



Quarterly tourism labour statistics

TRA summary – March quarter 2026

Key figures

The number of filled jobs in the tourism sector:

- was 726,800 in the March quarter 2026
- decreased by 8,200 jobs (-1.1%) from the December quarter 2025, in line with typical seasonal patterns
- was 29,500 (4.2%) higher than the number of jobs a year ago (March quarter 2025)
- was 94,300 (15%) 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%), with tourism jobs as a share of total economy wide jobs now back to its historical level
- has increased by 4.2% over the past year, which was faster than growth in total economy-wide filled jobs (1.9%) over that period.

726,800 filled jobs

94,300 jobs
(+15%)
vs. pre-pandemic
(Dec'19 quarter)

↑ 29,500 jobs
(+4.2%)
vs. 1 year ago
(Mar '25 quarter)

↓ 8,200 jobs
(-1.1%)
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](#)

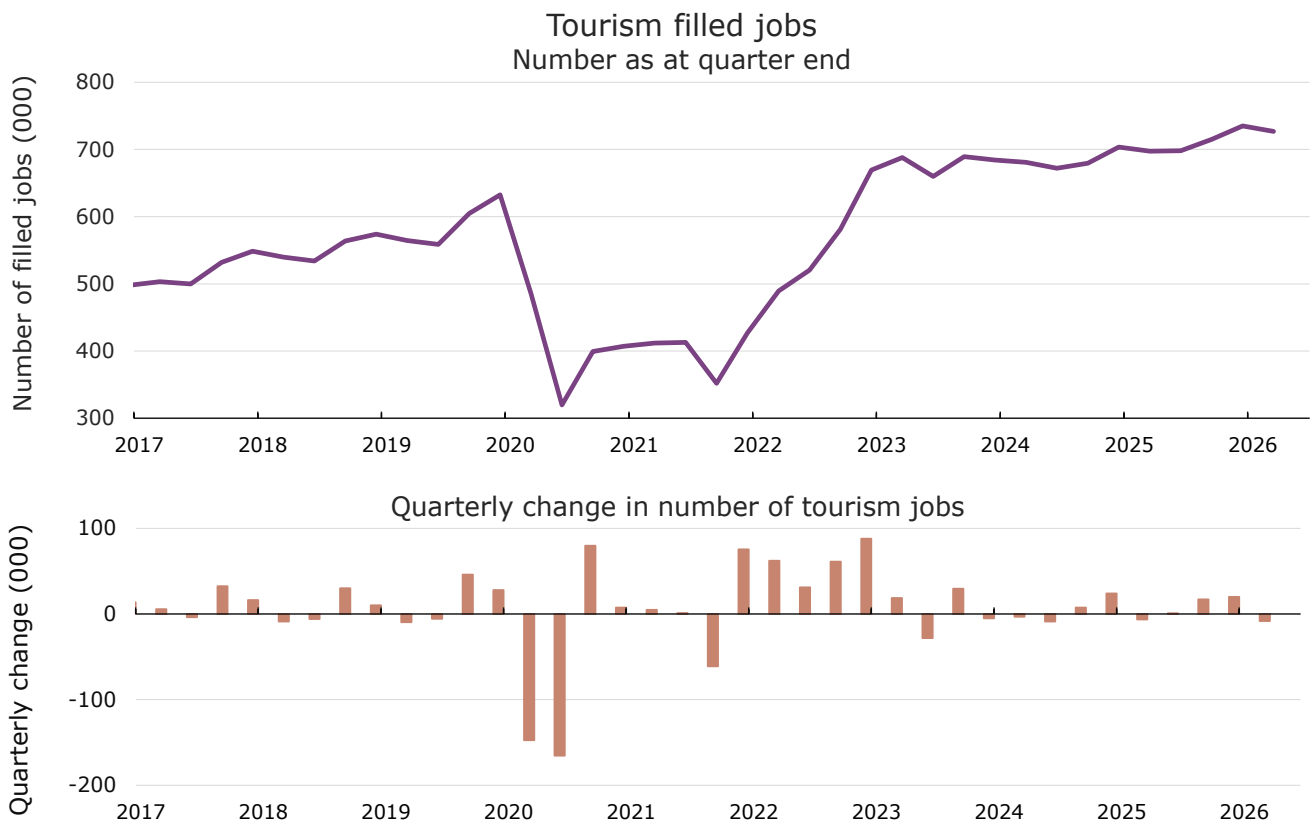
Overview

As at 31 March 2026, the tourism sector had 726,800 filled jobs (Figure 1). This represents a small decrease of 1.1% from the previous quarter (December quarter 2025), in line with the typical seasonal pattern of tourism jobs. The decline in tourism jobs in the March quarter was led by part-time jobs, while full-time jobs continued to increase quarter on quarter.

Compared with the same period last year (March quarter 2025), tourism jobs have increased by 29,500 (4.2%). The number of tourism filled jobs has now seen continued year-on-year growth for the past 6 quarters, which is a positive sign for the sector.

The number of tourism filled jobs in the March quarter 2026 was 15% higher than the pre-pandemic peak level and there were 162,500 more jobs (up 29%) in the March quarter 2026 than there were in the equivalent pre-pandemic quarter (March 2019).

Figure 1. Number of tourism filled jobs (top panel) and quarterly change in the number of tourism jobs (bottom panel), March quarter 2017 to March quarter 2026.

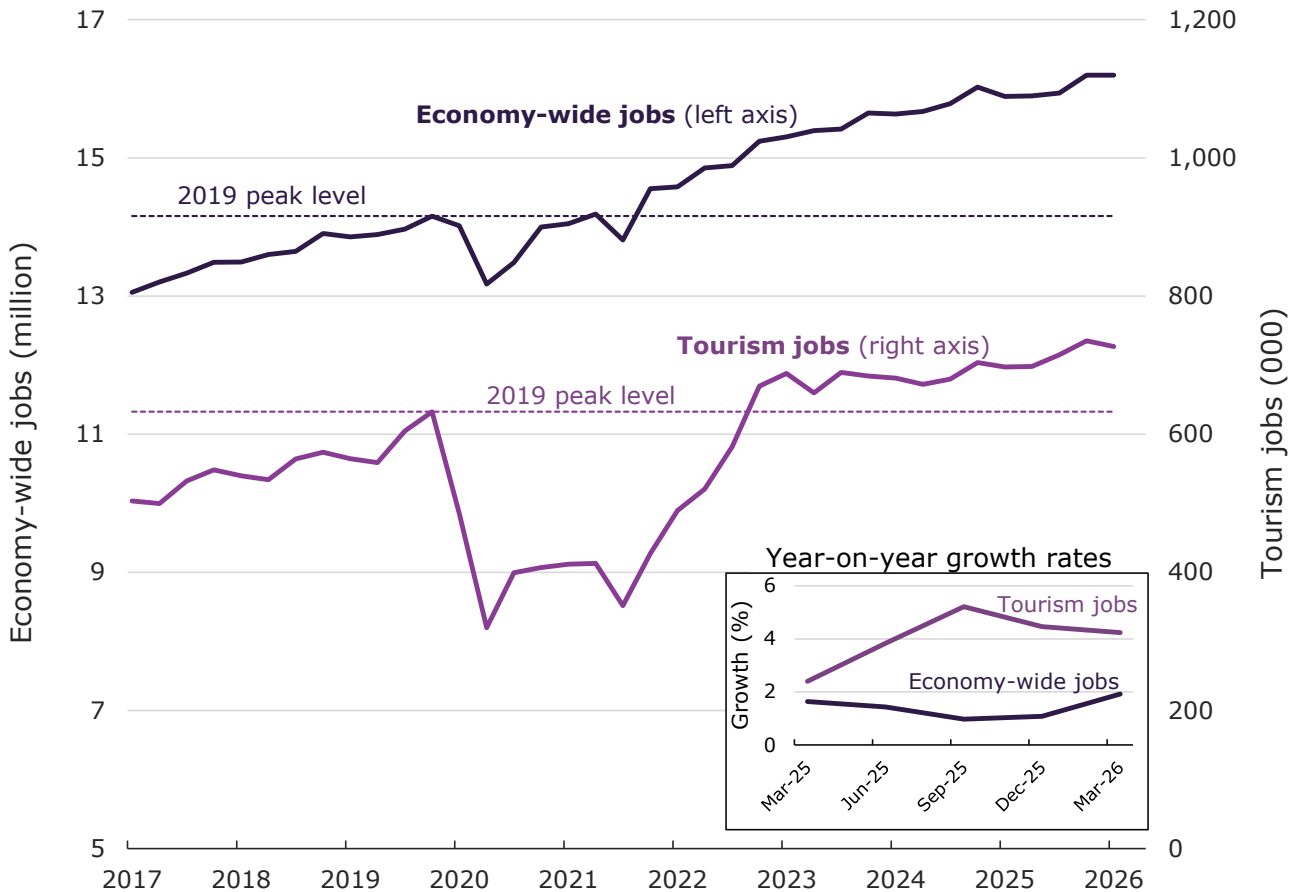


Source: ABS. Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March quarter 2026. Accessed June 2026.

Key insights and outlook

Tourism accounted for 4.5% of total filled jobs in the economy in the March quarter 2026, unchanged from recent quarters and in line with the pre-pandemic share. Tourism jobs have therefore now recovered their historical share of total jobs in Australia, supported by faster year-on-year growth in tourism jobs than economy-wide jobs recently (see inset on Figure 2 below). Tourism jobs increased by 4.2% over the past year, while total economy wide filled jobs increased by 1.9% over the same period (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Economy wide jobs and tourism filled jobs, March 2017 to March quarter 2026.



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

After accounting for the seasonal pattern in tourism jobs, and hence the expected declines in the number of tourism filled jobs in the March and June quarters after the December quarter peak, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) expects demand for travel to support steady underlying tourism-related employment in coming quarters.

Tourism jobs by sector

The decline in tourism jobs **in the March quarter 2026** compared with the December quarter 2025 (which is typically a seasonal peak period), was led by 6 tourism-related industries:

- cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (down 5,600 jobs, -2.6%)
- retail trade (down 2,400 jobs, -1.9%)
- clubs, pubs, taverns & bars (down 2,200 jobs, -4.7%)
- air, water and other passenger transport (down 700 jobs, -1.6%)
- education and training (down 300 jobs, -0.7%) and
- sports and recreation services (down 200 jobs, -0.6%).

In contrast, **over the past year**, all tourism-related industries except for 'casinos and other gambling services' recorded increased job numbers (Figure 3). Over the past year, the increase in tourism filled jobs was led strongly by increases in the accommodation (up 20,200 jobs, 17%) industry. This industry alone accounted for 68% of the increase in tourism jobs between March 2025 and March 2026.

Figure 3. Change in tourism filled jobs, by tourism-related industry, over the period from March quarter 2025 to March quarter 2026 (i.e. change over the year).



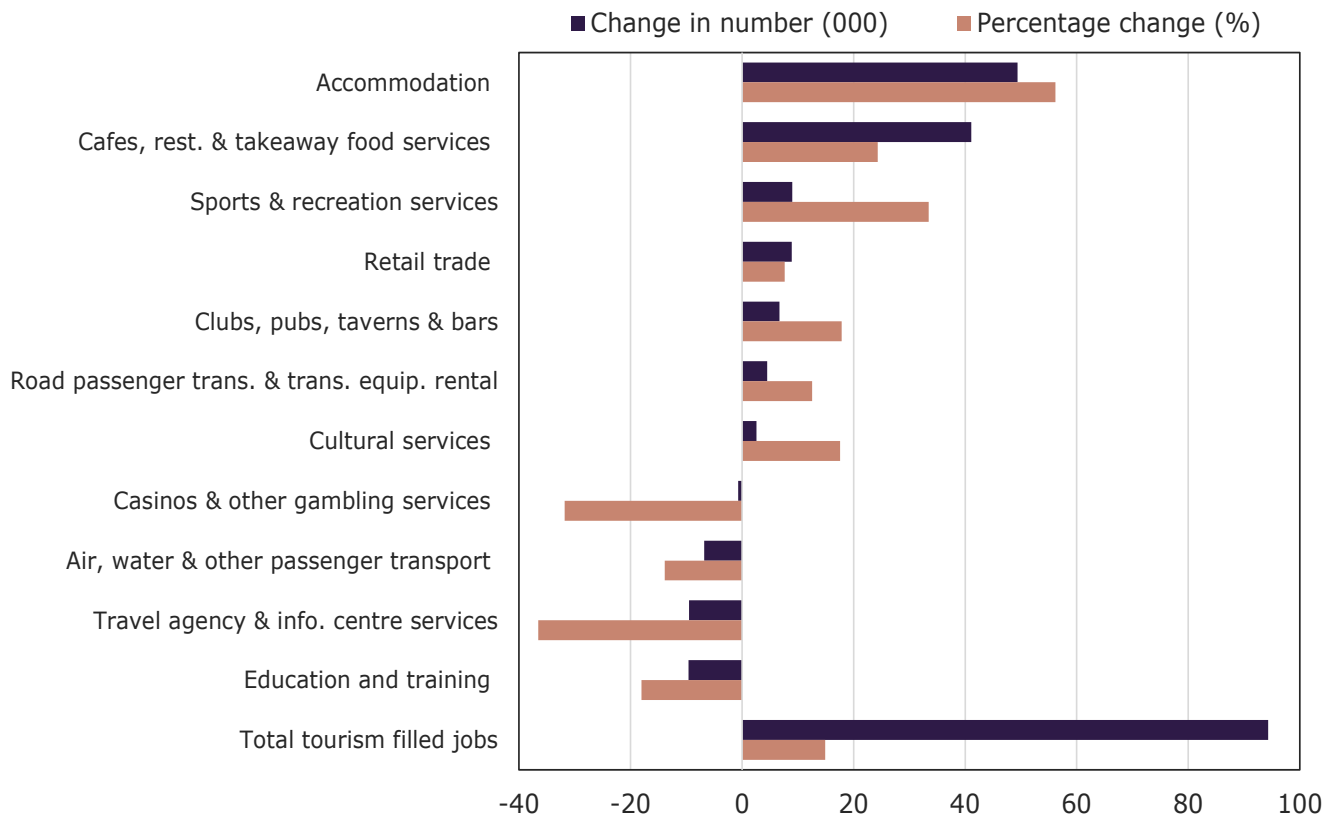
Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, March quarter 2026. Accessed June 2026.

While the total number of tourism filled jobs was much higher in March 2026 than it was at the end of 2019 (before the pandemic), filled jobs in 4 tourism-related industries remained below their pre-pandemic level (Figure 4). These industries and number of filled jobs compared to pre-pandemic levels include:

- Education and training (9,600 fewer jobs, -18%)
- Travel agency and information centre services (9,500 fewer jobs, -37%)
- Air, water and other passenger transport (6,800 fewer jobs, -14%)
- Casinos and other gambling services (700 fewer jobs, -32%).

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 2026 (i.e. change from pre-pandemic peak).



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

Tourism job characteristics

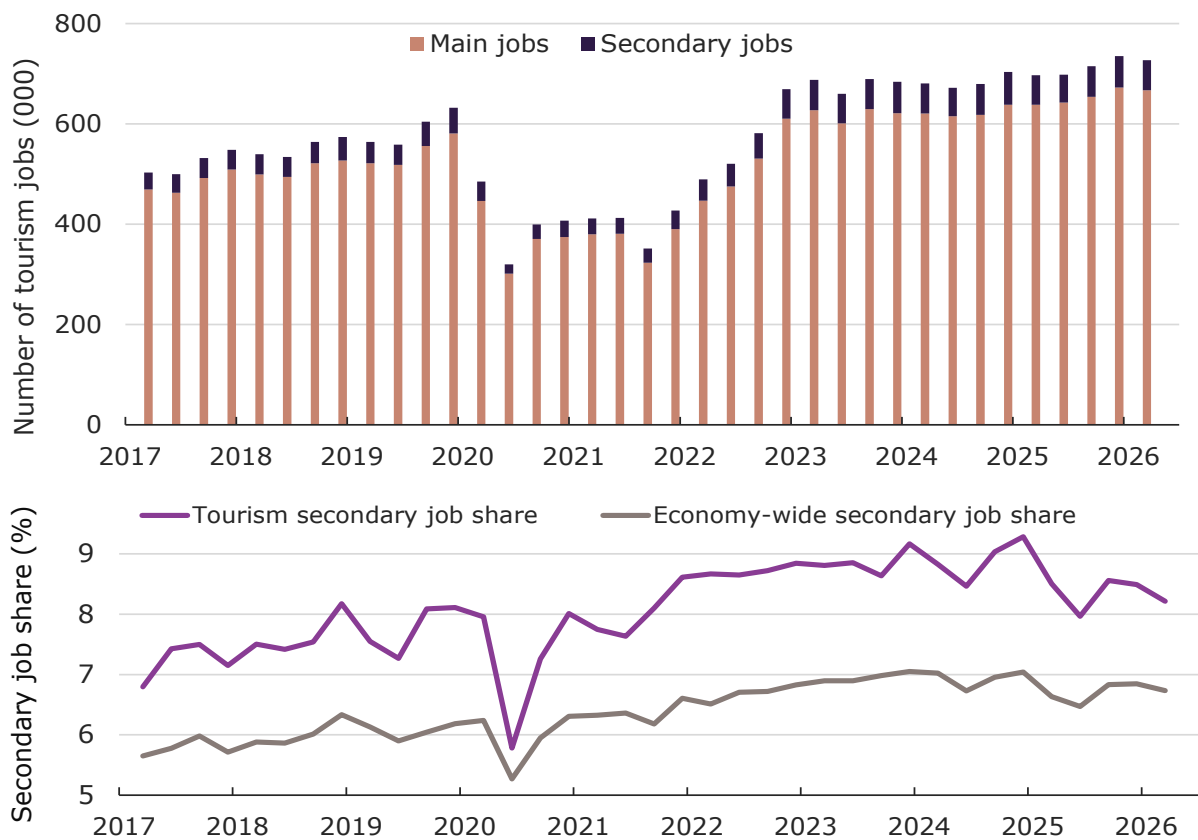
Full-time jobs and part-time jobs

The decline in tourism jobs in the March quarter 2026 relative to the previous quarter was led by a fall in part-time tourism jobs (down 12,000 jobs, -3.3%), which was partly offset by an increase in full-time jobs (up 3,700 jobs, +1.0%). Over the past year, full-time tourism jobs have increased by much more than part-time jobs: full-time jobs increased by 21,700 (+6.1%) from March 2025 to March 2026, while part-time jobs increased by 7,700 (+2.2%) over that period. Compared with the pre-pandemic peak, both full-time and part-time jobs are up by around 15%.

Main jobs and secondary jobs

Tourism secondary jobs decreased by 2,700 jobs (-4.3%) in the March quarter 2026, but were slightly higher compared with a year ago (up by 400 jobs, +0.7%). The secondary job share of all tourism jobs declined in the quarter to 8.2%, but remained above the secondary job share for the economy overall (which was 6.7% in the March quarter 2026). In the economy overall, the number of secondary jobs declined in the March quarter 2026 and the secondary job share also declined. The secondary job shares in tourism and in the economy overall both remained above their pre-pandemic levels (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Share of secondary jobs in tourism and in the whole economy. March quarter 2017 to March quarter 2026.



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

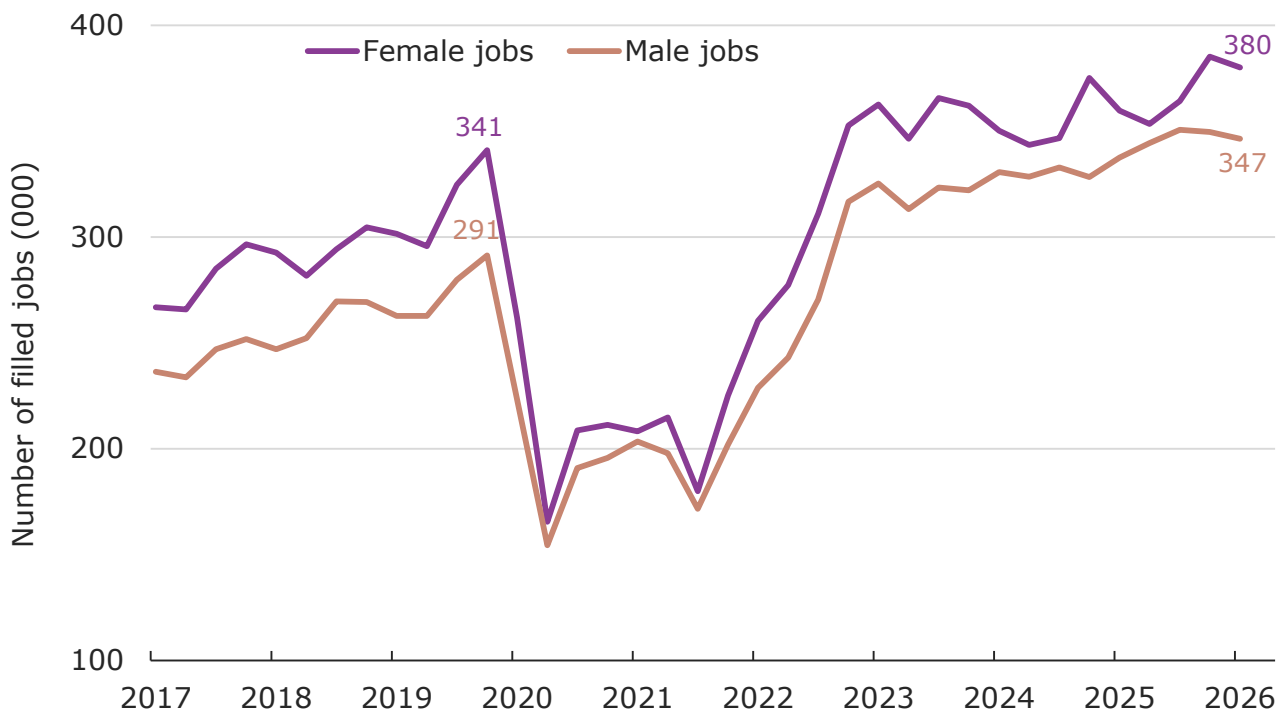
Female jobs and male jobs

In tourism, there are typically more filled jobs held by females than held by males, according to the ABS statistical definitions. The female share of tourism jobs was 52% in the March quarter 2026, down slightly from 54% in the December quarter 2019 before the pandemic (Figure 6).

Tourism jobs held by females decreased by slightly more than male jobs in the March quarter 2026 compared with the previous quarter: female jobs declined by 5,100 jobs (-1.3%) while male jobs declined by 3,200 jobs (-0.9%). For both males and females, the number of part-time jobs declined in the quarter while the number of full-time jobs increased.

Compared with a year ago, female jobs have increased by more than male jobs: female jobs increased by 20,500 (+5.7%) while male jobs have increased by 8,900 (+2.6%) since the March quarter 2025. However, compared with the pre-pandemic period, male jobs have increased by more than female jobs: male jobs have increased by 55,100 (+19%) since the December quarter 2019, while female jobs have increased by 39,100 (+11%) over that period.

Figure 6. Female and male jobs in tourism. March quarter 2017 to March quarter 2026.



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