

# JOB REPORT

## OCTOBER

Mini Report | Issue date: 15 November 2025

Job market booms,  
but still under pressure



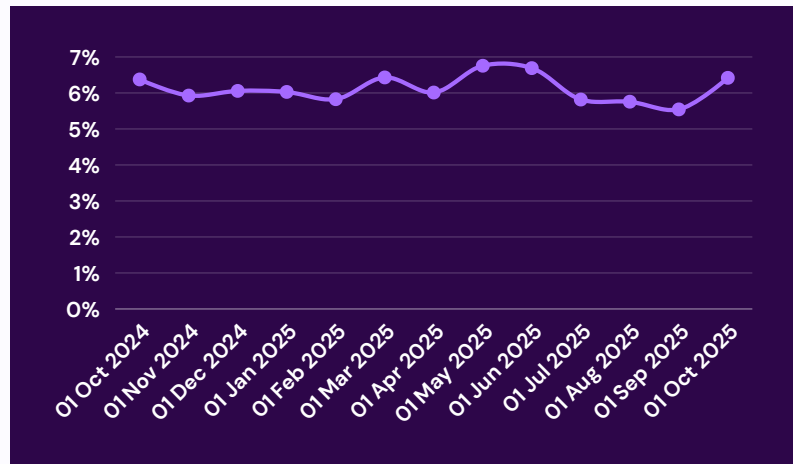
# FINDINGS



## Employment Growth

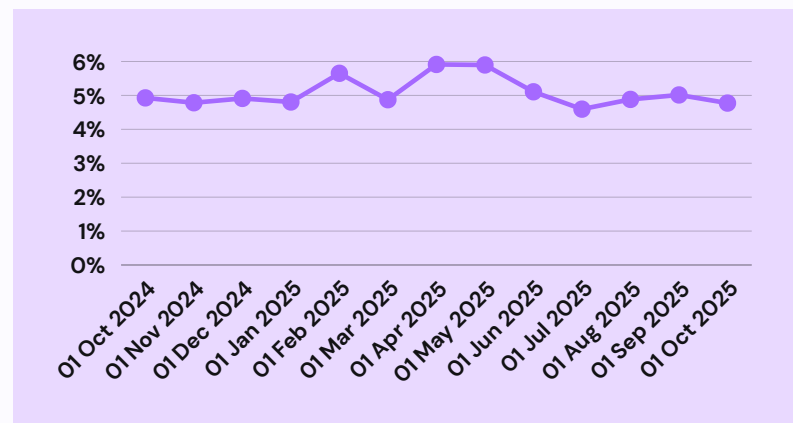
**Jobs surge is back, especially in engineering and the east-west corridor**

- **Employment up 6.4% YoY and 1.6% MoM:** Showcasing a strong signal that SMBs are hiring again and planning for growth.
- **Engineering leads the way**, with jobs up **20.4% YoY**, followed by **Construction (+8.2%)** and **Retail & Hospitality (+7.3%)** as businesses gear up for holiday season.
- **WA (+7.1%) and QLD (+5.8%)** record the strongest state hiring growth nationwide, underscoring the strength of resources, infrastructure and tourism in these regions.
- **Science & Tech hiring is softening**, with declines in Brisbane (-6.0% YoY), Adelaide (-3.6% YoY) and Perth (-0.4% YoY), pointing to a short-term lull in tech roles even as AI adoption accelerates.



## Wages continue to rise

- The median wage reached **\$45.20 per hour in October**, with wages up **4.8% year-on-year** and **0.3% month-on-month**.
- **Consulting & Strategy** recorded the strongest wage growth at **+9.2% YoY**, followed by **Engineering (+7.5% YoY)**, reflecting intense competition for specialised skills.
- **Mid-career workers (25–34)** saw the biggest gains of any age group, with wages up 6.7% YoY – a critical cohort for long-term productivity and leadership pipelines.
- With inflation at **3.2%**, many employers are stretching to keep wage growth ahead of rising living costs, but it's getting harder to fully shield staff from financial pressure.



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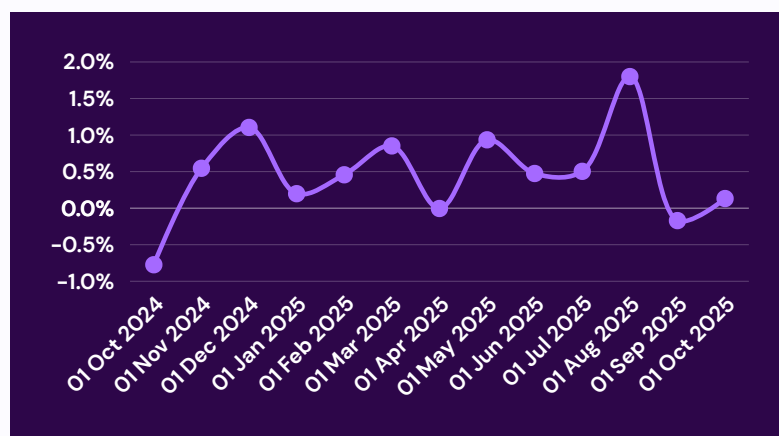
## More people in jobs, fewer hours on the clock

Despite strong hiring, **average hours worked fell 1.0% MoM**, continuing a trend that has persisted through most of 2025.

The drop in hours is **broad-based**, affecting casual, part-time and full-time workers, a warning sign for both productivity and job security.

**Casual employment is up 9.5% YoY**, signalling a structural shift toward more flexible work, while **full-time employment still grew 3.7% YoY**, showing businesses are maintaining core teams but flexing hours at the margins.

For many Australians, this means **more roles but fewer hours per job**, and greater reliance on multiple jobs to make ends meet.



# At-a-Glance Graphics

October's data shows a job market that's roaring back to life after a sluggish few months, but with a red flag: while more Australians are finding work, they're working fewer hours on average. This mini report pulls out the key trends from SMBs across Australia.

