



# AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

JANUARY 2002

## 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 November 2001, employment growth in the Australian labour market has moderated. In trend terms, employment increased by an estimated 70 800 persons (0.8%).

In the most recent period for which information is available advertised vacancies increased for trades but decreased for professional and associate professional occupations.

Groups experiencing greater difficulty in finding employment in the Australian labour market include recent migrants without strong proficiency in the English language and also those with lower educational and skill levels.

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](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)

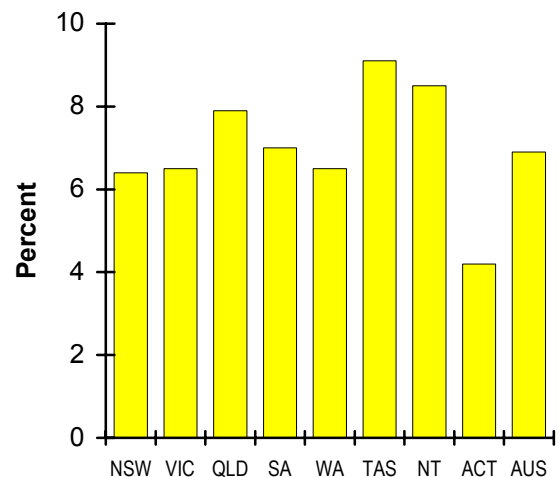
## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.8% in November 2001 - the unemployment rate varied marginally over the past year and was as low as 6.2%.

2000 - 2001 unemployment trends indicate that the labour market has softened in most States and Territories.

In November 2001 the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (see Figure 1 immediately below).

**Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory – November 2001**



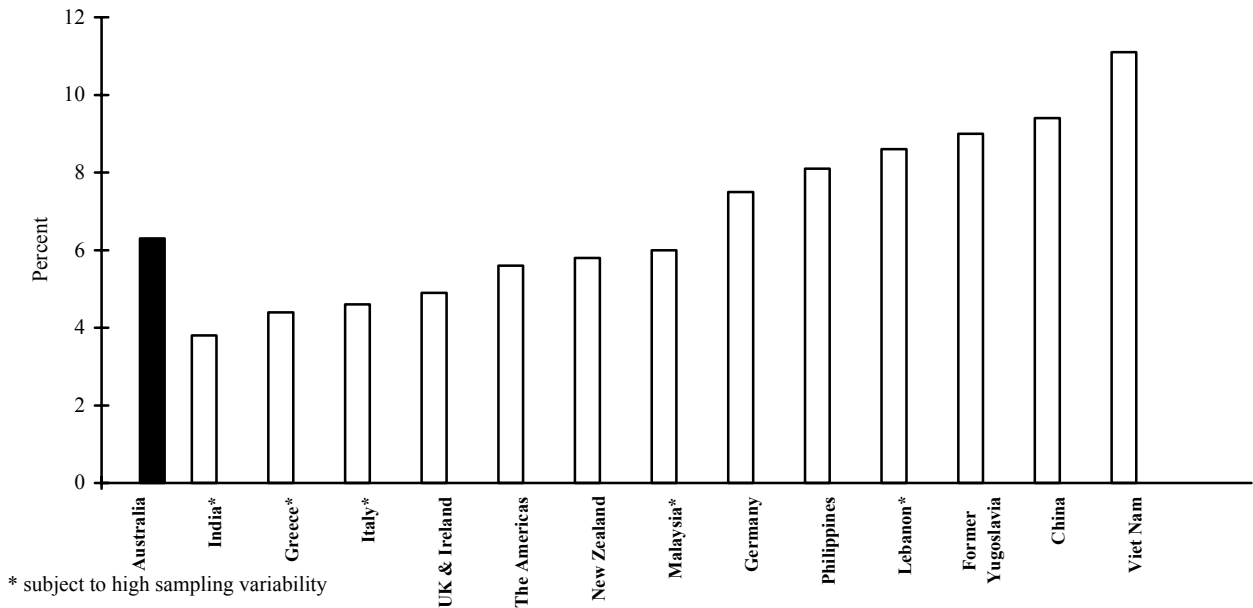
Generally those in more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2001 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was about 6.5 times that of former Managers and Administrators.

## 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 November 2001, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 5.1%, while the unemployment rate for those born in other countries (combined) was 7.7%.

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 November 2001



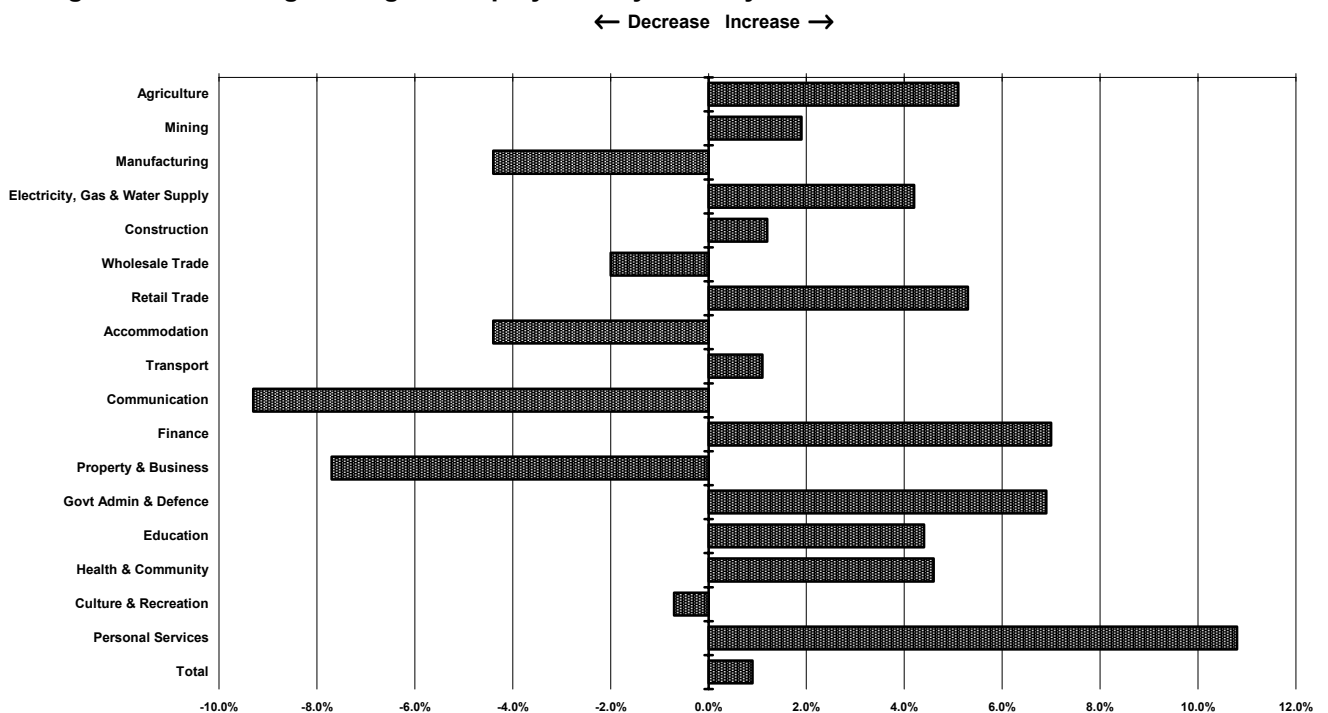
## EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to November 2001 the trend number of people employed in Australia grew by 0.7%. This is a lower rate of growth than for the previous year (2.4%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories except Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory – employment growth in percentage terms was strongest in the Northern Territory.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to November 2001, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Health and Community Services (which grew by 39 500), and the Personal Services industry (up 36 200). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – November 2000 to November 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 November 2001, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Managers and Administrators (up 82 700) and the Professional occupations (up 34 600). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

Occupational Group	% Growth in Employment in the year to November 2001
Managers and Administrators	13.0
Professionals	2.1
Associate Professionals	3.0
Tradespersons	-1.6
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-3.7
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	0.2
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	2.5
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	1.3
Labourers	-5.6

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 November 2001
Managers and Administrators	1.5%
Professionals	2.2%
Associate Professionals	2.1%
Tradespersons	3.5%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	2.0%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	4.1%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	5.8%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	5.5%
Labourers	9.8%

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

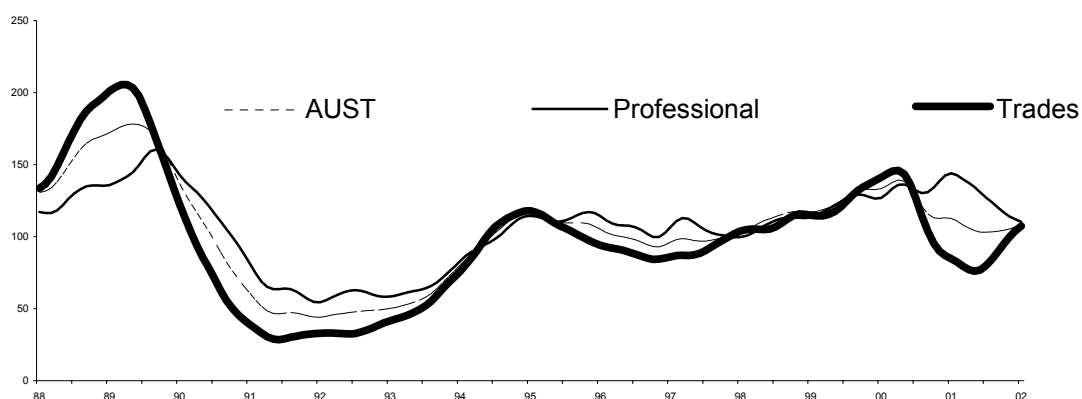
From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces the Skilled Vacancy Index (SVI – previously the Skilled Vacancy Survey), for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated into the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

The December 2001 SVI was 6.3% lower than that of the previous December. While increases were recorded in most States, significant decreases were recorded in New South Wales (down 28.1%) and Tasmania (down 22.9%). No change was recorded for Western Australia.

Advertised vacancies over the year to December 2001 decreased by 21% for Professional occupations and by 26% for Associate Professional occupations. Advertised vacancies increased by 19% for Trade occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest increases were for Metal Tradespeople (up 85%), Construction Trades (up 52%) and Medical/Science Technical officers (up 43%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (down 53%) and Accountants and Auditors (down 43%).
- Over the year, eight groups recorded increases and ten groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, May 1988 to December 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
<b>Managers and Administrators</b>	
General Managers	<i>L</i>
Sales & Marketing Managers	<i>A</i>
<b>Professionals</b>	
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>
<b>Associate Professionals</b>	
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 2006-07
<b>Tradespersons and Related Workers</b>	
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>
<b>Advanced Clerical &amp; Service Workers</b>	
Secretaries & Personal Assistants	<i>A</i>
Bookkeepers	<i>G</i>
<b>Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
General Clerks	<i>A</i>
Keyboard & Data Entry Operators	<i>A</i>
Receptionists	<i>G</i>
Child Care Workers & Nannies	<i>G</i>
<b>Intermediate Production/Transport</b>	
Construction Plant Operators	<i>A</i>
General Stationary Plant Operators	<i>L</i>
Truck Drivers	<i>A</i>
<b>Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
Registry & Filing Clerks	<i>L</i>
Sales Assistants	<i>G</i>
<b>Labourers &amp; Related Workers</b>	
Cleaners	<i>A</i>
Product Assemblers	<i>A</i>
Hand Packers	<i>L</i>