



# Quarterly tourism labour statistics

## TRA summary – March quarter 2025

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### Key figures

The number of filled jobs in the tourism sector:

- was 706,400 in the March quarter 2025
  - decreased by 4,000 jobs (-0.6%) from the record high in December quarter 2024
  - the quarterly decline was driven by a fall in part-time jobs and secondary jobs following the December quarter peak
  - was 20,700 (3.0%) higher than the number of jobs a year ago (March quarter 2024)
  - was 24,800 (3.6%) higher than the pre-pandemic peak (tourism jobs peaked at 681,600 in the December quarter 2019)
  - represents 1 in 23 filled jobs in the economy (or 4.4%).
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**706,400** filled jobs

**↑ 24,800 jobs**

vs. pre-pandemic  
(Dec'19 quarter)

**↑ 20,700 jobs**

vs. 1 year ago  
(Mar'24 quarter)

**↓ 4,000 jobs**

vs. last quarter

**1 in 23**

Filled jobs in the  
Australian economy

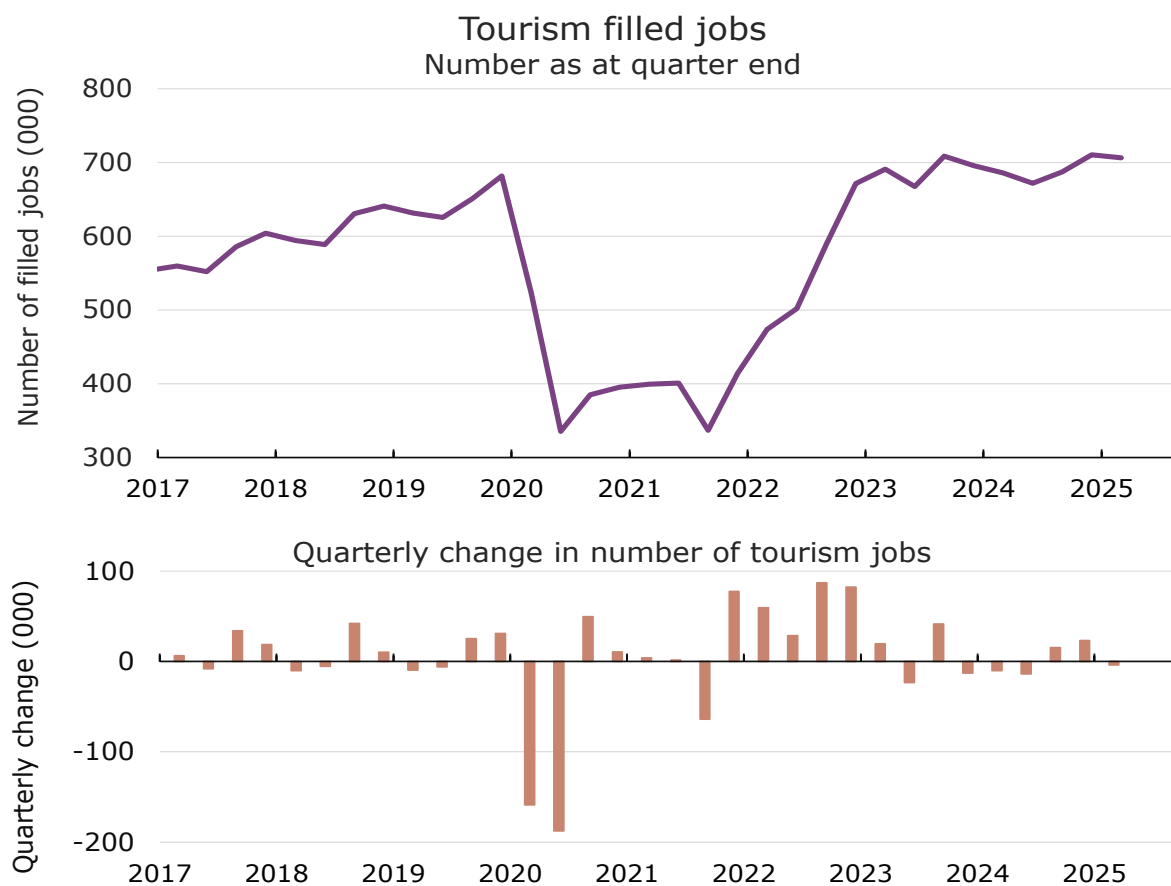
Data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – [Tourism Satellite Accounts: quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia, experimental estimates](#) | [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

## Overview

As at 31 March 2025, the tourism sector had 706,400 filled jobs (Figure 1). This represents a slight decline from the December quarter, down 4,000 jobs (-0.6%), however this is a smaller decline than occurs in a typical March quarter<sup>1</sup> following the seasonally strong December quarter.

Compared with the March 2024 quarter, tourism jobs have increased by 20,700 (3.0%). This increase represents two consecutive quarters of year-on-year growth in tourism jobs, which is a positive sign for the sector which still faces pockets of skills shortages. While the year-on-year growth rate of 3% is positive, it is only around half the growth rate over the two years prior to the pandemic, demonstrating that the tourism jobs growth rate is still below pre-pandemic levels.

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



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

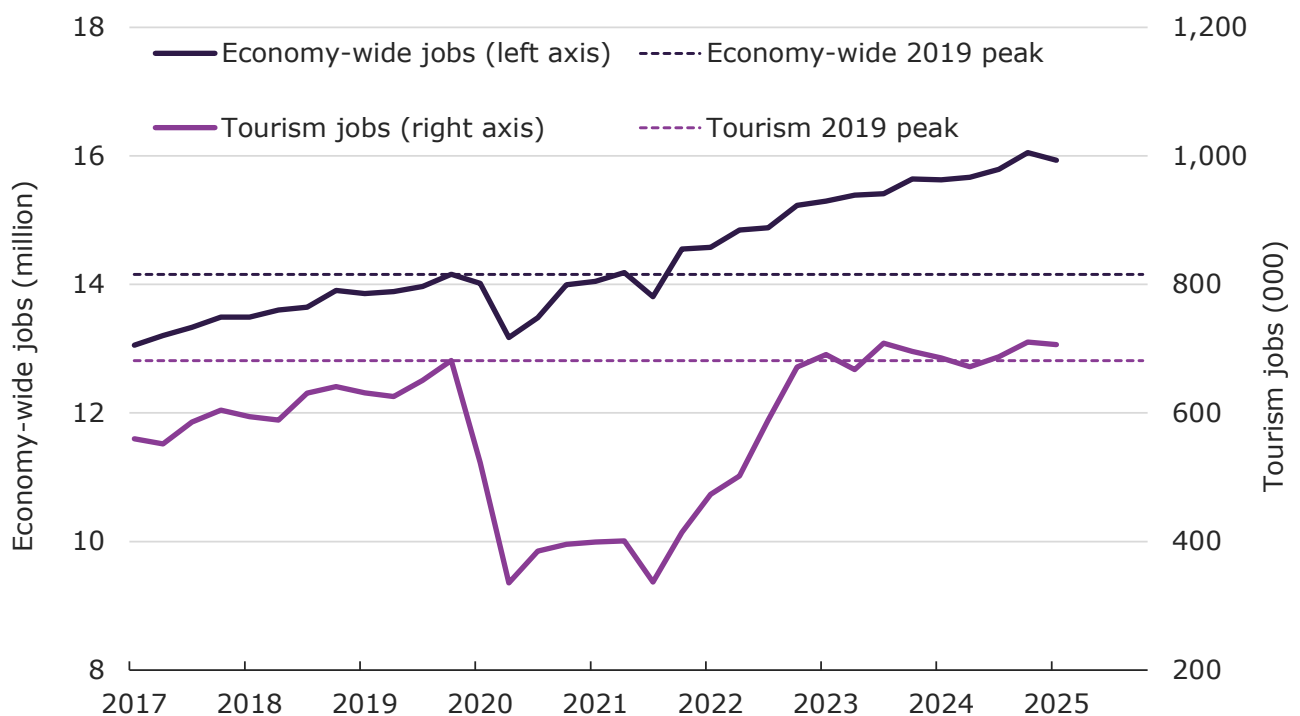
<sup>1</sup> In the March quarters of 2024, 2019, and 2018, tourism jobs declined by around 10,000 jobs compared with the preceding December quarter.

## Key insights

Tourism accounted for 4.4% of total filled jobs in the economy in the March quarter 2025, unchanged from recent quarters, but down from 4.8% at the pre-pandemic peak (December quarter 2019). This reflects the slower recovery in tourism jobs compared with the broader economy. Specifically, compared with the broader economy, tourism filled jobs took two years longer to return to their pre-pandemic level, then saw milder growth over 2023 and 2024 (Figure 2).

In contrast, the most recent quarter saw growth in tourism jobs over the year to March quarter 2025 (3.0%) outpacing growth in economy-wide jobs (2.0%) for the first time since December 2023.

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



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

## Tourism jobs by sector

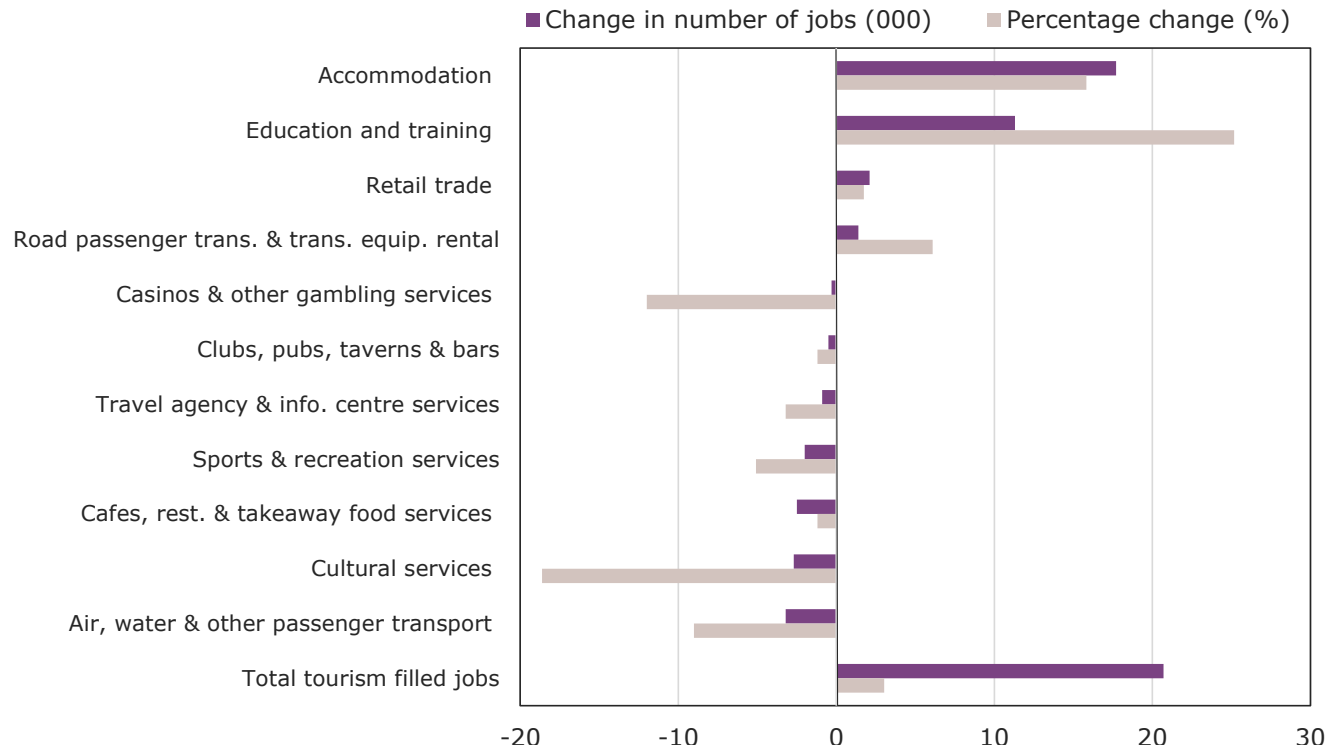
In the March quarter 2025, 7 of the 12 tourism-connected industries recorded a decrease in filled jobs compared with the previous quarter. The tourism-connected industries with the largest decreases in jobs in the March quarter 2025 were: retail trade (down 3,500 jobs, -2.8%), cafés, restaurants and takeaway food services (down 3,000 jobs, -1.4%), clubs, pubs, taverns and bars (down 2,500 jobs, -5.7%), and travel agency and information centre services (down 2,100 jobs, -7.2%).

However, two tourism-connected industries recorded large increases in the number of filled jobs in the March quarter 2025. These were the accommodation (up 4,300 jobs, 3.4%), and education and training (up 3,300 jobs, 6.2%) industries.

Over the past year, the increase in tourism filled jobs was led strongly by increases in the accommodation (up 17,700 jobs, 16%) and education and training (up 11,300 jobs, 25%) industries. There were also modest increases in retail trade (up 2,100 jobs, 1.7%) and road passenger transport and transport equipment rental (up 1,400 jobs, 6.1%) industries.

Conversely, several industries experienced declines between March 2024 and March 2025. Some of the most notable declines occurred in the 'air, water and other passenger transport', 'cultural services', 'cafés, restaurants and takeaway food services', and 'casinos and other gambling' services industries (Figure 3).

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



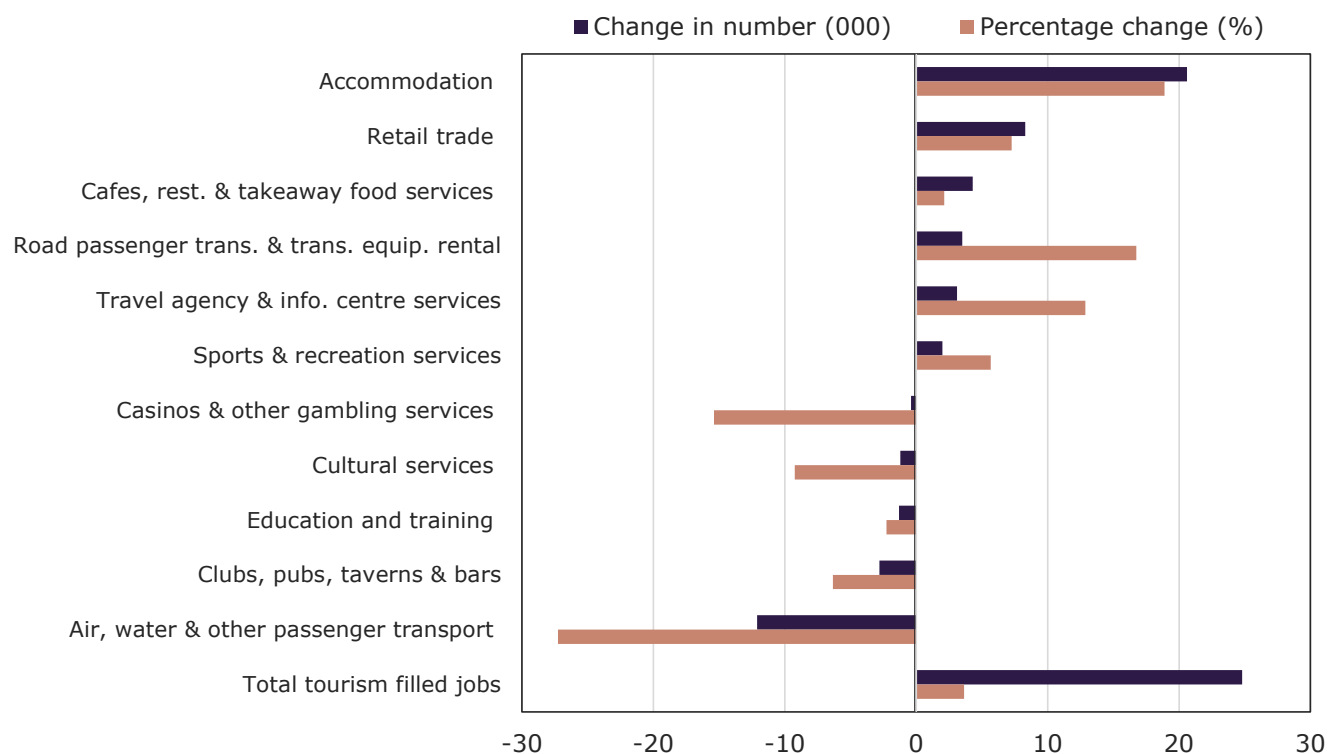
Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March quarter 2025. Accessed June 2025.

While the total number of tourism filled jobs was higher in March 2025 than it was at the end of 2019 (before the pandemic), filled jobs in a few tourism-related industries remain below their pre-pandemic level (Figure 4). These industries and number of filled jobs compared to pre-pandemic levels include:

- Air, water and other passenger transport (12,100 fewer jobs, -27%)
- Clubs, pubs, taverns & bars (2,800 fewer jobs, -6%)
- Education and training (1,300 fewer jobs, -2%)
- Cultural services (1,200 fewer jobs, -9%)
- Casinos and other gambling services (400 fewer jobs, -15%).

The delayed recovery in these industries indicates ongoing challenges from recent economic conditions, changing customer preferences and potentially some lingering pandemic effects.

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



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

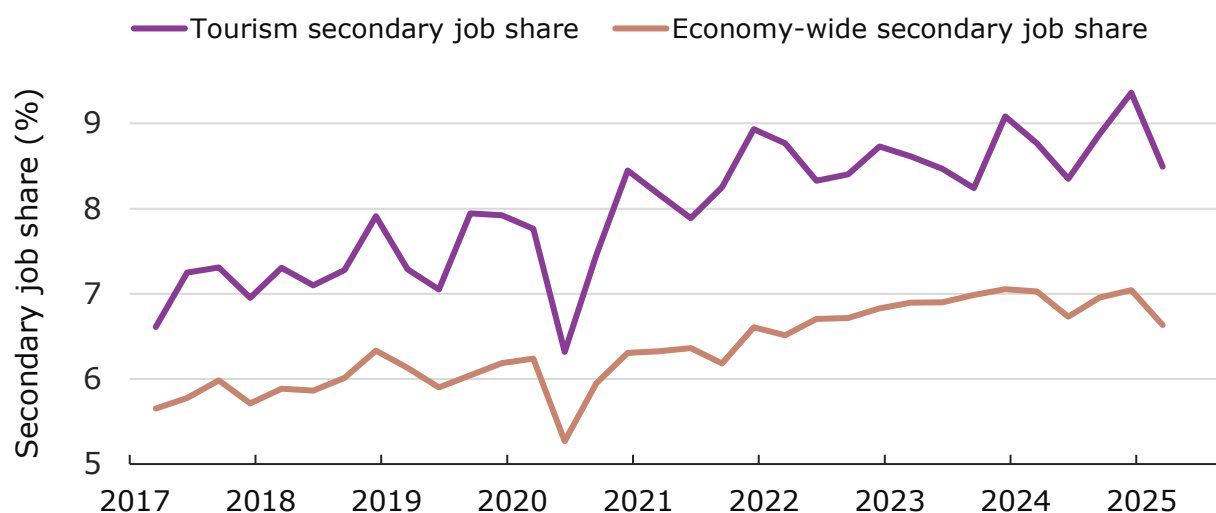
## Tourism job characteristics

The number of full-time tourism jobs increased in the March quarter (up 500 jobs, 0.1%), while the number of part time jobs declined (down 4,400 jobs, -1.3%). Full-time jobs are now up by 14,800 (4.3%) compared with the pre-pandemic peak, while part-time jobs are up by 10,000 (3.0%).

In the March quarter 2025, the number of tourism main jobs increased (by 2,500 jobs, 0.4%), while tourism secondary jobs decreased (by 6,500 jobs, -10%). These declines in part-time and secondary job types are consistent with the quarterly decline resulting from shedding of temporary staff hired over the peak December quarter.

The share of secondary jobs in tourism declined in the March quarter 2025, as did the secondary job share for the economy overall. Nevertheless, both remain above their pre-pandemic average levels and the secondary job share is higher for tourism than for the economy overall (Figure 5).

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



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

## Looking forward

Tourism Research Australia expects tourism job numbers to trend slightly higher going forward in line with the outlook for demand for domestic travel and the ongoing recovery in international visitor numbers, which should support tourism-related employment. However, growth in tourism employment is expected to continue to be moderate, in response to issues such as ongoing household financial pressures and some labour supply challenges.