



Vacancy Report

August 2008

MAIN POINTS

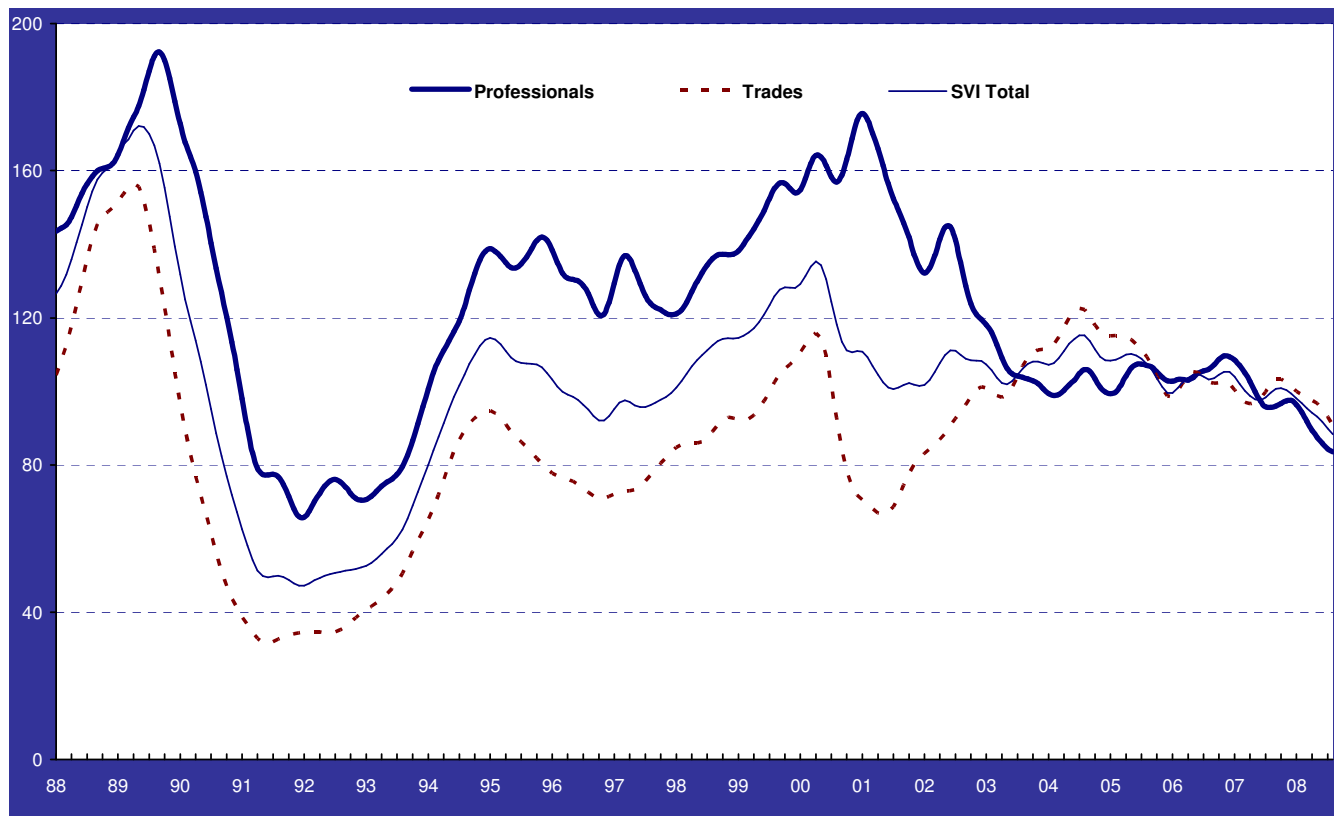
The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) (trend) decreased by 1.7% in August 2008 to 88.4 (2007 = 100). Vacancies fell for Trades (down by 2.3%) and Professionals (down by 0.9%). However, the SVI increased for Associate Professionals (up by 0.9%). In annual terms, the SVI is 11.4% lower than in August 2007.

The DEEWR ICT Vacancy Index (trend) decreased by 3.8% in August 2008 to 232.6 (January 2002 = 100). Over the month, Tasmania experienced the largest decline (down by 4.5%), followed by Victoria (down by 4.2%) and New South Wales (down by 3.8%). In annual terms, the ICT Vacancy Index is 16.2% lower than in August 2007.

The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEEWR's online employment website, was around 87 600 in mid August 2008. The top three occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (15 800); Accounting, Finance and Management (9500); and Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7800).

SKILLED VACANCIES INDEX, PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES

January 1988 to August 2008
(2007=100)



SKILLED VACANCIES

- The Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) (trend) decreased by 1.7% in August 2008 to 88.4 (2007 = 100). Vacancies fell for Trades (down by 2.3%) and Professionals (down by 0.9%). However, the SVI increased for Associate Professionals (up by 0.9%). In annual terms, the SVI is 11.4% lower than in August 2007.
- The fall in skilled vacancies was widespread, with decreases evident in 14 of the 18 occupations in August 2008. The largest fall over the month was for Science Professionals (down by 8.3%), followed by Electrical and Electronics Trades (down by 5.3%) and Wood Trades (down by 4.1%). The occupations recording the largest rises in skilled vacancies were Marketing and Advertising Professionals (up by 7.8%), Building and Engineering Professionals (up by 1.6%) and Building and Engineering Associate Professionals (up by 1.3%).
- In August 2008, Tasmania was the only State to experience growth in skilled vacancies (up by 0.4%), while the largest falls in skilled vacancies were recorded for the Northern Territory (down by 3.4%), Queensland (down by 3.2%) and New South Wales (down by 1.9%).
- Over the year to August 2008, increases in skilled vacancies were recorded in Victoria (up by 2.9%) and the Northern Territory (up by 1.3%). The largest decreases in skilled vacancies over the same period were recorded in Queensland (down by 28.3%), New South Wales (down by 21.7%) and Tasmania and South Australia (both down by 11.8%).

Skilled Vacancies — Summary Table

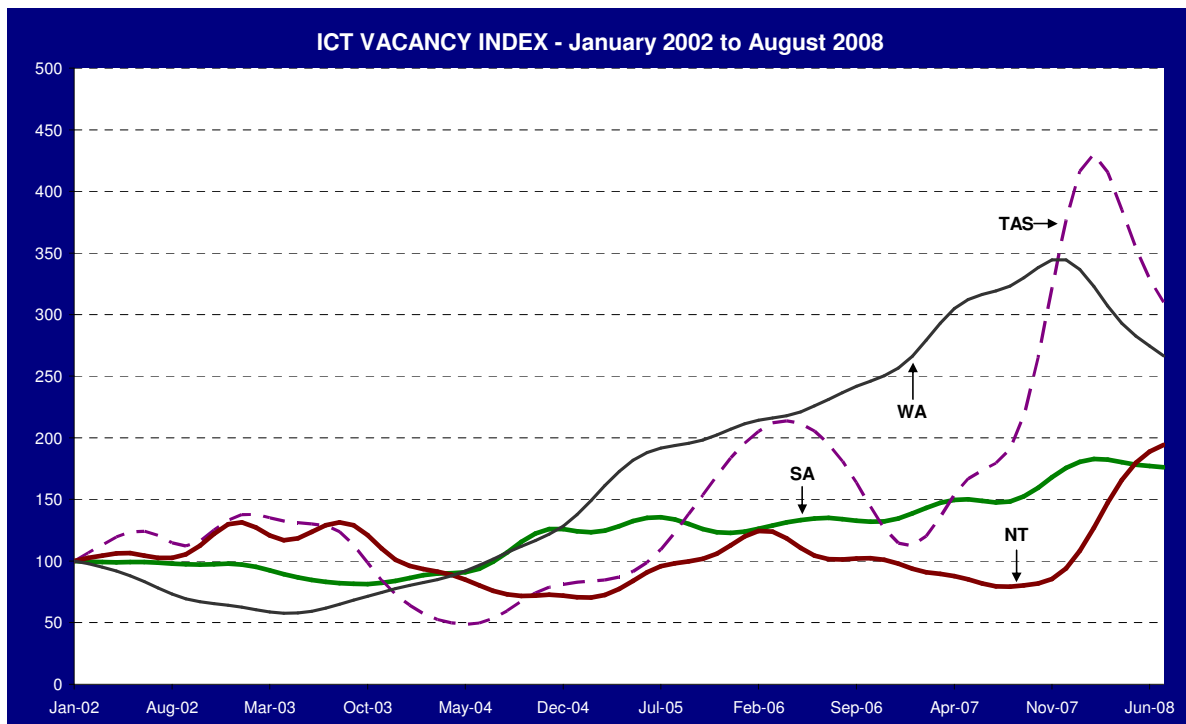
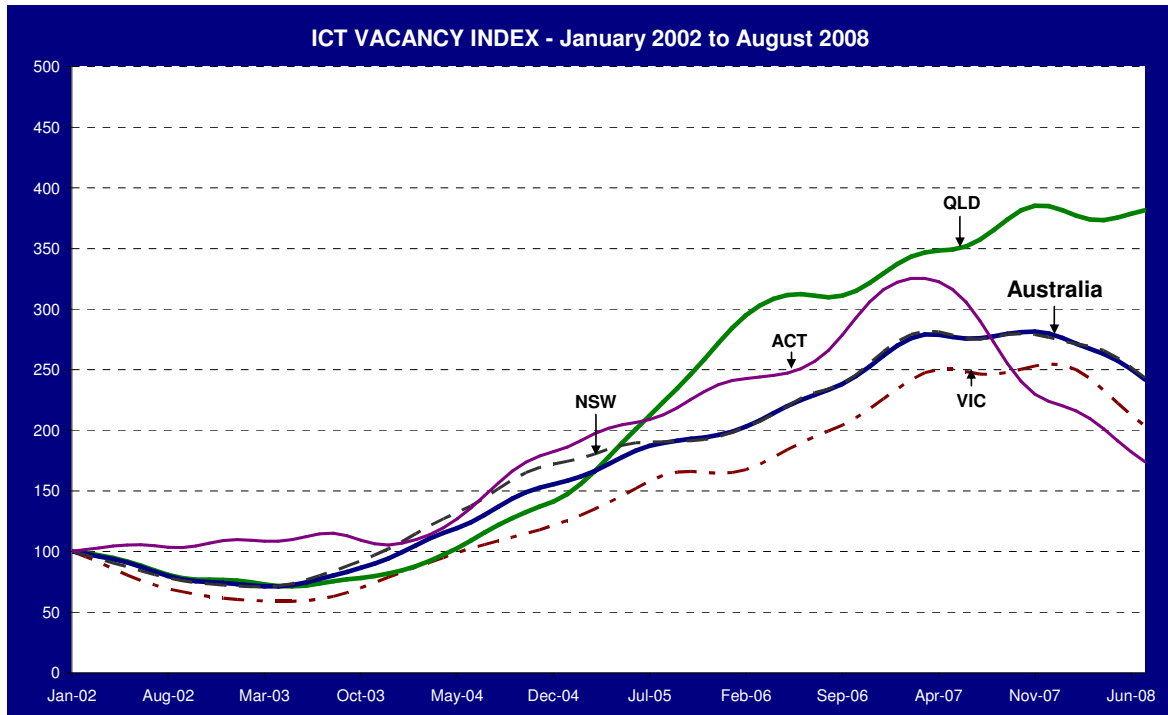
Aug-2008	Index Aug-2008	% change		No. of Vacancies Aug-2008
		Monthly	Annual	
PROFESSIONALS	83.6	-0.9	-12.6	1253
Science	104.8	-8.3	0.7	72
Building and Engineering	76.7	1.6	-17.8	212
Accountants and Auditors	63.6	-1.8	-30.6	118
Marketing and Advertising	90.3	7.8	-0.5	21
Organisation and Information	74.9	-2.6	-17.9	58
Health	86.3	-2.4	-9.4	560
Social	84.4	-0.6	-13.0	184
ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONALS	91.6	0.9	-9.6	185
Medical/Science Technical Officers	137.0	-0.8	43.7	29
Building/Engineering Associates	89.1	1.3	-14.4	154
TRADES	90.9	-2.3	-10.9	2339
Metal	109.5	-1.0	6.2	541
Automotive	83.3	-3.8	-17.2	259
Electrical and Electronics	81.2	-5.3	-22.1	250
Construction	88.6	-3.3	-12.9	580
Chefs	94.9	0.3	-5.7	222
Food	71.0	-3.5	-29.5	158
Printing	66.3	-0.8	-32.5	41
Wood	94.3	-4.1	3.4	96
Hairdressers	79.8	-2.7	-20.1	115
STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY				
New South Wales	77.4	-1.9	-21.7	622
Victoria	100.6	-1.5	2.9	707
Queensland	72.3	-3.2	-28.3	709
South Australia	91.0	-1.5	-11.8	368
Western Australia	96.5	-1.0	-1.4	1157
Tasmania	91.6	0.4	-11.8	64
Northern Territory	104.8	-3.4	1.3	118
Australia	88.4	-1.7	-11.4	3776

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

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

ICT VACANCY INDEX

The DEEWR ICT Vacancy Index (trend) decreased by 3.8% in August 2008 to 232.6 (January 2002 = 100). Over the month, Tasmania experienced the largest decline (down by 4.5%), followed by Victoria (down by 4.2%) and New South Wales (down by 3.8%). The Northern Territory and Queensland experienced slight increases in ICT vacancies. It should be noted that ICT positions may be advertised on more than one site. In annual terms, the ICT Vacancy Index is 16.2% lower than in August 2007.



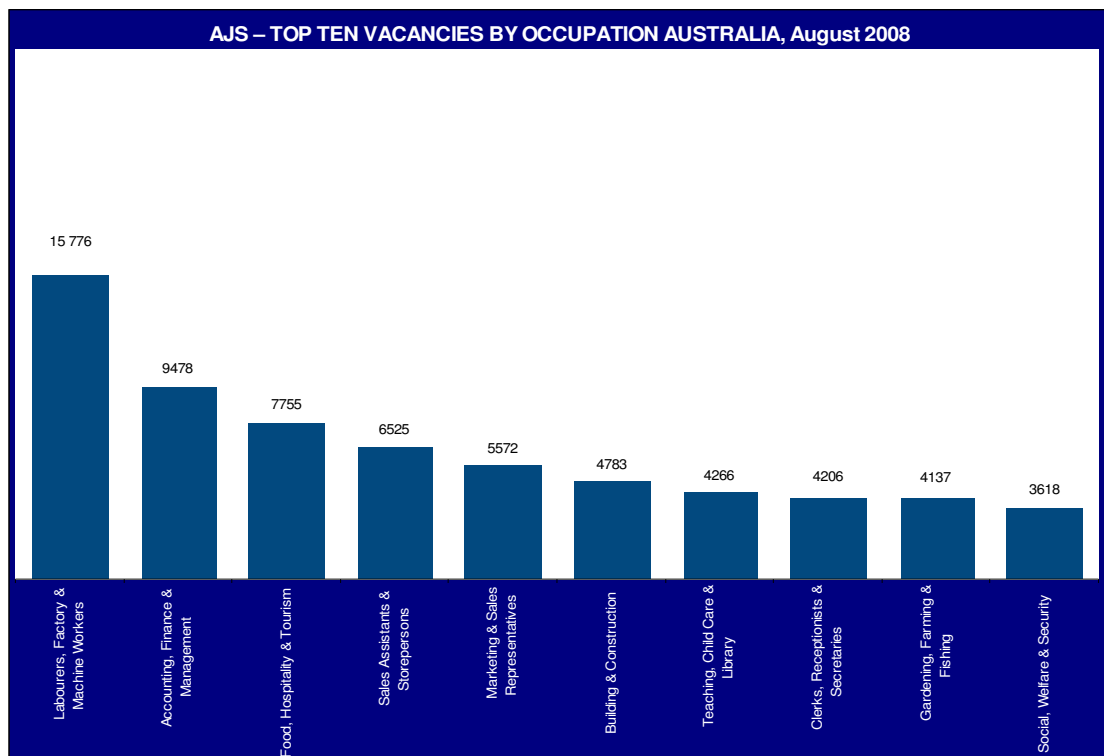
VACANCIES ON AUSTRALIAN JOBSEARCH (AJS)

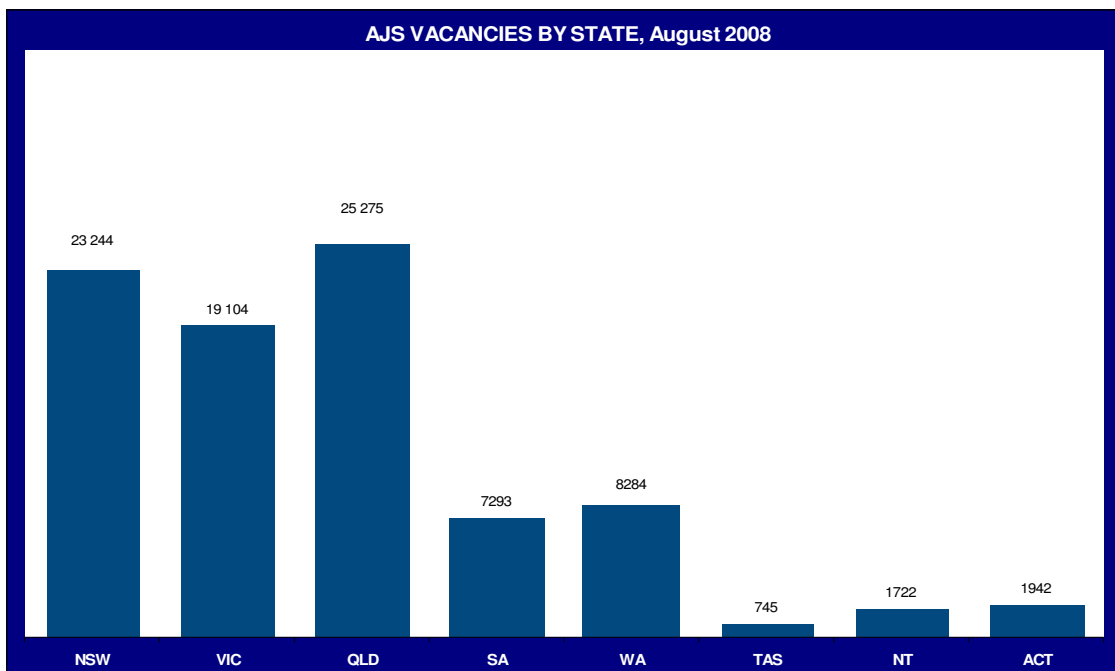
The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEEWR's online employment website, was around 87 600 in mid August 2008. The top three occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (15 800); Accounting, Finance and Management (9500); and Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7800).

The largest number of vacancies was in Queensland (25 300), followed by New South Wales (23 200) and Victoria (19 100).

Australian JobSearch Vacancies - August 2008

Occupation	AUST	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Accounting, Finance & Management	9478	2878	2159	2273	630	1054	62	140	282
Building & Construction	4783	879	1212	1978	227	390	23	32	42
Cleaning	2485	571	423	917	183	264	3	71	53
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	4206	1332	874	874	273	583	27	107	136
Computing & IT	940	326	189	255	30	25	35	13	67
Drivers & Transport	3445	915	747	1024	254	371	22	65	47
Electrical & Electronics Trades	1006	336	126	309	90	113	7	15	10
Engineering, Science & the Environment	3261	687	503	1301	110	568	35	46	11
Food, Hospitality & Tourism	7755	1505	1642	3009	543	718	72	172	94
Gardening, Farming & Fishing	4137	1538	499	1158	373	313	52	187	17
Government & Defence	1682	417	144	104	70	75	32	202	638
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty	3119	1028	763	565	511	137	41	48	26
Labourers, Factory & Machine Workers	15 776	3069	3234	5378	2139	1479	125	250	102
Marketing & Sales Representatives	5572	1599	1858	1327	271	349	49	64	55
Media, the Arts & Printing	1135	377	622	83	13	25	1	3	11
Metal & Engineering Trades	2547	670	430	759	237	394	17	37	3
Motor Vehicle Service & Repair	1873	462	491	517	134	200	7	34	28
Sales Assistants & Storepersons	6525	1308	1411	1982	950	639	41	106	88
Social, Welfare & Security	3618	1114	871	833	165	352	35	80	168
Teaching, Child Care & Library	4266	2233	906	629	90	235	59	50	64
Total	87 609	23 244	19 104	25 275	7293	8284	745	1722	1942





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**.