

Latest employment trends across Australian industries, August Quarter 2009

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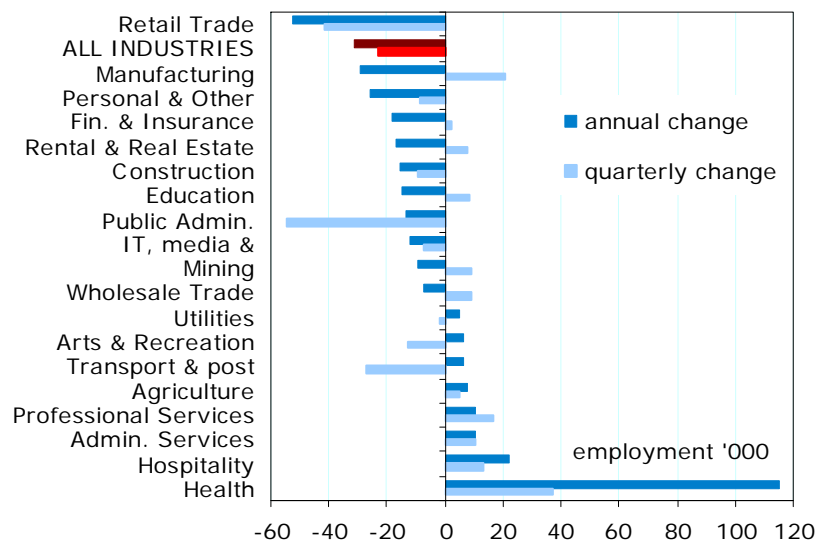
Key points

Up until the May quarter 2009, Australian employers had, in aggregate, been shedding hours rather than employees. In the August quarter, our total headcount began to reduce also, in both quarterly and annual terms. **In the August quarter, total employment fell by 0.2%**, or 23,350 people. This took the annual change (that is, the total change in the year to August 2009), to -0.3%, or 31,260 people. This was the first quarter in which this series has fallen, in annual growth terms, since August 1997.

The detailed quarterly data show that employment fell (in annual terms) in 11 of the 19 major industry sectors, with the biggest falls in retail and manufacturing. **Manufacturing** recovered 20,800 jobs in the August quarter, but was still 29,100 down on the number it had employed a year earlier. This recent rebuilding indicates the worst is probably already over for this important employer (9.4% of the total). Jobs lost in **retail** in contrast, got worse in the August quarter, with a net loss of 41,700 jobs. Retail now employs 52,180 fewer people than it did a year ago. Also noteworthy this quarter, **public administration** shed a massive 54,400 jobs (7.8%) in the August quarter, after growing by 27,600 jobs (4.2%) in May. Public administration jobs are now 2.1% fewer than in August 2008.

At the other end of the growth spectrum, health services added 115,200 jobs in the year to August, 36,900 of them in the August quarter alone. This continuing long-term growth in health (for demographic and income reasons)¹, at a time when our other major employing industries have been hit by the cyclical downturn, has meant **health services is now Australia's single largest employing industry, with 11.3% of all jobs**. Health has pipped our previous largest employer, retail trade, which has reduced to 10.8% of all employment, from 11.3% a year ago. This relative gain in health jobs has come earlier than it otherwise would have (that is, without this downturn), but given its stronger trend growth rate, its ascendancy would have occurred within the next few years in any case.

Growth in total employment by industry, August quarter 2009



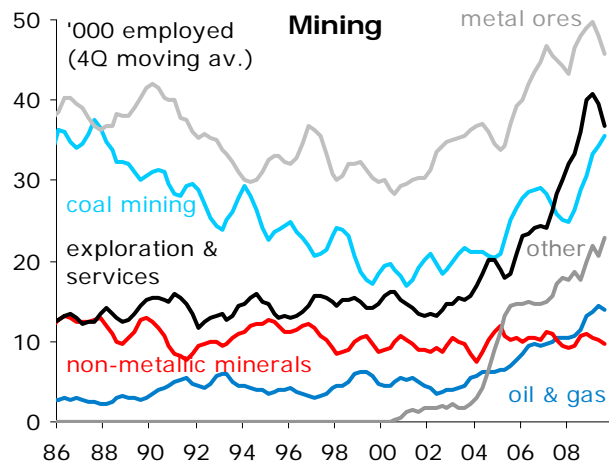
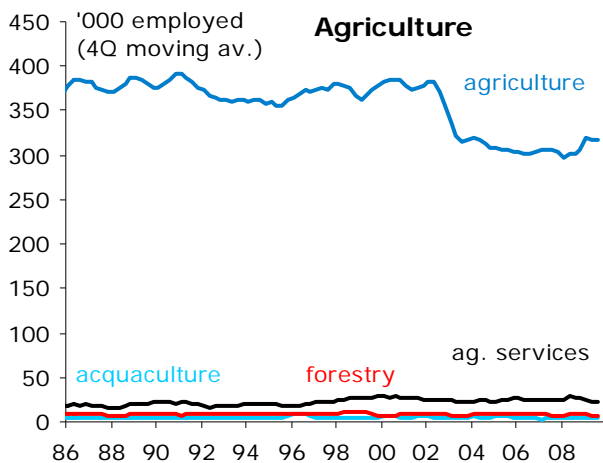
¹ For further information on growth trends in health services, see our ANZ report on the outlook for the Australian health industry, released in June 2009. Available at www.anz.com/go/economics/.

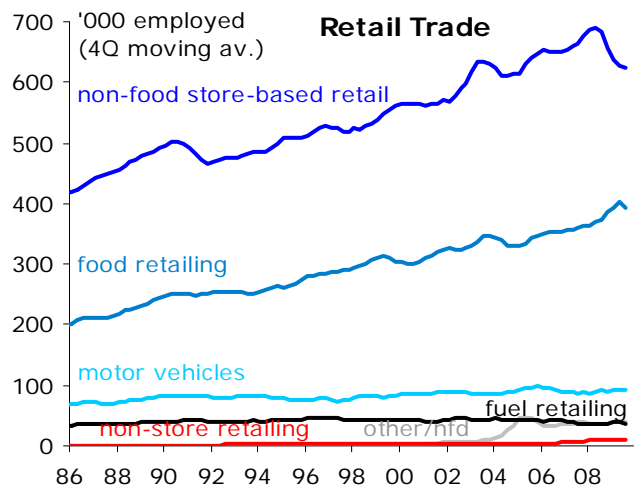
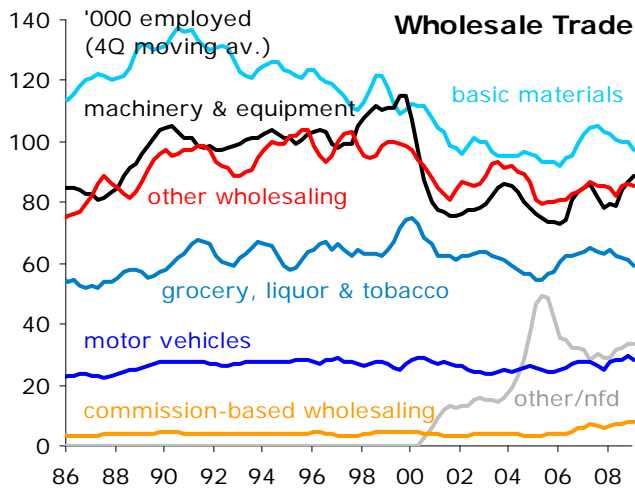
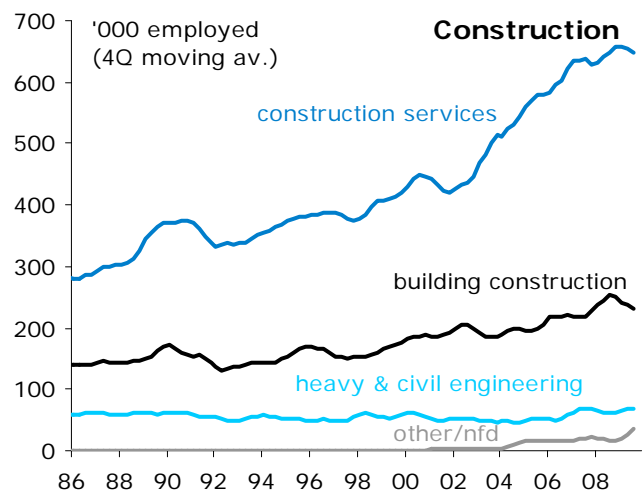
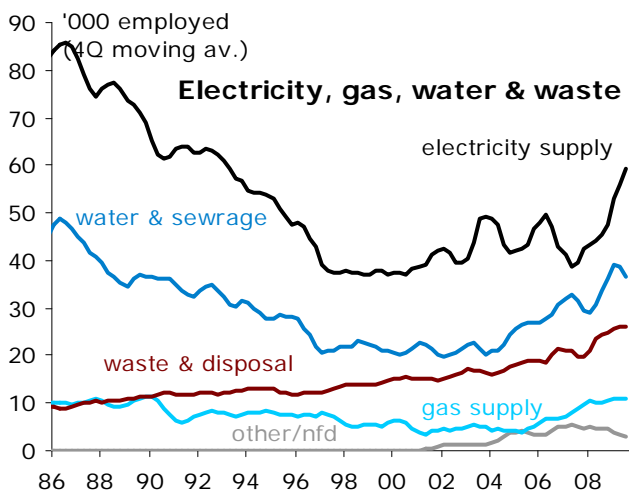
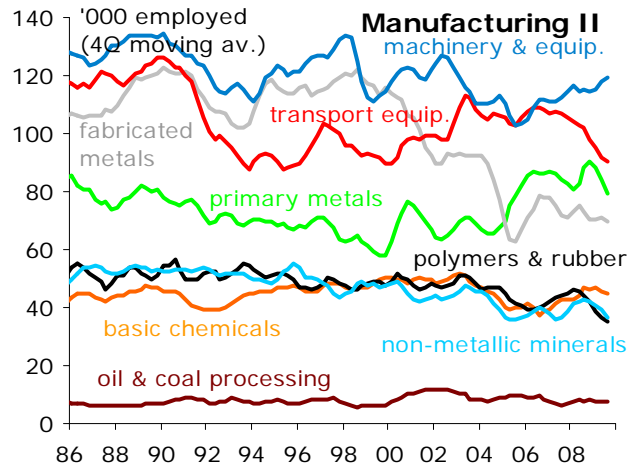
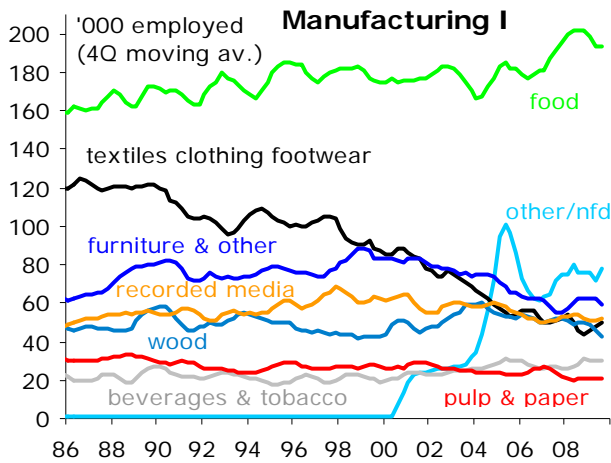
Current employment by industry, August quarter 2009

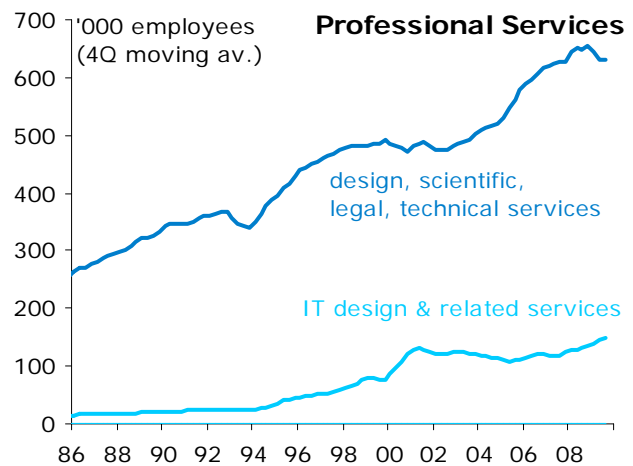
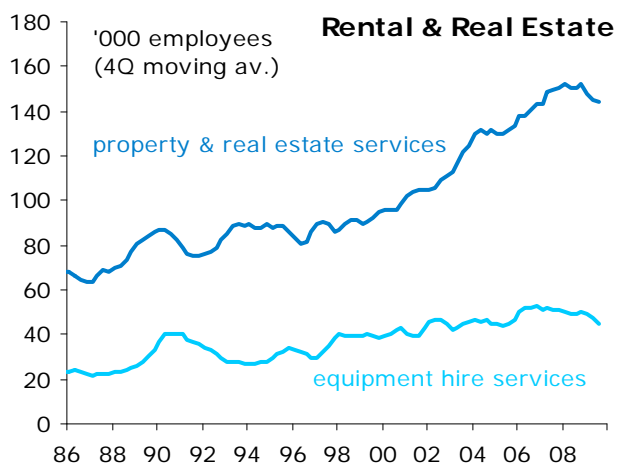
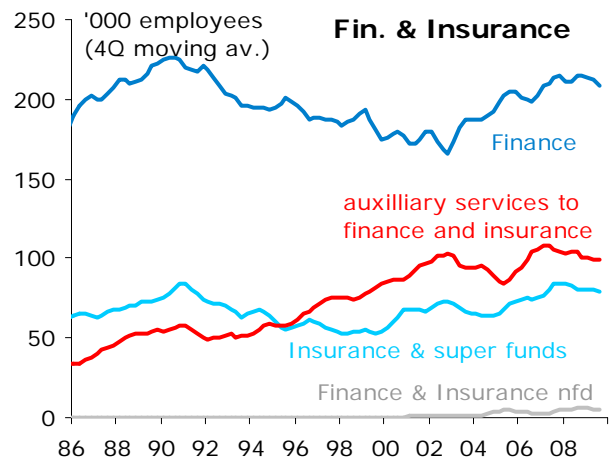
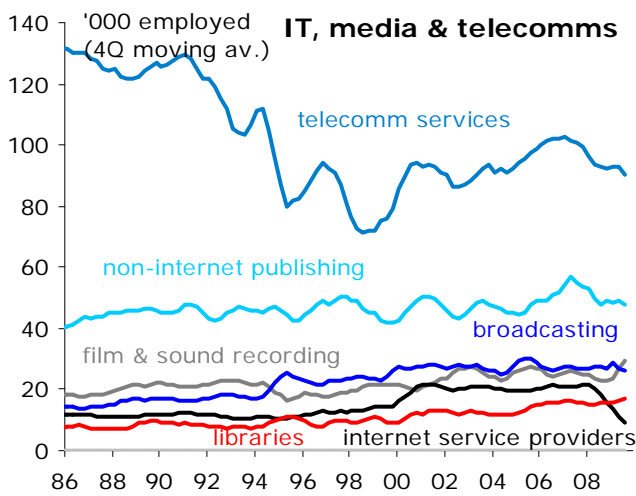
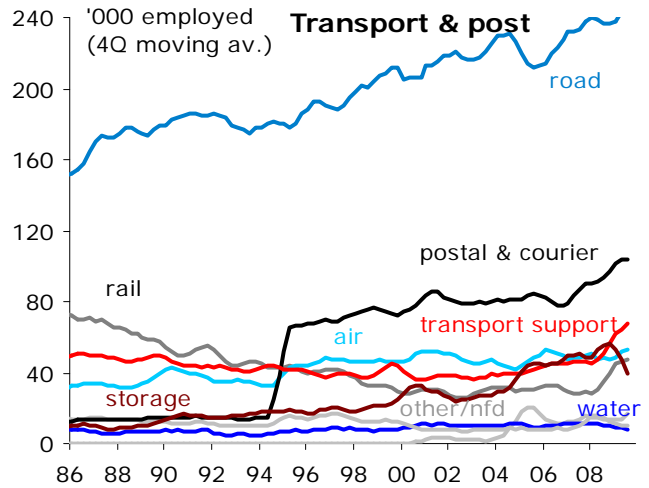
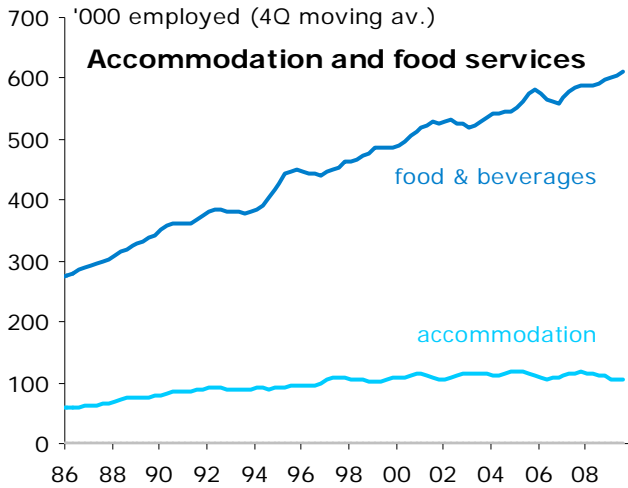
Industry	Total employment '000 people	Full-time employment % of total	Change in total employment			Change in total hours worked	
			% QoQ	% YoY	no. YoY	% QoQ	% YoY
<i>ANZSIC 2006 codes</i>							
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	361.2	73.9	1.3	2.2	7,684	-7.7	-3.4
Mining	161.7	97.0	6.2	-5.6	-9,620	4.6	-6.3
Manufacturing	1,014.3	86.1	2.1	-2.8	-29,123	1.3	-6.4
Electricity, gas & water	130.8	90.9	-1.3	3.8	4,832	-5.4	8.3
Construction	980.7	84.5	-0.9	-1.5	-15,395	-0.9	-1.6
Wholesale trade	408.2	83.5	2.3	-1.8	-7,434	5.4	-2.5
Retail trade	1,165.2	51.6	-3.5	-4.3	-52,184	-5.2	-5.0
Accommodation, cafes, restaurants	732.6	40.9	1.9	3.1	22,145	0.7	-1.7
Transport, storage, post	572.3	79.3	-4.5	1.1	6,151	-4.4	-4.6
Communication services	212.5	79.6	-3.5	-5.3	-11,952	-5.3	-5.4
Finance & insurance	392.4	83.0	0.6	-4.4	-18,202	1.4	-4.3
Rental & real estate	189.5	69.8	4.2	-8.1	-16,812	8.4	-8.7
Professional services	779.3	77.5	2.2	1.4	10,593	4.3	-1.1
Administrative services	350.7	60.8	3.0	3.2	10,821	3.3	6.2
Government & defence	638.8	84.7	-7.8	-2.1	-13,692	-9.5	-4.2
Education	806.4	63.0	1.0	-1.8	-14,835	1.5	-1.0
Health & community	1,217.6	56.3	3.1	10.5	115,211	1.6	6.4
Cultural & recreational	194.3	51.6	-6.1	3.2	6,067	-6.5	-3.0
Personal & other services	433.5	68.4	-2.0	-5.6	-25,513	-5.2	-11.9
All industries	980.7	69.9	-0.2	-0.3	-31,258	-1.0	-2.6

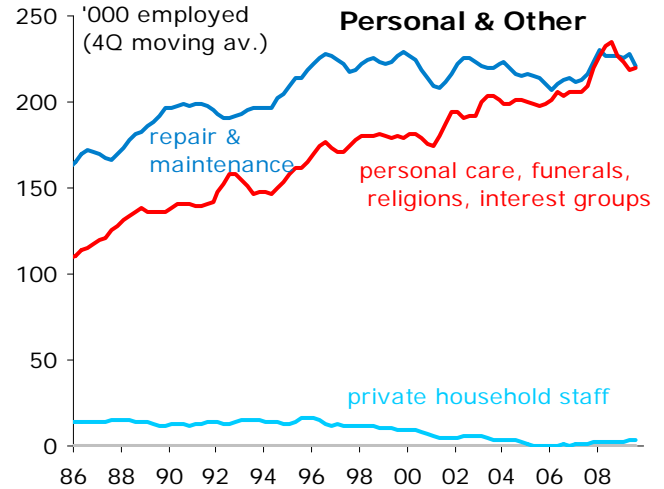
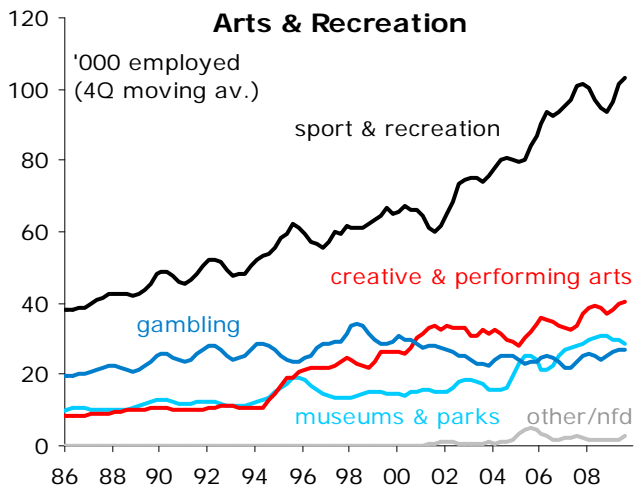
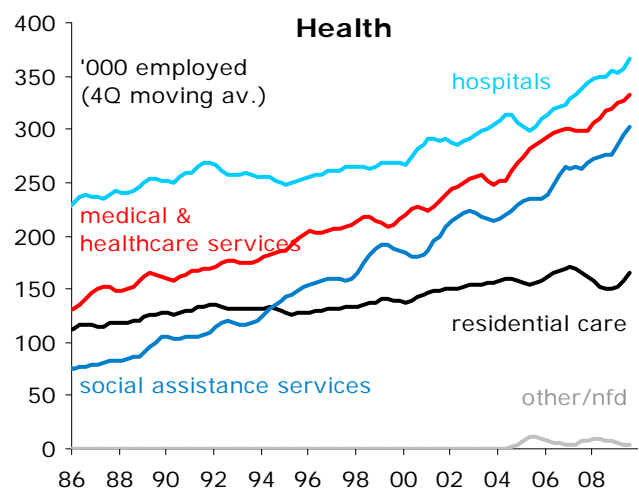
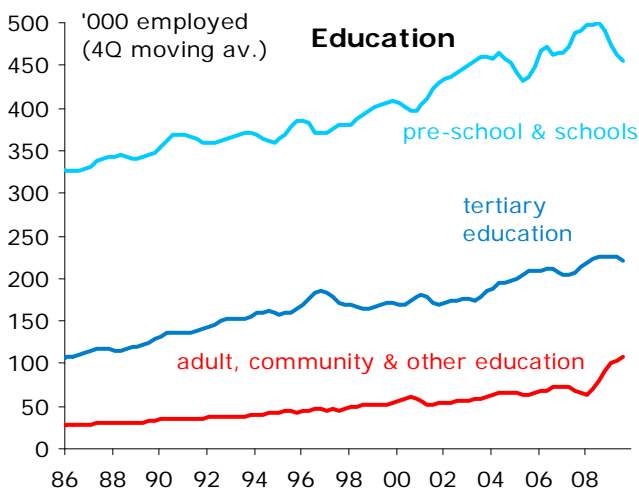
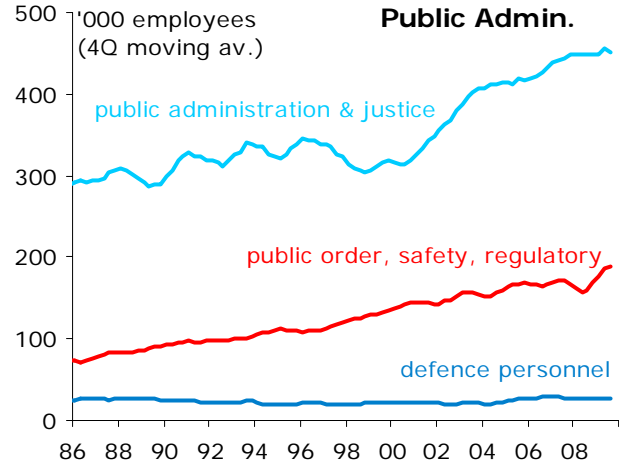
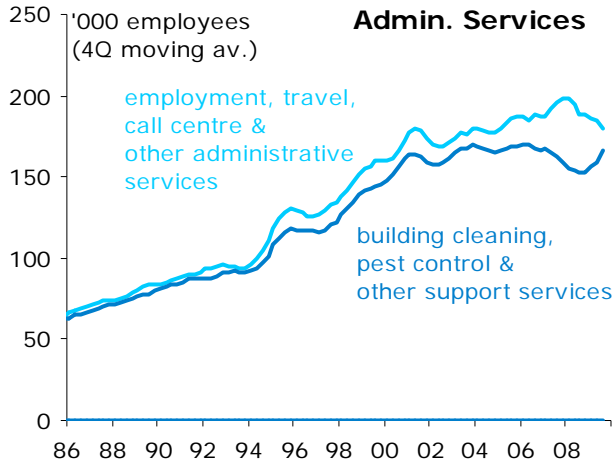
Source: ABS 6291.0.055, Labourforce Australia, quarterly detailed data, August 2009. Seasonally adjusted.

Employment trends by detailed industry segments, to Aug 2009









Source: ABS 6291.0.055, Labourforce Australia, quarterly detailed data, August 2009.
Original data series, 4 quarter moving average.

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