



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, February 2011.

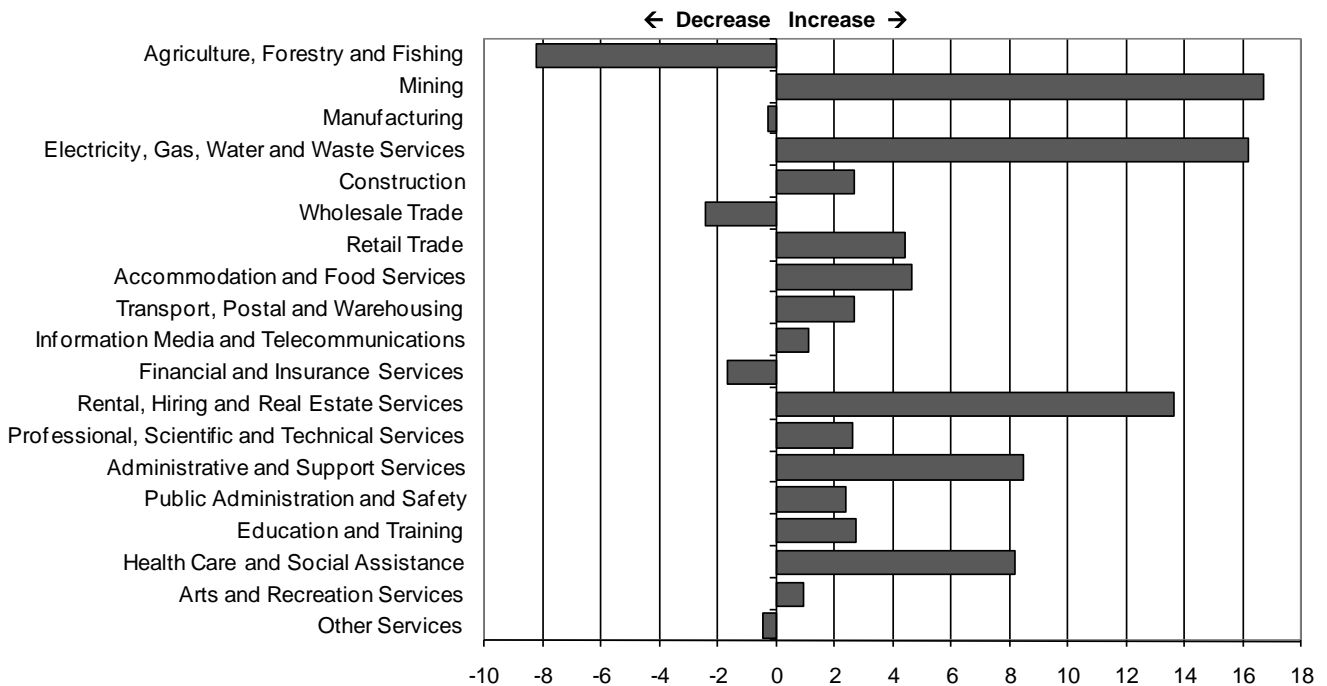
EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to February 2011, trend employment increased by a robust 327 200 (or 2.9%) and employment grew by 13 300 jobs in February 2011. While this was slightly down from its most recent peak (38 000 jobs per month in September 2010), a number of forward indicators suggest employment should continue to expand in the period ahead.

Over the 12 months to February 2011, employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories (the States) with the largest employment growth in New South Wales (NSW, 4.0%), Victoria (3.4%) and the Northern Territory (NT, 2.7%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2011, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 98 700), Retail Trade (up 52 400), Accommodation and Food Services (up 35 000) and Administrative and Support Services (up 32 100). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Mining (16.7%), Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (16.2%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (13.6%) and Administrative and Support Services (8.4%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – February 2010 to February 2011



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, February 2011, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

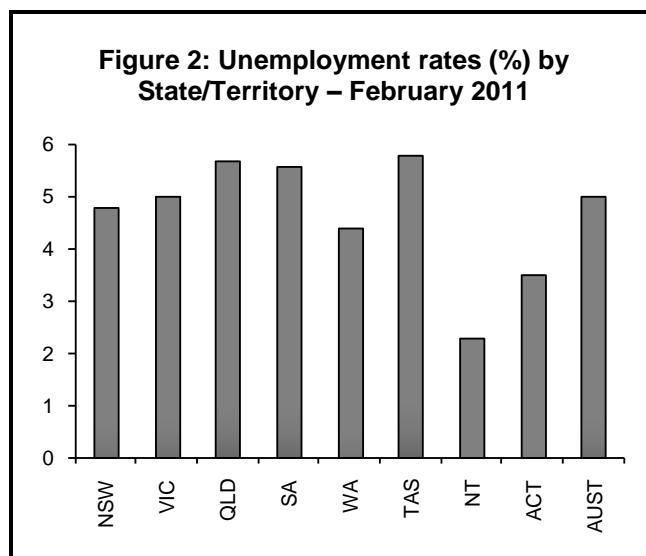
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.0% in February 2011, compared with 5.4% in February 2010.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased slightly in South Australia (SA, up 0.4 percentage points) and Queensland (up 0.1 percentage points) and was unchanged in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

In February 2011, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (5.8%) and Queensland (5.7%) and lowest in the NT (2.3%). See Figure 2.

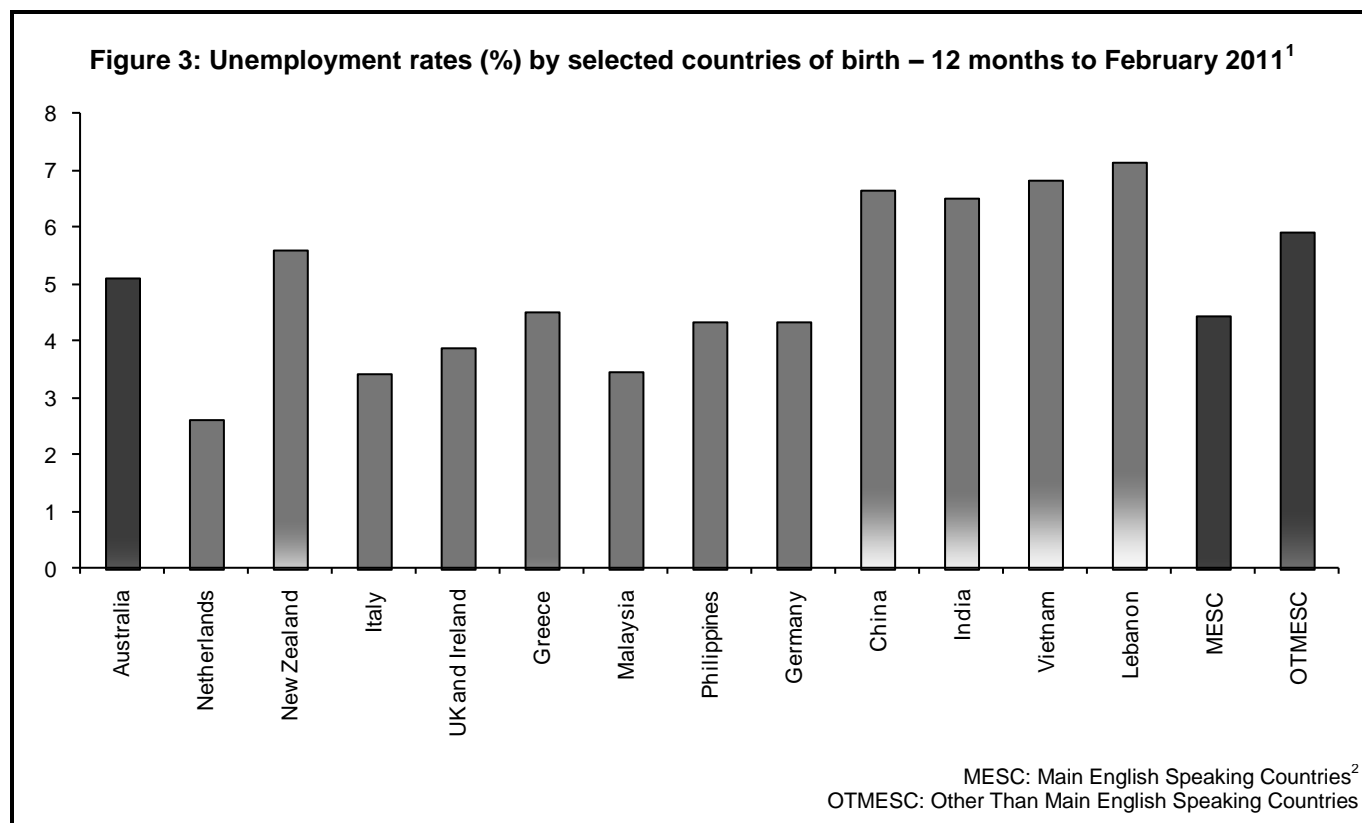
Generally, people in the more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to February 2011, the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was about four times that of former Professionals.



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 – average of the last 12 months to February 2011) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. For example, people born in the Netherlands and Italy have low unemployment rates (2.6% and 3.4% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (7.1% and 6.9% 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 February 2011 (original data – average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Professionals (up 100 400), Sales Workers (up 70 700) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 69 300). Employment growth rates, in descending 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 (original data – average of the last four quarters).

Employment Growth Rates (%) for the 12 months to February 2011	
Managers	1.4%
Professionals	4.3%
Technicians and Trades Workers	4.3%
Community and Personal Service Workers	3.3%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-0.3%
Sales Workers	6.8%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.2%
Labourers	0.5%

Unemployment Rates (%) at February 2011	
Managers	1.5%
Professionals	1.7%
Technicians and Trades Workers	2.8%
Community and Personal Service Workers	3.5%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.9%
Sales Workers	4.8%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.0%
Labourers	6.7%

Additional information on Professional and Trade occupations is provided in the following section on internet vacancy trends.

INTERNET VACANCY TRENDS³

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) produces the monthly Vacancy Report⁴, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 4). Over the year to February 2011, the IVI (trend) increased by 13.2%, with increases across seven of the eight occupational groups.

Over the year to February 2011, vacancies increased in four States and the ACT, which recorded the largest increase (up 28.6%), followed by Western Australia (21.5%) and Queensland (17.1%). Over the same period, the largest declines in vacancies occurred in Tasmania (down 19.5%) and the NT (11.8%).

Vacancies increased for all of the eight occupational groups over the year, with the exception of Sales Workers (down 3.6%). The largest increases were in Professionals (up 22.8%), Machinery Operators and Drivers (18.3%), and Clerical and Administrative Workers (14.9%).

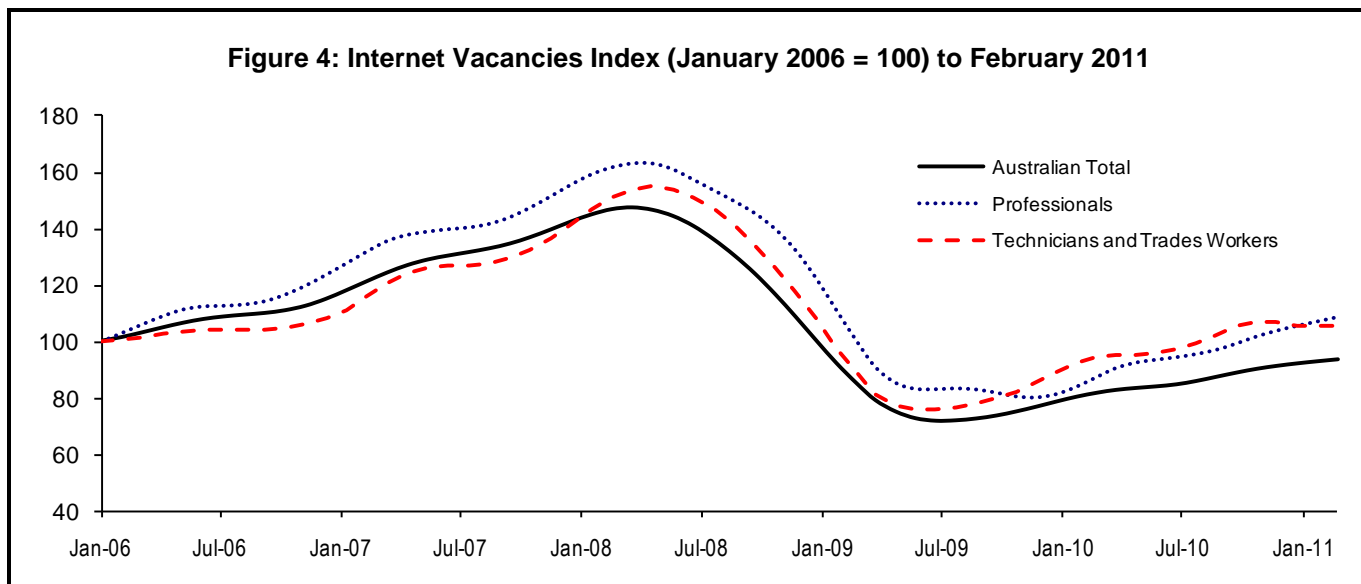
Over the year to February 2011, vacancies increased in 34 of the 48 occupational clusters, with the largest increases being in Engineers (up 77.1%), followed by Science Professionals and Veterinarians (72.0%), and Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (56.7%). The largest declines over the same period were for Education Professionals (down 21.8%), and Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (19.3%).

³ 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. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, and then indexed (January 2006 = 100). IVI vacancies have been coded by DEEWR to occupations based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0). In view of the trending procedure, figures for the six months prior to the current month are subject to revision.

⁴ Available for download from www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/lmi/vacancyreport.



Figure 4: Internet Vacancies Index (January 2006 = 100) to February 2011



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (March 2011), www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/lmi/vacancyreport.

FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. As there may be significant variation between and within States, information on job prospects should be used with caution.

The table below contains selected occupations with good job prospects over the medium term (to 2015-16). The prospects⁵ are based on employment trends, projected employment growth, unemployment rates, vacancy trends, and other data. For prospects on other occupations, visit Job Outlook (www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Selected Occupational Groups with Good Job Prospects to 2015-16 ⁶	
Managers Child Care Centre Managers	Technicians and Trades Workers Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics Automotive Electricians Bricklayers and Stonemasons Carpenters and Joiners Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians Electricians Motor Mechanics Plasterers Plumbers Sheetmetal Trades Workers Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers Wall and Floor Tilers
Professionals Architects and Landscape Architects Chemical and Materials Engineers Civil Engineering Professionals Dental Practitioners Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers Generalist Medical Practitioners Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers Medical Imaging Professionals Medical Laboratory Scientists Midwives Physiotherapists Psychiatrists	Community and Personal Service Workers Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists

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.

⁵ Job prospect ratings are based on ANZSCO, First Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

⁶ This table does not identify all skilled occupations eligible for temporary or permanent migration to Australia. The lists of skilled occupations may include occupations with average, below average or poor future job prospects.



Australian Labour Market Update

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 2011.

THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.4% and 24.8% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2010 were Western Australia (WA, up 2.2%) and Queensland (up 2.0%), while Tasmania experienced the weakest growth (0.9%).

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Population	7 232 589	5 545 932	4 513 850	1 644 582	2 293 510	507 643	229 711	358 571	22 328 847
Share of Australian Population (%)	32.4	24.8	20.2	7.4	10.3	2.3	1.0	1.6	100.0
Capital City	20.5	18.3	9.2	5.4	7.6	1.0	0.6	1.6	64.0
Balance of State	11.9	6.6	11.1	2.0	2.7	1.3	0.5	0.0	36.0
Aged 15 years and over	26.3	20.3	16.2	6.1	8.3	1.8	0.8	1.3	81.1
Aged 65 years and over	4.6	3.4	2.5	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	13.5
Population growth (%)**	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.2	2.2	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.7

* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2010 is preliminary.

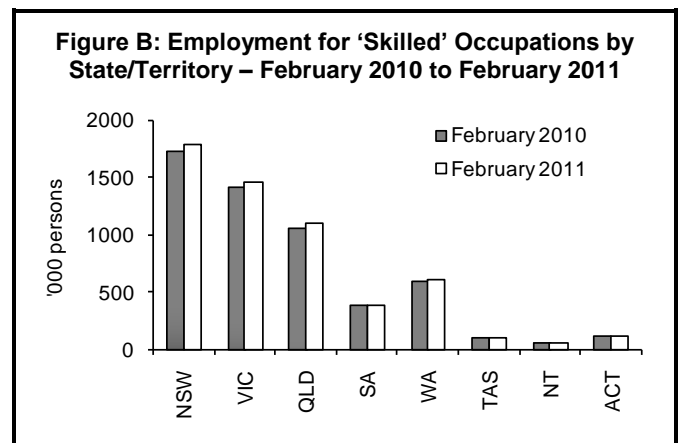
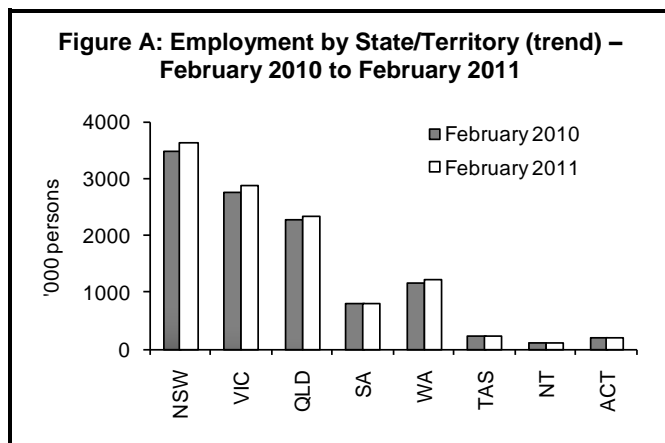
** Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2010. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2009 is revised.

Source: ABS (2011), Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2010, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2011), Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

STATE AND TERRITORY EMPLOYMENT

Trend employment increased in all States except Tasmania over the 12 months to February 2011. As Figure A below shows, NSW (3.6 million), Victoria (2.9 million) and Queensland (2.3 million) had the highest employment. Of the States, NSW had the highest employment growth in percentage terms (up 4.0%) over the 12 months to February 2011.

Figure B shows NSW (1.8 million), Victoria (1.5 million) and Queensland (1.1 million) employ the largest number of workers in 'skilled' occupations⁷ (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data – average of the last four quarters). Of these States, NSW recorded the highest employment growth (up 2.9%) over the 12 months to February 2011.



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

STATE AND TERRITORY LABOUR FORCE⁸

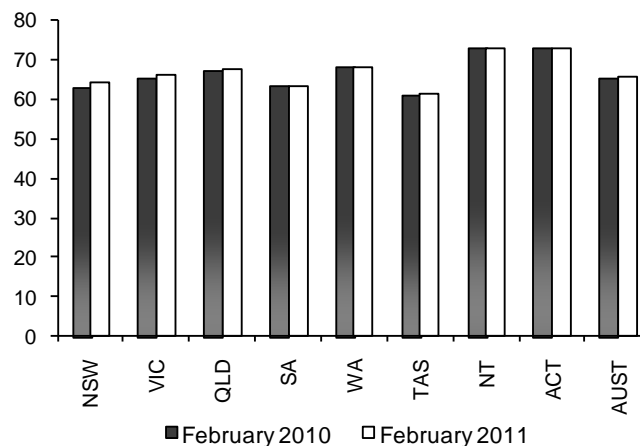
The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. The labour force is based on employed persons plus unemployed persons.

Over the 12 months to February 2011, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) increased slightly by 0.5 percentage points to 65.8% (see Figure C). NSW and Victoria recorded the largest increases in the participation rate over this period (1.0 and 0.7 percentage points respectively), with WA and the Northern Territory recording the largest decreases (0.3 and 0.3 percentage points respectively).

Full-time employment (trend data) increased by 3.6% in the 12 months to February 2011, while part-time employment increased by 1.3%.

Male full-time employment increased by 3.7% and female full-time employment increased by 3.4%. Male part-time employment was unchanged while female part-time employment increased by 1.9%.

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, WA in Mining, Victoria in Manufacturing, SA in Health Care and Social Assistance and NSW in Financial and Insurance Services. At February 2011, the industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health Care and Social Assistance followed by Retail Trade, Construction and Manufacturing.

INDUSTRY	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.9	2.8	3.6	4.3	3.4	6.4	2.2	0.2*	3.2
Mining	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.9	7.0	1.4	3.1	0.2*	1.7
Manufacturing	8.5	10.7	8.3	9.7	7.2	7.9	4.0	2.5	8.8
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.8	1.3
Construction	8.1	9.0	10.2	9.0	10.7	8.1	10.2	6.6	9.1
Wholesale Trade	3.9	4.1	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.6	1.5	3.7
Retail Trade	10.4	11.3	11.5	11.2	10.1	11.7	10.3	8.4	10.9
Accommodation and Food Services	6.9	6.7	7.3	7.3	5.9	7.1	7.3	5.5	6.8
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.6	4.9	5.7	4.3	5.1	4.6	4.3	2.4	5.2
Information Media and Telecommunications	2.3	2.2	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9
Financial and Insurance Services	4.6	4.0	2.3	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.2	2.0	3.5
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.8	1.5	2.4	1.6	1.9	1.3	2.1	0.8	1.8
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.6	8.0	6.5	5.7	7.4	5.6	5.0	9.9	7.6
Administrative and Support Services	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.6	3.3	2.9	3.5
Public Administration and Safety	5.7	4.7	6.3	6.5	5.9	7.4	14.8	31.1	6.2
Education and Training	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.6	11.3	11.2	13.3	9.6	12.8	11.0	9.0	11.3
Arts and Recreation Services	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.2	1.7
Other Services	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.0	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 2011.

* This estimate may be subject to high sampling variability.

⁸ From April 2011, this section is based on ABS trended data, instead of ABS original data (which was used for previous editions).