



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

VACANCY REPORT

October 2008

OCTOBER

Vacancy Report

October issue

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Highlights

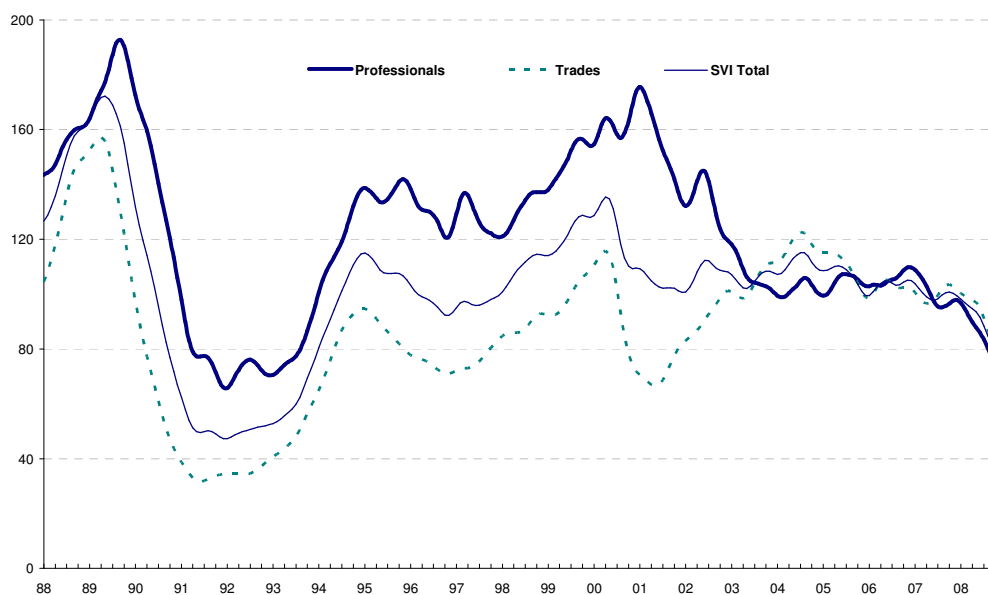
Skilled vacancies soften

The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) (trend) decreased by 3.7% in October 2008 to 78.4 (2007 = 100). Vacancies fell for all three occupational groups: Trades (down by 3.9%), Associate Professionals (3.5%) and Professionals (3.9%). In annual terms, the SVI is 22.2% lower than in October 2007.

The DEEWR ICT Vacancy Index (trend) decreased by 4.6% in October 2008 to 208.7 (January 2002 = 100). Over the month, South Australia experienced the largest decline (down by 5.9%), followed by Victoria (5.2%), and Tasmania (4.5%). In annual terms, the ICT Vacancy Index is 26.1% lower than in October 2007.

The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch (AJS), DEEWR's online employment website, was around 79 600 in mid October 2008. The top three occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (14 100); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (8100) and Accounting, Finance and Management (8000).

Skilled Vacancies Index- Professionals, Trades and SVI Total



Skilled Vacancies Index

- The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) (trend) decreased by 3.7% in October 2008 to 78.4 (2007 = 100). Vacancies fell for all three occupational groups: Trades (down by 3.9%), Associate Professionals (3.5%) and Professionals (3.9%). In annual terms, the SVI is 22.2% lower than in October 2007.
- The fall in skilled vacancies was widespread, with decreases evident in 17 of the 18 occupations in October 2008. The largest fall over the month was for Organisation and Information Professionals (down by 15.4%), followed by Printing Trades (8.5%) and Social Professionals (7.3%). The only occupation recording a rise in skilled vacancies was Marketing and Advertising Professionals (up by 2.5%).
- In October 2008, all States and Territories experienced a decline in skilled vacancies. The strongest falls in skilled vacancies were recorded for New South Wales (down by 6.5%), Victoria (5.6%) and Queensland (4.5%).
- Over the year to October 2008, decreases in skilled vacancies were recorded in all six States. The largest decreases were recorded in Queensland (down by 39.1%), New South Wales (38.2%) and Victoria (17.1%). Vacancies in the Northern Territory increased by 0.1%.

Skilled Vacancies Index - Summary Table

Oct-08	Index	% Change		No. of Vacancies Oct-08
	Oct-08	Monthly	Annual	
Professionals	74.1	-3.9	-23.3	1111
Science	88.4	-6.6	-14.0	61
Building and Engineering	72.7	-1.4	-27.1	201
Accountants and Auditors	58.9	-3.7	-31.9	109
Marketing and Advertising	88.5	2.5	6.6	20
Organisation and Information	48.2	-15.4	-49.9	37
Health	83.1	-2.1	-14.2	539
Social	67.9	-7.3	-32.3	149
Associate Professionals	78.3	-3.5	-20.5	158
Medical/Science Technical Officers	121.3	-3.5	6.3	26
Building/Engineering Associates	75.4	-3.5	-25.8	130
Trades	79.9	-3.9	-22.9	2055
Metal	96.4	-3.9	-11.6	477
Automotive	74.1	-3.6	-24.5	231
Electrical and Electronics	73.1	-3.6	-30.1	225
Construction	84.3	-2.4	-20.3	552
Chefs	79.4	-4.4	-22.6	186
Food	71.8	-0.7	-25.2	160
Printing	55.1	-8.5	-40.5	34
Wood	75.7	-6.9	-19.8	77
Hairdressers	67.1	-4.7	-34.9	97
States and Northern Territory				
New South Wales	63.1	-6.5	-38.2	508
Victoria	86.1	-5.6	-17.1	605
Queensland	62.1	-4.5	-39.1	609
South Australia	88.3	-1.8	-15.3	357
Western Australia	91.1	-1.7	-5.4	1093
Tasmania	88.5	-3.0	-14.6	62
Northern Territory	103.1	-2.6	0.1	115
Australia	78.4	-3.7	-22.2	3347

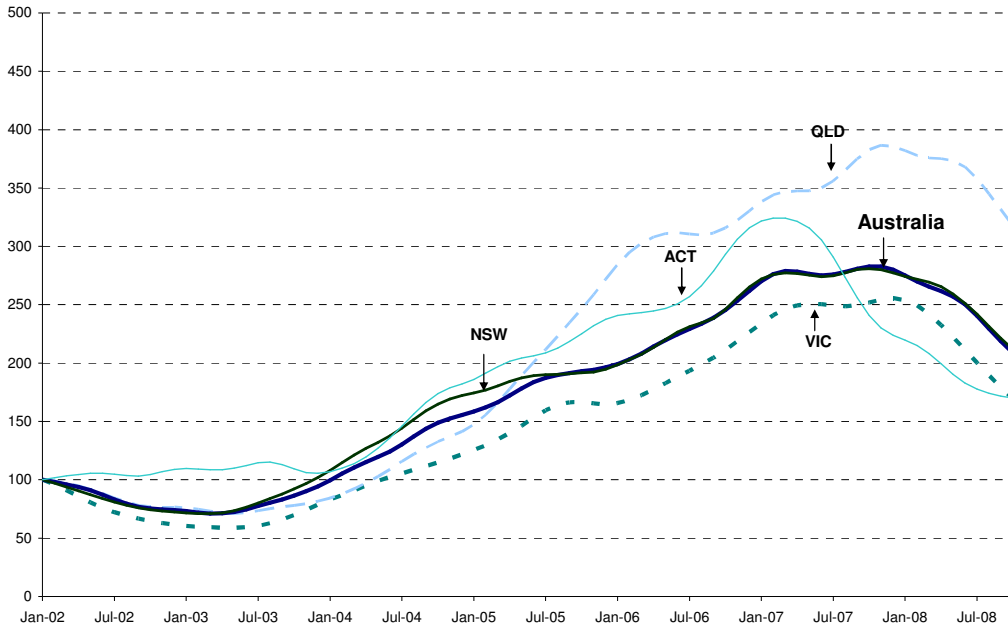
Historical data for the Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) can be found at:

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

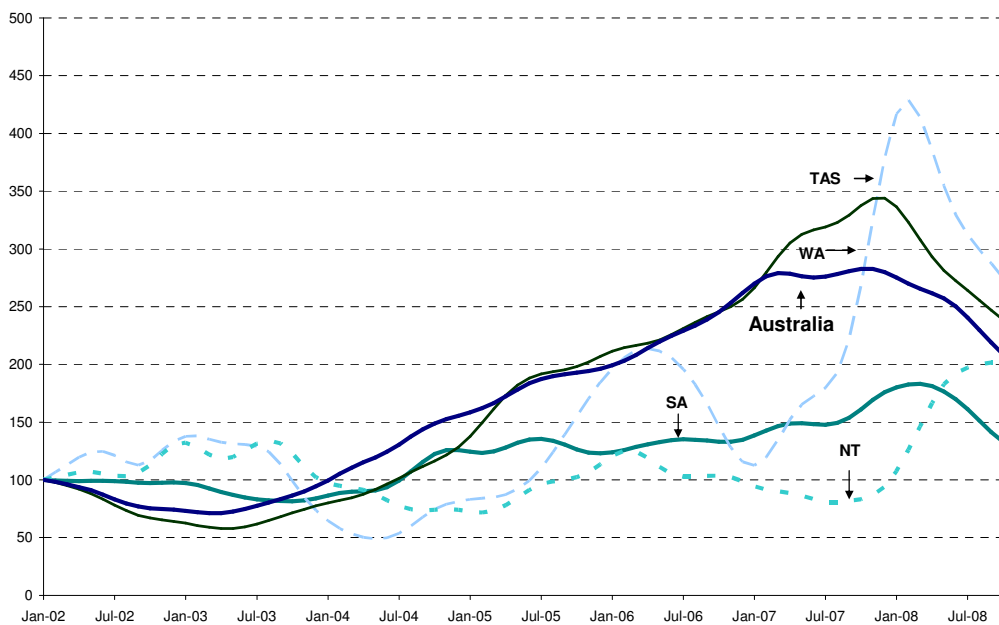
ICT Vacancies

- The DEEWR ICT Vacancy Index (trend) decreased by 4.6% in October 2008 to 208.7 (January 2002 = 100). Over the month, South Australia experienced the largest decline (down by 5.9%), followed by Victoria (5.2%), and Tasmania (4.5%). The Northern Territory experienced an increase in ICT vacancies (up by 0.2%). In annual terms, the ICT Vacancy Index is 26.1% lower than in October 2007. It should be noted that vacancies may be advertised on more than one site.

ICT Vacancy Index – January 2002 to October 2008
NSW, VIC, QLD, ACT & Australia



Vacancy Index – January 2002 to October 2008
SA, NT, WA, TAS & Australia



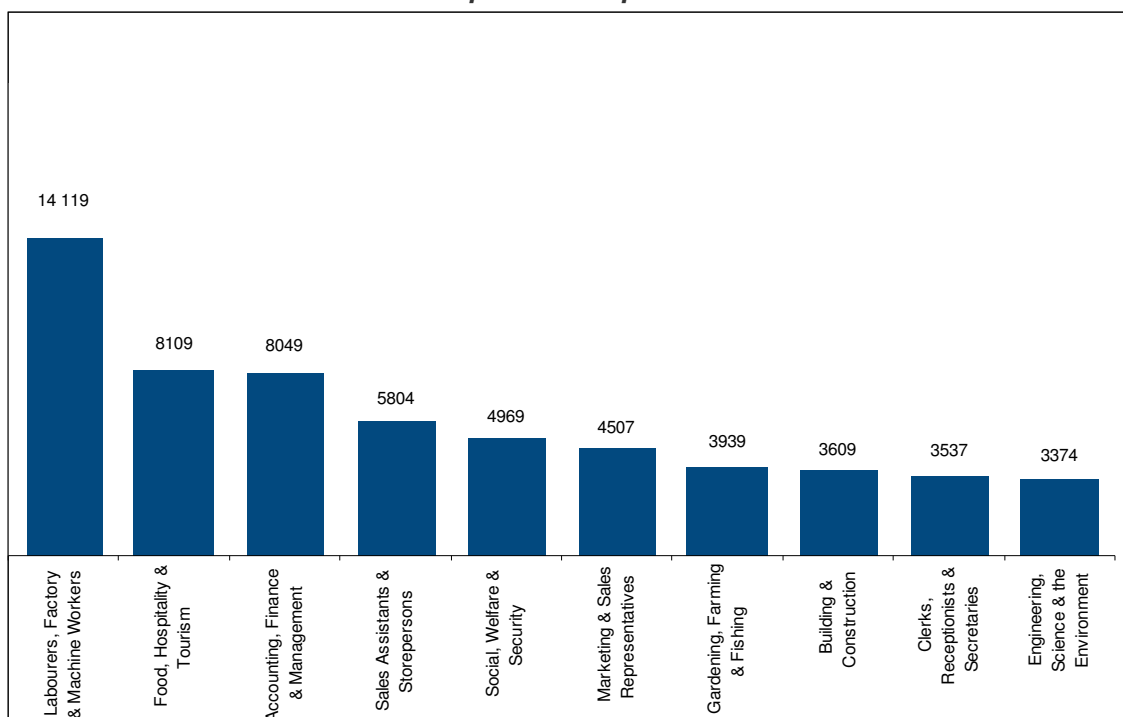
Australian JobSearch Vacancies

- The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch (AJS), DEEWR's online employment website, was around 79 600 in mid October 2008. The top three occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (14 100); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (8100) and Accounting, Finance and Management (8000).
- The largest number of vacancies was in Queensland (23 100), followed by New South Wales (21 900) and Victoria (16 800).

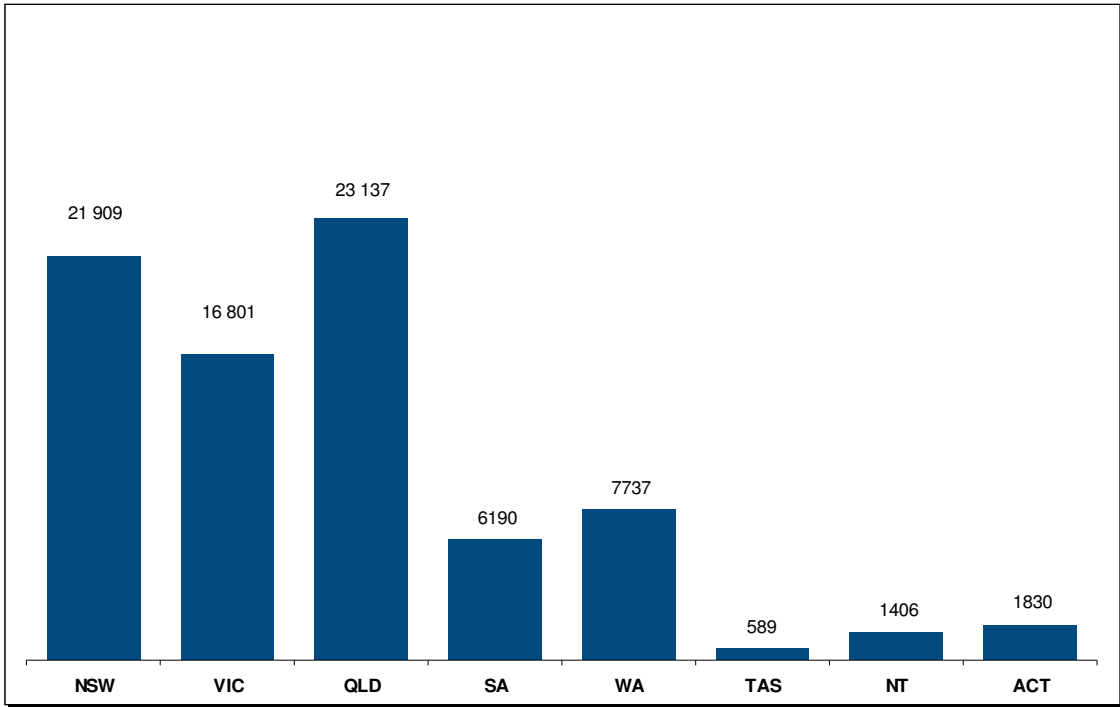
AJS Vacancies - October 2008

Occupation	AUST	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Accounting, Finance & Management	8049	2259	1718	2199	571	754	67	239	242
Building & Construction	3609	855	1009	1118	159	321	10	55	82
Cleaning	2795	483	829	878	213	284	13	40	55
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	3537	1204	581	808	290	418	16	58	162
Computing & IT	508	178	107	79	36	80	2	5	21
Drivers & Transport	3117	828	564	930	264	391	17	68	55
Electrical & Electronics Trades	945	298	123	312	83	102	5	10	12
Engineering, Science & the Environment	3374	1533	380	805	119	456	16	52	13
Food, Hospitality & Tourism	8109	1935	1899	2616	590	738	71	143	117
Gardening, Farming & Fishing	3939	1991	383	885	389	227	13	35	16
Government & Defence	1073	244	79	79	39	36	22	184	390
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty	2677	761	619	550	477	169	21	38	42
Labourers, Factory & Machine Workers	14 119	2909	2568	5125	1631	1546	82	130	128
Marketing & Sales Representatives	4507	1285	1272	1218	256	290	54	46	86
Media, the Arts & Printing	1443	613	663	76	41	31	3	5	11
Metal & Engineering Trades	2330	600	426	686	180	393	12	25	8
Motor Vehicle Service & Repair	1753	487	487	399	96	216	5	33	30
Sales Assistants & Storepersons	5804	1244	1271	1820	552	675	16	97	129
Social, Welfare & Security	4969	1040	1030	2045	162	382	46	107	157
Teaching, Child Care & Library	2942	1162	793	509	42	228	98	36	74
Total	79 599	21 909	16 801	23 137	6190	7737	589	1406	1830

AJS Vacancies - Top Ten Occupations - October 2008



AJS Vacancies by State - October 2008



2008

Explanatory Notes

- The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) is released monthly. The Index is based on a count of skilled vacancies in major metropolitan newspapers in 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 (2007=100). In view of the procedure used for trending, the figures for the six months prior to the current month are subject to revision.
- The SVI total includes some residual occupations not counted in the 18 occupational groups. The Tasmanian and Northern Territory counts are small and may be volatile and results should be used cautiously. The totals do not add as the series are separately seasonally adjusted and trended.
- ACT - The 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. The ACT SVI does not as yet have sufficient data for a seasonally adjusted or trend series to be produced. Data can be made available upon request.
- The ICT Vacancy Index is based on a weekly count of ICT vacancies advertised on three sites: jobserve.com.au, seek.com.au and mycareer.com.au (IT Jobs). The composite series commenced in January 2000 and in June 2008 the series was based on a seasonally adjusted (using the Census X12 seasonal adjustment module) and trended series (using a Henderson 13 term weighted moving average). The series includes vacancies lodged within 14 days prior to counting for two sites. From May 2006, one site, Jobserve, only has an option to count vacancies that are seven days old or less. This change in the series composition has had little effect. 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.
- The number of vacancies displayed on Australian JobSearch cannot be used as an indicator of skills in demand. 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.
- Vacancies on Australian JobSearch have been allocated into occupational groupings developed by DEEWR. 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.
- For further information, please contact Michael Gray on (02) 6121 6012 or email michael.gray2@deewr.gov.au.