



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 2006**, available through <http://www.workplace.gov.au>.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2006.

OVERVIEW

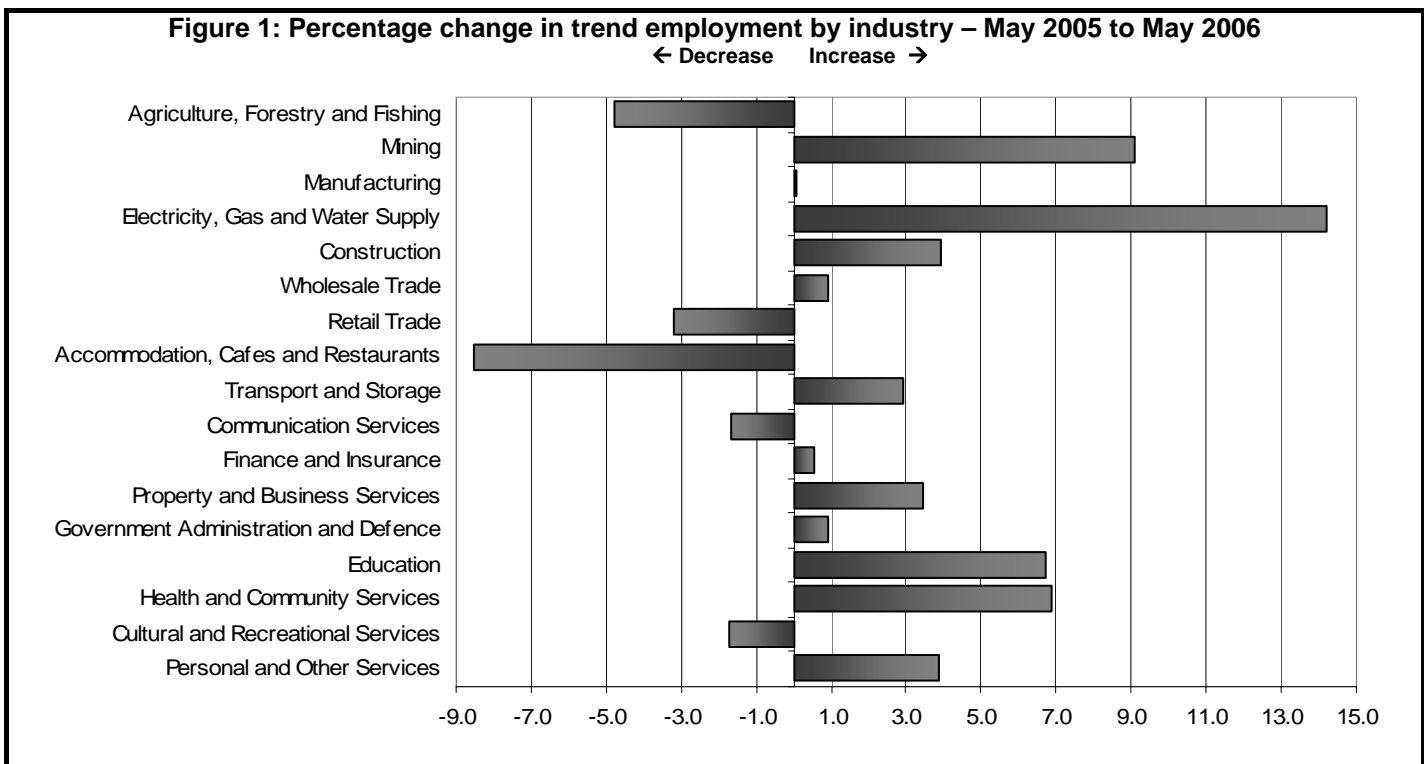
In the 12 months to May 2006, the Australian labour market experienced solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 122 600 persons (1.2%). Advertised vacancies remained unchanged for Professionals and decreased for Trade Occupations. Migrants with the best prospects for finding 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 2006, trend employment in Australia grew by 1.2% after growth of 3.6% in the previous year.

Employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories. In percentage terms, employment growth was strongest in the Northern Territory (5.9%) and Western Australia (2.5%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2006, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health and Community Services (up by 69 100), Education (up by 46 000) and Property and Business Services (up by 40 100). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply (14.2%), Mining (9.1%) and Health and Community Services (6.9%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.



Source: ABS *Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2006*, ABS Cat. No. 6105.0.

UNEMPLOYMENT

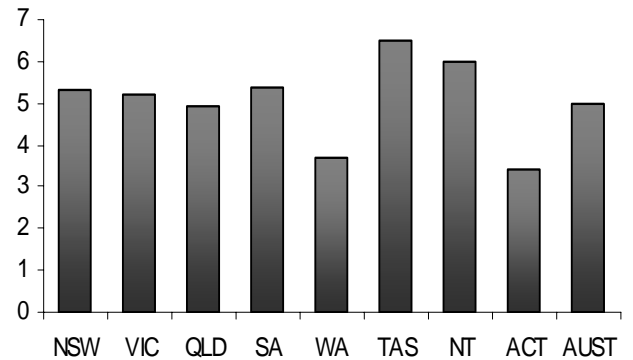
The trend rate of unemployment was 5.0% in May 2006, marginally lower than in May 2005 (5.1%).

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

In May 2006, the unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania at 6.5% and the Northern Territory at 6.0% and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory at 3.4%. See Figure 2.

Generally, people in the more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in May 2006 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers and Related Workers was more than five times that of former Professionals.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory – May 2006

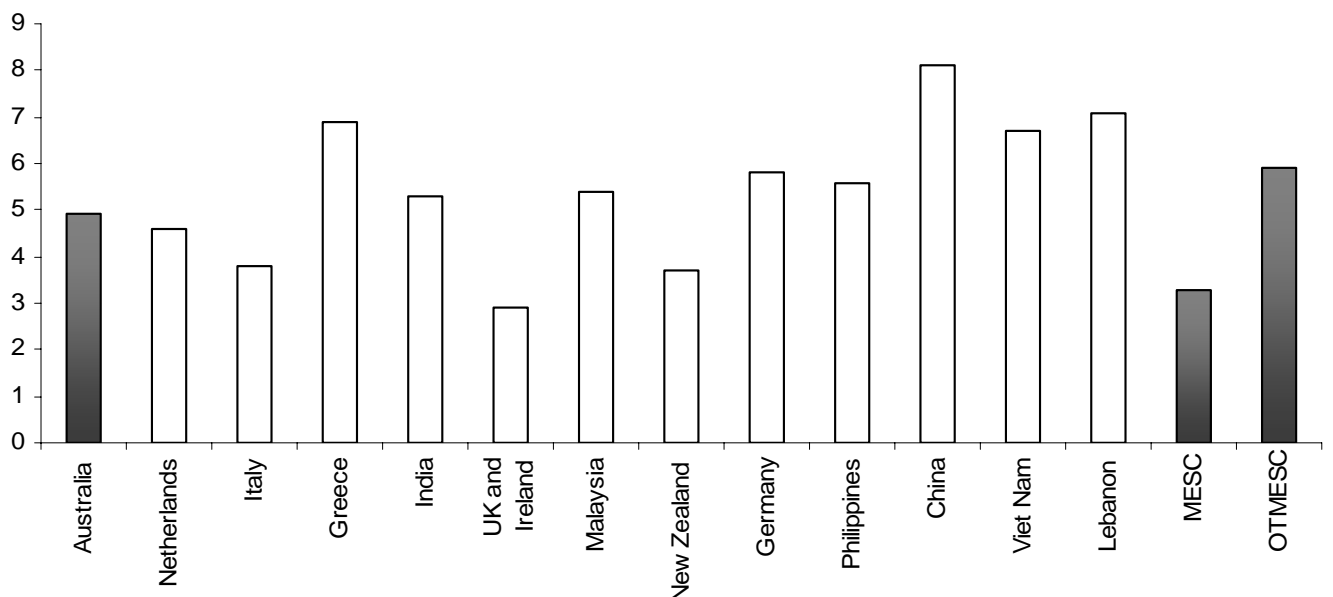


MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

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 the United Kingdom and Ireland and New Zealand have low unemployment rates (2.9% and 3.7% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in China and Lebanon are relatively high (8.1% and 7.1% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth – May 2006



MESC: Main English Speaking Countries¹
 OTMESC: Other Than Main English Speaking Countries

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 2006, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred in Professionals (up by 96 100), Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (up by 57 300) and Tradespersons and Related Workers (up by 48 900). 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 2006		Unemployment Rate at May 2006	
Managers and Administrators	4.2%	Managers and Administrators	1.0%
Professionals	5.1%	Professionals	1.4%
Associate Professionals	-0.9%	Associate Professionals	1.6%
Tradespersons	3.9%	Tradespersons	2.7%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	0.4%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.1%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	3.5%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.8%
Intermediate Production and Transport	0.9%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.5%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	-3.7%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.9%
Labourers and Related Workers	-2.8%	Labourers and Related Workers	8.0%

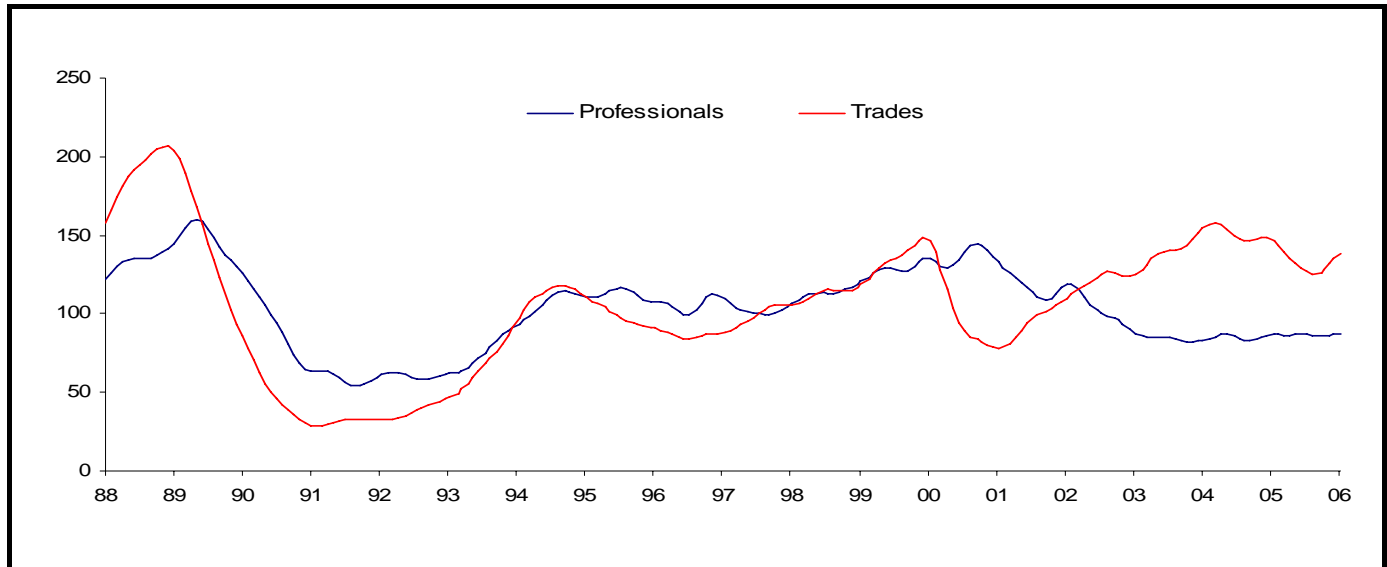
Additional information on Professional and Trade occupations is provided in the following section on skilled vacancies. Time series of vacancy data are not readily available for less-skilled occupations.

SKILLED VACANCY 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 (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 2006, skilled vacancies were 1.9% lower than in May 2005. Over the 12 months, SVI decreases were recorded in New South Wales (down by 15.0%), Victoria (down by 10.2%), South Australia (down by 8.2%) and Tasmania (down by 4.7%). The most significant SVI increase was recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 34.5%), with smaller increases in Western Australia and Queensland, up by 9.6% and 1.2% respectively.

In the 12 months to May 2006, advertised vacancies remained unchanged for Professional occupations and decreased for Trade Occupations (down by 4.5%) (see Figure 4 overleaf). While the majority of occupations within these broad groups recorded decreases in skilled vacancies, notable increases occurred for Social Professionals (up by 20.8%) and Hairdressers (up by 14.3%).

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, May 1988 to May 2006


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 2010-11. The ratings are based on employment trends and projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data.

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
Managers and Administrators		Associate Professionals	
Child Care Co-ordinators	VG	Building, Architectural and Surveying Associates	G
Finance Managers	VG	Dental Technicians	G
Information Technology Managers	VG	Enrolled Nurses	G
Professionals		Financial Dealers and Brokers	VG
Accountants*	VG	Medical Technical Officers	VG
General Medical Practitioners*	VG	Metallurgical and Materials Technicians	A
Chemical Engineers*	G	Trade Qualified Chefs* (part)	VG
Computing Professionals* (part)	G	Tradespersons	
Medical Imaging Professionals*	VG	Bakers and Pastrycooks*	A
Mining and Materials Engineers* (part)	G	Bricklayers*	G
Occupational Therapists*	VG	Cabinetmakers*	G
Pharmacists* (part)	VG	Carpenters and Joiners*	G
Physiotherapists*	VG	Electricians*	VG
Primary School Teachers	G	Hairdressers*	VG
Registered Nurses*	VG	Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Registered Mental Health Nurses*	VG	Motor Mechanics*	G
Registered Midwives*	VG	Plumbers*	G
Secondary School Teachers	VG	Printing Machinists	BA
Social Workers	G	Refrigeration and Airconditioning Mechanics*	G
Specialist Medical Practitioners*	VG	Textile and Footwear Machine Operators	L

* denotes occupations that are listed in part or in full on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) announced on 28 March 2006.

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.



Child Care Co-ordinator – An Occupation in Demand

This Hot Topic provides an overview of the labour market for child care co-ordinators in Australia. Child care co-ordinators manage and direct the activities of child care centres or services and supervise child care workers. Within the Australian labour market, the occupation of child care co-ordinator is more highly skilled than a child care worker. Research undertaken by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) indicates that child care co-ordinators are currently in national demand, a trend which is expected to continue for the next six months.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF CHILD CARE CO-ORDINATORS

Employment of child care co-ordinators has risen in recent years, with growth of 14.3% (to 7200) in the five years to February 2006. Further strong employment growth is expected for the next five years. Most child care co-ordinators are employed in the fast-growing Child Care Services industry and in the Preschool Education and School Education industries. Table A presents a labour market profile of the occupation of child care co-ordinator based on information from Job Outlook Online (see www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/).

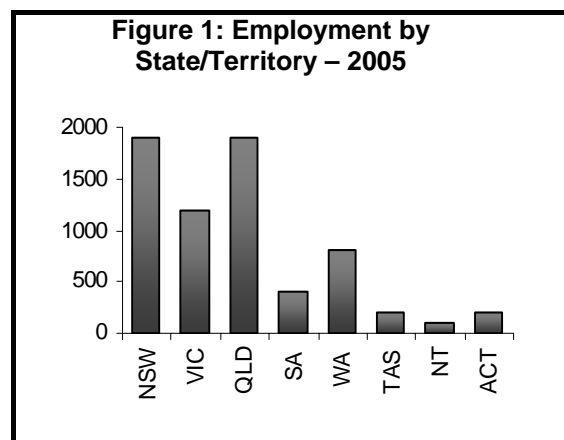
Table A: Child care co-ordinators - Key Labour Market Indicators

Key Indicator	Child care co-ordinators	All Occupations
Occupation size ¹	7200	10 041 200
Females ²	94%	45%
Males ²	6%	55%
Median age ²	36 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment ²	66.4%	71.4%
Average weekly hours ²	43.1	39.7
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax) ³	\$800	\$843
Vacancy level ⁴	Very high	Na
Employment growth 5 years to Feb 06 ⁵	14.3%	11%
Future employment growth ⁵	Strong	Na
Job Prospects ⁶	Very good	Na

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Child care co-ordinators are employed across all States and Territories. In 2005, most child care co-ordinators were employed in New South Wales (1 900), Queensland (1 900) and Victoria (1 200). Western Australia also had a high share of employment of child care co-ordinators (800) relative to its population size. See Figure 1⁷.

Demand for child care co-ordinators is strong across 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 child care co-ordinators. Demand for this occupation has been strong over most of the past decade and high levels of demand are expected to persist.



¹ Job Outlook Online; ABS Labour Force Survey Australia – February 2006 (Accessed 24/7/2006).

² Job Outlook Online; ABS Labour Force Survey – Average of 2005 (Accessed 24/7/2006).

³ Job Outlook Online; ABS Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership – August 2005 (Accessed 24/7/2006).

⁴ Job Outlook Online; DEWR estimate (Accessed 24/7/2006).

⁵ Job Outlook Online; ABS Labour Force Survey – 2/5 years to February 2006; DEWR trend data (Accessed 24/7/2006).

⁶ Job Outlook Online; DEWR estimate based on consultancy with the Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET), Monash University (Accessed 24/7/2006).

⁷ ABS Labour Force Survey – Average of 2005; DEWR estimates.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS-TRAINED CHILD CARE CO-ORDINATORS

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 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 Affairs (DIMA) 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.

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) within DEWR was appointed to undertake the assessment of the skills (overseas qualifications and experience) of overseas-qualified child care co-ordinator applicants from 1 July 2006. This role was previously undertaken by VETASSESS.

Each application is assessed by a TRA skills assessor against specific criteria – see Figure 2. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English and have qualifications that relate to, and experience of working with, children aged between 0-5 years. Furthermore, work experience should be obtained in an environment of substantial size and reputation (and subject to a regulatory framework). Applicants must also demonstrate experience in undertaking the full range of work normally performed by a child care co-ordinator in Australia, together with an ability to perform that work in Australia.

Further information on the skills assessment standard for child care co-ordinators is available on the TRA website at www.workplace.gov.au/TRA.

Figure 2: Child care co-ordinators – Skills Assessment Standard

2 year post-secondary course in childcare (diploma or advanced diploma)

or

3 year tertiary course in early childhood care or education

and

3 years supervisory post-qualification experience

and

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of at least six in all four components

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 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 DIMA Migration Booklet 5 *Employer Sponsored Migration* available on the DIMA website www.immi.gov.au.

The occupation of child care co-ordinator 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 DIMA 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.