



## 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, February 2015.<sup>1</sup>

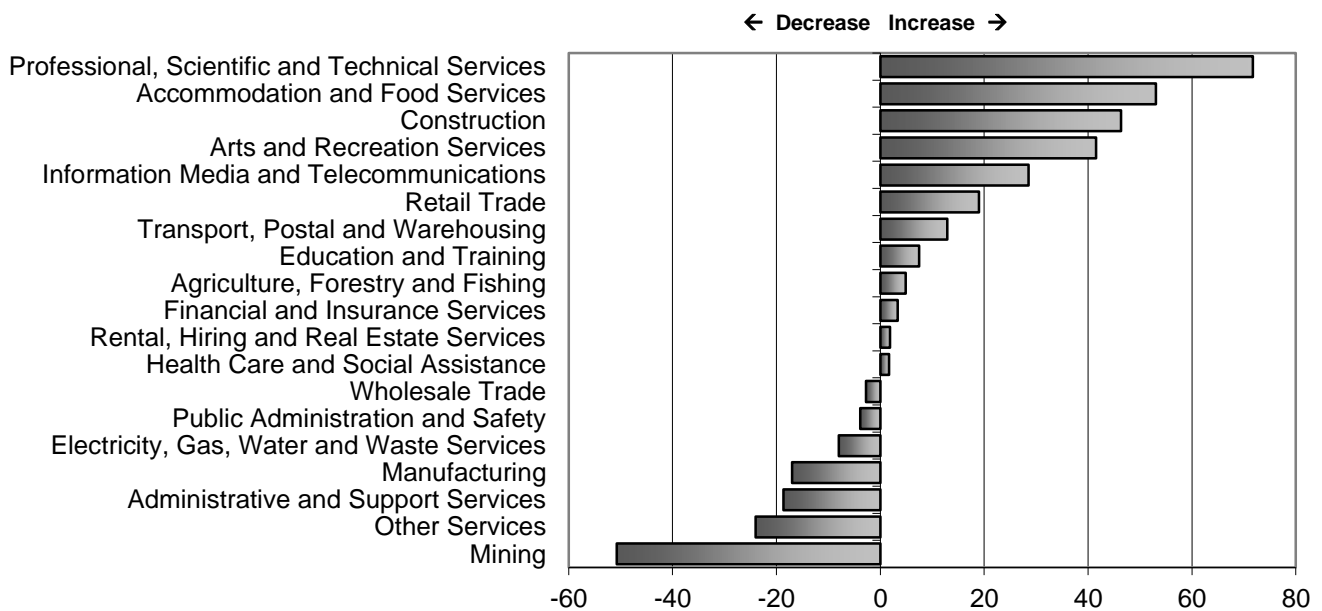
## Employment

In line with the Australian Government's latest Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook forecasts, the pace of employment growth is likely to remain subdued over the coming months, with the unemployment rate expected to edge up over the remainder of 2014-15.

Over the 12 months to February 2015, the largest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.1%), Tasmania (3.1%), Western Australia (WA, 2.8%) and New South Wales (NSW, 1.1%). Employment declined in the Australia Capital Territory (ACT, down 1.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 71 700), Accommodation and Food Services (up 53 000), Construction (up 46 300) and Arts and Recreation Services (up 41 500). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Mining (down 50 700). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Arts and Recreation Services (up 20.8%) and Information Media and Telecommunications (up 14.7%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—February 2014 to February 2015**



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2014, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

<sup>1</sup> The third paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, March 2015 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

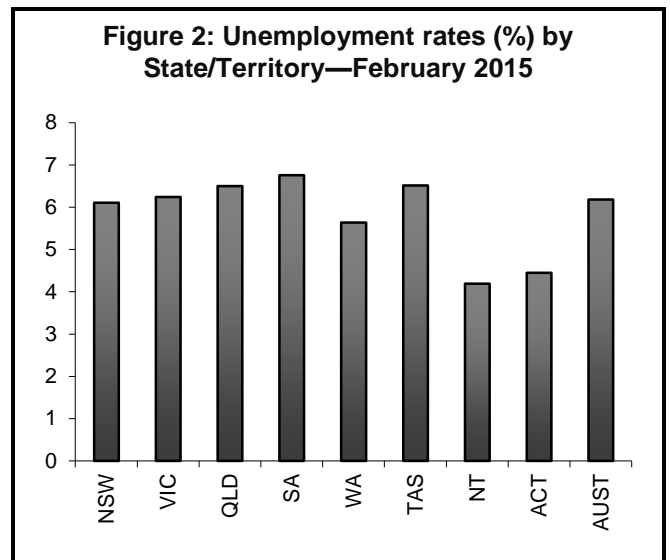
# Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 6.2% in February 2015 compared with 5.9% in February 2014.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the ACT (3.6% to 4.4%), WA (5.0% to 5.6%), NSW (5.6% to 6.1%), the Northern Territory (NT, 3.7% to 4.2%), Queensland (6.1% to 6.5%) and South Australia (SA, 6.7% to 6.8).

The trend unemployment rate decreased in Tasmania (7.5% to 6.5%) and Victoria (6.4% to 6.2%).

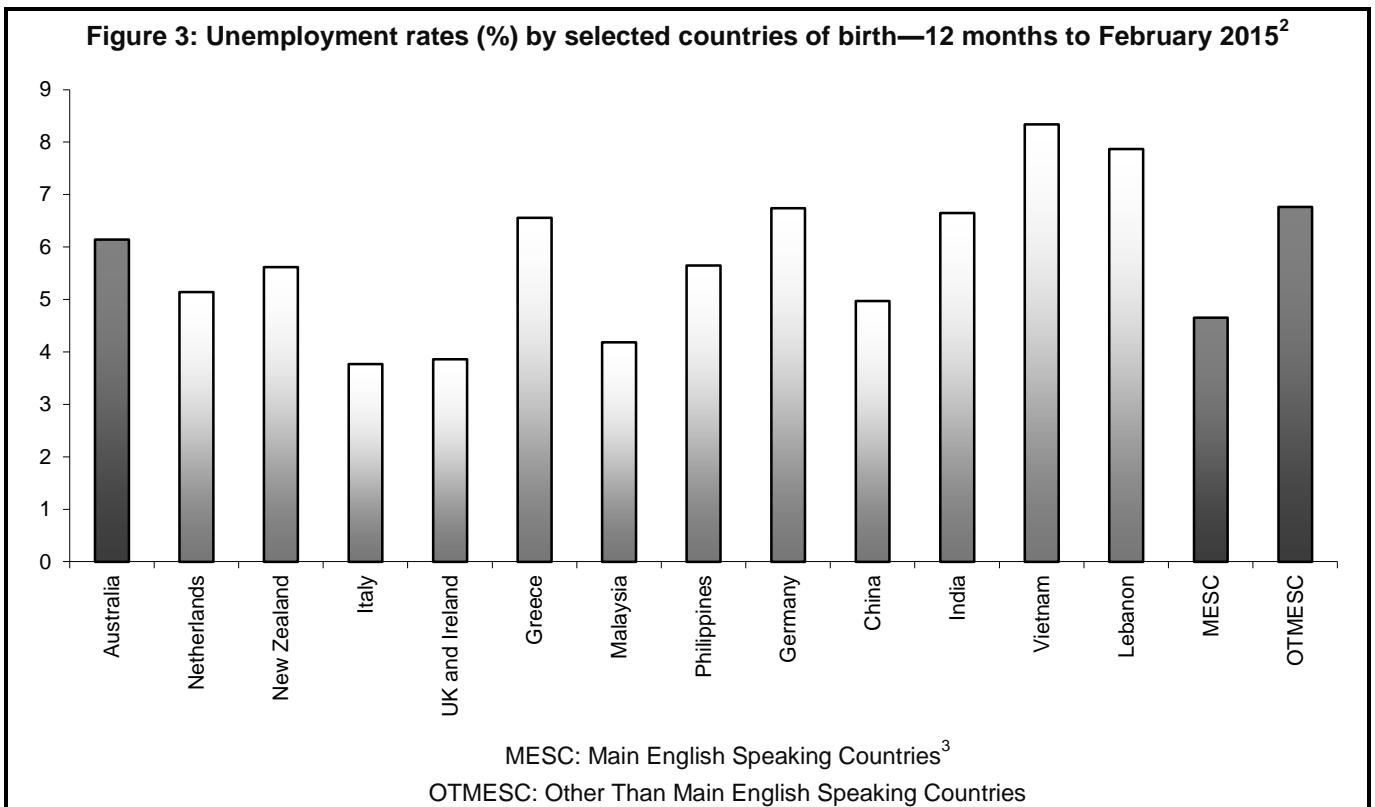
In February 2015, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (6.8%) and lowest in the NT (4.2%). See Figure 2.



# 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 February 2015) for people resident in Australia born in selected overseas countries. People born in Italy, the UK and Ireland and Malaysia have relatively low unemployment rates (3.8%, 3.9% and 4.2% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and Lebanon are relatively high (8.3% and 7.9% respectively).



<sup>2</sup> Estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 (original data) may be subject to high sampling variability.

<sup>3</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

## Employment by Occupation<sup>4</sup>

Employment growth is not the only factor influencing job prospects and 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 February 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 112 100), Managers (up 66 000) and Community and Personal Service Workers (up 40 400). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to February 2015**

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	66.0	4.4
Professionals	112.1	4.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	38.6	2.3
Community and Personal Service Workers	40.4	3.5
Clerical and Administrative Workers	19.3	1.2
Sales Workers	-7.8	-0.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-8.5	-1.1
Labourers	-6.1	-0.5

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

## Internet Vacancy Trends<sup>5</sup>

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report<sup>6</sup>, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)<sup>7</sup> (see Figure 4). Over the year to February 2015, the IVI (trend) increased by 8.2%, with increases recorded in seven of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 12.6%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 10.2%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 39 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to February 2015, with the strongest increases being for Farmers and Farm Managers (up 50.3%), Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (up 33.2%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Engineers (down 11.6%), Automotive and Engineering Trades (down 11.2%) and Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 10.0%).

Over the year to February 2015, vacancies increased in all states except WA (down 2.3%) and the NT (down 2.0%). The strongest increases in vacancies were in the ACT (up 17.6%), NSW (up 13.0%) and Victoria (up 10.1%).

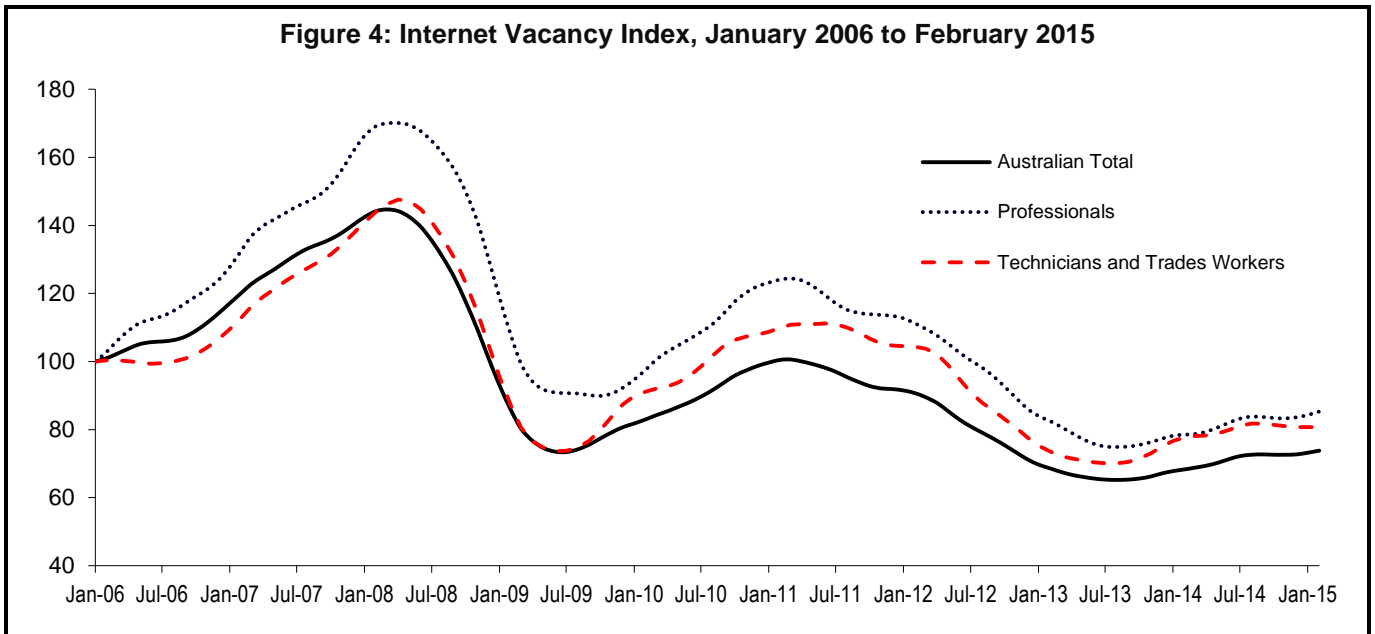
<sup>4</sup> This section is based on February 2015 Department of Employment trend data derived from ABS Labour Force Survey data. Occupational Groups are from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

<sup>5</sup> See Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (August 2014). Figure 4 uses data from the March 2015 Vacancy Report.

<sup>6</sup> See Department of Employment Labour Market Information Portal website ([www.lmip.gov.au](http://www.lmip.gov.au)).

<sup>7</sup> The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, 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 February 2015**



Source: Department of Employment, *Vacancy Report (March 2015)*, Trend Index data.

## Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2015<sup>8</sup> publication contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2019 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 2019. 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](mailto:migration@employment.gov.au).

<sup>8</sup> <http://employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication>.



## Australia—States and Territories

This Hot Topic focuses on the Australian states and territories (the States), and provides an overview of the Australian population, its regional distribution and relative economic performance. It is an annual publication included in the April edition of the Australian Labour Market Update.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, February 2015.

## The Australian Population

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.0% and 24.9% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2014 were Western Australia (WA, up 2.2%), Victoria (up 1.9%), Queensland (up 1.5%) and NSW (up 1.5%). Tasmania experienced the weakest growth (0.3%).

**Table A: Distribution of the Australian Resident Population at 30 June 2014\***

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
<b>Population</b>	7 518 472	5 841 667	4 722 447	1 685 714	2 573 389	514 762	245 079	385 996	23 490 736
<b>Share of Australian Population (%)</b>	32.0	24.9	20.1	7.2	11.0	2.2	1.0	1.6	100.0
<b>Population growth (%)**</b>	1.5	1.9	1.5	0.9	2.2	0.3	1.0	1.2	1.6
<b>Capital City (%)</b>	64.4	76.0	48.2	77.4	78.5	42.6	57.3	100.0	66.5
<b>Balance of State (%)</b>	35.6	24.0	51.8	22.6	21.5	57.4	42.7	0.0	33.5

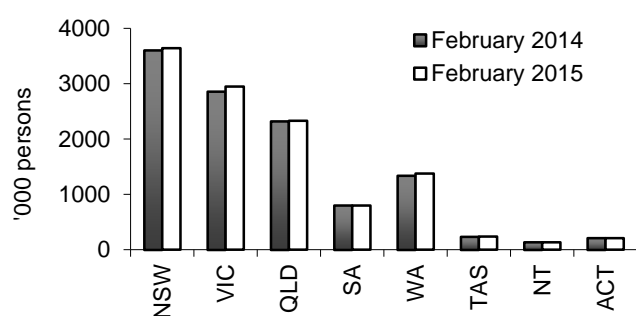
\* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2014 is preliminary.

\*\* Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2013 to 30 June 2014. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2013 and 2014 is preliminary.

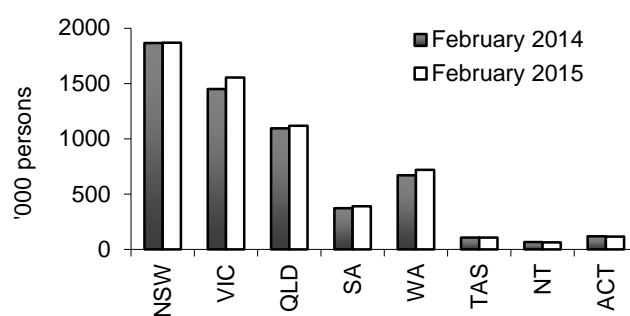
Source: ABS (2015), *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2014*, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2015), *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013-14*, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

## State and Territory Employment

**Figure A: Employment by State/Territory (trend), February 2014 and February 2015**



**Figure B: Employment for Skilled Occupations by State/Territory, February 2014 and February 2015**



Trend employment increased in Victoria (up 3.1%), Tasmania (up 3.1%), WA (up 2.8%), NSW (up 1.1%), Queensland (up 0.3%), South Australia (SA, up 0.3%) and the Northern Territory (NT, up 0.3%) over the 12 months to February 2015. Trend employment fell in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, down 1.1%). See Figure A.<sup>1</sup>

Figure B shows NSW (1.87 million), Victoria (1.55 million) and Queensland (1.12 million) employ the largest number of workers in skilled occupations<sup>2</sup> (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data). WA recorded the highest employment growth in skilled occupations (up 7.7%) followed by Victoria (up 7.1%) and SA (up 5.1%) over the 12 months to February 2015.

<sup>1</sup> This paragraph, Figure A and the State and Territory Labour Force section use trend data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, March 2015 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

<sup>2</sup> ANZSCO Major Groups 1 to 3 includes most occupations where the indicative skill level for employment in the Australian labour market is aligned to an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III (including at least two years of on-the-job training) or higher qualification).

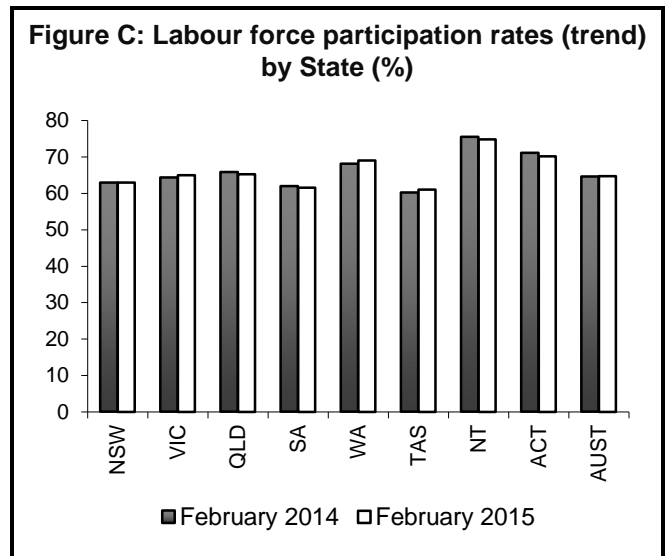
## State and Territory Labour Force

The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. The labour force is based on employed persons plus unemployed persons.

Over the 12 months to February 2015, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) increased by 0.1 percentage point to 64.7% (see Figure C). WA, Tasmania and Victoria recorded the largest increases in the participation rate over this period (0.9, 0.9 and 0.7 percentage points respectively), with the ACT, the NT and Queensland recorded the largest decreases (0.9, 0.6 and 0.6 percentage points respectively).

Full-time employment (trend data) increased by 1.5% in the 12 months to February 2015, while part-time employment increased by 1.7%.

Male full-time employment (trend data) increased by 1.8% while female full-time employment increased by 1.0%. Male part-time employment increased by 0.9% while female part-time employment increased by 2.1%.



## Industry by State and Territory

Table B below provides estimates of the percentage of employment in each State for each industry (original data). It shows the ACT and the NT have a relatively high proportion of employed persons in Public Administration and Safety; WA in Mining, Victoria and SA in Manufacturing; and SA and Tasmania in Health Care and Social Assistance. The industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health Care and Social Assistance followed by Retail Trade and Construction. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services now employs more people in Australia than Manufacturing.

**Table B: Employment Distribution by Industry and State/Territory to February 2015 (% of persons)**

Industry	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.5	3.0	2.3	5.4	2.3	5.8	1.2	0.3*	2.8
Mining	1.0	0.4	3.0	1.8	7.1	1.4	4.2	0.0*	2.0
Manufacturing	7.7	9.7	7.1	9.2	6.5	8.0	3.1	2.0	7.9
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.1	1.2
Construction	8.9	8.2	9.5	7.6	10.4	7.6	11.3	6.9	8.9
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.8	2.9	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.1	1.2	3.3
Retail Trade	10.3	11.3	10.9	11.1	10.3	11.8	7.2	8.3	10.7
Accommodation and Food Services	7.2	6.6	7.4	6.6	6.2	7.8	5.8	6.3	6.9
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.6	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	2.1	5.2
Information Media and Telecommunications	2.2	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.3	2.1	1.8
Financial and Insurance Services	5.0	3.8	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.0	1.3	1.7	3.6
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.6	8.6	7.6	6.4	8.5	4.8	5.5	9.7	8.2
Administrative and Support Services	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	2.4	3.3
Public Administration and Safety	5.4	5.1	6.5	6.1	5.7	7.1	17.2	30.7	6.3
Education and Training	7.9	8.1	7.8	8.2	7.5	8.9	8.4	8.0	7.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	12.0	12.0	12.5	14.8	10.7	12.9	11.9	10.9	12.1
Arts and Recreation Services	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.6	2.7	2.2	1.9
Other Services	4.4	3.8	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.4	5.0	2.8	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey original data for the 4 quarters to February 2015.

\* This estimate may be subject to high sampling variability.