



# Quarterly tourism labour statistics

## TRA summary – September quarter 2024

Data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – [Tourism Satellite Accounts: quarterly tourism labour statistics, Australia, experimental estimates, September 2024 | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Note: The ABS has undertaken a comprehensive review of the methods and data sources used to compile the Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) for the 2023–24 release. As a result, estimates for tourism employment have been revised back to 2016–17. Quarterly estimates of tourism filled jobs are no longer available for the period prior to 2016–17. The revisions have resulted in a significant adjustment to estimates of tourism filled jobs over the history of the new data series.

## Headlines

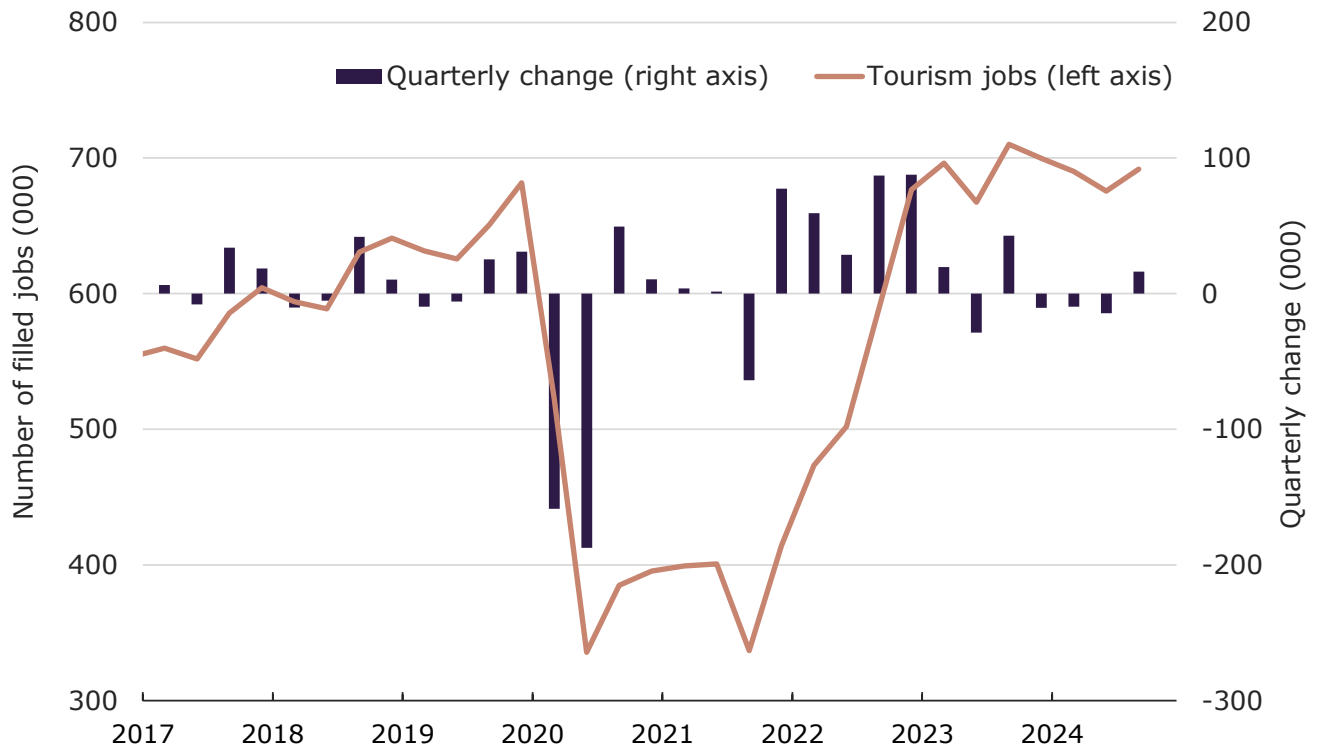
The number of filled jobs in the visitor economy:

- was **691,700** in the September quarter 2024
- increased by 16,200 jobs (2.4%) from the June quarter 2024
- was 18,400 (-2.6%) lower than the number of jobs a year ago (note that the September quarter 2023 was the highest ever number of tourism filled jobs)
- was 10,100 (1.5%) 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%).

## Overview

As at 30 September 2024, the tourism sector had 691,700 filled jobs, an increase of 16,200 jobs (2.4%) from the previous quarter (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Total number of tourism filled jobs and quarterly change in the number of tourism filled jobs, March quarter 2017 to September quarter 2024.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.

The increase in jobs this quarter, comes after three consecutive quarterly declines. As such, compared to this time last year, there were 18,400 fewer jobs (-2.6%) in September 2024. However, it is worth noting that in September 2023, the number of tourism filled jobs reached a series high of 710,100 jobs. According to the latest ABS estimates, using updated methodology, the number of tourism filled jobs is now reported to have surpassed the pre-pandemic peak in 2023 (see the Revisions to tourism filled jobs estimates section of this summary for more information).

In the September quarter 2024, there were 10,100 (1.5%) more filled jobs in the tourism sector than there were in the December quarter 2019, which was the pre-pandemic peak quarter.

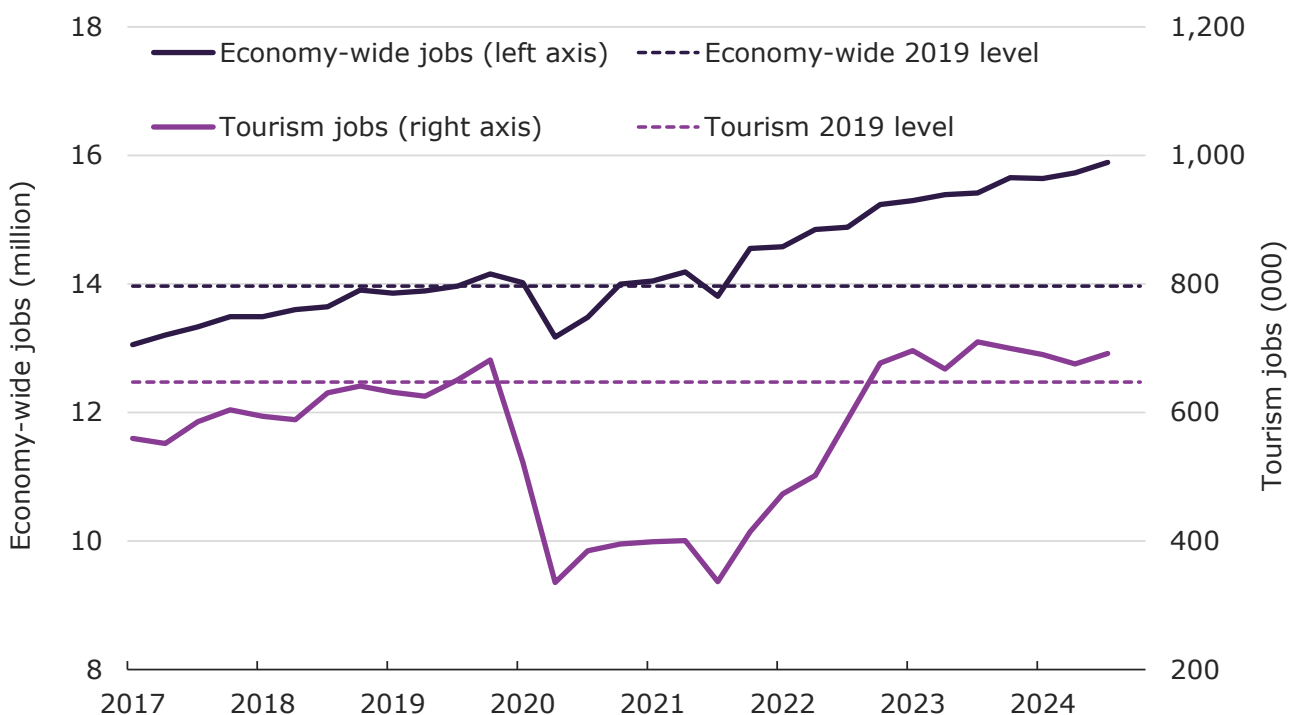
Note that ABS data revisions conducted this quarter have been substantial and affect all periods since September quarter 2016. See end of this report for some detail. The previous data vintage reported that the number of tourism filled jobs was 15% below its pre-pandemic peak as at the June quarter 2024.

## Key insights

In the September quarter 2024, tourism accounted for 4.4% of total filled jobs in the economy, down from 4.8% in the pre-pandemic peak (December quarter 2019). This indicates a slower recovery in tourism compared with the broader economy. Compared with the broader economy, tourism filled jobs took two years longer to return to their pre-pandemic level and has seen a milder growth trend over the past 2 years.

The number of tourism jobs has remained largely unchanged since the March quarter 2023, while economy-wide jobs have increased by 3.9% over the same period (Figure 2).

**Figure 2.** Economy wide jobs and tourism filled jobs, March quarter 2017 to September quarter 2024.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.

## Tourism jobs by sector

In the September quarter 2024, most tourism-connected industries recorded an increase in filled jobs, compared with the previous quarter. The tourism-connected industries with the largest increases in the September quarter 2024 were:

- Accommodation (increase of 9,600 jobs, 9%)
- Travel agency and information centre services (increase of 3,300 jobs, 12%)
- Clubs, pubs, taverns & bars (increase of 2,400 jobs, 6%).

The only two tourism-connected industries that recorded a decline in tourism filled job numbers in the September quarter 2024 were:

- Cafés, restaurants and takeaway food services (decrease of 3,700 jobs, -1.8%)
- Cultural services (decrease of 400 jobs, -3.1%).

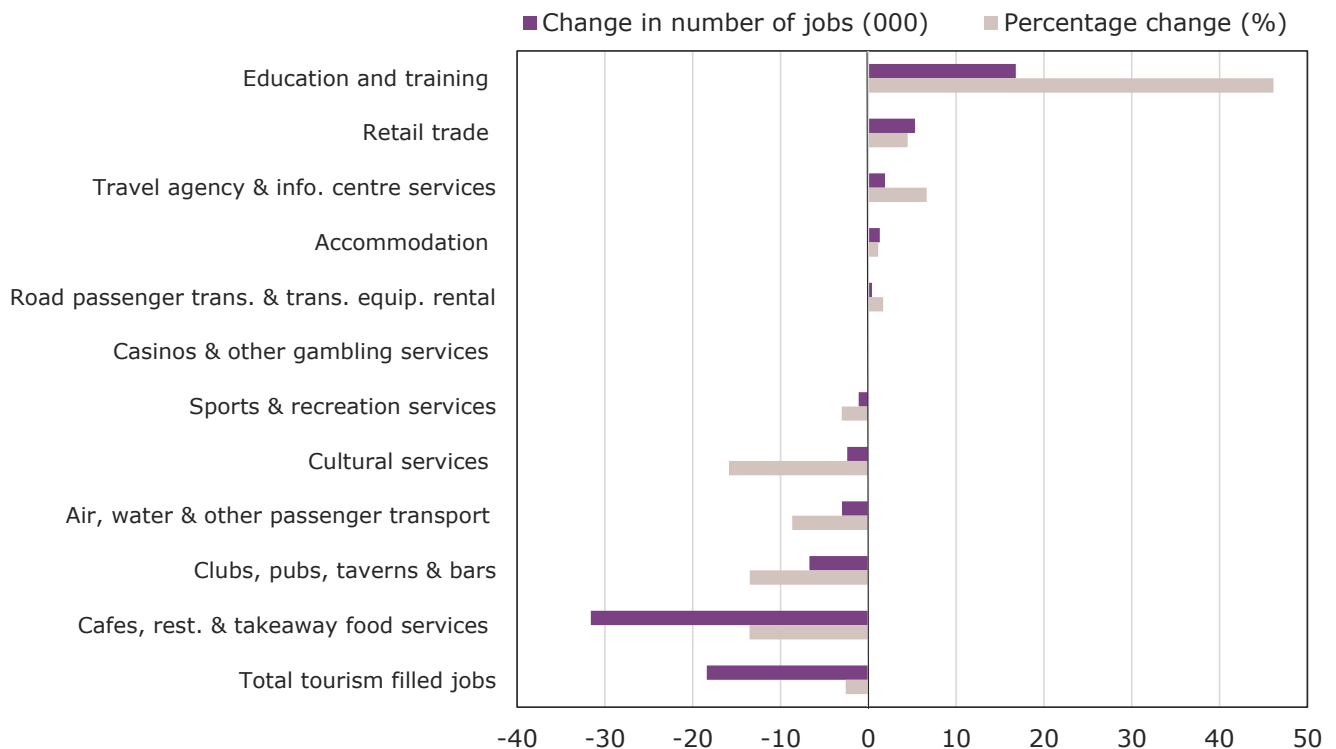
Over the past year, half of tourism-related industries recorded an increase in filled jobs, while the other half recorded declines (Figure 3). The tourism-related industries with the largest increases in job numbers over the year from September quarter 2023 to September quarter 2024 were:

- Education and training (additional 16,800 jobs, up 46%)
- Retail trade (additional 5,300 jobs, up 4.5%)
- Travel agency and information centre services (additional 1,900 jobs, up 7%).

Meanwhile, the tourism-related industries with the largest decreases in job numbers over the year were:

- Cafés, restaurants and takeaway food services (decrease of 31,600 jobs, -14%)
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars (decrease of 6,700 jobs, -14%)
- Air, water and other passenger transport (decrease of 3,000 jobs, -9%)
- Cultural services (decrease of 2,400 jobs, -16%).

**Figure 3.** Change in tourism filled jobs, by tourism-related industry, over the period from September quarter 2023 to September quarter 2024 (i.e. change over the year).

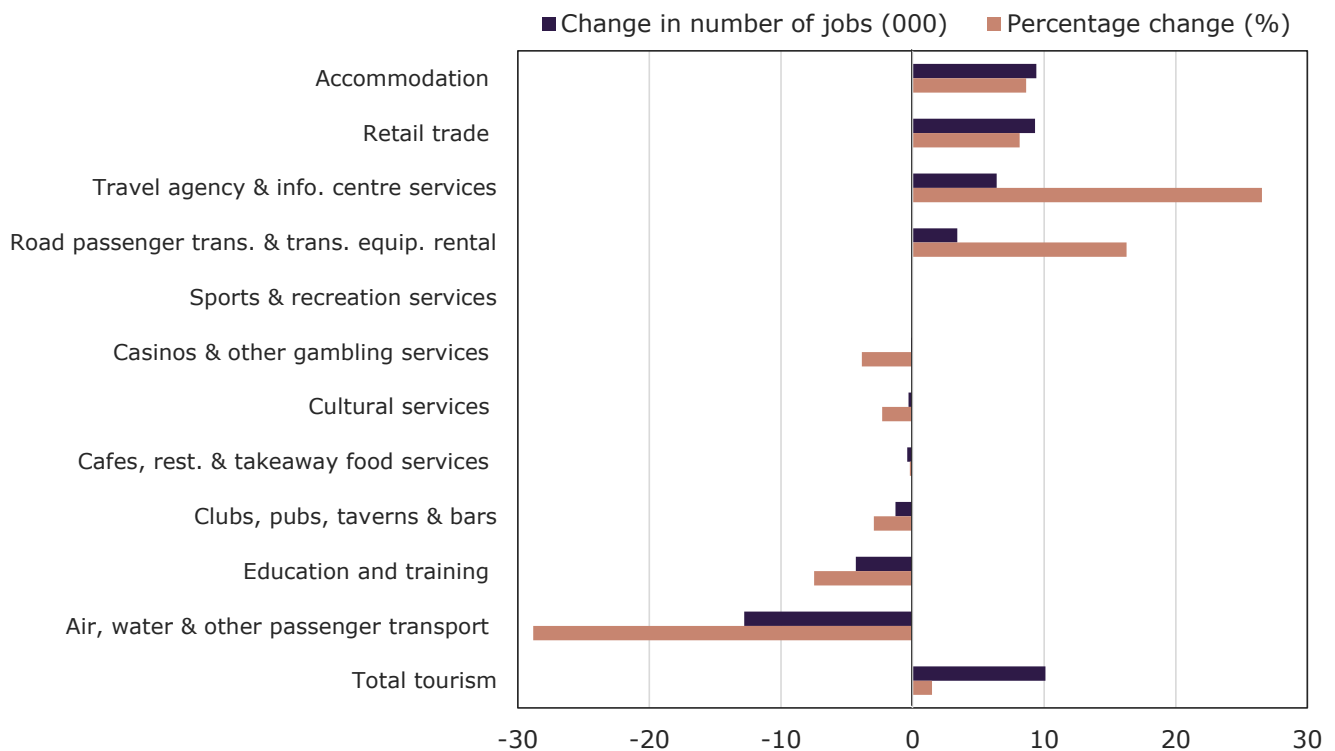


Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.

Data now states that most tourism-related industries have returned to around, or surpassed, their pre-pandemic number of filled jobs (Figure 4). The tourism-related industries with the largest remaining deficit in jobs compared to their pre-pandemic peak as at the September quarter 2024 were:

- Air, water and other passenger transport (12,800 fewer jobs, -29%)
- Education and training (4,300 fewer jobs, -7%)
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars (1,300 fewer jobs, -2.9%).

**Figure 4.** Change in tourism filled jobs, by tourism-related industry, over the period from December quarter 2019 to September quarter 2024 (i.e. change from pre-pandemic peak).



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.

## Tourism job characteristics

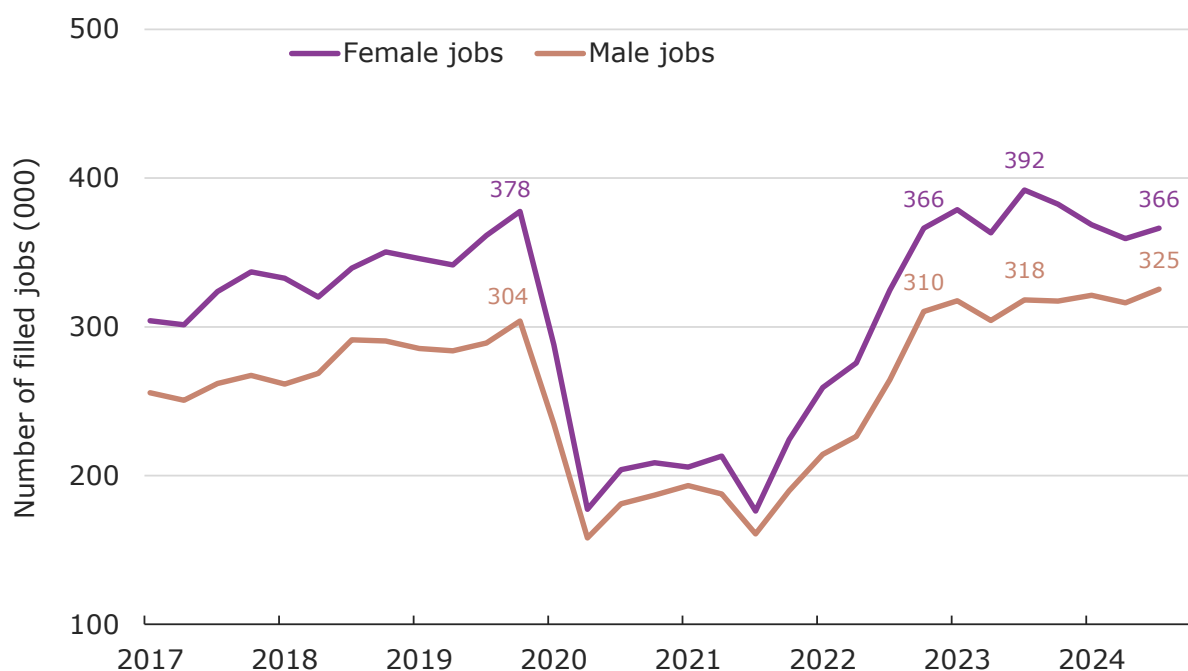
### By male or female job (note: terminology comes from ABS data release)

In the September quarter 2024, there were increases in the number of both male and female filled jobs, compared with the previous quarter. Male jobs increased by 9,100 (2.9%) and female jobs increased by 6,900 (1.9%). There were 366,300 female jobs in tourism in September 2024 and 325,300 male jobs: i.e. 53% of tourism jobs were held by females and 47% were held by males (Figure 5).

However, over the past year, the number of male jobs has risen while the number of female jobs has declined. From September 2023 to September 2024, male jobs increased by 7,200 (2.3%), while female jobs decreased by 25,700 (-7%).

Compared to the pre-pandemic peak, the number of male jobs was higher in the September quarter 2024, while the number of female jobs remained lower than it was in the December quarter 2019. In the September quarter 2024, there were 21,300 (7%) more male jobs, but 11,400 (-3%) fewer female jobs. In the December quarter 2019, 55.4% of tourism jobs were held by females and 44.6% were held by males. The strong rise in male job numbers was driven by growth in part-time male jobs, which have increased by 13% since the December quarter 2019. Full-time male jobs have increased by 3.2% between the December quarter 2019 and the September quarter 2024.

**Figure 5.** Number of tourism filled jobs held by males and females. March quarter 2017 to September quarter 2024.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.

## By main job or secondary job

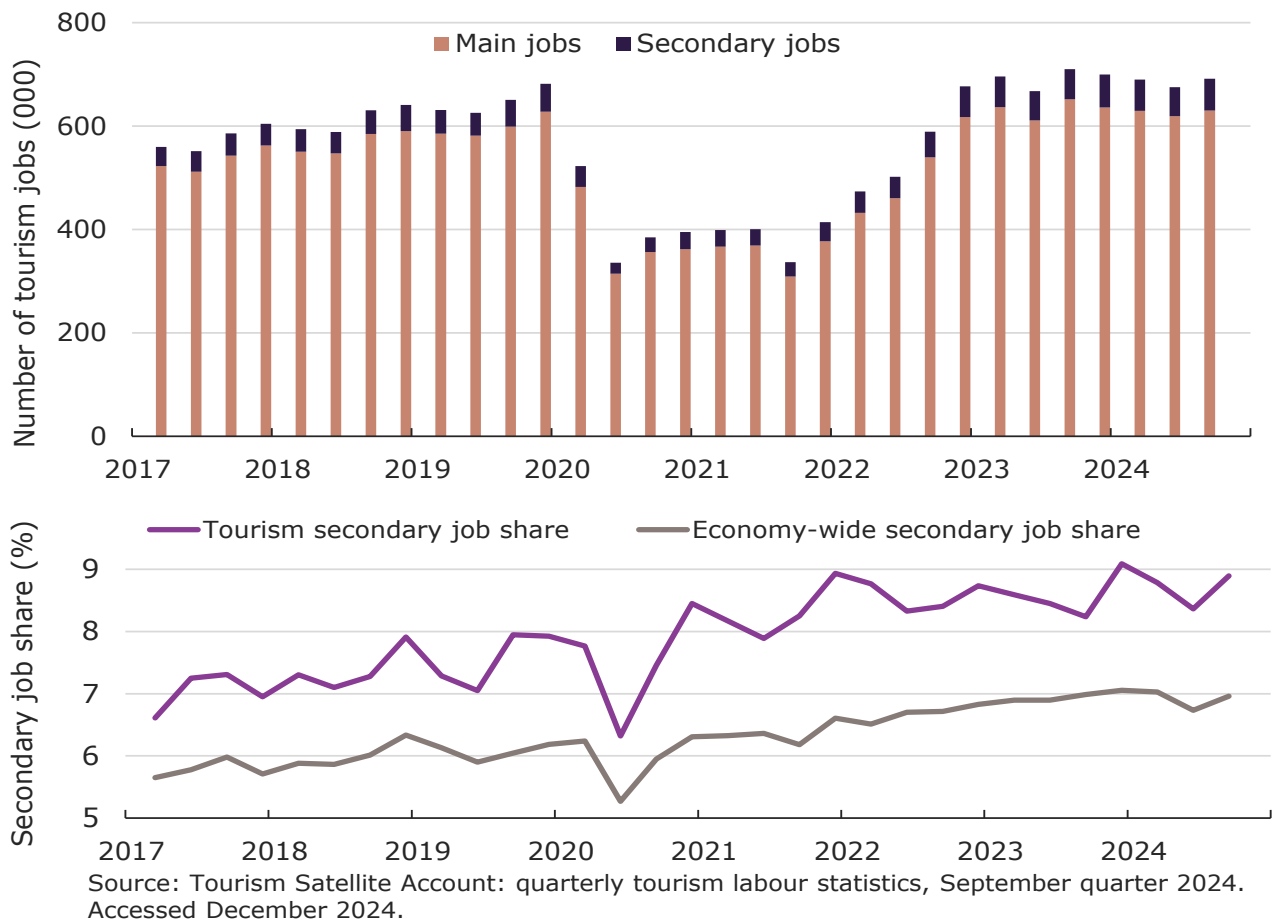
In the September quarter 2024, the number of secondary jobs in tourism had increased by:

- 5,000 (9%) compared with the previous quarter (June 2024)
- 3,000 (5%) compared with a year ago (September 2023)
- 7,500 (14%) compared with the pre-pandemic peak (December 2019).

As a result, the share of secondary jobs in tourism has been trending higher, and it was 8.9% in the September quarter 2024 (Figure 6). The secondary job share is higher for tourism than for the economy as a whole. The secondary job share for the economy as a whole was 7.0% in the September quarter 2024 and has also been trending gradually higher over recent years.

The number of tourism main jobs increased by 11,200 (1.8%) in the September quarter 2024 but declined by 21,400 (-3.3%) over the previous year. The number of tourism main jobs was 2,600 (0.4%) higher in the September quarter 2024 than it was in the December quarter 2019.

**Figure 6.** Number of tourism main jobs and tourism secondary jobs, and share of secondary jobs in tourism and in the whole economy (bottom panel). March quarter 2017 to September quarter 2024.



## Conclusions

Data revisions by the ABS have been significant. The reported number of tourism jobs has changed, as has its level relative to the pre-pandemic level, compared with what was reported in the historical data vintage. Current data continues to indicate that there has been little growth in the total number of tourism filled jobs since early 2023. However, data now show that tourism job numbers have generally recovered their pandemic-imposed losses. This is in line with measures of tourism spend having already recovered their pre-pandemic levels.

Nevertheless, there remain some areas where the number of tourism jobs are still below their 2019 levels. These include the air, water and other passenger transport sector, the education and training sector and the pubs, clubs, taverns and bars sector. The number of female jobs also remains lower than it was in 2019. Some of these sectors have faced additional challenges over recent years.

Looking forwards, TRA expects tourism job numbers to trend slightly higher. Demand for domestic travel and the ongoing recovery in international visitor numbers should support the growth of tourism-related employment. For more information regarding future trends and forecasts, see TRA's updated forecasts for tourism in Australia for the next 5 years: [Tourism forecasts | Tourism Research Australia](#).

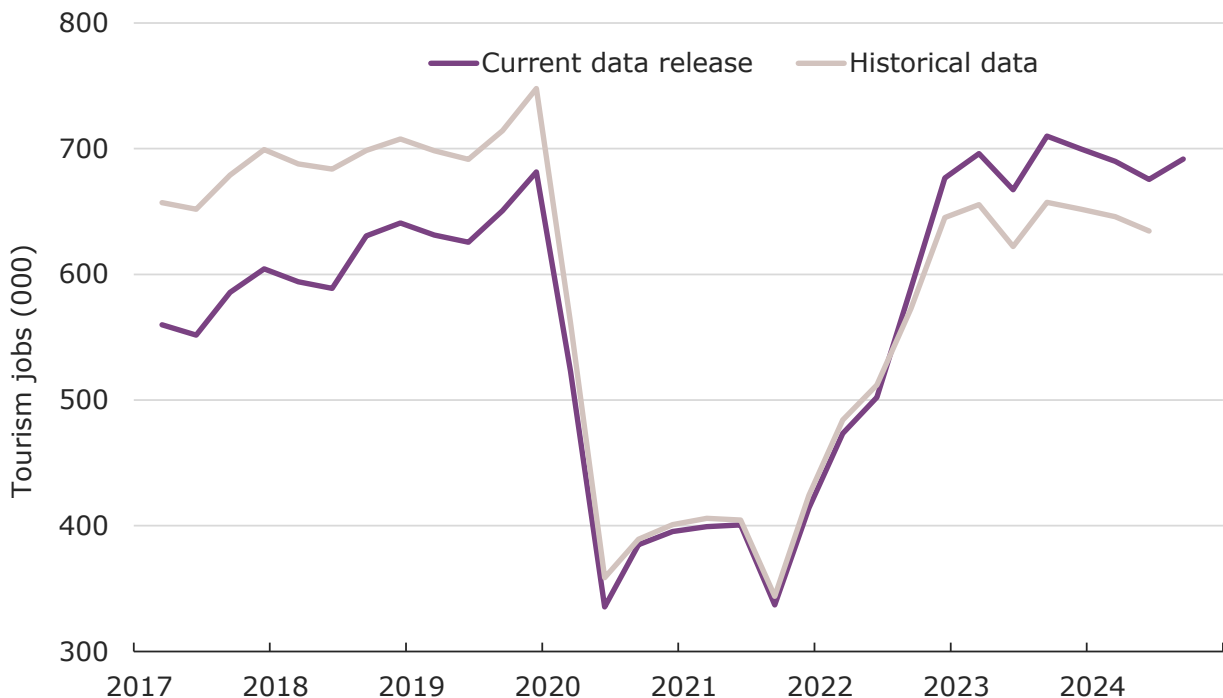
## Revisions to tourism filled jobs estimates

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has undertaken a comprehensive review of the methods and data sources used to compile the Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) for the 2023–24 release. See details on the ABS website ([Tourism Satellite Account methodology, 2023-24 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)), and implications for the TSA on the TRA website ([National Tourism Satellite Account | Tourism Research Australia](#)).

As a result of the methodology changes, estimates for tourism employment have been revised back to 2016–17. Estimates for tourism jobs are no longer available for the period prior to the 2016–17 financial year as the industry ratios used to derive tourism employment are only available from 2016–17. The table names, numbering and some series names in the ABS data tables have also been revised.

The revisions have resulted in a significant adjustment to estimates of tourism filled jobs over the history of the new data series (Figure 7). In earlier years, the estimates were revised lower, while the estimates were revised higher for the more recent years. Consequently, the current data suggest that the number of tourism filled jobs surpassed its pre-pandemic peak in 2023. In contrast, previous data releases from the ABS had shown that the number of tourism jobs remained well below the pre-pandemic peak.

**Figure 7.** Tourism filled jobs, current data and historical vintage. March 2017 to September 2024.



Source: Tourism Satellite Account: quarterly tourism labour statistics, September quarter 2024. Accessed December 2024.