



Vacancy Report

July 2006

MAIN POINTS

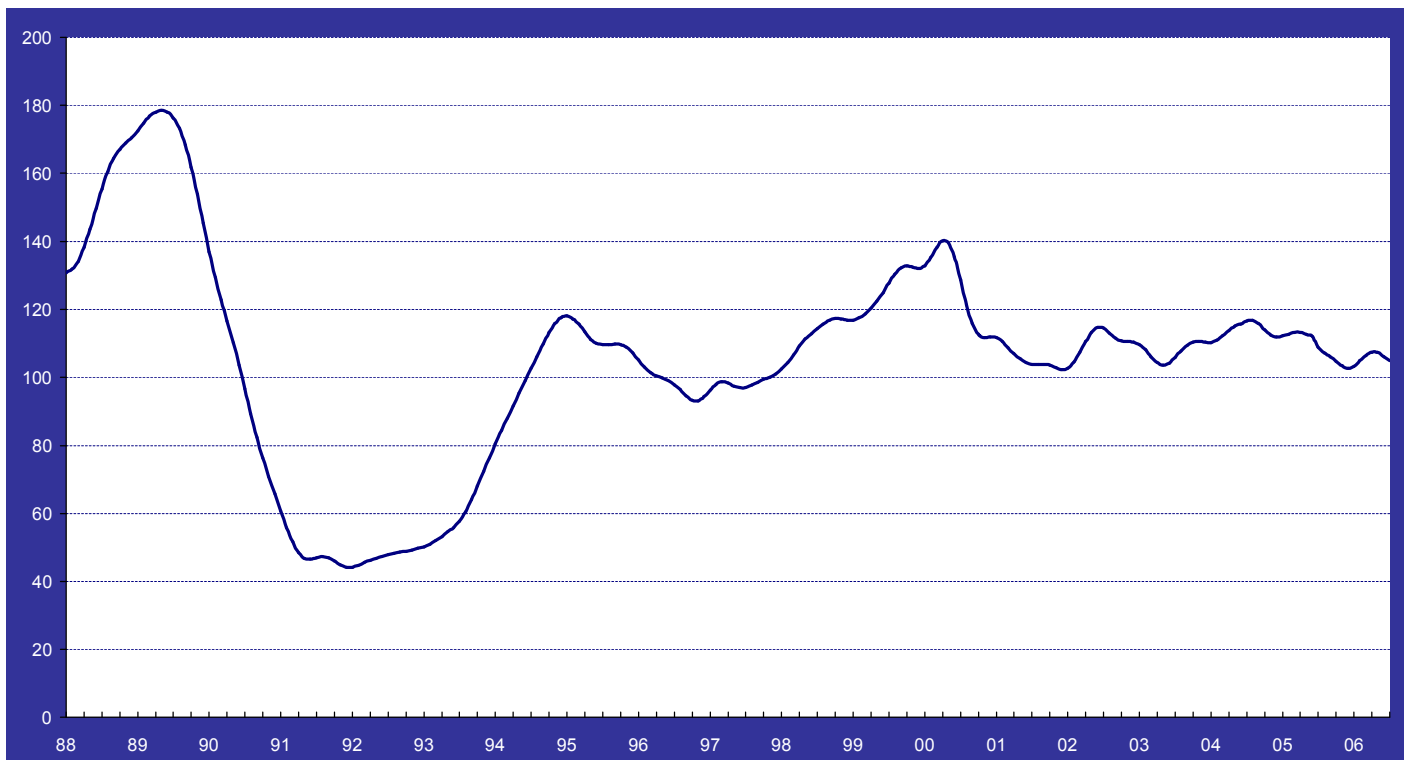
The Skilled Vacancies Index fell by 1.2% in July 2006 to 104.9. Vacancies for all three occupational groups fell: Professionals (down by 2.2%), Associate Professionals (down by 3.5%) and Trades (down by 0.4%). The SVI is 3.6% lower than in July 2005.

The DEWR ICT Vacancy Index fell by 2.8% over the four weeks to mid July 2006 to 289.4 but is 17.7% higher than in July 2005. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 22,500 vacancies in the four weeks to mid July 2006.

The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment site, was around 72,100 in mid July 2006. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (10,300); Accounting, Finance and Management (9,500); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7,600); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (6,800).

SKILLED VACANCIES – AUSTRALIA

July 1988 to July 2006
(Index November 1997=100)



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SKILLED VACANCIES

- The Skilled Vacancies Index fell by 1.2% in July 2006 to 104.9. Vacancies for all three occupational groups decreased: Professionals (down by 2.2%), Associate Professionals (down by 3.5%) and Trades (down by 0.4%). In annual terms the SVI is 3.6% lower than in July 2005.
- Skilled vacancies for five occupational groups rose and thirteen occupational groups fell in July 2006. The strongest increases were: Wood Trades (3.3%) and Construction Trades (1.9%) followed by Metal Trades (1.8%). The strongest falls were: Marketing and Advertising Professionals (10.5%), Building/Engineering Associates (5.1%), and Electrical and Electronics Trades (4.6%).
- Two States recorded vacancy increases in July, Western Australia (up by 1.6%) and South Australia (0.3%), while four states and the Northern Territory recorded falls, with the strongest decreases in Victoria and Tasmania (both down by 4.6%), and the Northern Territory (4.1%).
- Over the year to July 2006, five states recorded falls. The strongest falls were for Tasmania (down by 24.3%), New South Wales (17.8%) and Victoria (8.1%). Over the same period, rises were recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 25.2%) and Western Australia (10.5%).

Skilled Vacancies — Summary Table

	Index	% change		No. of Vacancies
	Jul-06	Monthly	Annual	Jul-06
PROFESSIONALS	81.5	-2.2	-5.6	1482
Science	63.0	-1.8	5.8	61
Building and Engineering	92.7	-0.9	23.8	305
Accountants and Auditors	61.0	0.1	-18.7	195
Marketing and Advertising	15.1	-10.5	-26.5	16
Organisation and Information ¹	49.2	-4.0	-6.6	72
Health	115.6	-2.2	-9.6	677
Social	71.8	-3.9	1.7	175
ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONALS²	68.5	-3.5	11.8	192
Medical/Science Technical Officers	146.4	0.2	59.2	39
Building/Engineering Associates	59.4	-5.1	-0.7	137
TRADES²	134.5	-0.4	-3.4	2446
Metal	139.7	1.8	-12.6	471
Automotive	111.6	-0.2	-12.5	250
Electrical and Electronics	123.6	-4.6	-17.3	267
Construction	183.0	1.9	6.4	629
Chefs	220.9	-3.9	0.7	311
Food	80.5	-1.0	14.1	180
Printing	49.8	-2.8	-26.8	43
Wood	120.6	3.3	-0.8	77
Hairdressers	119.9	-2.4	11.9	176
STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY				
New South Wales	55.6	-1.9	-17.8	729
Victoria	63.8	-4.6	-8.1	625
Queensland	124.6	-1.6	-5.8	840
South Australia	132.6	0.3	-7.7	344
Western Australia	239.4	1.6	10.5	1446
Tasmania ³	172.5	-4.6	-24.3	55
Northern Territory ³	253.7	-4.1	25.2	101
AUSTRALIA⁴	104.9	-1.2	-3.6	4115

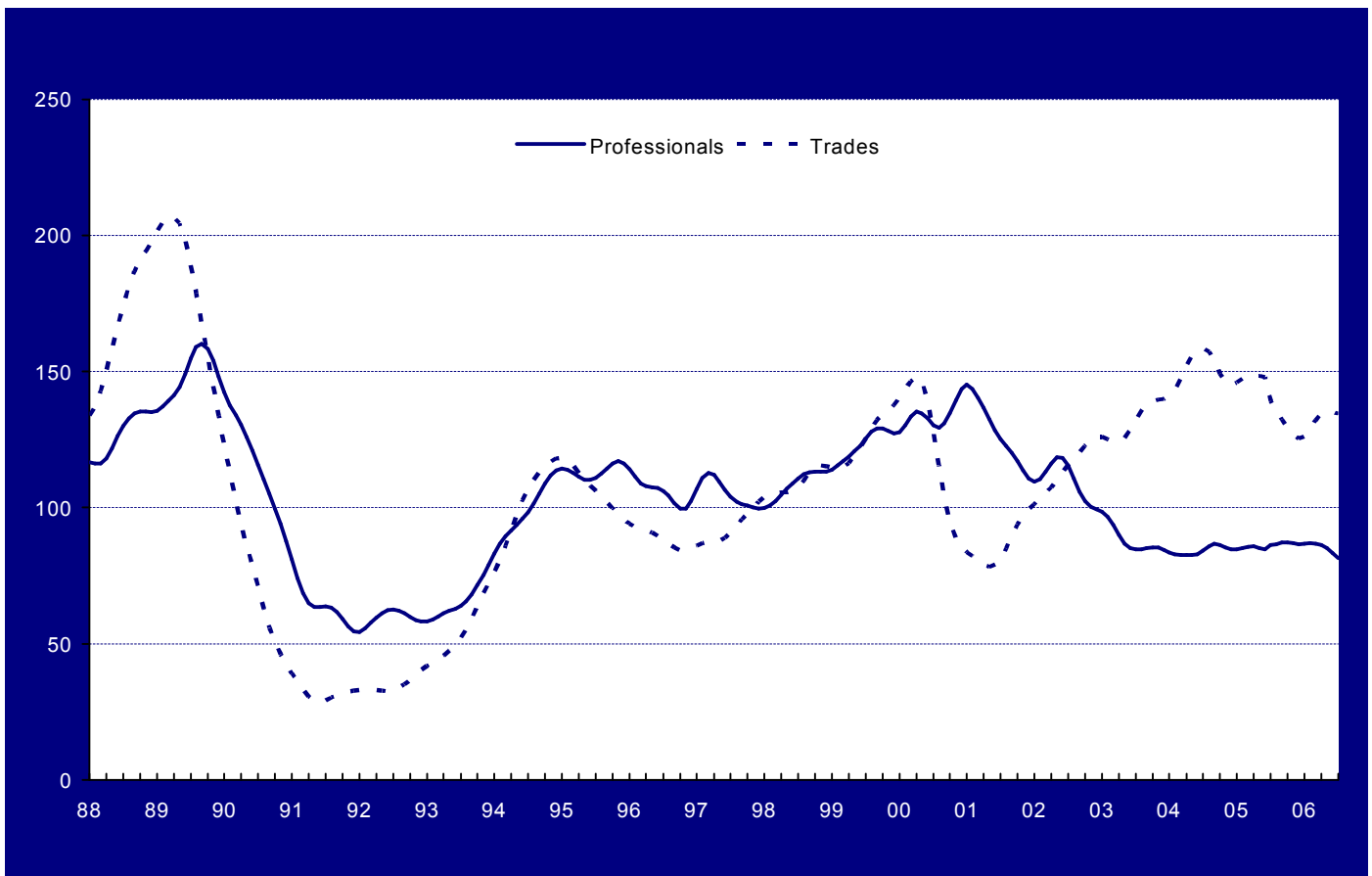
1. Does not include ICT occupations.

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 (seasonally adjusted), totals do not add as series are separately trended.

**SKILLED VACANCIES
PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES
July 1988 to July 2006
(Index November 1997=100)**



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

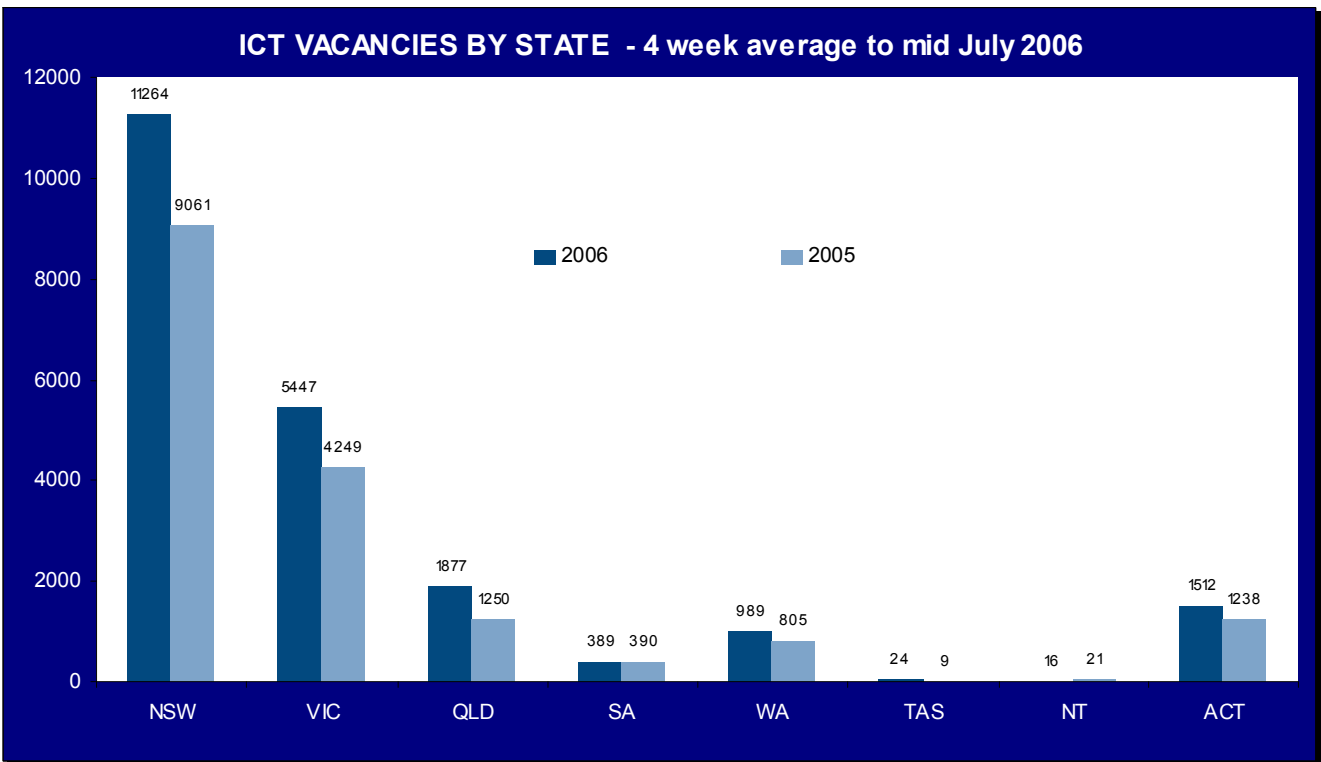
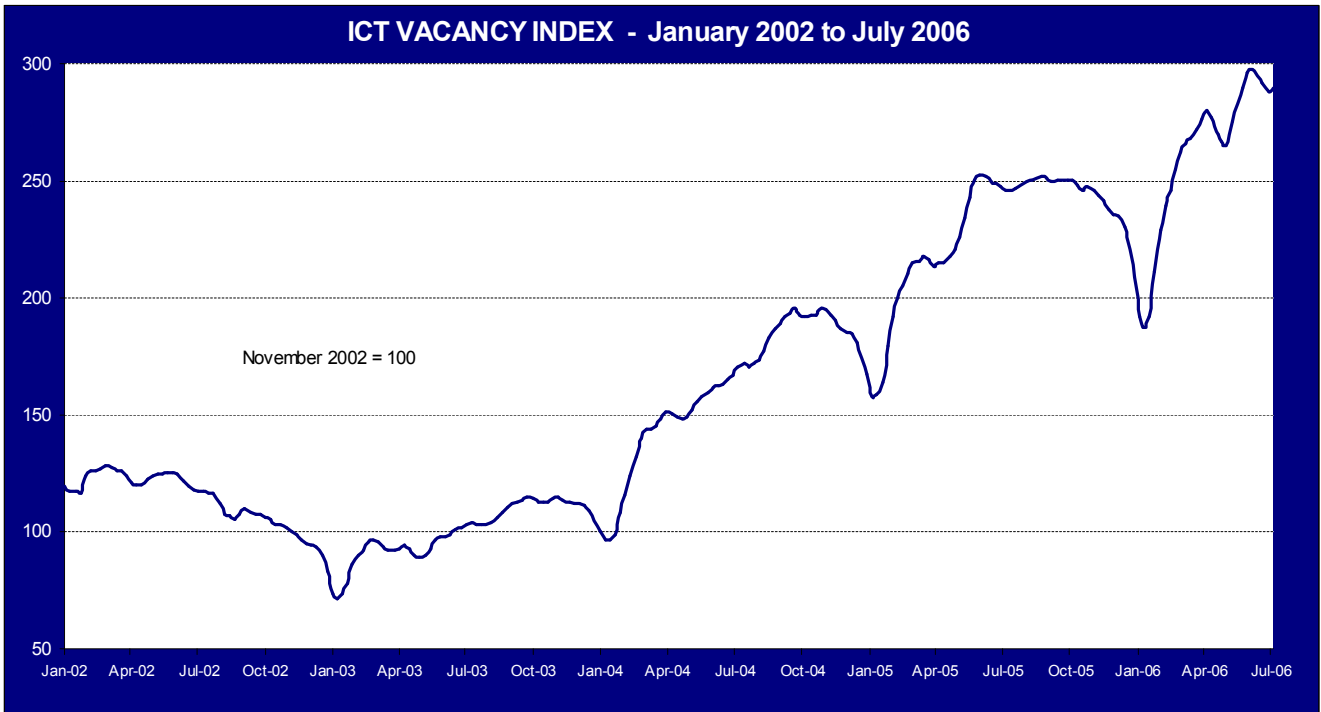
<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Category/Publications/LabourMarketAnalysis/VacancyReports/>

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 2.8% over the four weeks to mid July 2006 to 289.4 but is 17.7% higher than in July 2005. The three Australian ICT online recruiting sites included in the ICT Vacancy Index averaged around 22,500 vacancies in the four weeks to mid July 2006, 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 56.0% lower than in 2000 during the peak of ICT demand.
- In July 2006, New South Wales had 52.3% of ICT online vacancies (about 11,800), followed by Victoria with 25.3% (5,500).



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 vacancies lodged within 14 days prior to counting for two sites. From May 2006 one site, Jobnet, 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.

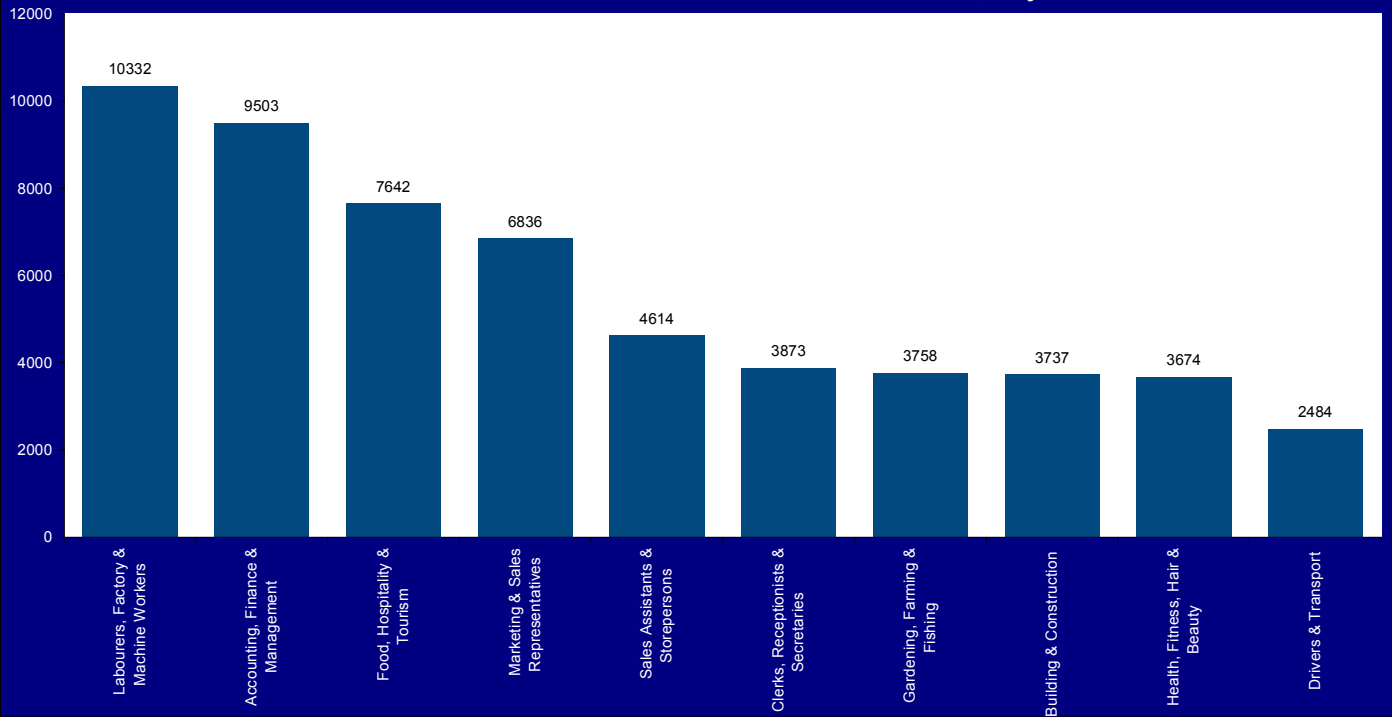
The number of vacancies on Australian JobSearch, DEWR's online employment site, was around 72,100 in mid July 2006. The top four occupational groups were: Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers (10,300); Accounting, Finance and Management (9,500); Food, Hospitality and Tourism (7,600); and Marketing and Sales Representatives (6,800).

The largest number of vacancies was in New South Wales (21,800) followed by Queensland (18,800), and Victoria (16,000).

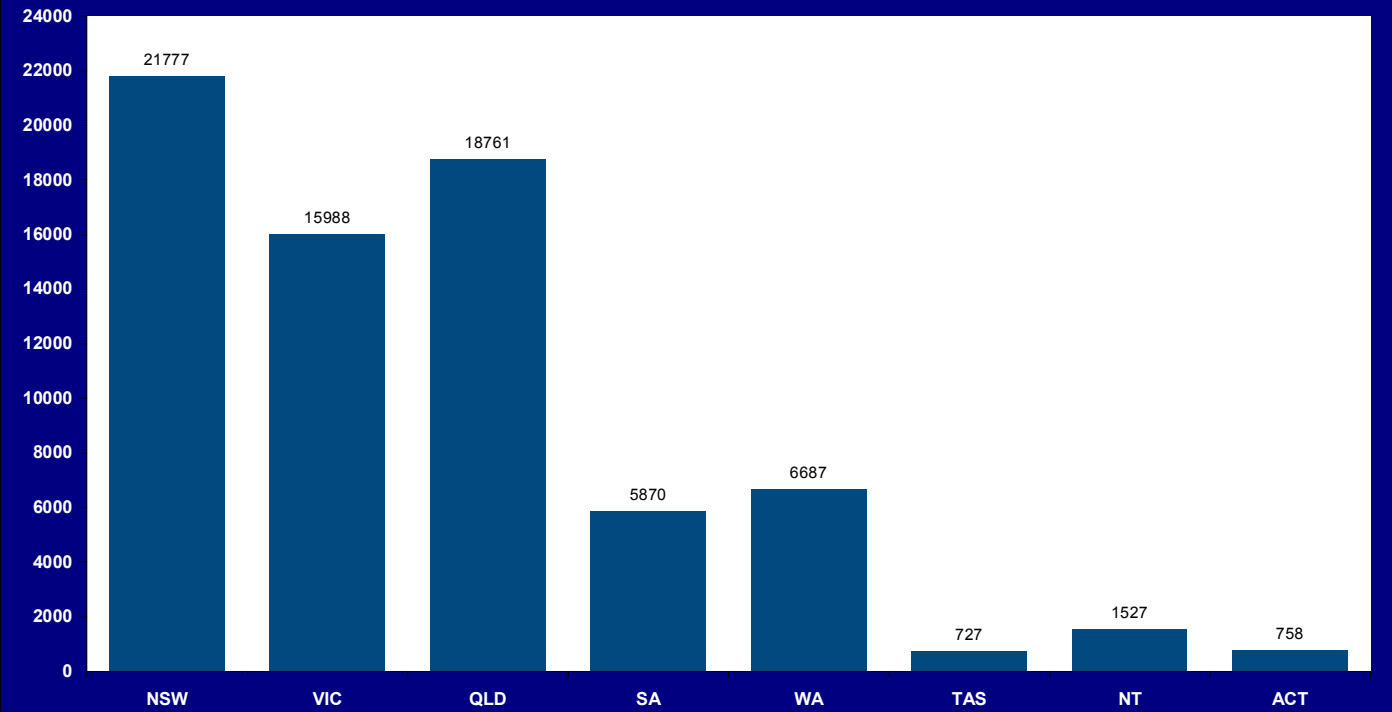
Australian JobSearch Vacancies - July 2006

Occupation	AUST	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
Accounting, Finance & Management	9,503	4,113	1,896	1,954	639	707	68	92	34
Building & Construction	3,737	1,086	832	1,164	184	353	33	59	26
Cleaning	2,295	412	309	968	195	277	24	74	36
Clerks, Receptionists & Secretaries	3,873	1,479	798	843	305	298	37	101	12
Computing & IT	1,398	683	354	198	63	82	6	5	7
Drivers & Transport	2,484	649	493	831	159	249	34	60	9
Electrical & Electronics Trades	1,208	408	178	365	71	133	9	39	5
Engineering, Science & the Environment	2,109	643	344	570	76	435	17	22	2
Food, Hospitality & Tourism	7,642	1,707	2,303	2,212	474	525	89	263	69
Gardening, Farming & Fishing	3,758	893	607	819	860	491	43	44	1
Government & Defence	1,018	241	87	70	23	44	13	188	352
Health, Fitness, Hair & Beauty	3,674	1,184	1,427	487	384	86	39	62	5
Labourers, Factory & Machine Workers	10,332	2,769	1,604	3,182	1,166	1,233	83	181	114
Marketing & Sales Representatives	6,836	2,375	2,114	1,406	336	404	111	65	25
Media, the Arts & Printing	436	112	196	84	13	15	12	4	0
Metal & Engineering Trades	2,381	559	429	811	166	324	44	46	2
Motor Vehicle Service & Repair	1,410	324	384	373	125	174	6	21	3
Sales Assistants & Storepersons	4,614	1,035	962	1,494	446	518	33	114	12
Social, Welfare & Security	2,244	700	441	623	132	241	12	59	36
Teaching, Child Care & Library	1,143	405	230	307	53	98	14	28	8
Total	72,095	21,777	15,988	18,761	5,870	6,687	727	1,527	758

AJS – TOP TEN VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION AUSTRALIA, July 2006



AJS VACANCIES BY STATE, July 2006

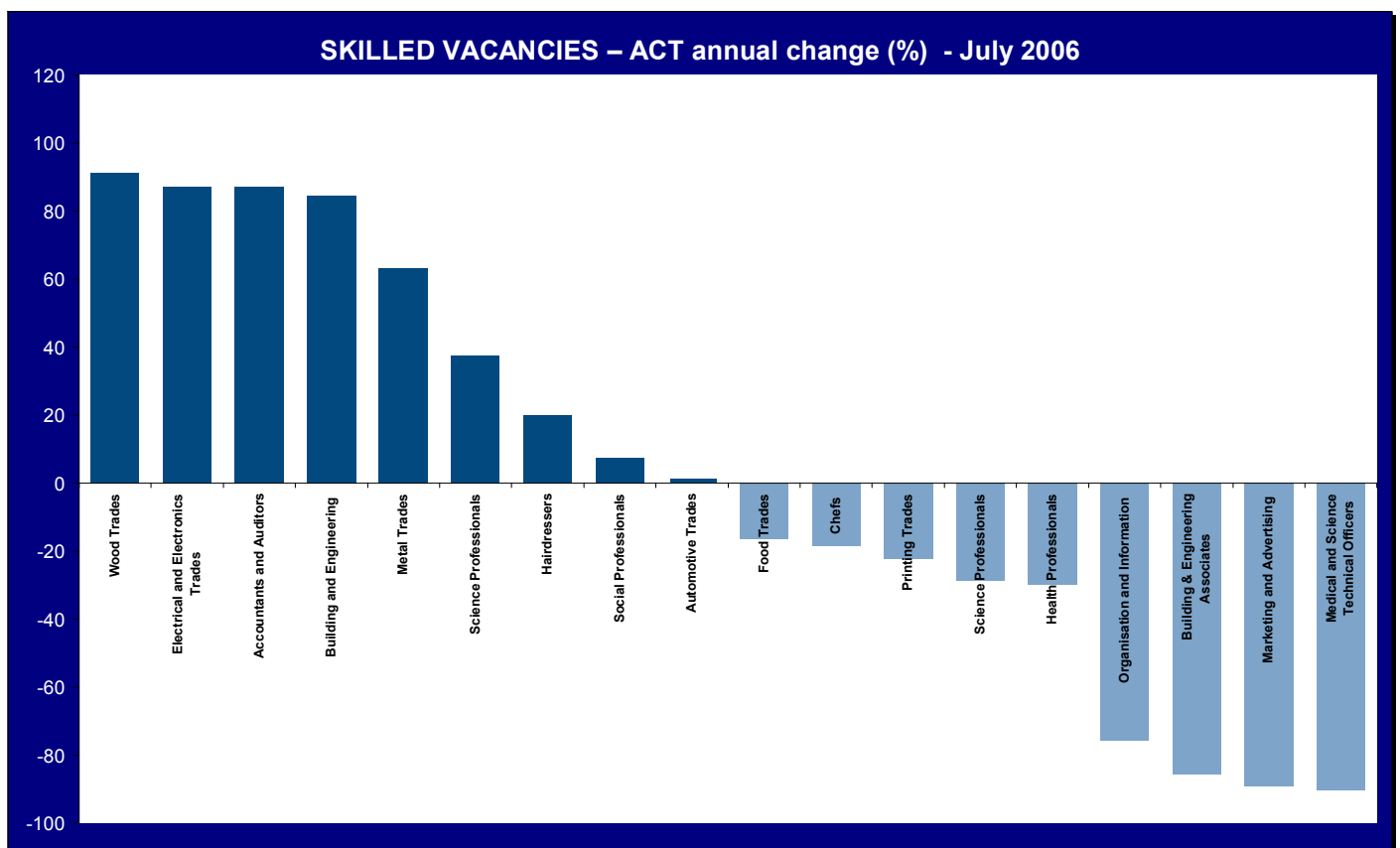


Explanatory note: Vacancies on Australian JobSearch have been allocated into occupational groupings developed by DEWR. The data presented provide a 'snapshot' of vacancies on AJS as at a particular date, by occupation and States and Territories. The data refer to the number of 'positions available' rather 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 rise in advertised vacancies in the year to July 2006 (up by 5.4%). Vacancy levels increased over the year for Trades (up by 19.5%), and fell for Professionals (down by 3.0%) and Associate Professionals (down by 86.8%).

- Nine of the eighteen occupational groups recorded higher vacancy levels over the year. The strongest rises were: Wood Trades (91.1%), Electrical and Electronics Trades (87.2%), Accountants and Auditors (86.9%), Building and Engineering Professionals (84.6%), and Metal Trades (62.9%).
- Over the year, nine occupational groups recorded decreased vacancy levels, with the strongest falls for: Medical and Science Technical Officers (90.0%), Marketing and Advertising Professionals (89.2%), Building and Engineering Associates (85.4%), Organisation and Information Professionals (75.5%) and Health Professionals (29.6%).
- Data from the DEWR ICT Index show that in mid July 2006 the ACT accounted for 7.0% of total ICT vacancies. Growth in ICT vacancies for the ACT continues with the vacancy level increasing by 24.1% over the year to July 2006.



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.