



Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Labour Market Update provides information on the Australian labour market on a quarterly basis. It is intended to inform people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is at the Job Outlook website.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2014.¹

Employment

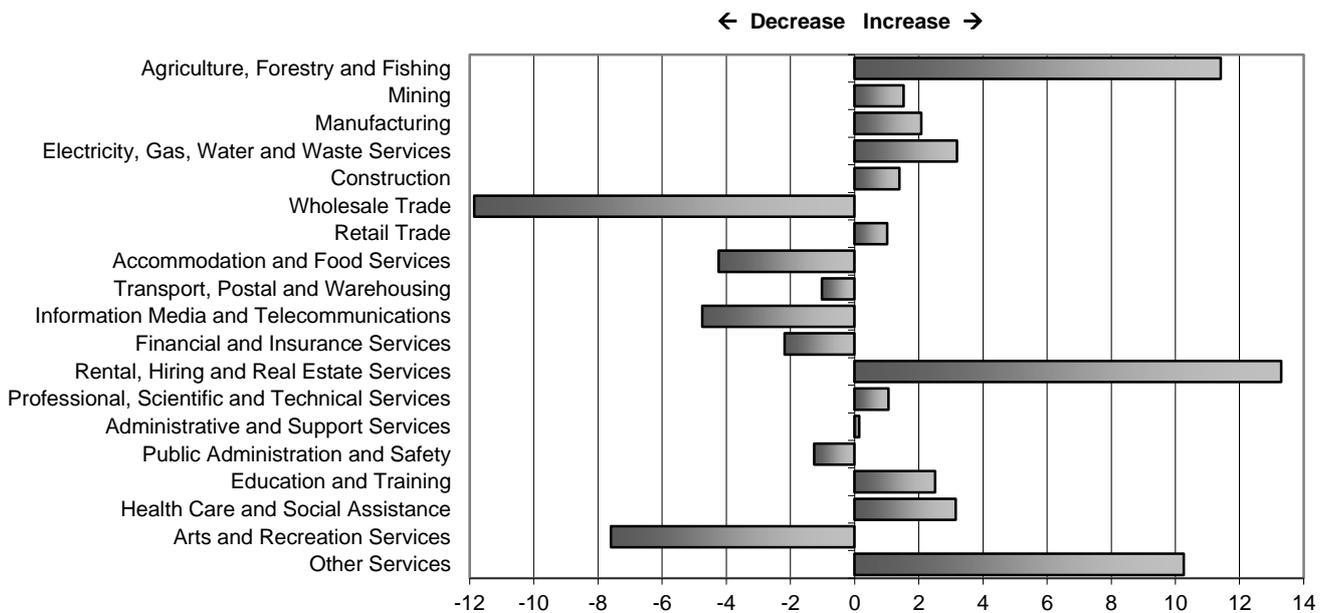
While trend employment has continued to expand over the year to May 2014, increasing by 104 800 (or 0.9 per cent), underlying labour market conditions remain soft. The current pace of trend employment growth of 12 800 jobs per month remains well below the recent peak of 18 700 jobs per month recorded in February 2014.

In line with the latest Budget Forecasts, the pace of employment growth is likely to remain reasonably modest over the coming months, with the unemployment rate continuing to edge up over the course of 2014.

Over the 12 months to May 2014, employment (in trend terms) increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 6.5%), Western Australia (WA, 2.7%), Queensland (2.6%), Tasmania (1.8%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 0.6%) and New South Wales (NSW, 0.1%), and was stable in Victoria. Employment declined in South Australia (SA, down 1.0%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2014, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Other Services² (up 46 800), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 43 200) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (up 33 400). The largest decreases in trend employment occurred in Wholesale Trade (down 51 100) and Accommodation and Food Services (down 33 300). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (up 13.3%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (up 11.4%) while the strongest rate of trend employment decrease was in Wholesale Trade (down 11.9%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry—May 2013 to May 2014



Source: ABS, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, (May 2014)*, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

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¹ Data in first and third paragraphs of the Employment section and data in the Unemployment section (other than the fourth paragraph) are from the ABS Labour Force Survey, June 2014.

² Other Services includes a range of personal services (such as hair, beauty, diet and weight management), religious, civic and other interest group services, repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery, and private households employing staff.

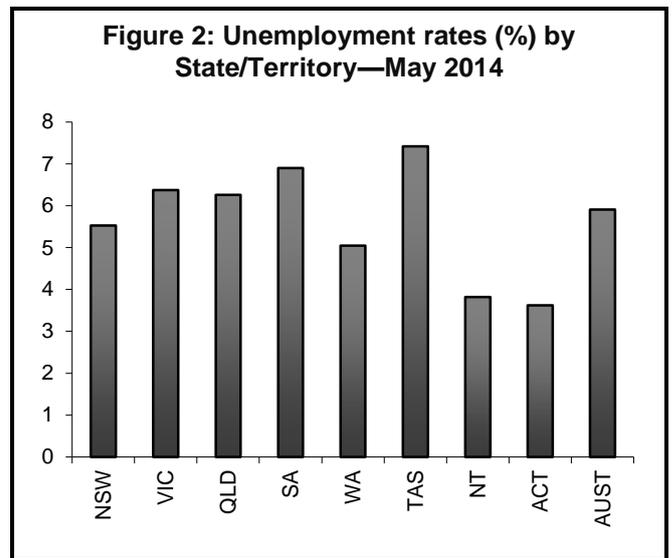
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.9% in May 2014 compared with 5.6% in May 2013.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in all states and territories except the NT (declined from 5.5% to 3.8%), Tasmania (declined from 7.8% to 7.4%) and the ACT (declined from 4.0% to 3.6%).

In May 2014, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.4%), SA (6.9%), Victoria (6.4%) and Queensland (6.3%) and lowest in the ACT (3.6%), the NT (3.3%), WA (5.1%) and NSW (5.5%). See Figure 2.

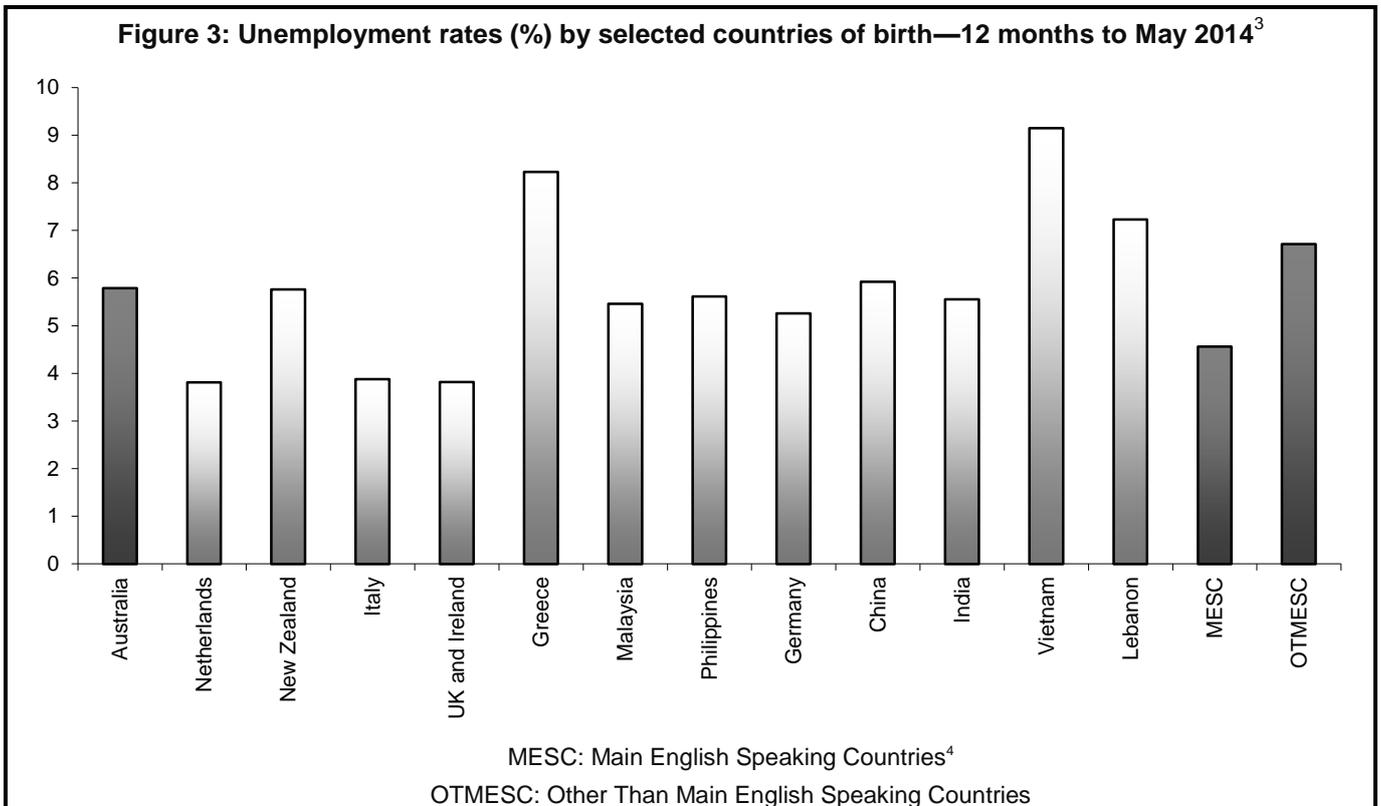
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to May 2014, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was around three times that of former Professionals.



Migrant Unemployment

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including skill level, age, English proficiency, recent and relevant work experience, and the period since arrival in Australia. Data consistently show recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate on average than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 2014) for people resident in Australia born in selected overseas countries. People born in the Netherlands, UK and Ireland and Italy have relatively low unemployment rates (3.8%, 3.8% and 3.9% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam, Greece and Lebanon are relatively high (9.2%, 8.2% and 7.2% respectively).



³ Estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 may be subject to high sampling variability. Figure 3 uses original data.

⁴ MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

Employment and Unemployment by Occupation⁵

While employment growth is not the only factor influencing job prospects, it may be easier to obtain a job in an occupation which is experiencing strong employment growth than one growing only slowly or declining.

Over the 12 months to May 2014 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Managers (up 41 000), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 32 400) and Professionals (up 22 000). Employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Employment growth rates and unemployment rates by occupation—12 months to May 2014

| Occupational Group | Employment Growth Rate (%) | Unemployment Rate (%) |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Managers | 2.9% | 2.1% |
| Professionals | 0.9% | 2.3% |
| Technicians and Trades Workers | 0.8% | 3.4% |
| Community and Personal Service Workers | 2.9% | 3.8% |
| Clerical and Administrative Workers | -0.9% | 3.3% |
| Sales Workers | 1.7% | 4.7% |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | -0.6% | 4.9% |
| Labourers | -1.3% | 7.0% |

Highly skilled occupational groups tend to experience lower rates of unemployment compared with less-skilled occupational groups, while higher unemployment rates are generally associated with less-skilled occupations. The unemployment rates (for those who worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) by occupational group are presented in descending skill order (average of the last four quarters) in Table 1 above.

Additional information on occupational groups is provided in the following section on internet vacancy trends.

Internet Vacancy Trends

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report⁶, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁷ (see Figure 4). Over the year to June 2014, IVI (trend) increased by 10.6%, with increases recorded in all of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 19.3%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 17.1%). The weakest increases were for Labourers (up 0.1%) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 1.2%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 38 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to June 2014, with the strongest increases being for Construction Trades (up 41.6%), Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 40.4%), Sports, Travel and Personal Service Workers (up 21.3%) and Carers and Aides (up 20.8%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Engineers (down 28.4%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 20.8%), Farmers and Farm Managers (down 6.4%) and Machine and Stationary Plant Operators (down 5.2%).

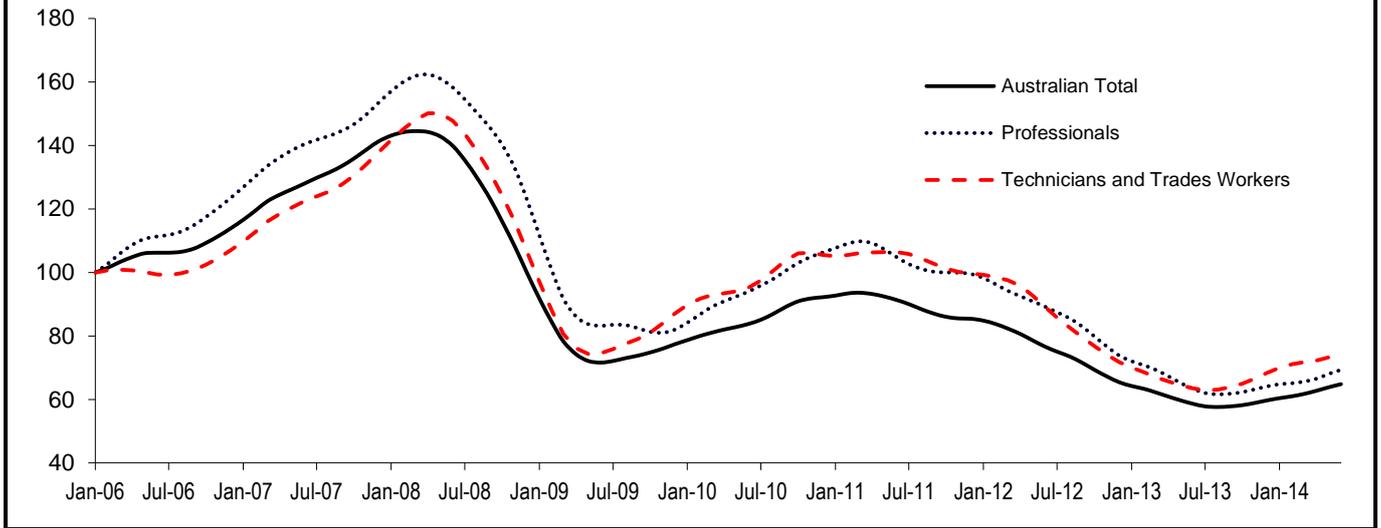
Over the year to June 2014, vacancies increased in five states and both territories, with the strongest increases in NSW (up 19.7%) and Victoria (up 12.7%). Vacancies declined in SA (down 0.7%).

⁵ This section is based on ABS Labour Force Survey original data. Occupational Groups are from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

⁶ See Department of Employment Labour Market Information Portal website (www.lmip.gov.au).

⁷ The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, MyCareer, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before IVI vacancies are coded by the Department of Employment to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).

Figure 4: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to June 2014



Source: Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (June 2014), Trend Index data.

Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2014 publication contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2018 and the number of openings likely due to workers leaving their occupation group for other employment or leaving the workforce. As there may be significant variation between and within states, information on job openings should be used with caution.

Job Openings estimates are indicative only and are intended to provide a guide to opportunities likely to be available over the five years to November 2018. It is important to note these estimates do not provide any guidance about how many people are looking for opportunities in each occupation. The Australian labour market can change quickly so information on the Australian labour market should be re-assessed prior to making a decision to lodge a visa application.

Queries on the Australian Labour Market Update publication should be emailed to migration@employment.gov.au.



Architect

Architects plan and design buildings, provide concepts, plans, specifications and detailed drawings, negotiate with builders and advise on the procurement of buildings.ⁱ

The entry requirement for employment for architects in Australia is generally a three year Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree plus a two year Masters degree and completion of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) Architectural Practice Examination (APE). In each state and territory of Australia, it is a legal requirement that a person using the title of architect or offering services to the public as an architect, must be registered with the Architect Registration Board in that jurisdiction.ⁱⁱ

Labour Market Profile

Employment in this occupation (19 600 in November 2013) remained relatively steady in the past five years and employment is projected to grow strongly in the next five years to reach 21 800 in November 2018. Architects and landscape architects are mainly employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Construction industries. Table A provides a labour market profile from the Job Outlook website www.joboutlook.gov.au.

Table A: Architects and Landscape Architects—Key Labour Market Indicators

| Key Indicator | Architects and Landscape Architects |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Occupation size (November 2013) | 19 600 |
| Females | 33.0% |
| Most common level of educational attainment | Bachelor degree (57.1%) |
| Median age | 41 years |
| Full-time share of employment | 81.7% |
| Average weekly hours (full-time) | 43.5 hours |
| Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax) | \$1 634 |
| Unemployment rate | below average |
| Projected (to November 2018) occupation size | 21 800 |

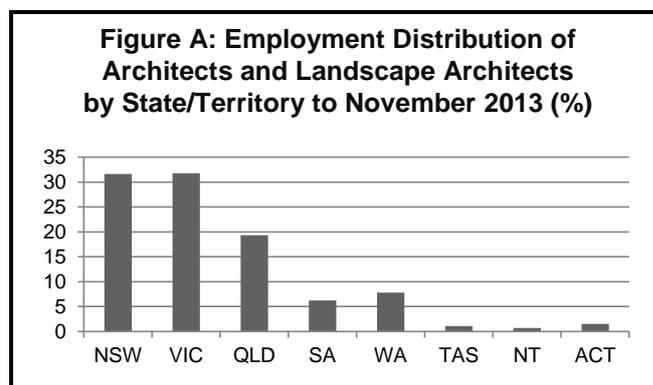
Recent labour market research by the Department of Employment suggests there is no shortage of architects in Australia (see <http://docs.employment.gov.au/node/31501>).

Regional Employment

Architects and landscape architects are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

For the four quarters to November 2013, the average employment of architects and landscape architects was highest in Victoria (VIC, 31.8%), New South Wales (NSW, 31.6%) and Queensland (QLD, 19.3%).

The Northern Territory (NT), Tasmania (TAS), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), South Australia (SA) and Western Australia (WA) employed the smallest number of architects and landscape architects. See Figure A (original data).



Skills Assessment

The AACA is the Australian assessing authority for architects. Individuals applying to migrate to Australia in this occupation must have successfully completed an assessment by the AACA of their qualifications prior to lodging a visa application.

The assessment process depends on whether an applicant has an accredited academic qualification in architecture from an Australian school of architecture or holds overseas qualifications. A positive assessment or verification of qualifications for migration purposes is part of a three step process leading to registration as an architect in Australia.

The National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA) performance standards apply to all individuals applying for registration as an architect in Australia. While there are multiple pathways to registration as an architect in Australia, the following three steps outline the requirements for registration. Firstly, an individual must have a recognised academic qualification in architecture or a pass in the National Program of Assessment (NPrA) or relevant Registration Board Prescribed Examinations. Secondly, an individual must have a period of training through experience followed by successful completion of the AACA three part APE. Thirdly, an individual must apply for registration to the Architect Registration Board in the state or territory in which registration is sought.

Where applicable, individuals applying for registration as an architect in Australia will need to demonstrate they have scored an overall band score of 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (or equivalent) or provide certification from an employer or educator their written and spoken English is adequate for professional communication.

The AACA website (www.aaca.org.au) includes a full list of accredited Australian qualifications in architectureⁱⁱⁱ, provisions for applicants nominated under employer-sponsored migration programmes^{iv} and more detailed information on skills assessment for architects. The Australian Skills Recognition Information website (www.immi.gov.au/asri) also provides relevant information.

Employer-Sponsored Migration

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programmes, including the Temporary Work Skilled, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programmes is on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website at www.immi.gov.au.

Seeking Employment in Australia

Architects should note that neither acceptance of qualifications for migration purposes nor registration as an architect in Australia assures employment in the occupation in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors such as the number of vacancies, skill needs in the Australian labour market, and suitability of an applicant for employment in a particular job in Australia.

The Department of Employment is not an employment agency and is not able to assist visa applicants or potential migrants to obtain employment in Australia. Australian employers are increasingly using the internet to advertise vacancies and websites of Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies often include information on vacancies.

ⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, Cat. No. 1220.0, First Edition, www.abs.gov.au. A more detailed description is at www.aaca.org.au.

ⁱⁱ Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, Architect Registration, www.aaca.org.au/architect-registration.

ⁱⁱⁱ Recognised Architecture Qualifications, www.aaca.org.au/architect-registration/recognised-architecture-qualifications.

^{iv} Migration Skills Assessment, www.aaca.org.au/migration-skills-assessment.