

Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages – Week ending 3 October 2020

ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Publication Release Date: 20 October 2020 | Next Release Date: 4 November 2020



Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development

Key Points

- Total employee jobs contracted in September 2020. Between 5 September and 3 October 2020 (monthly), total employee jobs declined by 0.7 per cent in the ACT and by 0.4 per cent nationally.
- The monthly fall in the ACT's total employee jobs was driven by declines in all age groups except the under 20's, which recorded a strong increase of 5.8 per cent in employee jobs in the month.
 - Nationally, employee jobs for the under 20's also increased by 8.2 per cent in the month.
- Between 14 March and 3 October 2020 (29 weeks after Australia recorded its 100th COVID-19 case), employee jobs declined by 4.3 per cent in the ACT, the third largest decline amongst jurisdictions (following Victoria and Tasmania), but broadly in-line with the national average (down 4.1 per cent).
 - The ABS suggests that by 3 October 2020 there were approximately 440,000 fewer payroll jobs nationally than on 14 March 2020.

Key Measures, ACT and Australia, Week ending 3 October 2020¹

	Change (%)		
	Weekly ²	Monthly ³	Since week ending 14 March 2020
ACT			
Employee jobs	-0.5	-0.7	-4.3
<i>Male</i>	-0.7	-1.1	-5.4
<i>Female</i>	-0.4	-0.8	-4.0
<i>Age under 20 years</i>	0.8	5.8	-1.3
<i>Accommodation and food services⁴</i>	0.0	0.0	-24.1
Total employee wages paid by businesses	-0.6	-1.4	-2.5
<i>Male</i>	-1.0	-2.1	-3.1
<i>Female</i>	-0.1	-0.5	-2.3
<i>Age under 20 years</i>	0.9	1.8	24.3
<i>Accommodation and food services⁴</i>	0.0	0.0	-12.7
Australia			
Employee jobs	-0.7	-0.4	-4.1
<i>Male</i>	-0.7	-0.9	-5.0
<i>Female</i>	-0.7	-0.4	-4.2
<i>Age under 20 years</i>	1.3	8.2	6.1
<i>Accommodation and food services⁴</i>	0.1	3.7	-17.4
Total employee wages paid by businesses	-1.4	-1.0	-3.3
<i>Male</i>	-1.3	-1.5	-5.6
<i>Female</i>	-1.5	-0.3	-0.4
<i>Age under 20 years</i>	-0.2	4.8	29.6
<i>Accommodation and food services⁴</i>	-2.1	0.0	-13.1

Notes:

1. Employee jobs and total employee wages are released as indices only, using the week ending 14 March 2020 as the reference week (index=100), when Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case.
2. Between week ending 26 September 2020 and week ending 3 October 2020.
3. Between week ending 5 September 2020 and week ending 3 October 2020.
4. This represents the most impacted industry between week ending 14 March and week ending 3 October 2020.

Important note

The estimates are revised for each release, and care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages.

The ABS allocated the JobKeeper lump sum back payments which were paid by businesses and received by employees in late April or early May on an accrual basis to the period identified on the employees' payslip in which they were earned or intended. This has resulted in an increase of the weekly total employee wage index compared to the data reflecting the actual cash payments received in the ACT between week ending 14 March and week ending 16 May 2020.

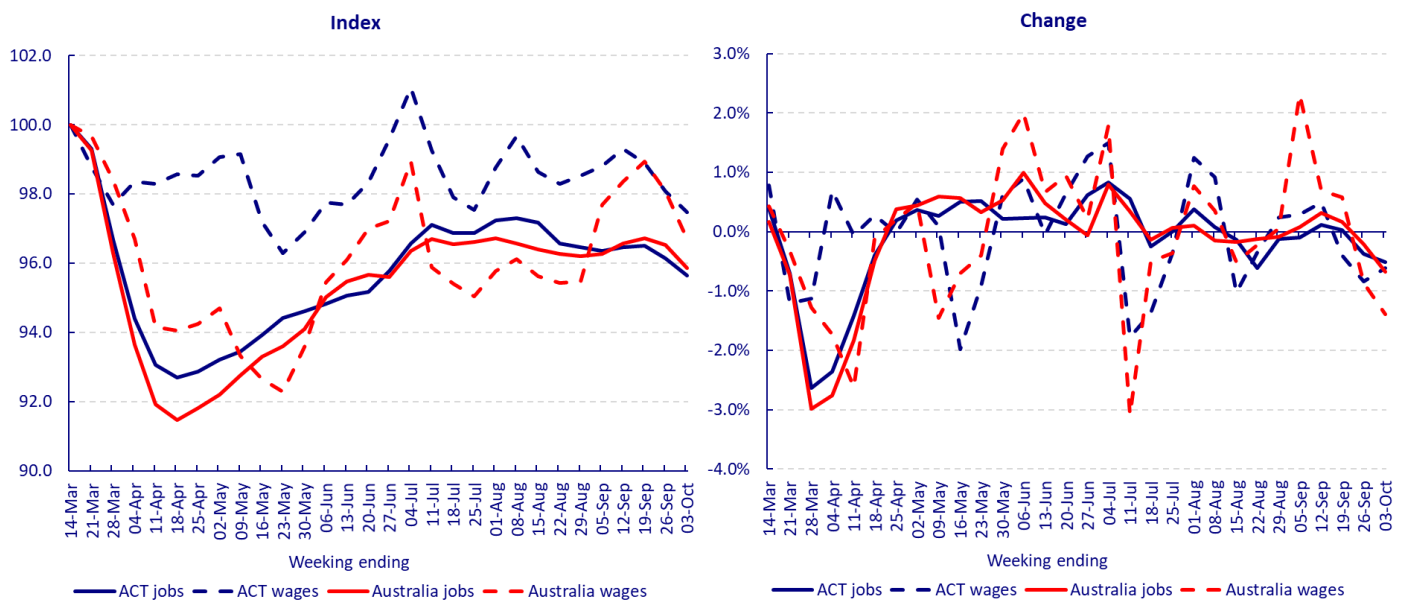
Commentary

Total employee wages paid by businesses (or wage income) in the ACT declined by 2.5 per cent between week ending 14 March 2020 and week ending 3 October 2020 and by 1.4 per cent between week ending 5 September 2020 and week ending 3 October 2020 (monthly).

Employee jobs for males fell 1.1 per cent for the month compared with a fall of 0.8 per cent for females. Male employee jobs have now declined 5.4 per cent between week ending 14 March 2020 and week ending 3 October 2020, with female employee jobs having declined by 4.0 per cent over the same period.

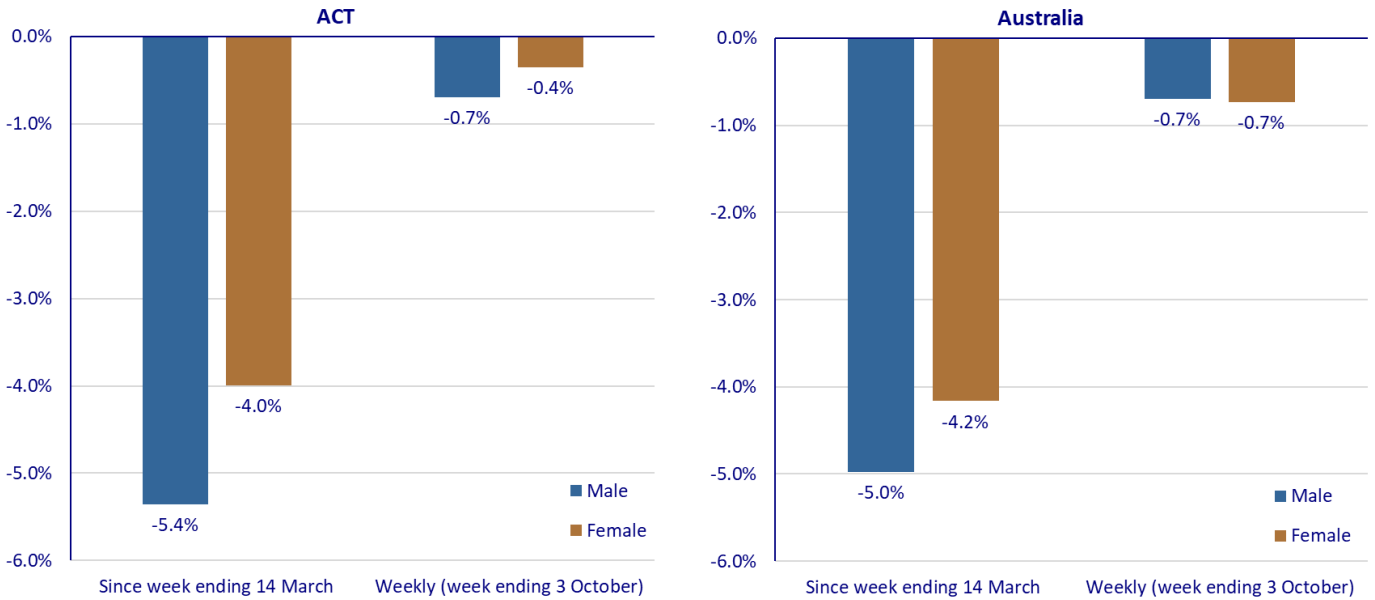
The national employee jobs outcome is likely to improve in coming weeks as strict lockdown restrictions are gradually lifted in Victoria and state borders reopen, from which the ACT is expected to benefit.

Chart 1: Employee jobs and total employee wages*, ACT and Australia



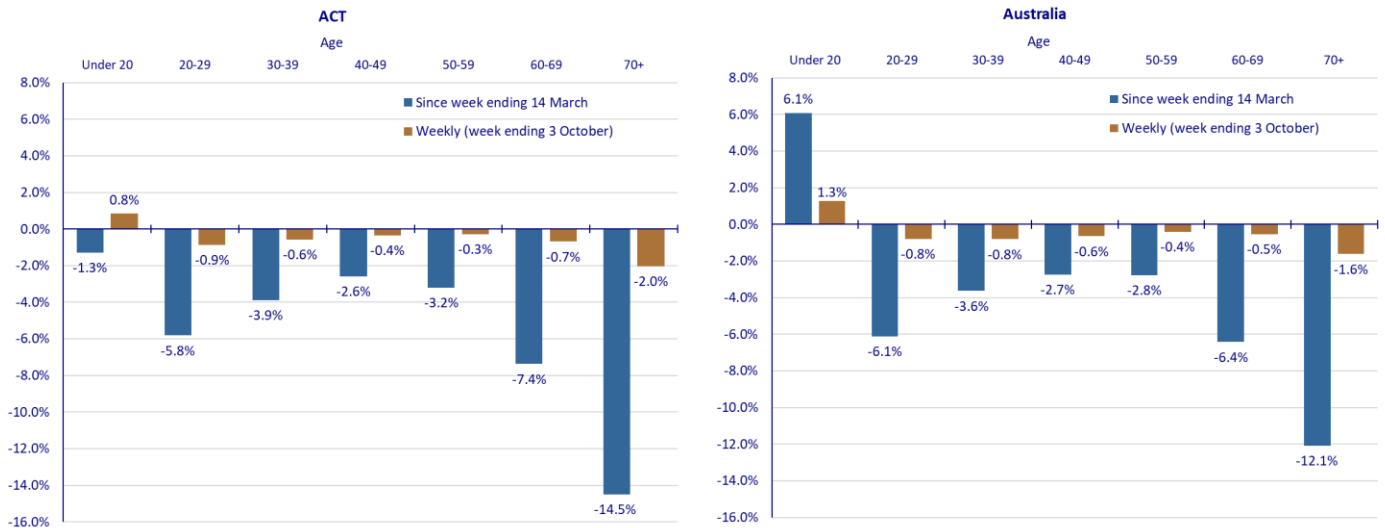
Source: ABS Release: *Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia*;
 *Estimates are indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020

Chart 2: Change in employee jobs, by gender, ACT and Australia



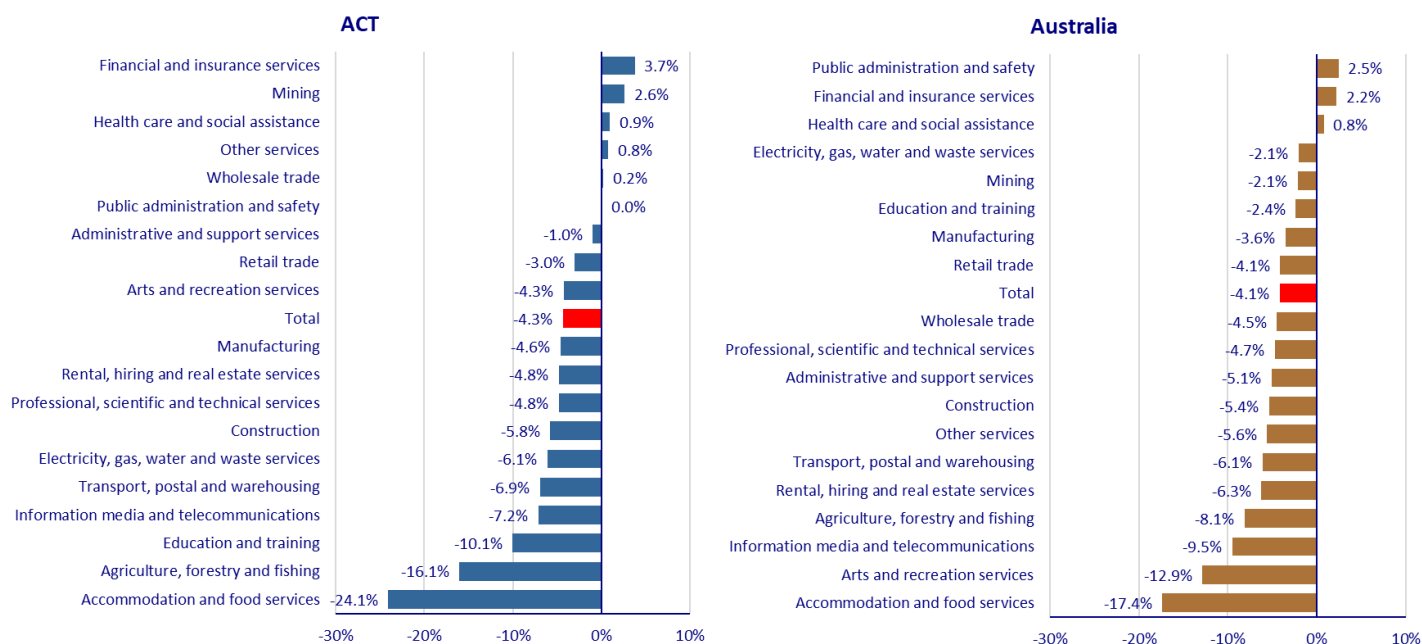
Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Chart 3: Change in employee jobs, by age, ACT and Australia



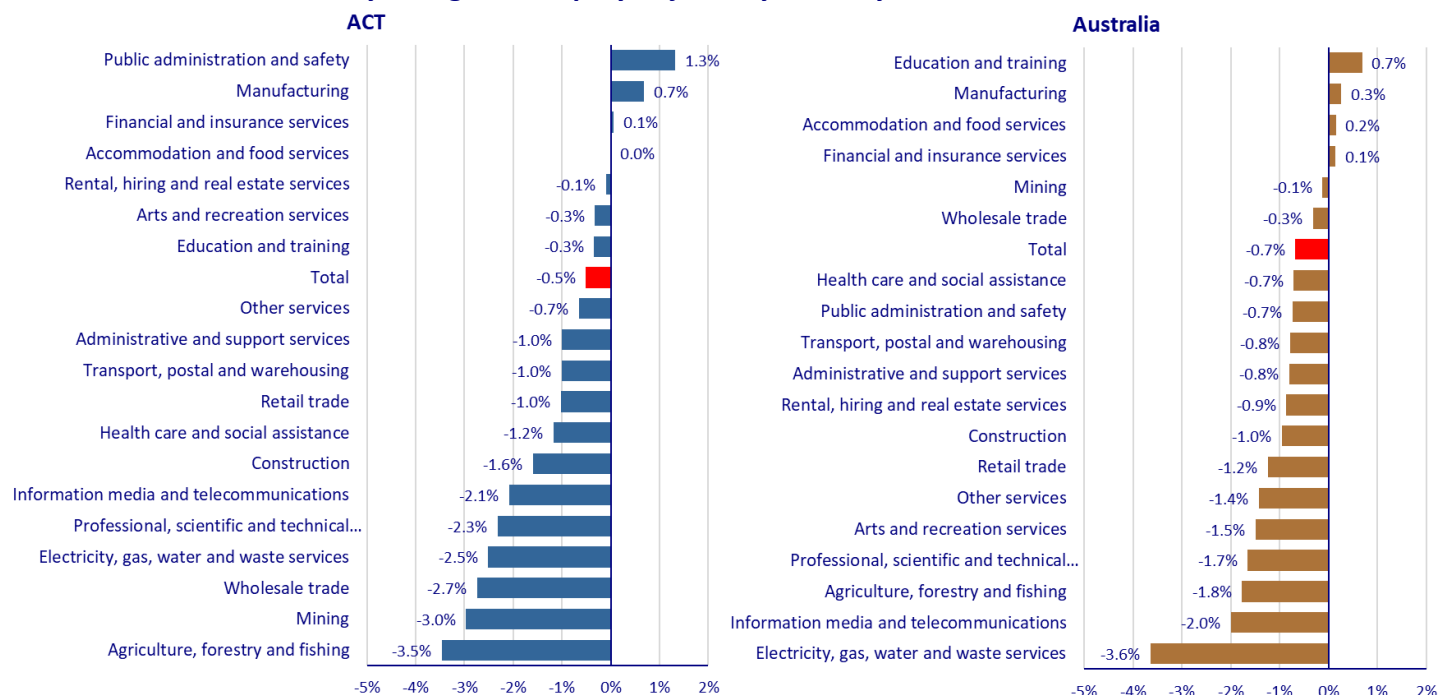
Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Chart 4: Change in employee jobs since week ending 14 March 2020, by industry, ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

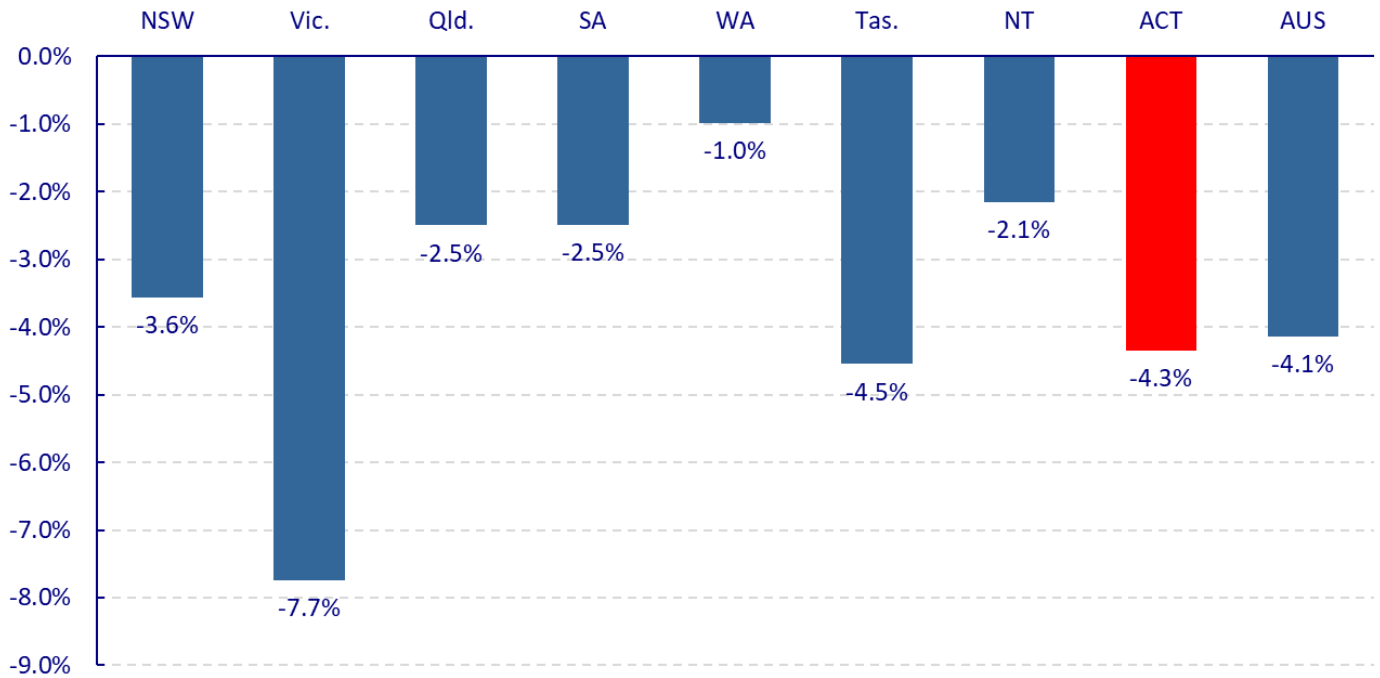
Chart 5: Weekly change¹ in employee jobs, by industry, ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

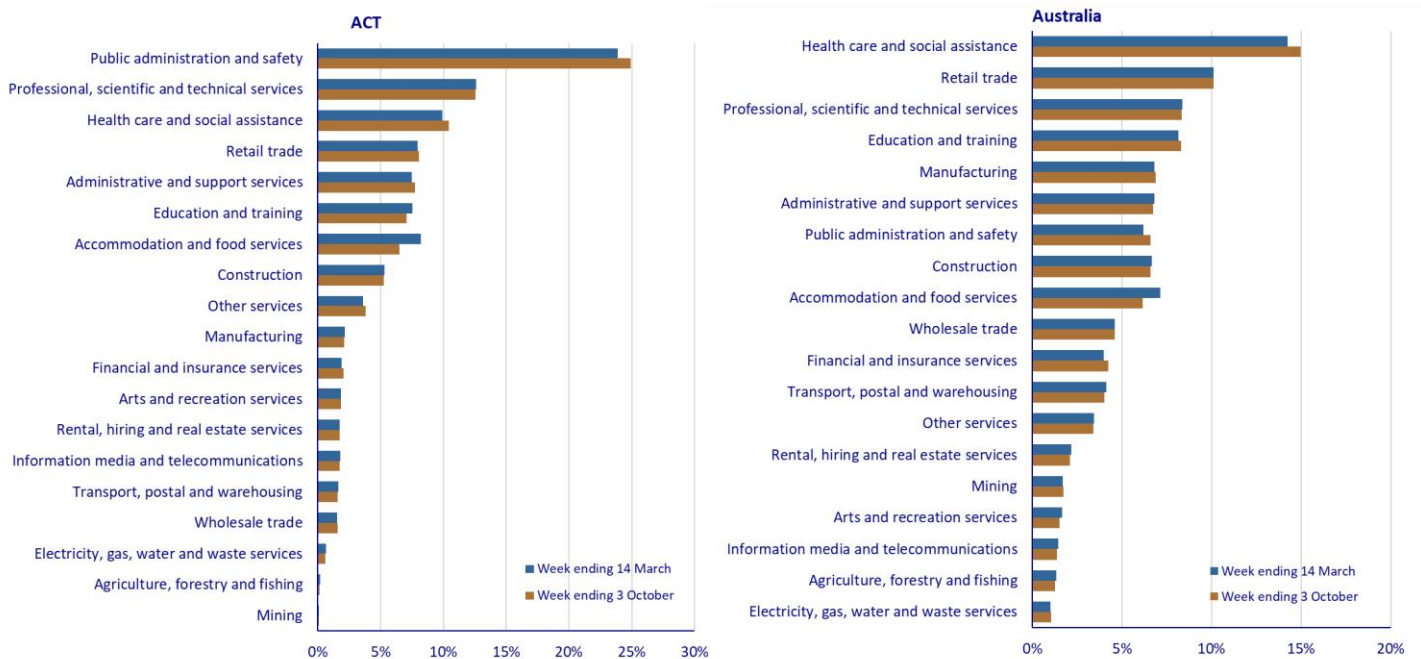
¹ The change between week ending 26 September and week ending 5 October 2020.

Chart 6: Change in employee jobs since week ending 14 March, by jurisdiction



Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Chart 7: Distribution of employee jobs by industry, ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Release: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia