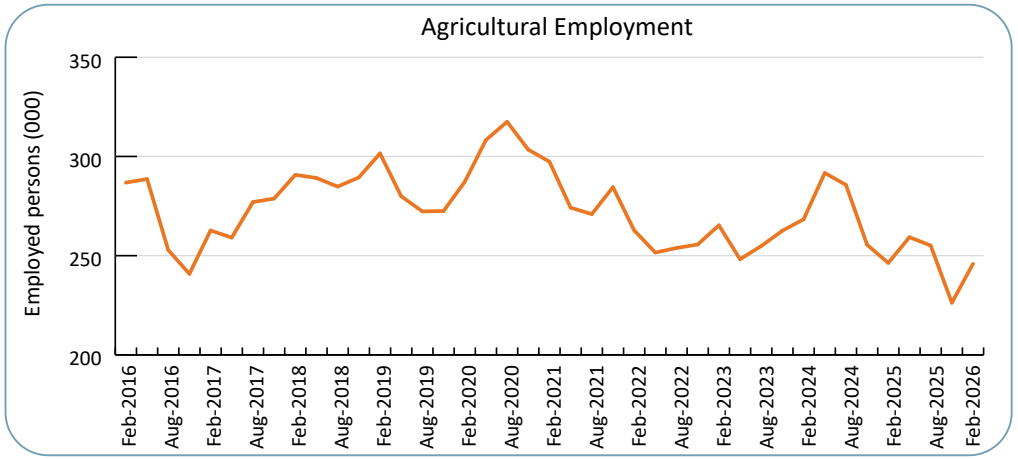
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Agricultural Labour Factsheet

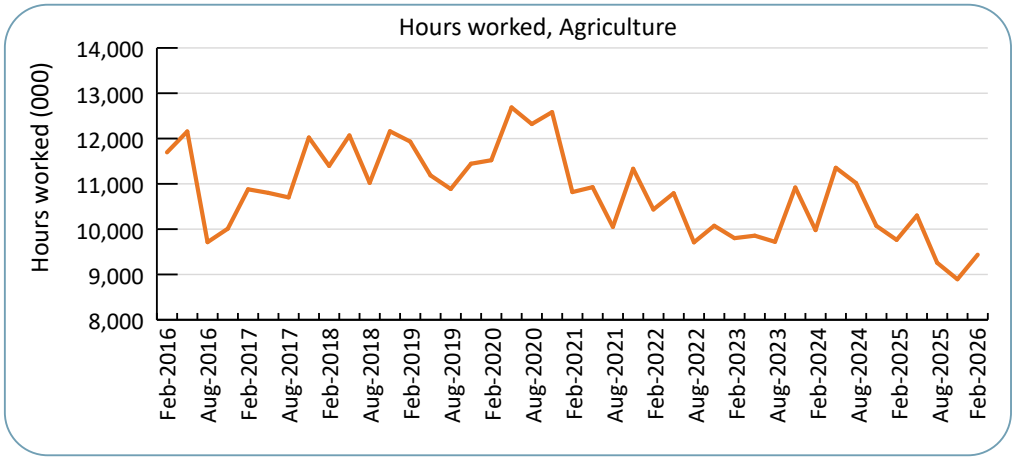
This Agricultural Workforce Factsheet highlights the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme. Four different graphs towards the end of the factsheet show how the PALM workforce is employed in Australian agriculture. This shows;

- The number of PALM workers in agriculture has largely stabilised, with small increases seen year on year.
- Vanuatu provided the most PALM workers in the last 12 months.
- Queensland employs the most PALM workers of all Australian jurisdictions.
- Most PALM workers are employed in either agriculture on short term contracts (up to 9 months) or in meat processing on longer term contracts (between 1 and 4 years).



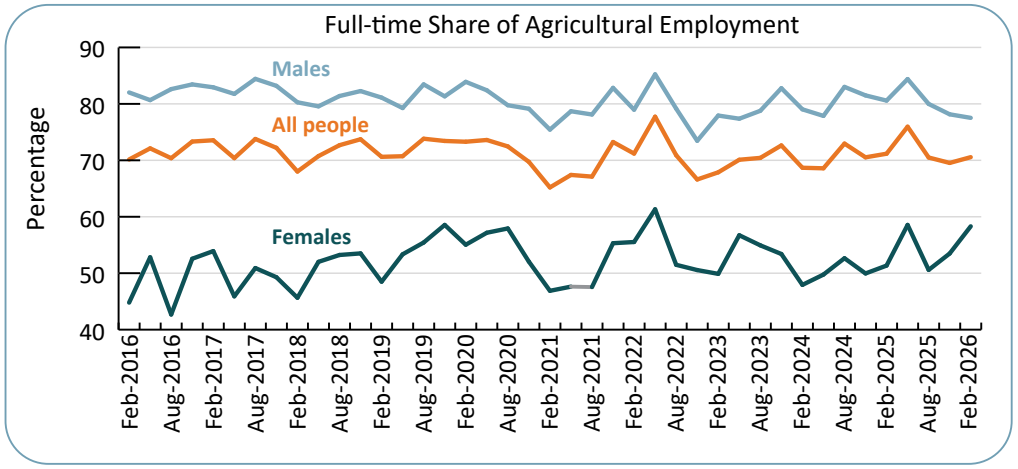
Source: ABS 2026, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

Employment in agriculture increased to 245,900 people in February 2026. This was 4.8% below 258,300 which is the average employment level over the last 3 years. Note: Employed short-term non-residents and secondary jobs by industry are outside the scope of the Labour Force Survey.



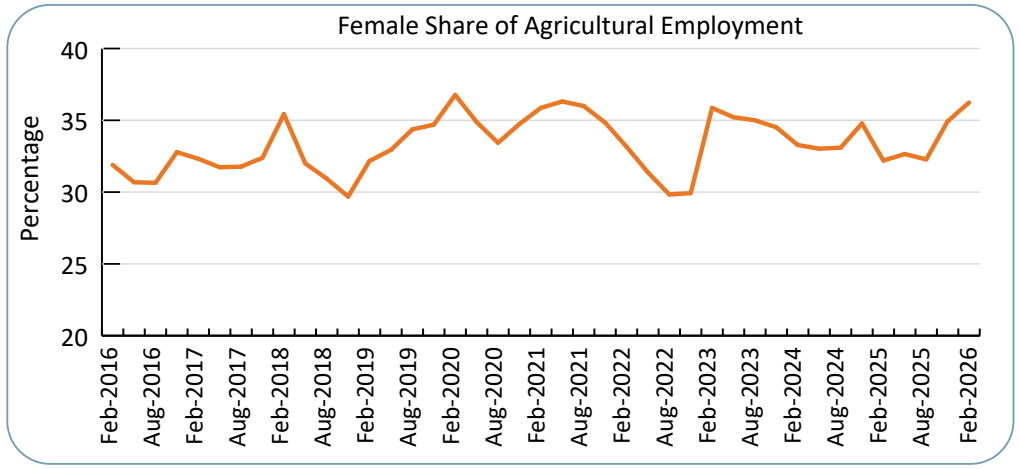
Source: ABS 2026, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

In February 2026, hours worked in agriculture increased to 9.4 million hours, this is 6% lower than the average over the last 3 years of 10 million hours. This particularly reflects efficiencies from economies of scale and increasing automation over recent decades.



Source: ABS 2026, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

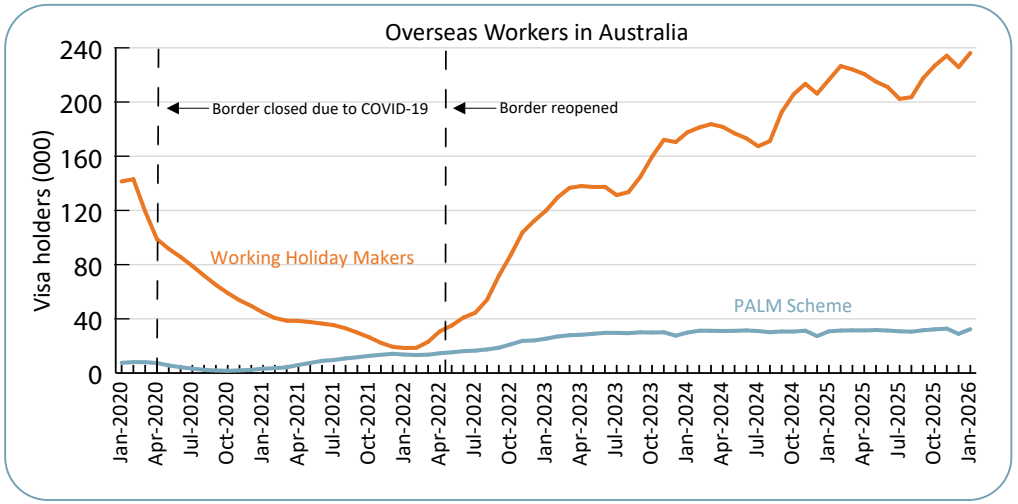
In February 2026, the full-time share of employment in agriculture increased slightly to 70.6%, remaining similar to the average share of 71% over the last 3 years.



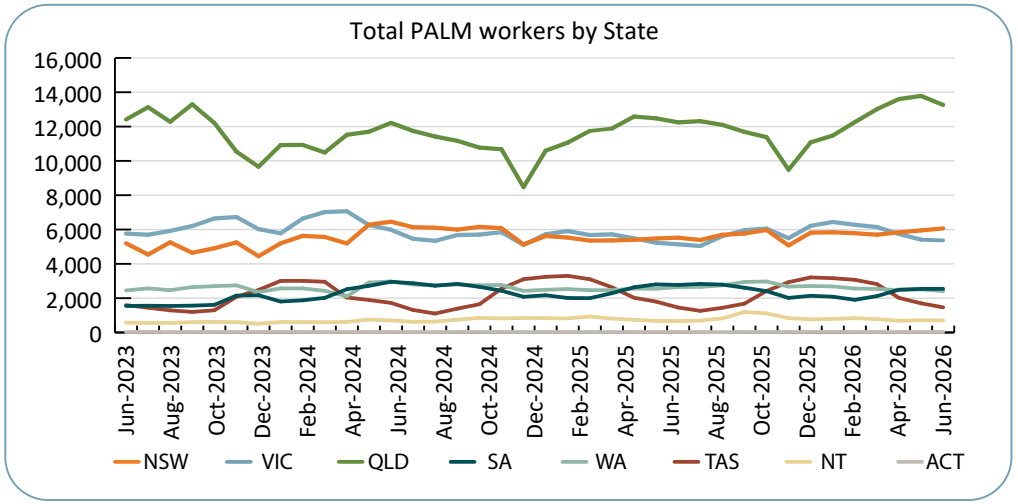
Source: ABS 2026, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

The share of female workers in agriculture increased to 36.2% in February 2026. This compares to the average share over the last 3 years of 33.9%.

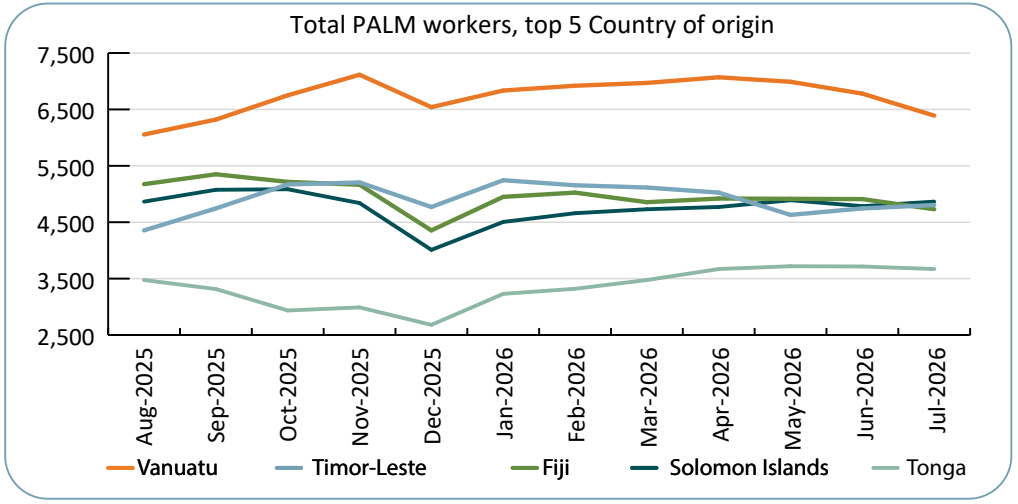
Agricultural Labour Factsheet continued



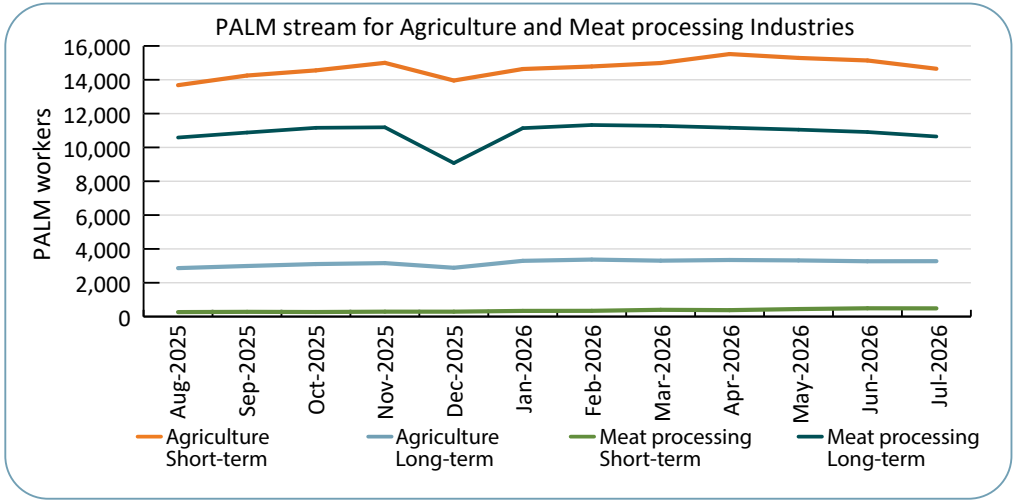
Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2026
In the year to January 2026, the total number of working holiday makers in Australia increased by almost 20,000 visa holders (+9.1%) to over 236,200 visa holders. Note: Not all Working Holiday Makers are employed and not all work in agriculture. Around half of Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme workers are typically employed in agriculture.



Source: DEWR, PALM scheme, July 2026
In July 2026, Queensland employed the highest number of PALM workers in Australia with 13,260 (approximately 42% of the total PALM worker population). New South Wales and Victoria had 6,065 (19%) and 5,365 (17%) respectively. Queensland is consistently the highest state for PALM workers with over 12,100 on average over the year.



Source: DEWR, PALM scheme, July 2026
In July 2026, Vanuatu was the top country of origin for PALM workers with 6,390 (20% of all PALM workers). Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste were the next highest countries of origin with 4,865 (15%) and 4,805 (15%) respectively.



Source: DEWR, PALM scheme, July 2026
Agriculture is the largest employer of PALM workers, employing 17,925 PALM workers as of July 2026, this is 56% of all PALM workers. 14,650 of these were short-term PALM workers (up to 9 months). The meat processing industry is the second largest employer of PALM workers with 11,130, 35% of all PALM workers. Most (10,645) were long-term PALM workers (1-4 years).

Updated September 2026