



Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Jobs Update provides information on the Australian labour market on a quarterly basis. It is intended to help people who may be looking at working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is available online at **Job Outlook**, a feature of the Australian JobSearch site: www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) November 2004 Labour Force Survey.

OVERVIEW

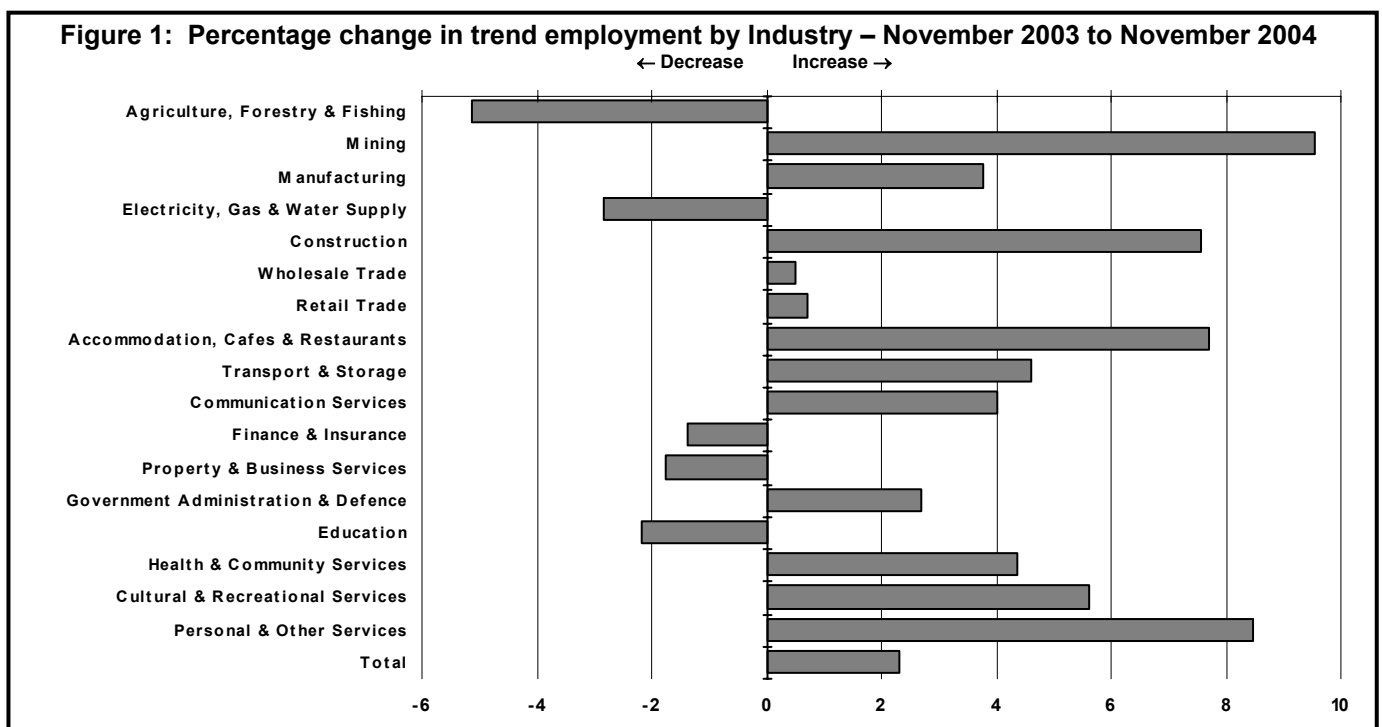
In the 12 months to November 2004, the Australian labour market experienced solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 235 300 persons (2.5%). Advertised vacancies increased for trade and professional occupations but decreased for associate professional occupations. Migrants with the best prospects for finding employment in the Australian labour market include those with strong proficiency in the English language, tertiary level education and high skill levels.

EMPLOYMENT

Over the 12 months to November 2004, trend employment in Australia grew by 2.5% after growth of 1.7% in the previous year.

Employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) but decreased in the Northern Territory (NT). In percentage terms, employment growth was strongest in Queensland and Western Australia.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2004, the largest increases in employment occurred in Construction (up by 58 200), Health and Community Services (up by 41 300) and Manufacturing (up by 39 900) while the strongest rates of growth were in Mining, Personal and Other Services, and Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants. Employment growth rates by industry are shown below.



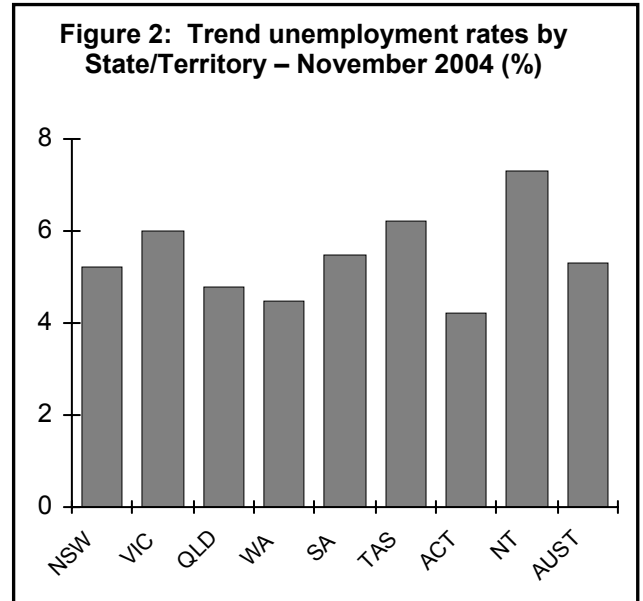
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.3% in November 2004, somewhat lower than in November 2003 (5.8%). It is now at its lowest level in more than two decades.

Unemployment rates have remained fairly stable or improved in the past year in all States and Territories, except for the Northern Territory and to a lesser extent Victoria.

In November 2004 the unemployment rate was highest in the Northern Territory (7.3%) and lowest in the ACT, where it was 4.2%. See Figure 2.

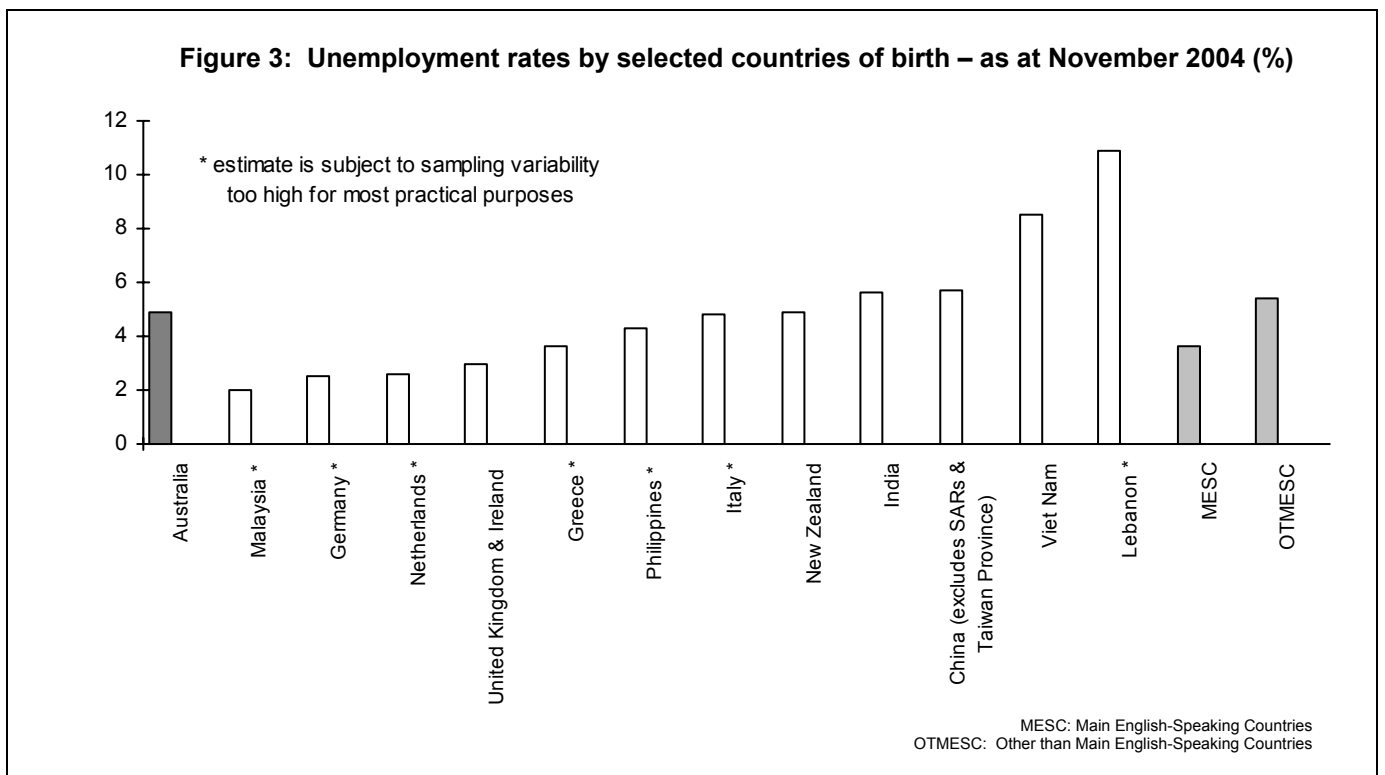
Generally, people in the more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2004 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Managers and Administrators was about one seventh that of former Labourers and Related Workers.



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 (in general, recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for some years), skill levels and English language proficiency.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (original data) for people now in Australia who were born in selected countries. For example, people born in Malaysia and Germany have low unemployment rates (2.0% and 2.5% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in Viet Nam and Lebanon are relatively high (8.5% and 10.9% respectively).



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 2004, the largest increases in employment (*original data*) occurred in Managers and Administrators (up by 108 000), Associate Professionals (up by 73 700) and Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (up by 61 800). 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 rates of unemployment (for those who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) for occupational groups are presented in descending skill order below.

Percentage Growth Rates in Employment in the 12 months to November 2004		Unemployment Rate at November 2004	
Managers and Administrators	15.2%	Managers and Administrators	0.9%
Professionals	0.9%	Professionals	1.4%
Associate Professionals	6.4%	Associate Professionals	1.5%
Tradespersons	2.4%	Tradespersons	3.2%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-7.9%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.4%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	0.9%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.9%
Intermediate Production and Transport	8.0%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.6%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	0.6%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.3%
Labourers and Related Workers	-3.0%	Labourers and Related Workers	6.5%

Additional information on Professional, Associate Professional and Trades 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 TRENDS

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces the Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory. These are aggregated into the Professionals, Associate Professionals and Trades groups. The SVI indicates where the best employment opportunities may be in the Australian labour market.

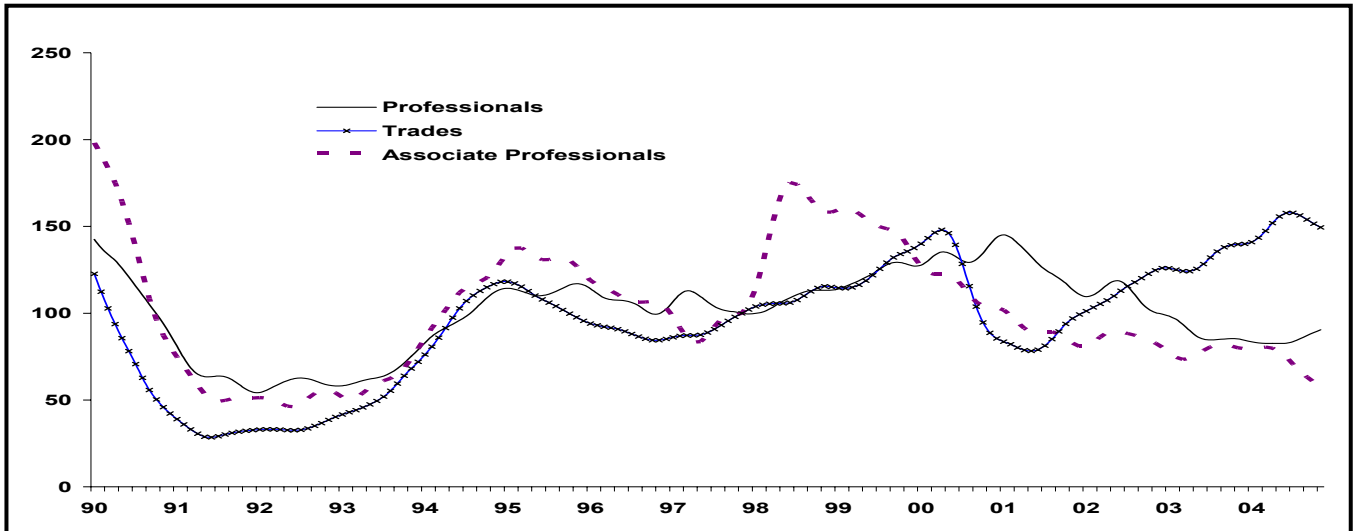
In November 2004, skilled vacancies were 5.3% higher than in November 2003. Over the 12 months, SVI increases were recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 33.5%), Western Australia (up by 26.9%) and Queensland (up by 2.8%), while decreases were recorded in Tasmania (down by 8.9%), South Australia (down by 5.6%), New South Wales (down by 4.4%) and Victoria (down by 3.2%).

Over the year to November 2004, advertised vacancies increased by 6.9% for Trades occupations, increased by 6.2% for Professional occupations (excluding Information and Communications Technology (computing) occupations) and decreased by 25.9% for Associate Professional occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf). Within these broad groups:

- The strongest annual increases were for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (up by 44.6%), Accountants and Auditors (up by 29.7%) and Electrical and Electronics Trades (up by 21.9%).
- The strongest declines were recorded for Building/Engineering Associates (down by 29.6%), Social Professionals (down by 21.5%) and Medical/Science Technical Officers (down by 16.2%).

Over the 12 months to November 2004, 13 groups recorded increases and 5 groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, January 1990 to November 2004



FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. Prospects can change rapidly and even in an occupation 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 2010-11. The ratings are based on employment trends and projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data.

In the following table **VG** stands for very good prospects, **G** 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 1220.0).

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2010-11	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2010-11
Managers and Administrators		Associate Professionals	
Finance Managers	G	Medical Technical Officers	VG
Information Technology Managers	G	Building/Architectural Associate Professionals	G
Sales and Marketing Managers	G	Financial Dealers and Brokers	VG
Professionals		Shop Managers	A
Mining and Materials Engineers	A	Trade Qualified Chefs*	VG
Accountants*	VG	Hotel and Motel Managers	G
Marketing and Advertising Professionals	VG	Enrolled Nurses	G
Computing Professionals	G	Tradespersons	
General Medical Practitioners*	VG	General Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Specialist Medical Practitioners*	VG	Motor Mechanics*	G
Registered Nurses*	VG	Electricians	G
Registered Midwives*	VG	Refrigeration and Airconditioning Mechanics*	G
Registered Mental Health Nurses*	G	Bricklayers	A
Pharmacists*	VG	Plumbers	G
Occupational Therapists*	G	Bakers and Pastrycooks*	G
Physiotherapists*	VG	Gardeners	G
Medical Imaging Professionals*	VG	Printing Machinists	BA
Primary School Teachers	G	Cabinetmakers	A
Secondary School Teachers	VG	Hairdressers*	VG
Social Workers	G	Clothing Tradespersons	BA

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

Australian Jobs 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 decision making. Australian Jobs Update is available in electronic form on the Australian WorkPlace Website at www.workplace.gov.au. More information on job prospects can be found in a printable format called 'DEWR Job Outlook' on this site, as well as in a more comprehensive online version, called Job Outlook, on the Australian Job Search site at www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook.

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NURSES AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) is responsible for the approval of authorities to undertake assessments of applicants' skills in a number of health related professional occupations (including chiropractic, dentistry, dietetics, medical laboratory science, medical radiation science, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, social work and welfare work, speech pathology, and veterinary science).

Information on the skill assessment process for applicants with professional qualifications is available through the DIMIA website at www.immi.gov.au or through the AEI-NOOSR website <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/QualificationsRecognition/>.

NURSES

There are two levels of nurses in Australia – registered nurses and enrolled nurses. Under Australian law, both registered and enrolled nurses must satisfy the registration requirements of the registration authority in the State or Territory in which they intend to practise. The *Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council Inc* (ANMC) is the relevant authority for the assessment of overseas qualifications in nursing for migration purposes. According to the ANMC, registered nurses must possess a bachelor degree in nursing or an equivalent qualification, while enrolled nurses must possess an advanced certificate or associate diploma in enrolled nursing. Applicants with enrolled nurse qualifications should not apply for migration under Australia's [general skilled migration program](#) categories (as this occupation is not on the [Skilled Occupations List](#) (SOL)) or the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) as the enrolled nurse qualification would not meet the definition of 'highly skilled person' for migration purposes. Additional information is available through the ANMC website at <http://www.anmc.org.au>.

DENTISTS

To practise dentistry in Australia you must be registered with the relevant State or Territory Dental Board. The *Australian Dental Council* is the assessing authority for dentists intending to apply for migration to Australia and can be contacted through the website (<http://www.dentalcouncil.net.au>) for more detailed information on the assessment process. Dentists with a bachelor degree obtained from the United Kingdom or Ireland may have qualifications that are acceptable to Dental Registration Boards for immediate registration.

PHARMACISTS

To practise pharmacy in Australia you must be registered with the local State or Territory pharmacy registration authority. The *Australian Pharmacy Examining Council Inc* (APEC) is the assessing authority for community and hospital pharmacists intending to apply for migration to Australia, and can be contacted (through the website <http://www.apec.asn.au>) for more detailed information on the assessment and examination procedure. Pharmacists with a licence to practise in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand may be accepted for registration by some State and Territory pharmacy registering authorities in Australia. A period of post-registration experience in your country of training and/or a short period of practical experience supervised by a pharmacist in Australia may be a prerequisite for registration with some registering authorities.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

The *Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities Limited* is the assessing authority for physiotherapists intending to apply for migration to Australia (website <http://www.acopra.com.au>). Persons seeking to practise physiotherapy in Australia must be registered with the relevant State or Territory physiotherapy registration authority. There are three ways for persons with physiotherapy qualifications gained overseas to enter the profession in Australia:

- successfully completing the Australian Examining Committee for Overseas Physiotherapists eligibility and assessment process;
- immediate eligibility to apply for registration with any Australian Physiotherapists Registration Board if the person holds current registration with the Physiotherapists Board of New Zealand under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA); **or**
- completing an undergraduate or graduate entry Master physiotherapy degree at an Australian tertiary institution offering physiotherapy.

MEDICAL RADIATION SCIENTISTS

Medical Radiation Science in Australia comprises four distinct professions – Medical Imaging, Radiation Therapy, Sonography and Nuclear Medicine. In each State and Territory of Australia, a Statement of Accreditation issued by the *Australian Institute of Radiography* (AIR) is a prerequisite for recognition and employment as a **medical imaging technologist** (or medical diagnostic radiographer), **sonographer** or **radiation therapist**. The AIR is the relevant assessing authority for those with overseas qualifications in medical imaging technology, sonography and radiation therapy wishing to migrate to Australia.

In each State and Territory of Australia, eligibility for membership of the *Australian & New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine Inc* (ANZSNM) is a prerequisite for recognition as a **nuclear medicine technologist**. The ANZSNM Accreditation Board is the relevant assessing authority for the assessment of overseas qualifications in nuclear medicine technology for those wishing to migrate to Australia.

Overseas qualified applicants must be eligible for membership of the appropriate professional organisation in order to comply with the registration/licensing requirements of States and Territories where such licensing requirements exist. Additional information on the qualification assessment processes for these occupations is available through the AIR website (<http://www.a-i-r.com.au>) and the ANZSNM website (<http://www.anzsnm.org.au>).

SKILL SHORTAGES

Labour market research undertaken by DEWR confirms there are skill shortages for certain health related professional occupations. Skill shortages exist when employers are unable to fill or have considerable difficulty in filling vacancies for an occupation, or specialised skill needs within that occupation, at current levels of remuneration and conditions of employment, and at a reasonably accessible location.

The following table provides information on the labour market for nurses and selected allied health professionals from the DEWR National and State Skill Shortage Lists, as published in March 2004 on the Australian WorkPlace website (www.workplace.gov.au).

ASCO	Occupation	AUST	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT
2323-11	Registered Nurse (general)*	N	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S
2324-11	Registered Midwife	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2325-11	Mental Health Nurse	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	
3411	Enrolled Nurse*	N	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S
2381	Dentist*	N	S*	R*	S	S*			S*
2382-11,15	Pharmacist (Hospital/Retail)*	N	S	S*	S	R	S		D
2385-11	Physiotherapist*	N	S*	S*	S	S*	S	S	S
2391-11	Diagnostic Radiographer*	N	S*		S			S	S
2391-13	Radiation Therapist	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	
2391-15	Nuclear Medicine Technologist	N	D		S	S		S	
2391-17	Sonographer	N	S		S	S	S	S	S

* = Shortages may be restricted to specialist skills. Occupations marked with an asterisk have associated qualifying comments in the National and Skill Shortage Lists themselves.

N = National shortage

S = State-wide shortage

R = Shortage in regional (other than capital city) areas

D = Recruitment difficulties