

2013

SEPTEMBER
QUARTER

APPRENTICES & TRAINEES

Early trend estimates

Introduction

This publication presents early estimates of apprentice and trainee commencements for the September quarter 2013. 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.

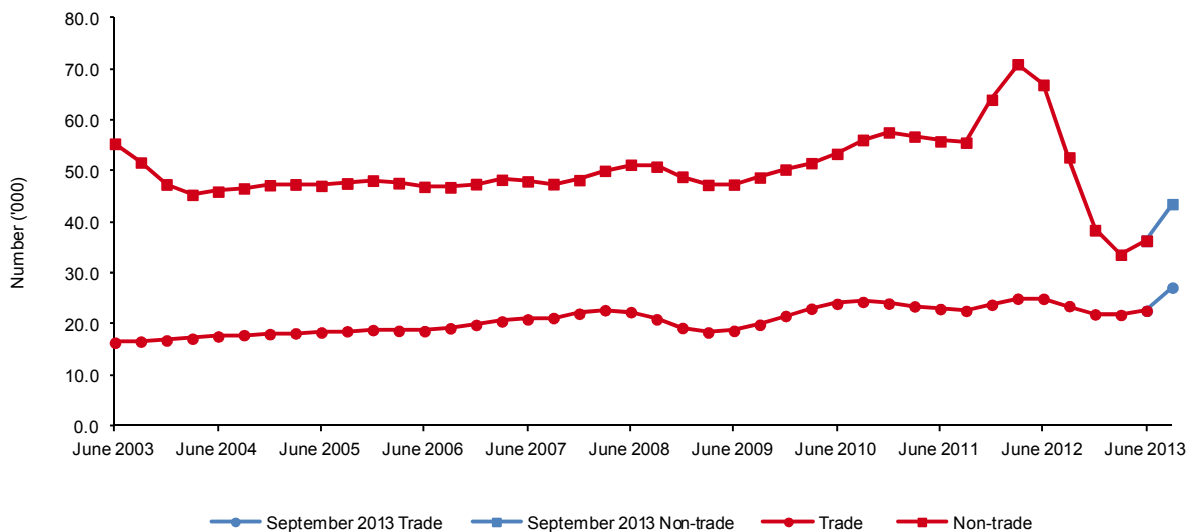
The early trend estimates are derived from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection no.77, September 2013. Data are only available for commencements at the national level and have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed. Further information at the disaggregated level for the September quarter 2013 will be released in early March 2014.

Highlights

Early indications for the September 2013 quarter show that:

- Trade commencements increased from 22 700 in the June quarter to a new high of 27 200 in the September quarter.
- Non-trade commencements have increased in the last two quarters, from 33 700 in the March quarter to 43 600 in the September quarter. This follows a period of decline in the preceding four quarters (refer to the technical note for more information).

Figure 1 Trade and non-trade commencements, seasonally adjusted and smoothed, June 2003 – September 2013



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/2693.html>. For further details on the estimates methodology, refer to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2267.html>.

Australian vocational
education and
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Table 1 Trade and non-trade commencements, seasonally adjusted and smoothed, June 2003 – September 2013 ('000)

	Trade	Non-trade	Total
June 2003	16.4	55.4	72.0
September 2003	16.6	51.7	68.7
December 2003	16.8	47.5	64.5
March 2004	17.2	45.4	62.5
June 2004	17.6	46.0	63.7
September 2004	17.9	46.7	64.5
December 2004	18.1	47.3	65.4
March 2005	18.2	47.4	65.8
June 2005	18.4	47.2	65.7
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	18.7	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	68.7
December 2007	22.1	48.3	70.4
March 2008	22.8	50.1	72.9
June 2008	22.4	51.3	73.8
September 2008	21.0	51.0	72.0
December 2008	19.3	49.0	68.2
March 2009	18.4	47.4	65.7
June 2009	18.7	47.4	66.2
September 2009	19.9	48.8	69.0
December 2009	21.6	50.4	72.2
March 2010	23.1	51.6	74.6
June 2010	24.0	53.5	77.6
September 2010	24.4	56.2	80.9
December 2010	24.1	57.7	81.7
March 2011	23.5	56.8	80.0
June 2011	23.0	55.9	79.0
September 2011	22.6	55.7	78.7
December 2011	23.8	64.1	88.1
March 2012	25.0	71.0	95.7
June 2012	25.0	67.0	91.7
September 2012	23.6	52.7	76.7
December 2012	22.0	38.5	61.0
March 2013	21.8	33.7	55.6
June 2013	22.7	36.4	58.7
September 2013	27.2	43.6	71.4

Notes:

- (a) The September quarter 2013 estimate is based on an early estimate which is seasonally adjusted (based on data from June 2003 to September 2013) and 7-point Henderson smoothed. Only the September quarter 2013 estimate from this series is presented. The quarterly data presented to June 2013 have been seasonally adjusted (based on data from June 2003 to June 2013) and 7-point Henderson smoothed. These are consistent with the forthcoming June quarterly 2013 publication.
- (b) The substantial growth in non-trade commencements leading up to the June quarter 2012 and the subsequent decline is predominantly due to changes to Commonwealth incentive payments for existing workers, namely 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.
- (c) The trend line smooths out fluctuations in the data and can be slow to adapt to changes in the series. See the technical note for more information on the relationship between the smoothed seasonally adjusted time series and the underlying raw estimates.

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Technical note

Early trend estimates are a smoothed seasonally adjusted time series and can be slow to adjust to dramatic changes in the underlying raw estimates.

Following the announcement of changes to Commonwealth incentive payments, namely the removal of the commencement incentive payment for those apprenticeships and traineeships not on the National Skills Needs List (NSNL) from 1 July 2012, raw estimates of non-trade commencements increased substantially in the June quarter 2012 and fell immediately after to a low in the September quarter 2012. Non-trade (raw estimate) commencements have increased in the last four quarters. By contrast, the smoothed series shows a more gradual decline in the number of commencements following the change to incentive payments, with an upturn only in the last two quarters.

Trade commencements are not affected to the same extent, with the smoothed trend and raw estimates showing a relatively stable combination of level and variation over the period.

Figure 2 presents the smoothed seasonally adjusted time series and the underlying raw estimates used to produce the time series for both trade and non-trade commencements.

Figure 2 Trade and non-trade commencements, smoothed seasonally adjusted and raw estimates, June 2003 – September 2013

