



# Vacancy Report

May 2007

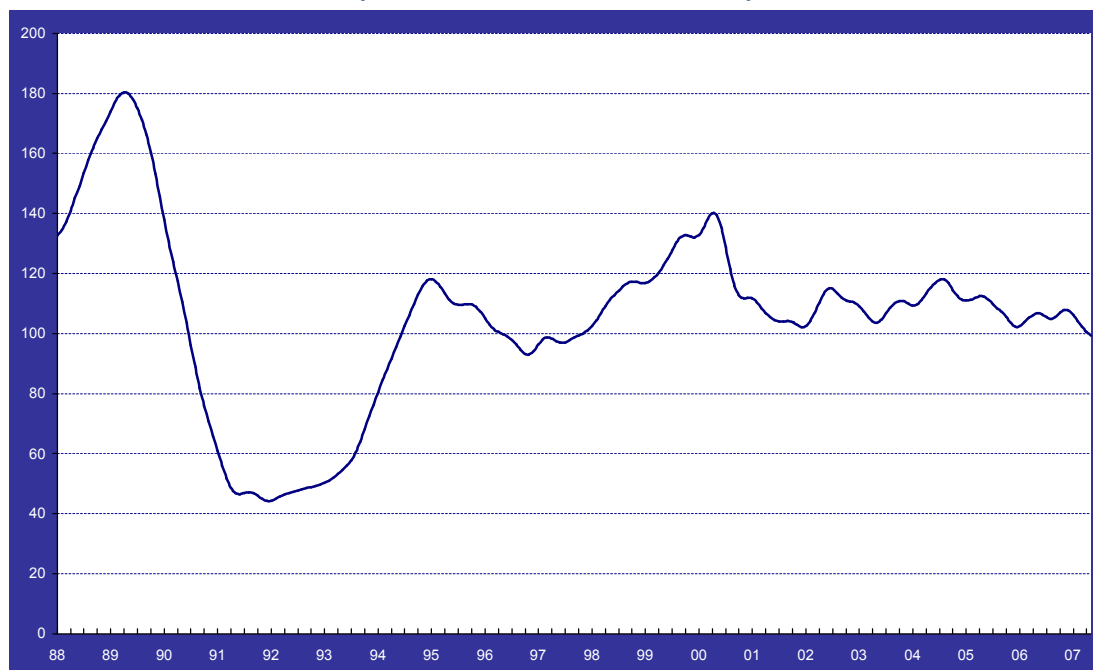
## MAIN POINTS

The Skilled Vacancies Index (trend) fell by 1.1% in May 2007 to 99.4 (November 1997=100). Vacancies fell in four States and across the three broad occupational groups: Professionals (down by 1.8%), Associate Professionals (5.6%) and Trades (1.4%). In annual terms, the SVI is 6.9% lower than in May 2006.

The DEWR ICT Vacancy Index rose by 6.1% to 369.1 over the four weeks to mid May 2007 (November 2002=100) and is 33.9% higher than in May 2006. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 27 500 vacancies in the four weeks to mid May 2007.

The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment website, was around 83 100 in mid May 2007. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (13 500); Accounting, Finance and Management (12 000); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7400); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (7300).

## SKILLED VACANCIES – AUSTRALIA January 1988 to May 2007 (Index November 1997=100)



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**SkillsInfo** is a new website that provides skills-related information for industries and regions and supports the Australian government's *Skills for the Future* initiative (go to [www.australia.gov.au/skillsinfo](http://www.australia.gov.au/skillsinfo) and click on SkillsInfo). A centrepiece of SkillsInfo is the **Industry Employment Profiles** that present a comprehensive suite of data on employment characteristics, trends and projections for all industries.

## SKILLED VACANCIES

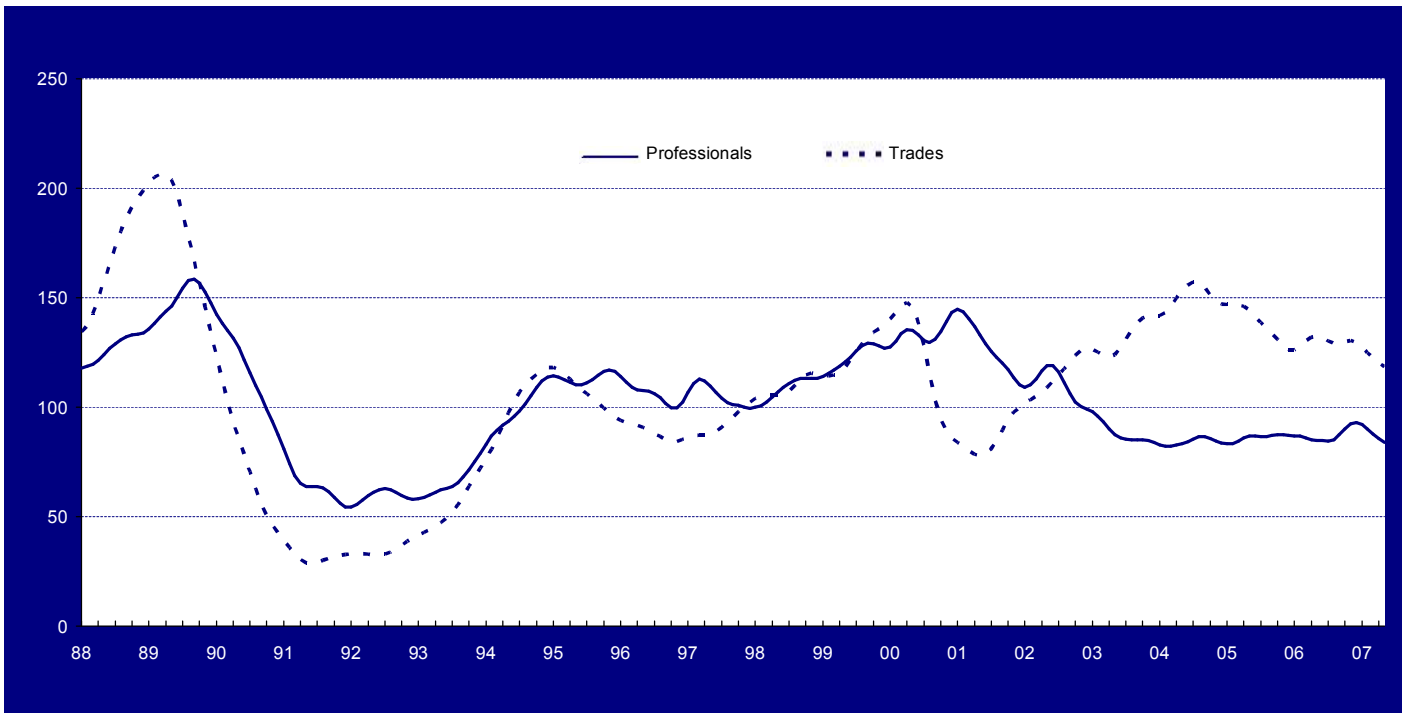
- The Skilled Vacancies Index fell by 1.1% in May 2007 to 99.4 (November 1997=100). Vacancies fell for the three broad occupations: Professionals (down by 1.8%), Associate Professionals (5.6%) and Trades (1.4%). In annual terms, the SVI is 6.9% lower than in May 2006, largely due to the strong fall in Trades vacancies since May 2006 (down by 10.7 per cent).
- Skilled vacancies fell for twelve occupational groups and rose for six occupational groups in May 2007. The strongest falls were for Medical and Science Technical Officers (down by 17.6%), Hairdressers (9.0%) and Printing Trades (8.2%). The strongest increase was for Science Professionals (up by 5.1%), followed by Building and Engineering Professionals and Construction Trades (both 1.9%).
- The Northern Territory and two states recorded increases in skilled vacancies in May 2007, with the strongest rise in the Northern Territory (up by 4.2%), followed by Queensland (1.1%) and South Australia (0.7%). Over the month, falls in skilled vacancies were recorded for New South Wales (down by 4.9%), Western Australia (3.4%), Victoria (1.5%) and Tasmania (1.0%)
- Over the year to May 2007, increases in skilled vacancies were recorded in Queensland (up by 15.6%), South Australia (14.8%), Tasmania (11.5%) and the Northern Territory (10.8%). Over the same period, falls were recorded in all other States, with the strongest fall in Victoria (down by 20.7%), followed by New South Wales (20.6%) and Western Australia (15.0%).

### Skilled Vacancies — Summary Table

May-07	Index May-07	% change		No. of Vacancies May-07
		Monthly	Annual	
<b>PROFESSIONALS</b>	84.0	-1.8	-0.8	1528
Science	73.3	5.1	5.9	70
Building and Engineering	92.0	1.9	2.3	303
Accountants and Auditors	67.7	1.7	8.7	215
Marketing and Advertising	21.9	-5.6	9.2	23
Organisation and Information	52.6	-4.2	3.0	77
Health	109.9	-3.4	-8.2	643
Social	86.6	-3.4	9.3	210
<b>ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONALS</b>	65.5	-5.6	-7.1	184
Medical/Science Technical Officers	50.3	-17.6	-66.4	13
Building/Engineering Associates	69.5	-3.2	11.0	160
<b>TRADES</b>	118.5	-1.4	-10.7	2156
Metal	122.0	-1.7	-8.7	411
Automotive	108.1	0.2	-4.9	242
Electrical and Electronics	120.4	0.3	-8.1	260
Construction	168.8	1.9	-4.3	580
Chefs	138.4	-7.1	-37.6	300
Food	88.0	-0.9	8.5	196
Printing	56.0	-8.2	7.6	48
Wood	146.9	-3.9	24.6	94
Hairdressers	78.0	-9.0	-33.5	115
<b>STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>				
New South Wales	45.2	-4.9	-20.6	592
Victoria	53.6	-1.5	-20.7	525
Queensland	149.8	1.1	15.6	1009
South Australia	151.9	0.7	14.8	395
Western Australia	193.4	-3.4	-15.0	1167
Tasmania	211.9	-1.0	11.5	68
Northern Territory	297.3	4.2	10.8	118
<b>Australia</b>	99.4	-1.1	-6.9	3897

**Explanatory note:** 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 is separately seasonally adjusted and trended.

**SKILLED VACANCIES  
PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES  
January 1988 to May 2007  
(Index November 1997=100)**



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

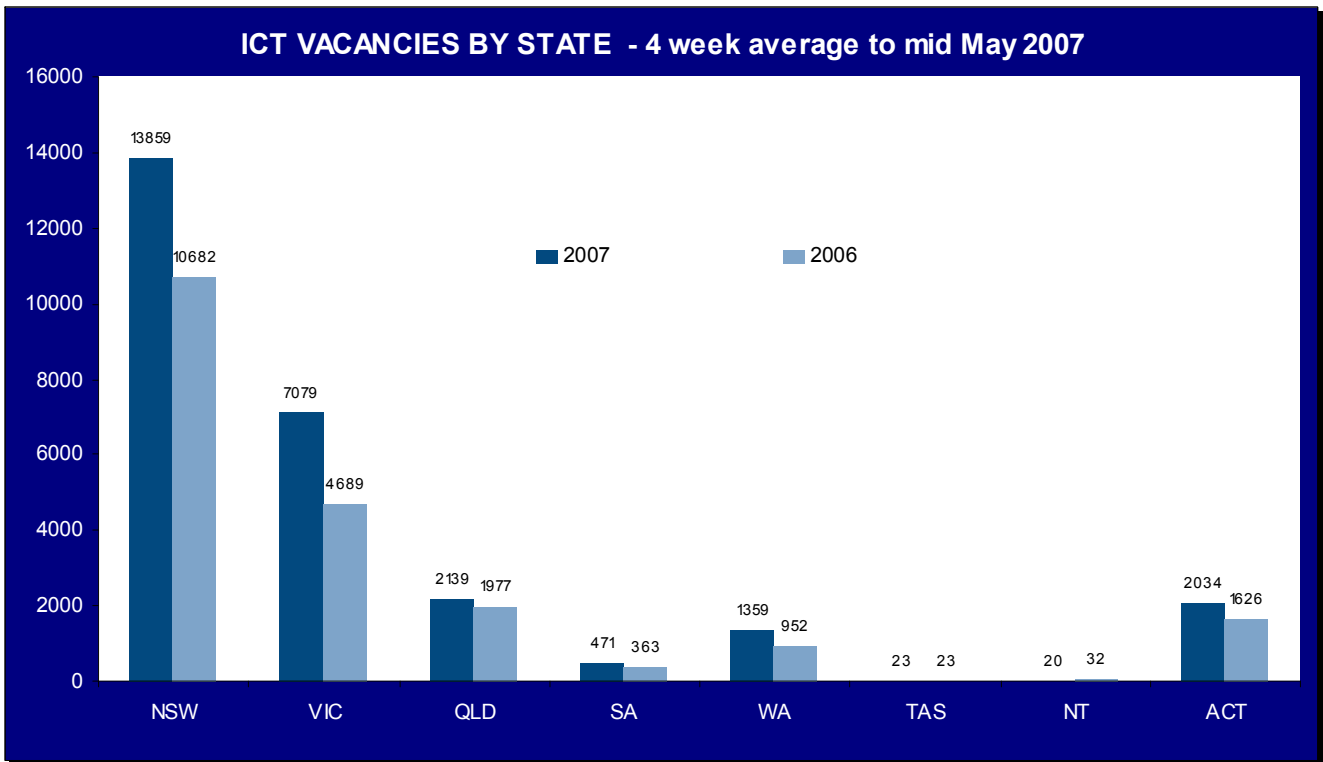
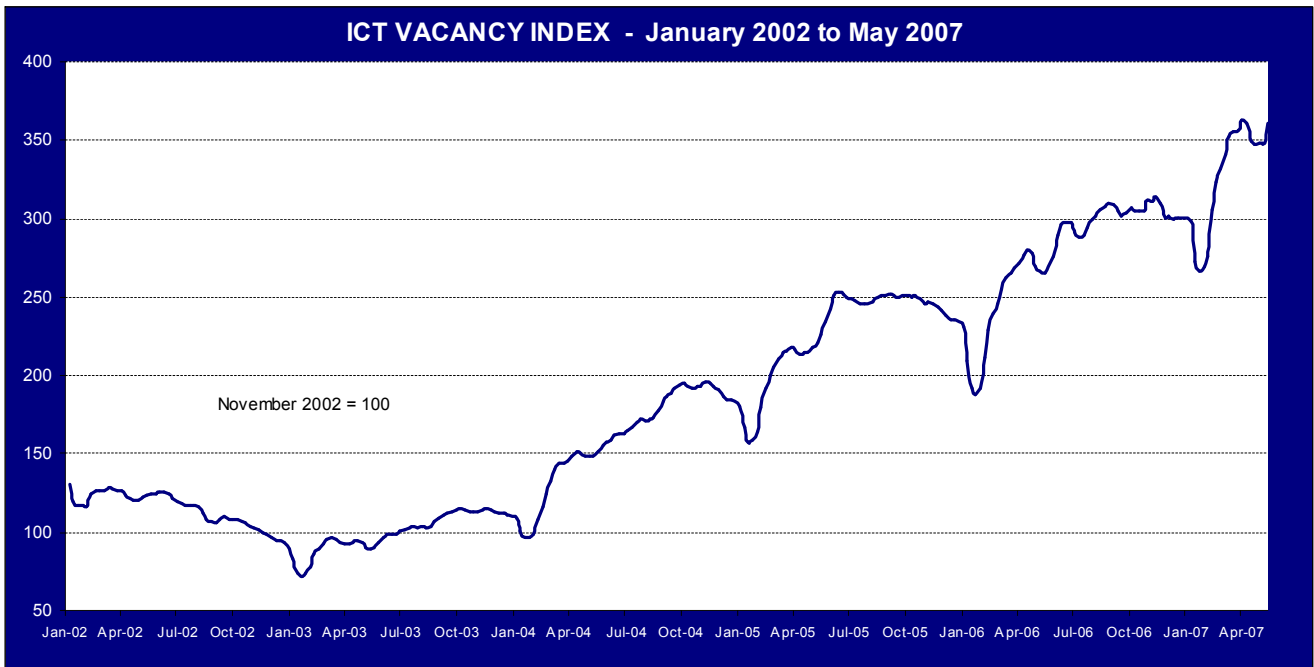
<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Category/Publications/LabourMarketAnalysis/VacancyReports/>

**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 rose by 6.1% to 369.1 over the four weeks to mid May 2007 and is 33.9% higher than in May 2006. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 27 500 vacancies in the four weeks to mid May 2007, 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 and, unlike the SVI, is not seasonally adjusted.

- In May 2007, the largest number of ICT online vacancies was in New South Wales (13 900), followed by Victoria (7100) and Queensland (2100).



**Explanatory note:** the ICT Vacancy Index is based on a weekly count of ICT vacancies advertised on three sites: [jobserve.com.au](http://jobserve.com.au), [seek.com.au](http://seek.com.au) and [mycareer.com.au](http://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 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.

## VACANCIES ON AUSTRALIAN JOBSEARCH (AJS)

*Note: 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.*

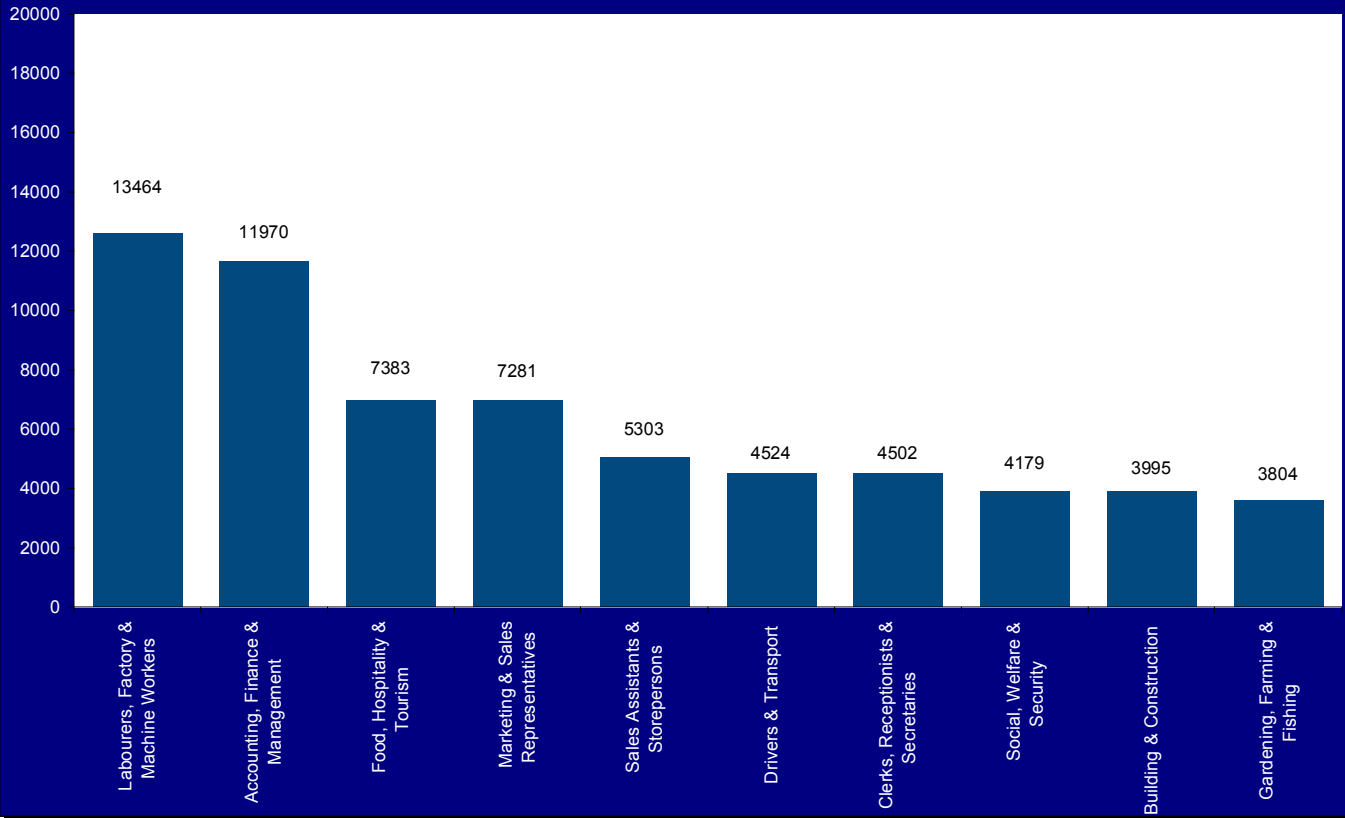
The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment website, was around 83 100 in mid May 2007. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (13 500); Accounting, Finance and Management (12 000); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7400); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (7300).

The largest number of vacancies was in New South Wales (23 900), followed by Queensland (21 600) and Victoria (17 800).

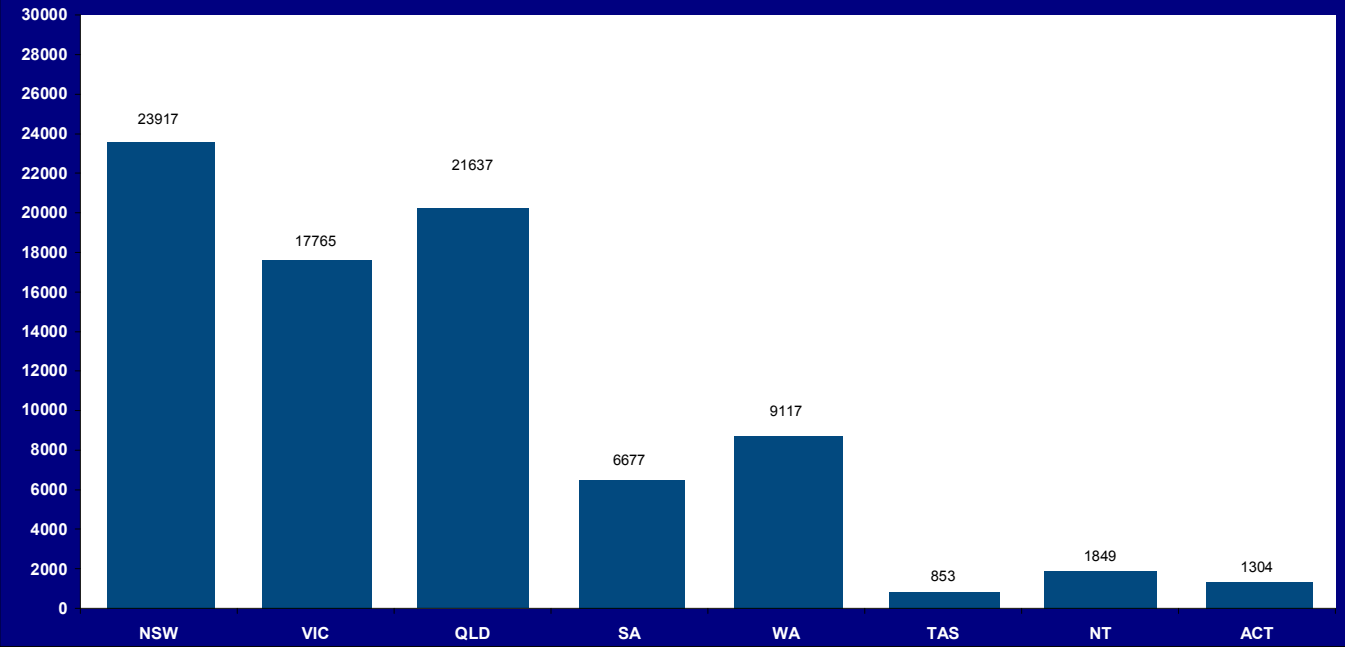
### Australian JobSearch Vacancies - May 2007

Occupation	AUST	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Accounting, Finance & Management	11,970	4,754	2,881	2,057	750	1,247	99	138	44
Building & Construction	3,995	917	940	1,367	207	428	29	68	39
Cleaning	2,287	269	364	926	241	334	3	126	24
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	4,502	1,399	864	1,025	319	609	44	110	132
Computing & IT	1,025	419	301	151	45	56	8	10	35
Drivers & Transport	4,524	1,999	612	1,054	157	511	23	90	78
Electrical & Electronics Trades	1,137	322	230	304	77	157	8	30	9
Engineering, Science & the Environment	2,440	760	504	637	141	346	29	21	2
Food, Hospitality & Tourism	7,383	1,558	1,570	2,540	493	748	94	294	86
Gardening, Farming & Fishing	3,804	669	439	917	1,222	399	57	75	26
Government & Defence	953	229	102	67	26	21	10	145	353
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty	2,883	804	727	543	400	301	33	49	26
Labourers, Factory & Machine Workers	13,464	2,607	3,002	4,441	1,075	1,849	119	230	141
Marketing & Sales Representatives	7,281	2,649	1,989	1,385	505	462	147	79	65
Media, the Arts & Printing	732	245	184	244	13	24	2	17	3
Metal & Engineering Trades	2,277	553	615	599	182	244	42	38	4
Motor Vehicle Service & Repair	1,710	403	513	397	115	208	13	36	25
Sales Assistants & Storepersons	5,303	1,176	1,010	1,615	385	723	53	171	170
Social, Welfare & Security	4,179	1,776	654	1,056	228	322	25	88	30
Teaching, Child Care & Library	1,270	409	264	312	96	128	15	34	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,119</b>	<b>23,917</b>	<b>17,765</b>	<b>21,637</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>9,117</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>1,304</b>

**AJS – TOP TEN VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION AUSTRALIA, May 2007**



**AJS VACANCIES BY STATE, May 2007**

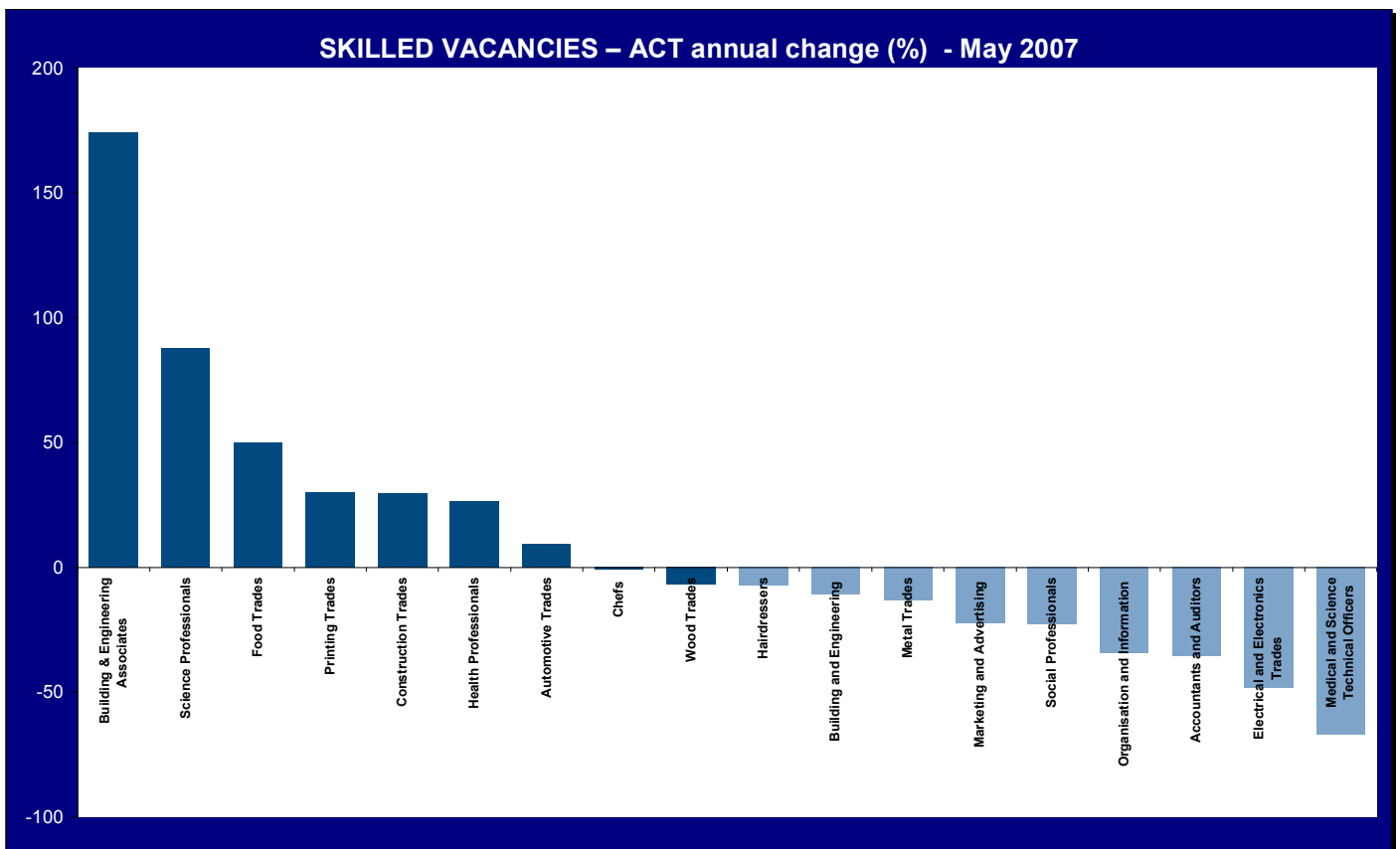


**Explanatory note:** Vacancies on Australian JobSearch have been allocated into occupational groupings developed by DEWR. The data presented provide a ‘snapshot’ of vacancies on AJS as at a particular date, by occupation and States and Territories. The data refer to the number of ‘positions available’ 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 in the year to May 2007 (down by 4.0%). Vacancy levels increased over the year for Trades (up by 1.0%) and Associate Professionals (130.3%), while vacancy levels for Professionals fell (down by 15.9%).

- Seven of the 18 occupational groups recorded higher vacancy levels over the year. The strongest rises were for Building and Engineering Associate Professionals, Science Professionals and Food Trades.
- Over the year, eleven occupational groups recorded lower vacancy levels with the strongest falls for: Medical and Science Technical Officers, Electrical and Electronics Trades, Accountants and Auditors and Organisation and Information Professionals.



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.