

Information note – Update to payroll jobs and wages (week ending 8 August 2020)

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Key points

- The latest update to *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia* for the week ending 8 August 2020 covers a period in which COVID-19 restrictions were being eased across most states as well as the early phases of Stage 4 lockdowns in Victoria (implemented from 2 August).
- Between the week ending 14 March and the week ending 8 August 2020, the number of employee jobs declined by 4.9 per cent and total wages declined by 6.2 per cent. This is an improvement from the week ending 18 April, when the decline in jobs was largest.
- The industries that comprised the 3 clusters remained broadly the same as at the time of the 2019–20 Review (week ending 30 May), with most industries experiencing a recovery in jobs and wages.
 - However, Public administration and safety from the central cluster now has positive jobs growth since 14 March, putting it into the lower cluster.
- Accommodation and food services and Arts and recreation services remained the 2 most adversely affected industries. However, the improvement in these industries since 30 May was better than most other industries.
- For males and females, the number of employee jobs have recovered since 18 April, particularly for females, with job losses higher among males than females between 14 March and 8 August.
- Younger (20–29 years) and older age groups (70+ years) continue to have the largest decline in jobs, while those aged under 20 years have experienced the smallest decline in jobs since 14 March and were the only age group with growth in total wages.

Key COVID-19 dates

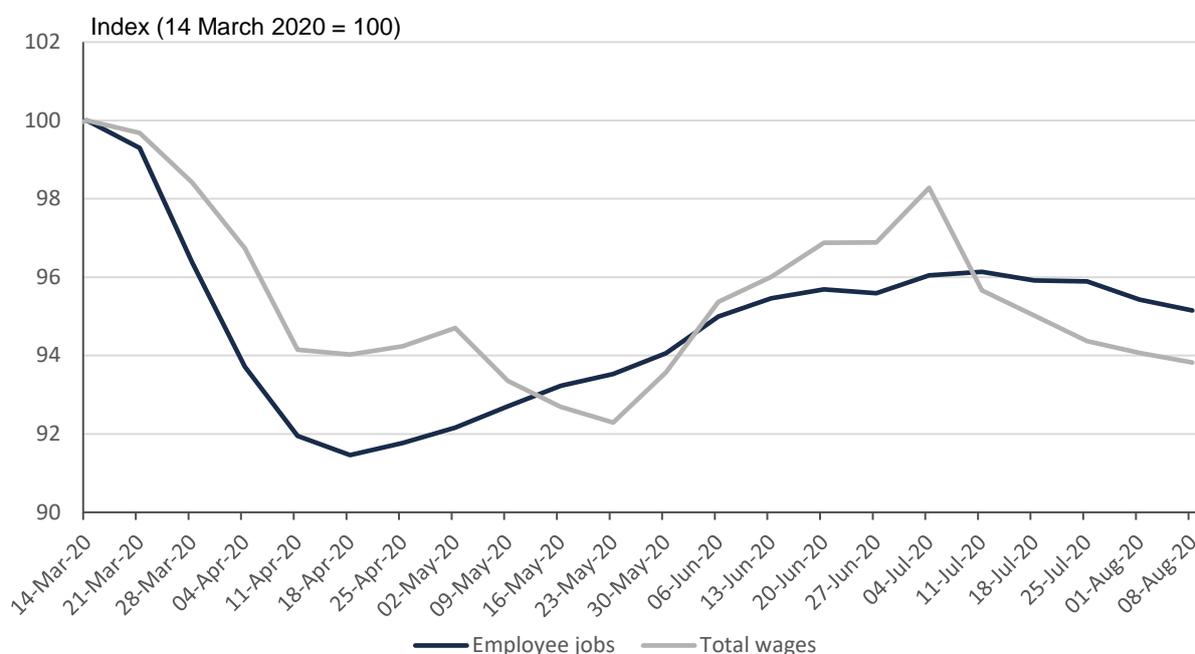
- Week ending 14 March: 100th recorded COVID-19 case in Australia (base for payroll data)
- 22 March: Prime Minister announces Stage 2 lock down changes
- 30 March: Prime Minister announces JobKeeper program
- Week ending 18 April: decline in employee jobs reaches its trough in the payroll data
- 8 May: Initial payroll deadline for the JobKeeper program
- Week ending 30 May: latest period in the Annual Wage Review 2019–20 decision
- 1 July: Stay at Home restrictions commence for selected Melbourne postcodes
- 8 July: Stay at Home restrictions commence for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire
- 12 July: Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package ceased
- 5 August: Stage 4 restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and stage 3 restrictions in regional Victoria commence (curfew from 2 August)
- Week ending 8 August: latest period for payroll data

Total jobs and wages

The latest data covers a period in which COVID-19 restrictions had been broadly eased across most states. However, it captures the re-implementation of Stage 3 lockdowns (from 1 July for selected Melbourne postcodes, and metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire from 8 July), and the early phase of Stage 4 restrictions.¹

Over the whole period from 14 March to 8 August, the number of employee jobs declined by 4.9 per cent and total wages declined by 6.2 per cent (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Change in employee jobs and total wages



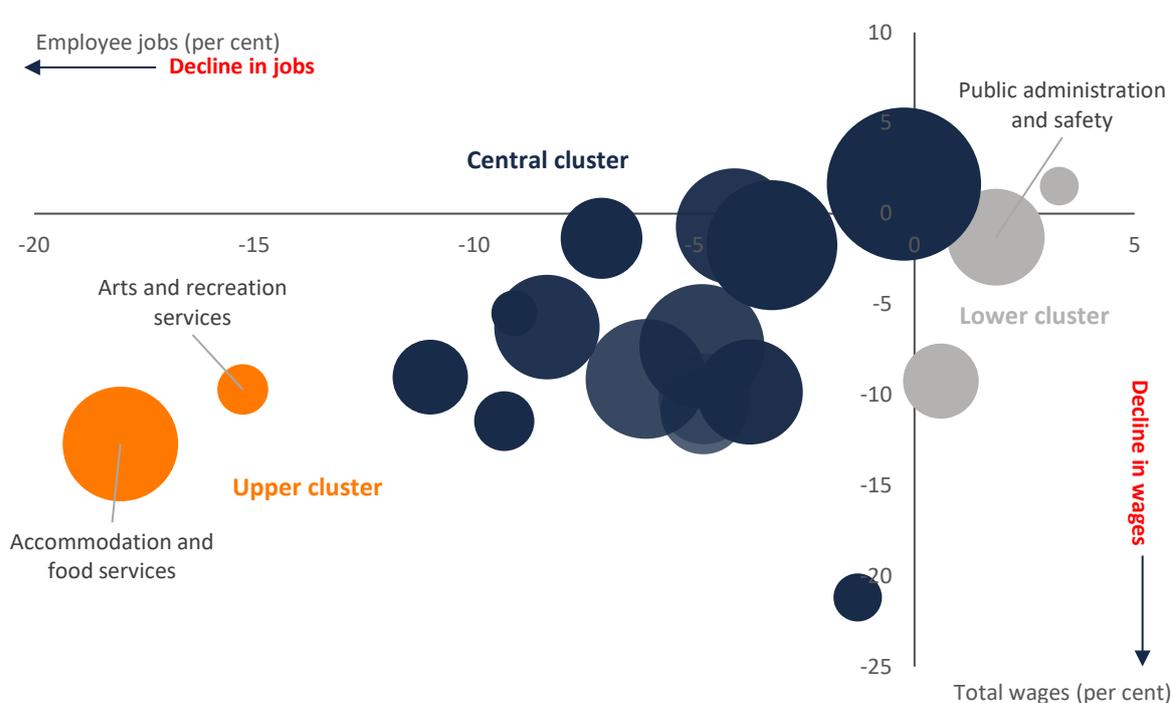
Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia*, Week ending 8 August 2020, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001.

¹ See: [Information note – Government responses to COVID-19 pandemic](#), updated 6 August 2020.

Industry clusters

The industries that comprised the 3 clusters remained broadly the same as at the time of the 2019–20 Review. However, the number of employee jobs in Public administration and safety has now increased since 14 March, shifting the industry from the central cluster to the lower cluster (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Change in employee jobs and total wages between 14 March and 8 August 2020



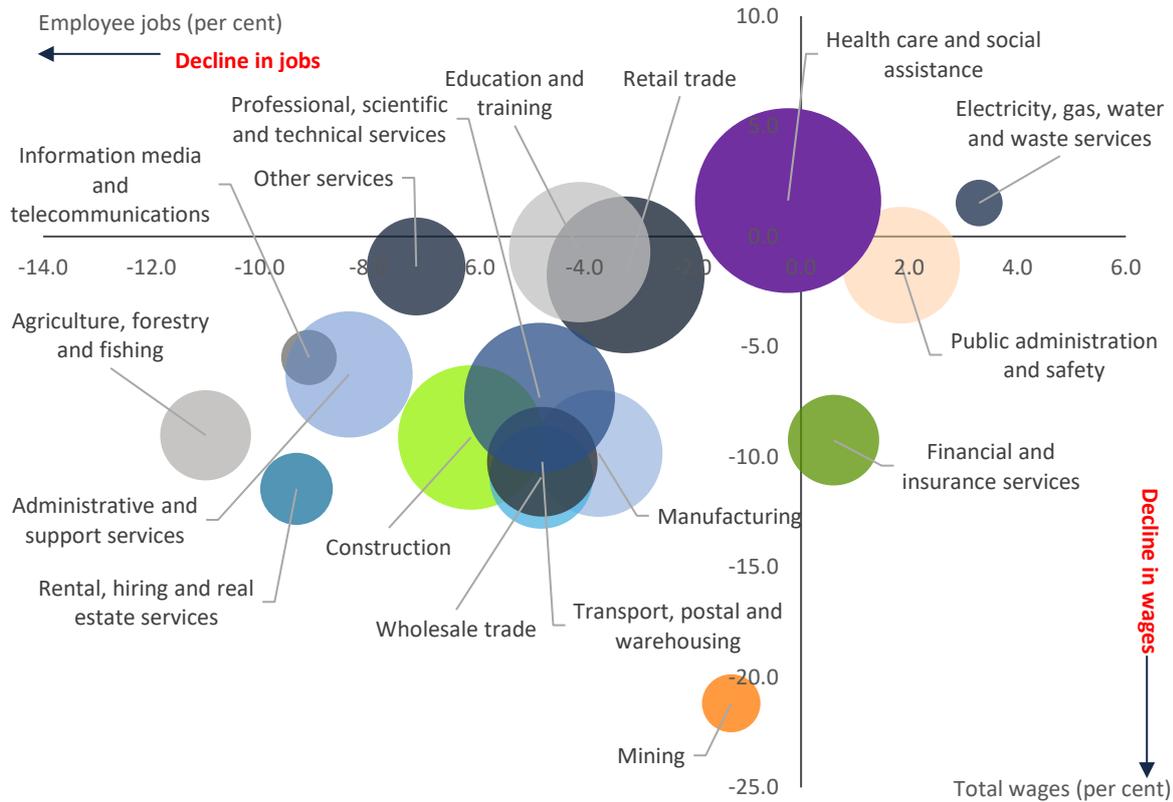
Note: Circle size reflects number of filled jobs (i.e. larger circles represent industries with higher number of filled jobs).

Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, Week ending 8 August 2020*, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001; ABS, *Labour Account Australia, March 2020*, Catalogue No. 6150.0.55.003.

Chart 2 shows that Accommodation and food services and Arts and recreation services remained the 2 most adversely affected industries according to the change in employee jobs between 14 March and 8 August 2020.

Chart 3 presents the change in employee jobs and total wages for industries in the central and lower clusters.

Chart 3: Change in employee jobs and total wages between 14 March and 8 August 2020



Note: Circle size reflects number of filled jobs (i.e. larger circles represent industries with higher number of filled jobs). Chart excludes Accommodation and food services and Arts and recreation services.

Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, Week ending 8 August 2020*, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001; ABS, *Labour Account Australia, March 2020*, Catalogue No. 6150.0.55.003.

Table 1 compares the change in employee jobs and total wages between 14 March and 30 May 2020 (at the time of the 2019–20 Review) with the latest data to the week ending 8 August 2020 by industry cluster.

Similar to the time of the 2019–20 Review, Electricity, gas, water and waste services and Financial and insurance services remain in the lower cluster, where the number of employee jobs for both industries was *higher* compared to the week ending 14 March.

Since the 2019–20 Review, the number of employee jobs and total wages has improved across most industries.

Table 1: Change in employee jobs and wages since 14 March

Industry	Employee jobs			Total wages		
	30 May* (%)	8 August (%)	Change (ppts)	30 May* (%)	8 August (%)	Change (ppts)
Upper cluster						
Accommodation and food services	-29.1	-18.0	11.1	-25.4	-12.7	12.7
Arts and recreation services	-26.3	-15.3	11.0	-14.0	-9.7	4.3
Central cluster						
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-9.5	-11.0	-1.5	-6.4	-9.0	-2.6
Mining	-5.8	-1.3	4.5	-20.8	-21.2	-0.4
Manufacturing	-4.0	-3.7	0.2	-11.4	-9.8	1.6
Construction	-5.8	-6.1	-0.3	-7.8	-9.1	-1.3
Wholesale trade	-4.1	-4.8	-0.7	-13.5	-10.9	2.6
Retail trade	-6.3	-3.2	3.1	-4.3	-1.7	2.5
Transport, postal and warehousing	-4.8	-4.8	0.1	-9.5	-10.2	-0.7
Information media and telecommunications	-10.5	-9.1	1.4	-12.0	-5.5	6.5
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-10.1	-9.3	0.7	-13.7	-11.5	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	-4.4	-4.8	-0.5	-8.4	-7.3	1.1
Administrative and support services	-10.1	-8.3	1.7	-8.1	-6.3	1.8
Education and training	-4.7	-4.1	0.6	0.7	-0.7	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	-4.7	-0.2	4.4	-3.4	1.6	5.0
Other services	-9.7	-7.1	2.6	-4.0	-1.4	2.6
Lower cluster						
Public administration and safety	-4.3	1.8	6.2	-6.3	-1.3	5.0
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.4	3.3	2.9	-3.0	1.5	4.5
Financial and insurance services	0.5	0.6	0.1	-8.1	-9.2	-1.2

Note: * At the time of the 2019–20 Review.

Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, Week ending 8 August 2020*, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001; ABS, *Labour Account Australia, March 2020*, Catalogue No. 6150.0.55.003.

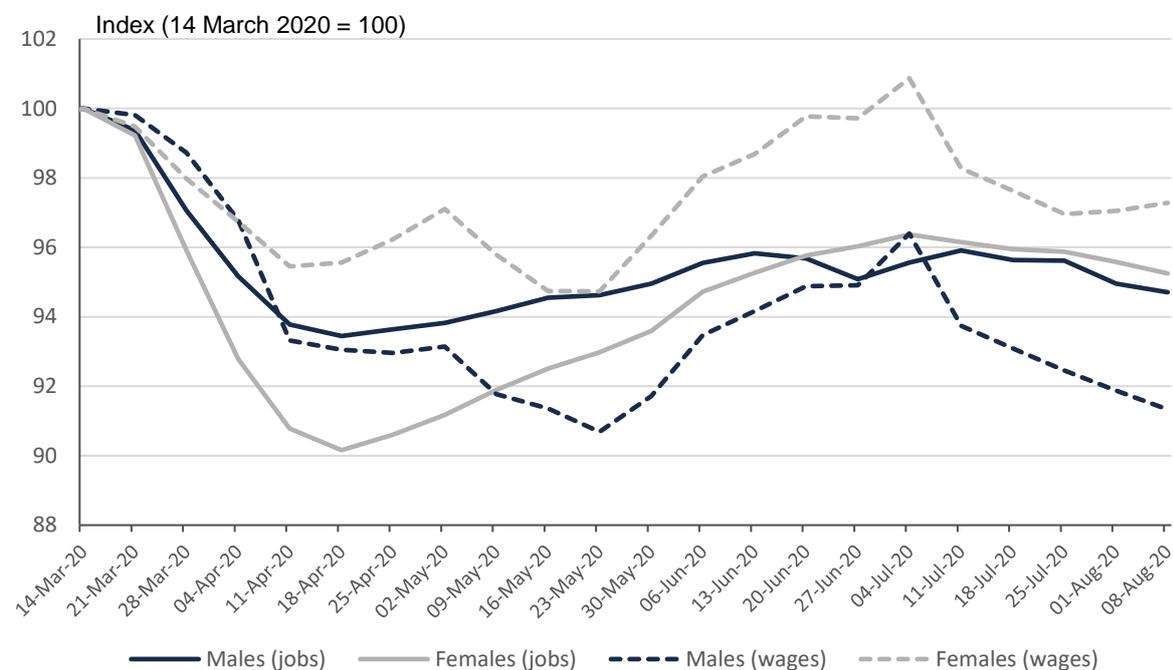
Sex

The decline in employee jobs troughed at around the week ending 18 April, at 6.6 per cent lower for males and 9.8 per cent lower for females, compared to 14 March (Chart 4). The number of employee jobs have since recovered, particularly for females, with job losses higher among males (-5.3 per cent) than females (-4.7 per cent) between 14 March and 8 August.

Following an initial decline during April and again to late May, total wages rebounded to early July, particularly for females. However, total wages have since fallen, particularly for males.

Between 14 March and 8 August, the decline in total wages for males (–8.7 per cent) was greater than for females (–2.7 per cent).

Chart 4: Change in employee jobs and total wages, by sex



Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia*, Week ending 8 August 2020, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001.

Age groups

Table 2 presents the change in employee jobs and total wages by age group. Between 14 March and 8 August, the age groups most impacted by the decline in jobs were those aged 70+ years (–11.5 per cent) and 20–29 years (–7.2 per cent). There was considerable improvement in employee jobs for those aged under 20 years between late May and early August.

Between 14 March and 8 August, total wages declined across most age groups except for those aged under 20 years (19.6 per cent). Since 30 May, there was improvement in total wages for each age group except for the older age groups—those aged 50–59 years, 60–69 years and 70+ years.

Table 2: Change in payroll jobs and wages since 14 March 2020, select dates, by age group

Age group	Employee jobs			Total wages		
	14 March to 18 April (%)	14 March to 30 May (%)	14 March to 8 Aug (%)	14 March to 18 April (%)	14 March to 30 May (%)	14 March to 8 Aug (%)
Under 20 years	-22.9	-14.4	-0.1	1.5	7.5	19.6
20–29 years	-14.0	-10.4	-7.2	-7.4	-5.5	-2.1
30–39 years	-6.5	-4.7	-4.0	-5.9	-6.7	-6.1
40–49 years	-5.2	-3.3	-3.0	-6.5	-8.1	-7.8
50–59 years	-5.0	-3.1	-2.9	-6.0	-7.1	-7.4
60–69 years	-7.0	-4.6	-5.9	-5.8	-5.8	-7.5
70+ years	-12.6	-7.5	-11.5	-4.5	-2.2	-7.8
Total	-8.5	-5.9	-4.9	-6.0	-6.4	-6.2

Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia*, Week ending 8 August 2020, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001.

States and territories

Table 3 presents the changes in payroll jobs and wages between 14 March and 8 August across the states and territories. Victoria reported the largest decline in employee jobs over the period (–7.8 per cent), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (–5.5 per cent), and Tasmania (–5.0 per cent). Since 20 June, when restrictions were re-implemented in Victoria, total jobs have declined the most in Victoria (–3.0 per cent), while jobs growth was positive across most other areas.

Total wages have fallen the most in Western Australia (–7.7 per cent) and Victoria (–6.7 per cent) over the longer period. Since 20 June, total wages have declined across most states and territories, with the largest decline again in Victoria (–4.8 per cent).

Table 3: Change in employee jobs and total wages, by state/territory

	14 March to 8 August		20 June to 8 August	
	Jobs (%)	Wages (%)	Jobs (%)	Wages (%)
New South Wales	–4.4	–6.4	–0.3	–3.4
Victoria	–7.8	–6.7	–3.0	–4.8
Queensland	–3.7	–5.2	0.7	–2.6
South Australia	–3.8	–4.1	1.2	–1.5
Western Australia	–2.0	–7.7	1.2	–1.0
Tasmania	–5.0	–4.5	1.0	–0.8
Northern Territory	–2.6	–3.3	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	–5.5	–3.9	–0.8	–2.3
Total	–4.9	–6.2	–0.6	–3.2

Source: ABS, *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia*, Week ending 8 August 2020, Catalogue No. 6160.0.55.001.