



AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

JULY 2001

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

In the 12 months to May 2001, employment growth in the Australian labour market has moderated. In trend terms, employment has increased by an estimated 75 000 persons.

In this period advertised vacancies decreased for all professionals, associate professionals and trade groups. The longer-term outlook is, however, 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 other characteristics for some 390 occupations in Australia are available online in Job Outlook, which is a feature of the Australian Job Search site:
www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook

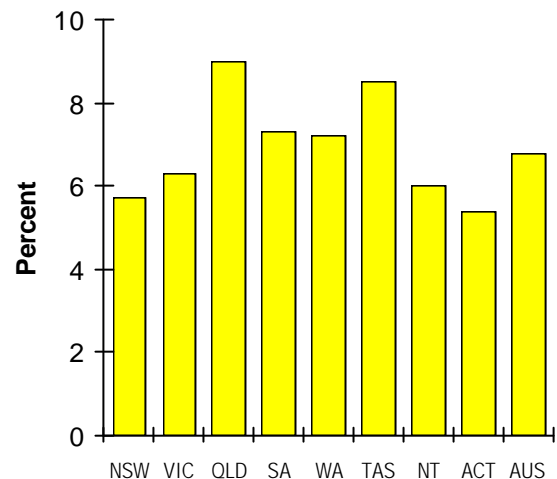
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.8% in May 2001 - the unemployment rate varied marginally over the past year and was as low as 6.1%.

2000 - 2001 unemployment trends suggest that the labour market has softened in most States and Territories except for South Australia and Tasmania where the unemployment rate has fallen slightly.

In May 2001 the trend unemployment rate varied from State to State, being highest in Queensland (see Figure 1 immediately below).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory – May 2001



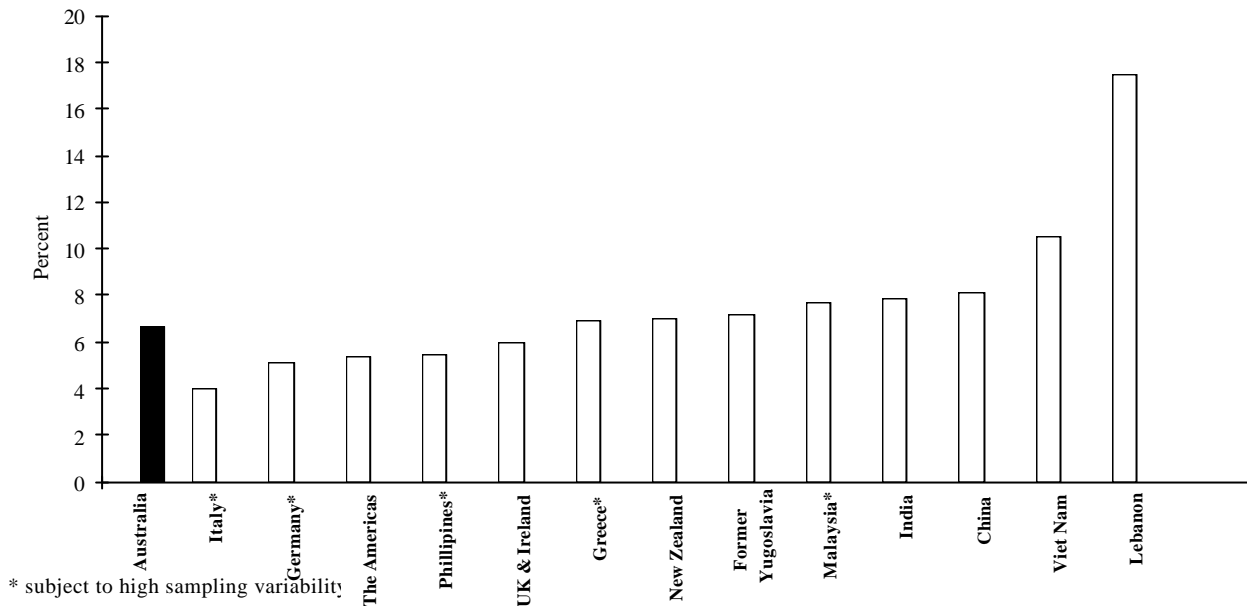
Generally those in more highly skilled occupations are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in May 2001 the unemployment rate for Labourers was nearly nine times that of Managers and Administrators.

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 some years), skill levels, and English language proficiency. In May 2001, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 6.4%, while the unemployment rate for those born in other countries (combined) was 8.2%.

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

Figure 2: Unemployment rates by country of birth - as at May 2001



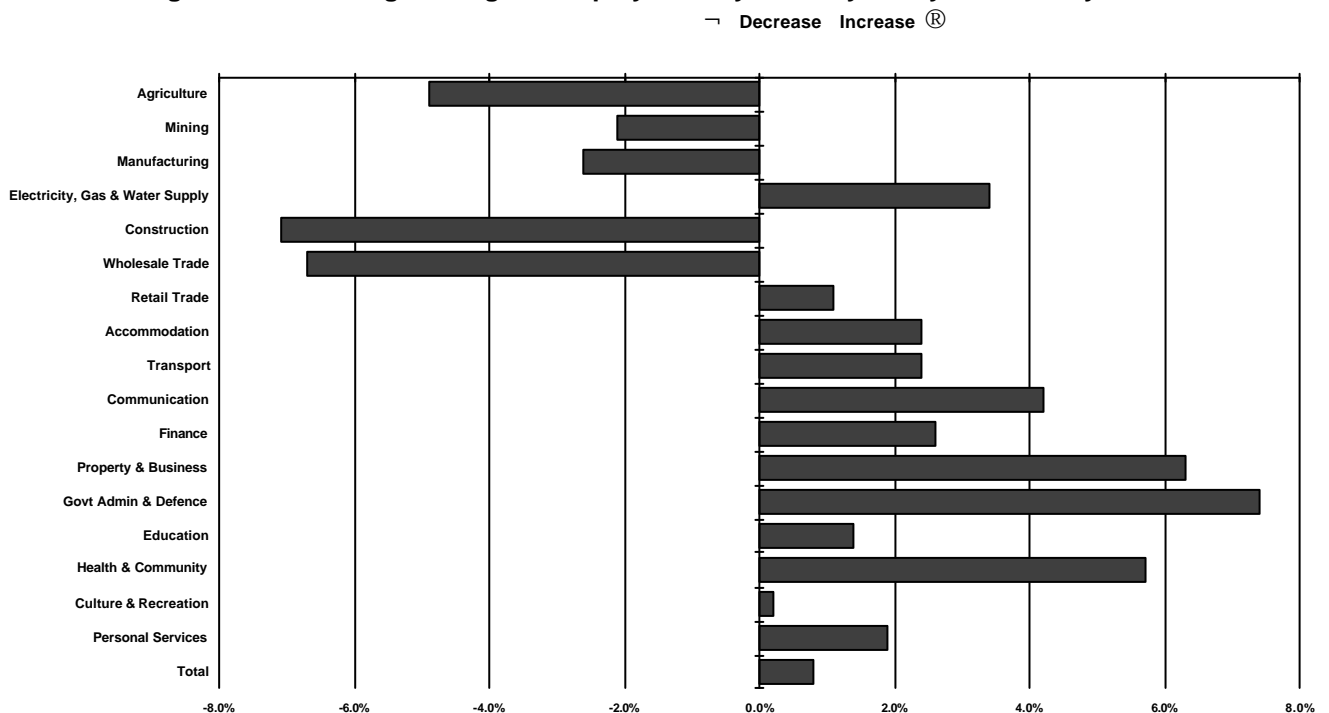
EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to May 2001 the trend number of people employed in Australia grew by 1.0%. This is a somewhat lower rate of growth than for the previous year (3.3%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories except Tasmania where there was no change – employment growth in percentage terms was strongest in the Northern Territory and Victoria.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to May 2001, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Property and Business Services industry (which grew by 64 800), and the Health and Community Services industry (up 48 200). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – May 2000 to May 2001



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 only slowly or declining. Over the year to May 2001, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in the Professional occupations (up 46 500), and Managers and Administrators (up 32 600). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

Occupational Group	% Growth in Employment in the year to May 2001
Managers and Administrators	5.2
Professionals	2.9
Associate Professionals	2.2
Tradespersons	-3.4
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	3.3
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	0.9
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	-2.0
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.2
Labourers	-2.0

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

Occupational Group	Unemployment Rate at May 2001
Managers and Administrators	1.2%
Professionals	1.8%
Associate Professionals	2.1%
Tradespersons	5.0%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.7%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	4.2%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	6.3%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	7.4%
Labourers	10.4%

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 lesser skilled occupations.

SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS

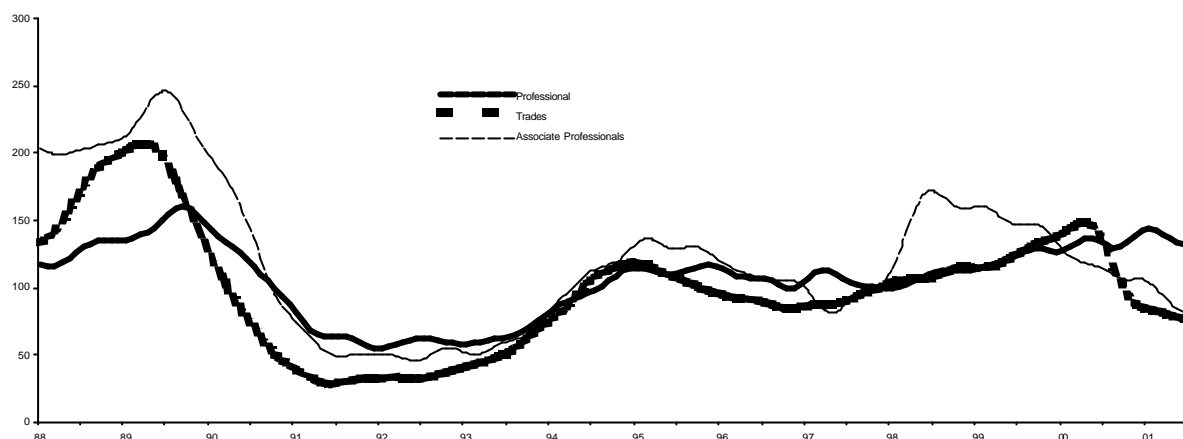
From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business produces the Skilled Vacancy Index (SVI – previously the Skilled Vacancy Survey), for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated into the Professional, Associate Professional and Trades groups.

The June 2001 SVI was 25% lower than that of the previous June. Over this period, decreases were recorded in all States, with the only increase recorded in the Northern Territory (up 8%).

Advertised vacancies over the year to June 2001 decreased by 4% for Professional occupations, by 34% for Associate Professional occupations and by 47% for Trade occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the only increase was recorded by Health Professionals (up 34%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Construction Trades (down 81%) and Wood and Textile Trades (down 65%).
- Over the year, only one group recorded an increase and seventeen groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, May 1988 to June 2001



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, SVI 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 2006-07
Managers and Administrators	
General Managers	L
Sales & Marketing Managers	A
Professionals	
Life Scientists	A
Accountants	G
Marketing/Advertising Professionals	G
Computing Professionals	G
General Medical Practitioners	G
Registered Nurses	G
Primary School Teachers	A
Secondary School Teachers	G
Social Workers	G
Painters, Potters and Sculptors	A
Associate Professionals	
Medical Technical Officers	A
Building/Architectural Assoc Professionals	A
Shop Managers	A
Hotel/Motel Managers	A
Enrolled Nurses	A

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2006-07
Tradespersons and Related Workers	
Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Motor Mechanics	G
Electricians	A
Bricklayers	A
Plumbers	A
Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
General and Landscape Gardeners	G
Printing Machinists	L
Cabinetmakers	G
Hairdressers	G
Clothing Tradespersons	L
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	
Secretaries & Personal Assistants	A
Bookkeepers	G
Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service	
General Clerks	A
Keyboard & Data Entry Operators	A
Receptionists	G
Child Care Workers & Nannies	G
Intermediate Production/Transport	
Construction Plant Operators	A
General Stationary Plant Operators	L
Truck Drivers	A
Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service	
Registry & Filing Clerks	L
Sales Assistants	G
Labourers & Related Workers	
Cleaners	A
Product Assemblers	A
Hand Packers	L

Australian Jobs Review 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 decision making. Australian Jobs Review is available in electronic form on the Internet at the DEWRSB Web-site: www.dewrsb.gov.au/ and more information on job prospects can be found in DEWRSB Job Futures on this site as well as in Job Outlook on the Australian Job Search site: www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook DEWRSB contact officer: Jane Press (02) 6121 6703