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 2015.1

Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2015, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.2%), the Northern Territory (NT, 2.6%), Western Australia (WA, 2.4%) and New South Wales (NSW, 1.9%). Employment declined in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, down 0.3%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 99,500), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 67,300), Accommodation and Food Services (up 48,100) and Arts and Recreation Services (up 34,300). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Mining (down 33,300). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Arts and Recreation Services (up 17.1%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 10.9%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry (’000s persons)—May 2014 to May 2015


1 The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS’ Labour Force, Australia, June 2015 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia in May 2015 was 6.0%, which is the same as for May 2014.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in South Australia (SA, 6.8% to 7.5%), WA (5.0% to 5.5%), the NT (4.1% to 4.5%), the ACT (3.9% to 4.2%), NSW (5.6% to 5.8%) and Queensland (6.3% to 6.4%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Tasmania (7.4% to 6.8%) and Victoria (6.5% to 6.0%).

In May 2015, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (7.5%) and lowest in the ACT (4.2%). See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—May 2015

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 2015) for people resident in Australia born in selected overseas countries. People born in the UK and Ireland, Italy and Malaysia have relatively low unemployment rates (4.0%, 4.4% and 4.7% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon, India and Vietnam are relatively high (7.4%, 7.1% and 7.1% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth—12 months to May 2015

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2 Estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 (original data) may be subject to high sampling variability.
3 MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.
Employment by Occupation

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 May 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 116 700), Technicians and Trades Workers (up 46 200) and Community and Personal Service Workers (up 34 900). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>1 Year Change ('000 persons)</th>
<th>1 Year Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managers</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technicians and Trades Workers</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Personal Service Workers</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical and Administrative Workers</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Workers</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery Operators and Drivers</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Report, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 4). Over the year to May 2015, the IVI (trend) increased by 2.2%, with increases recorded in six of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 7.8%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 5.1%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 29 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2015, with the strongest increases being for Farmers and Farm Managers (up 24.5%) and Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 23.4%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Construction and Mining Labourers (down 12.1%), Automotive and Engineering Trades (down 11.6%) and Sales Support Workers (down 10.7%).

Over the year to May 2015, vacancies rose in three states and the Australian Capital Territory, which recorded the strongest rise (up 23.5%). The largest falls were in the NT (down 23.8%) and WA (down 13.5%).

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4 This section is based on May 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).

5 See Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (May 2015 and June 2015 (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).
Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2015 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 are 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.

Source: Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (June 2015), Trend Index data.
Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapists assess functional limitations of people resulting from illnesses and disabilities, and provide therapy to enable people to perform their daily activities and occupations.\(^1\)

In the Australian labour market, employers generally seek applicants with a relevant Bachelor degree or higher level qualification. To practise in Australia, Occupational Therapists must be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia and meet the Board’s registration standards.

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment indicate that the occupation group of Occupational Therapists will grow strongly for the five years to November 2019. The majority of Occupational Therapists are employed in Health Care and Social Assistance (85.8%), Public Administration and Safety (6.9%), Education and Training (2.8%) and Other Services (1.9%) industries. Table A provides a labour market profile for Occupational Therapists from the Job Outlook website, www.joboutlook.gov.au.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicator</th>
<th>Occupational Therapists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation size (November 2014)</td>
<td>12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most common level of educational attainment</td>
<td>Bachelor degree (67.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time share of employment</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average weekly hours (full-time)</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment growth over past five years (to November 2014)</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected (to November 2019) occupation size</td>
<td>17,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recent labour market research by the Department of Employment suggests that, with the exception of the Northern Territory (NT) at March 2014, there is no shortage of Occupational Therapists in Australia.\(^2\)

Regional Employment

Occupational Therapists are employed in all States and Territories in Australia.

For the four quarters to May 2015\(^3\), the average employment of Occupational Therapists was highest in Victoria (31.8%), New South Wales (NSW, 23.1%), Queensland (17.1%) and Western Australia (WA, 14.9%). South Australia (SA), Tasmania, the NT and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) employed the smallest number of Occupational Therapists. See Figure A (original data).
Skills Assessment

The Occupational Therapy Council (Australia & New Zealand) Ltd (OTC) is the Australian assessing authority for overseas-trained Occupational Therapists wishing to practise in Australia, and those with an accredited Australian Occupational Therapy qualification seeking to migrate under Australia’s skilled migration programmes.

The assessment consists of two stages: a Stage 1 desktop assessment and a Stage 2 period of supervised practice. The Stage 1 desktop assessment may need to be completed prior to the individual lodging a visa application (clarification should be sought from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) on the visa application process). An English language proficiency assessment in English is undertaken as part of the Stage 1 process and applicants should refer to the Stage 1 explanatory notes on the OTC website (www.otcouncil.com.au) for clarification on this assessment.

The Stage 2 period of supervised practice needs to be undertaken in Australia and guidelines for this stage can be found on the OTC website. The Stage 2 process needs to be undertaken by overseas-trained Occupational Therapist practitioners who have completed the Stage 1 assessment successfully.

A detailed step-by-step guide to the complete process leading to general registration to practise in Australia can be found on the OTC website and details on the registration requirements can be obtained from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website (www.ahpra.gov.au).

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 DIBP website at www.border.gov.au.

Seeking Employment in Australia

Occupational Therapists should note that neither acceptance of qualifications for migration (visa) purposes nor registration as an Occupational Therapist in Australia, assures employment in this or related occupations 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.

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3 ABS Labour Force Survey (original data).
4 The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) website provides information on the IELTS score, component and test types (www.ielts.org).
5 The Occupational English Test (OET) website provides information on the OET (www.occupationalenglishtest.org).