

Introduction

This publication presents early estimates of apprentice and trainee commencements for the December quarter 2012. Indicative information about this quarter is presented here; the most recent figures are estimated, taking into account reporting lags that occur at the time of data collection.

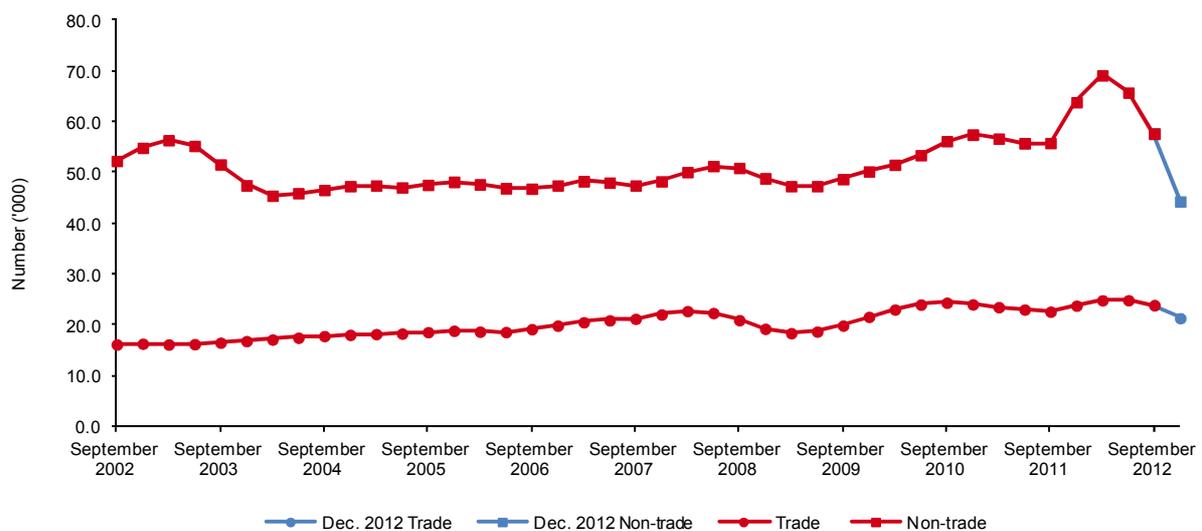
The early trend estimates are derived from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection no.74, December 2012. Data are only available for commencements at the national level and have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed. Further information at the disaggregated level for the December quarter 2012 will be released in early June 2013.

Highlights

The early trend estimates of trade and non-trade commencements for the December quarter 2012 and the preceding few quarters remain volatile due to changes in Commonwealth incentive payments for existing workers, which came into effect on 1 July 2012.

- The growth in trade commencements after September 2011 has been followed by a period of decline from June 2012.
- After March 2012, non-trade commencements declined steeply, ending the rapid growth in the two preceding quarters.

Figure 1 Trade and non-trade commencements, seasonally adjusted and smoothed, September 2002 – December 2012



Data for this publication are compiled under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS) for the Apprentice and Trainee Collection Specifications, Release 6.0, March 2008. Information on AVETMISS is available from <http://www.ncver.edu.au/avetmiss/21061.html>.

For terms used in this publication, refer to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2600.html>. For further details on the estimates methodology, refer to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2267.html>.

Table 1 Trade and non-trade commencements, seasonally adjusted and smoothed, September 2002 – December 2012 ('000)

	Trade	Non-trade	Total
September 2002	16.2	52.3	68.5
December 2002	16.3	54.9	71.1
March 2003	16.2	56.4	72.4
June 2003	16.3	55.3	71.6
September 2003	16.6	51.6	68.5
December 2003	16.9	47.5	64.6
March 2004	17.2	45.5	62.7
June 2004	17.5	46.0	63.5
September 2004	17.9	46.6	64.4
December 2004	18.1	47.4	65.5
March 2005	18.2	47.5	65.9
June 2005	18.4	47.1	65.6
September 2005	18.6	47.6	66.3
December 2005	18.9	48.2	67.0
March 2006	18.7	47.7	66.3
June 2006	18.6	47.0	65.5
September 2006	19.2	46.9	66.1
December 2006	19.9	47.5	67.5
March 2007	20.6	48.4	68.9
June 2007	21.0	48.1	68.9
September 2007	21.2	47.5	68.6
December 2007	22.1	48.3	70.4
March 2008	22.8	50.1	73.0
June 2008	22.4	51.3	73.8
September 2008	21.0	50.9	71.9
December 2008	19.3	48.9	68.1
March 2009	18.4	47.4	65.8
June 2009	18.7	47.4	66.2
September 2009	19.9	48.8	68.7
December 2009	21.6	50.3	72.0
March 2010	23.1	51.6	74.8
June 2010	24.1	53.5	77.7
September 2010	24.4	56.2	80.4
December 2010	24.1	57.5	81.2
March 2011	23.5	56.7	80.1
June 2011	23.1	55.8	79.1
September 2011	22.7	55.9	78.2
December 2011	23.8	63.9	87.4
March 2012	24.9	69.2	94.4
June 2012	24.9	65.8	91.8
September 2012	23.9	57.7	82.6
December 2012	21.4	44.4	67.3

Notes:

- (a) The December quarter 2012 estimate is based on an early estimate which is seasonally adjusted (based on data from September 2002 to December 2012) and 7-point Henderson smoothed. Only the December quarter 2012 estimate from this series is presented. The quarterly data presented to September 2012 have been seasonally adjusted (based on data from September 2002 to September 2012) and 7-point Henderson smoothed. These are consistent with the forthcoming September quarterly 2012 publication.
- (b) The substantial growth in non-trade commencements leading up to the June quarter 2012 and the subsequent decline is predominately due to changes to Commonwealth incentive payments for existing workers, chiefly the removal of the commencement incentive payment for those apprenticeships and traineeships not on the National Skills Needs List (NSNL). Under the changes, training needed to have commenced prior to 1 July 2012 to attract the old subsidy rate. Trade and non-trade commencements remain volatile as client and employer behaviour transitions in response to the new rules. The volatility makes it difficult to get a 'firm' estimate of trend in this period. As a consequence of this, it is possible that the trend estimates for the most recent quarters will undergo substantial revision over the next one or two quarters.

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