



Quarterly tourism labour statistics

TRA summary – December quarter 2025

Key figures

The number of filled jobs in the tourism sector:

- was 736,800 in the December quarter 2025
 - increased by 20,900 jobs (2.9%) from September quarter 2025
 - was 33,100 (4.7%) higher than the number of jobs a year ago (December quarter 2024)
 - was 104,300 (16%) higher than the pre-pandemic peak (tourism jobs peaked at 632,500 in the December quarter 2019)
 - represents 1 in 22 filled jobs in the economy (or 4.5%).
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736,800 filled jobs

↑ 104,300 jobs
(+16%)
vs. pre-pandemic
(Dec '19 quarter)

↑ 33,100 jobs
(+4.7%)
vs. 1 year ago
(Dec '24 quarter)

↑ 20,900 jobs
(2.9%)
vs. last quarter

1 in 22
Filled jobs in the
Australian economy

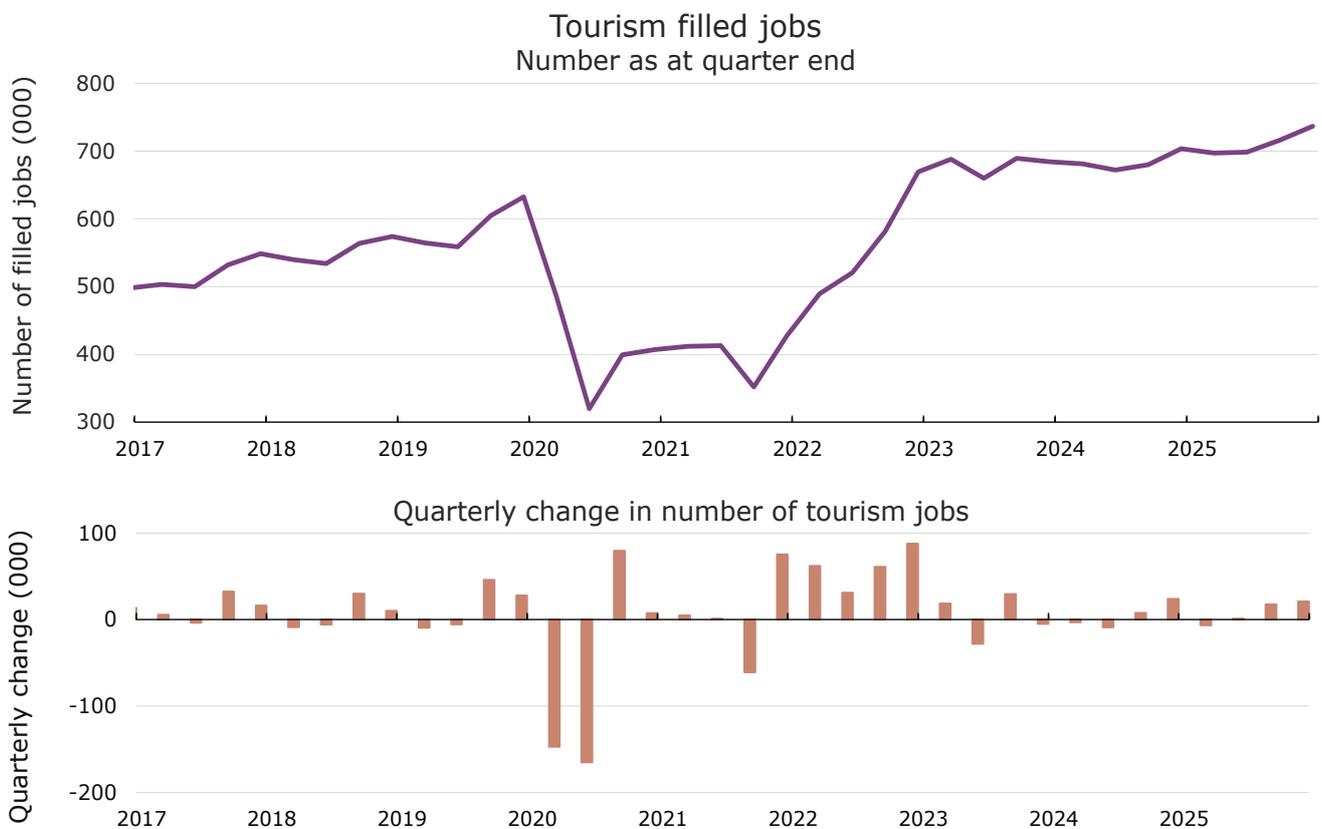
Data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – [Tourism Satellite Accounts: quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Overview

As at 31 December 2025, the tourism sector had 736,800 filled jobs (Figure 1), the highest ever number of filled jobs. This represents an increase of 2.9% from the previous quarter, when there were 715,900 jobs as at 30 September 2025. Compared with the same period last year (December quarter 2024), tourism jobs have increased by 33,100 (4.7%). The number of tourism filled jobs has now seen 5 consecutive quarters of year-on-year growth, a positive sign for the sector.

The number of tourism filled jobs in the December quarter 2025 was 16.5% higher than the pre-pandemic figure (December 2019).

Figure 1. Number of tourism filled jobs (top panel) and quarterly change (bottom panel), March quarter 2017 to December quarter 2025.

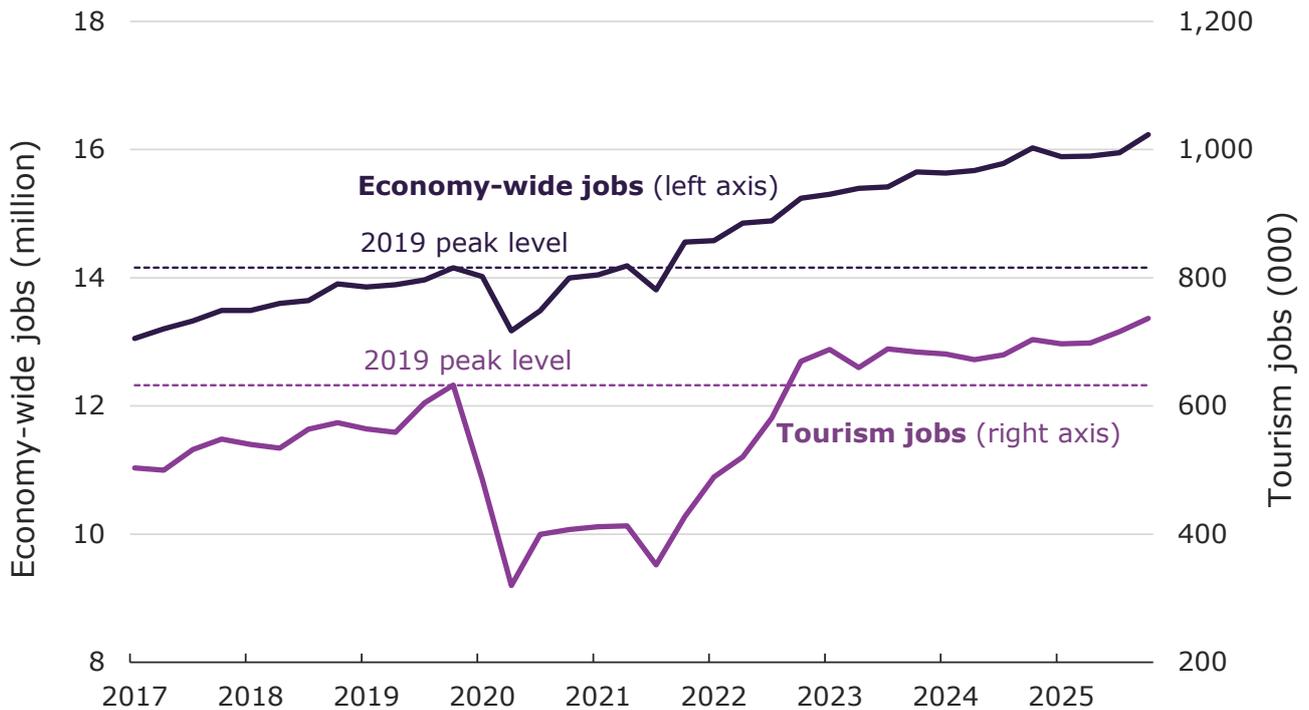


Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December quarter 2025. Accessed March 2026.

Key insights and outlook

Tourism jobs increased by 4.7% over the past year, which was a faster pace of growth than total economy wide filled jobs, which increased by 1.3% over the same period (Figure 2). As a result, the tourism share of filled jobs has increased slightly over the past year. Tourism jobs accounted for 4.5% of total filled jobs in the economy in the December quarter 2025, in line with the pre-pandemic peak level (4.5% in December 2019).

Figure 2. Economy wide jobs and tourism filled jobs, March 2017 to December quarter 2025.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December quarter 2025. Accessed March 2026.

The December quarter typically represents a seasonal peak in tourism jobs, with the Christmas and summer holiday period marked by a temporarily elevated level of travel and tourism activity. As well as seasonal travel, the ABS also pointed to strong attendance at major sporting events and high-profile concerts, the opening of large new hotels and strong domestic and international passenger numbers through major airports as factors that supported the increase in December quarter 2025 tourism jobs. These factors align with positive signs of sustainable growth in Australia's visitor economy, including growth in [tourism-related businesses](#) and [tourism infrastructure investment](#).

Looking forward, the typical seasonal pattern would suggest a decline in tourism filled jobs in the coming quarters. However, [Tourism Research Australia \(TRA\) forecasts](#) for 2026 note steady growth in demand for domestic travel, which should support tourism-related employment. Meanwhile, ongoing labour supply challenges for key occupations within the industry, continued pressures on household budgets from interest rate rises and the impact of global conflict on international arrivals may present headwinds.

Tourism jobs by sector

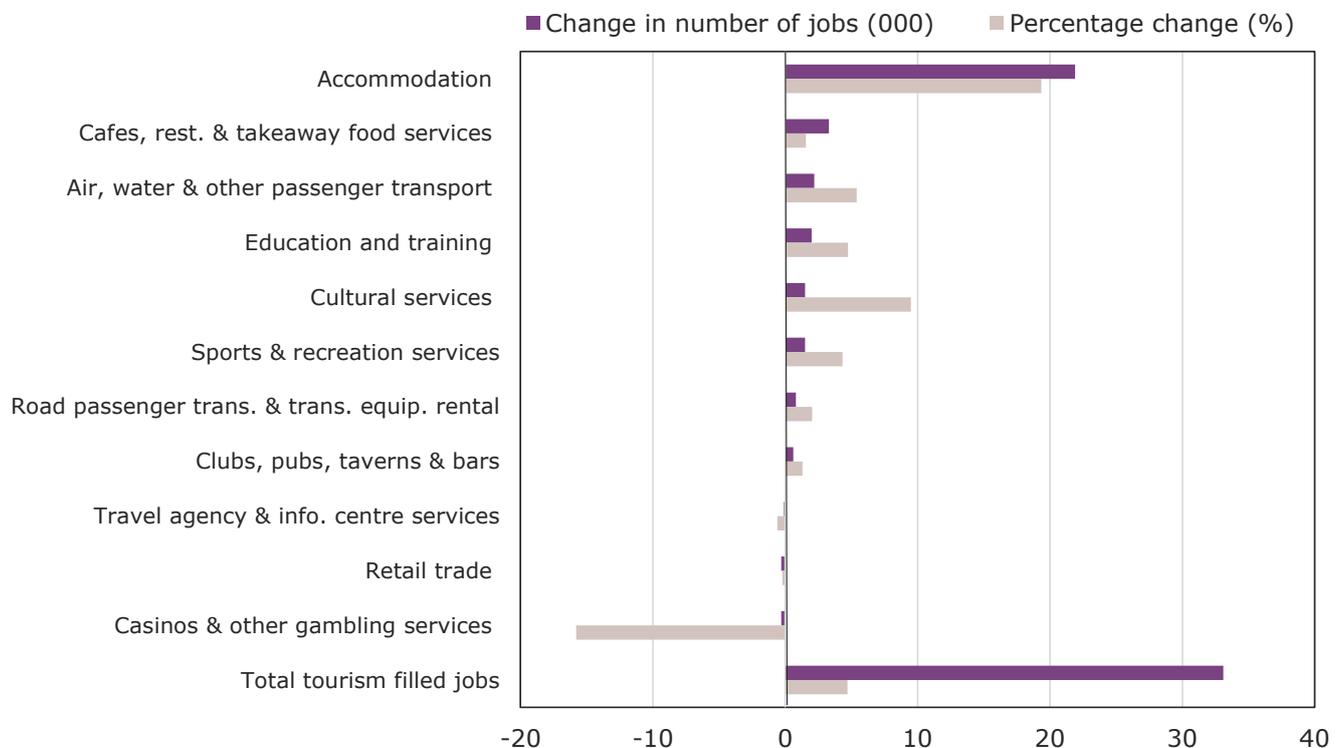
In the December quarter 2025, almost all tourism-related industries (11 of the 12 industries) recorded increases in filled jobs compared with the previous quarter. The tourism-related industries with the largest increases in jobs in the December quarter 2025 were: ‘cafés, restaurants and takeaway food services’ (up 6,500 jobs, +3.1%), accommodation (up 4,700 jobs, +3.6%), and retail trade (up 4,000 jobs, 3.2%).

The only tourism-related industry to record a decline in the number of filled jobs in the December quarter 2025 was ‘casinos and other gambling services’ (down 100 jobs, -5.9%). In contrast to other tourism-related industries, the ‘casinos and other gambling services’ industry has recorded flat or declining jobs in each of the previous 12 consecutive quarters.

Over the past year, the accommodation industry recorded the strongest growth in jobs, increasing by 21,900 jobs (19%) between December 2024 and December 2025. This sector accounted for over two-thirds of the growth in tourism jobs over the past year. There was also strong growth in jobs in the ‘cultural services’ (up 1,500 jobs, 9.5%), ‘air, water and other passenger transport’ (up 2,200 jobs, 5.4%), ‘education and training’ (up 2,000 jobs, 4.8%), and ‘sports and recreation services’ (up 1,500 jobs, 4.3%) industries over the past year (Figure 3).

Conversely, over the past year there were small declines in the number of tourism filled jobs in the ‘casinos and other gambling services’ (down 300 jobs, -16%), ‘travel agency and information centre services’ (down 100 jobs, -0.6%), and ‘retail trade’ (down 300 jobs, -0.2%) industries.

Figure 3. Change in tourism filled jobs, by tourism-related industry, from December quarter 2024 to December quarter 2025 (i.e. change over the year).



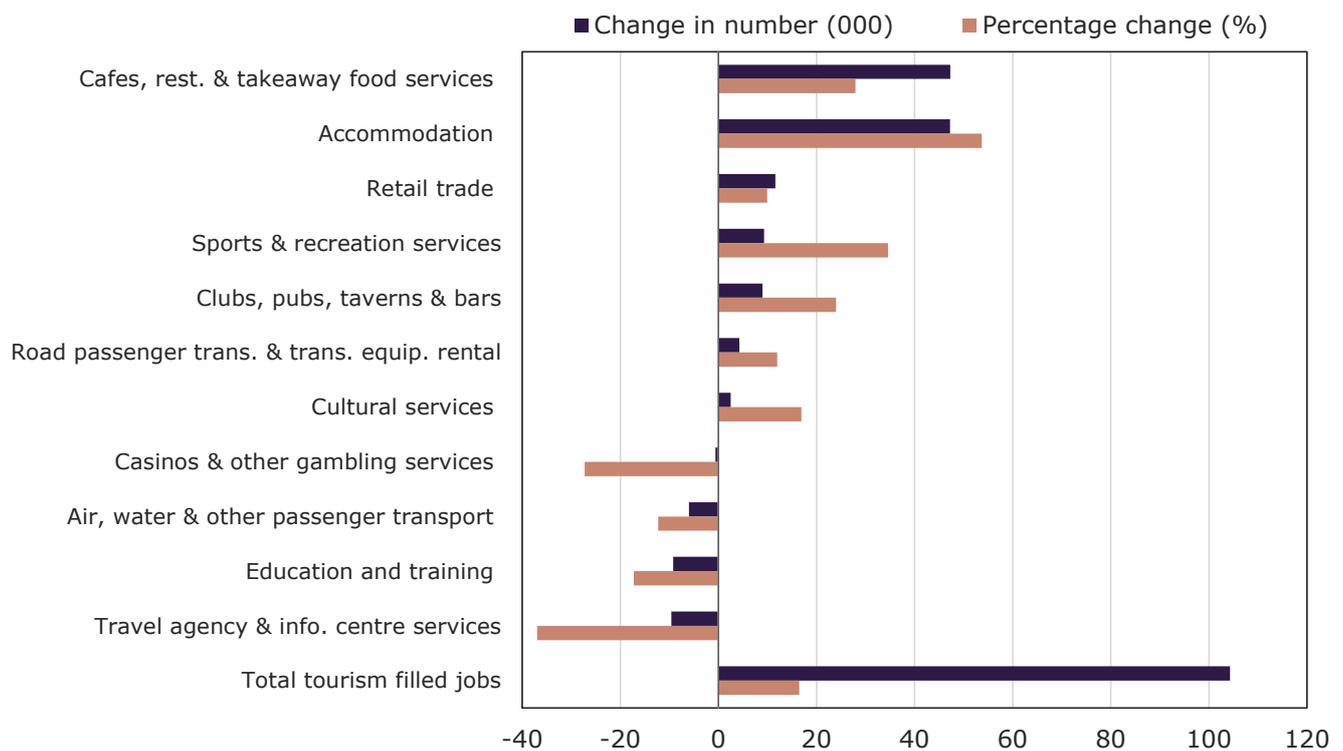
Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December quarter 2025. Accessed March 2026.

Compared to the pre-pandemic peak at the end of 2019, the total number of tourism filled jobs was significantly higher in December 2025. There were 104,300 additional tourism jobs (up 16.5%) at the end of 2025 than there were immediately before the pandemic. The strong growth in tourism jobs over the period has seen most tourism related industries gain jobs. However, there are still 4 industries where the number of filled jobs remains below their pre-pandemic level (Figure 4). These industries are:

- Travel agency and information centre services (9,600 fewer jobs, -37%)
- Casinos and other gambling services (600 fewer jobs, -27%)
- Education and training (9,200 fewer jobs, -17%)
- Air, water and other passenger transport (6,000 fewer jobs, -12%).

The delayed recovery in these industries indicates ongoing challenges from such issues including economic conditions, workforce and skills shortages, changing customer preferences and potentially lingering pandemic effects.

Figure 4. Change in tourism filled jobs, by tourism-related industry, over the period from December quarter 2019 to December quarter 2025 (i.e. change from pre-pandemic peak).



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December quarter 2025. Accessed March 2026.

Tourism job characteristics

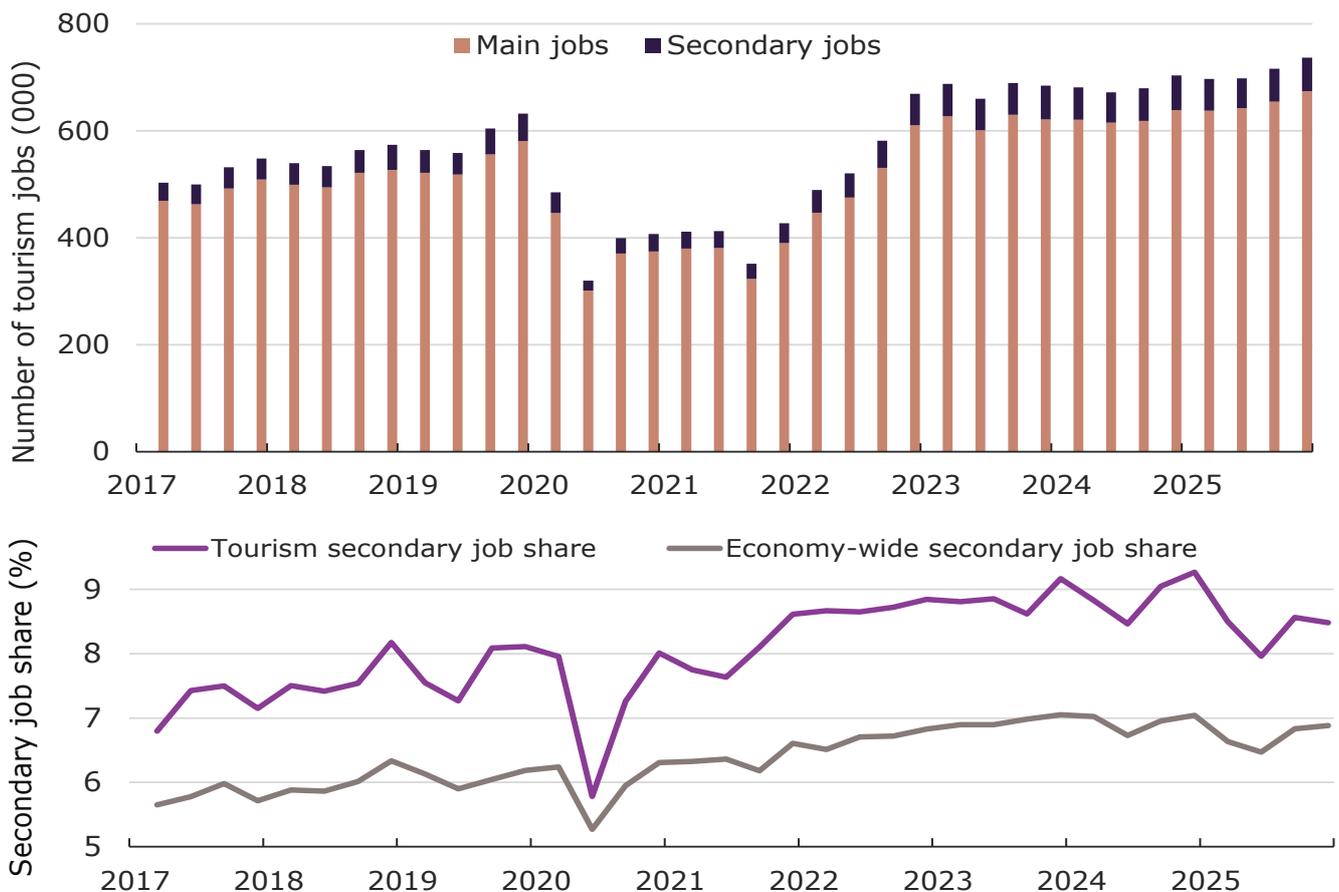
Growth in tourism jobs in the December quarter 2025 relative to the previous quarter was led by an increase in the number of full-time tourism jobs (up 16,200 jobs, +4.5%), and in particular by female-held full-time jobs (up 14,600 jobs, +9.3%).

Compared with the December quarter 2019 pre-pandemic peak, tourism jobs growth has varied slightly across gender and job types, with:

- Male part-time jobs up by the most (up 36,900 jobs, 33%)
- Female full-time jobs up by 23,100 jobs (16%)
- Male full-time jobs up by 22,200 jobs (12%)
- Female part-time jobs showing the lowest growth, but still up by 22,100 (11%).

Over the past year, the number of tourism secondary jobs has declined (by 2,700 jobs, -4.1%), and the share of secondary jobs held in tourism declined from 9.3% in the December quarter 2024 to 8.5% in the December quarter 2025 (Figure 5). The secondary job share for the whole economy has also declined slightly over the year. Nevertheless, the share of secondary jobs in tourism remains higher than it was before the pandemic (average of 8% in 2019).

Figure 5. Share of secondary jobs in tourism and in the whole economy. March quarter 2017 to December quarter 2025.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, December quarter 2025. Accessed March 2026.