



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, August 2012.

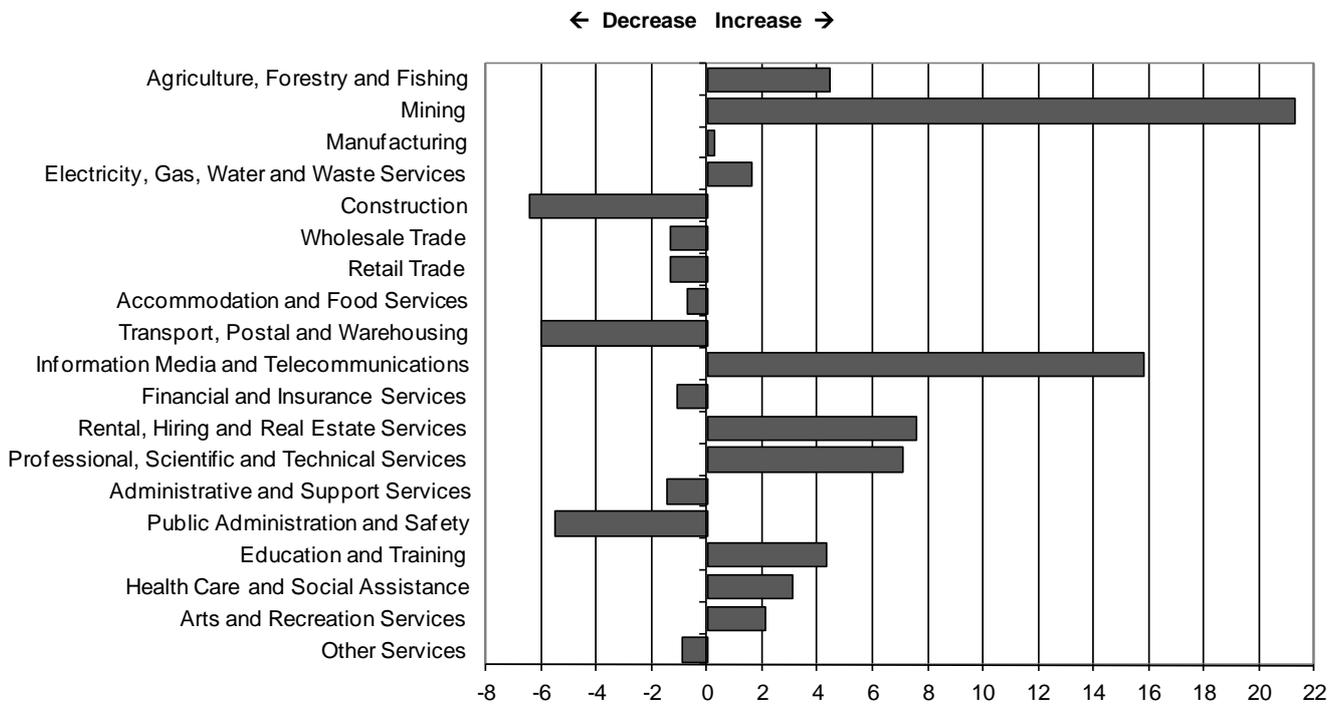
EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to August 2012, trend employment increased by a relatively soft 64 400 (or 0.6 per cent). The pace of trend employment growth has slowed in recent months, from a peak of 14 500 jobs in March 2012 to 1 300 jobs in August 2012. In line with a number of leading indicators of labour market activity, the pace of employment growth is likely to remain modest over the coming months, with the unemployment rate edging up over the medium term.

Over the 12 months to August 2012, employment (in trend terms) increased in Western Australia (WA, 4.1%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 2.7%), the Northern Territory (NT, 1.9%), Victoria (0.4%) and New South Wales (NSW, 0.4%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2012, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 61 400), Mining (up 48 300) and Health Care and Social Assistance (up 40 900). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Mining (21.3%), Information Media and Telecommunications (15.8%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (7.6%), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (7.1%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – August 2011 to August 2012



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2012, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

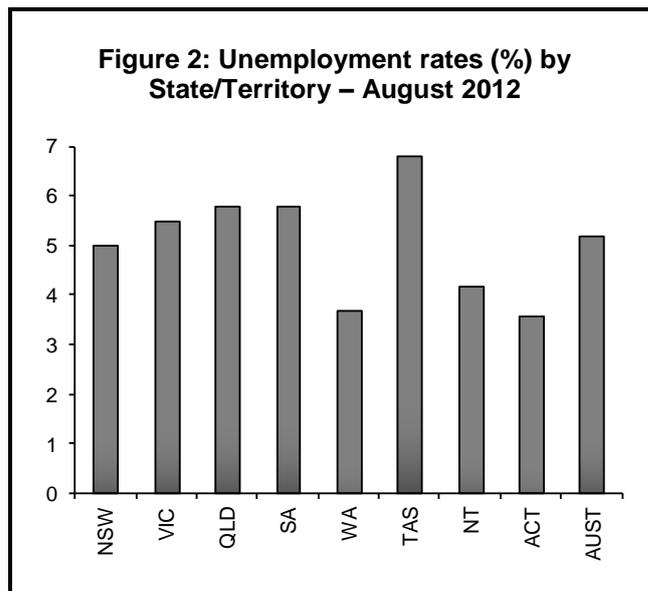
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment in August 2012 was 5.2%, which is the same as for August 2011.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates decreased in WA (from 4.2% to 3.7%), the ACT (from 4.0% to 3.6%) and NSW (from 5.3% to 5.0%). Trend unemployment rates rose in Tasmania (from 5.2% to 6.8%), South Australia (from 5.2% to 5.8%), Victoria (from 5.2% to 5.5%), Queensland (from 5.6% to 5.8%) and the NT (from 4.1% to 4.2%).

In August 2012, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (6.8%) and lowest in the ACT (3.6%) and WA (3.7%).

Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to August 2012, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was more than three 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 (original data – average of the last 12 months to August 2012) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. In the data below, people born in the Netherlands and UK and Ireland have low unemployment rates (1.7% and 3.1% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and Lebanon are relatively high (7.4% and 7.0% respectively).



¹ The estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 may be subject to high sampling variability.

² MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

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 August 2012 (original data – average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Professionals (up 55 200), Managers (up 27 200) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 13 200). Employment growth rates, in descending skill order, are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to August 2012		Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to August 2012	
Managers	1.9%	Managers	1.8%
Professionals	2.2%	Professionals	1.8%
Technicians and Trades Workers	0.8%	Technicians and Trades Workers	3.1%
Community and Personal Service Workers	1.0%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.8%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	0.5%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.7%
Sales Workers	-3.3%	Sales Workers	4.2%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1.7%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.4%
Labourers	-2.7%	Labourers	6.2%

The unemployment rate for occupational groups generally reflects skill levels. 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 (original data – 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 Report³, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁴ (see Figure 4). Over the year to August 2012, the IVI (trend) decreased by 16.5%, with decreases for all eight occupational groups. Vacancies are now 49.4% below the March 2008 peak.

Over the year to August 2012, the smallest decrease was recorded in WA (down 7.8%) followed by NSW (down 15.2%). The largest decline was in the ACT (down 20.7%).

Vacancies decreased for all eight occupational groups over the year. The largest decreases were for Clerical and Administrative Workers (down 20.8%) and Labourers (down 20.0%).

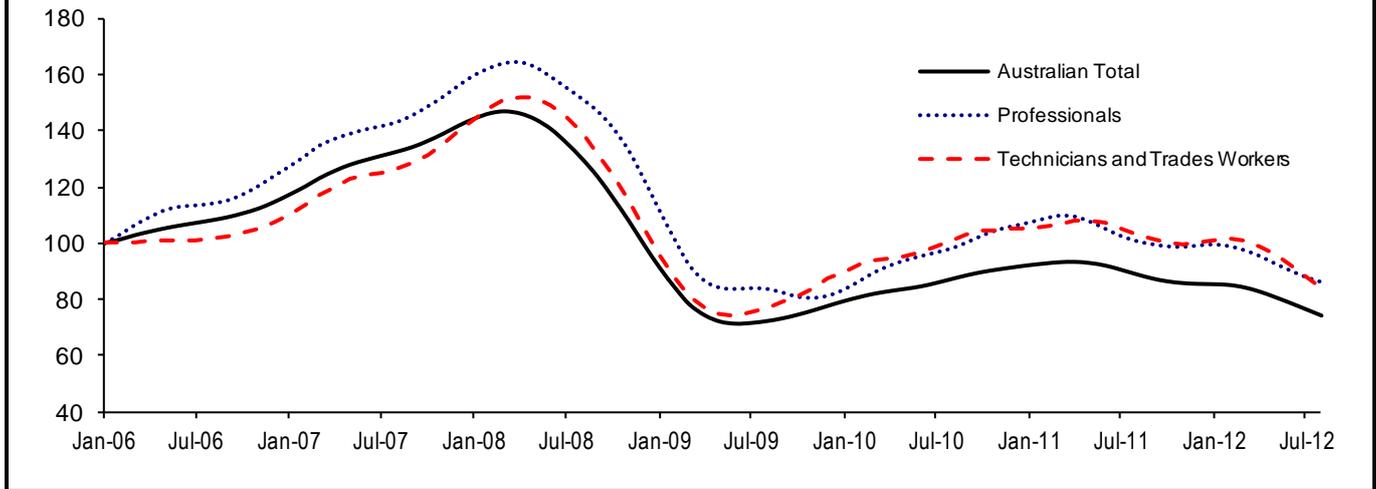
Over the year to August 2012, vacancies decreased in 47 of the 48 occupational clusters, with the largest decreases being for Office Managers, Administrators and Secretaries (down 31.4%), Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians (down 29.7%), Construction Trades (down 25.9%), Other Labourers (down 25.3%), Construction, Production and Distribution Managers (down 24.5%), Protective Service Workers (down 22.9%), ICT Professionals (down 22.8%), Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades (down 21.5%) and Information Professionals (down 20.2%). The only increase over the same period was for Chief Executives, Managing Directors and Legislators (up 15.4%).

³ Available from www.deewr.gov.au/lmip/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport.

⁴ The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online vacancies newly lodged on SEEK, MyCareer, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before the 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 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.



Figure 4: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to August 2012



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (August 2012), www.deewr.gov.au/lmip/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport.

FUTURE JOB OPENINGS

The Australian Jobs 2012 publication (at www.deewr.gov.au/australianjobs) contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to 2016-17 and the number of openings likely to result due to job turnover. 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 next five years. It is important to note that 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 relating to the Australian Labour Market Update publication should be emailed to migration@deewr.gov.au.



Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Professions

In the Australian labour market, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) professions cover a range of occupational titles and fields and many ICT professionals have completed (or have skills assessed as comparable to) an Australian bachelor degree or higher level qualification in a relevant field of study. This Hot Topic is specific to Computer Network Professionals, ICT Business and Systems Analysts, and ICT Support and Test Engineers within the ICT professionals occupation group.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations employment growth projections indicate the selected ICT professions will have strong to very strong employment growth for the five years to 2016-17. ICT professionals are employed across a diverse range of industries with around 40 per cent employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry and between 10 and 20% employed in the Financial and Insurance Services industry. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for the selected ICT professions based on *Job Outlook* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Table A: Selected ICT Professions – Key Labour Market Indicators

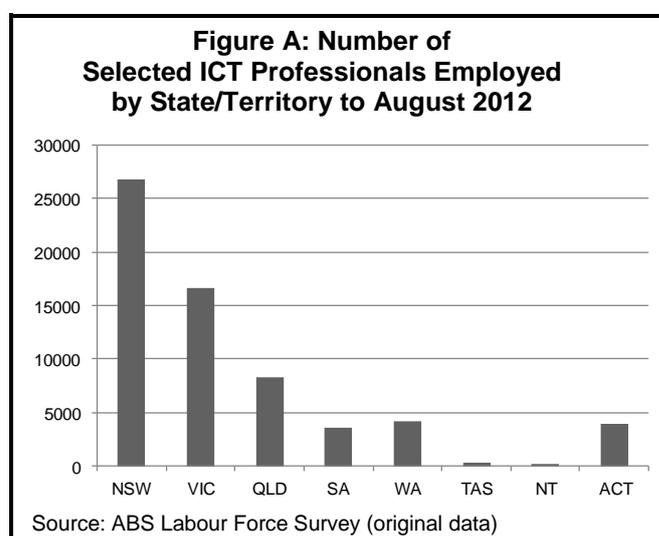
Key Indicator	Computer Network Professionals	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	ICT Support and Test Engineers
Occupation size	25 900	32 600	6 100
Females	7%	24%	14%
Males	93%	76%	86%
Median age	37 years	39 years	36 years
Full-time share of employment	93.4%	91.8%	93.7%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	41.0	39.8	40.3
Weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 500	\$1 726	\$1 495
Vacancy level (internet)	high	very low	very low
Employment growth over 5 years (to Nov 2011)	29.5%	41.2%	50.2%
Future employment growth (to 2016-17)	very strong growth	very strong growth	strong growth

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

The selected ICT professions have a workforce in all States and Territories.

For the four quarters to August 2012⁵, the average employment for the selected ICT professions was highest in New South Wales (NSW, 26 792), Victoria (VIC, 16 711) and Queensland (QLD, 8 351).

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



⁵ ABS Labour Force Survey (original data), noting data may not have been recorded for all quarters for each State and Territory.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT AND AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) is the Australian assessing authority for skills assessments for migration purposes for the ICT professions (excluding Telecommunications Engineering Professionals). Individuals applying to migrate to Australia in the ICT professions covered by this Hot Topic must complete an assessment through the ACS prior to lodging a migration (visa) application.

The ACS has five categories under which it assesses ICT qualifications and skilled employment experience, the details of which are available on the ACS website at www.acs.org.au. The ACS assessment criteria are regularly reviewed to keep up to date with ICT developments.

Once the assessment is complete the ACS will provide a result letter by email to the applicant indicating the suitability of their skills for employment as an ICT professional in the Australian labour market. This assessment does not guarantee a migration (visa) outcome or employment in Australia. More information on the skill assessment process and contact details are on the ACS website at www.acs.org.au/migration-skills-assessment and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website at www.immi.gov.au/asri.

While the ICT professions are not regulated in Australia, membership of the ACS or affiliated professional bodies may enhance employment outcomes. The ACS website at www.acs.org.au includes information on membership criteria, professional development and training opportunities.

The ACS also publishes industry and government data on Australia's digital economy, including skills overviews, remuneration trends and employment surveys. ACS research is available on the ACS website at www.acs.org.au/information-resources/public-policy/public-policy-positions.

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 DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified ICT professionals seeking to work in Australia who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents 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 ICT professionals 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.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations 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.