

Committee: International Labour Organisation

Issue: Training for and practicing the professions of 2030

Author: Australia

The Global Labour Market has undergone a lot of changes since the beginning of the 21st Century. The way that we perceive our careers in correlation with personal life shifted and so did the workplace of many Australians. Technology advancements, introduction of Internet and Artificial Intelligence as work aids shaped how we, as Australians, contribute to the national economic development.

Over the last 30 years, our country's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita per year has increased from 21,870.4 US\$ in 2000 to 72,000 US\$ in 2030. The improvement happened thanks to an increase of population reaching 30 million as well as investments in research and development practices regarding new technology. As a result, Australia is ranked as one of the top countries regarding the Human Development Index, which reflects the state's quality education, high life expectancy and strong and resistant economy. Our close economic ties with global market dominators such as China are strengthened by mutual assistance, which proved to be useful during the 2008-2009 global recession.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) found its use in a vast majority of labor sectors, including agriculture. Over the last decades, wildfires and beach erosion of South Thompsons Bay (WA) and Port Beach (WA), have become prominent due to climate change. This impacted the Australian agriculture sector, further contributing to desertification and land loss. In order to attempt to reverse the damage that has been done and prevent it from happening again, AI has been used. An example would include crop yield prediction tools, which take into consideration changing distribution of rainfall, water availability, land, capital, biodiversity and GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions. This ensures regular and efficient crop management and collection, further helping in achieving food security in Australia.

AI also found its use in office-based work sectors as a productivity enhancing tool. Machine learning positively impacts employees by improving the process of completing simple tasks like email writing or document review. AI planners help them to schedule meetings and manage keeping up with deadlines. In 2024, 20 Australian companies switched to a 4 day work week. As per now, more than 40 companies follow the new work week model. This was able to be achieved due to enhanced AI usage and automation of the Australian labor market.

Minimum wage in Australia in 2030 is US\$26.24 an hour, which is a slight increase from US\$24.10 an hour in 2024. The poverty rate in Australia fluctuated during the last decade (mainly due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic) which resulted in an increase of percentage of citizens living from the poverty line. A temporary Coronavirus Supplement was put into place but its implementation period ended on March 31 2021. The introduction of such a financial aid provided a stable brace for the recovering post pandemic economy. In 2020, our country experienced its first recession in almost three decades as a result of lockdown, reduced consumer spending and disruption to various social - economic sectors. It is estimated that 1.5 million citizens have lost their jobs although many managed to retain them thanks to the government's JobKeeper initiative.

As per now, Australia has not launched any Universal Basic Income (UBI) related projects. Current discussions involve debates about funding and potential impacts on the economy and workforce. In 2023, Parliament of Australia released Petition EN5308 to Investigate the merits of all Australians having Universal Basic Income. After 31 August 2023, the document received 1068 signatures. Although until now, no further action was taken, we recognise the potential advantages of UBI and its

impacts on workforce and labor sectors and therefore the current government, led by the Australian Labour Party is likely to take a step into that direction.