



Australian Government

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

Tourism Research Australia

Quarterly Tourism Labour Statistics – March 2024

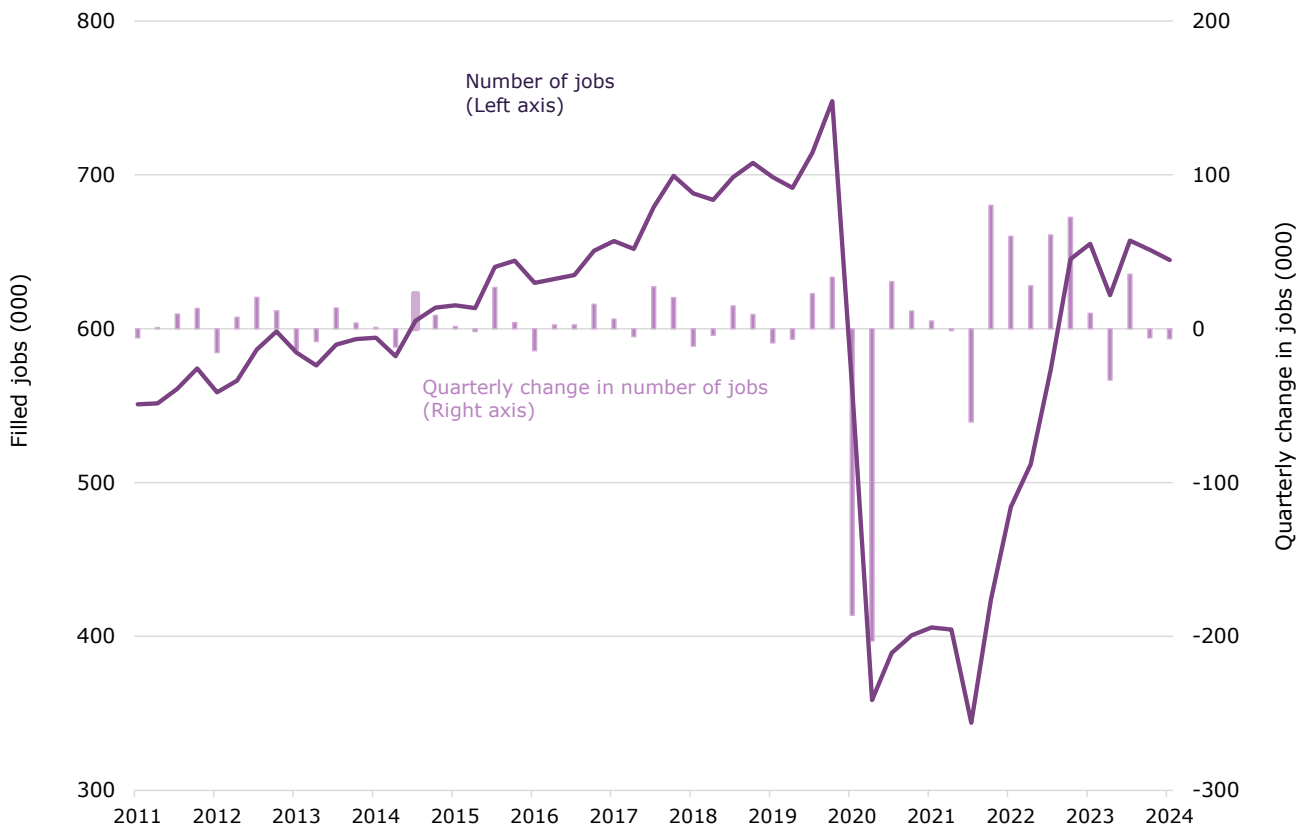
TRA summary of ABS data release

Key figures

The number of filled jobs in the visitor economy:

- was 644,600 in the March quarter 2024
- decreased by 6,600 jobs (1%) from the December quarter 2023
- was 10,600 (1.6%) lower than the number of jobs a year ago (March quarter 2023)
- was 103,300 (13.8%) lower than the pre-pandemic peak (tourism jobs peaked at 747,900 in the December quarter 2019)
- was 53,800 (7.7%) lower than the comparable pre-pandemic period (March quarter 2019)
- represents 1 in 24 filled jobs in the economy (or 4.1%).

Figure 1. Tourism filled jobs, quarter-end number and quarterly change, March 2011 to March 2024.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March 2024

Analysis

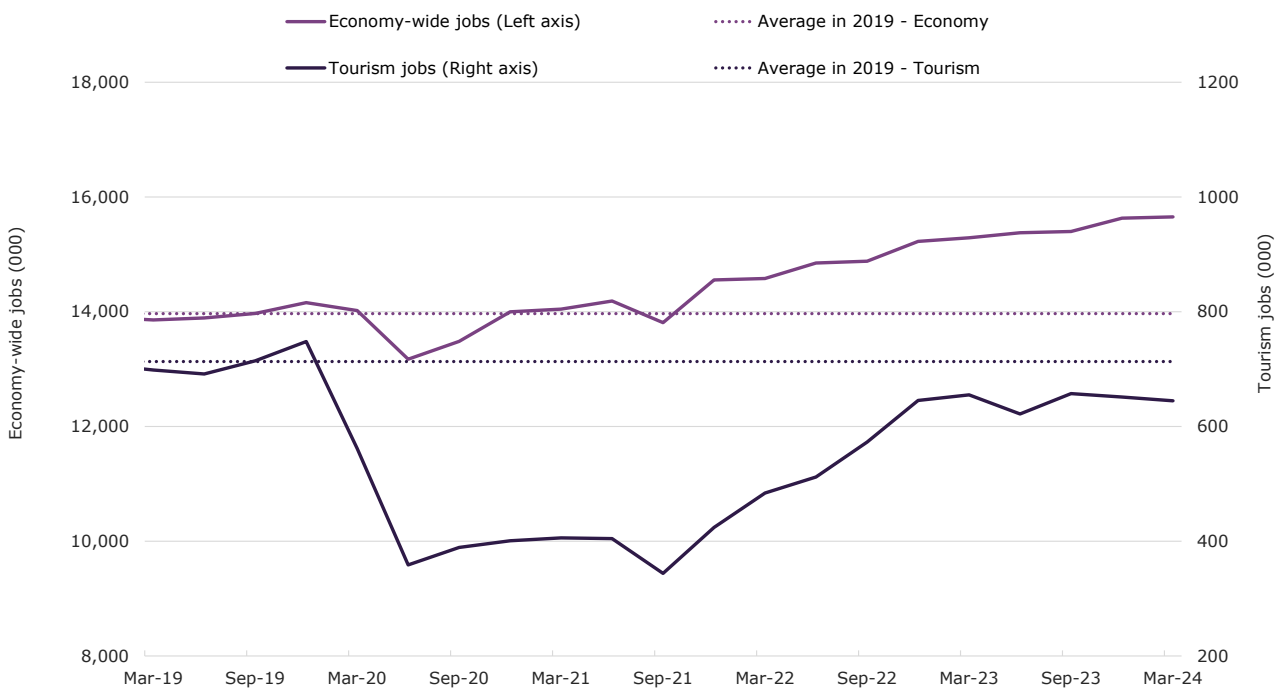
Overview

As at 31 March 2024, there were 644,600 tourism filled jobs. This was a decrease of 6,600 jobs (1%) over the quarter and also indicates there were 10,600 fewer jobs (1.6%) than a year ago, in the March quarter 2023. In addition, there were 13.8% fewer tourism filled jobs in the March quarter 2024 than the pre-pandemic peak in December quarter 2019 (Figure 2), noting the December quarter is typically stronger for employment in the tourism sector.

In contrast to the decrease in tourism jobs (1.6%) over the past year, there has been 2.4% growth in the number of jobs in the economy as a whole. Compared with the December quarter 2019, immediately prior to the pandemic, there were 10.6% more jobs in the whole economy in the March quarter 2024. When looking at the comparable pre-pandemic period to the March quarter 2019, there were 13% more jobs in the whole economy.

As a result, the tourism sector accounted for 4.1% of total filled jobs in the economy in the March quarter 2024, down from the pre-pandemic level of 5.3% in the December quarter 2019 and a 5% share in the March quarter 2019.

Figure 2. Economy wide jobs and tourism filled jobs, March 2019 to March 2024.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia, March 2024

Tourism jobs by sector

Compared with the previous quarter, the tourism-connected industries with increases in filled jobs in the March quarter 2024, compared with the December quarter 2023, were:

- Education and training (an increase of 8,200 jobs, up by 15%)
- Sports and recreation services (an increase of 1,900 jobs, up by 5%)
- Air, water and other transport (an increase of 300 jobs, up by 1%).

On the other hand, the following tourism-related industries that had the largest declines in filled job numbers in the March quarter 2024, compared with the December quarter 2023, were:

- Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (a decrease of 7,400 filled jobs, down by 4%).
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars (a decrease of 3,500 filled jobs, down by 8%).
- Retail trade (a decrease of 2,800 jobs, down by 3%)
- Cultural services (a decrease of 1,400 jobs, down by 8%)
- Travel agency and information centre services (a decrease of 1,300 jobs, down by 8%)
- Accommodation (a decrease of 700 filled jobs, down by 1%).

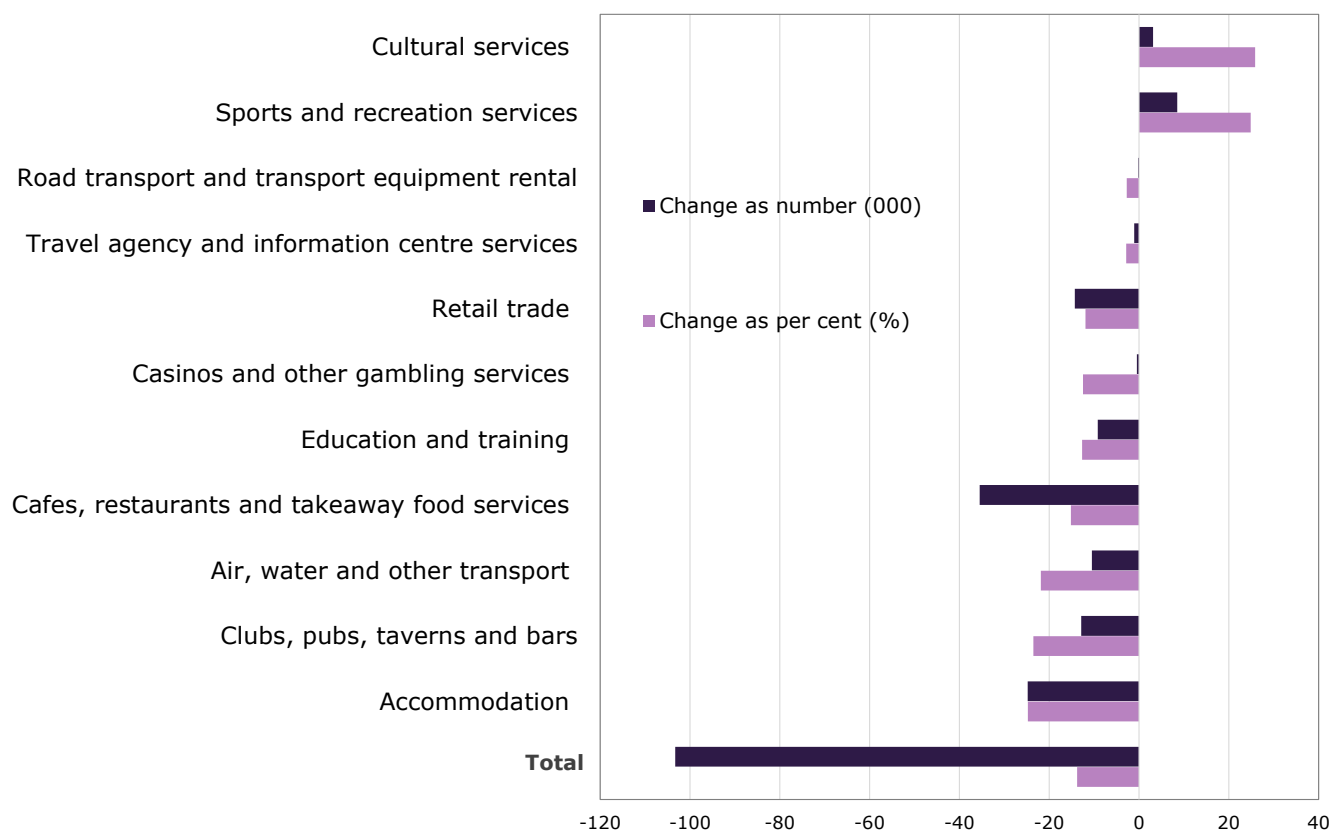
The following tourism-related industries are the furthest from recovery of filled job numbers in the March quarter 2024, compared with their December quarter 2019 level:

- Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services – which had 35,500 (-15%) fewer jobs
- Accommodation – which had 24,800 (-25%) fewer jobs
- Retail trade – which had 14,300 (-12%) fewer jobs
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars– which had 12,900 (-24%) fewer jobs
- Air, water and other transport – which had 10,500 (-22%) fewer jobs
- Education and training – which had 9,200 (-13%) fewer jobs.

On the other hand, the following tourism-related industries had more filled jobs in the March quarter 2024 when compared with the December quarter 2019 (Figure 3):

- Sports and recreation services had 8,500 (25%) more jobs
- Cultural services sector had 3,100 (26%) more jobs.

Figure 3. Change in tourism filled jobs from December quarter 2019 to March quarter 2024 by tourism-related industry.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March 2024

Tourism jobs by characteristics

In the March quarter 2024, compared with the December quarter 2023, tourism filled jobs increased by:

- 4,300 (1.5%) for male jobs.

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

- 10,800 (-3%) for female jobs
- 4,600 (-1.4%) for full-time jobs
- 1,900 (-0.6%) for part-time 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 March 2024 compared with December 2019 is still larger for:

- part-time jobs (-52,400) than full-time jobs (-50,900)
- female jobs (-70,300) than male jobs (-33,000).

Table 1 shows the change in the March quarter 2024 compared with the December 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

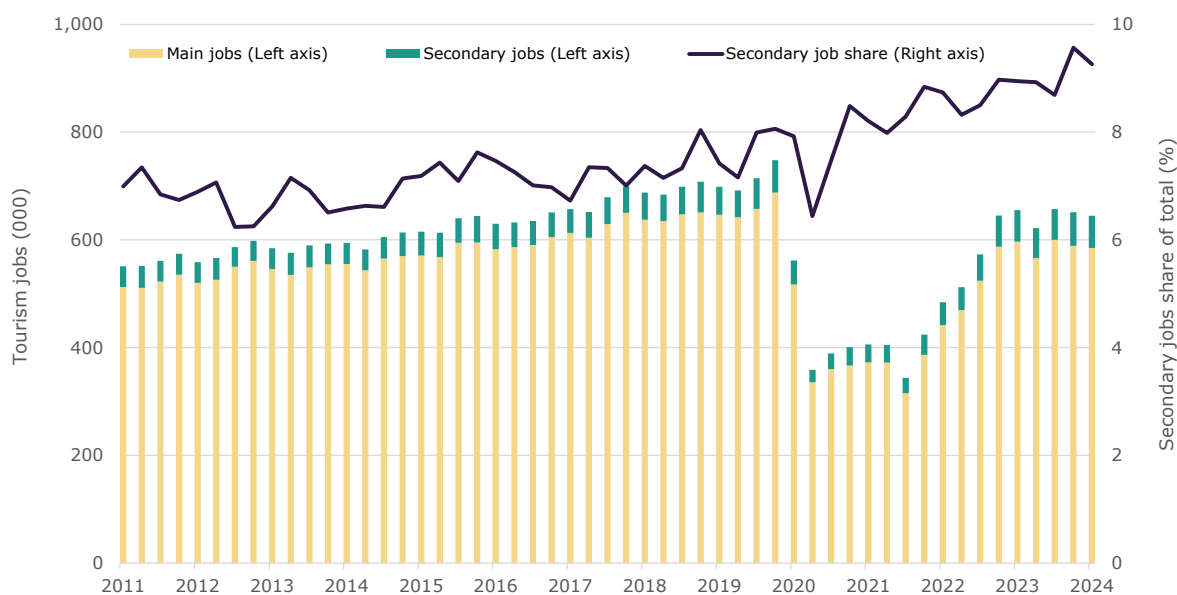
Job category	Dec-19	Dec-23	Mar-24	Mar-24 change on Dec-23		Mar-24 change on Dec-19	
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	'Change on last quarter' (000s)	(%)	'Remaining deficit' (000s)	(%)
<i>Full-time filled jobs</i>							
Male full-time	194.9	172.8	173.6	0.8	0.5	-21.3	-10.9
Female full-time	183.6	159.4	154.0	-5.4	-3.4	-29.6	-16.1
Full-time jobs^(a)	378.5	332.2	327.6	-4.6	-1.4	-50.9	-13.4
<i>Part-time filled jobs</i>							
Male part-time	131.7	116.5	120.0	3.5	3.0	-11.7	-8.9
Female part-time	237.7	202.4	197.0	-5.4	-2.7	-40.7	-17.1
Part-time jobs^(a)	369.4	318.9	317.0	-1.9	-0.6	-52.4	-14.2
<i>All filled jobs</i>							
Male jobs	326.6	289.3	293.6	4.3	1.5	-33.0	-10.1
Female jobs	421.3	361.8	351.0	-10.8	-3.0	-70.3	-16.7
Total jobs^(a)	747.9	651.1	644.6	-6.5	-1.0	-103.3	-13.8

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

Source: ABS, *Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March 2024*

The measure of tourism filled jobs reported above includes both main jobs and secondary jobs. The number of main tourism jobs decreased by 4,000 (0.7%), and the number of secondary tourism jobs decreased by 2,600 (4.2%) over the March quarter 2024 (Figure 4), compared with the December quarter 2023. The share of secondary jobs in the visitor economy was 9.3% in the March quarter 2024, which remained above the pre-pandemic level and above the average for the Australian economy as a whole (7%).

Figure 4. Tourism filled jobs by main or secondary job (000, left axis) and share of secondary jobs in tourism (% , right axis), March 2011 to March 2024.



Source: ABS, Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March 2024

Revisions

The ABS Quarterly Tourism Labour Statistics draw on data published in the latest available issue of the Australian Labour Accounts at the time of compilation. Revisions are a necessary and expected part of accounts compilation as data sources and processes are updated and improved over time. This has seen some revisions to historical tourism filled job estimates in the March quarter 2024 issue of the ABS Quarterly Tourism Labour Statistics.