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, August 2019.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to August 2019, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.2%), New South Wales (NSW, 2.9%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 2.6%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 98 600) and Education and Training (up 70 000)². The strongest rates of employment growth were in Administrative and Support Services (up 16.3%), Wholesale Trade (up 9.9%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 9.2%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—August 2018 to August 2019

Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.3% in August 2019, compared to 5.2% in August 2018.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 4.3% to 5.4%), South Australia (SA, 5.6% to 6.4%), Tasmania (5.9% to 6.4%), Queensland (6.1% to 6.5%) and Victoria (4.7% to 4.8%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Western Australia (WA, 6.2% to 5.8%), NSW (4.7% to 4.5%) and the ACT (3.6% to 3.5%).

In August 2019, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Queensland (6.5%) and lowest in the ACT (3.5%). 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 the participation and unemployment rates of the Australian-born and migrants by broad country of birth groups and period of residence in Australia (average of the last 12 months to August 2019).

Figure 3: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to August 2019

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

Figure 4 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to August 2019) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe and Americas have relatively low unemployment rates (3.7% and 4.3% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (9.8%) and Oceania and Antarctica (5.8%) are relatively high.

![Figure 4: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to August 2019](image)

**Employment by Occupation**

Over the 12 months to August 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 142 800), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 97 900) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 45 300). The largest decrease occurred for Managers (down 49 100). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

![Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to August 2019](table)

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

The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 5). Over the year to August 2019, the IVI (trend) decreased by 6.5% with an increase recorded for one of the eight occupational groups.

The only occupational group increase was for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 4.5%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 12 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to August 2019, with the strongest increases for Education Professionals (up 68.9%), Farmers and Farm Managers (up 26.4%), Health and Welfare Support Workers (up 15.9%) and Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals (up 15.5%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Construction Trades Workers (down 21.1%).

Over the year to August 2019, vacancies rose in four states and territories. The strongest rises were in the ACT (up 12.1%), followed by Tasmania (up 9.5%), SA (up 1.5%) and WA (up 1.2%). The falls were in the NSW (down 13.2%), the NT (down 8.4%), Victoria (down 7.4%) and Queensland (down 3.2%).

Figure 5: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to August 2019

Source: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Vacancy Report (September 2019), Trend Index data.

Future Employment Change

The Labour Market Information Portal contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to May 2023 for different occupations and industries. As there may be significant variation between and within states, information on future employment change should be used with caution.

Future employment change estimates are indicative only and are intended to provide a guide to opportunities likely to be available over the five years to May 2023. It is important to note that these estimates do not provide any guidance about the number of people looking for opportunities in each occupation. As the Australian labour market can change quickly, 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 See Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Vacancy Report (September 2019). The 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, Skills, Small and Family Business to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).
Hot Topic

Manufacturers

Manufacturers plan, organise, direct, control and coordinate the operations of small manufacturing establishments. In the Australian labour market, extensive manufacturing experience is needed to work as a Manufacturer.

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business indicate that the occupation group of Manufacturers is expected to grow moderately over the five years to May 2023. The number of job openings over the five years to May 2023 is expected to be around 10 000. Most Manufacturers are employed in the Manufacturing industry (83.9%), with the remainder in Construction (3.8%) and other industries (12.3%). Table A provides a labour market profile for Manufacturers from the Job Outlook and Labour Market Information Portal websites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicator</th>
<th>Manufacturers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation size (May 2018)</td>
<td>22 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most common level of educational attainment</td>
<td>Certificate III/IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>48 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time share of employment</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average weekly hours (full-time)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)</td>
<td>$1 982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment growth over past five years (to May 2018)</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected (to May 2023) occupation size</td>
<td>23 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Employment

Manufacturers are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

At August 2019, the average share of employment of Manufacturers was highest in New South Wales (28.7%) and Victoria (27.6%). Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest average share of Manufacturers (at less than 1.0% each). See Figure A (trend data).
Skills Assessment
Overseas-qualified Manufacturers wishing to apply for permanent or temporary skilled migration to Australia need to obtain a skills assessment by VETASSESS\textsuperscript{i}. The VETASSESS skill assessment criteria for Manufacturers includes a qualification at the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher qualification in a highly relevant field of study and at least one year of post-qualification employment that is highly relevant to the nominated occupation. Additional years of employment are required if the AQF Bachelor degree level qualification is not in a highly relevant field of study.

Information on the process and supporting documentation is on the VETASSESS website.\textsuperscript{ii}

Related Occupations
Occupations related to Manufacturers include Production Managers (Manufacturing), Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons, and Mechanical Engineering Technicians. Production Managers (Manufacturing) plan, organise, direct, control and coordinate the production activities of forestry, manufacturing and mining organisations including physical and human resources. Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians\textsuperscript{iv} assist in mechanical engineering research, design, manufacture, construction, operation and maintenance of machines, manufacturing equipment, mechanical installations and facilities. The Australian labour market requires a minimum of a Certificate III/IV in a relevant field of study. Sometimes work experience or on-the-job training is needed in addition to a qualification. Table B provides a labour market profile for these occupations from the Job Outlook website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicator</th>
<th>Production Managers (Manufacturing)</th>
<th>Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons</th>
<th>Mechanical Engineering Technicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation size (August 2016)\textsuperscript{v}</td>
<td>32 000</td>
<td>2 700</td>
<td>1 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most common level of educational attainment</td>
<td>Certificate III/IV (31.2%)</td>
<td>Advanced Diploma/Diploma (39.1%)</td>
<td>Certificate III/IV (56.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>46 years</td>
<td>42 years</td>
<td>42 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time share of employment</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average weekly hours (full-time)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment growth over past five years (to August 2016)</td>
<td>-10.6%</td>
<td>-27.0%</td>
<td>+10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer-Sponsored Migration
The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programs including the Temporary Skill Shortage, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programs is on the Department of Home Affairs website.

Seeking Employment in Australia
Manufacturers should note that acceptance of qualifications for a migration (visa) purpose does not assure 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, Skills, Small and Family Business 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 relevant Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies may include information on vacancies.

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


\textsuperscript{ii} VETASSESS is Vocational Education and Training Skills Assessment Services.

\textsuperscript{iii} Further information on the VETASSESS requirements for the assessment of applicants for Manufacturer is at VETASSESS Manufacturer.

\textsuperscript{iv} Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians relates to the ANZSCO 4-digit occupation group (ANZSCO 3125).

\textsuperscript{v} ABS Census 2016 data.