



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.

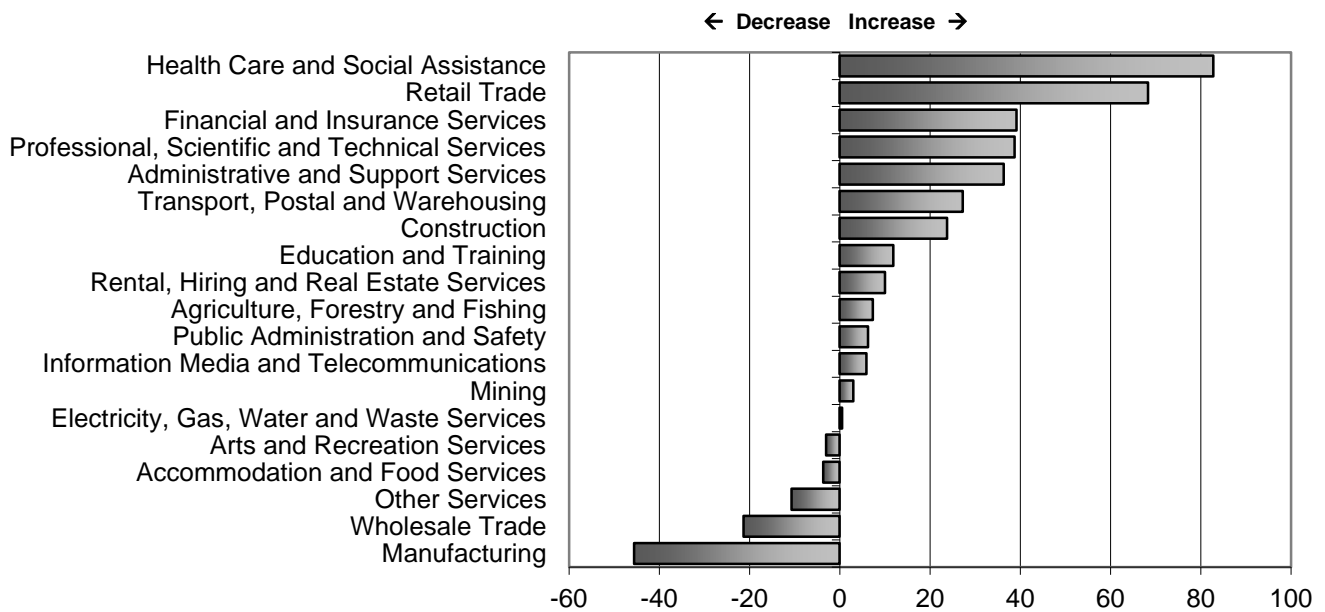
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, February 2016.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to February 2016, the strongest employment growth (trend terms) occurred in New South Wales (NSW, 4.1%) and Queensland (2.4%). Employment declined in the Northern Territory (NT, down 1.5%) and Tasmania (down 1.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2016, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 82 800), Retail Trade (up 68 300) and Financial and Insurance Services (up 39 200). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Manufacturing (down 45 500). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Financial and Insurance Services (up 9.7%) and Administrative and Support Services (up 9.3%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—February 2015 to February 2016



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, February 2016, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, March 2016 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

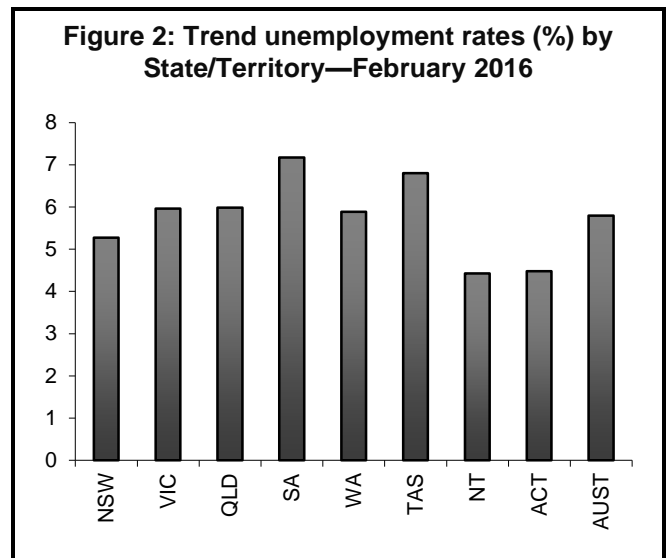
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.8% in February 2016, compared with 6.2% in February 2015.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in Western Australia (WA, 5.6% to 5.9%), the NT (4.2% to 4.4%), South Australia (SA, 7.0% to 7.2%), Tasmania (6.7% to 6.8%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 4.4% to 4.5%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in NSW (6.1% to 5.3%), Queensland (6.6% to 6.0%) and Victoria (6.2% to 6.0%).

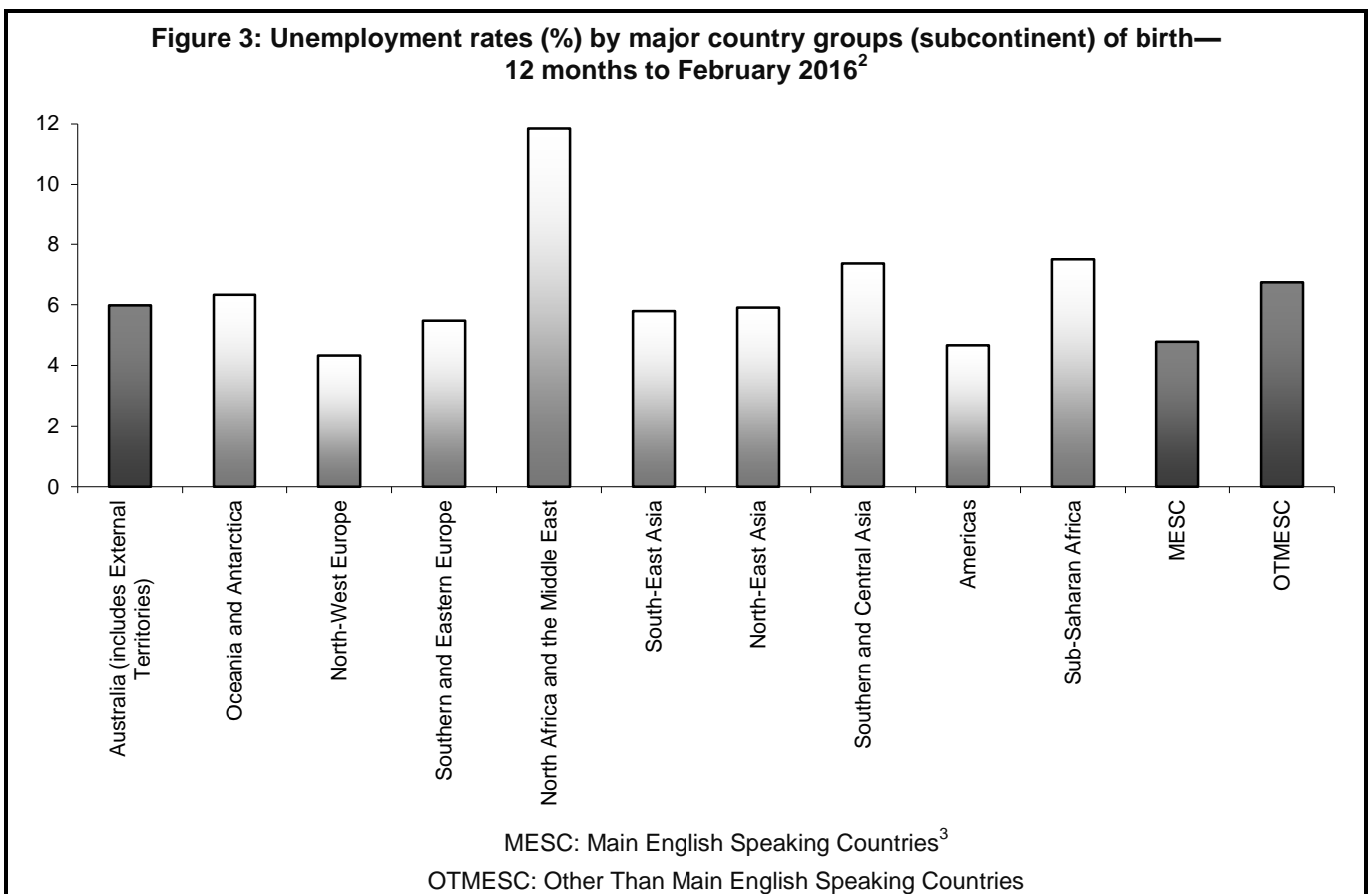
In February 2016, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (7.2%) and lowest in the NT (4.4%). See Figure 2.



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 2016) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe and the Americas have relatively low unemployment rates (4.3% and 4.7% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (11.8%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (7.5%) are relatively high.



² From October 2015, Figure 3 of the Australian Labour Market Update uses major country groups (subcontinent) of birth original data from the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 1269.0). In SACC, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is included within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.
³ MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

Employment by Occupation⁴

Over the 12 months to February 2016, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 82 600), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 53 800) and Sales Workers (up 48 700). 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 2016

| Occupational Group | 1 Year Change ('000 persons) | 1 Year Change (%) |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Managers | 15.9 | 1.1 |
| Professionals | 82.6 | 3.1 |
| Technicians and Trades Workers | 24.1 | 1.4 |
| Community and Personal Service Workers | 53.8 | 4.7 |
| Clerical and Administrative Workers | 41.5 | 2.5 |
| Sales Workers | 48.7 | 4.4 |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | -31.5 | -4.1 |
| Labourers | 19.4 | 1.7 |

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

Internet Vacancy Trends⁵

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 4). Over the year to February 2016, the IVI (trend) increased by 4.7%, with increases recorded in seven of the eight occupational groups.

The strongest occupational group increases were for Managers and Professionals (both up 10.5%).

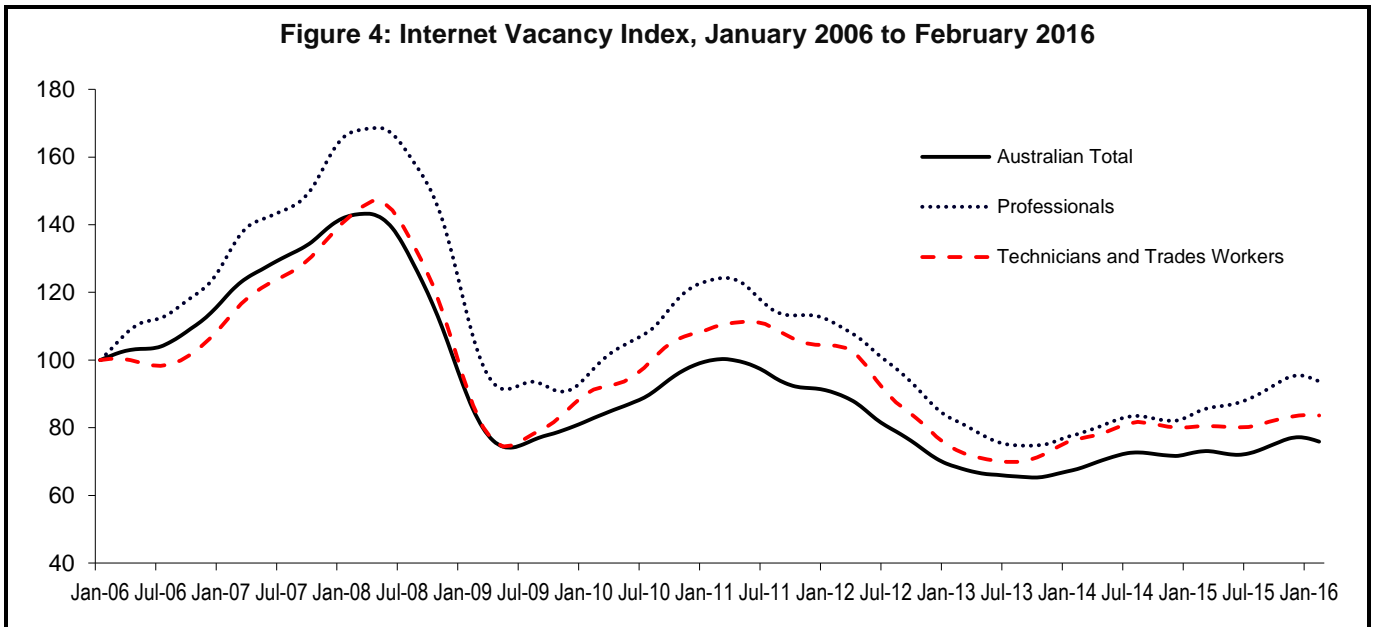
At a more detailed occupational level, vacancies increased in 37 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to February 2016, with the strongest increases being for Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 27.8%), Jewellers, Arts and Other Trades Workers (up 27.7%) and Education Professionals (up 26.2%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Hospitality Workers (down 18.0%), Food Preparation Assistants (down 15.0%), Cleaners and Laundry Workers (down 12.9%) and Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (down 12.9%).

Over the year to February 2016, vacancies rose in the ACT (up 20.7%), NSW (up 11.5%), Victoria (up 7.1%) and Queensland (up 3.0%). The largest fall was in WA (down 18.3%).

⁴ This section is based on February 2016 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).

⁵ See Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (February 2016 and March 2016 (for Figure 4)) on the Department of Employment's Labour Market Information Portal website (www.lmip.gov.au). 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 2016



Source: Department of Employment, *Vacancy Report (March 2016)*, Trend Index data.

Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2015⁶ 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 that these estimates do not provide any guidance about the number of people looking for opportunities in each occupation. The Australian labour market can change quickly so information 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.

⁶ <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 2016.

The Australian Population

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.0% and 25.0% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2015 were Victoria (up 1.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and NSW (both up 1.4%). Tasmania and the Northern Territory (NT) experienced the weakest growth (both up 0.3%).

Table A: Distribution of the Australian Resident Population at 30 June 2015*

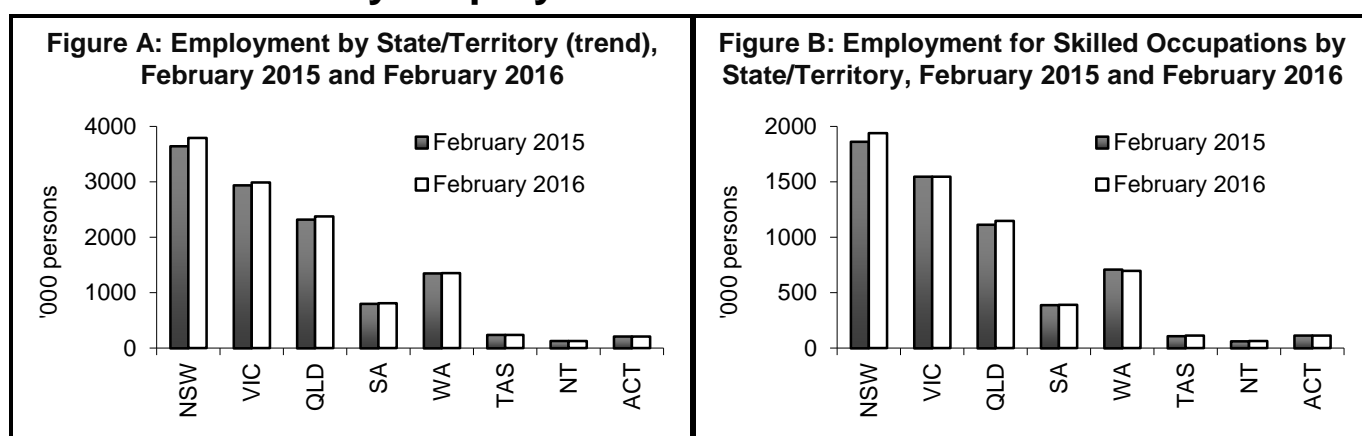
| | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | AUST |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| Population | 7 617 684 | 5 937 481 | 4 778 854 | 1 698 660 | 2 590 259 | 516 586 | 244 307 | 390 706 | 23 777 777 |
| Share of Australian Population (%) | 32.0 | 25.0 | 20.1 | 7.1 | 10.9 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 100.0 |
| Population growth (%)** | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Capital City (%) | 64.6 | 76.3 | 48.3 | 77.5 | 78.7 | 42.8 | 58.2 | 100.0 | 66.7 |
| Balance of State (%) | 35.4 | 23.7 | 51.7 | 22.5 | 21.3 | 57.2 | 41.8 | 0.0 | 33.3 |

* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2015 is preliminary.

** Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2014 to 30 June 2015. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2014 is revised. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2015 is preliminary.

Source: ABS (2016), *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2015*, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2016), *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2014-15*, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

State and Territory Employment



Trend employment increased in NSW (up 4.1%), Queensland (up 2.4%), Victoria (up 1.8%), the ACT (up 1.3%) and South Australia (SA, up 1.1%) over the 12 months to February 2016. Trend employment fell in the NT (down 1.5%) and Tasmania (down 1.1%). See Figure A.¹

Figure B shows NSW (1.94 million), Victoria (1.55 million) and Queensland (1.15 million) employ the largest number of workers in skilled occupations² (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data). NSW recorded the strongest employment growth in skilled occupations (up 4.1%) followed by Queensland (up 3.2%) and Tasmania (up 3.1%) over the 12 months to February 2016.

¹ This paragraph, Figure A and the State and Territory Labour Force section use trend data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, March 2016 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

² 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.

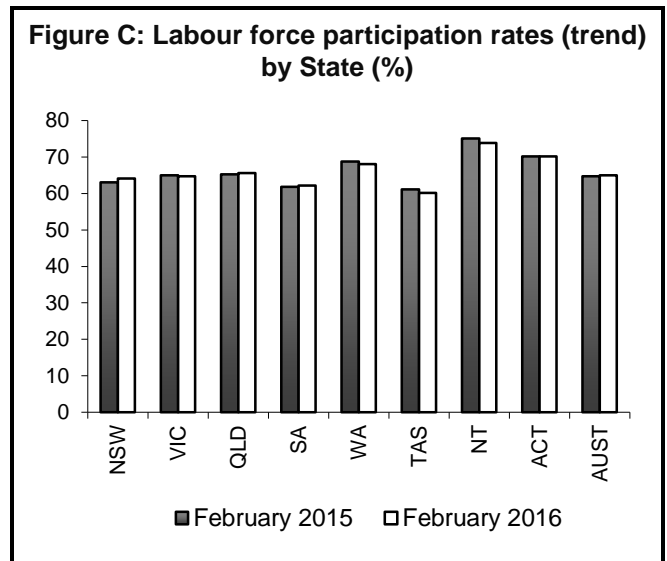
State and Territory Labour Force

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 2016, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) increased by 0.4 percentage points to 65.0% (see Figure C). NSW, Queensland and SA recorded the largest increases in the participation rate over this period (1.7, 0.5 and 0.5 percentage points respectively), with the NT and Tasmania recording the largest decreases (1.7 and 1.6 percentage points respectively).

Full-time employment (trend data) increased by 1.7% in the 12 months to February 2016, while part-time employment increased by 3.6%.

Male full-time employment (trend data) increased by 0.7% while female full-time employment increased by 3.5%. Male part-time employment increased by 5.9% while female part-time employment increased by 2.7%.



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; Western Australia 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 2016 (% of persons)

| Industry | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT | ACT | AUST |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 4.7 | 2.0 | 5.5 | 0.7 | 0.3* | 2.6 |
| Mining | 1.1 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 7.4 | 1.1 | 4.3 | 0.0* | 1.9 |
| Manufacturing | 7.0 | 9.1 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 5.9 | 7.7 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 7.5 |
| Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Construction | 8.3 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 12.0 | 7.0 | 8.8 |
| Wholesale Trade | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 3.2 |
| Retail Trade | 10.5 | 11.2 | 10.8 | 11.2 | 9.9 | 11.1 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 10.6 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 8.7 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Transport, Postal and Warehousing | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 2.3 | 5.3 |
| Information Media and Telecommunications | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| Financial and Insurance Services | 4.7 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 3.6 |
| Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 9.6 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 9.7 | 8.5 |
| Administrative and Support Services | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Public Administration and Safety | 5.4 | 4.9 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 5.8 | 7.7 | 17.6 | 29.2 | 6.2 |
| Education and Training | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 8.0 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 7.9 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 13.0 | 12.3 | 12.9 | 14.8 | 11.8 | 14.6 | 11.5 | 10.4 | 12.8 |
| Arts and Recreation Services | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Other Services | 3.9 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 4.7 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, February 2016, four quarter average of original data.

* This estimate may be subject to high sampling variability.