



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, May 2007.

OVERVIEW

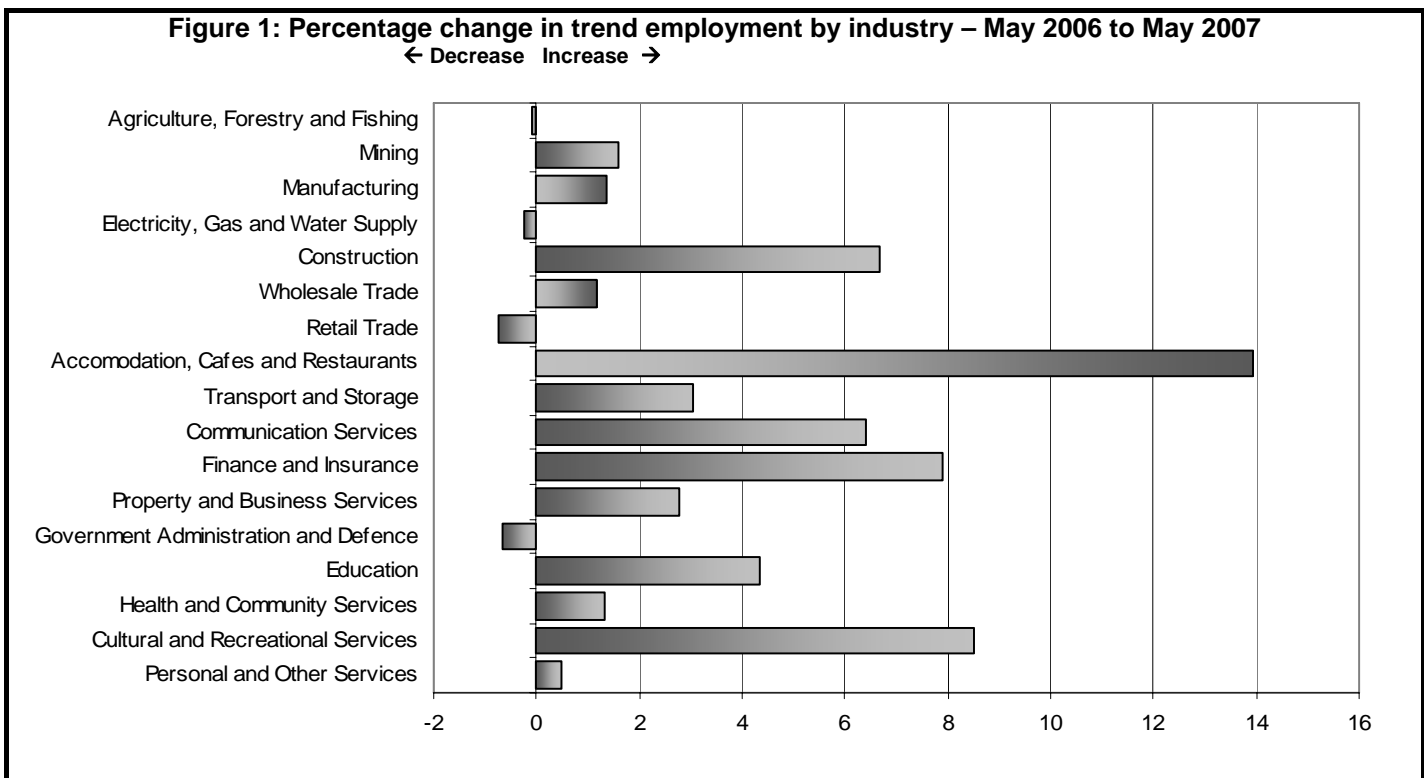
In the 12 months to May 2007, the Australian labour market continued to experience solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 282 000 persons (2.8%). Advertised vacancies decreased for Professionals and for Trade Occupations. Migrants with the best employment prospects are those who are highly skilled with recognised post-secondary qualifications and strong proficiency in the English language.

EMPLOYMENT

Over the 12 months to May 2007, trend employment in Australia grew by 2.8% after growth of 1.8% in the previous year.

Employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories. In percentage terms, employment growth was strongest in Queensland (5.1%) and Victoria (3.2%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2007, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (up by 65 500), Construction (up by 59 600), Property and Business Services (up by 33 900) and Education (up by 31 000). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (13.9%), Cultural and Recreational Services (8.5%) and Finance and Insurance (7.9%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.



Source: ABS *Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2007*, ABS Cat. No. 6105.0.

UNEMPLOYMENT

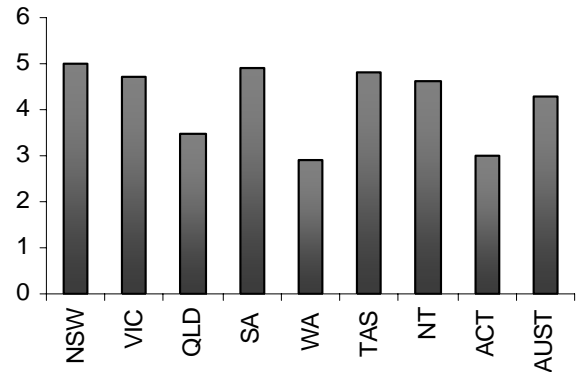
The trend rate of unemployment was 4.3% in May 2007, compared with 4.8% in May 2006.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates have decreased in all States and Territories except for South Australia where it remained unchanged (4.9%).

In May 2007, the trend unemployment rate was highest in New South Wales at 5.0% and South Australia at 4.9% and lowest in Western Australia at 2.9%. See Figure 2.

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

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

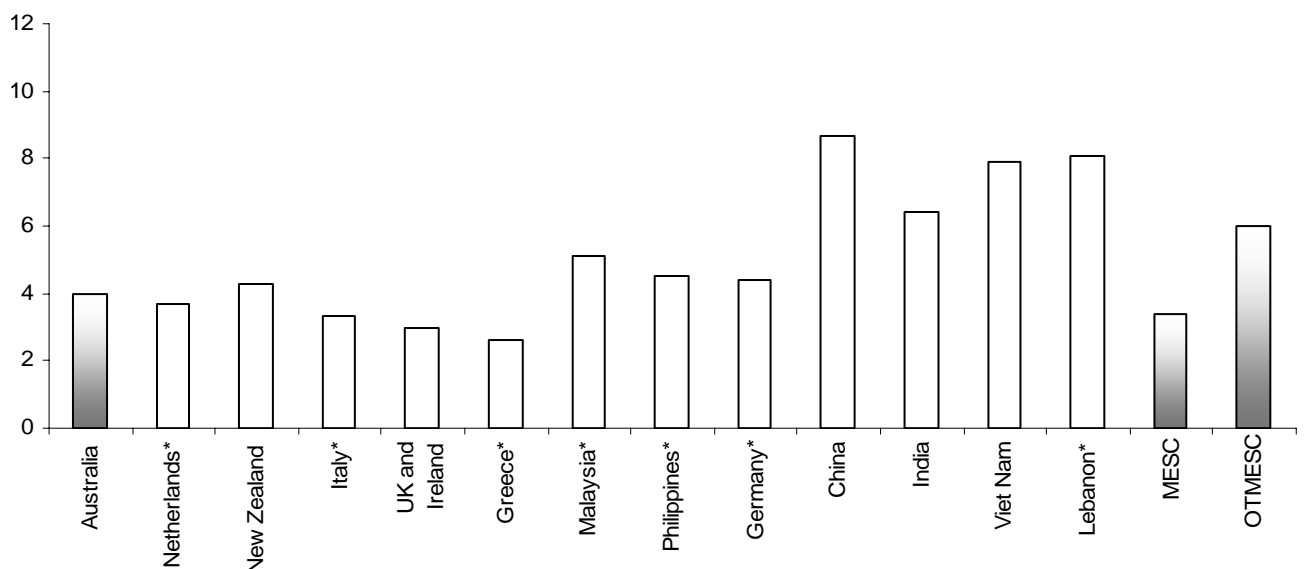


MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

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 Greece and the United Kingdom and Ireland have low unemployment rates (2.6% and 3.0% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in China and Lebanon are relatively high (8.7% and 8.1% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth – May 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 May 2007, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Associate Professionals (up by 106 500), Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (up by 62 900) and Professionals (up by 43 000). 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 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 May 2007		Unemployment Rate at May 2007	
Managers and Administrators	1.9%	Managers and Administrators	1.2%
Professionals	2.2%	Professionals	1.2%
Associate Professionals	8.5%	Associate Professionals	1.5%
Tradespersons	2.3%	Tradespersons	2.1%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.8%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	0.7%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.3%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	3.1%
Intermediate Production and Transport	7.5%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.2%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	-1.5%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.2%
Labourers and Related Workers	2.1%	Labourers and Related Workers	6.8%

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.

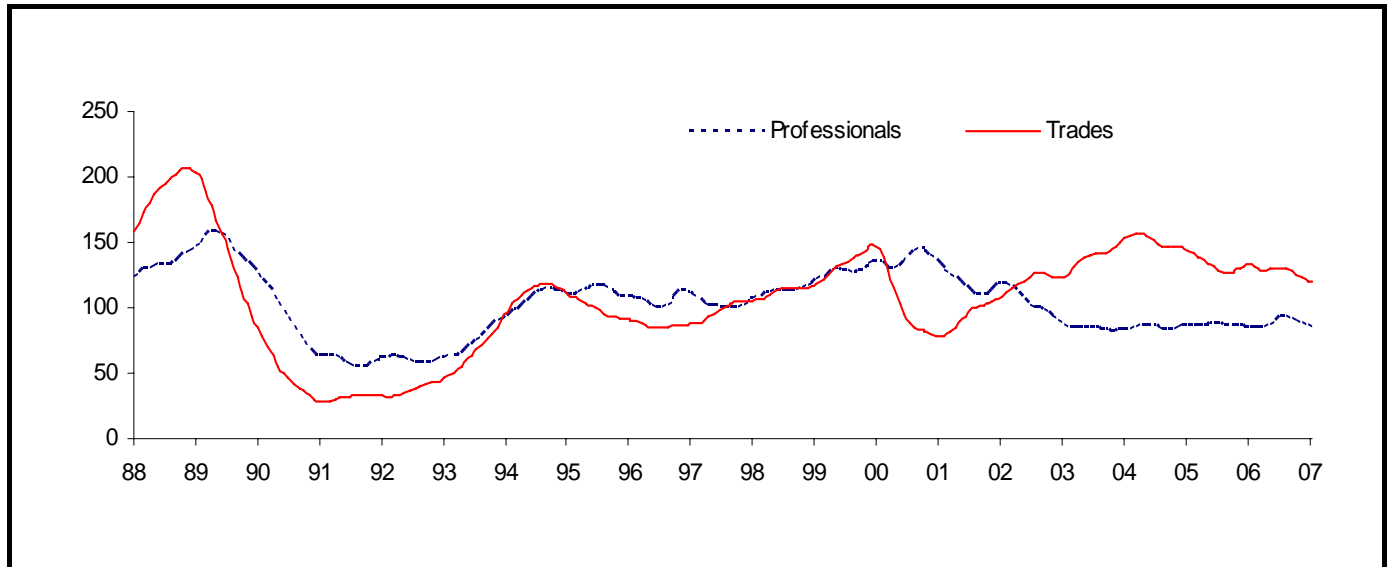
SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS²

The Department of 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. The SVI indicates where the best employment opportunities may be in the Australian labour market.

In May 2007, skilled vacancies were 6.9% lower than in May 2006. Over the 12 months, SVI increases were recorded in Queensland (up by 15.6%), South Australia (up by 14.8%), Tasmania (up by 11.5%) and the Northern Territory (up by 10.8%). The most significant SVI decreases were recorded in Victoria (down by 20.7%) and New South Wales (down by 20.6%).

In the 12 months to May 2007, advertised vacancies decreased for Professional occupations (down by 0.8%) and for Trade Occupations (down by 10.7%) (see Figure 4 overleaf). Within these broad groups, the majority of occupations recorded an increase in skilled vacancies. The most significant increases were for Wood Trades (up by 24.6%), Social Professionals (up by 9.3%), Marketing and Advertising Professionals (up by 9.2%) and Accountants and Auditors (up by 8.7%). The most significant decreases occurred for Chefs (down by 37.6%), Hairdressers (down by 33.5%), Metal Trades (down by 8.7%) and Health Professionals (down by 8.2%).

² Historical series of trend figures are revised monthly.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, May 1988 to May 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 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 and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First 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@dewr.gov.au.



ARCHITECT – An Occupation in Demand

This Hot Topic provides information on the demand for professional architects in Australia. Professional architects plan and design buildings, provide concepts, plans, specifications and detailed drawings, negotiate with builders and advise on the procurement of buildings.

Within the Australian labour market, the occupation of professional architect is more highly skilled than an architectural associate. The entry requirement for employment as a registered professional architect is the completion of a five or six year bachelor degree, two years relevant experience and registration with the State or Territory Architects' Board. In contrast, the entry requirement for an architectural associate is an advanced diploma/diploma or at least three years relevant experience. Research undertaken by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) indicates that professional architects are currently in demand in the Australian labour market.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that employment in the architectural profession (including registered architects) has risen in recent years, with growth of 9.4% (to 20 300) in the five years to February 2007. Further strong employment growth is expected for the next five years. Most professional architects are employed in the fast-growing property and business services industries and in the construction and government and defence industries. Table A provides a labour market profile for the occupation based on Australian Bureau of Statistics information extracted from Australian Jobs 2007 and Job Outlook Online (see www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/).

Table A: Key Labour Market Indicators

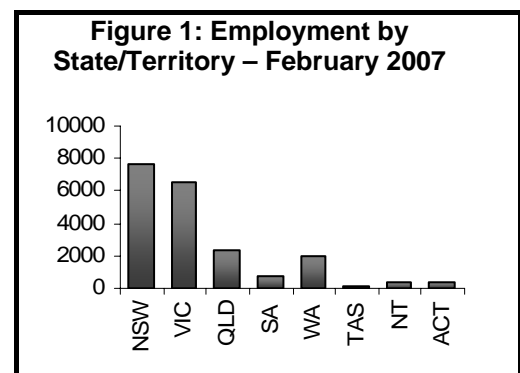
Key Indicator	Architectural Profession	All Occupations
Occupation size	20 300	10 350 400
Females	25%	45%
Males	75%	55%
Median age	39 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	84%	71.5%
Average weekly hours	43.6	41.8
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$1227	\$900
Vacancy level	Average	Na
Employment growth 5 years to Feb 07	9.4%	12.8%
Future employment growth	Moderate	Na
Job Prospects	Good	Na

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) estimates, based on information from the eight State and Territory Architects Registration Authorities, there are 10 800 registered professional architects in Australia.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Architects are employed in all States and Territories. Most architects were employed in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Western Australia also employed a high share of architects relative to its population size. See Figure 1.

Demand for architects is strong in all States and Territories of Australia. Although vacancies in metropolitan areas are generally more easily filled than those in regional Australia, employers overall report difficulty attracting and retaining skilled architects. Demand for this occupation has been strong over most of the past decade and high levels of demand are expected to persist.



Source: DEWR original data (Accessed 13/07/07)

SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS-TRAINED ARCHITECTS

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 academic qualifications by an Australian assessing authority gazetted for that occupation. Assessing authorities have been appointed 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 the 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 to find jobs in Australia.

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) is the appointed Australian assessing authority for the assessment of qualifications of overseas-trained professional architects. Individuals seeking to migrate to Australia in the occupation of professional architect must undergo a provisional assessment of their qualifications as part of their migration application.

To be eligible for registration as a professional architect a final assessment of qualifications known as the Review of Academic Equivalence (RAE) is conducted in Australia and includes an English language proficiency component. Applicants with recognised qualifications are required to undertake two years practical experience (one year of which must be completed in Australia) and obtain a pass in the AACA's Architectural Practice Examination (APE). Only applicants able to meet these requirements are eligible to apply for registration with the Architects' Board in the State or Territory in which they wish to practice.

More information on the skills assessment process and contact details can be obtained from the AACA website at www.aaca.org.au.

Figure 2: Skills recognition and registration process for overseas-trained architects

- 1) AACA provisional assessment of qualifications for migration purposes
- 2a) AACA Review of Academic Equivalence (RAE)
- or
- 2b) AACA's National Program of Assessment (NPrA)
- 3) 2 years practical experience, 1 year of which must be in Australia
- 4) A pass in the AACA Architectural Practice Examination (APE)
- 5) Eligibility for registration with State/Territory Architects' Boards

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, the 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 been unable to fill vacancies from the Australian labour market through domestic recruitment or through their own training efforts. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is contained in DIAC Migration Booklet 5 *Employer Sponsored Migration* available on the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au.

The occupation of professional architect appears on the current Employer Sponsored Nomination Scheme Occupations List and the gazetted list of eligible occupations for the temporary business long stay migration 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.