



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 who may be 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, February 2010.

EMPLOYMENT

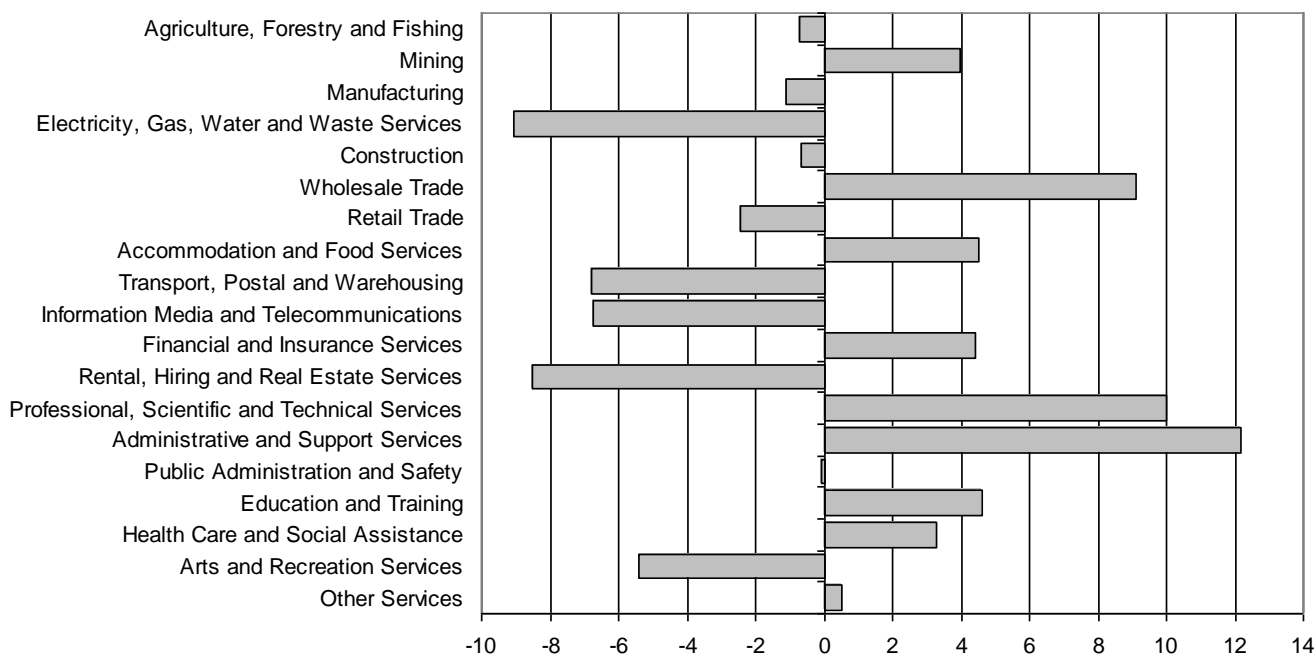
Over the year to February 2010, trend employment increased by 184 400 (or 1.7 per cent). The majority of this growth has occurred over the last six months, with total employment rising by 178 700 since August 2009. The pace of trend employment growth has now been positive since May 2009, and is currently growing at an average rate of 26 700 jobs per month as at February 2010 although this has slowed somewhat over recent months, from its average rate of 34 500 jobs per month in November 2009.

Nevertheless, the short-term outlook is for a continued solid expansion in employment in the period ahead, but at a somewhat less robust pace than the remarkable rate recorded in the latter part of 2009. Beyond the short-term (depending on the Reserve Bank of Australia's interest rate stance over the coming months), an expected strong pick-up in business investment (and the terms of trade) may result in some acceleration in labour market activity in the second half of 2010. Further significant inroads into the unemployment rate, however, may be more difficult to achieve, particularly in view of the excess capacity that is evident in the existing workforce and the likelihood of continued strong population growth (and rising labour force participation rates) over the forecast horizon.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2010, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 77 600), Administrative and Support Services (up 42 000), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 38 000) and Education and Training (up 36 700). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Administrative and Support Services (12.2%), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (10.0%), and Wholesale Trade (9.1%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – February 2009 to February 2010

← Decrease Increase →



Source: ABS Australian Labour Market Statistics, February 2010, ABS Cat. No. 6105.0.

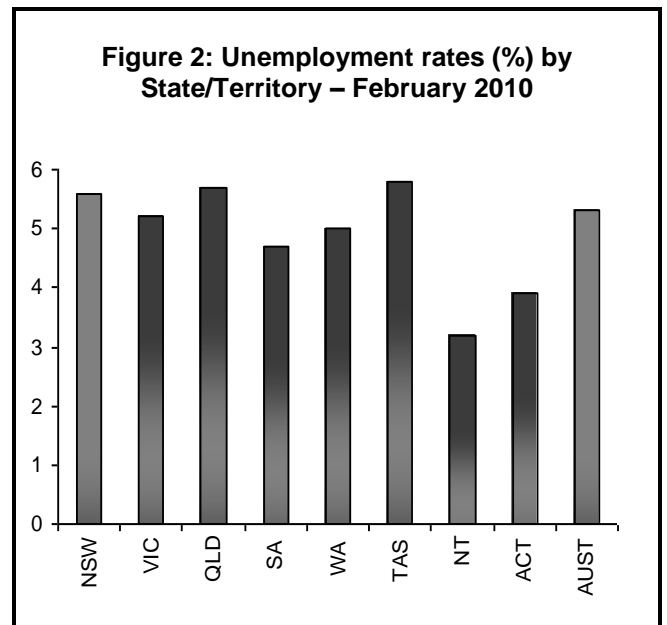
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment for Australia was 5.3% in February 2010, compared with 5.2% in February 2009 (revised).

In the past year, trend unemployment rates decreased in South Australia (SA, down 1.0%), the Northern Territory (NT, down 0.8%), New South Wales (NSW, down 0.4%) and Victoria (down 0.2%).

In February 2010, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (5.8%) and Queensland (5.7%) and lowest in the NT (3.2%). See Figure 2.

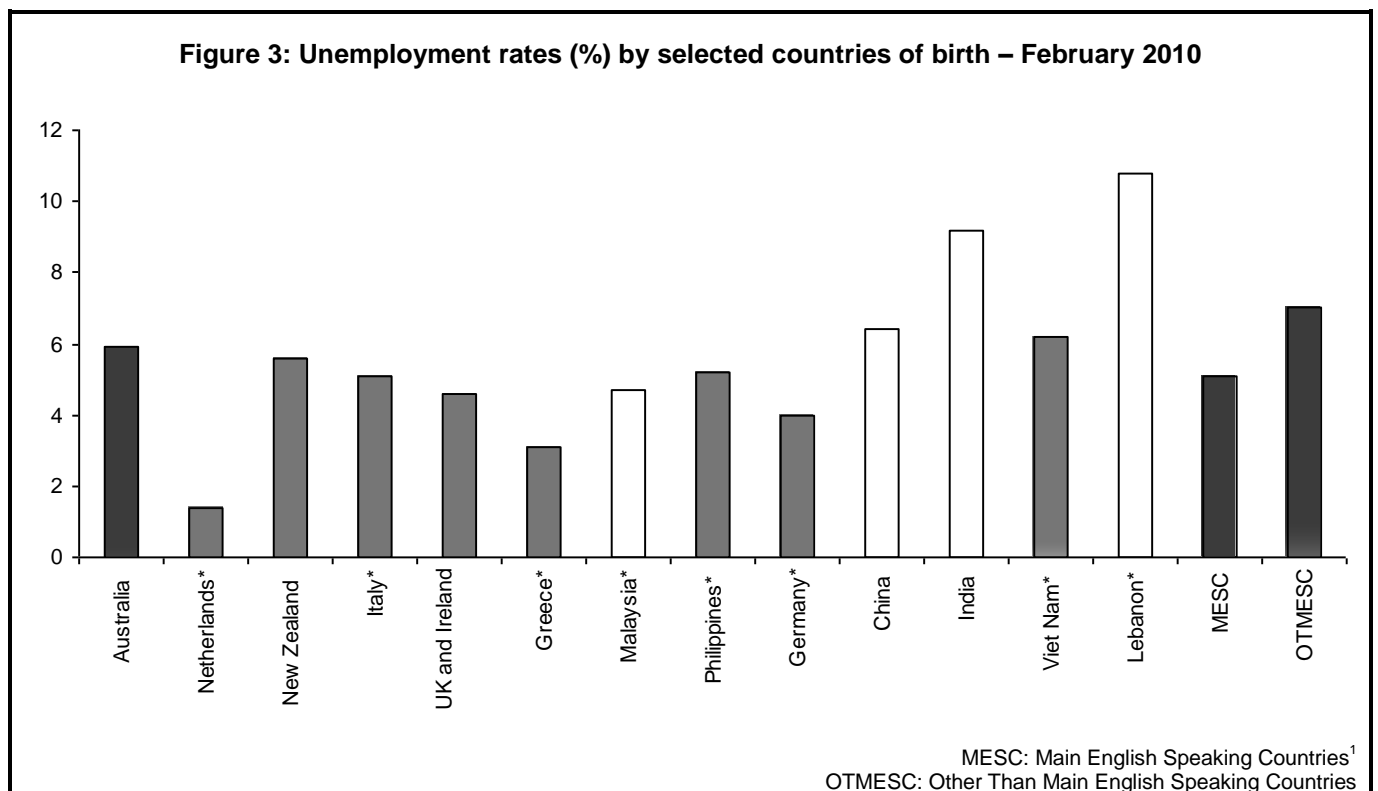
Generally, people in the more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in February 2010 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was nearly four times that of former Professionals.



MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including 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), skill level, age, English proficiency, and recent and relevant work experience.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (original data) for people now resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. For example, people born in the Netherlands and Greece have low unemployment rates (1.4% and 3.1% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon, India and China and are relatively high (10.8%, 9.2% and 6.4% respectively).



* Estimate is subject to high sampling variability.

¹ MESC are the United Kingdom, 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 February 2010, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Professionals (up 159 200), Managers (up 78 800) and Sales Workers (up 22 000). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown below.

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 had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) by occupational group are presented in descending skill order below.

Percentage Growth Rates in Employment in the 12 months to February 2010		Unemployment Rate at February 2010	
Managers	5.7%	Managers	1.7%
Professionals	7.1%	Professionals	2.2%
Technicians and Trades Workers	-3.3%	Technicians and Trades Workers	3.4%
Community and Personal Service Workers	1.7%	Community and Personal Service Workers	4.8%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-3.0%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	3.5%
Sales Workers	2.2%	Sales Workers	5.2%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-2.5%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.7%
Labourers	1.7%	Labourers	8.3%

Additional information on Professional and Trade occupations is provided in the following section on skilled and internet vacancies.

SKILLED AND INTERNET VACANCIES²

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) produces the *Skilled Vacancies Index* (SVI) for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory. These are aggregated into Professional, Associate Professional and Trade groups (see Figure 4 overleaf). The SVI shows where the best employment opportunities may be in the Australian labour market.

In February 2010, skilled vacancies were 2.6% lower than in February 2009. Over the 12 months SVI increases were recorded for four States and Territories (States). The largest increases were recorded in the NT (up 67.2%), Tasmania (up 45.6%) and SA (up 12.3%). The most significant decreases were recorded in Queensland (down 38.5%) and Victoria (down 8.5%).

In the 12 months to February 2010, advertised vacancies decreased for Professional occupations (down 32.0%) and increased for Trade occupations (up 18.6%). The most notable decreases for Professionals were for Health Professionals (down 49.3%) and Accountants and Auditors (down 36.5%). The most notable increases for Trades were Metal Trades (up 70.0%), Automotive Trades (up 35.1%) and Construction Trades (up 29.8%).

DEEWR also produces the *Internet Vacancies Index* (IVI) based on vacancies lodged on four recruitment websites for 48 occupational clusters across all skill levels and for the eight major occupational groups for each State. IVI vacancies are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)³.

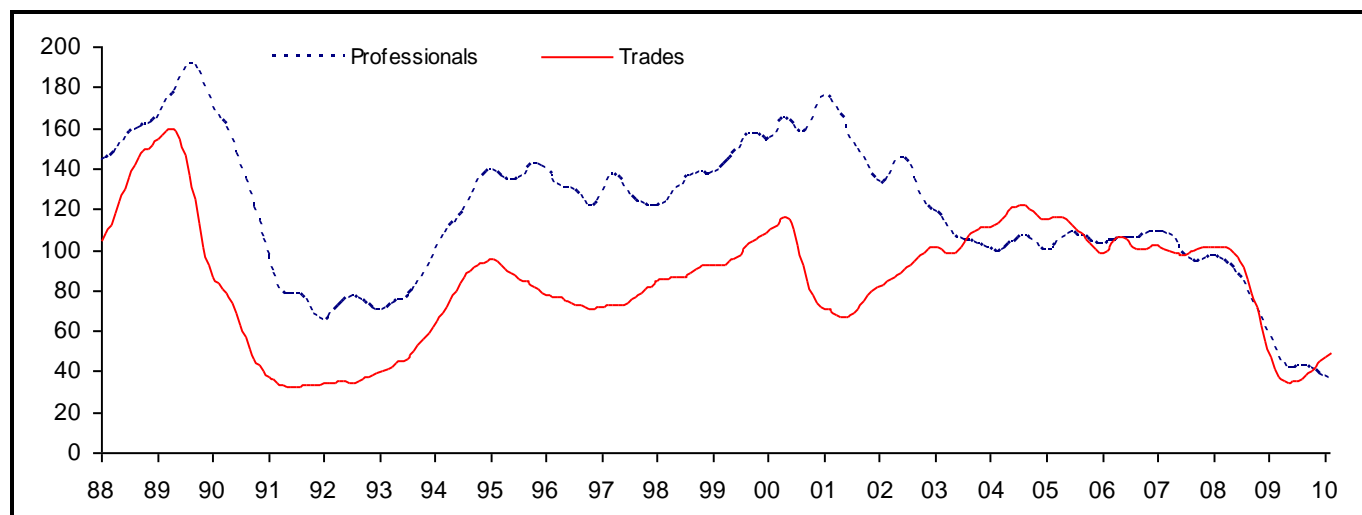
In February 2010, internet vacancies were 11.3% lower than in February 2009. Over the 12 months, IVI decreases were recorded in all States, except for the NT (up 10.2%). The most significant IVI decreases were in Queensland (down 21.4%) and WA (down 14.1%).

In the 12 months to February 2010, internet vacancies decreased for 34 of the 48 occupational clusters. The most notable decreases were for Engineers (down 58.0%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 31.3%), and Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (down 28.4%). The most notable increases were for Construction Trades (up 33.1%) and Construction and Mining Labourers (up 30.1%).

² Historical series of trend figures for SVI are revised monthly; the IVI is based on a three month moving average.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations – First Edition (Cat. No. 1220.0).

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, January 1988 to February 2010



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, SVI Seasonally Adjusted and Trended Data (April 2010), www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/LMI/VacancyReport.

FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. Prospects differ between and within States and can change rapidly. Even in occupations with below average prospects, employment opportunities may arise. This information should therefore be used with caution.

The following future job prospect ratings are for the period to 2014-15 and are based on employment trends, projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data. In the following table G stands for good prospects, A for average prospects and BA for below average prospects; L (not in the table) stands for limited prospects.⁴

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2014-15	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2014-15
Managers		Social Workers	G
Child Care Centre Managers	G	Technicians and Trades Workers	
Professionals		Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
Civil Engineering Professionals	G	Cabinetmakers	G
Computer Network Professionals	G	Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	A
Dental Practitioners	G	Clothing Trades Workers	BA
Generalist Medical Practitioners	G	Electrical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	A
Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	A	Electricians	G
Medical Imaging Professionals	G	Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	A
Midwives	G	Metal Casting, Forging and Finishing Trades Workers	BA
Occupational Therapists	G	Panelbeaters	A
Pharmacists	G	Printers	A
Physiotherapists	G	Wood Machinists and Other Wood Trades Workers	BA
Primary School Teachers	G	Community and Personal Service Workers	
Registered Nurses	G	Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses	G
Secondary School Teachers	G	Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists	G

The Australian Labour Market Update uses the latest available detailed and consistent data at time of production. However, the labour market can change quickly and should be re-assessed prior to making a decision to lodge a visa application. Queries relating to this publication should be emailed to migration@deewr.gov.au.

⁴ Job prospect ratings are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).



Australian Labour Market Update

Veterinarian

In the Australian labour market, veterinarians diagnose, treat and prevent animal diseases, ailments and injuries. The entry requirement for employment is the completion of an Australian bachelor degree or higher qualification. Registration with the relevant State or Territory Veterinary Board is required.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF VETERINARIANS

Australian Bureau of Statistics data show employment of veterinarians has grown moderately, with trended growth of 8.3 per cent over the five years to November 2009. Moderate employment growth is expected for the next five years with most veterinarians employed in the professional, scientific and technical services, public administration and safety, health care and social assistance, and education and training sectors. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for the occupation of veterinarian based on *Job Outlook Online* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Table A: Veterinarians – Key Labour Market Indicators⁵

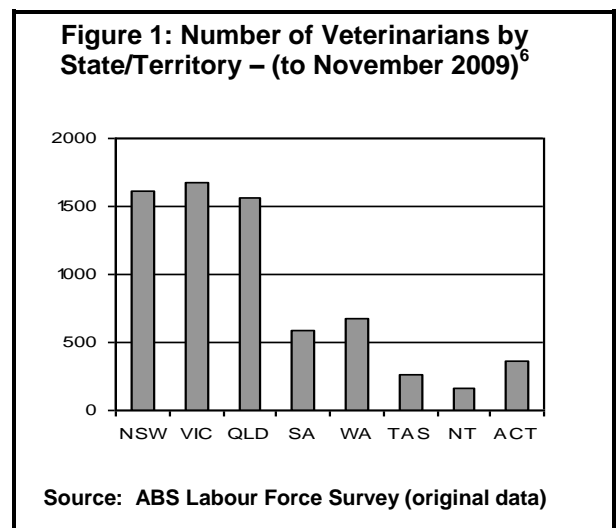
Key Indicator	Veterinarians	All Occupations
Occupation size	7 000	10 844 400
Females	55%	46%
Males	45%	54%
Median age	36.5 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	89.5%	70.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	45.8	41.3
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$1 250	\$1 000
Vacancy level (internet)	Very low	not available
Annual employment growth over 5 years	1.6% per annum	2.1% per annum
Future employment growth (to 2014-15)	moderate growth	not available
Job Prospects	Good	not available

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Veterinarians are employed across all States and Territories, mainly in the professional, scientific and technical services sector. For the four quarters to November 2009, average employment of veterinarians was highest in Victoria (1 672), New South Wales (NSW, 1 608) and Queensland (1 557).

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Tasmania and the Northern Territory (NT) employed the smallest number of veterinarians with 362, 259 and 164 respectively employed. See Figure 1 (original data).

While demand is strong and a national shortage exists for veterinarians, DEEWR research has not recently been undertaken for each State and Territory.



⁵ Occupation size for All Occupations is from ABS trended data (November 2009).

⁶ Data for Tasmania is for February and May 2009 quarters, data for Northern Territory is for August and November 2009 quarters and data for the ACT does not include the November 2009 quarter. Data sourced from ABS Labour Force Survey and differs from Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Incorporated data which is based on the number of registrations for each State and Territory.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR OVERSEAS-QUALIFIED VETERINARIANS

One of the threshold criteria for permanent entry to Australia as a primary applicant in the General Skilled Migration (GSM) categories is the assessment of an applicant's skills (qualifications and work experience) by an Australian assessing authority gazetted for their nominated occupation. Assessing authorities have been appointed by the Australian Government to undertake assessments of whether an applicant has skills appropriate to employment in their nominated profession, associate profession or trade occupation in Australia. These assessing authorities are responsible for undertaking skills assessment for migration purposes only and are not employment agencies. The assessing authorities are not in a position to assist migrants or visa applicants to find jobs in Australia.

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Incorporated (AVBC Inc.) is the Australian assessing authority for veterinarians. Overseas-qualified veterinarians whose qualifications do not render them immediately eligible to apply for registration must successfully complete the National Veterinary Examination (NVE) process. Successful completion of the NVE also enables the AVBC Inc. to provide a skill assessment for the purpose of migration for the nominated occupation of Veterinarian.

The AVBC Inc. assesses skills as "suitable" or "not suitable" for the nominated occupation against the requirements it has established. A comprehensive knowledge of English is essential to the practice of veterinary science in Australia. For applicants whose first language is not English, a pass in all four sub-tests of the Occupational English Test (OET) with a B pass or higher or score of band 7 in all modules at the Academic level of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test will satisfy the requirements. Native speakers (born and educated) of English from Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and the USA may apply for exemption from the OET/IELTS English language proficiency test.

Applicants intending to practice as a veterinarian in Australia must be registered with the relevant State or Territory Veterinary Board. Overseas-qualified veterinarians may hold a qualification which is generally recognised for the purpose of registration in Australia and New Zealand. The list of these qualifications can be found on the AVBC Inc. website at www.avbc.asn.au/skills.htm. Veterinarians who obtained their primary veterinary qualifications in Australia or New Zealand or who have successfully completed the National Veterinary Examination are also eligible to apply for registration in the different States and Territories.

Applicants must have their skills assessment included with their visa application to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and must be prepared to show DIAC all documentation in relation to this when seeking a skills assessment.

More detailed information on skill assessment and registration is available on the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Incorporated website at www.avbc.asn.au/skills.htm and the Australian Skills Recognition Information website at www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

An alternative to migrating to Australia through the GSM categories is to enter through employer-sponsorship. The Australian Government has in place several employer-sponsored migration arrangements, including the Temporary Business Long Stay Arrangement, Employer Nomination Scheme, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Labour Agreements.

Labour Agreements are designed to enable approved employers to recruit highly-skilled workers from overseas or from people temporarily in Australia, where they have not been able to fill vacancies from the Australian labour market through domestic recruitment and training. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is available on the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified veterinarians 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 veterinarians should note that acceptance of overseas qualifications for migration does not guarantee employment in the profession in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors, such as the number of vacancies available, skill needs in the Australian labour market, meeting State and Territory licensing requirements and suitability for employment in a particular job in Australia.



Australia – its 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 2010.

THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

Australia’s population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.5% and 24.8% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2009 were Western Australia (up by 3.1%), Queensland (up by 2.7%), the Northern Territory (up by 2.5%) and Victoria (up by 2.2%), while Tasmania experienced the weakest growth (1.1%).

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST**
Population	7 134 421	5 443 228	4 425 103	1 623 590	2 245 057	503 292	225 938	352 189	21 955 256
Share of Australian Population (%)	32.5	24.8	20.2	7.4	10.2	2.3	1.0	1.6	100.0
Capital City	20.5	18.2	9.1	5.4	7.6	1.0	0.6	1.6	63.9
Balance of State	12.0	6.6	11.0	2.0	2.7	1.3	0.5	0.0	36.1
Aged 15 years and over	26.4	20.2	16.1	6.1	8.2	1.8	0.8	1.3	80.9
Aged 65 years and over	4.5	3.4	2.5	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	13.3
Population growth (%)***	1.7	2.2	2.7	1.2	3.1	1.1	2.5	1.7	2.1

* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2009 is preliminary.

** Australia includes Other Territories not represented individually in this table.

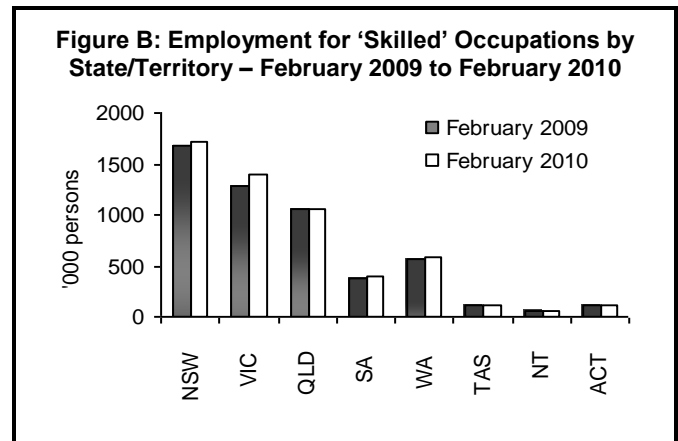
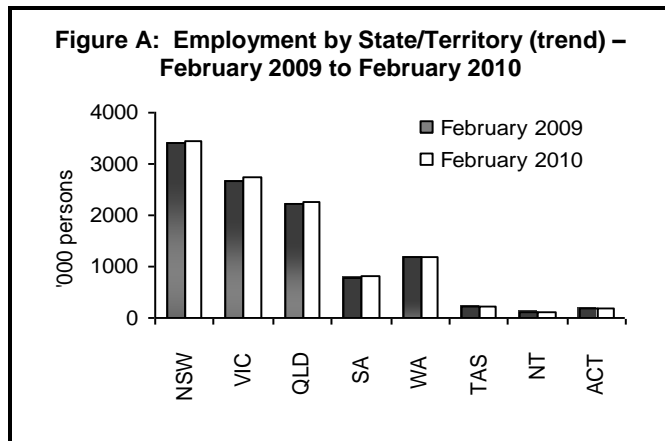
*** Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2008 to 30 June 2009. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2008 is revised.

Source: ABS (2010), *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2009*, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2010), *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09*, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

STATE AND TERRITORY EMPLOYMENT

Trend employment increased in all States and Territories over the 12 months to February 2010 except for Tasmania where employment declined. As Figure A below shows, NSW (3.4 million), Victoria (2.8 million) and Queensland (2.2 million) had the highest employment. Of the States, Victoria had the highest employment growth in percentage terms (up by 3.8%) over the 12 months to February 2010.

Figure B shows NSW (1.7 million), Victoria (1.4 million) and Queensland (1.1 million) employ the largest number of workers in ‘skilled’ occupations⁷ (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data). Of these States, Victoria recorded the highest employment growth (up 9.5%) over the 12 months to February 2010.



⁷ ANZSCO Major Groups 1 to 3 includes most but not all skilled occupations where the entry level requirement for employment in the Australian labour market is an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III or higher qualification.

STATE AND TERRITORY LABOUR FORCE

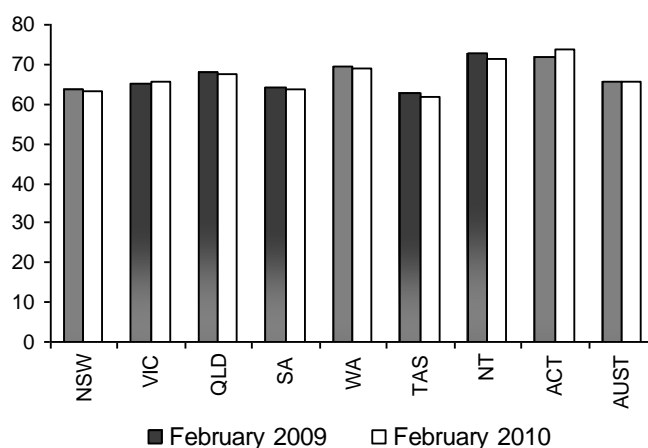
The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. (The labour force is employed persons plus unemployed persons.)

Over the 12 months to February 2010, the labour force participation rate for Australia (original data) decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 65.5% (see Figure C). Only the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Victoria recorded an increase in the participation rate over this period (2.7% and 0.5% respectively), with the Northern Territory (NT) and Tasmania recording the largest decreases (2.1% and 1.7% respectively).

Full-time employment (original data) remained unchanged in the 12 months to February 2010, while part-time employment increased by 5.5%.

Male full-time employment increased marginally by 0.8% while female full-time employment decreased by 1.4%. However male part-time employment increased by 9.8% while female part-time employment increased by 3.8%.

Figure C: Labour force participation rates by State (%)



INDUSTRY BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Table B below estimates the percentage of employment in each State for each industry (original data). It shows the ACT had a relatively high proportion of employed persons in Public Administration and Safety, Western Australia in Mining, Victoria in Manufacturing, South Australia in Health Care and Social Assistance and NSW in Financial and Insurance Services. The industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health Care and Social Assistance followed by Retail Trade, Manufacturing and Construction.

INDUSTRY	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.7	3.2	3.8	4.7	3.3	6.6	2.6	0.5	3.3
Mining	1.0	0.4	2.0	0.9	5.3	1.4	2.8	*0.0	1.5
Manufacturing	9.0	11.2	8.3	10.4	8.2	8.7	4.4	1.8	9.2
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.6	0.6	1.2
Construction	8.4	8.4	10.6	8.1	10.7	8.7	10.0	6.6	9.1
Wholesale Trade	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.3	2.5	1.6	3.9
Retail Trade	10.8	11.0	11.3	11.5	10.8	11.6	10.0	7.5	10.9
Accommodation and Food Services	7.2	6.6	7.1	6.1	6.0	6.9	5.2	5.6	6.8
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.3	5.2	5.9	4.6	5.4	4.6	5.6	2.7	5.3
Information Media and Telecommunications	2.4	2.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.3	2.0
Financial and Insurance Services	5.0	4.0	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.8	2.0	3.7
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.6	1.3	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.8	1.1	1.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.2	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.7	5.4	5.3	10.9	7.5
Administrative and Support Services	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.2	2.3	3.1	2.3	3.4
Public Administration and Safety	6.0	4.5	5.9	6.3	6.0	9.1	14.6	29.3	6.2
Education and Training	7.1	7.8	7.2	7.8	7.9	7.3	9.3	10.0	7.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.0	11.0	10.9	12.9	10.4	12.1	10.4	9.1	11.0
Arts and Recreation Services	1.6	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.6	2.4	1.8
Other Services	4.2	3.8	4.3	3.6	4.4	3.4	5.0	3.8	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey original data for the 4 quarters to February 2010.

* Indicates an estimate which is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.