

MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2021

COVID-19 Impact on the Illawarra - Post-JobKeeper Update

Has the end of JobKeeper delivered the 'Unemployment Armageddon' that was forecast? Which industries are still struggling to recover? Is everyone back working in their office? Each fortnight during 2020, RDA Illawarra analysed local jobs data from all industry sectors. In March 2021, RDA Illawarra published a further update a year after the start of the COVID pandemic and has now published a further update incorporating data post-JobKeeper. Key findings are outlined below:

- ▶ The predicted post-JobKeeper employment slump has not occurred.
- ▶ Several industry sectors remain significantly impacted, especially Accommodation & Food.
- ▶ Employment recovery has continued.
- ▶ High level of employment growth in Health Care and Social Assistance & Public Administration.
- ▶ Most industries continue to grow and recover toward pre-COVID levels of employment; some have already surpassed that.
- ▶ Youth employment (nationally) continues to be more subdued than for other age cohorts.
- ▶ Jobs for women have rebounded better than for men at a national level.

"This is much better news for the Illawarra," commented Debra Murphy (Chief Executive of RDA Illawarra). "The estimated unemployment rate of just over six percent is a great improvement on the thirteen percent seen last April. Employment has continued to improve following the end of JobKeeper and sustained losses in tourism-related industries are being offset to some extent by jobs in other service-related industries such as Health Care and Public Administration." [CHARTS 1 & 2]

RDA Illawarra analysis of ABS and Single Touch Payroll data (based on State figures, indexed for the Illawarra) indicates that sixteen out of nineteen (84%) of industry sectors are expanding and that 37% of sectors are now above pre-COVID employment levels. [CHART 3]

At a national level, youth employment is still recovering more slowly in most sectors though older workers have fared better. [CHART 4]

"It is very encouraging to see how the jobs for women have recovered over the past year," commented Murphy. "Female workers felt the impact of the initial State lockdown to a much greater extent than their male colleagues, but the data indicates that they are now recovering faster – and have been since late 2020." [CHART 5]

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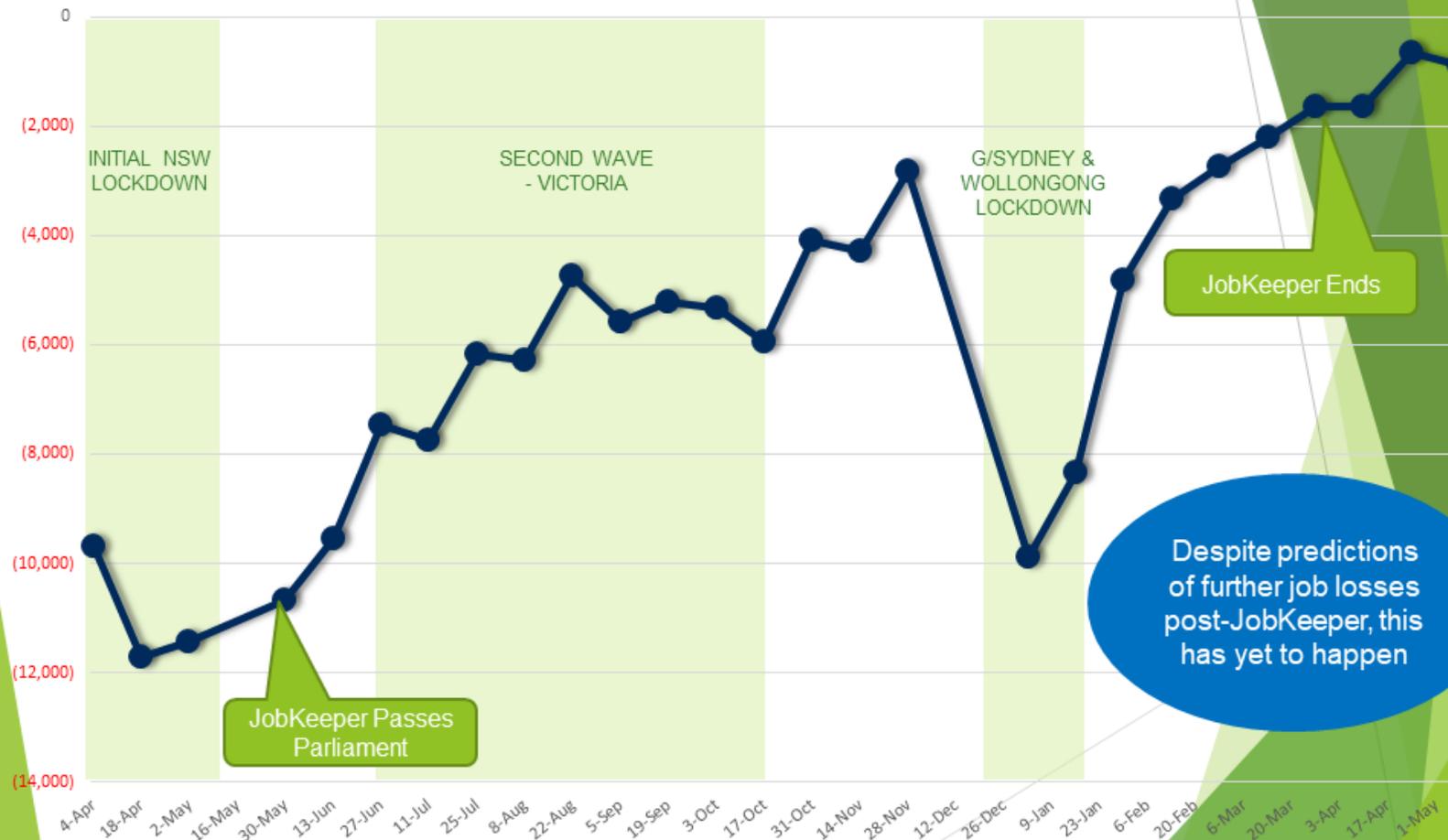
Presentation slides attached to this email. Publication of slides permitted with credit to RDA Illawarra and cited sources.

CHARTS



Employment Recovery Trend - Illawarra

COVID-19: Overall Jobs Impact
March 2020 - 8 May 2021



RDA Analysis based on ABS Quarterly Labour Data, COVID-19 ATQ/ABS data up to 27 February 2021

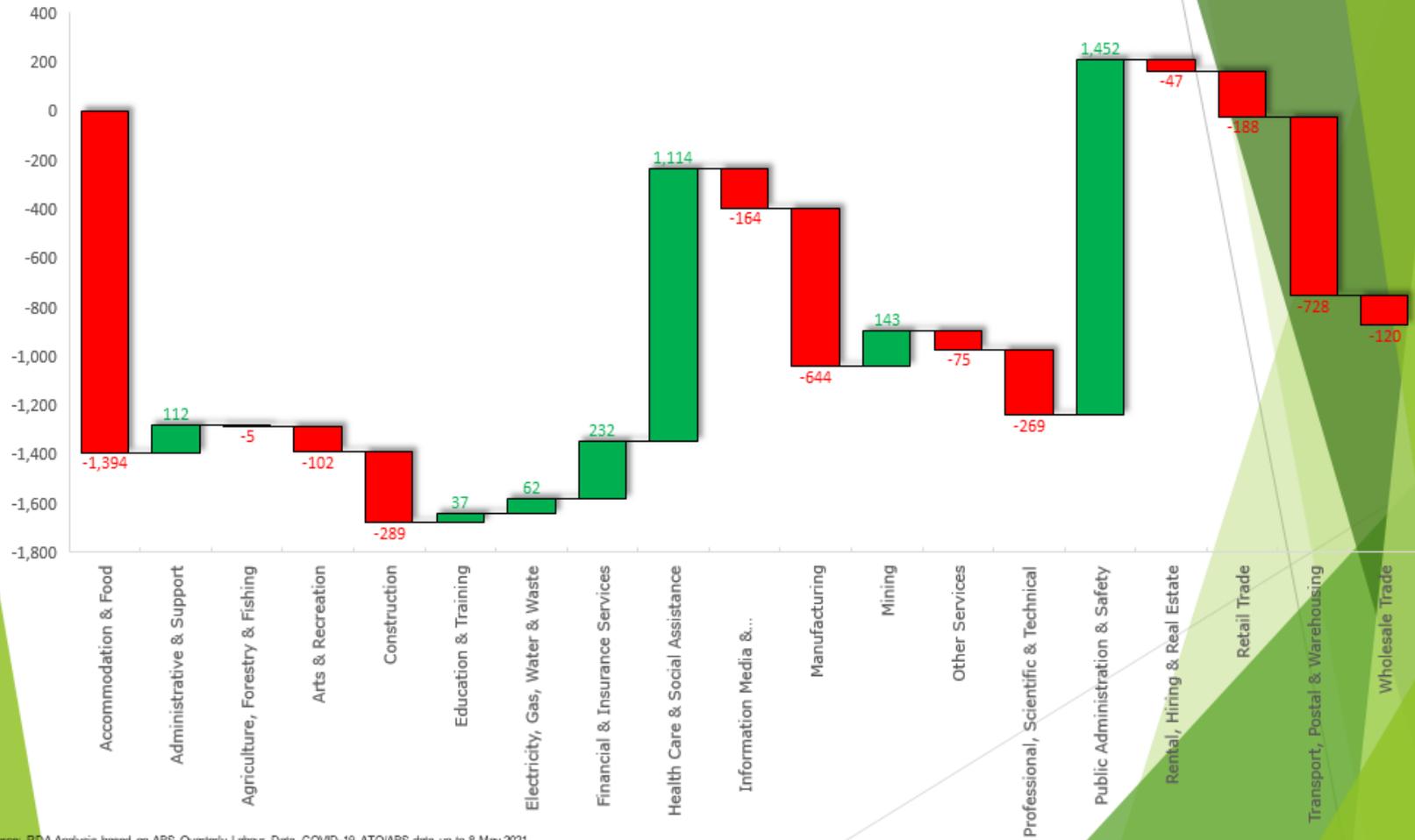
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CHARTS



Employment Impact by Sector - Illawarra

COVID-19: Impact on Illawarra Employment by Sector & Overall
March 2020 - 8 May 2021



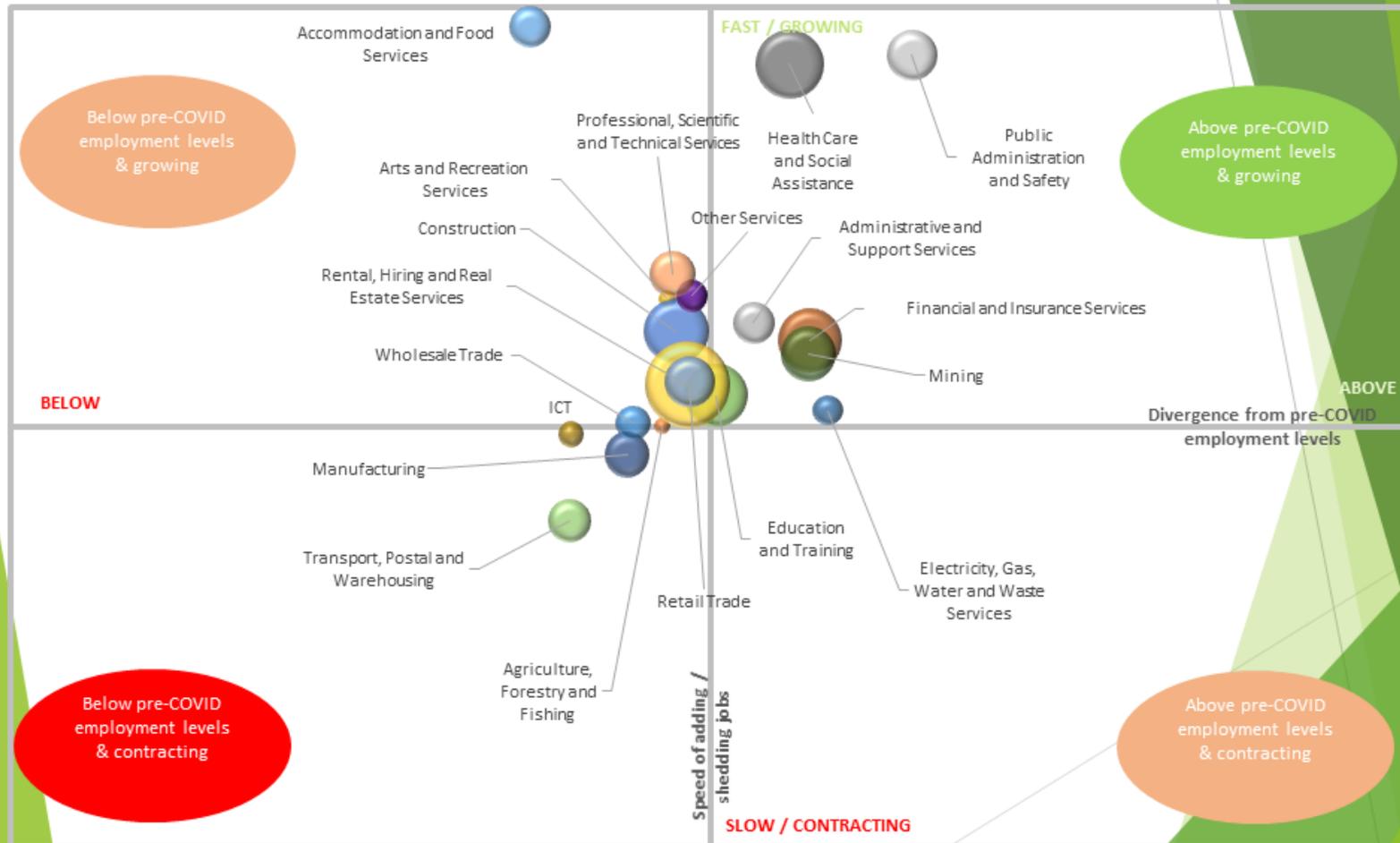
Source: RDA Analysis based on ABS Quarterly Labour Data, COVID-19 ATO/ABS data up to 8 May 2021

CHARTS



Potential Industry Sector Recovery - Illawarra

Speed of Recovery & Distance from pre-COVID Employment Levels
 (4 April - 8 May 2021. Balloon size indicates regional value-add by segment. Scaled)



RDA Analysis based on ABS Quarterly Labour Data, COVID-19 ATO/ABS data up to 8 May 2021

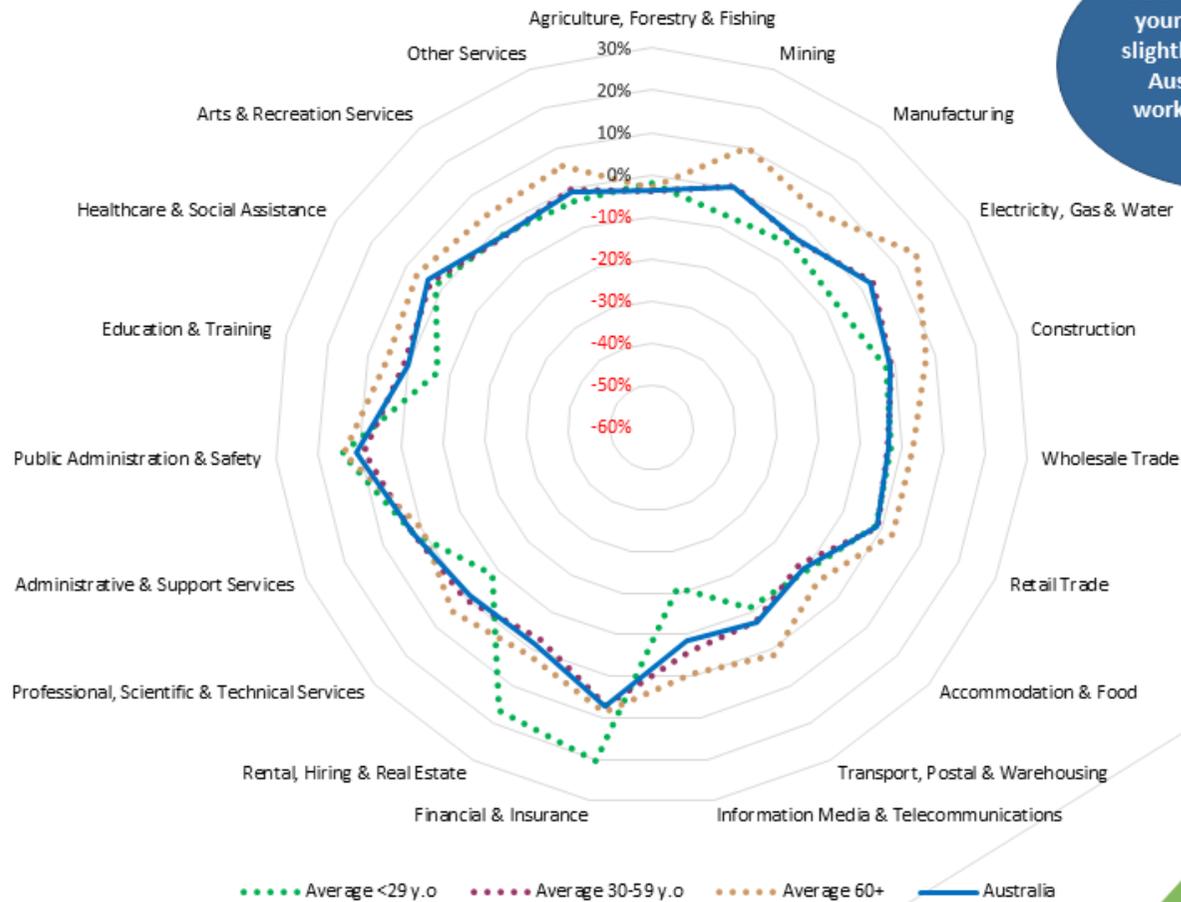
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CHARTS



Jobs Impact by Age (National)

COVID-19 Impact on Jobs by Age Group and Industry Sector - Australia
(F/E 8 May 2021 data)



COVID-19 impact on younger workers is slightly greater across Australia. Older workers have fared better.

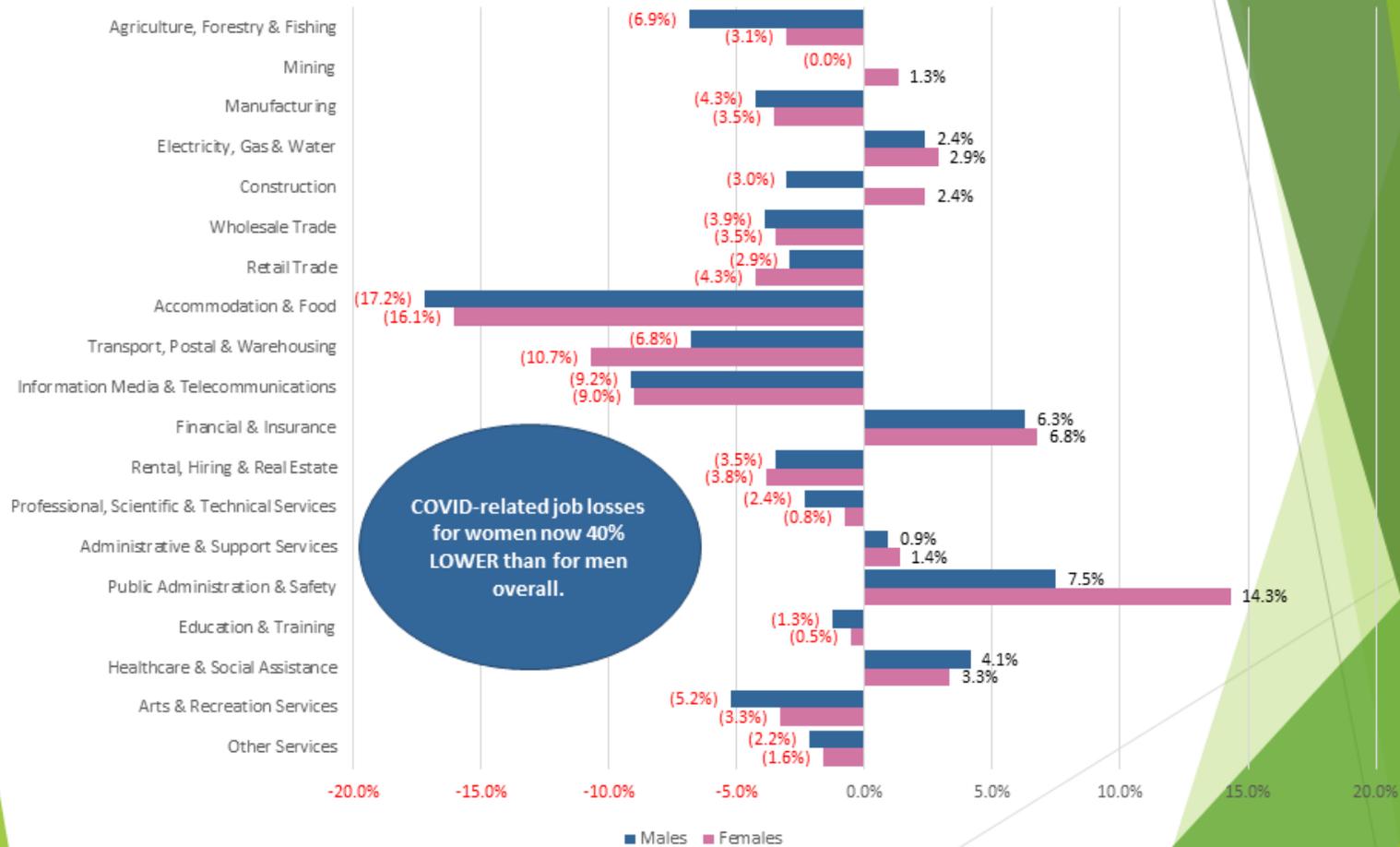
Source: RDA Illawarra analysis
ABS Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia –
Industry: 8 May
ABS Cat 6202.0 Labour Force Australia Table 12 (Original)

CHARTS



Jobs Impact by Gender (National)

COVID-19 Impact on Jobs by Gender - Australia
(F/E 8 May 2021 data)



COVID-related job losses for women now 40% LOWER than for men overall.

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Source: RDA Illawarra analysis of ABS Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia - Industry, 8 May 2021