



Vacancy Report

May 2023

Released 14 June 2023

Internet Vacancy Index Key Points

This month's report shows underlying labour market conditions eased with online job advertisements decreasing at the national level and across most regions. Recruiting activity continued to grow for some high skilled occupations and in regional areas, with vacancy numbers remaining at relatively high levels historically.

- Online job advertisements at the national level decreased in May 2023 (down 2.9% or 8,300 job advertisements) to stand at 282,300, following an increase of 3.1% in April 2023.
 - Over the year to May 2023, online job advertisements decreased by 4.4% (or 13,100 job advertisements).
- Recruitment activity decreased across the six states over the month. The strongest growth was recorded in the Northern Territory (up 7.9% or 240 job advertisements), while vacancy numbers decreased by the greatest proportion in South Australia (down 4.2% or 690).
- Job advertisements decreased across all Skill Level groups in May 2023. Over the month, Skill Level 5 (commensurate with Certificate I or secondary education) occupations recorded the most significant decrease (down 5.8% or 1,900 job advertisements), followed by Skill Level 4 (commensurate with Certificate II or III) occupations (down 3.5% or 2,600) and Skill Level 2 (commensurate with Advanced Diploma or Diploma) occupations (down 3.0% or 950).
- Recruitment activity decreased across all major occupation groups in May 2023, with the strongest declines observed for Labourers (down 5.1% or 970 job advertisements), Community and Personal Service Workers (down 4.5% or 1,400) and Sales Workers (down 4.4% or 940).
- In three-month moving average terms, recruitment activity was concentrated in capital cities (72.3%) in May 2023. Over the last 12 months, job advertisement growth in regional areas continued (up 6.6%), whereas a decrease was recorded for capital cities (down 7.3%).
- This month's report spotlights Health Professionals and Education Professionals.

282,300

Seasonally adjusted

▼ **2.9%** Monthly change

▼ **4.4%** Annual change

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Health Professionals

- In the IVI, the broad occupation group of Health Professionals is split into two sub-categories: Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals, and Medical Practitioners and Nurses.
 - Over the year to May 2023, internet vacancies for Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals increased by 30.7% (or 2,200 positions). This is the fifth consecutive month vacancies have grown for this grouping.
 - Medical Practitioners and Nurses also grew, with vacancy numbers improving by 41.2% (or 4,900 job advertisements) over the year. Western Australia recorded the smallest growth in vacancy numbers over this period, with an increase of 16.5% (or 230).
- This rise in vacancy numbers is mirrored in increases in higher education completions.
 - Data from Department of Education shows over the five years to 2021, higher education completions for domestic students in the field of Health increased by 28% (to stand around 57,000).
- Despite this, employers for Health Professionals often report difficulty filling vacancies.
 - JSA undertakes a survey of employers who have recently advertised to inform its skill shortage research and analysis. In the March quarter 2023, surveyed employers filled 40% of Health Professional positions.
 - The employers who were unable to fill their vacancies stated they would continue to advertise, but would also potentially seek candidates through word-of-mouth or professional networks.

Education Professionals

- Over the year to May 2023, there was considerable growth in the number of internet vacancies advertised for Education Professionals, with vacancies growing by 24.5% (or 990 positions).
 - This growth is the fifth strongest percentage increase of the 48 occupation groups included in the IVI.
- While most of the teaching occupations within Education Professionals increased, growth was particularly strong for Primary School Teachers (using a three-month average).
 - Internet vacancies for this occupation almost doubled over the year to May 2023, increasing by 93.1%.
- Data from the ABS, though, indicates the annual growth rate for school enrolments in 2022 was 0.3% (11,795 students). This is the lowest growth rate since both full-time and part-time students were included in this data set (1995).
 - Primary school student enrolments dropped by around 20,300 students compared with the year before (a change of 0.9%), while secondary school enrolments increased by around 32,000 students (1.8%).
- Furthermore, JSA employer survey data indicates the majority of advertised Education Professionals roles are successfully filled.¹
 - In the March quarter 2023, surveyed employers filled 75% of Education Professionals vacancies and attracted an average of 2.7 qualified applicants per vacancy.
 - While most employers with unfilled vacancies stated they would continue to advertise, several indicated they were willing to change the working conditions and examine the position requirements.

1. Some state education departments recruit from a pool of applicants who are available for employment. These recruitment rounds are not included in the research results, although the survey does include government, independent and Catholic schools.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools, 2022*; Department of Education, *Selected Higher Education Statistics – 2021 Student data, 2022*; Jobs and Skills Australia, *Skill Shortage Quarterly – March 2023, 2023*.

The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is a monthly data series measuring online job advertisements, compiled by Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA). The IVI counts job advertisements newly lodged on the SEEK, CareerOne and Workforce Australia online job boards. Commencing in 2006, the IVI is the longest continuous time series for vacancy data in Australia. JSA research indicates the proportion of all vacancies covered by IVI has increased from 38% in 2016 to 60% in 2022. More detail on the IVI is available at jobsandskills.gov.au/work/internet-vacancy-index.

Internet Vacancy Index Summary Sheet - May 2023

	Number of job ads (no.)	Monthly change (no.)	Monthly change (%)	Annual change (no.)	Annual change (%)
Australia	282,300	-8,300	▼ -2.9%	-13,100	▼ -4.4%
New South Wales	84,800	-2,300	▼ -2.6%	-9,000	▼ -9.6%
Victoria	71,400	-2,800	▼ -3.8%	-6,300	▼ -8.1%
Queensland	61,200	-1,900	▼ -3.1%	1,400	▲ 2.3%
South Australia	15,700	-690	▼ -4.2%	650	▲ 4.3%
Western Australia	33,200	-1,400	▼ -4.1%	-210	▼ -0.6%
Tasmania	4,400	-60	▼ -1.4%	340	▲ 8.4%
Northern Territory	3,300	240	▲ 7.9%	180	▲ 5.6%
Australian Capital Territory	8,000	170	▲ 2.2%	120	▲ 1.5%
Managers	32,300	-660	▼ -2.0%	590	▲ 1.9%
Professionals	84,300	-1,800	▼ -2.1%	4,100	▲ 5.1%
Technicians and Trades Workers	38,700	-810	▼ -2.0%	-680	▼ -1.7%
Community and Personal Service Workers	30,600	-1,400	▼ -4.5%	-3,200	▼ -9.6%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	42,600	-1,600	▼ -3.7%	-3,500	▼ -7.6%
Sales Workers	20,500	-940	▼ -4.4%	-3,800	▼ -15.7%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	15,400	-130	▼ -0.9%	-140	▼ -0.9%
Labourers	18,200	-970	▼ -5.1%	-6,000	▼ -24.9%
Skill Level 1 - Bachelor degree or higher	106,500	-2,200	▼ -2.0%	4,500	▲ 4.4%
Skill Level 2 - Advanced Diploma or Diploma	30,600	-950	▼ -3.0%	-520	▼ -1.7%
Skill Level 3 - Certificate IV or III* (Skilled VET)	42,300	-830	▼ -1.9%	60	▲ 0.1%
Skill Level 4 - Certificate II or III	72,500	-2,600	▼ -3.5%	-7,400	▼ -9.2%
Skill Level 5 - Certificate I or secondary education	30,500	-1,900	▼ -5.8%	-9,600	▼ -24.0%

*Includes at least two years of on-the-job training.

Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, *Internet Vacancy Index*, May 2023, seasonally adjusted data.

The next IVI release is scheduled for 19 July 2023. The IVI is published on the JSA website at jobsandskills.gov.au/work/internet-vacancy-index.