

The Hon. Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Industry and Innovation portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

6 June 2023



Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions

State of the economy

The Victorian economy remains strong, despite challenging global conditions



25.4% businesses with job vacancies
Feb 2023



Job vacancies are **85.7% above pre-pandemic levels (Feb 2020)**



3.9% Unemployment
April 2023



Employment has grown by **104,100 people** over the year to April 2023



6.8% Annual CPI growth
Melbourne, March 2023



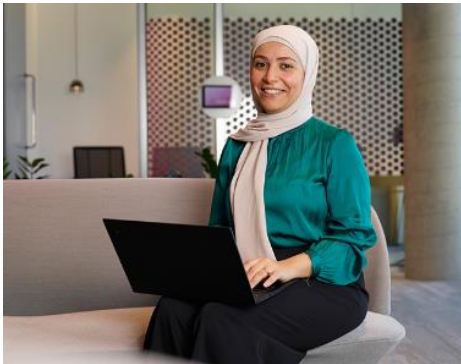
Inflation has **fallen from 8.0%** over the year to December

Economic growth is forecast to moderate in 2023-24 as higher interest rates and inflation weigh on spending.

State of Victorian Industry and Innovation

Over the course of the year industry confidence has remained strong

- Over 1,500 new jobs were created from Victorian industry growth programs, exceeding targets
- Over 900 Victorian employers have registered to host placements for the Digital Jobs program
- Victoria has nominated 14,900 highly skilled migrants to settle in the state
- The Victorian early-stage startup ecosystem has grown more than 10 times larger in value since 2018 from \$2.21b to \$23.6b
- By June 2023, it is anticipated Victoria will have recovered 84% of international direct flights per week, and 83% of seat capacity



Digital Jobs participants Ghada, John, Blythe and Cass

How we are supporting industry and innovation

- Supporting business growth and new jobs
- Growing and scaling start-up ecosystem and supporting Victoria's research and commercialisation capabilities
- Developing and attracting talent, particularly for digital skills
- Attracting international air services supporting tourism, international education, business connections and trade
- Accelerating Cremorne as a globally significant innovation and tech precinct
- Continuing support for the Industry Capability Network



Supported businesses include:



CommonwealthBank



Microsoft



Our 2022-23 achievements

The Victorian Government is supporting industry across the state by attracting investments to create new jobs and growing Victoria's start-up and innovation ecosystem

- Local Jobs First
- Fair Jobs Code
- Breakthrough Victoria
- LaunchVic
- Skilled and Business Migration Program
- International airline attraction
- Digital Jobs program
- Cremorne Digital Hub
- Digital Innovation Futures



2023-24 Budget – Key Initiatives

The Victorian Government is supporting Victorian industry and innovation by developing talent and business growth

\$29.20 million will be provided over 2023-24 towards:

- **\$15.00 million** for Made in Victoria – supporting industry through R&D infrastructure, to establish an Industry R&D Infrastructure Fund to incentivise private industry investment in R&D
- **\$6.00 million** to promote fair employment in industry, through supporting the operation of Ethical Clothing Australia, and implementing the Fair Jobs Code
- **\$5.00 million** to support the innovation ecosystem by expanding the Alice Anderson Fund, which supports women-led start-ups to leverage private sector capital
- **\$3.20 million** to deliver the Government's commitment to an expanded state nomination visa program.