Trends and Prospects in the ICT Labour Market

- Overall, **demand for ICT workers was stable** over the 12 months to February 2010.

  – Employment for **ICT Professionals increased by 16 700**, up 8.2 per cent from February 2009.

  – Employment for ICT Support Technicians remained fairly stable, averaging 44 570 for the 12 months to February 2010.

- The **global recession continued to have an impact** on the number of advertised vacancies for ICT workers.

  – The DEEWR ICT vacancy count originally dropped sharply in mid 2008.

  – Over the year to March 2010 the vacancy count stabilised at a low of approximately 9 500 vacancies (weekly average), prior to increasing to nearly 11 500 vacancies (weekly average) over January to March 2010.

- Decreased demand associated with the global recession **affected some ICT workers more than others**.

  – The unemployment rate for ICT Managers and ICT Professionals remained fairly low and stable over the 12 months to February 2010, whereas the rate for ICT Support Technicians increased sharply over the same period.

Outcomes for ICT graduates

- Throughout most of the 1990s employment outcomes for ICT graduates were above those for all graduates. Employment outcomes fell sharply from 2001 to 2003 before recovering quite strongly in recent years.

- The global recession clearly impacted on employment outcomes in 2009, with a reduction in the proportion of graduates in full-time employment across all fields.

- In 2009, 80.0 per cent of Computer Science graduates and 79.2 per cent of all graduates from the previous year who were available for full-time work were in full-time employment by April 2009.

- ICT skills play an increasingly vital role in **many occupations**, and contribute to productivity gains, innovation and job growth across all Australian industries.

- Approximately 35 per cent of ICT graduates aged 20 to 29 years are employed as ICT Professionals, and 51 per cent are employed in other occupations

  – Of the 51 per cent employed in other occupations, 7 per cent are employed in other professional occupations; 10 per cent are technicians and trades workers; 9 per cent are clerical and administrative workers; 6 per cent are managers, and the balance (18 per cent) are employed in lower-skilled occupations.

Employment

- The past 20 years have seen **long-term growth** in employment in ICT occupations with an increase in employment of **112 500** in the past decade.

- In February 2010, approximately **430 200** workers were employed in ICT occupations, representing 4.0 per cent of the total Australian workforce.

- Of total employment in ICT occupations, **220 800 workers were employed as ICT Professionals**, 49 400 were employed as ICT Support Technicians and 36 800 were employed as ICT Managers.

- In recent years, employment **levels for ICT Professionals have shown a degree of variability**. This reflects a number of factors - for instance, the dot-com crash that occurred in the early 2000s, the use of international outsourcing for some ICT activities, and an easing of demand in the economic environment that developed over the course of 2008 and into 2009.

- **Strong long-term growth** in employment of ICT Professionals is evident – **71 100 new jobs or growth of 47.5 per cent** in the ten years to February 2010 - even though employment has moderated in the past five years (up by 60 400 or 37.7 per cent).

- The **majority of ICT workers** are employed as **software and applications programmers and ICT support technicians**, which account for 20 and 11 per cent of all ICT workers respectively.

- The occupations of **ICT Support and Test Engineers and Multimedia Specialists and Web Developers** account for less than 4 per cent of all ICT workers, but in terms of relative growth these two occupations have shown the largest increases of all ICT occupations over the last ten years, growing at an average rate of 35.9 and 16.4 per cent per annum respectively.

Information source

Labour Supply and Skills Branch, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Graduate Careers Australia, *GradStats December 2008.*

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Further ICT workforce information can be found at the Australian Government's SkillsInfo website or www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/SkillsIssues/ICTSkills/

National ICT Careers Week

National ICT Careers Week will be held in all states and territories from 27 July to 1 August 2009 as an initiative of the ICT Industry Leadership Group, co-hosted by the Australian Computer Society and the Australian Information Industry Association.

Full details of participating organisations, and their proposed activities, are listed on the National ICT Careers Week web site www.ictcareersweek.info

May 2010