# Western Australian public sector workforce report – September 2024

## 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 WA Government Sector Workforce 2023-24](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-of-the-wa-government-sector-workforce-2023-24).

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 September 2024

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Headcount | 177,228 |
| Full-time equivalent (FTE) | 138,821 |
| General government salaries expenses(September quarter) | To be published in [Quarterly Report on State Finances](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/quarterly-financial-results-report) |
| Public sector median age | 44 |
| Top 3 occupation groups (FTE) | Teachers | 17.6% |
| Clerical workers | 16.8% |
| Nurses and midwives | 11.3% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Diversity groups | September 2024 | Aspirational target |
| Women in the SES | Representation | 50.0% | 50.0% |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Representation | 2.8% | 3.7% |
| Headcount | 3,645 |  |
| People with disability | Representation | 1.7% | 5.0% |
| Headcount | 2,191 |  |
| Culturally and linguistically diverse people | Representation | 18.1% | 15.5% |
| Headcount | 22,328 |  |
| Youth (aged 24 and under) | Representation | 5.5% | 5.8% |
| Headcount | 9,692 |  |
| Mature (aged 45 and over) | Representation | 48.4% | n.a. |
| Headcount | 85,826 |  |

## Sector profile

### Employment trends

In September 2024 the WA public sector employed 177,228 people, equating to 138,821 full time equivalent (FTE) employees.

In headcount terms, this reflected an increase of 5,182 (3.0%) since March 2024, and an annual increase of 8,916 (+5.3%) since September 2023.

In FTE terms, this reflected an increase of 3,756 (+2.8%) since March 2024, and an annual increase of 6,962 (+5.3%) since September 2023.

WA Health increased by 1,588 FTE (+3.4%). South Metropolitan Health Service (+10.2%) saw the largest increase due to the Peel Health Campus transition that occurred in August 2024. All other health agencies also saw an increase in FTE since March 2024.

There was minimal change at the Department of Education which increased by 1,268 FTE (2.8%) from March 2024.

Other growth included an increase of 129 FTE (8.2%) at the Department of Transport with recruitment for busy licensing centres and transfer of Infringement Officers from WA Police partially driving growth since March 2024. The Department of Justice also increased by 258 FTE (3.7%).

### Salaries expenditure

Salaries expenditure information will be published in the Department of Treasury’s [Quarterly Report on State Finances](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/quarterly-financial-results-report).

## Historical headcount, FTE and salaries expenditure

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Quarter | Headcount | FTE | Quarterly salaries expenditure ($M) |
| September 2019 | 143,775 | 113,367 | 3,140 |
| March 2020 | 146,343 | 115,548 | 3,147 |
| September 2020 | 148,408 | 117,773 | 3,319 |
| March 2021 | 151,753 | 120,357 | 3,298 |
| September 2021 | 155,931 | 123,034 | 3,512 |
| March 2022 | 159,839 | 125,623 | 3,476 |
| September 2022 | 161,530 | 126,421 | 3,721 |
| March 2023 | 164,141 | 128,784 | 4,081 |
| September 2023 | 168,312 | 131,859 | 4,003 |
| March 2024 | 172,046 | 135,065 | 4,091 |
| September 2024 | 177,228 | 138,821 | To be published in [Quarterly Report on State Finances](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/quarterly-financial-results-report) |

## WA public sector agencies’ staffing levels

| Agency | Sep-24Headcount | Sep-24FTE | FTE change from Mar-24 | FTE change from Sep-23 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WA public sector** | **177,228** | **138,821** | **3,756** | **6,962** |
| WA Health |  64,550  |  48,029  |  1,588  |  2,869  |
| WA Health (South Metropolitan Health Service) |  14,493  |  10,553  |  973  |  1,344  |
| WA Health (North Metropolitan Health Service) |  13,804  |  10,193  |  120  |  467  |
| WA Health (WA Country Health Service) |  11,865  |  8,900  |  113  |  177  |
| WA Health (East Metropolitan Health Service) |  10,591  |  8,036  |  147  |  195  |
| WA Health (Child and Adolescent Health Service) |  6,844  |  4,892  |  81  |  262  |
| WA Health (Health Support Services) |  2,920  |  2,142  |  66  |  171  |
| WA Health (PathWest) |  2,537  |  2,028  |  31  |  111  |
| WA Health (Department of Health) |  1,496  |  1,285  |  57  |  142  |
| Department of Education |  62,774  |  46,740  |  1,268  |  1,269  |
| Department of Justice |  7,995  |  7,310  |  258  |  400  |
| Department of Communities |  6,732  |  5,948  |  109  |  274  |
| Western Australia Police |  3,075  |  2,247  | -19  |  143  |
| Public Transport Authority |  2,778  |  2,669  |  117  |  262  |
| Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions |  2,559  |  2,206  | -2  |  135  |
| Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |  2,168  |  1,968  |  14  |  76  |
| Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety |  1,996  |  1,845  |  60  |  180  |
| Department of Fire and Emergency Services |  1,927  |  1,748  | -56  |  3  |
| Department of Transport |  1,854  |  1,699  |  129  |  180  |
| Main Roads Western Australia |  1,853  |  1,738  |  29  |  340  |
| North Metropolitan TAFE |  1,692  |  1,353  |  20  |  88  |
| South Metropolitan TAFE |  1,544  |  1,291  |  26  |  65  |
| Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries |  1,320  |  1,158  |  27  |  83  |
| Department of Finance |  1,249  |  1,171  |  42  |  70  |
| Department of Water and Environmental Regulation |  1,186  |  1,097  |  71  |  147  |
| Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage |  1,156  |  1,034  |  28  |  52  |
| Department of the Premier and Cabinet |  774  |  692  | -12  |  57  |
| South Regional TAFE |  617  |  466  | -32  | -12  |
| VenuesWest |  579  |  292  |  15  |  44  |
| Department of Training and Workforce Development |  555  |  499  |  4  |  32  |
| Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia |  524  |  461  |  11  |  42  |
| Landgate |  511  |  456  |  11  |  16  |
| Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation |  508  |  465  | -32  | -6  |
| Insurance Commission of Western Australia |  493  |  452  |  13  |  7  |
| Central Regional TAFE |  484  |  394  | -1  |  18  |
| Mental Health Commission |  454  |  380  | -10  | -8  |
| Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions |  387  |  344  |  15  |  28  |
| Lotterywest |  332  |  309  |  15  |  22  |
| North Regional TAFE |  330  |  303  | -10  |  5  |
| Department of Treasury |  328  |  300  |  16  |  29  |
| Office of the Auditor General |  242  |  221  |  9  |  19  |
| Metropolitan Cemeteries Board |  173  |  157  |  15  |  12  |
| ChemCentre |  164  |  150  |  9  |  8  |
| Public Sector Commission |  161  |  141  |  4  |  1  |
| Forest Products Commission |  158  |  149  | -8  | -13  |
| WorkCover Western Australia |  145  |  133  |  2  | -3  |
| Corruption and Crime Commission |  141  |  130  |  3  | -4  |
| Ombudsman Western Australia |  89  |  77  |  1  |  0  |
| Economic Regulation Authority |  88  |  79  |  3  |  13  |
| GESB |  78  |  72  |  1  |  3  |
| Small Business Development Corporation |  74  |  66  |  5  |  7  |
| Western Australian Electoral Commission |  70  |  65  |  14  |  18  |
| Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission |  43  |  38  | -5  | -5  |
| National Trust of Australia (W.A.) |  38  |  29  | -4  |  1  |
| Construction Training Fund |  37  |  35  |  3  |  1  |
| Legal Practice Board |  35  |  33  | -9  | -12  |
| MyLeave |  28  |  28  |  1  |  1  |
| Western Australian Meat Industry Authority |  24  |  17  | -1  |  1  |
| Infrastructure WA |  23  |  22  |  1  |  3  |
| Office of the Information Commissioner |  21  |  17  |  1  |  2  |
| Health and Disability Services Complaints Office |  21  |  18  | -1  | -2  |
| Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services |  21  |  19  |  0  |  2  |
| Commissioner for Children and Young People |  17  |  14  |  1  |  2  |
| Burswood Park Board |  12  |  11  | 0  | 0  |
| Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority |  12  |  11  | -3  | -3  |
| Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) |  11  |  10  |  0  |  2  |
| Keep Australia Beautiful WA |  7  |  7  | -1  | 0  |
| Veterinary Practice Board |  6  |  5  |  0  |  0  |
| Salaries and Allowances Tribunal |  3  |  3  |  1  |  1  |
| Architects Board of Western Australia |  2  |  2  |  0  |  0  |

## 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.

Publication cycle was changed from quarterly to 6 monthly from 1 July 2024. Information now reflects 6 monthly changes.

## Contact

All enquiries about the Public Sector Commission’s data should be directed to stateadministrator@psc.wa.gov.au.