



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 targeted at 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 2011.

EMPLOYMENT

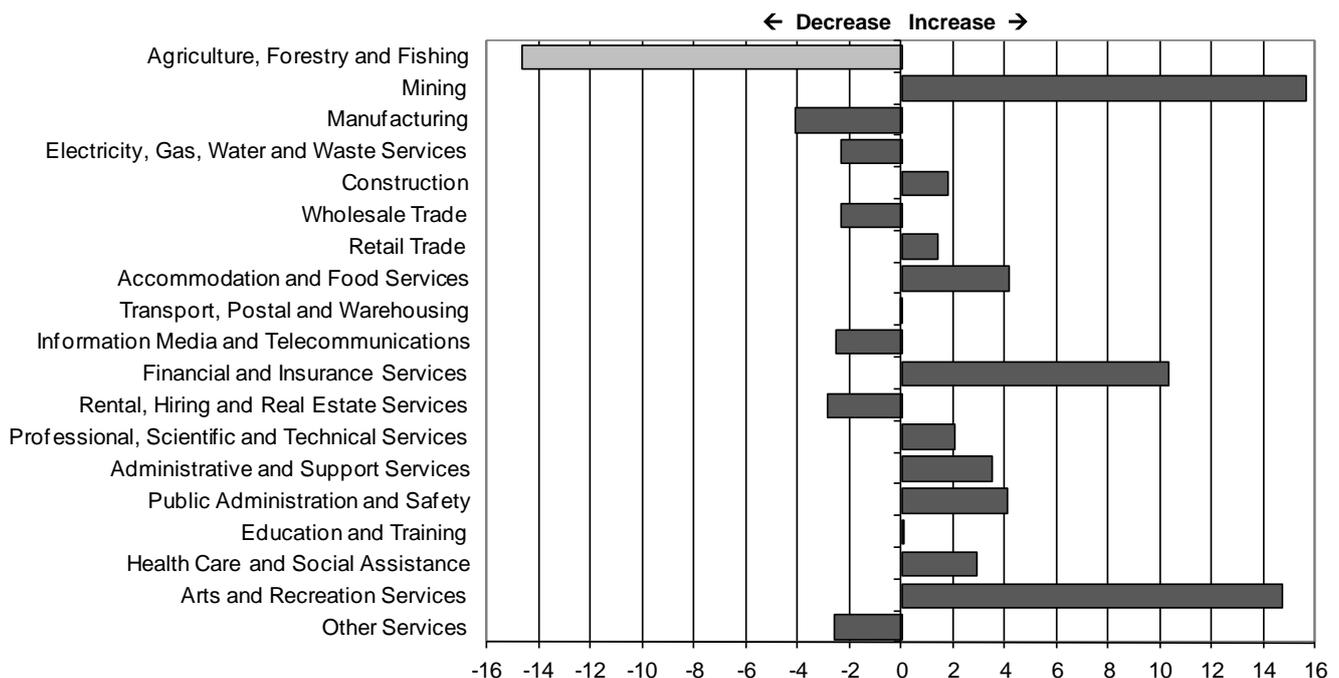
Over the year to August 2011, trend employment increased by 145 600 (or 1.3%). The pace of trend employment growth in recent months has slowed, from its peak of 38 200 jobs per month in August 2010 to its current modest pace of just 200 jobs per month in August 2011.

Going forward, the current uncertainty and financial volatility in world markets is reducing confidence, while the high Australian dollar is having a noticeable dampening effect on the Australian economy. Nevertheless, investment in the resources sector is picking up strongly and the uplift in Mining and Construction industry activity should result in a lift in the pace of employment growth.

Over the 12 months to August 2011, employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories (the States) except Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The largest employment growth occurred in Victoria (2.0%), Western Australia (WA, 1.4%) and South Australia (SA, 1.4%), while employment fell in both the Northern Territory (-3.1%) and Tasmania (-0.4%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2011, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Financial and Insurance Services (up 40 400), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 37 300), Accommodation and Food Services (up 31 200) and Mining (up 30 300). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Mining (15.6%), Arts and Recreation Services (14.7%) and Financial and Insurance Services (10.3%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

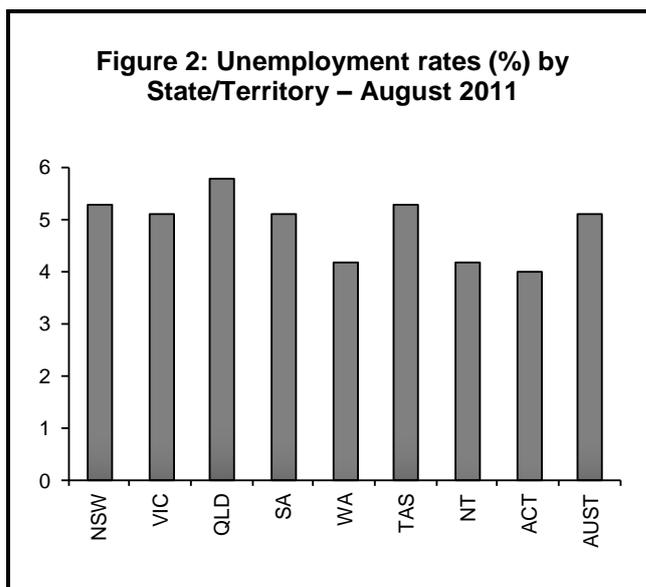
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.1% in August 2011, compared with 5.2% in August 2010.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates decreased in Tasmania (from 5.8% to 5.3%), Victoria (from 5.4% to 5.1%), SA (from 5.4% to 5.1%) and WA (from 4.4% to 4.2%).

In August 2011, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Queensland (5.8%) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (4.0%). See Figure 2.

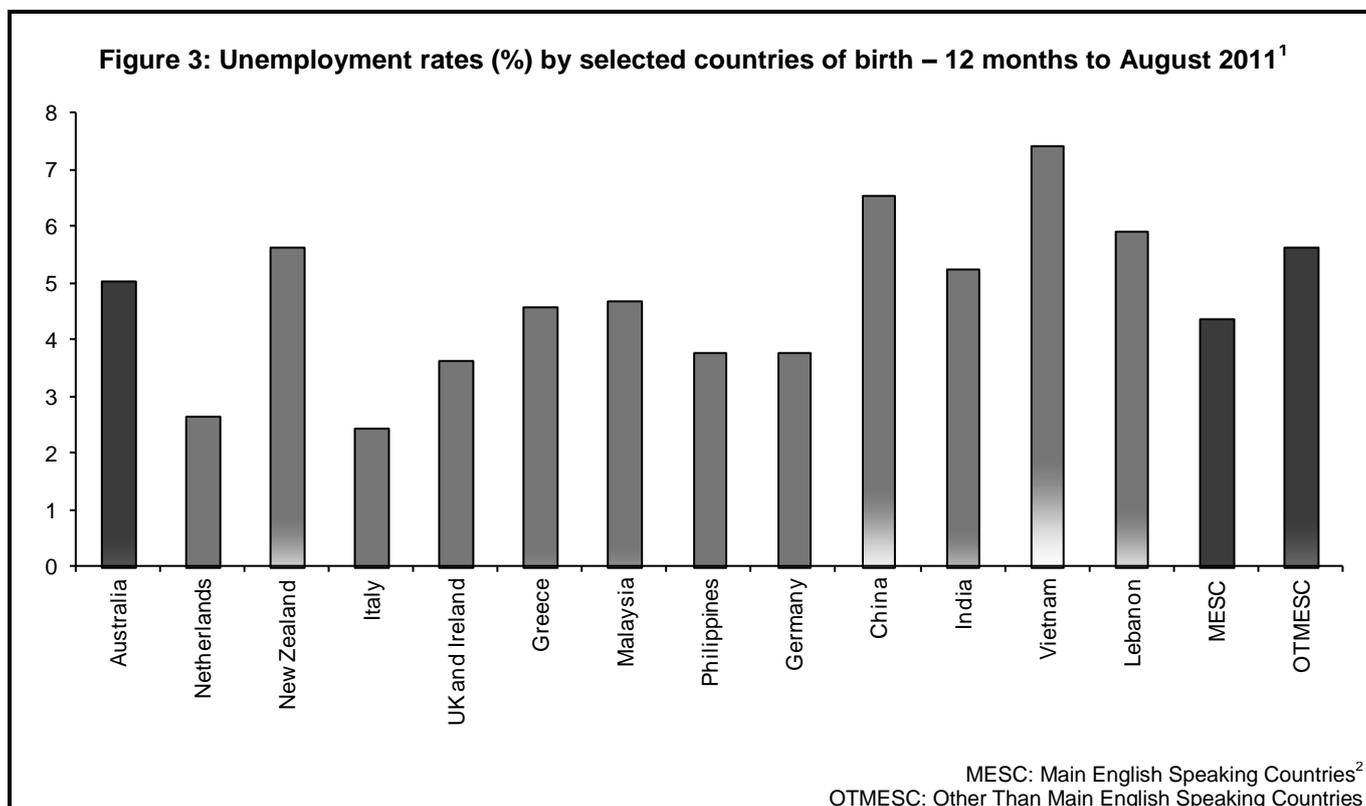
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to August 2011, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was almost four times that of former Professionals.



MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including 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 2011) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. In the data below, people born in Italy and the Netherlands have low unemployment rates (2.4% and 2.6% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and China are relatively high (7.5% and 6.6% 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 2011 (original data – average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Professionals (up 64 300), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 54 000) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 47 000). Employment growth rates, in descending skill order, are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to August 2011		Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to August 2011	
Managers	-1.9%	Managers	1.6%
Professionals	2.7%	Professionals	1.7%
Technicians and Trades Workers	2.7%	Technicians and Trades Workers	2.9%
Community and Personal Service Workers	5.3%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.3%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.9%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.6%
Sales Workers	3.5%	Sales Workers	4.6%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	5.0%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	3.8%
Labourers	1.9%	Labourers	6.5%

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 above (original data – average of the last four quarters).

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

INTERNET VACANCY TRENDS

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations³ produces the monthly Vacancy Report³, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁴ (see Figure 4). Over the year to August 2011, the IVI (trend) increased by 4.7%, with increases across six of the eight occupational groups.

Over the year to August 2011, vacancies increased in all of the States, except for Tasmania (down 24.6%) and New South Wales (down 4.4%). The most significant IVI increases were in WA (up 20.2%) and Queensland (up 17.5%).

Vacancies increased for all of the eight occupational groups over the year, with the exception of Sales Workers (down 4.1%) and Labourers (down 2.5%). The largest increases were for Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 13.2%) and Community and Personal Service Workers (up 11.6%).

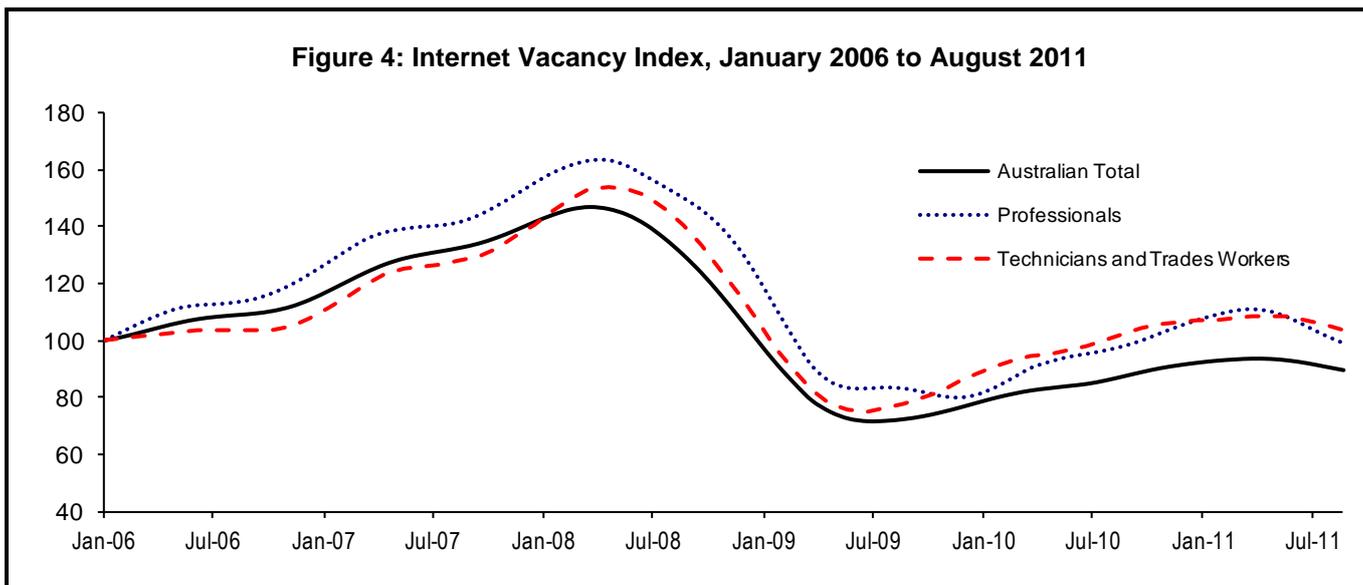
Over the year to August 2011, vacancies increased in 34 of the 48 occupational clusters, with the largest increases being for Mobile Plant Operators (up 48.6%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 40.3%) and Engineers (up 36.3%). The largest declines over the same period were for Construction Trades (down 23.3%) and Sales Representatives and Agents (down 15.1%).

Notwithstanding the increase in the IVI over the year to August 2011, vacancies remain 39.1% 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). 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.

Figure 4: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to August 2011



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (September 2011), www.deewr.gov.au/lmip/default.aspx?LMIP/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 or below average future job prospects.



Social Worker

In the Australian labour market, social workers assess the social needs of individuals, families and groups. They also assist and empower people to develop and use the skills and resources needed to resolve social and other problems; and further human wellbeing, human rights, social justice and social development. The entry requirement for employment in this occupation is the completion of an Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) recognised Bachelor of Social Work degree or Master of Social Work (Qualifying) or an international social work qualification that has been assessed by AASW as comparable. In some instances, relevant experience and/or on-the-job training may be required in addition to the formal qualification.

There is no legal requirement for registration for social workers in any State and Territory of Australia. However, the AASW is the standard-setting body for the occupation and many jobs require evidence of AASW membership eligibility. For international social work qualifications, assessment notices evidencing this eligibility can only be provided following an assessment of an international social work qualification against the AASW international qualifications assessment criteria.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF SOCIAL WORKER

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations data show employment of social workers has remained strong over the last five years. Very strong employment growth is expected for the five years to 2015-16 with most social workers employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance and Public Administration and Safety industries. Table A presents a labour market profile for the occupation of social worker based on *Job Outlook* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au).

Table A: Social Worker – Key Labour Market Indicators

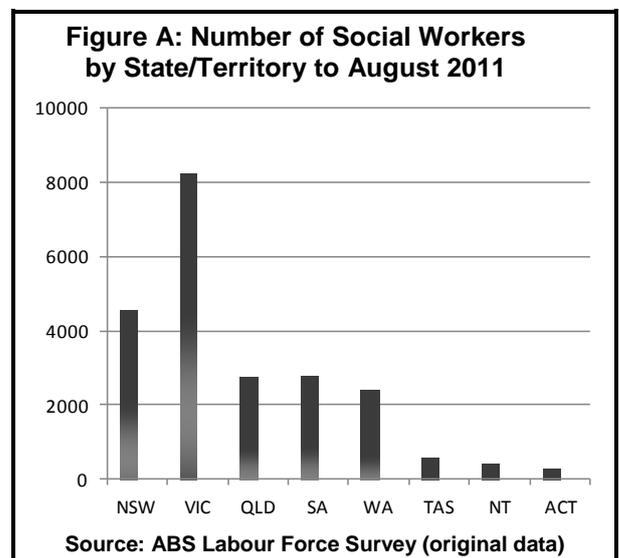
Key Indicator	Social Workers
Occupation size	21 500
Females	82%
Males	18%
Median age	42 years
Full-time share of employment	68.8%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	35.8
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$1 000
Vacancy level (internet)	very high
Future employment growth (to 2015-16)	very strong growth
Job Prospects	good

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Social workers are employed across all States and Territories.

For the four quarters to August 2011, the majority of social workers were employed in Victoria (8 209) and New South Wales (4 535). South Australia employed 2 770 social workers and Queensland employed 2 743 while Western Australia employed 2 395 social workers. Tasmania employed 562 social workers.

The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory employed the smallest numbers of social workers with 398 and 286 respectively employed. See Figure A (original data).



SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR OVERSEAS-TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS

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 various temporary and permanent migration occupation lists. These assessing authorities are not employment agencies.

AASW is the Australian assessing authority for migration purposes for social workers. AASW assesses applicants' qualification according to five criteria which can be found on its website at www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/1307. In addition, applicants are usually required to score at least 7 in all components of the International English Language Testing System academic test.

Further information on assessments, qualifications and English language requirements is on the Australian Skills Recognition Information website at www.immi.gov.au/asri and the AASW website at www.aasw.asn.au.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

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

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified social workers 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 social workers 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.