

Transport, Logistics & Supply Chain Job Index

REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

- ⚙️ **The Labourforce / Impex TL&SC Job Index rose an impressive 5.4% from 131.49 to 138.65 in July.**
- ⚙️ **The permanent market experienced its healthiest growth in some time, expanding by 7.1%.**
- ⚙️ **In July NSW enjoyed its best month. It saw near double digit growth.**
- ⚙️ **Western Australia is yet to see any improvement in the TL&SC job market. Demand has contracted 9.9% in the last six months.**
- ⚙️ **The VIC/TAS Index set a new record high of 181.42. It has seen jobs' growth of 13.8% year on year.**
- ⚙️ **All occupations, except TL&SC Clerical, saw solid improvement in July.**
- ⚙️ **Demand for Storepersons and Freight Handlers always revs up in the second half. This year was no exception. The rise in July was 9.8%.**
- ⚙️ **Manufacturing has defied the odds and seen strong jobs growth for both the month and quarter.**
- ⚙️ **The big bounce in Retail and Wholesale was more predictable, assisted by the Amazon factor.**

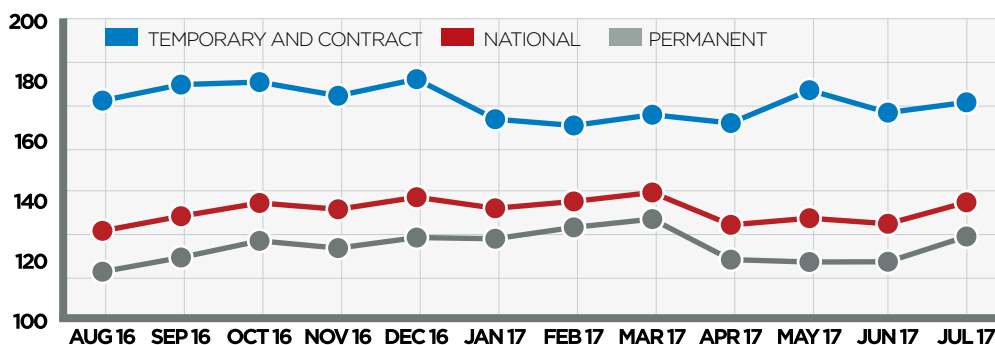
Job market off to a flyer in the new financial year

The TL&SC employment market enjoyed a strong pick up in the new financial year, generating a 5.4% increase in job opportunities in July.

The Labourforce/Impex Transport Logistics and Supply Chain Job Index rose from 131.49 to 138.65. This is only slightly behind the peak level seen in March. July's growth reversed the slight contraction in vacancies in June, however the Index is still only 1.5% higher than six months ago. Historically the second half of the year sees improved hiring conditions and we expect the Index to rise in the months ahead.

The permanent market experienced its most impressive growth in some time, expanding by 7.1%. This reverses most of the decline seen in April, but remains shy of the March peak. This month's growth can be put down to fresh budgets finally freeing up corporate purse strings. It is not clear if this is a one off or whether the TL&SC market has regained momentum. Temporary and Contract job opportunities were also up but by only 2%. This is far more subdued than this time last year but hiring should pick up as we approach the seasonal peak.

CHART 1 NATIONAL INDEX AND JOB TYPE ANALYSIS



All roads lead East as Victoria hits record high

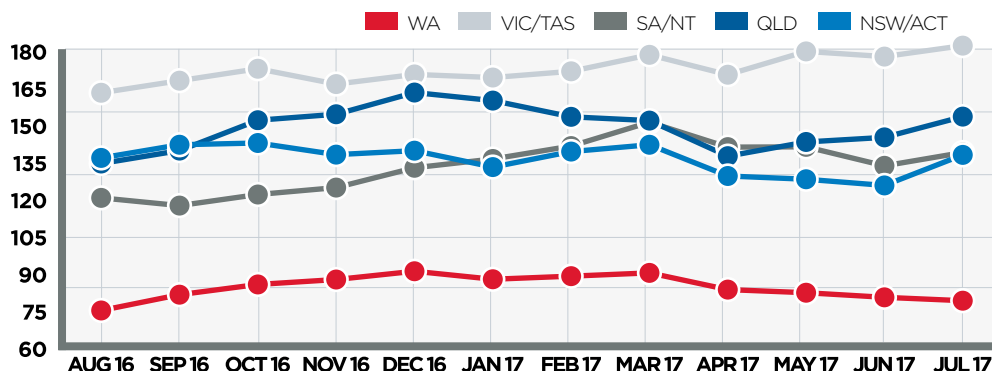
In July NSW enjoyed its best month for some time. It saw near double digit growth taking the Index back up to 137.70, close to the March (year to date) high. This was still some way short of the record established last October of 142.10.

Queensland's resurgence has been more consistent with a 5.8% growth in July contributing to an 11.7% rise in the last quarter. This is somewhat flattering as the market was particularly weak in April because of Easter. It has actually yet to see real growth in job opportunities in 2017.

There is no such ambiguity in Western Australia where some improvement in the Mining and Resources sector is yet to generate any improvement in the TL&SC job market. Year on year growth is just 4.7%. Worse still demand has contracted 9.9% in the last six months making it a very tough for job seekers.

The best advice may be to "head East", to Victoria to be precise where demand rose a further 2.5% in July taking the Index to a new record high of 181.42. VIC/TAS is well ahead of all other regions and has seen jobs growth of 13.8% year on year.

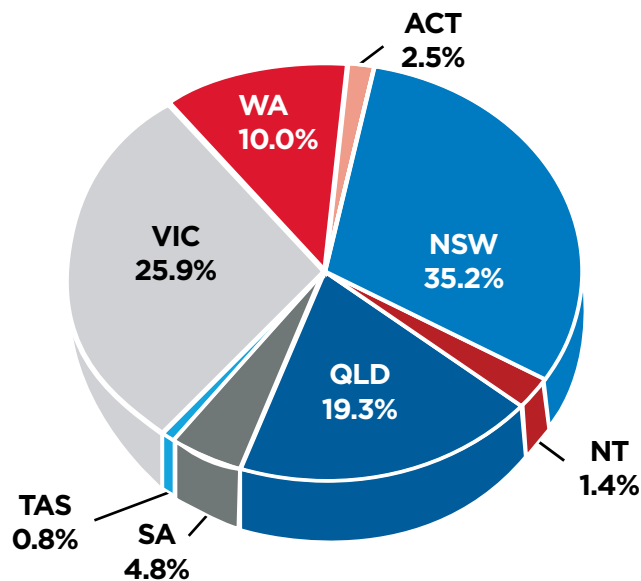
CHART 2 COMPARISON OF STATE JOB INDICES



AUGUST 2017

CHART 3
ANALYSIS OF JOB
ADVERTISEMENTS BY
STATE AND TERRITORY
JULY 2017

This pie chart of market share also supports any long-suffering job seekers in WA looking to the Eastern states for better job prospects. NSW has, at 35.2% the largest share and Victoria is the fastest growing.



OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS

Clerical only weak point in solid growth. Second half hiring frenzy likely

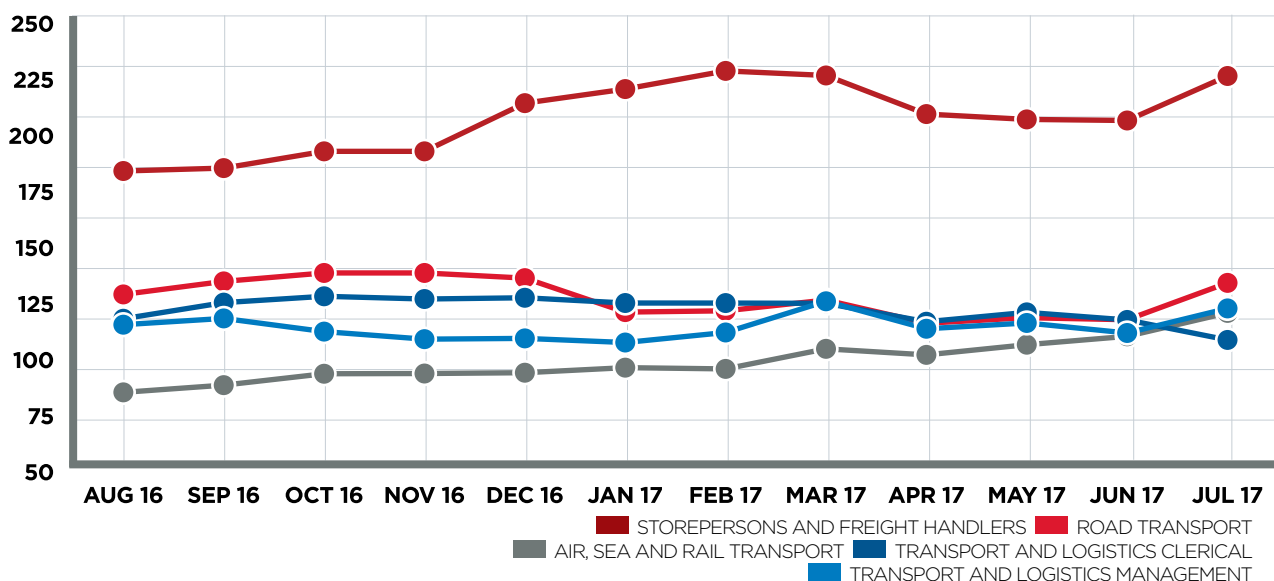
All occupations, except TL&SC Clerical saw solid improvement in July. Clearly additional clerical jobs are not what were budgeted for the new financial year. These fell by a further 7.8%. It is also the only occupation to report negative growth over 12 months – down 9.1%.

Ironically TL&SC Management were more fortunate with demand for senior staff rising 10.1% in July. This is a rare feat as the market has fluctuated through much of 2017. The new level of 119.56 is still marginally below levels seen a year ago (down

4.3% year on year) but this month's growth certainly gives rise to cautious optimism after a very subdued prior quarter.

The other big winner in July was Storepersons and Freight Handlers. At this time of year demand revs up and this year was no exception. The rise in July was 9.8%. As has been the norm, now observed for several years, the market remain subdued for the first half of the year then swings into action for the second half and the hiring frenzy should, if history is to repeat itself, last for the rest of 2017.

CHART 4 ANALYSIS OF JOB ADVERTISEMENTS BY SPECIALIST OCCUPATION



INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Manufacturing defies the odds and the Aussie dollar

Yet again Manufacturing has defied the odds and seen strong jobs growth for both the month and quarter. The Index set another new record of 184.16. It has now surpassed Transport and Logistics and only Public Administration has seen stronger growth. This is an amazing performance given the structural challenges and high A\$ it currently faces.

The big bounce in Retail and Wholesale was more predictable. The sectors have been unusually weak for much of 2017, held back we believe by the fresh entrants in the clothing and food space but we expect hiring to intensify as the year progresses. This year seems particularly large and early. This could also be

the "Amazon factor" whereby retailers have been cautious in fear of its arrival and held off hiring but now Amazon have started to hire the overall market has also responded positively.

Transport and Logistics employers were missing in action in July. Given the otherwise positive growth across most industries the 2.5% drop in job offerings was surprising and disappointing. The longer-term trend is still very positive with 10.9% growth since July last year and we expect that demand will continue to rise in the second half of 2017.

The graph provides a breakdown of the proportions of each major industrial sector.

CHART 5 ANALYSIS OF JOB ADVERTISEMENTS BY INDUSTRY

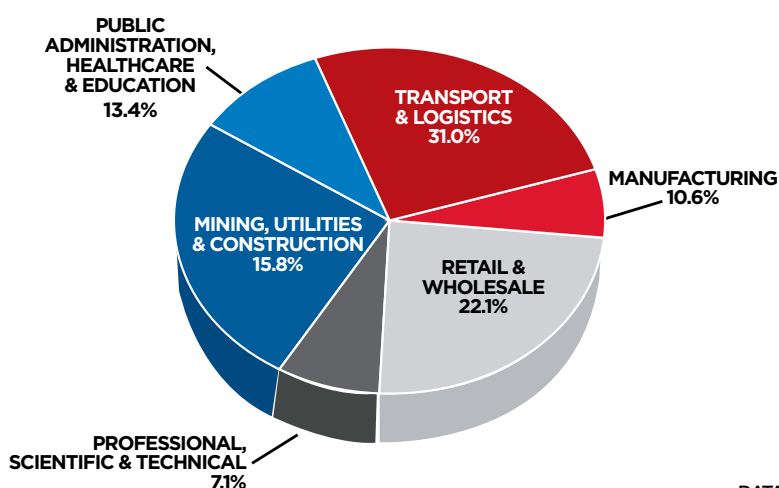
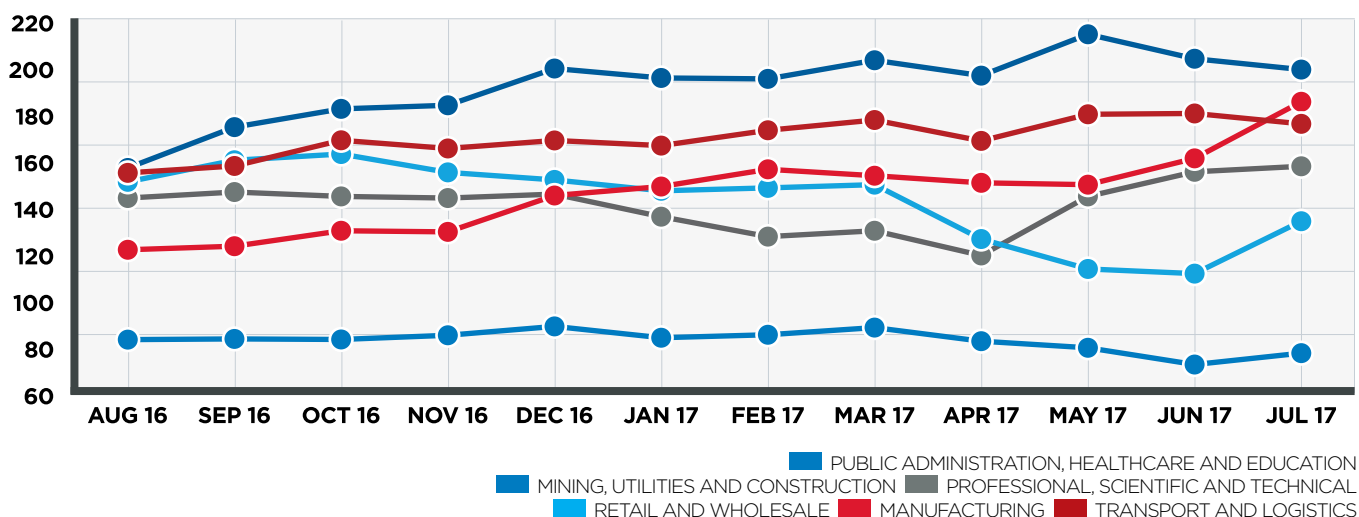


CHART 6 THE PROPORTION OF JOB ADVERTISEMENTS BY INDUSTRY JULY 2017

Retail and Wholesale represent nearly a quarter of all TL&SC job opportunities so the big pick-up in demand in July will resonate across the market and dilute the impact of the surprising fall in hiring by Transport and Logistics employers.

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