



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, May 2012.

EMPLOYMENT

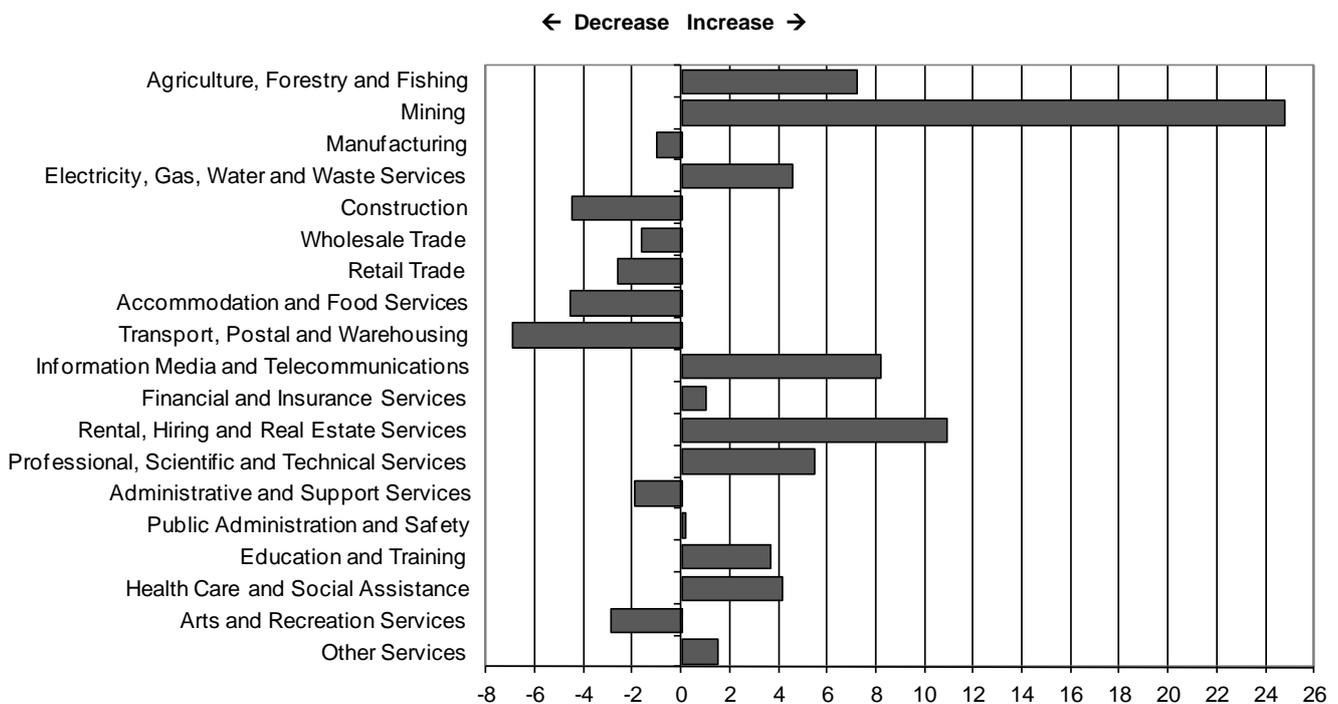
Labour market conditions in Australia softened over the year to May 2012, with trend employment increasing by just 70 800 (or 0.6%) compared with an increase of 247 800 (or 2.2%) over the previous year. The pace of trend employment growth has slowed considerably from a peak of 38 000 jobs per month in August 2010, to just 12 400 jobs per month in May 2012.

Going forward, labour market conditions are likely to remain reasonably soft and will continue to reflect the patchwork nature of the Australian economy, with the Australian Treasury forecasting the unemployment rate to rise slightly, to 5.25% in 2011-12, before edging up to 5.5% by the end of 2012-13.

Over the 12 months to May 2012, employment (in trend terms) increased in Western Australia (WA, 4.1%), the Northern Territory (NT, 2.2%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 2.0%), New South Wales (NSW, 0.5%), Queensland (0.5%), and Victoria (0.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2012, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 54 100), Mining (up 53 400) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 47 300). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Mining (24.7%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (10.9%), Information Media and Telecommunications (8.2%), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (7.2%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

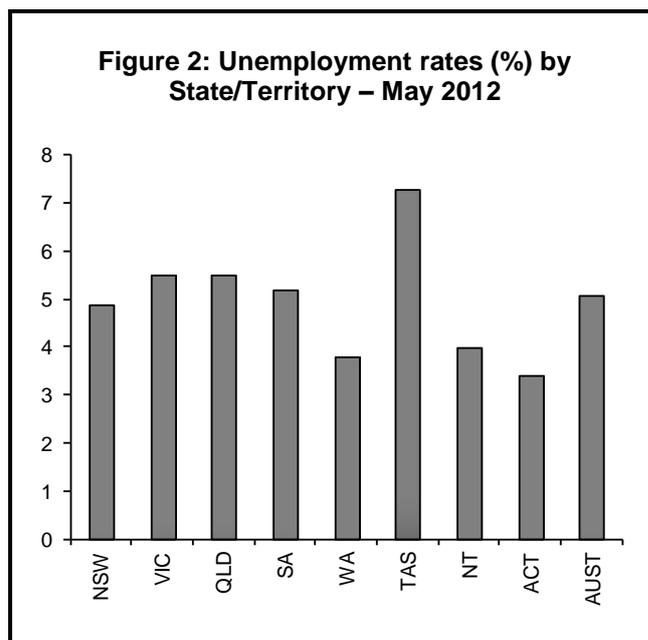
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.1% in May 2012, compared with 5.0% in May 2011.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates decreased in the ACT (from 3.9% to 3.4%), WA (from 4.2% to 3.8%), NSW (from 5.1% to 4.9%) and South Australia (from 5.3% to 5.2%). Trend unemployment rates rose in Tasmania (from 5.4% to 7.3%), Victoria (from 4.8% to 5.5%), the NT (from 3.6% to 4.0%) and Queensland (from 5.4% to 5.5%).

In May 2012, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.3%) and lowest in the ACT (3.4%) and WA (3.8%).

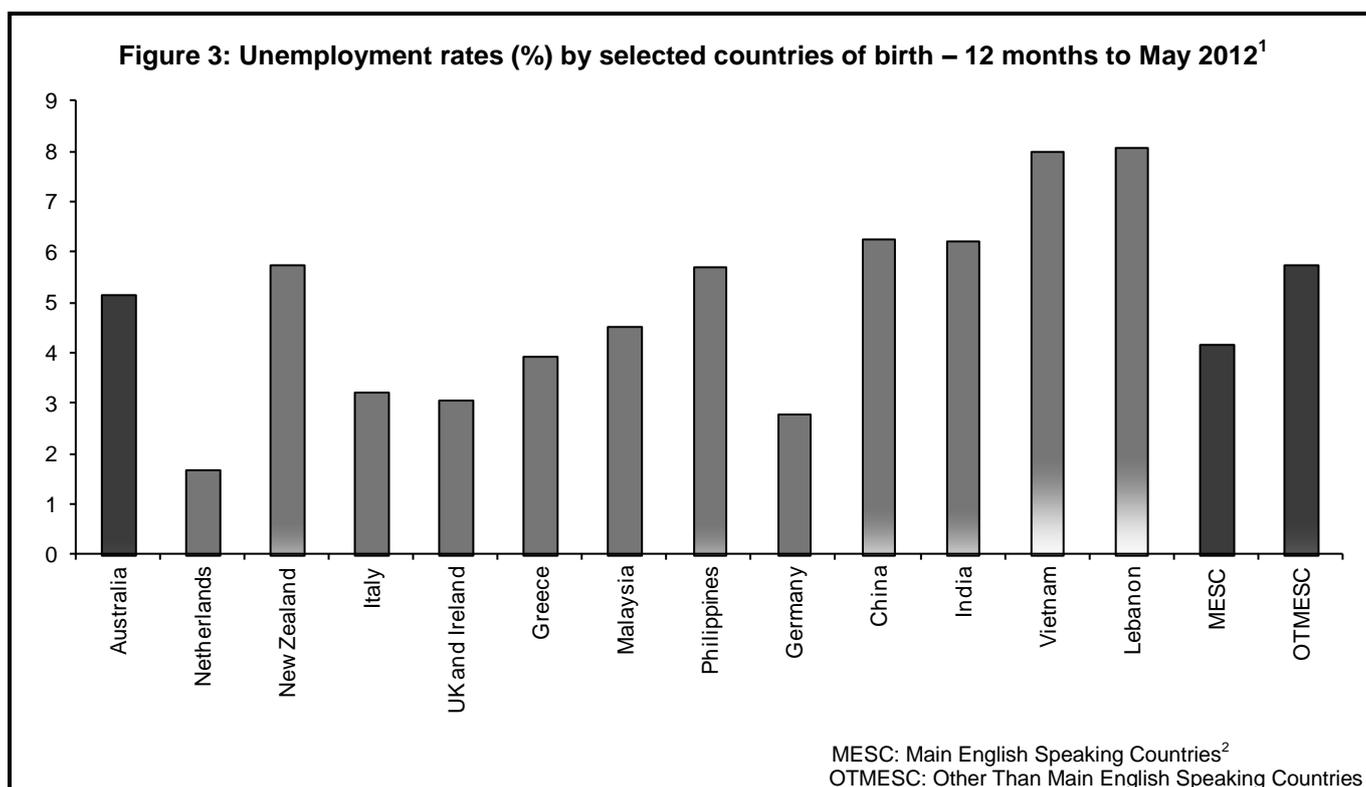
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to May 2012, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was more than three times that of former Professionals.



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 May 2012) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. In the data below, people born in the Netherlands and Germany have low unemployment rates (1.7% and 2.8% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (8.1% and 8.0% 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 May 2012 (original data – average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 38 200), Professionals (up 35 800) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 35 500). Employment growth rates, in descending skill order, are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to May 2012		Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to February 2012	
Managers	2.1%	Managers	1.8%
Professionals	1.5%	Professionals	1.8%
Technicians and Trades Workers	-0.9%	Technicians and Trades Workers	3.1%
Community and Personal Service Workers	2.6%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.7%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.3%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.6%
Sales Workers	-4.6%	Sales Workers	4.6%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.8%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.2%
Labourers	-2.2%	Labourers	6.1%

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 May 2012, the IVI (trend) decreased by 10.0%, with decreases for all eight occupational groups.

Over the year to May 2012, vacancies increased in WA (up 6.5%). The most significant IVI decreases were in Tasmania (down 19.5%), the ACT (down 18.6%) and Victoria (down 16.6%).

Vacancies decreased for all eight occupational groups over the year. The largest decreases were for Clerical and Administrative Workers (down 16.1%), Labourers (down 12.0%) and Professionals (down 11.9%).

Over the year to May 2012, vacancies decreased in 41 of the 48 occupational clusters, with the largest decreases being for Farmers and Farm Managers (down 28.9%), Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (down 23.8%), Office Managers, Administrators and Secretaries (down 22.7%), Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (down 22.2%) and ICT Professionals (down 22.2%). The largest increases over the same period were for Chief Executives, Managing Directors and Legislators (up 17.3%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 16.2%) and Automotive and Engineering Trades (up 10.0%).

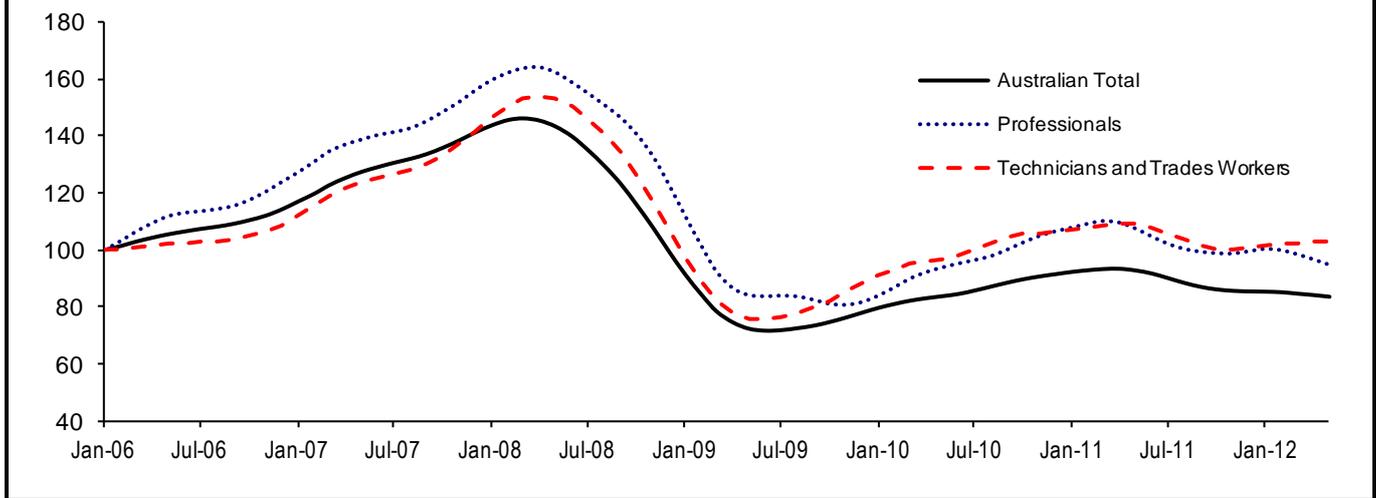
With the decrease in the IVI over the year to May 2012, vacancies are 43.1% below the March 2008 peak.

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. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, and then indexed (January 2006 = 100). 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). 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 May 2012



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (May 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.



Geologists and Geophysicists

In the Australian labour market, geologists and geophysicists study the composition, structure and other physical attributes of the earth; locate and advise on the extraction of minerals, petroleum and ground water; and detect, monitor and forecast seismic, magnetic, electrical, thermal and oceanographic activity. The entry requirement for employment in this occupation group is the completion of an Australian bachelor degree in a relevant field of study.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations data show very strong employment growth is expected for geologists and geophysicists for the five years to 2016-17. Over 90% of the workforce for this occupation group is employed in the Mining; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Public Administration and Safety; and Education and Training industries. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for geologists and geophysicists based on *Job Outlook* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Table A: Geologists and Geophysicists – Key Labour Market Indicators

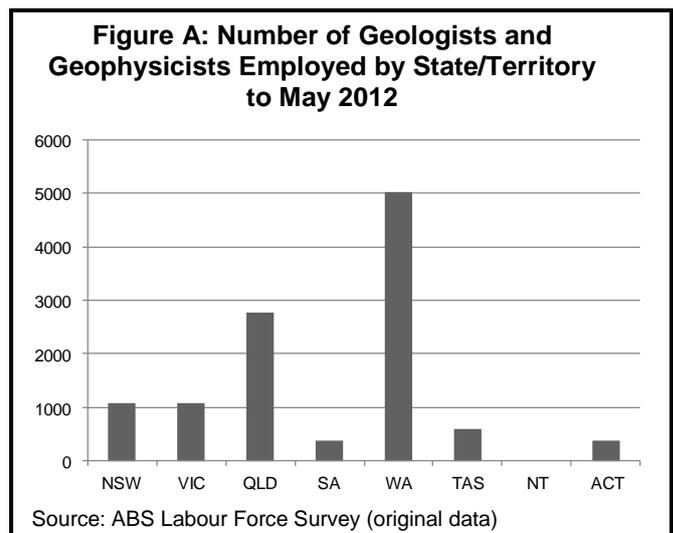
Key Indicator	Geologists and Geophysicists ⁵
Occupation size	11 100
Females	18%
Males	82%
Median age	38 years
Full-time share of employment	89.7%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	45.9
Weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 825
Vacancy level (internet)	very high
Employment growth over 5 years (to Nov 2011)	18.3%
Future employment growth (to 2016-17)	very strong growth

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Geologists and geophysicists are employed in all States and Territories.

For the four quarters to May 2012⁶, the average employment of geologists and geophysicists was highest in Western Australia (WA, 5018), Queensland (QLD, 2769), New South Wales (NSW, 1091) and Victoria (VIC, 1087).

Tasmania (TAS), South Australia (SA), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory (NT) employed the smallest number of geologists and geophysicists. See Figure A (original data).



⁵ As estimates have been rounded, minor discrepancies may exist between sums of the component items and totals.

⁶ ABS Labour Force Survey (original data), noting data may not have been recorded for all quarters for each State and Territory.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The Australian Government has appointed Australian assessing authorities to assess the skills (qualifications and employment experience) of visa applicants against the Australian standard for managerial, professional and trade occupations appearing on migration program occupation lists. These assessing authorities are not employment agencies.

Vocational Education and Training Assessment Services (VETASSESS) is the appointed Australian assessing authority for skills assessments for migration purposes for geologist and geophysicist. The entry requirement for these occupations in the Australian labour market is an Australian Qualifications Framework bachelor degree in a relevant field of study. To improve an applicant's employability, VETASSESS also requires an applicant to have completed, in the five years prior to the application for skills assessment, at least one year of post-qualification employment in a field which is highly relevant and at an appropriate skill level to the nominated occupation. Further information can be found at www.vetassess.com.au.

Applicants must include a copy of the positive skills assessment by VETASSESS with their visa application to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and be prepared to show all supporting documentation to the assessment.

Further information on skills, licensing and registration may be available on professional and/or industry body websites, and on the DIAC Australian Skills Recognition Information website at www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm#g.

Geologist and geophysicist are generally not regulated occupations in Australia – registration is compulsory only for geoscientists reporting on ore reserves or resources in the public domain. Membership of a relevant professional association such as the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) may enhance employment outcomes. The AIG website at www.aig.org.au includes information on membership criteria, professional development and training opportunities.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration arrangements, including Temporary Business (Long Stay), the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Labour Agreements. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is available on the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified geologists and geophysicists 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 geologists and geophysicists 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, State and Territory licensing requirements 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.