



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 online at Australian Jobs 2008, available through www.workplace.gov.au.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, August 2009.

EMPLOYMENT

Trend employment in Australia declined by 0.1% over the 12 months to August 2009 (compared with robust growth of 2.1% in the previous year) and trend employment growth has fallen from its peak of 28 800 jobs per month in December 2007, to 2 700 jobs per month. Trend Employment also varied across the States and Territories with employment growth strongest in the Northern Territory (4.4%) and New South Wales (0.2%).

A number of forward indicators are continuing to point to soft labour market conditions over 2009, although the pace of decline in labour market activity is unlikely to be as severe as previously envisaged.

According to the Australian Government's May 2009 Budget forecasts, the unemployment rate is expected to rise to 8¼% by the June quarter 2010, before peaking at 8½% in the June quarter 2011. Global conditions, however, have stabilised since the release of the May 2009 Budget, while the domestic economy and labour market have held up much better than expected. The aforementioned unemployment forecasts will be updated later this year.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2009, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 103 500), Accommodation and Food Services (up 18 900), Arts and Recreation Services (up 14 900) and Public Administration and Safety (up 12 800). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Health Care and Social Assistance (9.3%), Arts and Recreation Services (8.0%), Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (4.2%) and Accommodation and Food Services (2.7%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – August 2008 to August 2009

← Decrease Increase →



Source: ABS *Australian Labour Market Statistics, August 2009*, ABS Cat. No. 6105.0.

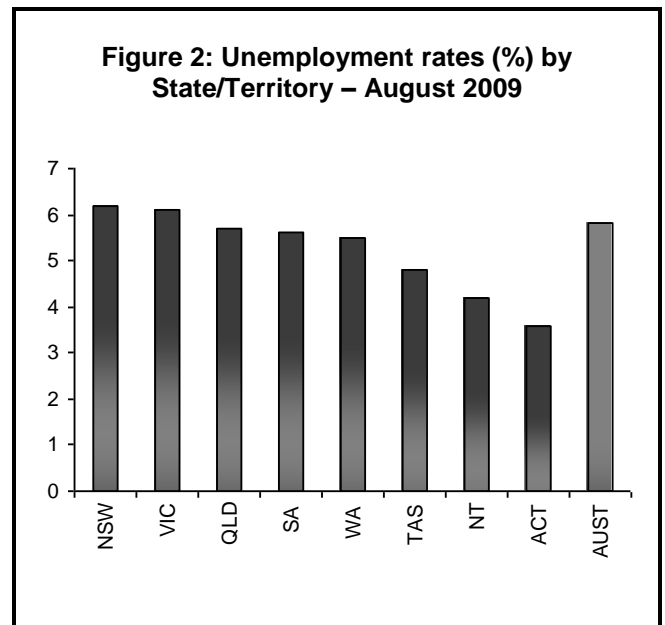
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.8% in August 2009 compared with 4.2% in August 2008.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates have increased in all States and Territories with Western Australia showing the most significant increase (2.7%) and the South Australia the smallest (0.6%).

In August 2009 the trend unemployment rate was highest in New South Wales (6.2%) and Victoria (6.1%) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%). See Figure 2.

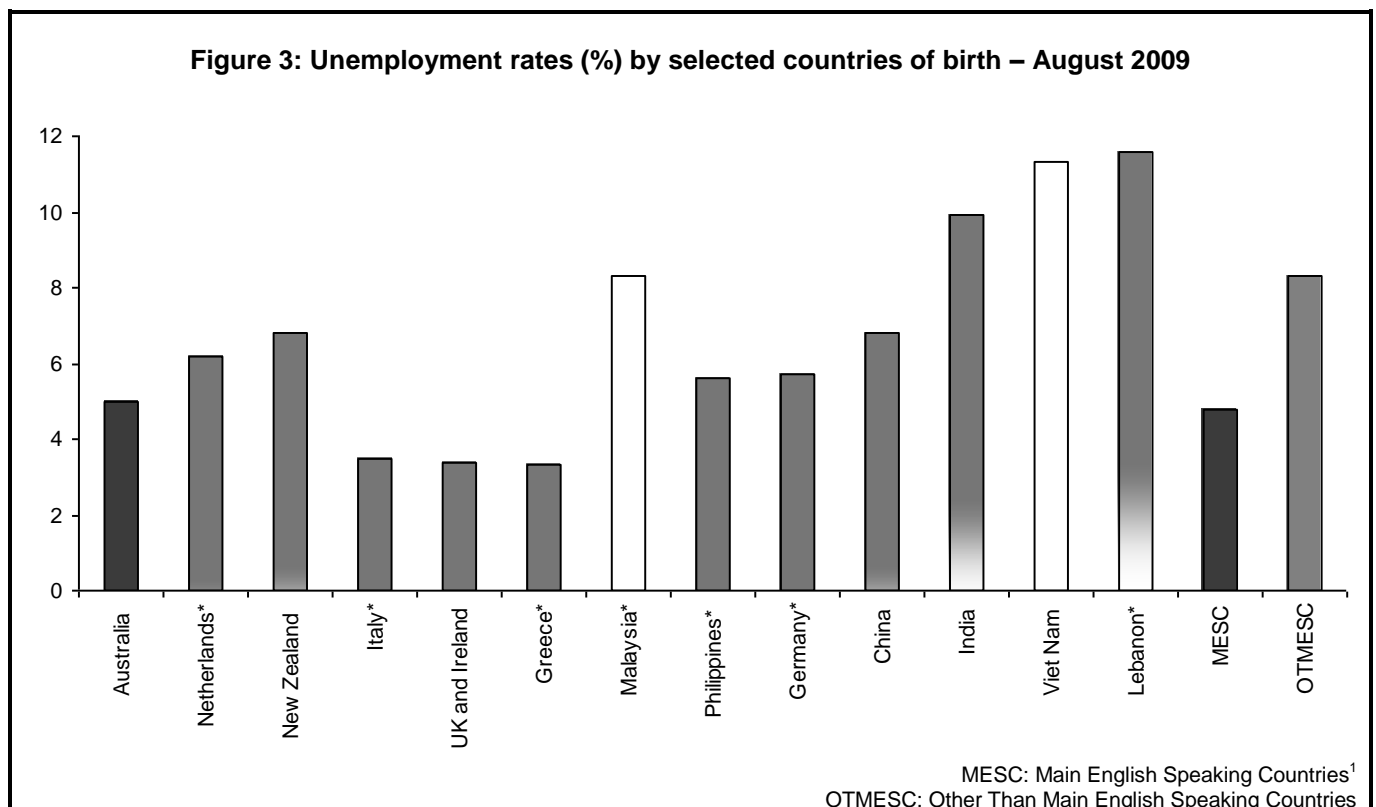
Generally, people in the more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in August 2009 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was approximately four times that of former Professionals.



MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary considerably. 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 Greece and UK and Ireland have low unemployment rates (3.3% and 3.4% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (11.6% and 11.3% 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

Employment growth is not the only factor influencing job prospects and 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 2009, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 69 400), Professionals (up 23 800) and Managers (up 10 600). 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 August 2009		Unemployment Rate at August 2009	
Managers	0.8%	Managers	1.6%
Professionals	1.1%	Professionals	1.9%
Technicians and Trades Workers	-5.7%	Technicians and Trades Workers	4.2%
Community and Personal Service Workers	7.5%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.2%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-0.6%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	3.0%
Sales Workers	0.3%	Sales Workers	4.7%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-5.0%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	5.2%
Labourers	0.4%	Labourers	8.1%

Additional information on Professional and Trade occupations is provided in the following section on skilled and internet vacancies. Time series of vacancy data are not readily available for less-skilled occupations.

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 August 2009 skilled vacancies were 55.7% lower than in August 2008. Over the 12 months, SVI decreases were recorded in all States and Territories with the most significant decreases recorded in Queensland (down 64.2%) and Western Australia (down 63.1%).

In the 12 months to August 2009, advertised vacancies decreased for Professional occupations (down by 50.1%) and for Trade Occupations (down by 59.0%). The most notable decreases were for Metal Trades (down 78.5%), Printing Trades (down 72.7%), and Electrical and Electronics Trades (down 69.4%).

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 and Territory. IVI vacancies are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations³.

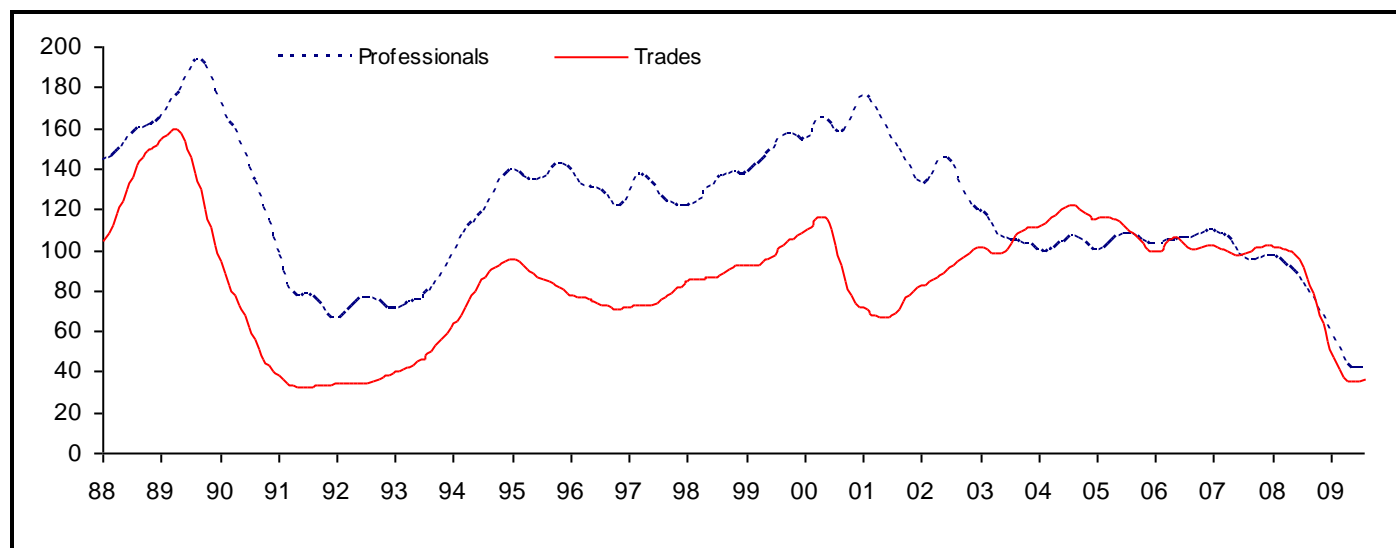
In August 2009, internet vacancies were 48.4% lower than in August 2008. Over the 12 months, IVI decreases were recorded in all States and Territories. The most significant IVI decreases were in Queensland (down 54.4%), Western Australia (down 53.7%) and New South Wales (down 48.8%).

In the 12 months to August 2009, internet vacancies decreased for Professionals (down 47.6%) and for Technicians and Trades Workers (down 49.0%). The most notable decreases were for Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (down 65.5%), Engineers (down 63.1%), Office Managers, Administrators and Secretaries (down 62.0%), Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians, Inspectors (down 61.9%), Numerical Clerks (down 60.4%) and Other Labourers (down 60.2%). No occupational cluster recorded an increase.

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 August 2009



FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. Prospects differ between and within States and Territories 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 2012-13. The ratings are based on employment trends and projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data. While the global recession could adversely affect prospects for some occupational groups in the short term, it is unclear at this stage what effect it will have on average prospects to 2012-13.

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.^{4,5}

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2012-13	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2012-13
Managers and Administrators		Social Workers	G
Child Care Co-ordinators*	G	Specialist Medical Practitioners*	G
Professionals		Associate Professionals	
Computing Professionals* (part)	G	Civil Engineering Associate Professionals	A
Dentists*	G	Dental Therapists, Technicians* and Hygienists	G
General Medical Practitioners*	G	Electrical Engineering Associate Professionals	A
Mechanical Engineers*	A	Enrolled Nurses	G
Medical Imaging Professionals* (part)	G	Mechanical Engineering Associate Professionals	A
Occupational Therapists*	G	Tradespersons	
Pharmacists* (part)	G	Bakers and Pastrycooks*	G
Physiotherapists*	G	Cabinetmakers*	G
Primary School Teachers	G	Clothing Tradespersons	BA
Registered Mental Health Nurses*	G	Lift Mechanics*	G
Registered Midwives*	G	Panel Beaters*	A
Registered Nurses*	G	Printing Machinists	A
Secondary School Teachers	G	Wood Machinists and Other Wood Tradespersons	BA

* denotes occupations that are listed in part or in full on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) issued on 17 May 2008.

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 These are examples from the skilled classifications categories – refer to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0)

⁵ Job prospect ratings are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).



Secondary School Teacher

In the Australian labour market, secondary school teachers usually teach one or more subjects within an approved curriculum to secondary school students and promote students' physical, mental, social, emotional and intellectual development. The entry requirement for employment is a bachelor degree in a relevant field of study awarded under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

Registration with the relevant State or Territory Department or professional body is required with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Australian Bureau of Statistics data show employment of secondary school teachers has remained steady, with a trended decline of 4.6% over the five years to February 2009. Steady employment growth is expected for the next five years with most secondary school teachers employed in the education and training industries. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for the occupation of secondary school teacher based on *Job Outlook Online* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

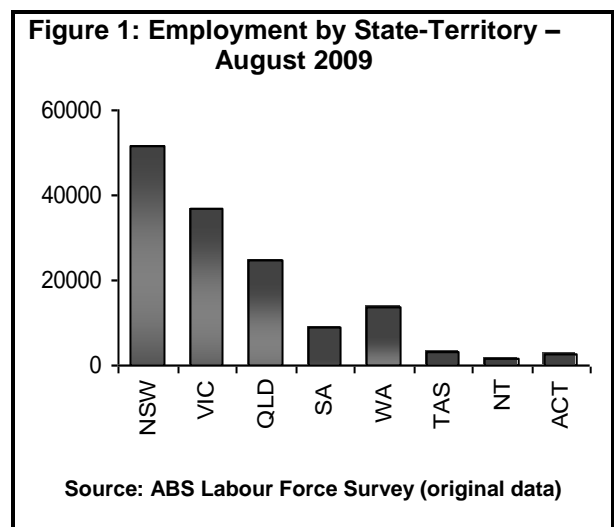
Table A: Secondary School teachers – Key Labour Market Indicators⁶

Key Indicator	Secondary School Teachers	All Occupations
Occupation size	136 800	10 788 100
Females	57%	45%
Males	43%	55%
Median age	43 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	82.7%	71.7%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	42.2	41.8
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$1 197	\$940
Vacancy level	moderate	not available
Annual employment growth over 5 years	-0.9% per annum	2.3% per annum
Future employment growth (to 2012-13)	Steady	not available
Job Prospects	Good	not available

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Secondary school teachers are employed across all States and Territories. In August 2009, the majority of secondary school teachers were employed in New South Wales (51 423), Victoria (36 798) and Queensland (24 719). Western Australia employed 13 543 secondary school teachers and South Australia employed 9 042 secondary school teachers.

Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest numbers of secondary school teachers with 3 140, 2 831 and 1 370 employed in these states respectively. See Figure 1 (original data).



⁶ Occupation size for All Occupations is from ABS trended data (August 2009) and annual employment growth for the last 5 years is based on DEEWR labour market research (data to February 2009).

SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR OVERSEAS-QUALIFIED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

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 appointed 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 not employment agencies and are not in a position to assist migrants or visa applicants to find jobs in Australia.

Teaching Australia has been appointed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship as the assessing authority for the occupation of secondary school teacher⁷.

Applicants seeking to migrate to Australia who nominate the occupation of secondary school teacher must first undergo a skills assessment by Teaching Australia of their qualifications and work experience. This assessment consists of three criteria: educational, professional and language. Applicants must demonstrate they have completed study comparable to an Australian bachelor degree or higher level qualification requiring a minimum of 4 years full-time study. Professionally, applicants must demonstrate at least one year full-time study at the higher education level that includes at least 45 working days of supervised teaching. Applicants are also required to score at least 7 in all four components of the International English Language Testing System academic test. Most States and Territories require further registration. See Figure 2.

Overseas-qualified secondary school teachers applying for temporary visas which include a work right should apply directly to the teacher registration authority in the State or Territory in which they wish to teach for registration and not to Teaching Australia for a skills assessment.

More detailed information is available on the Australian Skills Recognition Information website at www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm and the Teaching Australia website at www.teachingaustralia.edu.au.

Figure 2: The following table contains the relevant State and Territories Regulatory Authorities for Secondary School Teachers*

State	Regulator
NSW	NSW Department of Education and Training
VIC	Victorian Institute of Teaching
QLD	Queensland College of Teachers
WA	Western Australian College of Teaching
SA	Teachers Registration Board of SA
TAS	Teachers Registration Board
ACT	No registration needed
NT	Teachers Registration Board

*This is a guide only; please refer to Australian Skills Recognition Information (ASRI) for more information.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

An alternative to migrating to Australia through the GSM categories is to enter through employer-sponsorship. The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration arrangements in place, including the Temporary Business Long Stay Arrangement, Employer Nomination Scheme, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Labour Agreements. Labour Agreements are designed to enable employers to recruit highly-skilled workers from overseas or from people temporarily in Australia, where an employer has not been able to fill vacancies from the Australian labour market through domestic recruitment or training. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is on the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au.

The occupation of secondary school teacher appears in the gazetted list of eligible occupations for the Temporary Business Long Stay Arrangement.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified secondary school teachers 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 secondary school teachers 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 registration requirements and suitability for employment in a particular job in Australia.

⁷ Teaching Australia will be replaced by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) which will commence operation at the beginning of 2010. The skills assessments currently conducted by Teaching Australia will continue with AITSL.