



AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

APRIL 2002

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 2002, employment growth in the Australian labour market has shown some improvement. In trend terms, employment increased by an estimated 135 100 persons (1.5%).

In the most recent 12 month period for which information is available advertised vacancies increased for trades but decreased for professional and associate professional occupations.

Groups experiencing greater difficulty in finding employment in the Australian labour market include recent migrants without strong proficiency in the English language and also those with lower educational and skill levels.

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

www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook

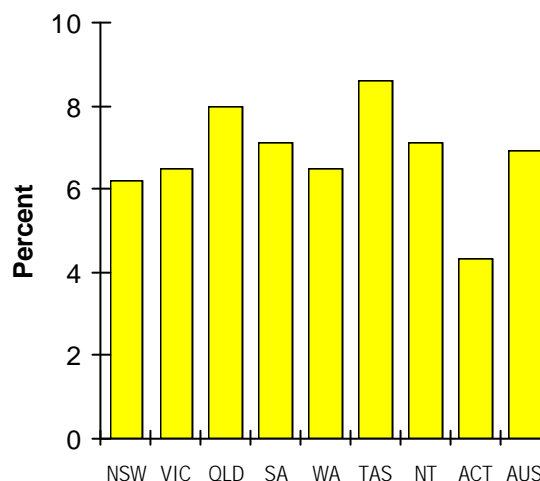
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.7% in February 2002 - the unemployment rate varied marginally over the past year and was as low as 6.5%.

2000 - 2001 unemployment trends indicate that the labour market has softened in most States and Territories.

In February 2002 the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (see Figure 1 immediately below).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory
– February 2002



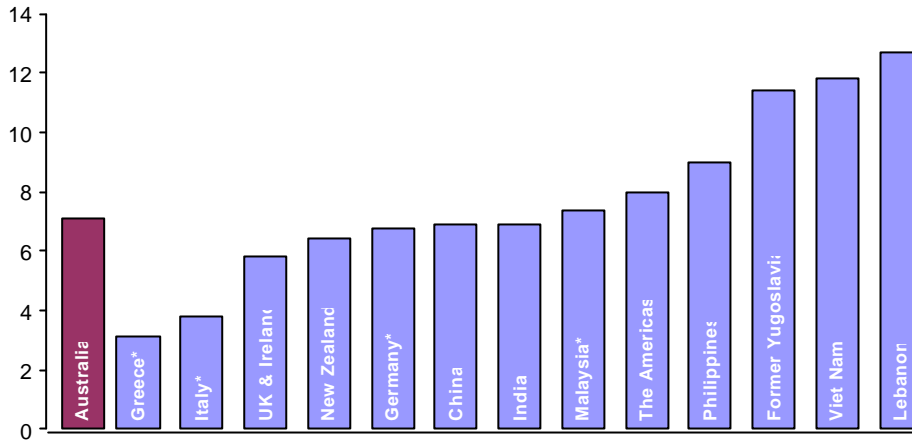
Generally those in more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in February 2002 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was about six times that of former Managers and Administrators.

MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates. These 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 2002, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 6.0%, 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 2002



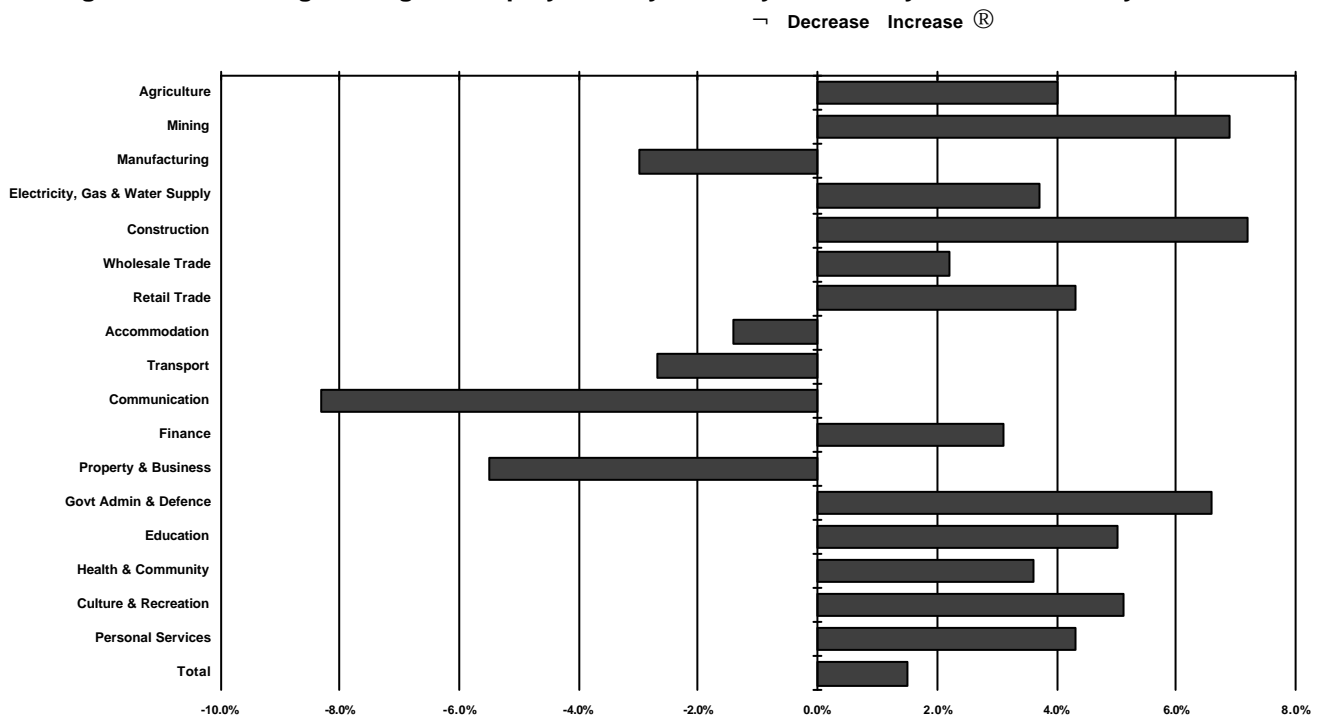
EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to February 2002 the trend number of people employed in Australia grew by 1.6% which is the same rate of growth as for the previous year.

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

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to February 2002, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Retail industry (which grew by 58 000), and the Construction industry (up 48 200). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – February 2001 to February 2002



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 2002, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Managers and Administrators (up 75 500) and the Associate Professional occupations (up 58 200). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

Occupational Group	% Growth in Employment in the year to February 2002
Managers and Administrators	11.5
Professionals	1.5
Associate Professionals	5.6
Tradespersons	0.7
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-3.8
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	-0.1
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	2.9
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	-1.7
Labourers	-2.2

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:

Occupational Group	Unemployment Rate at February 2002
Managers and Administrators	1.7%
Professionals	2.5%
Associate Professionals	2.2%
Tradespersons	4.2%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	2.2%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	4.5%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	5.9%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	7.2%
Labourers	10.3%

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

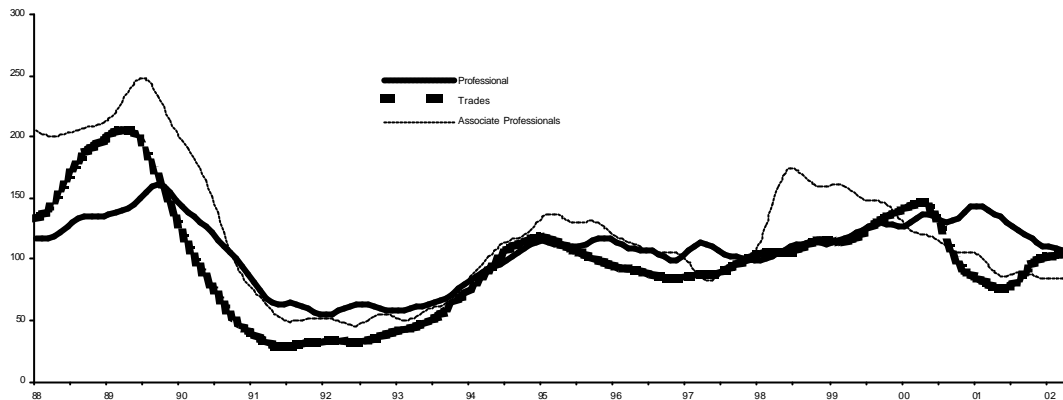
From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces the Skilled Vacancy Index (SVI – previously the Skilled Vacancy Survey), for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated into the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

The March 2002 SVI was 4.9% lower than that of the previous March. While increases were recorded in most States, significant decreases were recorded in New South Wales (down 20.5%) and Tasmania (down 22.0%).

Advertised vacancies over the year to March 2002 decreased by 24% for Professional occupations and by 9% for Associate Professional occupations. Advertised vacancies increased by 30% for Trade occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest increases were for Construction Trades (up 143%) and Metal Tradespeople (up 40%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Marketing and Advertising Professionals (down 50%) and Accountants and Auditors (down 44%).
- Over the year, six groups recorded increases and twelve groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, May 1988 to March 2002



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 **VG** stands for very good prospects, **G** for good prospects, **A** for average prospects, **BA** for below average prospects and **L** for limited prospects. Prospects are presented according to ASCO, Second Edition.

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2007-08
Managers and Administrators	
General Managers	A
Sales & Marketing Managers	VG
Professionals	
Life Scientists	G
Accountants	VG
Marketing/Advertising Professionals	VG
Computing Professionals	VG
General Medical Practitioners	VG
Registered Nurses	VG
Primary School Teachers	G
Secondary School Teachers	VG
Social Workers	VG
Painters, Potters and Sculptors	G
Associate Professionals	
Medical Technical Officers	VG
Building/Architectural Assoc Professionals	G
Shop Managers	A
Hotel/Motel Managers	A
Enrolled Nurses	A

Occupational Group

Prospects to 2007-08

Tradespersons and Related Workers

Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Motor Mechanics	G
Electricians	G
Bricklayers	G
Plumbers	A
Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
General and Landscape Gardeners	G
Printing Machinists	BA
Cabinetmakers	G
Hairdressers	G
Clothing Tradespersons	L

Advanced Clerical & Service Workers

Secretaries & Personal Assistants	A
Bookkeepers	G

Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service

General Clerks	G
Keyboard & Data Entry Operators	BA
Receptionists	G
Child Care Workers	VG

Intermediate Production/Transport

Construction Plant Operators	G
General Stationary Plant Operators	BA
Truck Drivers	A

Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service

Registry & Filing Clerks	L
Sales Assistants	G

Labourers & Related Workers

Cleaners	A
Product Assemblers	A
Hand Packers	BA

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 DEWR Web-site: www.dewr.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: www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook DEWR contact officer: Jane Press (02) 6121 6703