



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 2007**, available through <http://www.workplace.gov.au>.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2007.

OVERVIEW

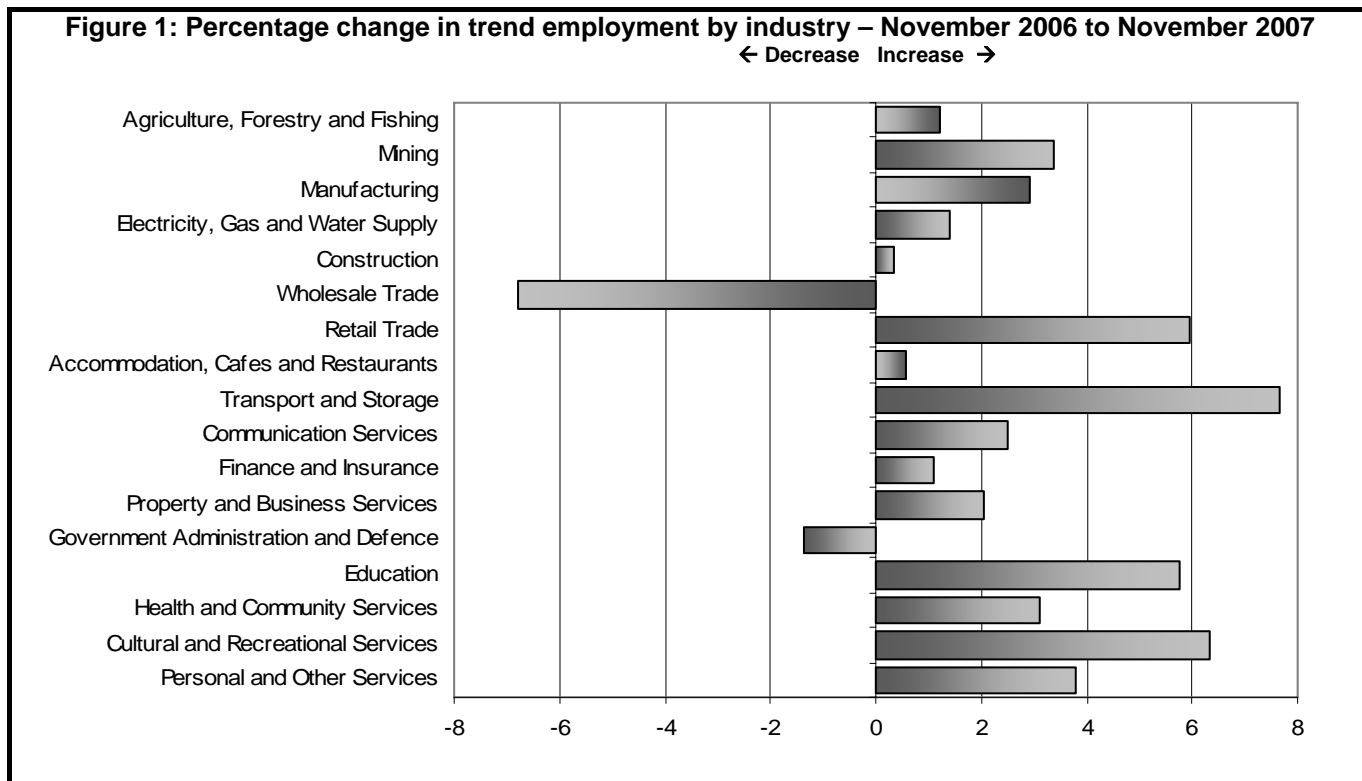
In the 12 months to November 2007, the Australian labour market continued to experience solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 262 100 persons (2.5%). Advertised vacancies increased for Professionals and for Trade Occupations. Migrants with the best employment prospects are those who are highly skilled with recognised post-secondary qualifications and strong proficiency in the English language.

EMPLOYMENT

Over the 12 months to November 2007, trend employment in Australia grew by 2.5% after growth of 2.6% in the previous year.

Employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories. In percentage terms, employment growth was strongest in the Northern Territory (6.1%) and Western Australia (3.7%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2007, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Retail Trade (up by 88 800), Education (up by 40 900), and Transport and Storage (up by 35 700). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Transport and Storage (7.7%), Cultural and Recreational Services (6.3%) and Retail Trade (6.0%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.



Source: ABS *Australian Labour Market Statistics, January 2008, ABS Cat. No. 6105.0.*

UNEMPLOYMENT

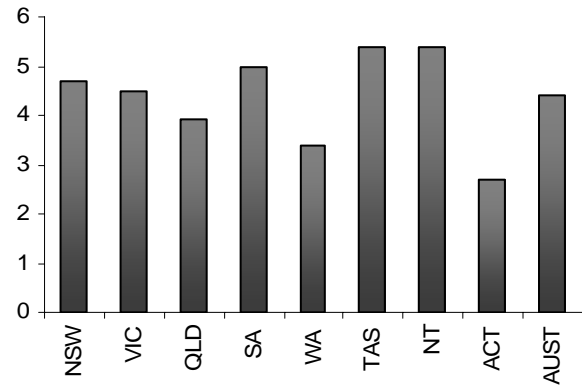
The trend rate of unemployment was 4.4% in November 2007, compared with 4.6% in November 2006.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates have decreased in most States and Territories except for the Northern Territory (up by 2.4%) and Western Australia (up by 0.1%).

In November 2007, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania and the Northern Territory (5.4%) and lowest in the ACT (2.7%). See Figure 2.

Generally, people in the more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2007 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers and Related Workers was 5.6 times that of former Professionals.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory – November 2007

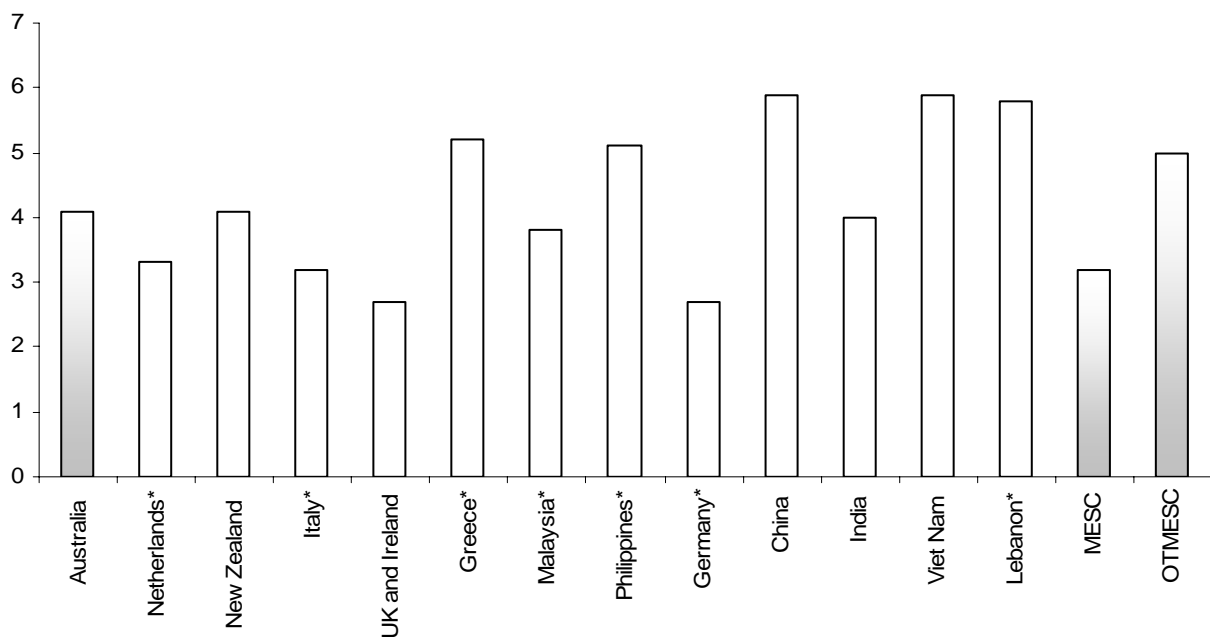


MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including the period since arrival in Australia (data consistently shows that recently-arrived migrants generally 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 Germany and the UK and Ireland have a low unemployment rate (2.7% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in China and Viet Nam are relatively high (5.9% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth – November 2007



MESC: Main English Speaking Countries¹
 OTMESC: Other Than Main English Speaking Countries

* 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

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 November 2007, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Professionals (up by 107 000), Intermediate Production and Transport workers (up by 60 000) and Managers and Administrators (up by 56 300). 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 November 2007		Unemployment Rate at November 2007	
Managers and Administrators	6.7%	Managers and Administrators	1.1%
Professionals	5.4%	Professionals	1.1%
Associate Professionals	0.2%	Associate Professionals	1.2%
Tradespersons and Related Workers	1.8%	Tradespersons and Related Workers	1.9%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	5.3%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.5%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	0.7%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.7%
Intermediate Production and Transport	6.8%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.2%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	3.1%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	3.7%
Labourers and Related Workers	-1.4%	Labourers and Related Workers	6.0%

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

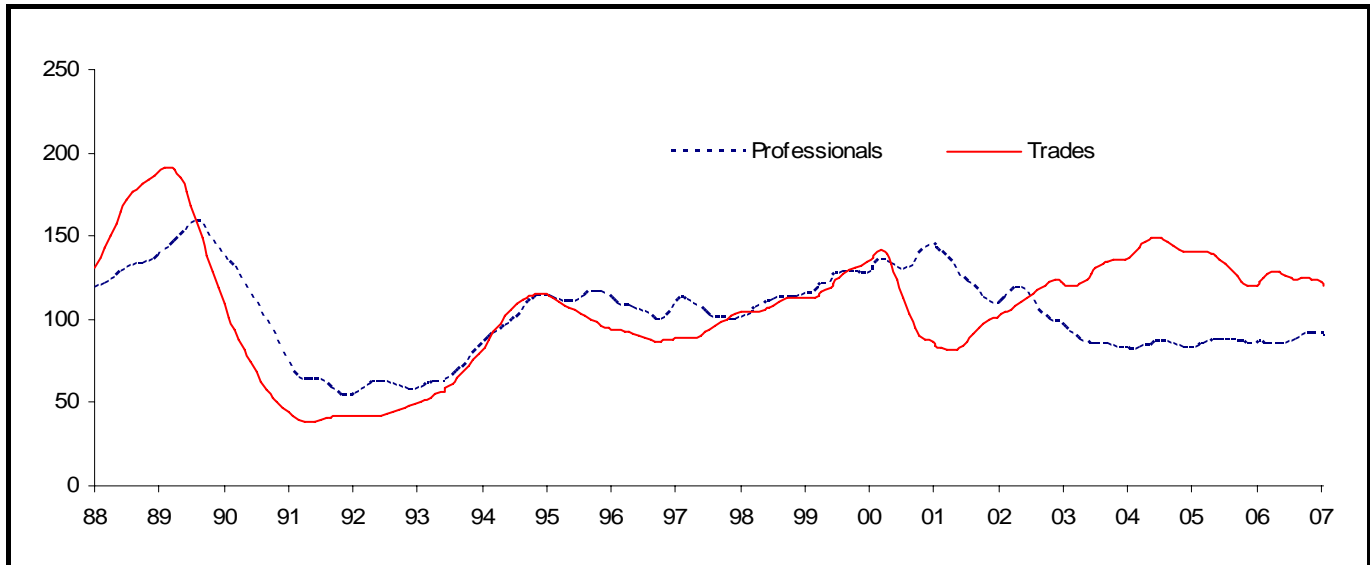
SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS²

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations produces the *Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI)* for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory (NT). These are aggregated into the Professional, Associate Professional and Trade groups (see Figure 4 overleaf). The SVI indicates where the best employment opportunities may be in the Australian labour market.

In November 2007, skilled vacancies were 5.3% lower than in November 2006. Over the 12 months, SVI increases were recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 11.2%), South Australia (up by 10.2%) and Queensland (up by 3.2%). The most significant SVI decreases were recorded in Western Australia (down by 13.6%) and Victoria (down by 8.2%).

In the 12 months to November 2007, advertised vacancies increased for Trade Occupations (up by 2.1%) but decreased for Professional occupations (down by 17.2%). The most significant decreases were for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (down by 47.9%), Organisation and Information Professionals (down by 32.1%), Accountants and Auditors (down by 28.7%) and Medical and Science Technical Officers (down by 28.5%). The most significant increases were for Metal Tradespersons (up by 13.0%) and Construction Tradespersons (up by 11.7%).

² Historical series of trend figures are revised monthly.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, May 1988 to November 2007


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, significant employment opportunities may arise. This information should therefore be used with caution.

The following future job prospect ratings are for the period to 2011-12. The ratings are based on employment trends and projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data.

In the following table G stands for good prospects, A for average prospects, BA for below average prospects and L for limited prospects. These are examples from the skilled classifications categories – refer to the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0)*

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2011-12	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2011-12
Managers and Administrators		Associate Professionals	
Child Care Co-ordinators*	G	Building, Architectural and Surveying Associates	G
Finance Managers	G	Dental Therapists, Technicians and Hygienists	G
Information Technology Managers	G	Enrolled Nurses	G
Professionals		Financial Dealers and Brokers	G
Accountants*	G	Medical Technical Officers	G
Chemical Engineers*	G	Metallurgical Technicians and Mine Deputies	G
Computing Professionals* (part)	G	Trade Qualified Chefs* (part)	G
General Medical Practitioners*	G	Tradespersons	
Medical Imaging Professionals* (part)	G	Bakers and Pastrycooks*	A
Mining and Materials Engineers* (part)	G	Bricklayers*	G
Occupational Therapists*	G	Cabinetmakers*	G
Pharmacists* (part)	G	Carpenters and Joiners*	G
Physiotherapists*	G	Electricians*	G
Primary School Teachers	G	Hairdressers*	G
Registered Nurses*	G	General Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Registered Mental Health Nurses*	G	Motor Mechanics*	G
Registered Midwives*	G	Plumbers* (part)	G
Secondary School Teachers	G	Printing Machinists	BA
Social Workers	G	Refrigeration and Airconditioning Mechanics*	G
Specialist Medical Practitioners*	G	Textile and Footwear Machine Operators	BA

* denotes occupations that are listed in part or in full on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) announced on 30 July 2007.

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.



ELECTRICIAN – An Occupation in Demand

This Hot Topic provides information on the demand for trade-qualified electricians in Australia. Electricians assemble, install, test and maintain electrical equipment and components, domestic and commercial electrical appliances and equipment.

In the Australian labour market, the entry requirement for employment as an electrician is the completion of an AQF Certificate III or higher qualification plus licensing with the relevant State/Territory authority. Qualifications are usually obtained as part of an Australian Apprenticeship (which combines paid work experience at work with formal training). Research by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) shows electricians are currently in demand in the Australian labour market.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF ELECTRICIANS

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that employment of electricians has risen in recent years, with trended growth of 13.4 per cent over the five years to November 2007. Moderate employment growth is expected for the next five years and most electricians are employed in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Table A presents a labour market profile for the occupation of electrician based on *Australian Jobs 2007* and *Job Outlook Online* data (see www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/).

Table A: Electricians - Key Labour Market Indicators[‡]

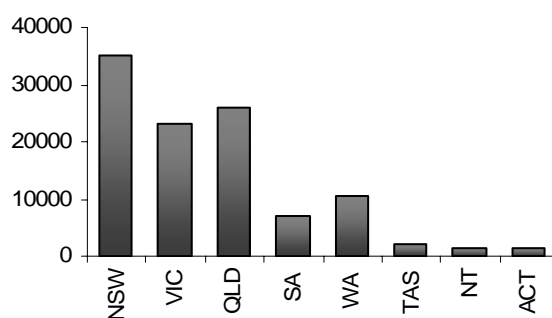
Key Indicator	Electricians	All Occupations
Occupation size	110 300 [§]	10 559 800
Females	1%	45%
Males	99%	55%
Median age	34 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	94%	71.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	42.1	41.8
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$950	\$900
Vacancy level	Moderate	na
Annual employment growth over 5 years to Nov 07	2.5% p.a.	2.4% p.a.
Future employment growth (to 2011-12)	Moderate	na
Job Prospects	Good	na

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Electricians are employed across all States and Territories. In November 2007, the majority of electricians were employed in New South Wales (35 100), Queensland (26 000) and Victoria (23 000). The Northern Territory also employed a large number of electricians (1 400) relative to population size. See Figure 1 (original data).

Demand for electricians is strong across all States and Territories of Australia and the industry overall reports difficulty attracting and retaining experienced electricians. Demand for this occupation has been strong over most of the past decade and is expected to persist.

Figure 1: Employment by State/Territory – November 2007[†]



Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, November 2007 (Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003)

[‡] Occupation size and annual employment growth for the last 5 years is based on DEEWR labour market research (current as of November 2007).

[§] DEEWR notes this data may include apprentice electricians and apprentice lift mechanics. The National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) estimated 27 724 electrotechnology apprentices and trainees were 'in-training' throughout Australia in June 2007 (*Apprentices and trainees, June quarter 2007 – Summary, NCVER item 1946*).

[†] See above.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR OVERSEAS-TRAINED ELECTRICIANS

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 gazetted for their nominated occupation. Assessing authorities have been authorised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to undertake an assessment of whether an applicant has qualifications that will be recognised and work experience that is appropriate to employment, in their nominated profession, associate profession or trade occupation in Australia. These assessing authorities are responsible for undertaking skills assessment for migration purposes only and are not employment agencies. The assessing authorities are not in a position to assist migrants or visa applicants find jobs in Australia.

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) and VETASSESS are the appointed Australian assessing authorities for overseas qualified electricians. An applicant's overseas trade qualifications and work experience are assessed to determine if they would be capable of performing *skilled* work as an electrician in Australia.

From September 1 2007, electricians looking to migrate to Australia from India, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, South Africa and the Philippines are assessed by a consortium of Registered Training Organisations led by VETASSESS. Successful applicants to this new service will receive a skills assessment outcome suitable for migration purposes and will also be entitled to a provisional licence on arrival to Australia. This will allow them to work under supervision while they gain the necessary Australian work experience and gap training required for a full licence. Electricians who are residents of other countries should still apply to TRA for a skills assessment.

To be eligible for employment as an electrician in Australia registration or licensing must be obtained from the appropriate local regulatory authority in the state or territory where you wish to practice your occupation.

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

State	Regulator
NSW	Office of Fair Trading
VIC	Energy Safe Victoria
QLD	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
WA	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection - Energy Safety
SA	Office of Consumer and Business Affairs
TAS	Electricity Standards and Safety, Workplace Standards Tasmania
ACT	ACT Planning and Land Authority
NT	Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing 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 in place several employer-sponsored migration arrangements, 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 either 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 contained in Migration Booklet 5 *Employer Sponsored Migration* available on the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au.

The occupations of general electrician, electrician (special class) and lift mechanic appear on the current Migration Occupation in Demand List and the gazetted list of eligible occupations for the Temporary Business Long Stay Arrangement.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

If you wish to work in Australia, and are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident, you will need to contact your nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission to apply for a visa that allows you to travel and work in Australia. Addresses of all Australian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates are available from the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au/contacts/index.htm.

If your qualifications are acceptable for migration purposes this does not guarantee you employment in your profession, associate profession or trade in Australia. That will depend on other factors, such as the number of vacancies available, skill needs in the Australian labour market, your meeting State and Territory licensing requirements and your suitability for employment in a particular job in Australia.