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| Press releaseFor immediate release June 18, 2015 | Michelle Hutchison Head of PR & Money Expert  finder.com.au  +61403 192 994  +61 2 9299 7602  Michelle@finder.com.au |

**Careers in Australia Report: finder.com.au reveals future-proof careers**

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| * 13 out of 18 (72%) industries record growth in employment numbers over last two years * Arts and Recreational Services considered the country’s strongest industry * Mining saw the biggest decline of all industries in Australia * Strongest and weakest industries in each state |

**June 18, 2015, SYDNEY** – One of Australia’s biggest comparison websites, [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/)[[1]](#footnote-1), has today (June 18, 2015) released its inaugural Careers in Australia Report, which highlights the strongest and weakest industries in Australia.

The [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/) analysis of the 18 industries within Australia revealed that Arts and Recreational Services is the strongest industry to work in nationally, with the highest of growth rates over the past two years (20.59 percent). This was followed by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Industry by 10.09 percent and Electricity, Gas, Water, Waste Services which increased by 9.35 percent since February 2013.

Meanwhile, Mining is considered the weakest industry, recording a 17.34 percent drop in the past two years, followed by Wholesale Trade which dropped by 16.68 percent, and Information, Media and Telecommunications which recorded a slight drop of 1 percent.

The Report follows the launch of [finder.com.au’s Online Course Finder](http://www.finder.com.au/online-courses), which compares online courses in Australia.

Michelle Hutchison, Money Expert at [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/), says these findings will help Australians make better informed career choices.

"Understanding the employment landscape is important to almost every Australian. It can help you decide on which career path to take, if your industry is strong or if you should make a career change.

“Since 1984, Australia’s full time workforce has doubled with 5.19 million more workers in 2015. Currently there are 11.76 million workers employed full time in Australia.

"However, the national unemployment rate has also been steadily climbing for the last five years and now sits at 6.1 percent. In comparison, it hovered around 5 percent in 2010. Taking this into account, cementing your place in Australia’s workforce has never been more important."

**Top 5 strongest industries in Australia**

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| **Industry** | **Growth rate** | **Total employed, February 2015** | **Total employed, February 2013** |  |
| 1. Arts and recreation services | 20.59% | 240,703 | 199,602 |  |
| 2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 10.09% | 325,321 | 295,495 |  |
| 3. Electricity, gas, water and waste services | 9.35% | 148,106 | 135,442 |  |
| 4. Professional, scientific and technical services | 8.48% | 987,846 | 910,622 |  |
| 5. Accommodation and food services | 7.50% | 842,394 | 783,613 |  |

Source: [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/), Australian Bureau of Statistics ‘Labour Force’ report, February 2015

While 13 out of 18 (72 percent) of industries saw growth in employment numbers over the past two years, the Careers in Australia Reportalso found that the industries with the highest numbers of workers are not necessarily the strongest, nor the weakest.

The [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/) Report includes an Australian Careers Index, which shows that the highest growth industry since 1984 is Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, which holds 383 points as at February 2015. It was followed by Arts and Recreational Services with 341 points, and Administrative and Support Services on 334 points.

The Index also showed that three industries saw a decline in the number of employees since 1984:

* Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing fell by 21 points to 79
* Manufacturing is on 84 points
* And Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services is on 97 points.

While currently ranked the country’s sixth highest growth industry, increasing by 5.91% from February 2015, Health Care and Social Assistance was highlighted as the industry with the highest number of employees in Australia, with over 1.46 million workers as at February 2015.

**Top 5 industries by highest number of full time employees in Australia**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Industry** | **Total employed, February 2015** |  |
| 1. Health care and social assistance | 1,460,281 |  |
| 2. Retail trade | 1,232,590 |  |
| 3. Construction | 1,021,686 |  |
| 4. Professional, scientific and technical services | 987,846 |  |
| 5. Manufacturing | 922,447 |  |

Source: [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/), Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force report, February 2015

“With the cost of university degrees in Australia setting you back anywhere from $12,000 to $50,000, making the wrong career decision can be a costly mistake.

“Our analysis shows the incredible change within different industries across Australia over the past 31 years, and the past two years in particular. These valuable insights can assist Australians as they consider their options in the Australian workforce to try and ‘future-proof’ their careers,” said Mrs Hutchison.

**State by state analysis**

**New South Wales**

* The Construction industry was the biggest employer, with 268,535 people working full time in construction as at February 2015, closely followed by Health Care and Social Assistance, with 262,193 people, and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services with 256,568.
* Arts and Recreational Services had the fewest number of people employed full time, with 33,750, followed by Mining with 34,445 and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services with 40.247
* Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services was the strongest industry, with 23.24% growth over the past two years, despite being the third-lowest industry by number of employees; this was followed by Construction with a 15.43% increase in employee growth and Education and Training with 13.69% growth
* Wholesale Trade was the weakest industry, with a 22.7% decline over the past two years, followed by Arts and Recreation Services which dropped 16.68% and Mining which declined by 12.91%.

**Victoria**

* Manufacturing was the biggest employer, with 242,707 full-time workers employed in the state, followed by Construction with 212,114 employees and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services with 208,909 people employed as at February 2015.
* The smallest industry was Mining, with just 9,608 employees across the state, followed by Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services, despite employing over three time more people than Mining, at 32,554 employees, and Arts and Recreation Services with 32,816 people employed.
* Administrative and Support Services was the strongest growth industry, with a 38.93% increase, followed by Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services with 13.59% growth and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing increasing by 12.39%.
* Mining was the weakest industry, declining by 30.52% over the past two years, followed by the Wholesale Trade industry which plummeted by 17.94% and Financial and Insurance Services which fell by 6.25%

**Queensland**

* The Construction industry employs more people than any other industry in the state, with 191,085 full time employees, followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (166,315) and Manufacturing (148,083).
* The smallest industry is Arts and Recreation Services with 23,020 people employed, followed by Information Media and Telecommunications with 23,497 employees and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services, which employs 31,021 people.
* Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services saw the biggest growth, increasing by 30.88% over the past two years, followed by Arts and Recreation Services with a 25.58% increase, and Information Media and Telecommunications with a 22.47% growth.
* Mining was the weakest industry, with a 17.94% decline in the number of employees, followed by the Wholesale Trade industry which dropped by 11.24% and Financial and Insurance Services which dropped by 10.97%.

**South Australia**

* Health Care and Social Assistance was the biggest full time employer, with 65,146 people employed in this industry, followed by Manufacturing with 58,932 employees and Construction which employs 50,204 people in SA.
* The smallest industry was Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services with just 7,825 people employed, followed by Arts and Recreation Services which employs 8,075 people, and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services which has 9,351 people employed in this industry.
* Arts and Recreation Services was the strongest industry by growth over the past two years in the state, growing by a staggering 92.45% over the past two years to February 2015. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing was the second-strongest industry, experiencing a 51.74% increase , and Transport, Postal and Warehousing which had 15.8% growth.
* The weakest industry was Wholesale Trade, which fell by 49.56 percent, followed by . It fell from 26,552 jobs in February 2013 to 13,394 employees in February 2015, followed by Administrative and Support Services with a 19.74 percent decline, and Media and Telecommunications, which saw a 14.28 percent drop in the past two years.

**Western Australia**

* Construction had the biggest number of full time employees (117,685), followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Services with 95,533 employees and Mining, with 89,579 people employed.
* Information, Media and Telecommunications was the smallest industry by number of employed people, with just 9,091. This was followed by Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services with 12,325 people employed, and Arts and Recreation Services with 15,241 employees.
* Accommodation and Food Services was the strongest industry, with a 43.05% growth rate for the past two years to February 2015. This was followed by Arts and Recreation Services which grew by 38.94% and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services, which saw a 20.76 percent increase in employed people.
* The Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services industry saw the greatest decline (44.72%) over the past two years, followed by Mining which dropped by 20.83% and Information, Media and Telecommunications which saw a 17.90 percent decline in employment over the past two years.

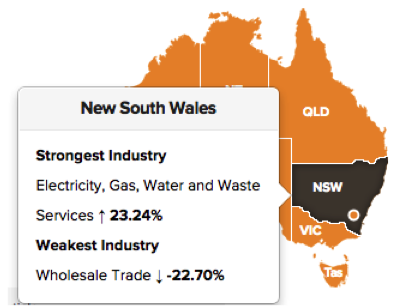
**Tasmania**

* Health Care and Social Assistance was the biggest industry with 15,993 employees in February 2015, followed by Manufacturing which employed 15,767 people, and the Construction industry with 14,842 people employed.
* The smallest industry was Mining, with just 2,294 people employe, followed by Information, Media and Telecommunications with 2,690 employees, and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services with 2,791 employees.
* Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services was the strongest industry with a 70.04% increase in employees over the past two years to February 2015. This was followed by Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing with a 49.25% jump in employees, and Arts and Recreation Services (24.48%).
* The weakest industry was Mining, declining by 56.3% in the past two years to February 2015, followed by Financial and Insurance Services with a drop of 28.33% and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, which dropped by 9.5%,

**Northern Territory**

* The Public Administration and Safety industry employs more people than any other industry in the state, with 20,421 people employed in this industry in February 2015. This was followed by Construction with 14,169 employees, and Health Care and Social Assistance with 13,391 people employed.
* The smallest industry Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, with just 869 people in the state. Information, Media and Telecommunications is the second-smallest industry with 1,092 employees, followed by Financial and Insurance Services (1,592).
* Public Administration and Safety was the strongest industry with 42.70% growth in the past two years to February 2015, followed by Mining which grew by 27.23% and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (23.68%).
* The weakest industry was Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, with a 40.35% decline in employees over the past two years to February 2015, followed by Information, Media and Telecommunications, which saw a 29.29% drop and Arts and Recreation Services followed which had a 21.28% drop.

The full Careers in Australia Report including tables and images, is [available here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3jtcbd2e31ytcx1/15.06.18%20finder.com.au%20Careers%20Insights%20Australia%20Report%202015.pdf?dl=0).



To embed this interactive map of Australia, copy and paste this code:

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<li id="wa"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Accommodation and Food Services <strong>&uarr; 43.05%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services <strong>&darr; -44.72%</strong>" data-original-title="Western Australia" data-delay="0">WA</a></li>

<li id="nt"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Public Administration and Safety <strong>&uarr; 42.70%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing <strong>&darr; -40.35%</strong>" data-original-title="Northern Territory" data-delay="0">NT</a></li>

<li id="sa"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Arts and Recreation Services

<strong>&uarr; 92.45%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Wholesale Trade <strong>&darr; -49.56%</strong>" data-original-title="South Australia" data-delay="0">SA</a></li>

<li id="tas"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services <strong>&uarr; 70.04%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Mining <strong>&darr; -56.34%</strong>">Tas</a></li>

<li id="qld"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services <strong>&uarr; 30.88%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Mining <strong>&darr; -17.94%</strong>" data-original-title="Queensland" data-delay="0">QLD</a></li>

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Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services <strong>&uarr; 23.24%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Wholesale Trade <strong>&darr; -22.70%</strong>" data-original-title="New South Wales" data-delay="0">NSW</a></li>

<li id="vic"><a rel="popover" data-content="<strong>Strongest Industry</strong>

Administrative and Support Services <strong>&uarr; 38.92%</strong>

<strong>Weakest Industry</strong>

Mining <strong>&darr; -30.52%</strong>" data-original-title="Victoria" data-delay="0">VIC</a></li>

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1. Experian Hitwise since 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)