

## Construction jobs tank

### Over 13,000 jobs lost in the last week

#### National highlights

- 13,192 building and construction jobs have been lost in the last week.
- The total building and construction workforce is below 1.1 million workers for the first time since the pandemic began (1,098,629 workers)
- Approximately 89,850 building and construction jobs have been lost since 14 March 2020 and wages have contracted 8.1%.

Today's data release is the first full reporting period since the changes to JobKeeper came into effect on 28 September 2020. To remain on JobKeeper businesses need to re-establish eligibility by showing that their turnover remains down by at least 30%. The decline in construction sector jobs in the last fortnight may reflect that some businesses are coming off JobKeeper and that without the additional financial support from Government need to rationalise their costs and workforce.

#### States and territories

##### Change in construction jobs in the last week, month and since the start of the financial year

	Workforce @ 17 Oct	Change in last week		Change in last month		Change since start FY	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Australia</b>	1,098,629	-13,192	-1.1%	-58,592	-4.9%	-68,337	-5.8%
<b>NSW</b>	341,748	-4,802	-1.3%	-24,273	-6.4%	-32,628	-8.6%
<b>Vic</b>	284,921	-4,669	-1.5%	-15,982	-5.1%	-23,440	-7.5%
<b>Qld</b>	240,279	-3,138	-1.2%	-10,664	-4.2%	-10,129	-4.0%
<b>SA</b>	69,623	+35	+0.05%	-1,442	-2.1%	+1,646	+2.3%
<b>WA</b>	114,320	-145	-0.1%	-4,095	-3.4%	-2,481	-2.1%
<b>Tas</b>	18,853	-65	-0.3%	-588	-2.9%	-338	-1.7%
<b>NT</b>	11,593	-350	-2.8%	-741	-5.9%	-508	-4.1%
<b>ACT</b>	16,741	-165	-0.9%	-1,085	-5.9%	-1,328	-7.3%

In recent reporting periods South Australia had been the only jurisdiction to record growth in both jobs and wages since 14 March 2020. While South Australia remains the strongest performing jurisdiction, jobs have dipped into the red and are current down 1.0% on 14 March 2020.

South Australia is the only jurisdiction to see an increase in wages since 14 March 2020, up 0.6%. Wage declines are most severe in the Northern Territory and New South Wages which are both into the double digits, at -14.0% and -11.8%, respectively.

The wages tide may be turning. Several jurisdictions recorded wage increases in the last week, with the largest increase recorded in Tasmania, +1.3%. Other states to see wages increase in the last week are Victoria (+0.4%), Queensland (+0.6%), South Australia (+0.2%), Western Australia (+0.8%) and the Northern Territory (+0.9%)

### Change in jobs (14 March to 17 October 2020) and total workforce (at 17 October 2020)

#### Northern Territory

Jobs: -7.5% (-940 jobs)

Workforce: 11,593

#### Western Australia

Jobs: -5.1% (-6,131 jobs)

Workforce: 114,320

#### South Australia

Jobs: -1.0% (-732 jobs)

Workforce: 69,623

#### Tasmania

Jobs: -6.7% (-1,363 jobs)

Workforce: 18,853



#### Queensland

Jobs: -5.8% (14,848 jobs)

Workforce: 240,279

#### New South Wales

Jobs: -9.6% (36,334 jobs)

Workforce: 341,748

#### Australian Capital Territory

Jobs: -8.5% (-1,553 jobs)

Workforce: 16,741 jobs

#### Victoria

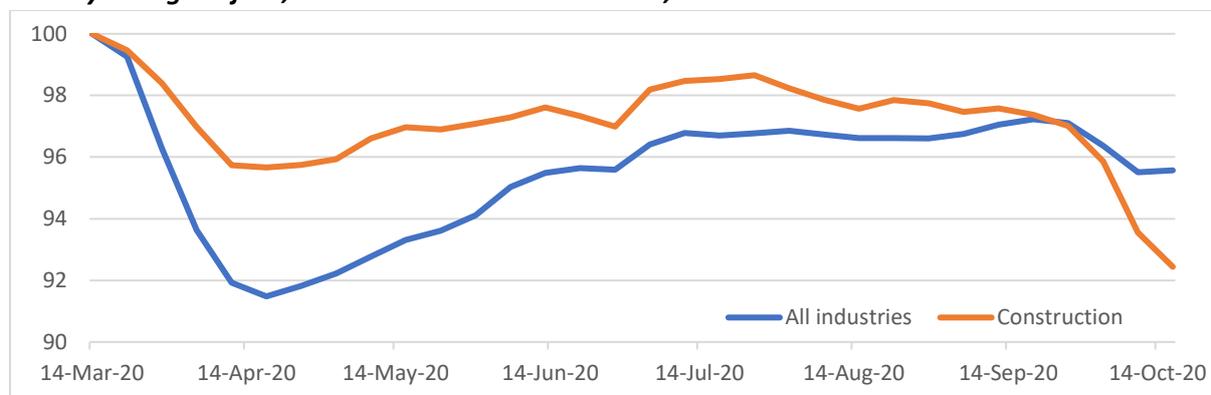
Jobs: -9.1% (-28,454 jobs)

Workforce: 284,921

### Industry sectors

Across all industry sectors jobs losses relative to 14 March 2020 troughed on 11 April 2020 at -8.1%, after which we have seen a recovery and since the end of May job losses across all industry sectors have not dipped below a decline of 5%. Construction on the other hand experienced a far more mild loss of jobs in the early stages – troughing at -4.3% on 18 April 2020 – however jobs losses have declined markedly in recent weeks from -3.0% on 26 September 2020 to the largest decline to date at -7.6% on 17 October 2020.

### Weekly change in jobs, all industries and construction, indexed to 14 March 2020



The construction industry is the sixth (of 19) hardest hit industry sectors in Australia for both job and wage losses since Australia recorded its 100<sup>th</sup> case of COVID on 14 March 2020, with jobs down 7.6% and wages down 8.1%. The hardest hit industry sector is accommodation and food services with jobs down 18.0% and wages down 18.3%.

Three industry have increased both jobs and wages since 14 March 2020. They are:

- public administration (jobs ↑ 2.9%, wages ↑ 0.2%),
- health care (jobs ↑ 0.3%, wages ↑ 2.5%), and
- utilities (jobs ↑ 0.9%, wages ↑ 1.8%).

**Change in jobs and wages: all industries, 14 March to 3 October 2020**

Jobs	Industry	Wages
-4.4%	All industries	-5.1%
-7.6%	Construction	-8.1%
-8.8%	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	-3.6%
-1.2%	Mining	-16.5%
-3.9%	Manufacturing	-7.6%
0.9%	Electricity, gas, water & waste services	1.8%
-4.6%	Wholesale trade	-11.1%
-2.6%	Retail trade	-3.5%
-18.0%	Accommodation & food services	-18.3%
-6.5%	Transport, postal & warehousing	-10.1%
-9.2%	Information media & telecommunications	-4.1%
2.0%	Financial & insurance services	-6.5%
-7.2%	Rental, hiring & real estate services	-7.2%
-4.9%	Professional, scientific & technical services	-4.9%
-5.2%	Administrative & support services	-3.6%
2.9%	Public administration & safety	0.2%
-3.2%	Education & training	-1.1%
0.3%	Health care & social assistance	2.5%
-15.0%	Arts & recreation services	-12.5%
-7.8%	Other services	-1.6%

Source: Master Builders analysis of 6160.0 Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, week ending 17 October 2020 and 6291.0 Labour Force, May 2020