



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

*Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics May 2004 Labour Force Survey*

## OVERVIEW

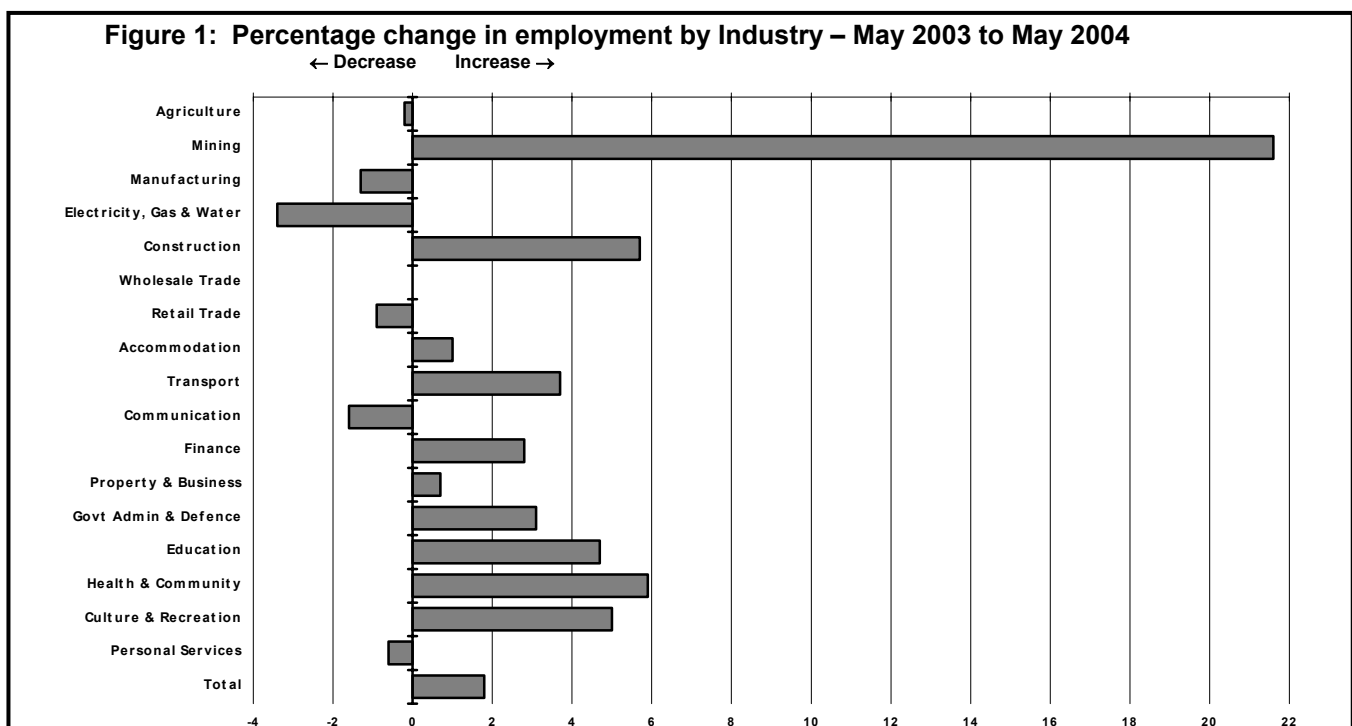
In the 12 months to May 2004, the Australian labour market has experienced solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 223 500 persons (2.4%). Advertised vacancies increased for trade occupations, marginally increased for associate professional occupations and decreased for 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 May 2004, trend employment in Australia grew by 2.4% after growth of 2.3% in the previous year.

Employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories although only slightly in South Australia – growth in percentage terms was strongest in Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2004, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in Health and Community Services (up 54 800), Construction (up 42 300) and Education (up 32 200) while the strongest rates of growth were in Mining, Health and Community Services, and Construction. Employment growth rates by industry are shown below.



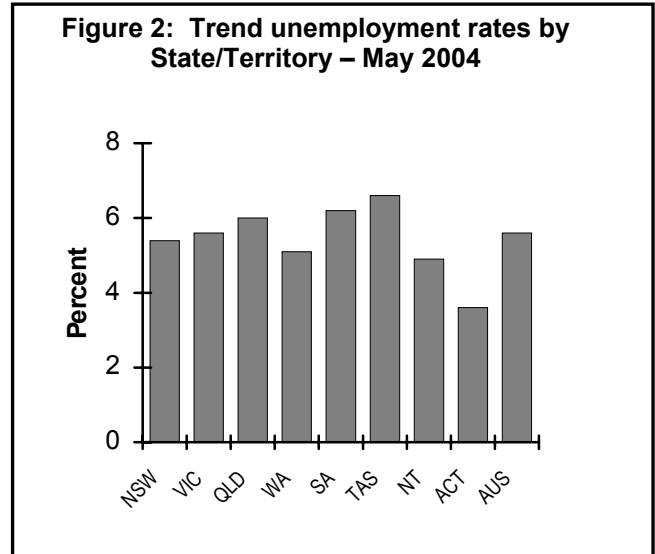
## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.6% in May 2004, significantly lower than in May 2003 (6.2%) and at its lowest level in more than two decades.

Unemployment trends indicate that the labour market has remained stable or improved in the past year in all States and Territories.

In May 2004 the unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (6.6%) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%). See Figure 2.

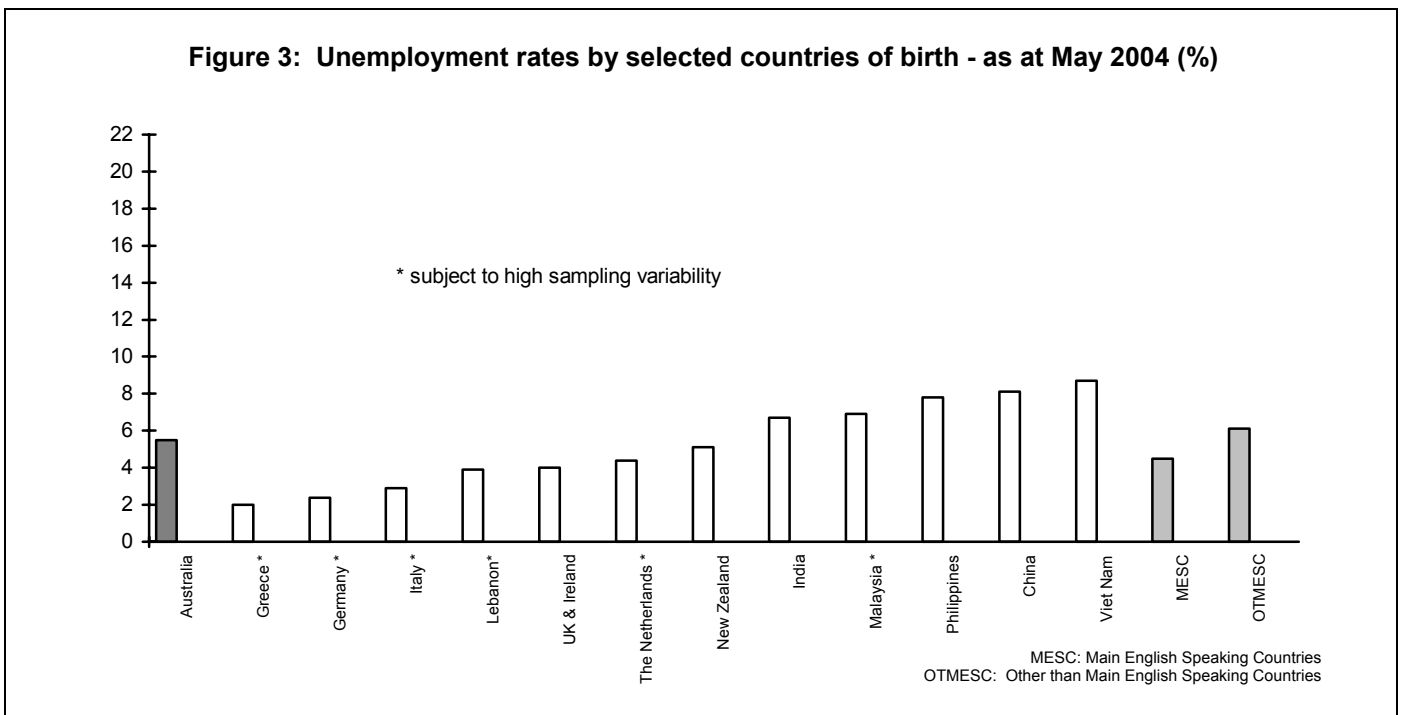
**Generally those in more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment.** For example, in May 2004 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was about six times that of former Managers and Administrators.



## MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates. These factors include 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 Greece, Germany and Italy have low unemployment rates (2.0%, 2.4% and 2.9% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in China and Vietnam are relatively higher (8.1% and 8.7% 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 May 2004, the strongest numerical increases in employment (*original data*) occurred in Professionals (up 112 300), Managers and Administrators (up 38 900), and Tradespersons (up 23 000). 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 May 2004		Unemployment Rate at May 2004	
Managers and Administrators	5.7%	Managers and Administrators	1.4%
Professionals	6.4%	Professionals	1.7%
Associate Professionals	-0.6%	Associate Professionals	1.6%
Tradespersons	1.9%	Tradespersons	2.7%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-0.3%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.7%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	-0.8%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	3.4%
Intermediate Production and Transport	0.4%	Intermediate Production and Transport	4.3%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	0.9%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	5.1%
Labourers	2.6%	Labourers	8.5%

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

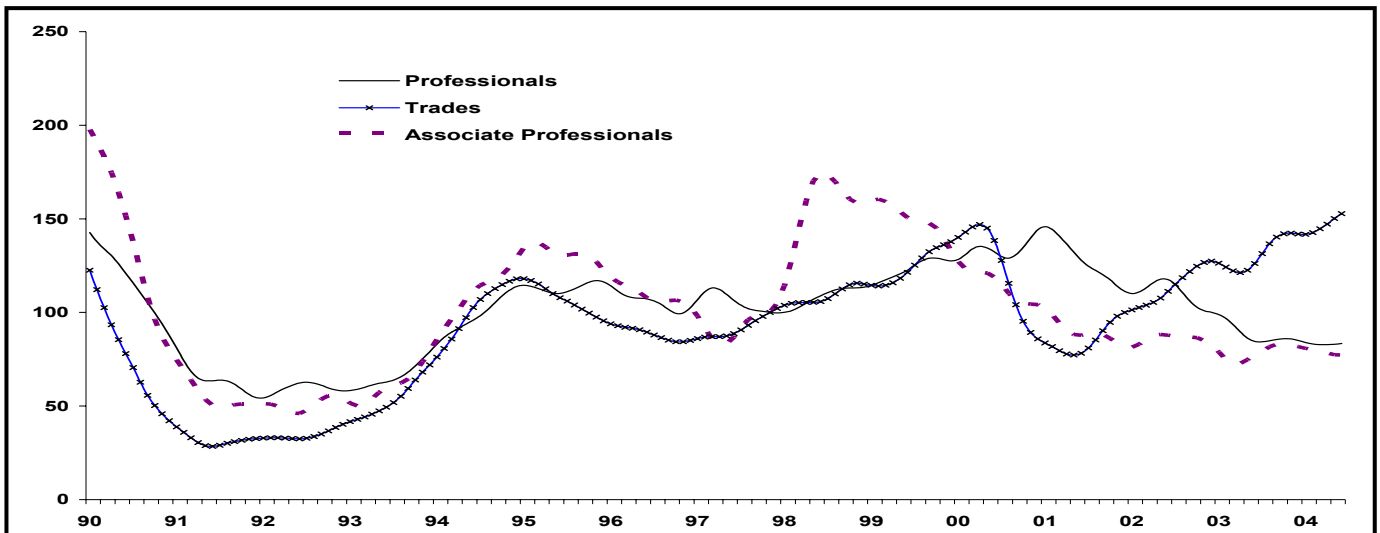
The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces the Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory. These are aggregated into the Professional, Associate Professional and Trades groups. The SVI indicates where the best employment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

In June 2004, skilled vacancies were 11.8% higher than the previous June. Over that 12 months, SVI increases were recorded in Tasmania (up 82.1%), Queensland (up 22.1%), Western Australia (up 17.1%), Northern Territory (up 12.5%) and New South Wales (up 10.1%), while decreases were recorded in Victoria (down 2.5%), and South Australia (down 9.2%).

Over the year to June 2004 advertised vacancies increased by 21.2% for Trades occupations, marginally increased (0.2%) for Associate Professional occupations and decreased by 1.4% for Professional occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- within these broad groups, the strongest annual increases were for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (up 123.8%), Printing Trades (up 43.9%) and Electrical and Electronics Trades (up 43.5%) with 5 other groups increasing by over 20%.
- declines were recorded for Social Professionals and Medical/Science Technical Officers (both down 15.4%) and Health Professionals (down 9.2%).
- over the 12 months to June 2004, 15 groups recorded increases and 3 groups recorded decreases.

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



## 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 2010-11. 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.

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

\*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](http://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](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook). DEWR contact officer is Jane Press: telephone (02) 6121 6703 or email [jane.press@dewr.gov.au](mailto:jane.press@dewr.gov.au).



## OCCUPATIONS - Registration Requirements

### STATE AND TERRITORY REGISTRATION BOARDS

The legislation covering the recognition of professional and trade qualifications can vary depending upon where you live within Australia. Australia has a federal system of government and is divided into six States and two Territories. In certain professions and trades you must be registered with the relevant Registration Board in your State/Territory to practise in your occupation.

Subject to certain conditions, if a person is registered to practise an occupation in one Australian State or Territory they can carry out an equivalent occupation in any other Australian State or Territory after gaining registration with the relevant Registration Board.

People who hold current registration or are licensed to practise a professional or trade occupation in New Zealand are entitled to practise the equivalent occupation in any Australian State or Territory where registration is a requirement, and vice versa, after gaining registration with the relevant Registration Board. The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) covers all registrable occupations, except medicine. Further information can be obtained from the relevant Registration Board in the Australian State or Territory in which you intend to practise your profession or trade.

### REGULATION IN OCCUPATIONS

Each occupation, or group of occupations, has its own distinct pathway to recognition as a professional or tradesperson in Australia. The level of regulation in place largely determines the process. Based on this criterion, occupations can be grouped into three categories – those regulated by law, self-regulating and unregulated.

The group of professions regulated by law includes health related professions, veterinary science, and architecture. An applicant's eligibility to practise in these professions is determined on the basis of prescribed assessment requirements often in the form of an examination which applicants must successfully meet to qualify for registration by State and Territory Registration Boards. In some cases applicants must undertake a period of practical experience as part of the recognition process.

In self-regulating and unregulated professions, competency based assessments and/or assessments based on qualifications may apply. In some professions, such as accountancy and law, additional country-specific training in Australia is usually required as a pre-requisite to employment.

### AUSTRALIAN ASSESSING AUTHORITIES

One of the core criteria for permanent entry to Australia is the assessment of an applicant's skills (qualifications and work experience) by an Australian assessing authority gazetted for that occupation. Assessing authorities have been authorised by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) to undertake an assessment of whether an applicant has qualifications that will be recognised and work experience that is appropriate to employment in the 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 applicants to find jobs in Australia.



**Australian Government**

**Department of Employment and  
Workplace Relations**

## • **Professional Occupations**

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs gazettes approved authorities to undertake assessments of applicants' skills in a number of professional occupations (including accountancy, architecture, chiropractic, dentistry, dietetics, engineering, information and communications technology, medical laboratory science, medical radiation science, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, quantity surveying, social work and welfare work, speech pathology, surveying, translating and interpreting, and veterinary science). The National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) undertakes the assessment of applicants' skills for teaching.

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

## • **Trade Occupations**

Trades Recognition Australia (within the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)) has been appointed to undertake the assessment of applicants with skills (overseas qualifications and experience) relevant to employment in trade occupations.

The term "trades" in Australia is used to describe occupations that require technical knowledge and manual skills and where training is usually through a formal apprenticeship. In the past, trades skills and knowledge have been recognised in Australia through a trade certificate. Recent changes to Australia's training system enable competence to be acquired and assessed through the Australian Qualification Training Framework (AQTF). The qualification for a trade under the AQTF is usually at the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level III and in some cases the AQF level IV. These qualification levels also apply to other occupations, and the qualification itself does not make an occupation a trade nor does it necessarily demonstrate trade level job readiness. A trade is defined by the combination of the type of knowledge and skill involved, together with the level of qualification.

For trade occupations, each application is assessed by a skills assessor against specified criteria including acceptable formal training undertaken outside Australia and a specified period of employment undertaking the full range of work normally performed by a tradesperson in Australia and a demonstrated ability to perform that work in Australia.

Information on the skill assessment process for trade applications is available through the DEWR website at [www.workplace.gov.au/TRA](http://www.workplace.gov.au/TRA).

## **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 DIMIA website at [www.immi.gov.au/contacts/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/index.htm).

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

The best indicators of professional employment opportunities in most professions are Australian newspapers and professional journals and publications produced by DEWR. The DEWR website at [www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/) provides useful information on job prospects, weekly earnings, type of work and other occupational variables.