



Skilled and Experienced ICT Workforce

With some of the most competitive prices for quality IT, project management and business skills among competing locations, Australia is internationally recognised for exceptional productivity, innovative flair and accountability.

Australian ICT skills and education rank highly against other international markets. The nation's educational system is ranked sixth in the world and the university system is ranked third in the region for meeting the needs of a competitive economy.¹

The solid international ties, language skills, culture of innovation and ICT expertise of the Australian workforce have led multinationals such as EDS, IBM, Microsoft, and NEC to base their regional operations in Australia. These factors, and more, ensure an environment conducive for international firms to conduct business in Australia.

The high standards and reputation of the Australian education system have long been recognised in international markets and have lifted annual enrolment of overseas students to 26.5 per cent of all students studying in Australian universities.²

Australia offers a deep pool of skilled ICT workers with a tertiary education enrolment rate that is third in the world.³

Educated ICT graduates

Most of Australia's 39 universities offer undergraduate and graduate courses in core ICT disciplines such as information systems, computer systems engineering and computer science.

The widespread experience of teaching core ICT disciplines has allowed the Australian education system to develop specialised study programs for leading-edge and highly specialised and targeted IT disciplines.

The quality of Australia's education and training sector is internationally recognised. In 2008, Australia was ranked as having:

- 6 of the top fifty universities in the world,
- 7 of the top twenty universities in the Asia Pacific;
- 5 of the top fifty universities in technology in the world, and
- 4 of the top fifty universities in natural science in the world.⁴

Specialist workers in leading ICT fields

Australia is ranked highly for the availability of IT skills, qualified engineers, and research and development personnel.⁵

Australian labour is highly productive with a well-demonstrated ability to adapt to new challenges. The *World Competitiveness Yearbook* ranked Australia's workforce seventh in the world for flexibility and adaptation to change.⁶

The country is home to one of the most multilingual workforces in the Asia Pacific region, with citizens from over 200 countries. About 3 million of Australia's population of 20 million speak a language other than English at home.⁷

¹ IMD, *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2008*

² DEEWR, 2007 Selected Higher Education Statistics, Summary Analyses

³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Global Education Digest 2007*

⁴ The Times Higher Education, *QS World University Rankings 2008*, October 2008

⁵ IMD, *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2008*; EIU, *IT Competitiveness Index 2008*

⁶ IMD, *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2008*



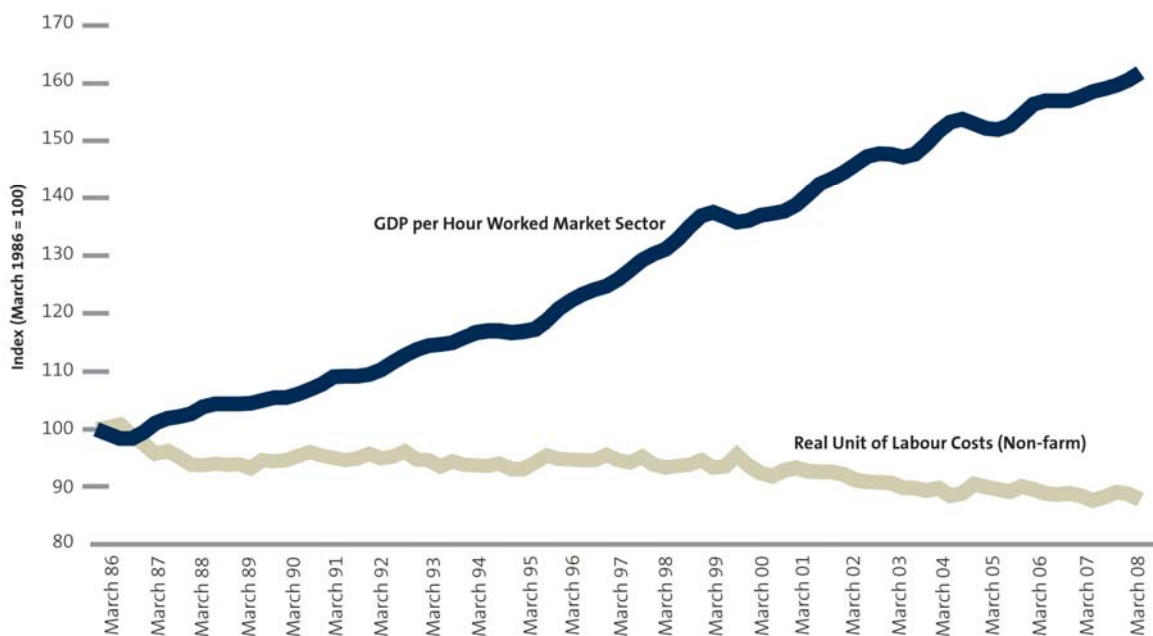
Approximately 400,000 Australians are employed in ICT occupations or specific ICT industry businesses.⁸ There are around 30,300 such businesses⁹ and many industries employ ICT professionals - chiefly: property and business services; finance and insurance; government administration and defence; communication services; and manufacturing.¹⁰

In August 2008 there were 172,300 Computing Professionals, 46,800 Computing Support Technicians and 42,000 IT Managers working in Australia.¹¹

Competitive labour costs

Australia value adds to its labour costs with a highly skilled, multi-lingual work force which has a great depth of domain expertise, a sophisticated financial services sector, highly regarded legal systems and regulatory frameworks, and world-class corporate governance systems.

Rising Productivity and Falling Labour Costs in Australia – 1986 to 2008



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat. no. 5206.0, Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Table 1. Key National Accounts Aggregates, Time Series Workbook; Austrade

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⁷ ABS, Cat. No 2068.0, 2006 Census Tables, 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Austrade

⁸ DEEWR, ICT Labour Market Indicators, September 2008

⁹ ABS, Cat. No. 8126.0, Information and Communication Technology Australia, 2006-07, October 2008

¹⁰ DEEWR, ICT Labour Market Indicators, September 2008

¹¹ DEEWR, ICT Labour Market Indicators, September 2008