



AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

OCTOBER 2000

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Jobs Review is a quarterly publication intended to aid understanding of the labour market environment for those seeking jobs in Australia, particularly migrants.

OVERVIEW

The Australian labour market has continued to improve in recent months:

- employment has increased; and
- the unemployment rate has fallen.

Advertised vacancies for more than 38 per cent of the skilled occupational groups have increased over the past year, and the long-term outlook is for some improvement in the labour market for skilled job seekers.

Some groups in the Australian community experience relatively more difficulty than others in finding employment. Those experiencing greater difficulty include recent migrants without strong proficiency in the English language.

Job Outlook: information on prospects, earnings, and characteristics for 390 occupations in Australia are available online in Job Outlook, which is a new feature of the Australian Job Search site:
www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook

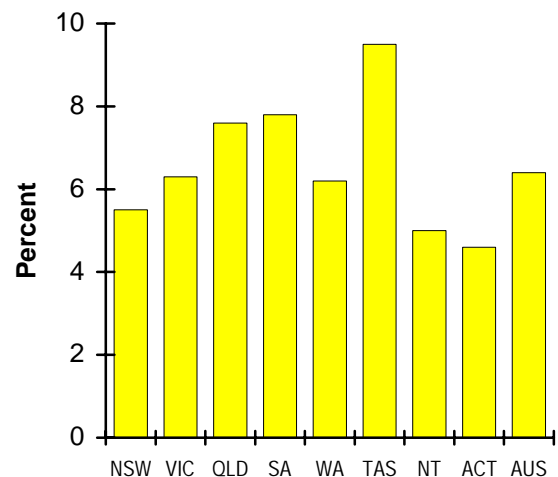
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.4% in August 2000 - the unemployment rate has fallen steadily over the last year.

1999 - 2000 unemployment trends suggest that the labour market is improving in most States and Territories except Tasmania and the Northern Territory where the rate has increased.

In August 2000 the trend unemployment rate varied from State to State, being highest in Tasmania (see Figure 1 immediately below).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory – August 2000



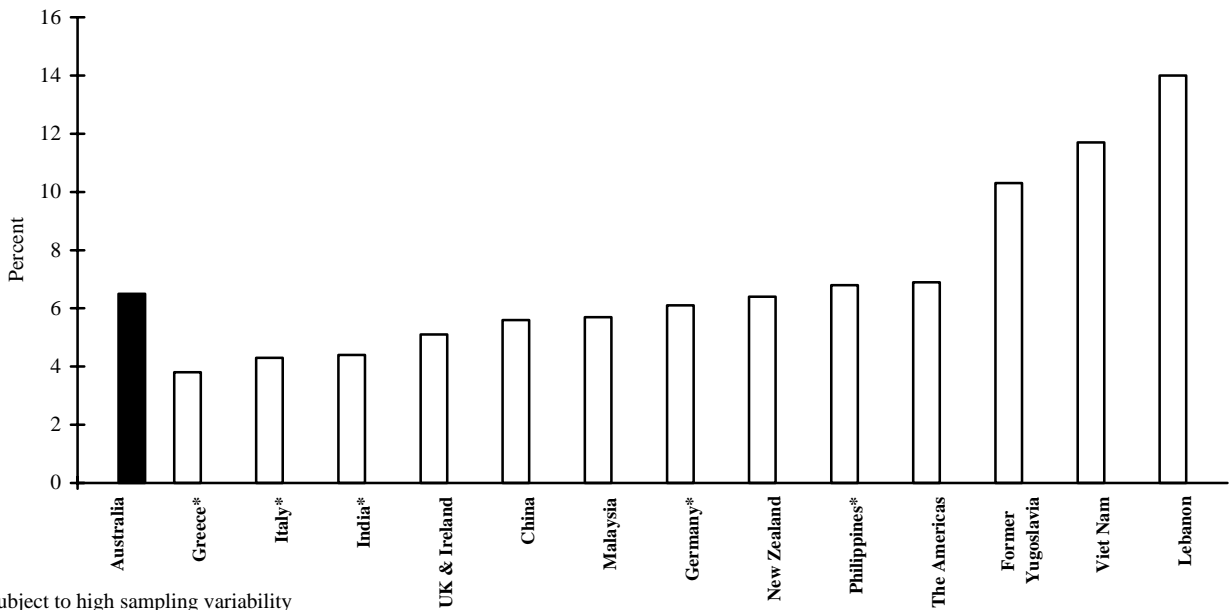
Generally those in more highly skilled occupations are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in August 2000 the unemployment rate for Labourers was more than four times that for Professionals.

MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates. These include period since arrival in Australia (in general, recent arrivals have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for many years), skill levels, and English language proficiency. In August 2000, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 5.3%, while the unemployment rate for those born in other countries (combined) was 7.4%.

Unemployment rates for migrants from a range of countries are provided in Figure 2 overleaf.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates by country of origin - as at August 2000



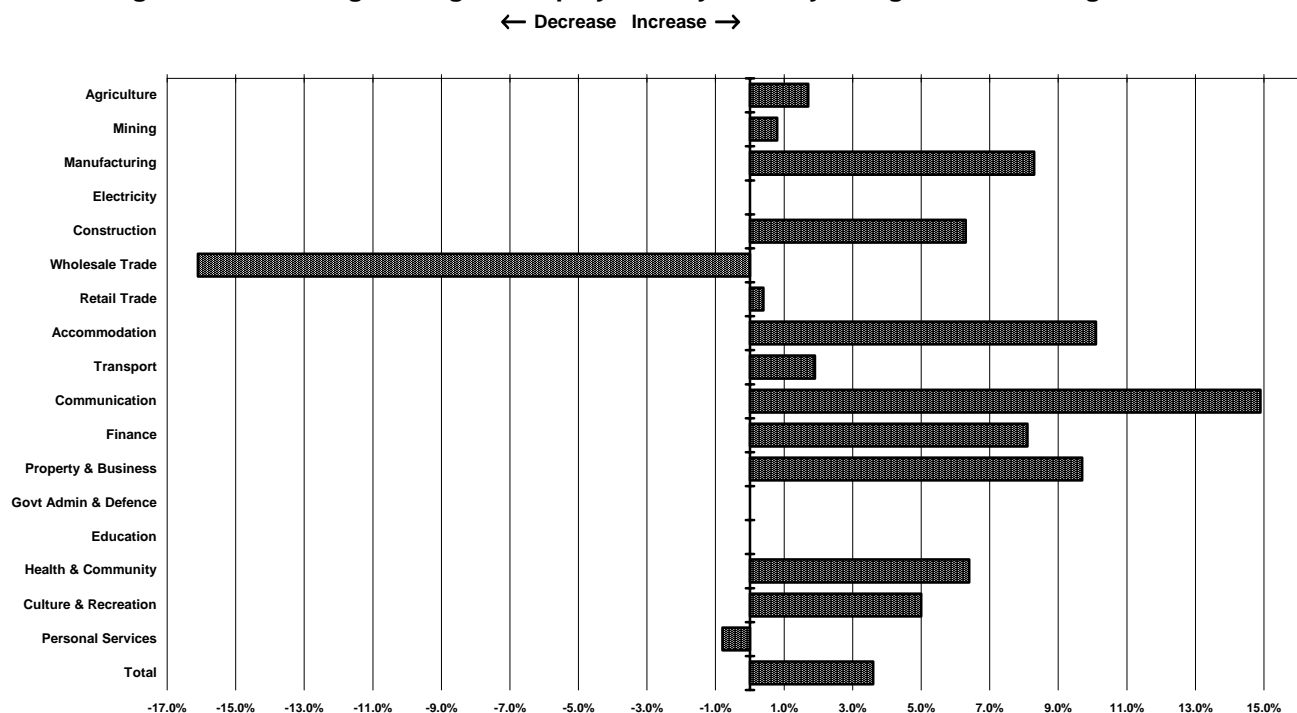
EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to August 2000 the number of people employed in Australia grew by 3.5%. This is a higher rate of growth than for the previous year (2.3%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories, except the Northern Territory. Employment growth was strongest in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, and Victoria.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to August 2000, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Property and Business Services industry (which grew by 93 900), and the Manufacturing Industry (up 88 400). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – August 1999 to August 2000



EMPLOYMENT 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 slowly or declining. Over the year to August 2000, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service Workers (up 46 500) and Professional occupations (up 39 900). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

Occupational Group	% Growth in Employment in the year to August 2000
Managers and Administrators	2.2
Professionals	3.1
Associate Professionals	2.1
Tradespersons	0.9
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	2.1
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.4
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	2.5
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.5
Labourers	1.2

The unemployment rate for occupational groups generally reflects their skill levels. Highly-skilled occupational groups experience lower rates of unemployment, while higher unemployment rates are associated with lower skilled occupations. The rates of unemployment (for those who had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years) for occupational groups are presented in (descending skill) order:

Occupational Group	Unemployment Rate at August 2000
Managers and Administrators	0.8%
Professionals	1.1%
Associate Professionals	1.9%
Tradespersons	3.1%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.4%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	2.5%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	5.1%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.1%
Labourers	7.7%

Additional information on Professional, Associate Professional and Trades occupations is provided in the following section on skilled vacancies. Vacancy data series are not readily available for less skilled occupations.

SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS

From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business produces a job vacancy index, called the Skilled Vacancy Survey or SVS, for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated into the Professional, Associate Professional and Trades groups.

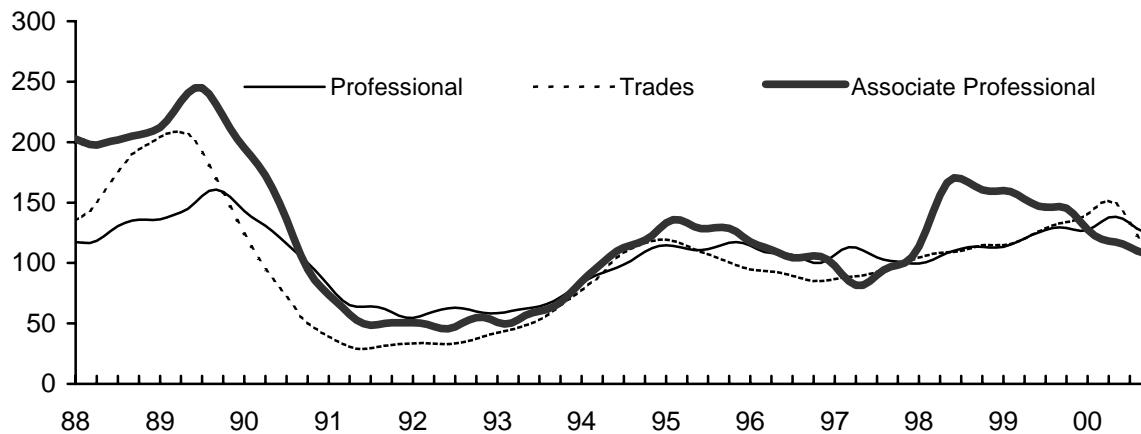
The September 2000 SVS index was 11% lower than that of the previous September. Over this period, decreases were recorded in almost all States, with the only increases recorded in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- The strongest rise occurred in South Australia (up 19%).

Advertised vacancies over the year to September 2000 increased by 15% for Trades but decreased by 3% for Professional occupations and decreased by 26% for Associate Professionals (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest increases were recorded by Printing Trades (up 19%) and Science Professionals (up 12%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Medical/Science Technical Officers (down 32 %) and Marketing and Advertising (down 28%).
- Over the year, seven groups recorded increases and eleven groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, February 1988 to September 2000



FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. This information should, therefore, be used with caution. The following assessment of job prospects is based on employment trends and projected growth, unemployment rates, SVS trends (where available), and other data. Prospects can, however, change rapidly and even in an occupation with below average prospects, significant employment opportunities may arise.

In the following table *G* stands for good prospects, *A* stands for average prospects, and *L* for limited prospects. Prospects are presented according to ASCO, Second Edition.

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2005-06
Managers and Administrators	
General Managers	<i>L</i>
Sales & Marketing Managers	<i>A</i>
Professionals	
Life Scientists	<i>A</i>
Accountants	<i>G</i>
Marketing/Advertising Professionals	<i>G</i>
Computing Professionals	<i>G</i>
General Medical Practitioners	<i>G</i>
Registered Nurses	<i>G</i>
Primary School Teachers	<i>A</i>
Secondary School Teachers	<i>G</i>
Social Workers	<i>G</i>
Painters, Potters and Sculptors	<i>A</i>
Associate Professionals	
Medical Technical Officers	<i>A</i>
Building/Architectural Assoc Professionals	<i>A</i>
Shop Managers	<i>A</i>
Hotel/Motel Managers	<i>A</i>
Enrolled Nurses	<i>A</i>

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2005-06
Tradespersons and Related Workers	
Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	<i>A</i>
Motor Mechanics	<i>G</i>
Electricians	<i>A</i>
Bricklayers	<i>A</i>
Plumbers	<i>A</i>
Bakers and Pastrycooks	<i>G</i>
General and Landscape Gardeners	<i>G</i>
Printing Machinists	<i>L</i>
Cabinetmakers	<i>G</i>
Hairdressers	<i>G</i>
Clothing Tradespersons	<i>L</i>
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	
Secretaries & Personal Assistants	<i>A</i>
Bookkeepers	<i>A</i>
Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service	
General Clerks	<i>A</i>
Keyboard Operators	<i>A</i>
Receptionists	<i>G</i>
Child Care Workers & Nannies	<i>G</i>
Intermediate Production/Transport	
Construction Plant Operators	<i>A</i>
General Stationary Plant Operators	<i>L</i>
Truck Drivers	<i>A</i>
Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service	
Registry & Filing Clerks	<i>L</i>
Sales Assistants	<i>G</i>
Labourers & Related Workers	
Cleaners	<i>A</i>
Product Assemblers	<i>A</i>
Hand Packers	<i>L</i>