DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, SKILLS, INDUSTRY AND REGIONS

Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Summary (2026 Update)

VICTORIA State Government | Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Our Purpose

DJSIR is dedicated to driving economic development and growth by:

Supporting businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism industries

The department is backing businesses and industries to adapt, innovate and grow by strengthening Victoria's business environment and global connections, attracting investment, enhancing digital capabilities and productivity, fostering new industries and our start-up ecosystem, as well as supporting the expansion of industries into international markets.

We're driving research, innovation and commercialisation, expanding our digital, creative and circular economies as well as our advanced manufacturing, agribusiness and health tech sectors. We are cementing Victoria's position as a leader in tourism, sport and major events.

Building the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future

A knowledgeable, skilled and adaptable workforce is key to higher productivity, innovation and economic prosperity in Victoria. To meet the demand for skilled workers in a changing economy, the department is focused on helping people access the training, support and skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

We're bringing employers, workers, Victoria's TAFE network, universities, and other training and education providers together so businesses and industries have access to a world-class workforce and more Victorians can achieve their education and career aspirations.

Ensuring communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business

The department is creating the conditions for vibrant and resilient communities across the state, including our regional cities and towns, by encouraging participation in the economy, creative industries, sport and recreation.

Our place-based approaches enhance cohesion, economic inclusion and liveability by improving access to community infrastructure and leveraging economic strengths, including in tourism and small business.

We're supporting First Peoples self-determination across Victoria through employment, education and training, and economic development. Our relationships across government, communities and businesses aspire to ensure the benefits of a robust economy are available to all Victorians – supporting a stronger and fairer society.

About Us

DJSIR is the Victorian Government's economic development department.

We support 8 Ministers across 14 portfolios to deliver government priorities and serve the people of Victoria.

While our remit is broad, we are unified by a shared goal to build a strong economy that serves all Victorians.

We do this through policy, programs and investment that help businesses and industries innovate and grow, build skills and jobs, and strengthen communities across the state.

Our work is both global and local. Through 23 international trade offices, and strong partnerships in every Victorian region, we promote Victoria, support exports, attract investment and strengthen industry capability.

Our work is underpinned by strong corporate systems and governance and a highly skilled workforce.

Our people are central to our success. We are professionals from diverse backgrounds, united by a commitment to public service and guided by shared values.

We:

- act with integrity, are accountable for our actions, show respect, and value diversity
- respond to the needs of businesses and communities, focusing on outcomes that make a difference for Victorians
- work collaboratively with partners across government, industry, community, research and training to achieve shared goals
- partner with First Peoples to advance self-determination
- invest in capability, leadership and a culture of continuous improvement.

Together we are shaping an economy that is strong, adaptable and future-ready.

Operating Context

State of the economy and labour market

Victoria's economy continues to grow and remains resilient against a challenging global backdrop.

Business investment was at a record level of $20.8 billion (in real terms) in the March quarter 2026[1]. This investment is critical for the state's economic capacity and future growth. International exports have grown rapidly, outpacing almost all states in 2025[2]. Victoria also leads the nation in new home building.

Victoria's labour market remains healthy. The unemployment rate averaged 4.7%[3] in 2025-26, which was below its long-term average, and employment continued to increase, including for women and younger Victorians[4]. The state's population grew by 117,300 people in 2025[5] – more than any other state – reflecting Victoria's position as a great place to live, work, study and do business.

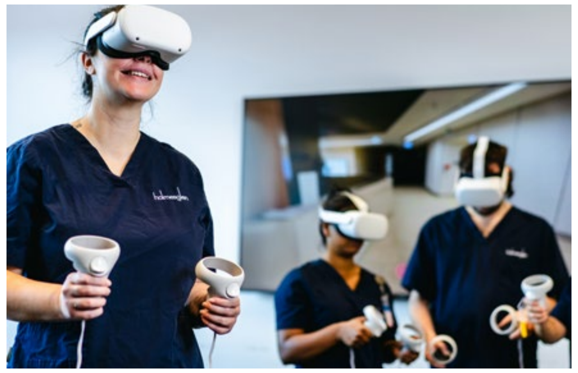
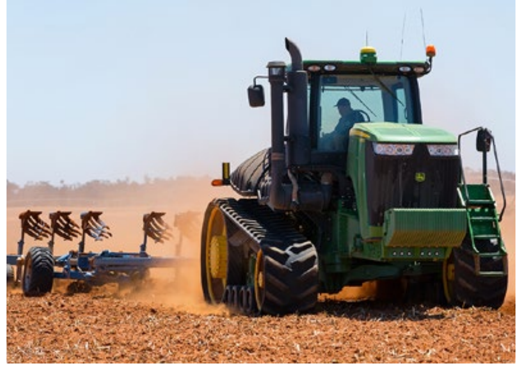
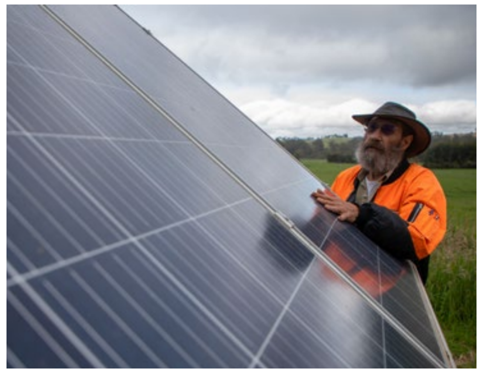
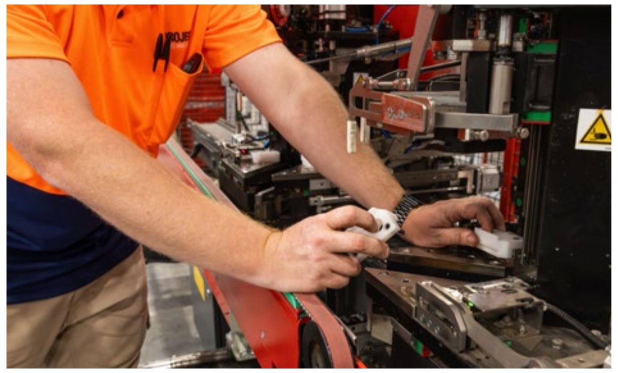
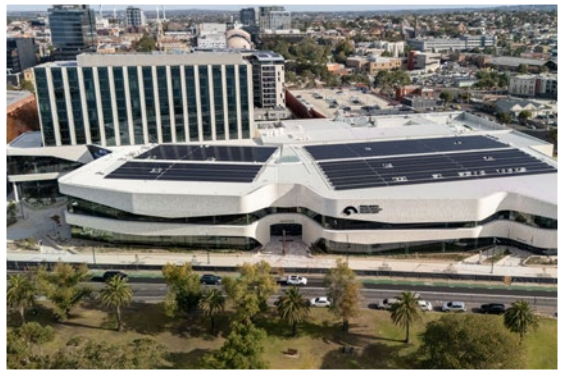
While these are positive outcomes, the Victorian economy faces several national and global challenges. High inflation, higher interest rates and global conflict have weighed on conditions and confidence for businesses and households. Cost pressures have been particularly evident in some industries – including construction and manufacturing – while softer consumer demand has been challenging for hospitality, tourism and retail trade.

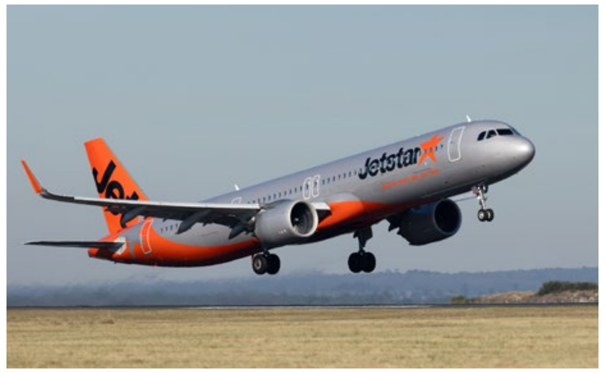
Victoria's regions remain resilient. The regional unemployment rate was the lowest of the Australian states in 2025-26, and below its long-term average[6]. Nevertheless, the regions face particular challenges, including worker shortages, housing shortages and industry transitions.

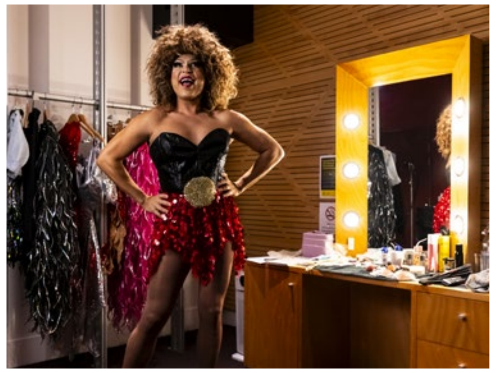
The Victorian economy continues to evolve, driven by digital and other technological changes, workforce changes, and broader national and global developments. These changes present challenges but also new opportunities for Victoria's economy.

Victoria's economic outlook remains positive, and the economy is in a strong position to weather current challenges. The economy is expected to grow modestly in 2026-27[7], before strengthening in later years, supported by continued household income growth. Business investment is forecast to remain strong, underpinned by investment in data centres and the renewable energy transition.

1 ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, March 2026.
2 2025 total, change from 2024 total. ABS Balance of Payments, March 2026.
3 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.
4 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.
5 Change from December 2024 to December 2025, ABS National, State and Territory Population.
6 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.
7 2026-27 State Budget, Budget Paper 2, page 17, Table 2.1.





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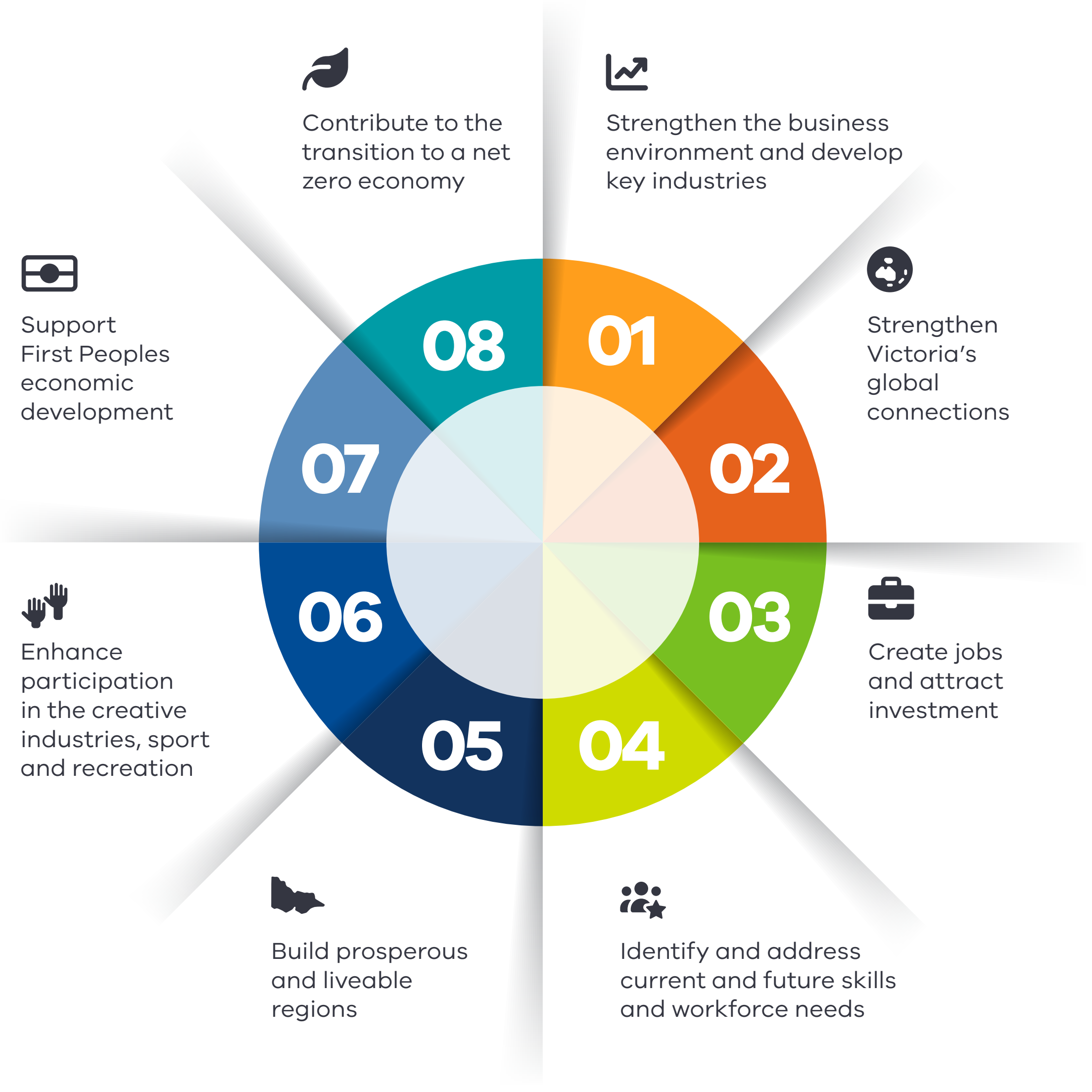
Our Strategies



Our Ministerial Portfolios

- Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy
- Community Sport
- Creative Industries
- Defence Industry
- Economic Development
- Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
- Jobs
- Major Events
- Medical Research
- Rural and Regional Development
- Skills and Training
- Small and Family Business
- Sport
- Trade, Tourism and Investment

Our Values

Our values underpin everything we do

INTEGRITY **ACCOUNTABILITY** **RESPECT**

Strategies and Departmental Focus Areas

Strategies	Departmental Focus Areas	
Purpose: Supporting businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism sectors		
01. Strengthen the business environment and develop key industries	In line with the *Victorian Industry Policy* and the *Economic Growth Statement:* • Leverage Victoria's competitive strengths and continually improve regulatory systems and practices to support the long-term success of our industries and businesses. • Invest in innovation capabilities, grow our startup ecosystem and translate ideas and research into commercial opportunities.	• Foster business creation and growth, supporting businesses to maximise opportunities in priority sectors. • Strengthen the department's analytical capabilities, evidence base and business intelligence to support better economic outcomes for Victorians.
02. Strengthen Victoria's global connections	• Grow and maintain Victoria's position as a state of choice for international investment, the creative industries, talent, visitors and students. • Empower and position Victorian businesses and organisations to trade with international markets and promote Victorian industry capability.	• Maintain a strong pipeline of global sport, industry and creative events within the Victorian events calendar. • Strengthen bilateral relationships that support Victoria's international economic engagement, including through the 23 overseas offices.
Purpose: Building the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future		
03. Create jobs and attract investment	• Support industries, sectors and businesses to innovate, adapt and grow in line with the *Victorian Industry Policy, Economic Growth Statement, Housing Statement* and *Plan for Victoria.* • Facilitate investment, job creation, export and skilling opportunities across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne through the delivery of the Victorian Investment Fund.	• Deliver services and activities that provide opportunities for Victorians to build their skills and find good, safe, secure, fair and sustainable employment. • Support growth industries, sectors and businesses to access the workers they need and benefit from new opportunities. • Support the startup ecosystem through departmental programs and engagement. • Build capability and supply chain resilience to support industry and sector growth.
04. Identify and address current and future skills and workforce needs	• Understand future skills needs and align government funded training with demand for current and future skills. • Improve labour supply in priority areas including apprenticeships through increased course completions in government funded training. • Boost economic participation by supporting disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts through provision of pre-accredited training, VET learner supports and pathways that are accessible and effective and meet the diversity of learner needs.	• Drive innovation through a joined-up tertiary system including stronger links between employment services, pre-accredited training, VET, schools, industry and higher education. • Address skill shortages through a responsive VET system, leading the development of flexible and adaptive accredited training and strong system stewardship. • Support TAFE in its critical role at the centre of the VET system through network reforms that further build capacity, coordination, innovation and quality. • Support improved higher education access and strengthen university partnerships and governance to improve skilling outcomes for Victorians.
Purpose: Ensuring communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business		
05. Build prosperous and liveable regions	• Support Victoria's regions with infrastructure, amenity, activities and services they need to thrive, including access to training. • Deliver high-quality, fit for purpose infrastructure, investment and jobs that enable economic development, provide opportunities for innovation, creativity and productivity and deliver community benefits. • Partner with local councils and local communities through innovative and inclusive place-based approaches and activities.	• Support Victorians in response, relief and recovery from natural disasters, emergencies and global shocks, and anticipate and lessen the negative impacts and consequences of crisis. • Support regional industries' and communities' resilience to adapt, grow and transition.
06. Enhance participation in the creative industries, sport and recreation	• Further strengthen community resilience by working with Victorians in anticipating, preparing for and responding to chronic shocks and acute stresses. • Support and motivate more Victorians and visitors to engage in creative, social, sport and active recreation activities in their communities and to ensure these sectors are inclusive. • Support public entities to operate effectively and sustainably to deliver government priorities and on community needs.	• Increase and promote new opportunities in the sector so Victorians can participate in sport and active recreation in ways that suit them. • Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and voluntary). • Support the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board to execute its statutory responsibilities of regulating the sport to promote safety and uphold industry integrity.
07. Support First Peoples economic development	• Grow and develop the domestic and export capability of Traditional Owner corporations and First Peoples businesses across urban and regional-based sectors and industries. • Support leadership, career advancement, training, employment and skill development opportunities for First Peoples in Victoria. • Proactively drive and prioritise First Peoples self-determination across the department's work as well as work in partnership with Gellung Warl to support the implementation of the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025.*	• Enable the work of the Yuma Yirramboi Council, including its Koori Caucus, to support initiatives that encourage First Peoples economic self-determination throughout Victoria. • Partner with the First Peoples Directions Circle, a group of esteemed First Peoples leaders and professionals working across the creative industries, education, community and philanthropic sectors, to ensure a thriving future shaped by Community and culture.
08. Contribute to the transition to a net zero economy	• Support communities and businesses to design, adapt to, transition and realise opportunities and economic benefits from decarbonisation of the economy. • Provide solutions for hard to abate industries to contribute to climate change goals (net zero emissions by 2045), for example, by progressing the CarbonNet Project.	• Contribute to the Whole of Victorian Government emissions reduction pledge 2026-30 by delivering the Portfolio Emissions Reduction Plan. • Provide skills and workforce development leadership across government to drive the provision and acquisition of skills required for the clean economy workforce. • Support the commercialisation and scaling of technologies and services which support the transition.