

25%

One in four technology companies plan to introduce flexible working arrangements to overcome the skills shortage

A workable perk

Eleven per cent of Australian information and communications technology companies use flexible work arrangements and 25 per cent are planning their introduction as an attraction and retention tool, according to the latest Survey of Salaries and Remuneration Packaging in the Australian ICT industry by the Australian Information Industry Association. The AIIA says a greater emphasis on retention strategies is paying off: voluntary attrition in the year to August is 8.3 per cent, compared with 10.5 per cent in the year to March 2007.

Careful with that load

The lifting, loading and shifting of materials is the most common cause of workplace injury in New South Wales, accounting for approximately 17,000 workers'

compensation claims each year, or 37 per cent of all compensation claims, according to WorkCover NSW. The injuries result in \$370 million in claims each year.

Prostate cancer awareness

An estimated 18,700 cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in Australia in 2006, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Prostate cancer is forecast to be the biggest killer of men in Australia by 2011. Almost 3000 Australian men died from the disease

in 2005. The foundation estimates that prostate cancer causes loss of life, wellbeing and productivity valued at more than \$1 billion to Australia each year. For further information about prostate cancer and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September, visit www.prostate.org.au.

Wine exports

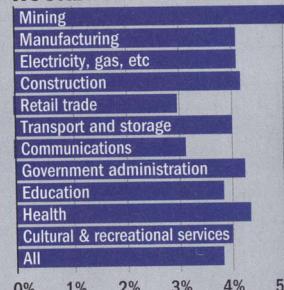
Exports of wine decreased by 6.8 per cent to 62.8 million litres in June compared with the previous month, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australia exported 788.8 million litres with a value of \$2.9 billion in the 12 months to June, an increase of 9.3 per cent in volume and 4.8 per cent in value over the previous year.



Labour costs more

Labour costs continued to climb during the June quarter, with an overall rise of 3.2 per cent across the eight capital cities, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Year on year, the rise was 4 per cent, with mining (5.6 per cent) leading the way along with the construction and health industries. The rise for the June 2007 quarter over the June 2006 quarter was 9.2 per cent, suggesting that, if anything, costs are accelerating.

HOURLY WAGE GROWTH



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34%

Proportion of Australian public company boards with at least one female director

93%

Proportion of Australian government boards with at least one woman director

Board gender imbalance widens

The percentage of Australian company boards with at least one woman director has declined over the past five years, according to the latest survey of Australian boards by search consultant Pro:Ned. Only 34 per cent of public company boards have at least one woman director, compared with 40 per cent in 2002. There has been a similar decline of female representation

on private boards, with 36 per cent of private company boards reporting at least one woman director, compared with 34 per cent in 2002. According to Pro:Ned's Non-Executive Director Remuneration and Board Governance Survey, the situation has improved in government: 93 per cent of boards now have at least one woman director (compared with 86 per cent in 2002).