



Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Jobs Update (formerly the Australian Jobs Review) 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.

OVERVIEW

In the 12 months to August 2003, the Australian labour market has shown some improvement. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 159 300 persons (1.7%). Advertised vacancies increased for trade occupations but decreased for professional and associate professional occupations. Groups experiencing greater difficulty in finding employment in the Australian labour market include migrants with poor proficiency in the English language and also those with lower educational and skill levels.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics August 2003 Labour Force Survey.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.0% in August 2003, slightly lower than in August 2002 (6.2%).

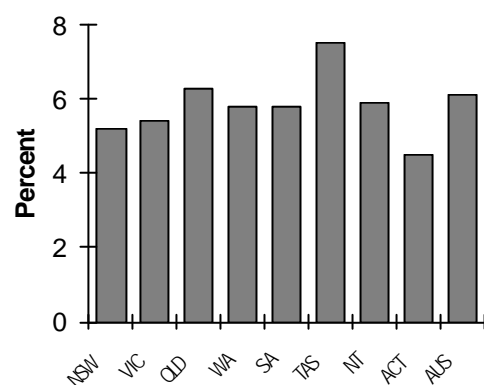
Unemployment trends indicate that the labour market has shown some improvement in the past year in all States and Territories.

In August 2003 the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (see Figure 1).

Generally those in more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment.

For example, in August 2003 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was more than seven times that of former Managers and Administrators.

Figure 1: Trend unemployment rates by State/Territory – August 2003



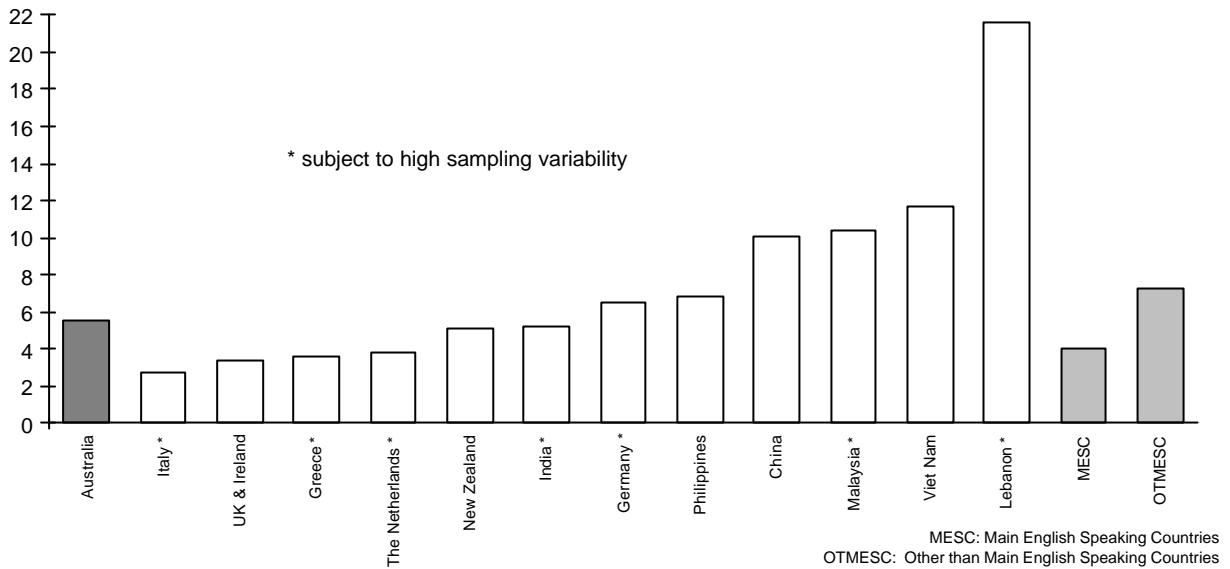
MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates. These factors include the 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.

Figure 2, overleaf, shows unemployment rates for selected countries. For example, people born in Italy, UK and Ireland and Greece have low unemployment rates (2.7%, 3.4% and 3.6% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in Malaysia, Vietnam and Lebanon are very high (10.4%, 11.7% and 21.6% respectively).

Find out about job prospects, earnings and other information online at **Job Outlook**, a feature of the Australian JobSearch site: www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates by selected countries of birth - as at August 2003 (%)



EMPLOYMENT

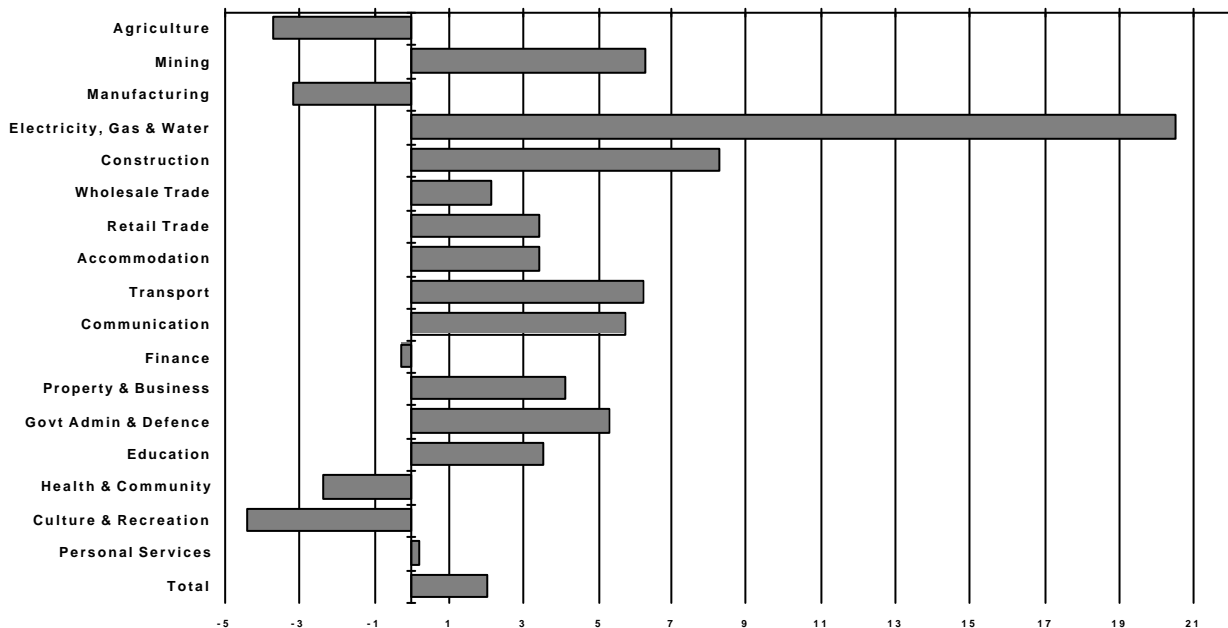
Over the 12 months to August 2003, trend employment in Australia grew by 1.7%, marginally lower than the previous year (1.9%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory – employment growth in percentage terms was strongest in Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2003, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in construction (up 59 100), retail (up 48 600), and property and business services (up 44 100), while the strongest rates of growth were in electricity, gas and water, construction and mining. Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – August 2002 to August 2003

↔ Decrease Increase ®



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 12 months to August 2003, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Associate Professionals (up 76 300) and Tradespersons (up 51 700). 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 August 2003		Unemployment Rate at August 2003	
Managers and Administrators	-1.3%	Managers and Administrators	1.5%
Professionals	0.1%	Professionals	1.6%
Associate Professionals	7.1%	Associate Professionals	1.8%
Tradespersons	4.4%	Tradespersons	2.7%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-2.8%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.8%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	3.0%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	3.6%
Intermediate Production and Transport	1.8%	Intermediate Production and Transport	4.3%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	1.6%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.8%
Labourers	-2.9%	Labourers	9.0%

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.

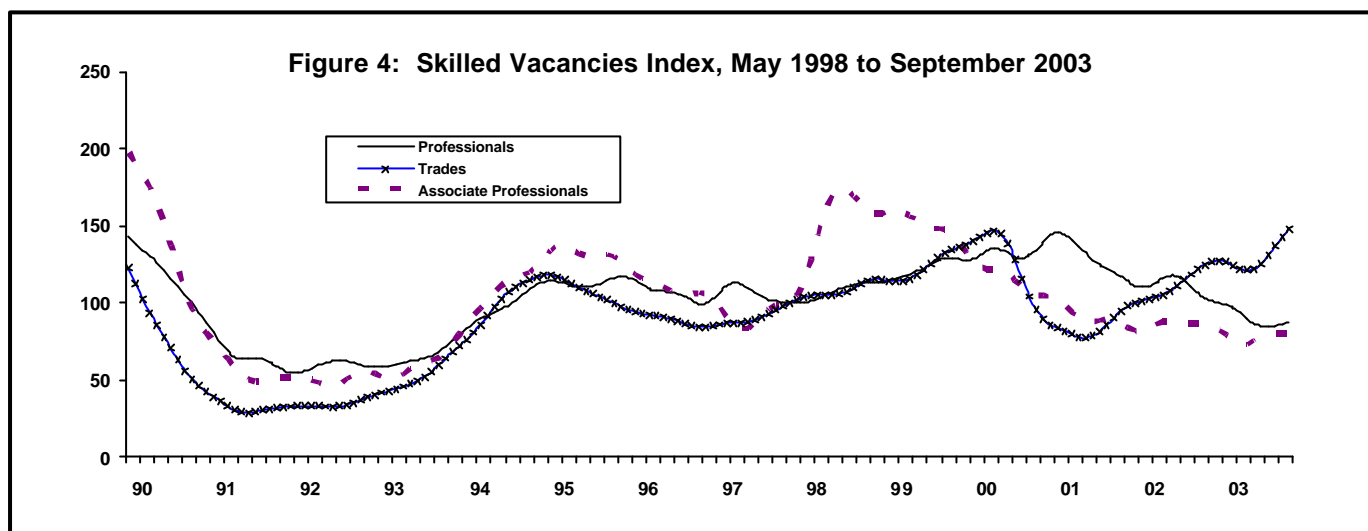
SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS

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 Professional, Associate Professional and Trades groups. The SVI indicates where there may be employment opportunities in the Australian labour market.

In September 2003, skilled vacancies were 2.2% lower than the previous September. In the 12 months to September 2003, SVI decreases were recorded in all States other than Western Australia (up 37.5%), South Australia (up 8.5%) and the Northern Territory (up 8.1%).

Advertised vacancies over the 12 months to September 2003 increased by 15.0% for Trades occupations, and decreased by 21.4% for Professional occupations and 5.2% for Associate Professional occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest annual increases were for Metal Trades (up 47.0%), Electrical and Electronic Trades (up 38.1%) and Medical/Science Technical Officers (up 24.9%).
- The strongest declines were recorded for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (down 39.6%) and Science Professionals (down 27.9%).
- Over the 12 months to September 2003, 7 groups recorded increases and 11 groups recorded decreases.



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 future job prospect ratings are for the period to 2009-10. The ratings are 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. The listed occupations are examples from the skilled classifications categories, as listed in the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO).

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. For more information on the occupational classification, see ASCO, Second Edition (ABS Cat No 1220.0).

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2009-10	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2009-10
Managers and Administrators		Associate Professionals	
General Managers	G	Medical Technical Officers	G
Finance Managers	G	Building/Architectural Associate Professionals	A
Information Technology Managers	G	Financial Dealers and Brokers	VG
Sales and Marketing Managers	G	Shop Managers	A
Professionals		Trade Qualified Chefs*	VG
Mining and Materials Engineers	A	Hotel and Motel Managers	G
Accountants	VG	Enrolled Nurses	G
Marketing and Advertising Professionals	G	Tradespersons	
Computing Professionals	G	Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
General Medical Practitioners	VG	Motor Mechanics	A
Registered Nurses *	VG	Electricians	G
Registered Midwives*	G	Refrigeration & Airconditioning Mechanics *	VG
Registered Mental Health Nurses *	G	Bricklayers	G
Pharmacists *	VG	Plumbers	G
Occupational Therapists *	VG	Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
Physiotherapists *	VG	Gardeners	G
Medical Imaging Professionals*	VG	Printing Machinists	BA
Primary School Teachers	G	Cabinetmakers	G
Secondary School Teachers	VG	Hairdressers *	VG
Social Workers	G	Clothing Tradespersons	BA

*denotes occupations that are listed 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 Internet at the Australian WorkPlace Web-site at www.workplace.gov.au and more information on job prospects can be found in DEWR Job Futures on this site as well as in Job Outlook on the Australian Job Search site at www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook. DEWR contact officer: Jane Press (02) 6121 6703.



AUSTRALIA – its States and Territories

This is the first in a series of Hot Topics that will be included in the new look Australian Jobs Update publication. The focus of this Hot Topic are the Australian States and Territories (the States), and provides an overview of the Australian population, its regional distribution and relative economic performance.

THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

Australia’s population is concentrated in the major capital cities of Sydney, New South Wales (21.2% of the total population) and Melbourne, Victoria (17.9% of the total population). Queensland (up 0.6%), Western Australia (up 0.3%) and the Northern Territory (up 0.3%) are experiencing the strongest population growth.

Table A The Distribution of the Australian Population as at March 2003									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST*
Population	6 640 355	4 872 538	3 707 175	1 520 242	1 927 322	472 725	198 013	321 819	19 662 781
Capital City	4 170 927	3 524 103	1 689 100	1 114 285	1 413 651	198 026	107 373	321 441	12 538 906
Balance	2 469 428	1 348 435	2 018 075	405 957	513 671	274 699	90 640	378	7 121 283
Share of Australian Population	33.8	24.8	18.9	7.7	9.8	2.4	1.0	1.6	
Capital City	21.2	17.9	8.6	5.7	7.2	1.0	0.6	1.6	
Balance	12.6	6.9	10.3	2.1	2.6	1.4	0.5	0.00	
Population growth	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3

*Australia includes other territories not represented in this table.
Source: ABS Cat 3101.0 “Australian Demographic Statistics” March Quarter 2003.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

As Figure A below shows, all States experienced employment growth, except the Northern Territory (NT) (-6.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) (-1.3%). The States with the highest employment growth rate are Tasmania (4.5%) and South Australia (4.0%).

The employment growth rate for the 12 months to August 2003 contrasts with the rate of the previous 12 months to August 2002, when all States experienced negative growth. The growth rate for the NT and the ACT has remained steady over the 24 month period to August 2003.

Figure B shows the unemployment rate by State. The State with the lowest unemployment rate is the ACT at 4.5% followed by the NT with 4.9%. Tasmania has the highest rate of unemployment at 7.5%.

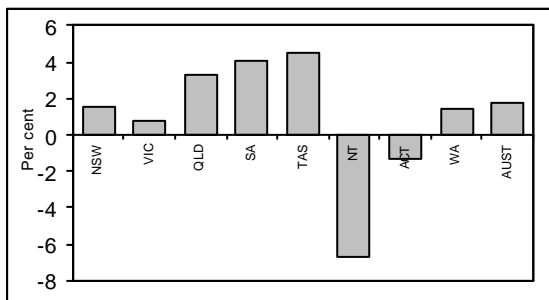


Figure A: Employment Growth (August 2003)

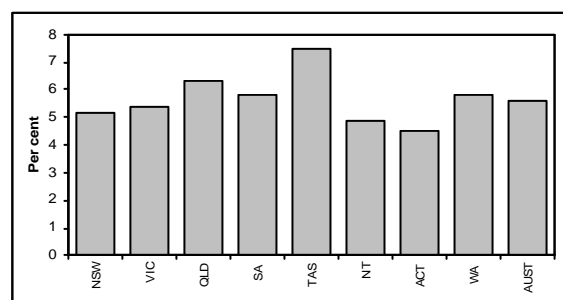


Figure B: Unemployment Rate by State (August 2003)

THE REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE

The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. (The labour force is employed persons plus unemployed persons).

Over the 12 months to August 2003, the participation rate decreased marginally by 0.2 percentage points to 63%.

Full-time employment increased by 1.4% in the 12 months to August 2003, while part-time employment increased by 2.5%.

Full-time employment increased for males (up by 2.2%), while female full-time employment decreased by less than 0.1%.

Male part-time employment fell by 0.7% and female part-time employment increased by 3.9%.

Figure C: Participation rates by State

