

Date: 18 January 2017

Jobs

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It is election time, and at every election time, the mantra from the major parties is “Jobs, Jobs, Jobs”. They wish to convince us which is best positioned and who has the best policies to provide the jobs of the future etc.

It is instructive for all policy makers to view the change in the type of jobs over time, and I have endeavoured every quarter in the Statistics Pack to provide a pictorial time series showing the fluctuating fortunes of different sectors of the economy over a 5 year and a 10 year period. Instructive because not only have new jobs been created, but jobs have also disappeared.

My data source for doing so is the ABS cat No. 6291.0.55.003, which provides quarterly data on employment by sector. The difficulty with the data is that it fluctuates quite widely, and in order to iron out the creases, I present the data as the average for the year ending on that particular date. So a figure for Nov 2017 would be the average for the 4 quarters ending November 2017.

With that caveat in mind, I present here the number of total jobs created and lost in tabular form below, and on the accompanying pages a graphical representation of the “winners and losers” by industry sector over a shorter 5 year period and a longer 10 year period, up to the year ending May 2017, August 2017 and November 2017.

There are still some significant variations, which come through each quarter, although I believe the general message comes through quite clearly.

First the table, showing the gross figures for jobs gained and lost:

Period end	The previous 5 years			The previous 10 years		
	Gain	Loss	Nett Gain	Gain	Loss	Nett Gain
May '17	9259	4596	4663	23478	6674	16804
Aug '17	11617	4172	7145	24481	6661	17820
Nov '17	16293	6011	10237	26327	8865	17462

As one can see, the emphasis on job creation success can differ with each quarter due to the statistical variations. As at November 2017, net job creation was 10,237 over the preceding 5 years, and 17,462 over the preceding 10 years.

The figures as presented here do not show the percentage of work that is full time against part-time by sector, although there is a continuing trend towards part-time work (see graph in the pack).

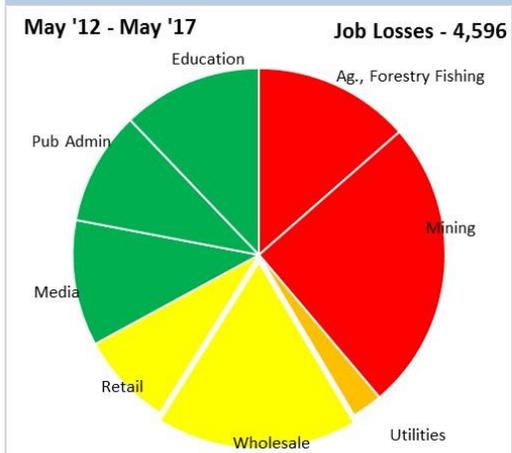
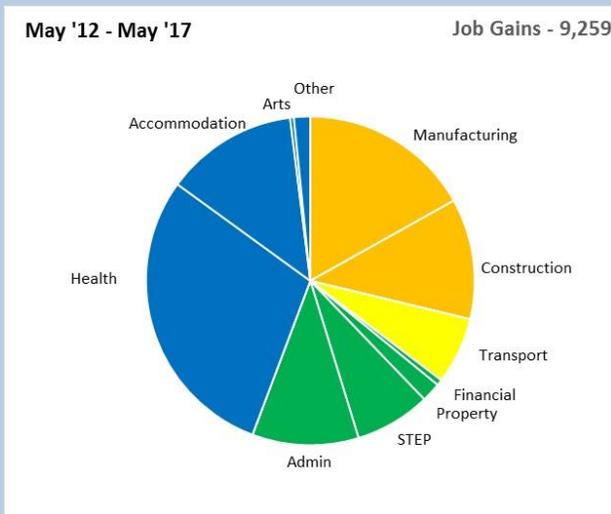
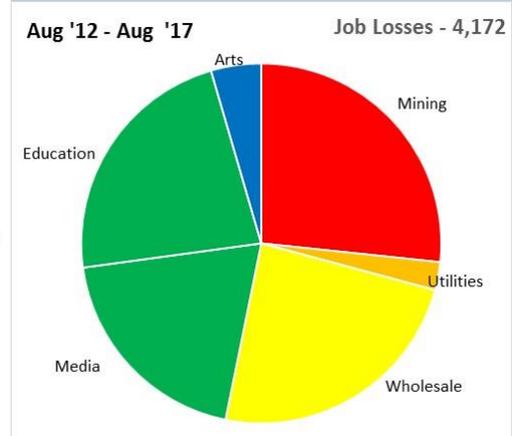
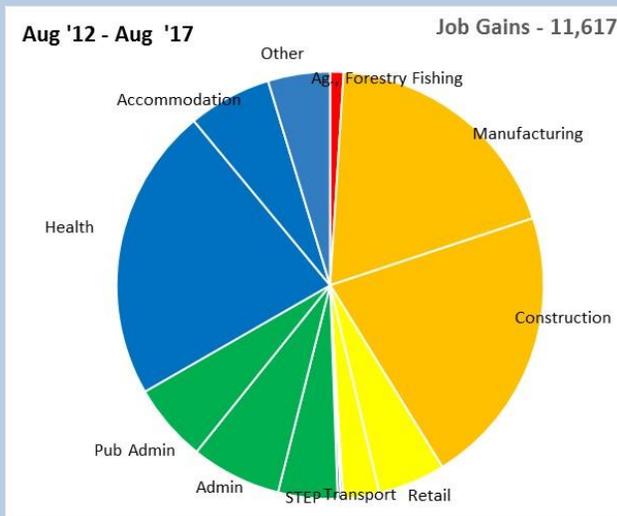
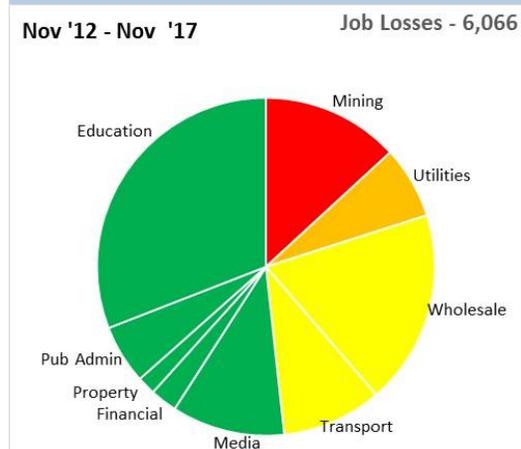
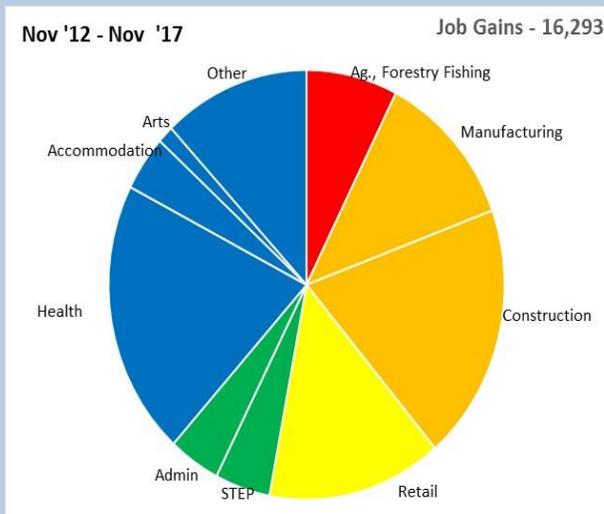
One can see that eg manufacturing has taken a huge hit, but has recovered somewhat over recent times, while health has been the major growth area.



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Over the preceding 5 year period:



And over the 10 year period:

