



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 help people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is available at www.joboutlook.gov.au.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2013.

EMPLOYMENT

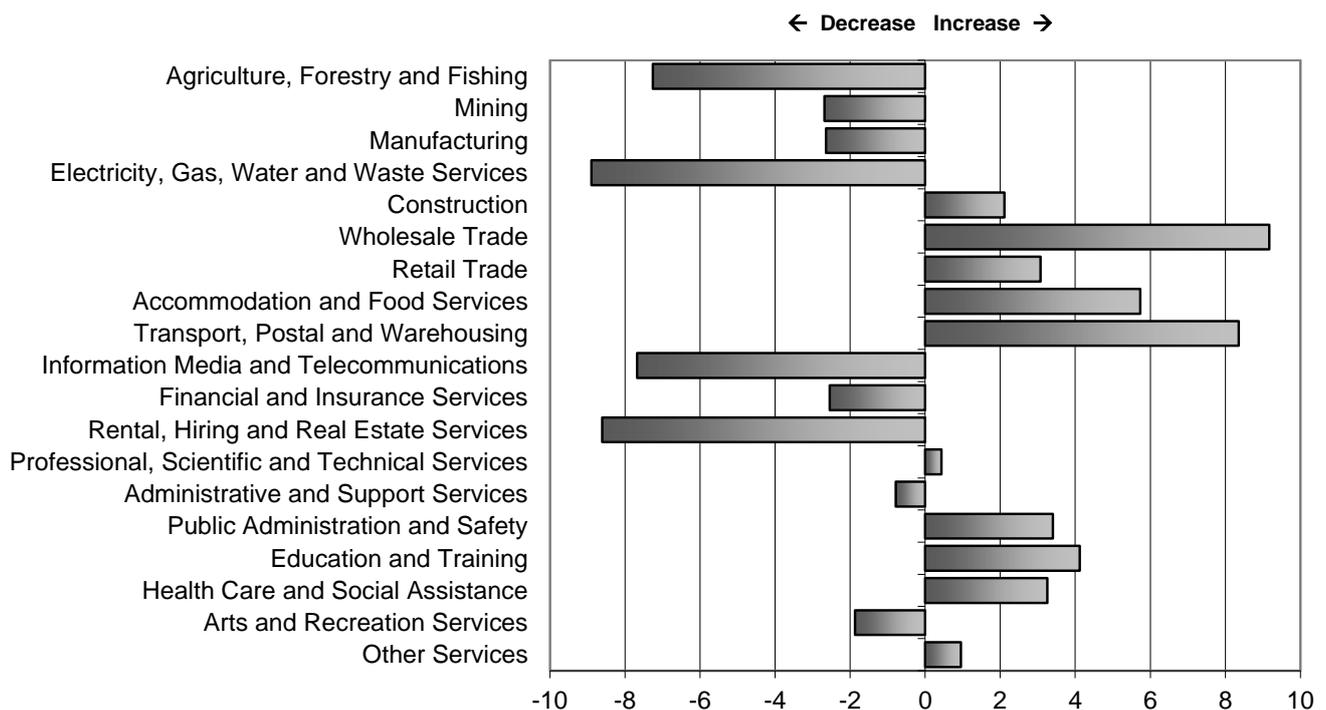
Labour market conditions in Australia over the year to May 2013 remained soft, with trend employment increasing by 148 600 (or 1.3%) compared with an increase of 127 100 (or 1.1%) over the previous year. The pace of trend employment growth slowed from an average of 20 500 jobs per month in December 2012, to 9 700 jobs per month in May 2013.

In line with a number of leading indicators of labour market activity, 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 2013.

Over the 12 months to May 2013, employment (in trend terms) increased in New South Wales (NSW, 2.5%), South Australia (SA, 1.4%), Western Australia (WA, 1.3%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 1.3%), Victoria (VIC, 0.7%) and Queensland (QLD, 0.5%). Employment fell in Tasmania and the Northern Territory (NT) by 0.1%.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2013, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Transport, Postal and Warehousing (up 46 100 after falling by 35 600 over the previous 12 months), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 44 300), and Accommodation and Food Services (up 43 800 after falling by 26 200 over the previous 12 months). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Wholesale Trade (9.2%), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (8.4%), and Accommodation and Food Services (5.7%). Trend employment decreased by 2.7% in Mining – the first fall since November 2009. Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – May 2012 to May 2013



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2013, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ Data in this paragraph are trend data from the ABS Labour Force Survey, June 2013.

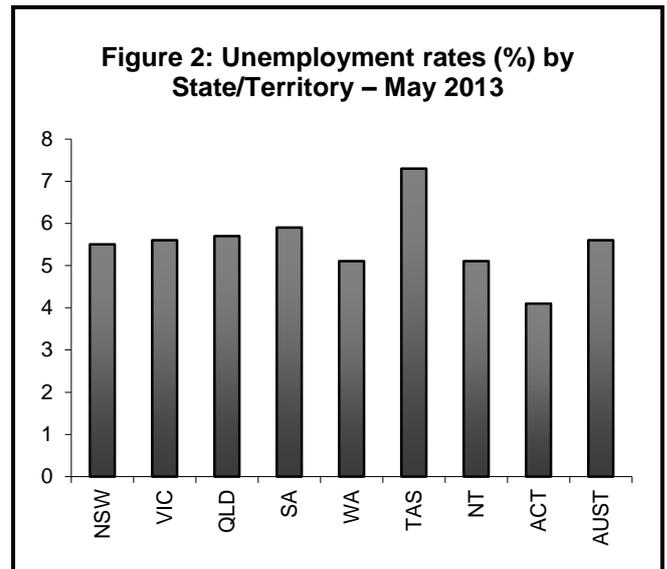
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.6% in May 2013 compared with 5.1% in May 2012.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in all states and territories.

In May 2013, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.3%), SA (5.9%) and Queensland (5.7%) and lowest in the ACT (4.1%), WA (5.1%) and the NT (5.1%). See Figure 2.

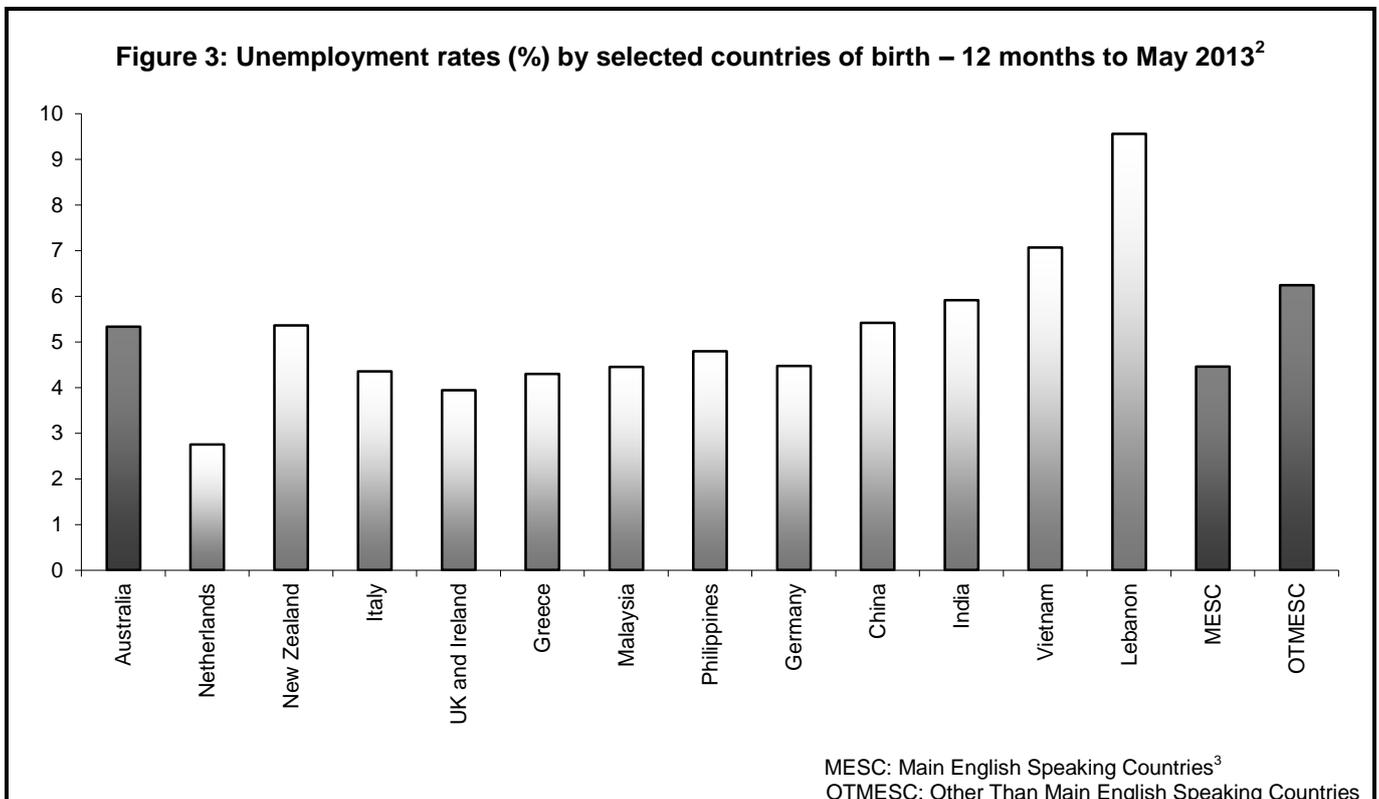
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to May 2013, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was almost four times that of former Professionals.



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 than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 2013) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. People born in the Netherlands and UK and Ireland have relatively low unemployment rates (2.8% and 3.9% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (9.6% and 7.1% respectively).



² The estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 may be subject to high sampling variability. Figure 3 uses original data.

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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION⁴

While employment growth is not the only factor influencing job prospects, it is often 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 2013 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Professionals (up 61 700), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 35 900), and Sales Workers (up 30 100). Employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to May 2013		Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to May 2013	
Managers	-1.2%	Managers	1.7%
Professionals	2.5%	Professionals	1.9%
Technicians and Trades Workers	1.2%	Technicians and Trades Workers	3.2%
Community and Personal Service Workers	3.3%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.4%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-0.4%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	3.0%
Sales Workers	2.9%	Sales Workers	4.2%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1.1%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.6%
Labourers	1.1%	Labourers	7.3%

Highly skilled occupational groups experience lower rates of unemployment, 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).

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

INTERNET VACANCY TRENDS

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) produces the monthly Vacancy Report⁵, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁶ (see Figure 4). Over the year to May 2013, the IVI (trend) decreased by 22%, with decreases being recorded for all eight occupational groups and all States and Territories.

Over the year to May 2013, the most significant IVI decreases were in WA (down 37.6%), Queensland (down 29.8%) and SA (down 25.3%).

The largest occupational group decreases were for Machinery Operators and Drivers (down 29.6%), Technicians and Trades Workers (down 27.8%) and Professionals (down 27.1%).

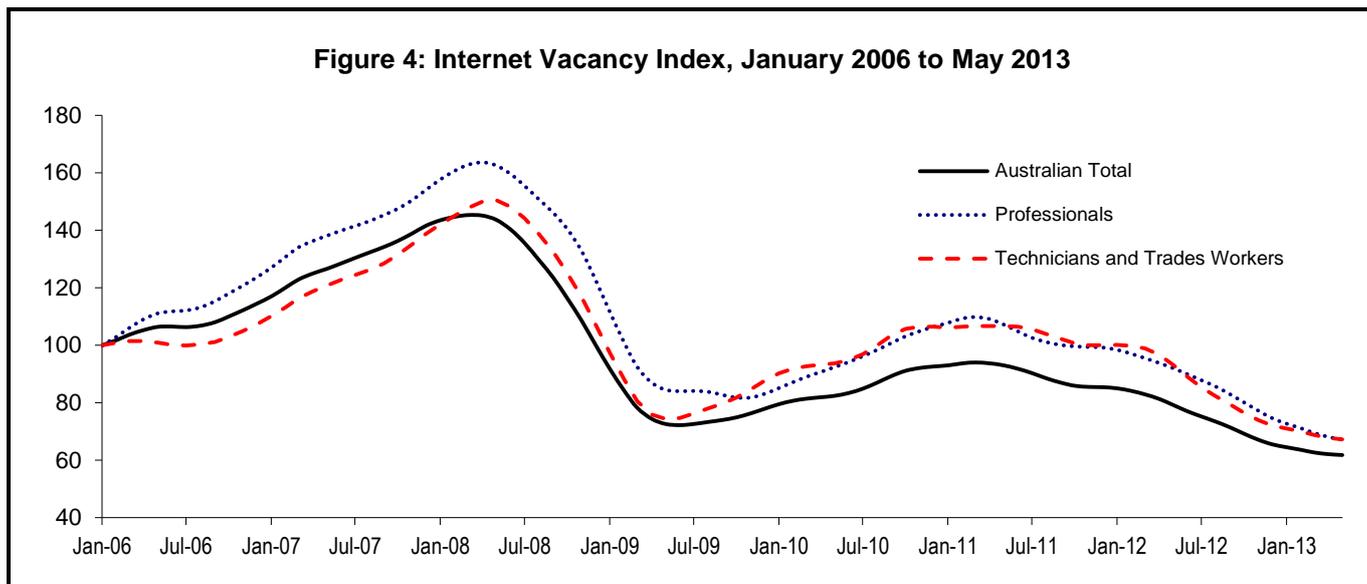
Over the year to May 2013, vacancies decreased in 47 of the 48 occupation clusters, with the largest decreases being for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 77.7%), Engineers (down 59.8%), Automotive and Engineering Trades (down 38.0%), and Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians (down 37.2%).

The only increase over this period was for Education Professionals (up 10.8%).

⁴ This section is based on ABS Labour Force Survey original data.

⁵ Available from <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport>.

⁶ 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 DEEWR to occupations based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0). The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, and then indexed (January 2006 = 100). Minor changes in the series may occur from month to month due to back casting. The series published each month is the most up to date at the time and overwrites previous data.



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (May 2013), <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport>.

FUTURE JOB OPENINGS

The Australian Jobs 2013 publication (at <http://deewr.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication>) contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2017 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 2017. 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@deewr.gov.au.



Australian Labour Market Update

Chefs

In the Australian labour market, Chefs plan and organise the preparation and cooking of food in dining and catering establishments. In Australia, the skill level for employment as a Chef is an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery.

The normal career progression in Australia, once qualified, is from Commis Chef to Demi Chef, followed by Chef de Partie, Chef, Sous Chef and ultimately Executive Chef.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) indicate the occupation of Chef will have moderate employment growth for the five years to November 2017. Chefs are employed across several industries with the majority (84.5 per cent) employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for chefs based on *Job Outlook* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Table A: Chefs – Key Labour Market Indicators

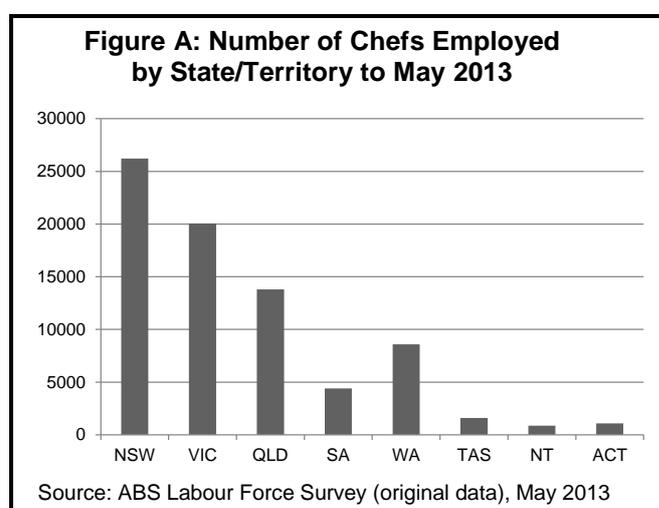
Key Indicator	Chefs
Occupation size ⁷	83 500
Females	20.7%
Males	79.3%
Median age	33 years
Full-time share of employment	80.9%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	44.3
Weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$990
Unemployment rate	average
Employment growth over past 5 years (to November 2012)	24.7%
Expected future employment growth (5 years to November 2017)	4.7%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Chefs are employed in all States and Territories.

For the four quarters to May 2013⁸, the average employment of Chefs was highest in New South Wales (NSW, 26 200), Victoria (VIC, 20 000) and Queensland (QLD, 13 800).

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



⁷ At November 2012.

⁸ ABS Labour Force Survey (original data).

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)—a branch of the Australian Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education—is the Australian assessing authority for Chefs. Individuals applying to migrate to Australia as Chefs must have their skills assessed by TRA against specified criteria. For permanent migration this includes evidence of formal training undertaken within or outside Australia that is comparable to an AQF Certificate IV qualification in a relevant field of study and a specified period of employment demonstrating the full range of work normally performed by a trade-qualified Chef in Australia.

More information on the TRA skill assessment process for permanent visa applicants with the nominated occupation of Chef is available at www.innovation.gov.au/Skills/SkillsAssessment/TradesRecognitionAustralia/Pages/default.aspx and at www.immi.gov.au/asri/occupations/c/chef.htm.

TRA is also responsible for the Subclass 457 Skills Assessment Program which applies to nominated trade and technical occupations (including Chef) and nominated source countries. Applicants for this Program will be assessed against the relevant AQF Certificate IV qualification for the occupation of Chef. Further information is available at www.innovation.gov.au/Skills/SkillsAssessment/TradesRecognitionAustralia/457SkillsAssessmentProgram/Pages/default.aspx#guide.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programs, including Temporary Business (Long Stay), the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Labour Agreements. Detailed information on these migration programs is on the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website at www.immi.gov.au.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified Chefs seeking to work in Australia who are not Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents or New Zealand citizens will need to contact the nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission to apply for a visa with a work right. Addresses of all Australian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates are available from the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au/contacts.

Overseas-qualified Chefs should note acceptance of overseas qualifications for migration does not guarantee employment in the occupation in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors such as the number of vacancies advertised, skill needs in the Australian labour market, and suitability of an applicant for employment in a particular job in Australia.

DEEWR 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.