



Australian Government

Australian Trade and Investment Commission  
Tourism Research Australia

# Quarterly Tourism Labour Statistics – December 2023

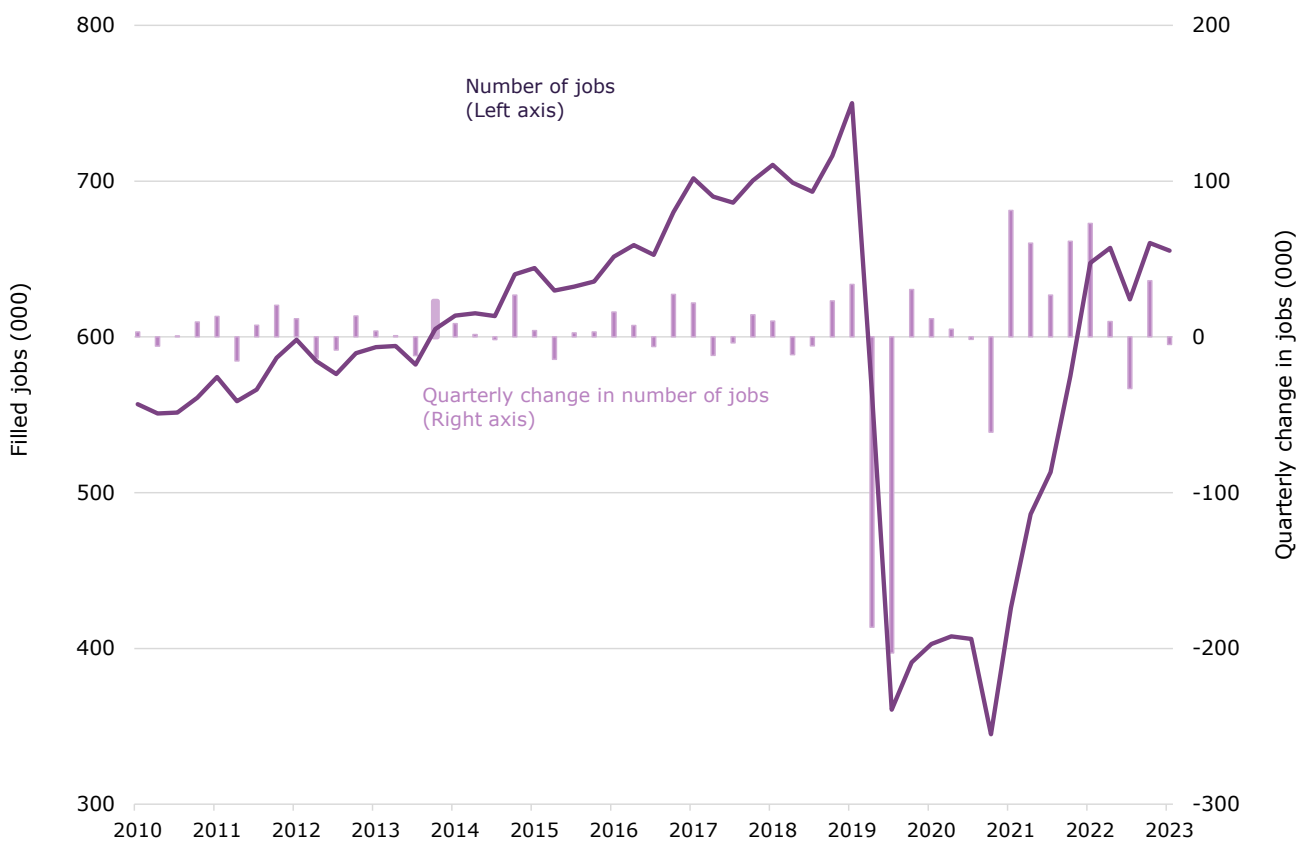
TRA summary of ABS data release

# Key figures

The number of filled jobs in the visitor economy:

- was 655,400 in the December quarter 2023
- decreased by 4,800 jobs (0.7%) from the September quarter 2023
- was 8,000 (1.2%) higher than the number of jobs a year ago (at December quarter 2022)
- was 94,600 (12.6%) lower than the pre-pandemic peak (tourism jobs peaked at 750,000 in the December quarter 2019)
- represents 1 in 24 filled jobs in the economy (or 4.2%).

**Figure 1.** Tourism filled jobs, quarter-end number and quarterly change, December 2010 to December 2023.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December 2023

# Analysis

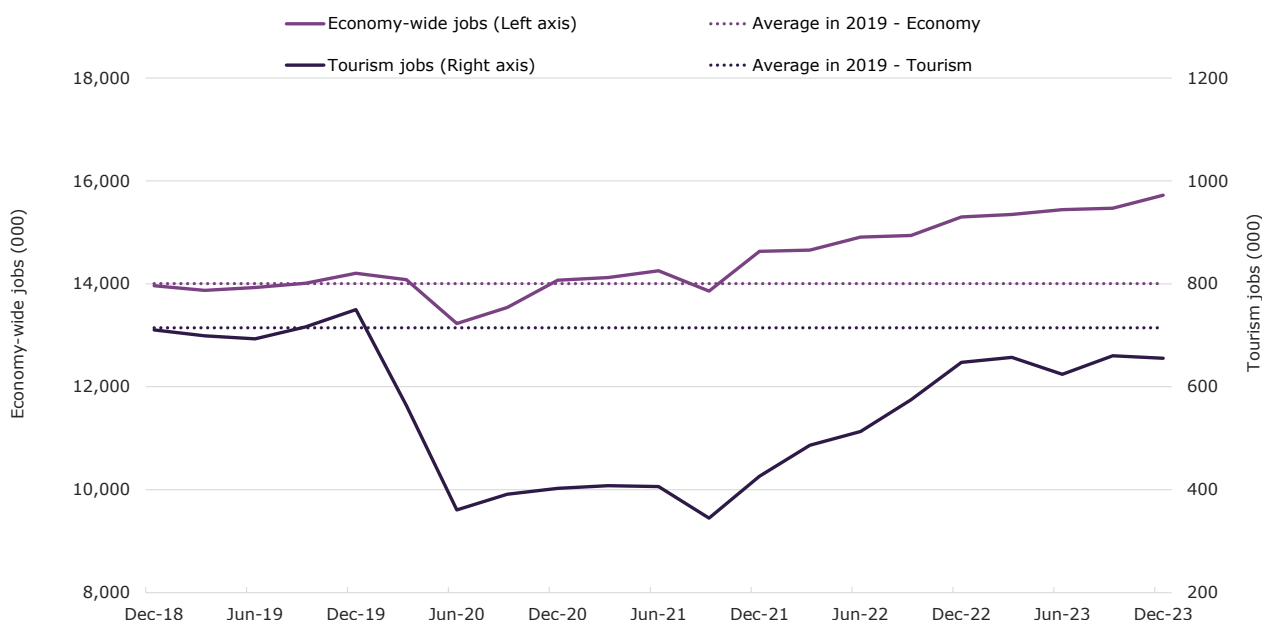
## Overview

As at 31 December 2023, there were 655,400 tourism filled jobs. This was a decrease of 4,800 jobs (0.7%) over the quarter and an increase of 8,000 jobs (1.2%) over the year.

Over the past year, growth in jobs in the whole economy (2.8%) has outpaced jobs growth in tourism filled jobs (1.2%). Compared with the December quarter 2019, immediately prior to the pandemic, there were 10.7% more jobs in the whole economy in the December quarter 2023. In contrast, there were 12.6% fewer tourism filled jobs in the December quarter 2023 than pre-pandemic (Figure 2).

As a result, the tourism sector accounted for 4.2% of total filled jobs in the economy in the December quarter 2023, down from the pre-pandemic level of 5.1% in the December quarter 2019.

**Figure 2.** Economy wide jobs and tourism filled jobs, December 2018 to December 2023.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia, December 2023

## Tourism jobs by sector

Compared with the previous quarter, the tourism-connected industries with the largest increases in filled jobs in the December quarter 2023, compared with the September quarter 2023, were:

- Education and training (an increase of 8,300 jobs, up by 18%)
- Retail trade (an increase of 4,400 jobs, up by 4%)
- Sports and recreation services (an increase of 1,400 jobs, up by 4%)
- Air, water and other transport (an increase of 1,200 jobs, up by 3%).

On the other hand, the following tourism-related industries had the largest declines in filled job numbers December quarter 2023, compared with the September quarter 2023, were:

- Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (a decrease of 15,200 filled jobs, down by 7%).
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars (a decrease of 4,100 filled jobs, down by 8%).
- Accommodation (a decrease of 2,400 filled jobs, down by 3%).
- Road transport and transport equipment rental (a decrease of 300 filled jobs, down by 4%).

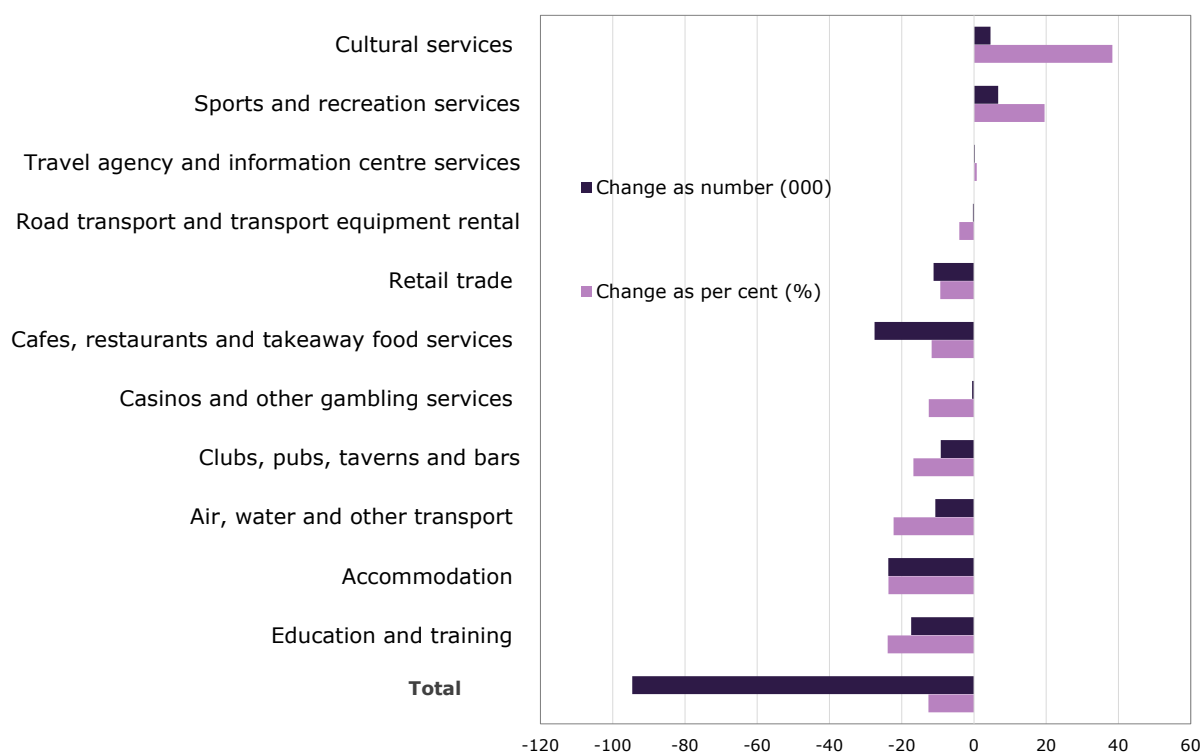
The following tourism-related industries are the furthest from recovery of filled job numbers in the December quarter 2023, compared with their December quarter 2019 level:

- Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services – which had 27,500 (-12%) fewer jobs
- Accommodation – which had 23,700 (-24%) fewer jobs
- Education and training – which had 17,400 (-24%) fewer jobs
- Retail trade – which had 11,200 (-9%) fewer jobs
- Air, water and other transport – which had 10,700 (-22%) fewer jobs.

On the other hand, the following tourism-related industries had more filled jobs in the December quarter 2023 when compared with the December quarter 2019 (Figure 3):

- Sports and recreation services had 6,700 (20%) more jobs
- Cultural services sector had 4,600 (38%) more jobs
- Travel agency and information centre services had 300 (1%) more jobs.

**Figure 3.** Change in tourism filled jobs from December quarter 2019 to December quarter 2023 by tourism-related industry.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December 2023

## Tourism jobs characteristics

In the December quarter 2023, compared with the September quarter 2023, tourism filled jobs increased by:

- 2,600 (1%) for full-time jobs
- 600 (0.2%) for male jobs.

On the other hand, over the same period, tourism filled jobs decreased by:

- 7,400 (-2%) for part-time jobs
- 5,400 (-1%) for female jobs.

A larger share of job losses in the visitor economy during the pandemic period were part-time, rather than full-time jobs. There were more female job losses than male job losses over the same period. The remaining deficit at the end of December 2023 compared with December 2019 is still larger for:

- part-time jobs (50,700) than full-time jobs (43,900)
- female jobs (61,700) than male jobs (32,900).

Table 1 shows the change in the December quarter 2023 compared with the September quarter 2023 and the change since pre-pandemic across jobs by sex and by employment status.

**Table 1:** Tourism filled jobs by sex and employment status

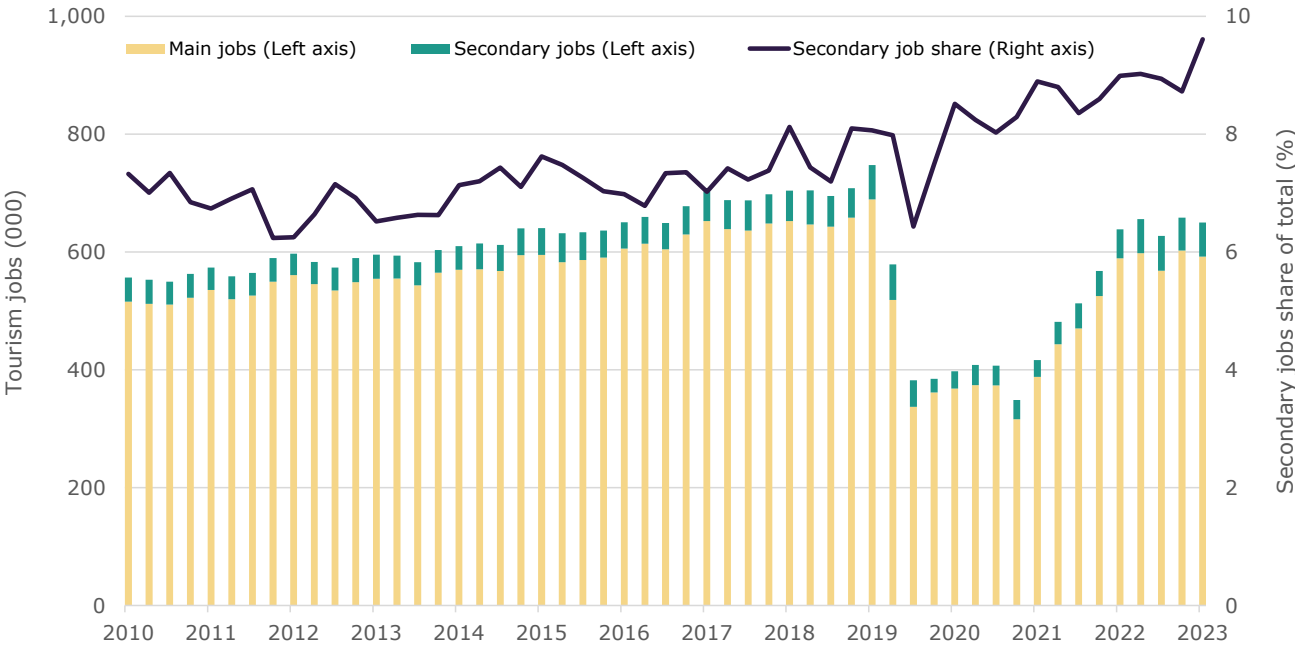
Job category	Dec-19 (000s)	Sep-23 (000s)	Dec-23 (000s)	Dec-23 change on Dec-19 'Remaining deficit'	
				(000s)	(%)
<i>Full-time filled jobs</i>					
Male full-time	195.1	172.0	176.2	-18.9	-9.7
Female full-time	183.7	160.2	158.7	-25.0	-13.6
<b>Full-time jobs<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>378.8</b>	<b>332.2</b>	<b>334.9</b>	<b>-43.9</b>	<b>-11.6</b>
<i>Part-time filled jobs</i>					
Male part-time	132.5	122.1	118.5	-14.0	-10.6
Female part-time	238.7	205.8	201.9	-36.8	-15.4
<b>Part-time jobs<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>371.2</b>	<b>327.9</b>	<b>320.4</b>	<b>-50.7</b>	<b>-13.7</b>
<i>All filled jobs</i>					
Male jobs	327.6	294.1	294.7	-32.9	-10.0
Female jobs	422.4	366.0	360.6	-61.7	-14.6
<b>Total jobs<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>750.0</b>	<b>660.1</b>	<b>655.3</b>	<b>-94.7</b>	<b>-12.6</b>

(a) Categories may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS, *Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December 2023*

The measure of tourism filled jobs reported above includes both main jobs and secondary jobs. The number of main tourism jobs decreased by 10,200 (1.7%), and the number of secondary tourism jobs increased by 5,400 (9.4%) over the December quarter 2023 (Figure 4), compared with the September quarter 2023. The share of secondary jobs in the visitor economy was 9.6% in the December quarter 2023, which remained above the pre-pandemic level and above the average for the Australian economy as a whole (7.1%).

**Figure 4.** Tourism filled jobs by main or secondary job (000, left axis) and share of secondary jobs in tourism (% , right axis), December 2010 to December 2023.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December 2023