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## Research reveals Friday, January 31 is the most common date to resign

More people quit their jobs today than any other date on the calendar. But if you hand in your notice, you could be making a huge mistake.



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Research shows there's a spike in the number of workers who quit their jobs on Friday, January 31 – but before you tap your boss on the shoulder, it might pay to think twice.

The [UK research](#) reveals today is the most common day to resign – but an analysis of new Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force data by comparison site [finder.com.au](#) has found it could actually be the “worst time” to quit.

According to Finder, many Australians are now convinced a recession is heading our way, with one in 10 Aussies feeling insecure in their jobs despite a steady unemployment rate.

The time taken to secure a job is now nearing the highest levels since the 1990s, and in December 2019, it took jobseekers 17 weeks to find employment – a whole three weeks more than in December 2018.

Throughout 2019, it took an average of 15.5 weeks to get a job on average, slightly lower than 2018's 15.8 weeks but higher than during the global financial crisis (GFC) when it took 8.7 weeks in 2008 and 12.1 weeks in 2009.

In 1999 it took 17.2 weeks on average, while the highest average number of weeks ever recorded since 1991 was 25.3 weeks in 1993.

The December 2019 unemployment rate, released last week, was recorded at 4.9 per cent – increasing by 10 basis points from November 2019, making it among the lowest levels since the GFC.

The number of Australians unemployed in December 2019 was 668,900 – 13,400 more people than November 2019 and 20,200 more than December 2018.

It has remained above or just under 600,000 people since 2009.



More people resign today than any other date. Picture: iStock Source: iStock

The Finder Consumer Sentiment Tracker, which is conducted by Qualtrics and surveys 1000 Australians each month, found more than one in 10 Australians felt insecure in their jobs, with more than half believing we are going to have a recession in the next 12 months.

Finder co-founder Fred Schebesta said the year was looking “pretty tough” – and a recession would only make things more difficult.

“It took an average of almost four months for people to get a job last year and looks like that trend will continue this year. Many Aussies are concerned about a recession and there are fears of job security,” he said.

“If you’re a business owner or thinking of starting a business this year, you need to think about how to future-proof your business in case of a weaker economy. Grow slowly, don’t overextend and focus on your core business model rather than starting too many projects.

“Those thinking about changing jobs this year should plan for at least three months to find a new job and work on mastering your craft as well as developing new skills in other areas.”

Callam Pickering from the job site Indeed has also crunched the numbers and discovered the first three months of the year typically had the highest job search activity, meaning people are more likely to leave their jobs and be on the lookout for new ones at this time of year.

According to the platform, the early increase in jobs search likely reflects the desire for a “fresh start” in the new year. It also noted bonuses were often awarded during this time, meaning some jobseekers probably planned to exit after pocketing the cash.

Indeed also found almost 29 per cent of searches occurred in the first three months of 2019, and over the last three years, January had consistently been the biggest month for job search activity throughout the year, averaging 9.8 per cent of all job search activity.

But according to people management specialist Karen Gately, director and founder of human resources firm Corporate Dojo, the news isn't all bad.



HR expert Karen Gately says talented workers will always land on their feet. *Source: Supplied*

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“Great people will always find opportunities, and these kinds of climates don’t impact everyone,” she told news.com.au.

“Yes, it might get somewhat more competitive, but that’s even more reason why you need to be very deliberate and targeted in what you do – if you’re not happy, don’t just leave for any old job, make a commitment to take the steps you need to get to a better place.

“Don’t just bunker down because the ABS says it’s getting hard.”

Ms Gately said while there were “pragmatic” concerns such as income to consider, it was important to “back yourself” and be clear on the type of job you want.

She said the data might also indicate employers were getting more “choosy and diligent” when it came to hiring decisions, which tends to happen during tougher economic times.

