# Western Australian public sector quarterly workforce report – March 2023

## About this information

This page presents a snapshot of the public sector workforce based on the most recent data available. More detailed workforce information (including information on other government entities) is available in the [State of the WA Government Sector Workforce 2021-22](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-of-the-wa-government-sector-workforce-2021-22).

Please see the Commission’s [About our workforce data](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/about-our-workforce-data) page for additional contextual information.

## Overview of the public sector as at March 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Headcount | | 164,141 |
| Full-time equivalent (FTE) | | 128,784 |
| General government salaries expenses  (March quarter) | | $4,081 M |
| Public sector median age | | 44 |
| Top 3 occupation groups (FTE) | Teachers | 18.3% |
| Clerical workers | 16.6% |
| Nurses and midwives | 11.2% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Diversity groups | March 2023 | | Aspirational target |
| Women in the SES | Representation | 50.2% | 50.0% |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Representation | 2.7%[[1]](#footnote-1) | 3.7% |
| Headcount | 3,429 |  |
| People with disability | Representation | 1.6%[[2]](#footnote-2) | 5.0% |
| Headcount | 1,930 |  |
| Culturally and linguistically diverse people | Representation | 16.5% | 15.5% |
| Headcount | 19,192 |  |
| Youth  (aged 24 and under) | Representation | 5.4% | 5.8% |
| Headcount | 8,917 |  |
| Mature  (aged 45 and over) | Representation | 49.8% | n.a. |
| Headcount | 81,687 |  |

## Sector profile

### Employment trends

In March 2023 the WA public sector employed 164,141 people, equating to 128,784 full time equivalent (FTE) employees.

In headcount terms, this reflected a quarterly increase of 3,218 (+2.0%) since December 2022, and an annual increase of 4,302 (+2.7%) since March 2022.

In FTE terms, this reflected a quarterly increase of 2,648 (2.1%) since December 2022, and an annual increase of 3,161 (+2.5%) since March 2022.

The Department of Education reported an increase of 548 headcount (+0.9%) and 822 FTE (+1.9%) since the December 2022 quarter. The quarterly movement reflects the seasonal pattern of school operations that results in a higher FTE and headcount in March due to commencement of the school year.

The WA Health portfolio increased by 1,626 headcount (+2.8%) and 1,089 FTE (+2.5%) since the December 2022 quarter. WA Health reported increases across the WA Health portfolio related to meeting operational demands, increased mental health services, increased bed capacity and new wards opening, as well as additional resources to address outcomes from Independent Inquiry and other targeted programs. Within the health portfolio, South Metropolitan Health Service had the largest nominal increase (+273 FTE), followed by North Metropolitan Health Service (+266 FTE) and WA Country Health Service (+197 FTE).

The Department of Communities reported an increase of 144 FTE (+2.7%) since December 2022, with more than half of the increase reported in the Community Services division, particularly in the service delivery and child protection case load support areas.

### Salaries expenditure

Salaries represent the single largest component of general government sector expenses (41.4% for the nine months to March 2023, or almost 46% if concurrent superannuation costs are also included).

General government salaries for the first nine months of 2022-23 grew by 11.2% to total $11,744 million.

Source: Department of Treasury

## Historical headcount, FTE and salaries expenditure

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Quarter | Headcount | FTE | Quarterly salaries  expenditure ($M) |
| March 2018 | 140,799 | 110,404 | 3,049 |
| June 2018 | 139,812 | 110,373 | 3,135 |
| September 2018 | 141,744 | 111,255 | 3,023 |
| December 2018 | 138,678 | 108,601 | 3,091 |
| March 2019 | 142,278 | 112,099 | 2,982 |
| June 2019 | 142,735 | 111,932 | 3,172 |
| September 2019 | 143,775 | 113,367 | 3,140 |
| December 2019 | 143,586 | 113,143 | 3,212 |
| March 2020 | 146,343 | 115,548 | 3,147 |
| June 2020 | 146,562 | 116,878 | 3,366 |
| September 2020 | 148,408 | 117,773 | 3,319 |
| December 2020 | 148,532 | 117,664 | 3,350 |
| March 2021 | 151,753 | 120,357 | 3,298 |
| June 2021 | 153,396 | 121,298 | 3,502 |
| September 2021 | 155,931 | 123,034 | 3,512 |
| December 2021 | 155,963 | 122,361 | 3,574 |
| March 2022 | 159,839 | 125,623 | 3,476 |
| June 2022 | 160,281 | 125,623 | 3,717 |
| September 2022 | 161,530 | 126,421 | 3,721 |
| December 2022 | 160,923 | 126,136 | 3,942 |
| March 2023 | 164,141 | 128,784 | 4,081 |

## WA public sector agencies’ staffing levels

| Agency | Mar-23  Headcount | Mar-23  FTE | FTE change from  Dec-22 | FTE change from  Mar-22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WA public sector** | **164,141** | **128,784** | **2,648** | **3,161** |
| Department of Education | 59,231 | 44,268 | 822 | 554 |
| WA Health | 58,918 | 44,332 | 1,089 | 940 |
| WA Health (North Metropolitan Health Service) | 12,711 | 9,449 | 266 | 173 |
| WA Health (South Metropolitan Health Service) | 12,110 | 8,999 | 273 | 341 |
| WA Health (WA Country Health Service) | 11,510 | 8,731 | 197 | 121 |
| WA Health (East Metropolitan Health Service) | 10,026 | 7,693 | 96 | 184 |
| WA Health (Child and Adolescent Health Service) | 6,311 | 4,506 | 164 | 18 |
| WA Health (Health Support Services) | 2,550 | 1,905 | 39 | 191 |
| WA Health (PathWest) | 2,372 | 1,902 | 13 | -114 |
| WA Health (Department of Health) | 1,328 | 1,147 | 41 | 26 |
| Department of Justice | 7,309 | 6,683 | 20 | -77 |
| Department of Communities | 6,255 | 5,502 | 144 | 389 |
| Western Australia Police | 2,877 | 2,097 | -32 | -31 |
| Public Transport Authority | 2,460 | 2,322 | 73 | 148 |
| Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions | 2,449 | 2,088 | -19 | 42 |
| Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development | 1,961 | 1,774 | -2 | 46 |
| Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety | 1,918 | 1,659 | 35 | 45 |
| Department of Fire and Emergency Services | 1,840 | 1,701 | -18 | 28 |
| Department of Transport | 1,647 | 1,477 | 10 | 13 |
| North Metropolitan TAFE | 1,565 | 1,255 | 45 | 54 |
| South Metropolitan TAFE | 1,438 | 1,223 | 60 | 34 |
| Main Roads Western Australia | 1,394 | 1,320 | 40 | 162 |
| Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries | 1,300 | 1,060 | 69 | 117 |
| Department of Finance | 1,141 | 1,058 | 39 | 45 |
| Department of Water and Environmental Regulation | 1,043 | 936 | 19 | 76 |
| Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage | 996 | 908 | 55 | 93 |
| Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 720 | 649 | 2 | 47 |
| South Regional TAFE | 587 | 436 | 13 | 21 |
| VenuesWest | 557 | 278 | 13 | 20 |
| Department of Training and Workforce Development | 518 | 468 | 21 | 33 |
| Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation | 511 | 443 | 31 | 100 |
| Landgate | 485 | 433 | -2 | 1 |
| Insurance Commission of Western Australia | 474 | 431 | 10 | 47 |
| Mental Health Commission | 462 | 382 | 49 | 34 |
| Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia | 442 | 392 | 6 | 38 |
| Central Regional TAFE | 441 | 354 | 10 | 23 |
| Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions | 354 | 314 | 10 | 31 |
| North Regional TAFE | 309 | 285 | 0 | -16 |
| Department of Treasury | 309 | 280 | 24 | 30 |
| Lotterywest | 289 | 270 | -2 | -4 |
| Office of the Auditor General | 236 | 210 | 27 | 22 |
| Public Sector Commission | 178 | 138 | 7 | 8 |
| ChemCentre | 168 | 144 | -2 | 4 |
| Forest Products Commission | 160 | 150 | -9 | -7 |
| Metropolitan Cemeteries Board | 155 | 139 | -2 | -2 |
| WorkCover Western Australia | 142 | 130 | 0 | 2 |
| Corruption and Crime Commission | 138 | 132 | 6 | 17 |
| Ombudsman Western Australia | 81 | 69 | 4 | 3 |
| GESB | 70 | 65 | 2 | 4 |
| Small Business Development Corporation | 70 | 58 | -4 | -1 |
| Economic Regulation Authority | 65 | 59 | -5 | -1 |
| Animal Resources Centre | 53 | 48 | -5 | -13 |
| Western Australian Electoral Commission | 50 | 46 | 0 | 1 |
| Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission | 47 | 42 | 2 | 7 |
| Legal Practice Board | 44 | 42 | 1 | 8 |
| Western Australian Meat Industry Authority | 41 | 19 | -4 | -1 |
| Construction Training Fund | 34 | 31 | -4 | 1 |
| National Trust of Australia (W.A.) | 29 | 24 | -2 | 3 |
| MyLeave | 28 | 27 | 1 | 4 |
| Health and Disability Services Complaints Office | 24 | 21 | -1 | 4 |
| Infrastructure WA | 22 | 20 | 1 | 7 |
| Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services | 18 | 15 | -1 | 0 |
| Commissioner for Children and Young People | 17 | 14 | 3 | 2 |
| Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority | 17 | 15 | 1 | 2 |
| Office of the Information Commissioner | 14 | 12 | -1 | 0 |
| Burswood Park Board | 11 | 10 | 1 | 2 |
| Keep Australia Beautiful WA | 9 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) | 9 | 8 | 0 | 2 |
| Veterinary Practice Board | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Salaries and Allowances Tribunal | 3 | 3 | -1 | -1 |
| Architects Board of Western Australia | 2 | 2 | 0 | -1 |

## Data quality statement

Information is based on an aggregate of agency supplied data, collected quarterly through the Human Resource Minimum Obligatory Information Requirements (HR MOIR). Data is supplied by agencies according to the guidelines set out in *HR MOIR Data Definitions 1.5.1*.

The information provided reflects the Commission’s holdings at the date of release. Workforce data is occasionally revised for quality, and corrections applied may result in figures being adjusted over time. This information relates only to public sector (Department, SES and non-SES agencies), and excludes sworn officers of the WA Police Force, public universities, local governments, government trading enterprises and other authorities.

All data is accurate as reported to us by contributing agencies.

As some figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Salaries expenditure data and information is provided by the Department of Treasury.

## Contact

All enquiries about the Public Sector Commission’s data should be directed to [stateadministrator@psc.wa.gov.au](mailto:stateadministrator@psc.wa.gov.au).

1. Representation reported as 2.7% (due to standard rounding convention of the 3 decimal figure of 2.741%). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Representation reported as 1.6% (due to standard rounding convention of the 3 decimal figure of 1.551%). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)