



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, August 2007.

OVERVIEW

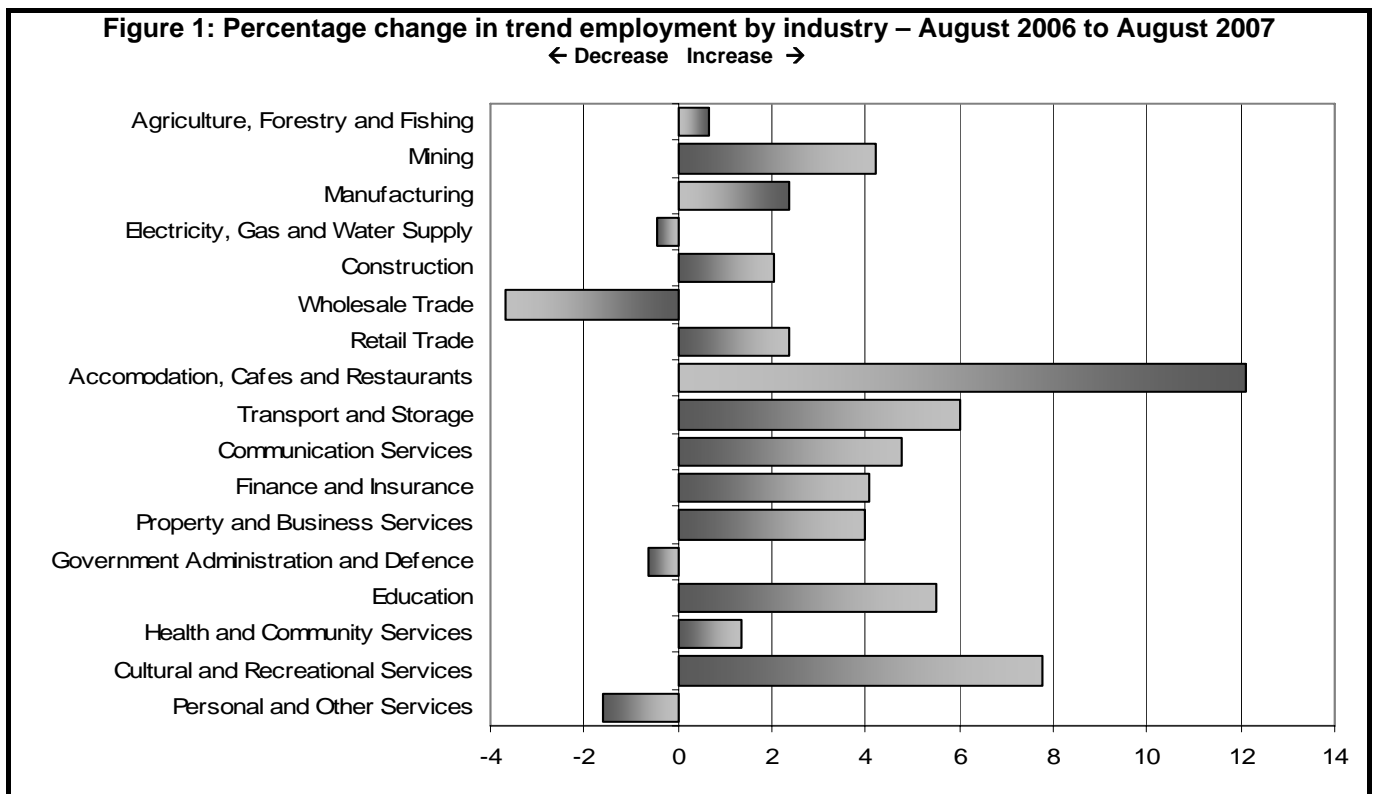
In the 12 months to August 2007, the Australian labour market continued to experience solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 267 000 persons (2.6%). Migrants with the best employment prospects are those who are highly skilled with recognised post-secondary qualifications and strong proficiency in the English language.

EMPLOYMENT

Over the 12 months to August 2007, trend employment in Australia grew by 2.6% after growth of 2.2% 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 (5.8%) and Western Australia (3.9%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2007, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (up by 57 900), Property and Business Services (up by 48 600), Education (up by 38 700) and Retail Trade (up by 35 800). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (12.1%), Cultural and Recreational Services (7.7%) and Transport and Storage (6.0%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.



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

UNEMPLOYMENT

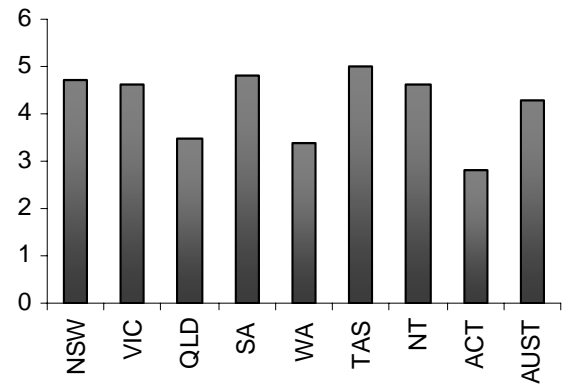
The trend rate of unemployment was 4.3% in August 2007, compared with 4.7% in August 2006.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates have decreased or remained unchanged in most States and Territories except for the Northern Territory where it increased to 4.6% (from 4.2% in August 2006).

In August 2007, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania at 5.0% and South Australia at 4.8% and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory at 2.8%. See Figure 2.

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

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

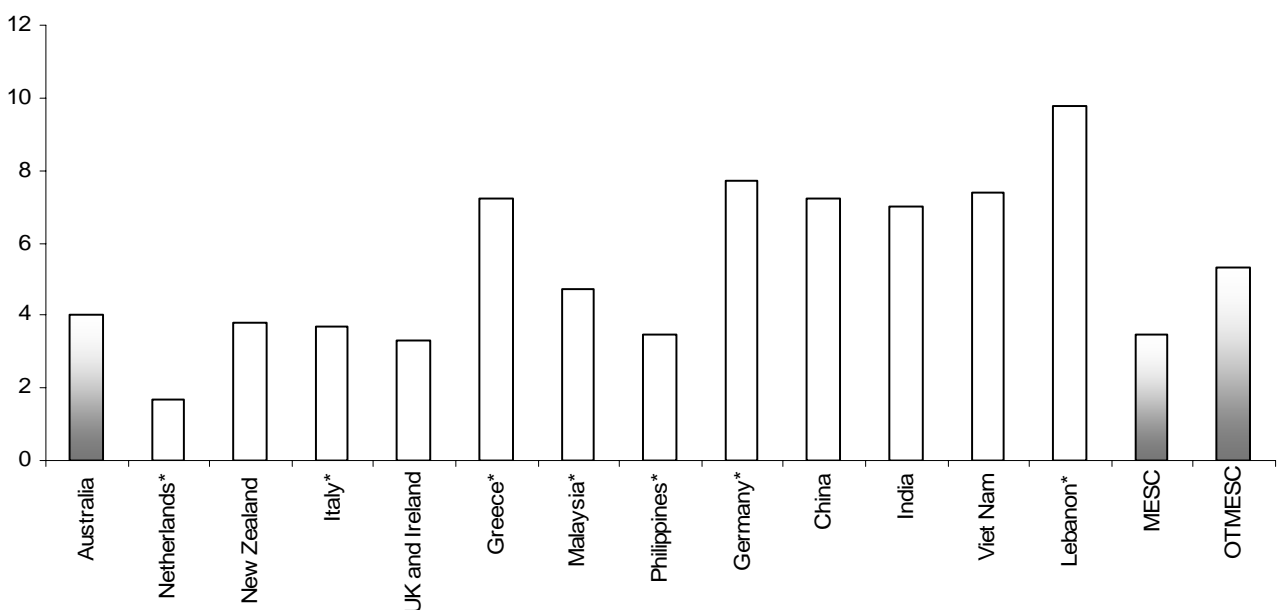


MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

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 the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and Ireland have low unemployment rates (1.7% and 3.3% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Germany are relatively high (9.8% and 7.7% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth – August 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 August 2007, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Professionals (up by 85 800), Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (up by 47 800) and Associate Professionals (up by 42 600). 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 August 2007		Unemployment Rate at August 2007	
Managers and Administrators	4.9%	Managers and Administrators	1.1%
Professionals	4.4%	Professionals	1.0%
Associate Professionals	3.3%	Associate Professionals	1.4%
Tradespersons and Related Workers	2.6%	Tradespersons and Related Workers	2.4%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-2.6%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.1%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	1.7%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.6%
Intermediate Production and Transport	5.6%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.5%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	-0.4%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.0%
Labourers and Related Workers	0.2%	Labourers and Related Workers	6.0%

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.

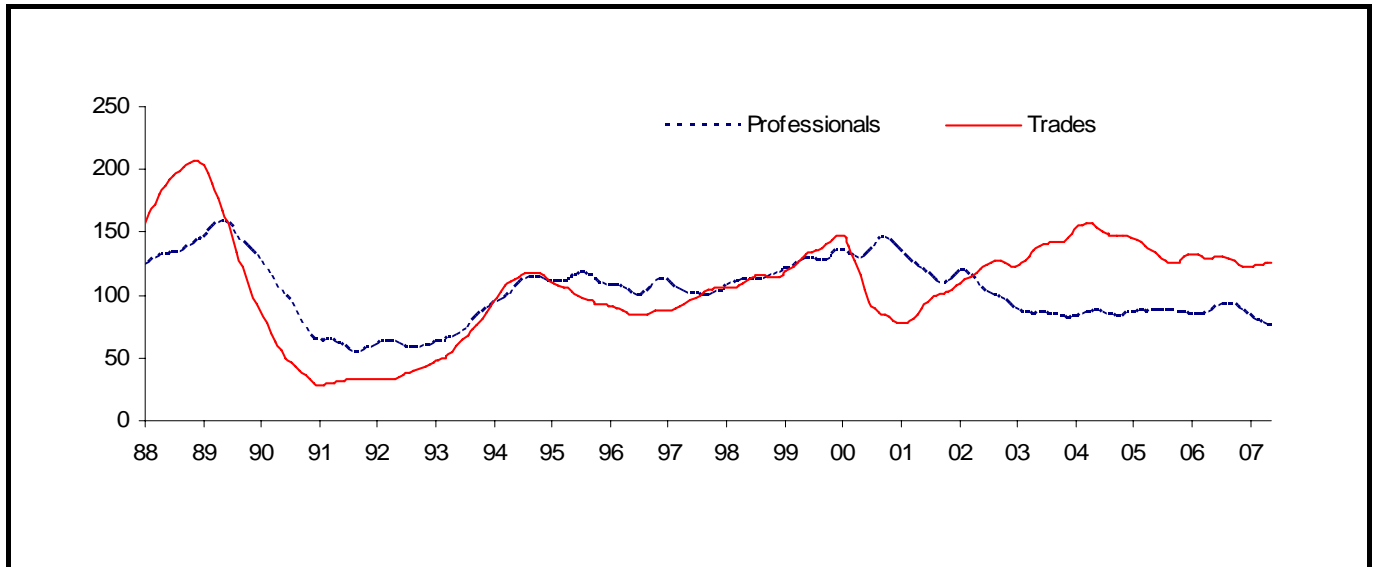
SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS²

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 August 2007, skilled vacancies were 4.8% lower than in August 2006. Over the 12 months, SVI increases were recorded in Tasmania (up by 37.3%), South Australia (up by 16.5%), the Northern Territory (up by 12.8%) and Queensland (up by 8.7%). The most significant SVI decreases were recorded in New South Wales (down by 20.8%) and Western Australia (down by 14.1%).

In the 12 months to August, the most significant decreases in advertised vacancies were for Organisation and Information Professionals (down by 25.5%), Chefs (down by 23.6%), Marketing and Advertising Professionals (down by 21.6%) and Building and Engineering Professionals (down by 13.8%). The most significant increases occurred for Wood Trades (up by 7.6%), Food Trades (up by 7.5%), and Electrical and Electronics Trades (up by 6.4%).

² Historical series of trend figures are revised monthly.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, May 1988 to August 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 stands 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 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.



ACCOUNTANT – An Occupation in Demand

This Hot Topic provides information on the demand for accountants in Australia. Accountants plan and provide accounting systems and services relating to the financial dealings of enterprises and individuals, and advise on associated record-keeping and compliance requirements.

In the Australian labour market the entry requirement for employment as an accountant is the completion of a bachelor degree or higher qualification. In some instances relevant experience is required in addition to a formal qualification. While registration is not necessary to practice as an accountant in Australia (other than for financial advisors, tax agents, external auditors and liquidators) the profession is self-regulated and membership of an Australian professional accounting body enhances job prospects. Research by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) shows accountants are currently in demand in the Australian labour market.

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE OF ACCOUNTANTS

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that employment of accountants has risen in recent years, with trended growth of 11.8 per cent for the five years to August 2007. Further strong employment growth is expected for the next five years. Most accountants are employed in property and business services, finance and insurance and manufacturing sectors. Table A presents a labour market profile for the occupation of accountant based on *Australian Jobs 2007* and *Job Outlook* online data (see www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/).

Table A: Accountants - Key Labour Market Indicators[‡]

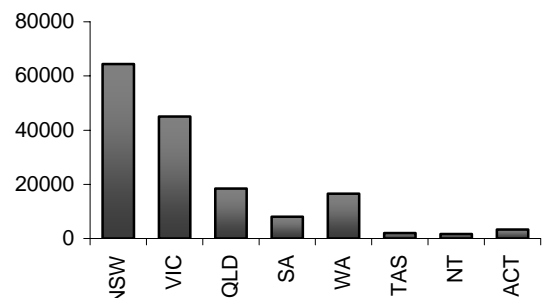
Key Indicator	Accountants	All Occupations
Occupation size	159 600	10 435 800
Females	45%	45%
Males	55%	55%
Median age	37 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	83.4%	71.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	42	41.8
Weekly earnings (full-time & before tax)	\$1175	\$900
Vacancy level	Moderate	na
Annual employment growth over 5 years to Aug 07	2.3% p.a.	2.5% p.a.
Future employment growth (to 2011-12)	Strong Growth	na
Job Prospects	Good	na

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Accountants are employed across all States and Territories. In August 2007, the employment of accountants was mainly in New South Wales (64 400), Victoria (45 000) and Queensland (18 500). The Australian Capital Territory also employed a large number of accountants (3 300) relative to population size. See Figure 1 (original data).

Demand for accountants is strong across most 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 experienced accountants. Demand for this occupation has been strong over most of the past decade and is expected to persist.

Figure 1: Employment by State/Territory – August 2007



Source: ABS *Labour Force, Australia, August 2007* (Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003)

[‡]The Key Labour Market Indicators are based on *Job Outlook* online and DEWR research (current as of July 2007). This excludes occupation size and annual employment growth over the last 5 years, which is based on DEWR research and the *ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly data, August 2007* (Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003).

SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR OVERSEAS-TRAINED ACCOUNTANTS

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 their nominated occupation. Assessing authorities have been authorised 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 their nominated 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 find jobs in Australia.

There are three Australian assessing authorities appointed to assess the qualifications of overseas trained accountants: Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia; National Institute of Accountants (NIA); and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA).

To be eligible for employment as an accountant in Australia, an applicant must have their formal qualifications assessed as equivalent to an Australian bachelor degree. Applicants must also demonstrate competency in at least 9 of the 12 core areas of knowledge listed in Figure 2. If an applicant does not meet the core competency requirements in the first instance, it may be possible to complete additional studies to meet the standard required for migration. Work experience is not accepted in place of formal qualifications.

It should be noted that, while an applicant may be recognised as an accountant for migration purposes, membership of a professional association increases job prospects in the Australian labour market. While professional membership criteria vary, the minimum requirement usually includes further study with relevant Australian experience in addition to an accredited bachelor degree.

More information on the skills assessment process and contact details can be obtained from the following websites:

www.cpaonline.com.au, www.charteredaccountants.com.au, and www.nia.com.au.

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, 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 not been able to fill vacancies from the Australian labour market through domestic recruitment or training. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is contained in Migration Booklet 5 *Employer Sponsored Migration* available on the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au.

The occupation of accountant appears on the current Employer Sponsored Nomination Scheme Occupations List and the gazetted list of eligible occupations for the Temporary Business Long Stay 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.

Figure 2: Individuals must demonstrate adequate knowledge of at least 9 of these 12 core areas*

- 1) Basic accounting
- 2) Financial and corporate accounting
- 3) Current issues in accounting
- 4) Cost and management accounting
- 5) Business finance
- 6) Auditing
- 7) Introductory law (including contracts)
- 8) Economics
- 9) Statistics
- 10) Computer Information Systems
- 11) Australian taxation law
- 12) Australian company law

*This is a guide only; please refer to the individual assessment bodies for more information.