



# AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

APRIL 2001

## 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 February 2001, the Australian labour market continued to improve. In trend terms, employment has increased by an estimated 134 700 persons.

In this period advertised vacancies increased for professional occupations but decreased for other skilled occupational groups. The long-term outlook is, however, for some improvement in the labour market for skilled job seekers.

Some groups in the Australian community experience relatively more difficulty than others in finding employment. Those experiencing greater difficulty include recent migrants without strong proficiency in the English language.

Job Outlook: information on prospects, earnings, and characteristics for 390 occupations in Australia are available online in Job Outlook, which is a new feature of the Australian Job Search site:

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

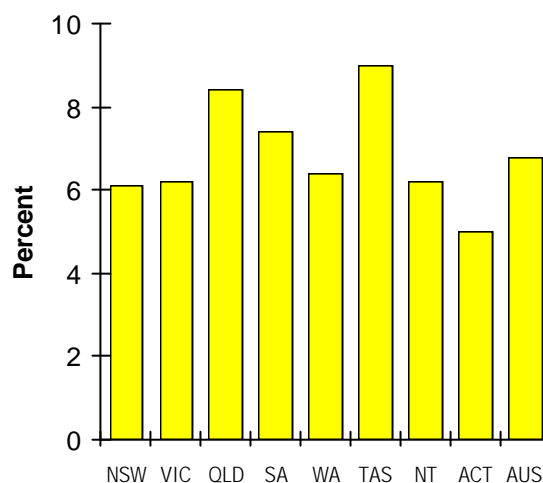
## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.8% in February 2001 - the unemployment rate varied marginally over the past year and was as low as 6.4%.

2000 - 2001 unemployment trends suggest that the labour market has improved in most States and Territories except New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory where the unemployment rate has increased.

In February 2001 the trend unemployment rate varied from State to State, being highest in Tasmania (see Figure 1 immediately below).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory  
- February 2001



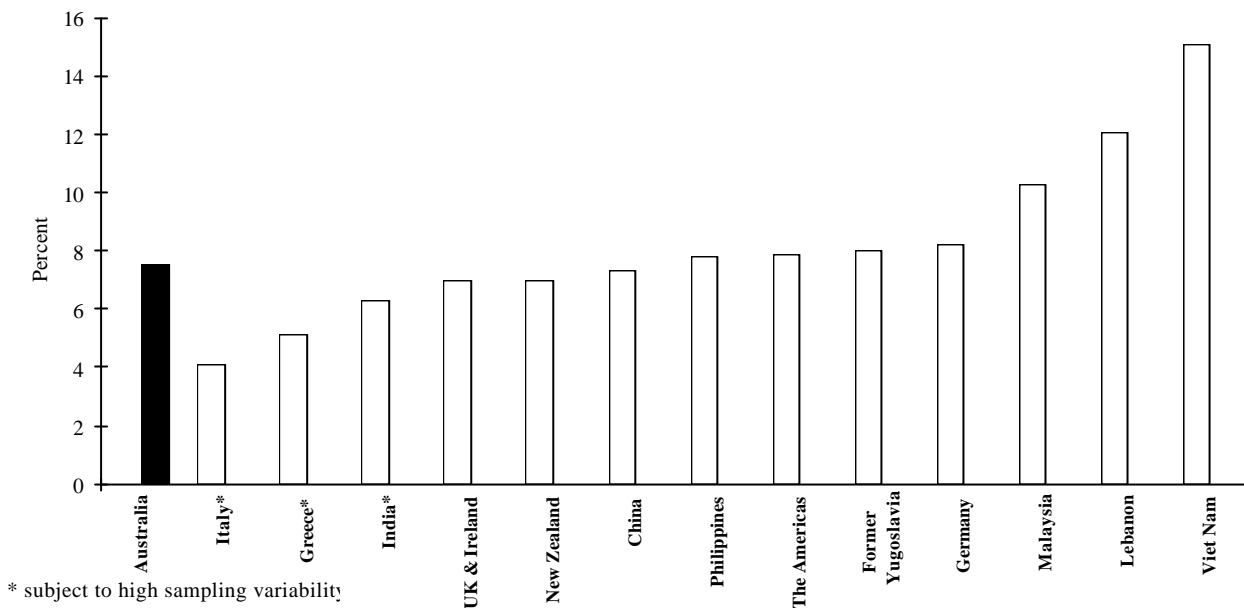
Generally those in more highly skilled occupations are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in February 2001 the unemployment rate for Labourers was nearly six times that of Managers and Administrators.

## 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 February 2001, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 6.8%, while the unemployment rate for those born in other countries (combined) was 9.0%.

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 February 2001



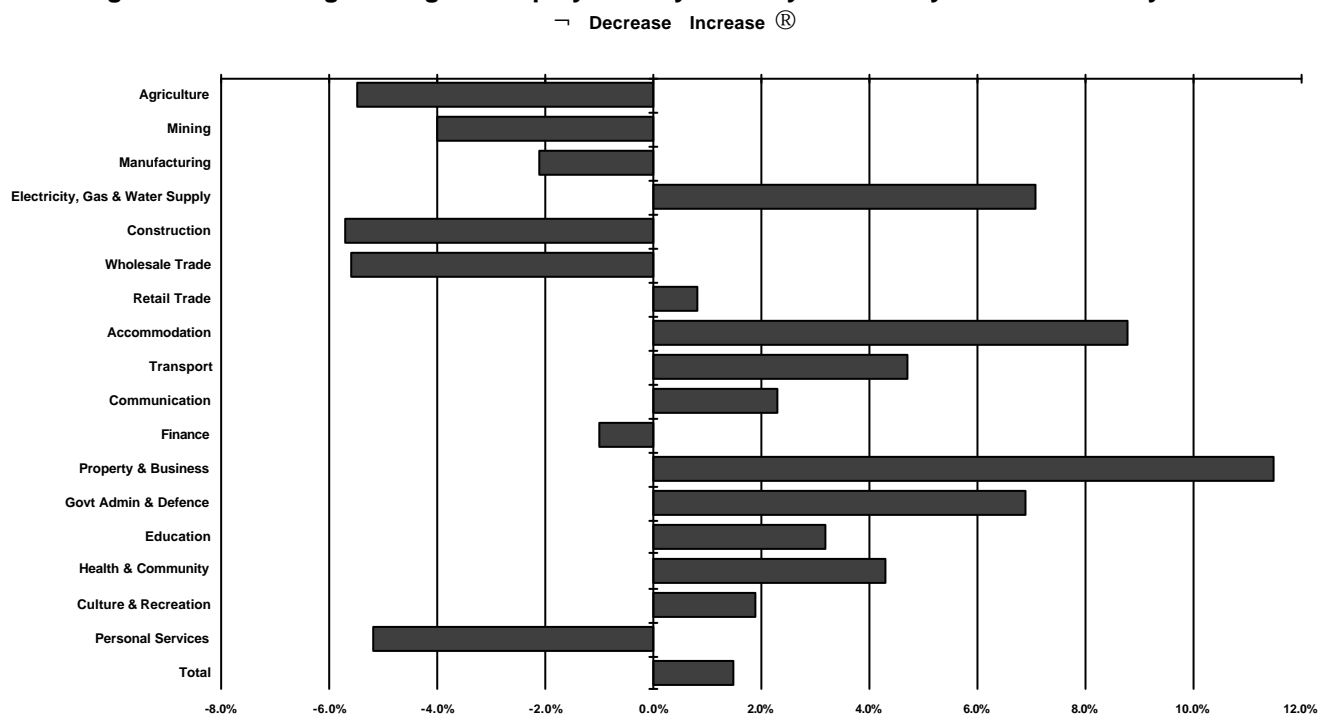
## EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to February 2001 the number of people employed in Australia grew by 1.5%. This is a somewhat lower rate of growth than for the previous year (2.9%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories except South Australia – employment growth was strongest in Victoria.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to February 2001, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Property and Business Services industry (which grew by 114 600), and the Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurant Industry (up 38 800). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – February 2000 to February 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 February 2001, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service Workers (up 78 500) and Professional occupations (up 68 600). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>% Growth in Employment in the year to February 2001</b>
Managers and Administrators	1.6
Professionals	4.3
Associate Professionals	2.3
Tradespersons	-3.3
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.9
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	5.2
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	-2.9
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	4.5
Labourers	-2.6

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:

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate at February 2001</b>
Managers and Administrators	1.5%
Professionals	1.9%
Associate Professionals	2.1%
Tradespersons	4.4%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	2.0%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.1%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	5.2%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.6%
Labourers	8.8%

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***

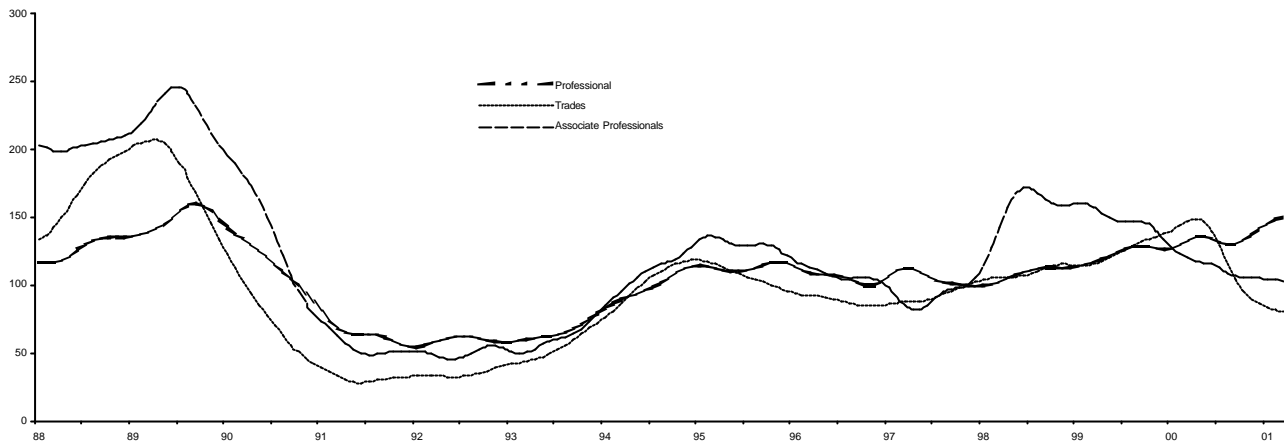
From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business produces the Skilled Vacancy Index (SVI – previously the Skilled Vacancy Survey), for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated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

The March 2001 SVI was 19% lower than that of the previous March. Over this period, decreases were recorded in almost all States and the Northern Territory, with the only increase recorded in Tasmania (up 27%).

Advertised vacancies over the year to February 2001 increased by 12% for Professional occupations but decreased by 14% for Associate Professional occupations and by 45% for Trade occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest increases were recorded by Health Professionals (up 63%) and Medical/Science Technical Officers (up 21%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Construction Trades (down 80%) and Wood and Textile Trades (down 54%).
- Over the year, three groups recorded increases and fifteen groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, February 1988 to February 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 2005-06
<b>Managers and Administrators</b>	
General Managers	L
Sales & Marketing Managers	A
<b>Professionals</b>	
Life Scientists	A
Accountants	G
Marketing/Advertising Professionals	G
Computing Professionals	G
General Medical Practitioners	G
Registered Nurses	G
Primary School Teachers	A
Secondary School Teachers	G
Social Workers	G
Painters, Potters and Sculptors	A
<b>Associate Professionals</b>	
Medical Technical Officers	A
Building/Architectural Assoc Professionals	A
Shop Managers	A
Hotel/Motel Managers	A
Enrolled Nurses	A

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2005-06
<b>Tradespersons and Related Workers</b>	
Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Motor Mechanics	G
Electricians	A
Bricklayers	A
Plumbers	A
Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
General and Landscape Gardeners	G
Printing Machinists	L
Cabinetmakers	G
Hairdressers	A
Clothing Tradespersons	L
<b>Advanced Clerical &amp; Service Workers</b>	
Secretaries & Personal Assistants	A
Bookkeepers	A
<b>Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
General Clerks	A
Keyboard Operators	A
Receptionists	G
Child Care Workers & Nannies	G
<b>Intermediate Production/Transport</b>	
Construction Plant Operators	A
General Stationary Plant Operators	L
Truck Drivers	A
<b>Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
Registry & Filing Clerks	L
Sales Assistants	G
<b>Labourers &amp; Related Workers</b>	
Cleaners	A
Product Assemblers	A
Hand Packers	L

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Australian Jobs Review 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 Review is available in electronic form on the Internet at the DEWRSB Web-site: [www.dewrsb.gov.au/](http://www.dewrsb.gov.au/) and more information on job prospects can be found in DEWRSB Job Futures on this site as well as in Job Outlook on the Australian Job Search site: [www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook) DEWRSB contact officer: Jane Press (02) 6121 6703