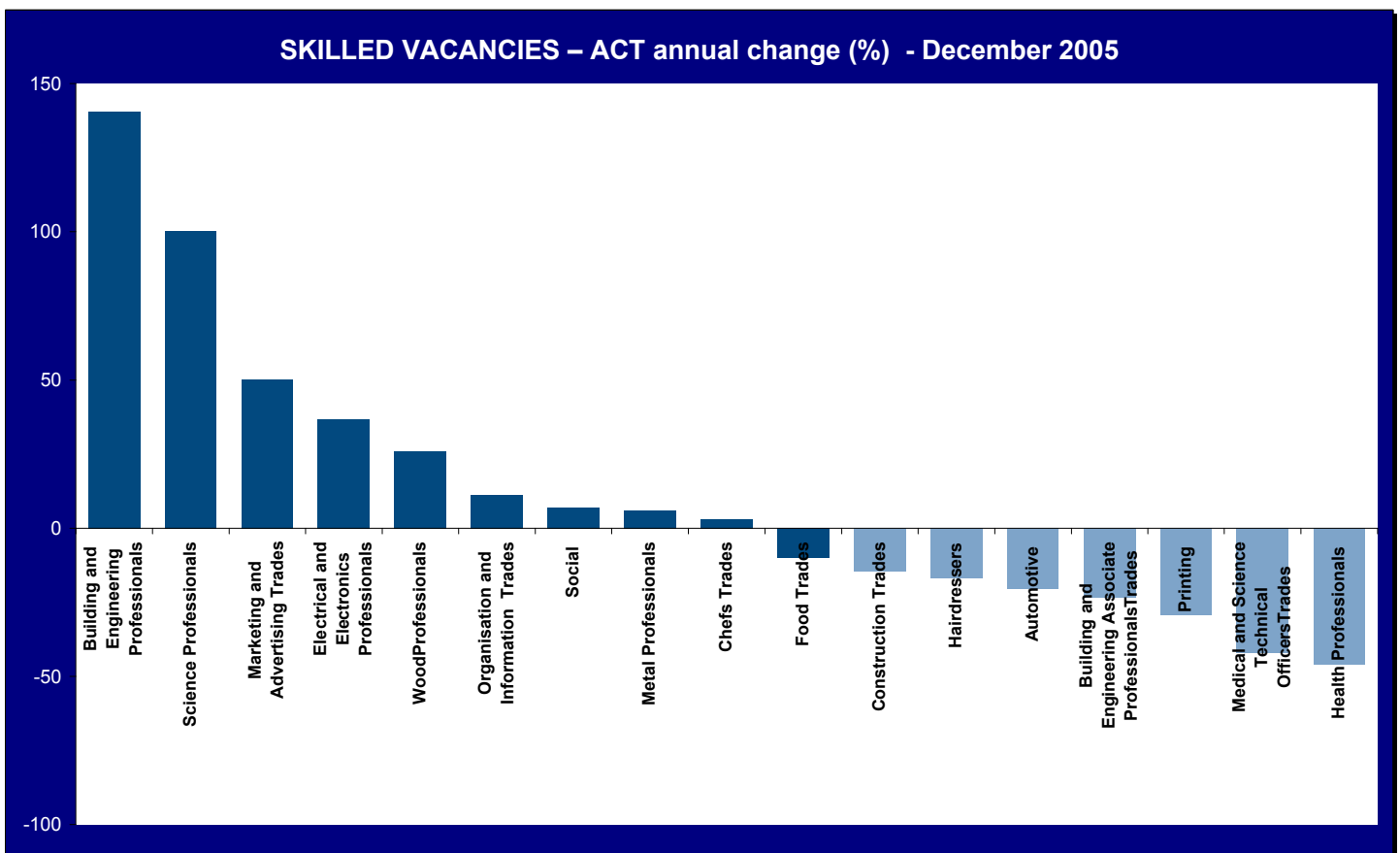


Explanatory note: Vacancies on Australian JobSearch have been allocated into occupational groupings developed by DEWR. The data presented provide a 'snapshot' of vacancies on AJS as at a particular date, by occupation and States and Territories. The data refer to the number of 'positions available' rather than the number of 'vacancy advertisements' by employers, as many advertisements are for multiple positions. Jobs with an unspecified location are excluded.

SKILLED VACANCIES IN THE ACT

The ACT index recorded a fall in advertised vacancies over the year to December 2005 (down by 2.6%). While vacancy levels for Professionals increased (up by 5.9%), Associate Professionals and Trades experienced falls (down by 28.9% and 6.4% respectively).

- Eight of the seventeen occupational groups recorded lower vacancy levels over the year. The strongest falls were for Health Professionals (45.8%), Medical and Science Technical Officers (42.1%) and Printing Trades (29.4%). The strongest growth was recorded for Building and Engineering Professionals (140.3%), Science Professionals (100.0%) and Marketing and Advertising (50.0%).
- Data from the DEWR ICT Index show that in mid December the ACT accounted for 8.7% of total ICT vacancies. Strong growth in ICT vacancies for the ACT continues with the vacancy level increasing by 28.3% over the year to December 2005.



The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) does not include data for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), as the historical series which began in 1981 did not include a count of vacancies advertised in *The Canberra Times*. The ACT count commenced in February 2001 using the same methodology as the SVI counts in the States and the Northern Territory. However, the ACT SVI does not as yet have sufficient data for a seasonally adjusted or trend series to be produced. The data presented here use twelve month moving averages.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION UPDATES

Workforce Tomorrow: Adapting to a more diverse Australian labour market

A new report, released on 24 November 2005 by the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, shows that Australia faces a potential shortfall of 195,000 workers in five years' time as a result of population ageing. The effects of population ageing are projected to vary substantially across industries, occupations and regions over the next five years. A copy of *Workforce Tomorrow* is available on www.workplace.gov.au and can be downloaded at this link: [Workforce Tomorrow](#)

ANZSCO Information Paper

In late September 2005 the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand released an Information Paper on the new Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), due to be implemented in statistical collections from 2006. A copy of this paper is available on www.abs.gov.au and can be downloaded at this link: [ANZSCO Information Paper](#)

Regional employment profiles: industry and occupation

Regional employment profiles, including a comparison with Australia and the top 40 specific industries and occupations are available on www.workplace.gov.au (select Research and Statistics and then Labour Market Analysis), at this link [Regional employment profiles: industry and occupation](#) . The data are based on Census 2001 (place of work).