

Broader uncertainty hits job hunting as workers...

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Broader uncertainty hits job hunting as workers stay put

Government organisations are more likely to be hiring but also far more likely to be planning redundancies, new Australian HR Institute research shows.

Recruitment intentions rose slightly to 61 per cent in the June quarter, up from 59 per cent in March, but remain well below the 71 per cent recorded in December.

The national figure hides a sharp split, with 75 per cent of public sector organisations planning to hire compared with 58 per cent of private sector employers.

At the same time, public sector employers are nearly twice as likely to be planning redundancies, at 31 per cent compared with 16 per cent in the private sector, according to figures on Tuesday.

The mixed picture comes as workers across the economy stay put.

Employee turnover has fallen to 13.5 per cent, down 11.2 per cent over six months and the lowest rate since the survey began in May 2023.

Institute chief Sarah McCann-Bartlett said employers and employees across both sectors were hunkering down in the face of economic uncertainty.

“Australian workers may be choosing stability over movement but stability is not the same as job satisfaction,” she said.

“When pay expectations are running below inflation and employees’ choices are limited, this creates real risks for engagement, productivity and wellbeing.”

Employers expect private sector pay rises of 3.3 per cent through to April 2027 and 2.4 per cent in the public sector.