



Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Jobs Update (formerly the Australian Jobs Review) provides information on the Australian labour market on a quarterly basis. It is intended to help people who may be looking at working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is available online at **Job Outlook**, a feature of the Australian JobSearch site: www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics November 2003 Labour Force Survey

OVERVIEW

In the 12 months to November 2003, the Australian labour market has experienced solid growth. In trend terms, total employment increased by an estimated 166 300 persons (1.8%). Advertised vacancies increased for trade occupations but decreased for professional and associate professional 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.

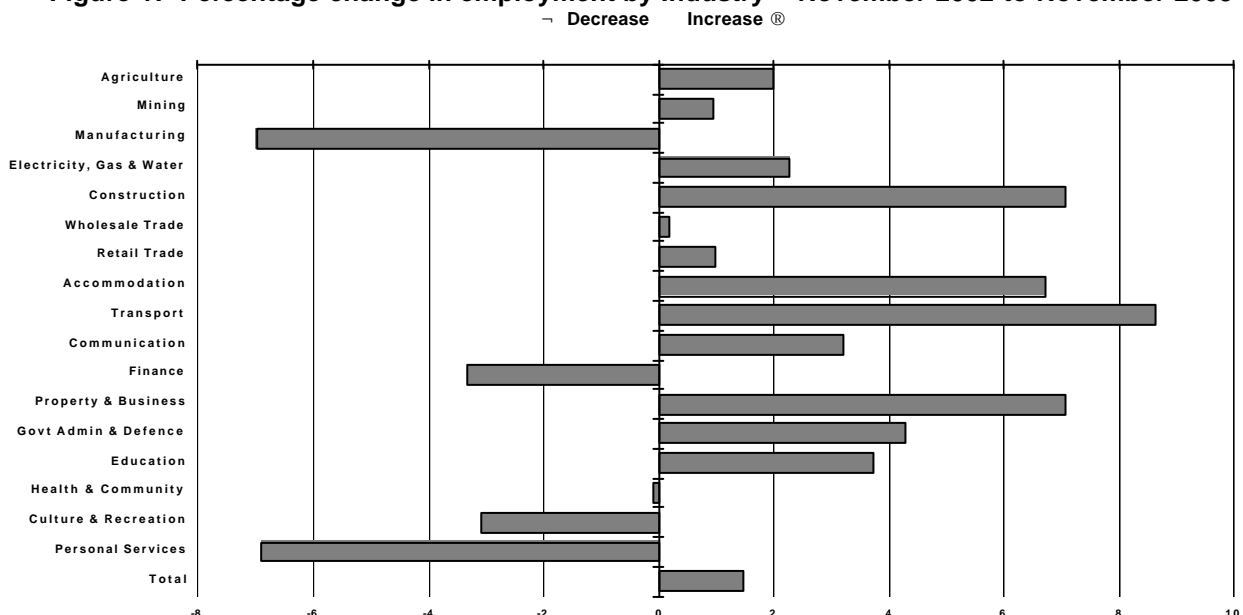
EMPLOYMENT

Over the 12 months to November 2003, trend employment in Australia grew by 1.8% after growth of 2.6% in the previous year.

Employment (in original terms) increased in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory – growth in percentage terms was strongest in Queensland and Tasmania.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2003, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in property and business services (up 76 700) and construction (up 51 100), while the strongest rates of growth were in transport and storage, property and business services, construction and accommodation, cafes and restaurants. Employment growth rates by industry are shown below.

Figure 1: Percentage change in employment by Industry – November 2002 to November 2003



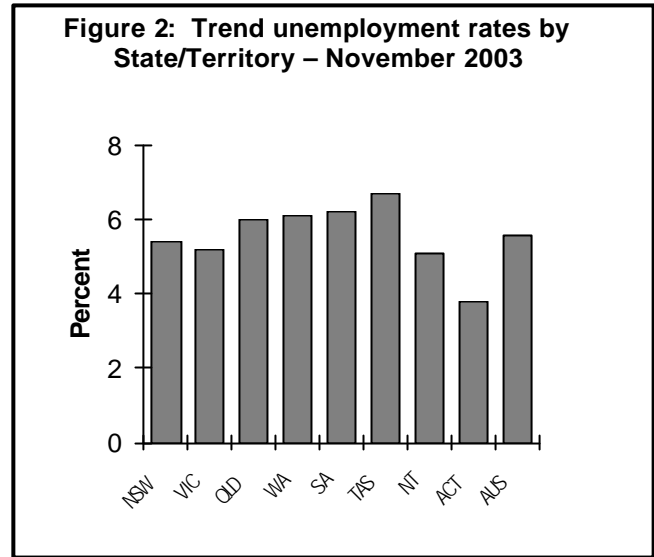
UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.6% in November 2003, considerably lower than in November 2002 (6.1%).

Unemployment trends indicate that the labour market has remained stable or improved in the past year in all States and Territories except South Australia.

In November 2003 the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (see Figure 2).

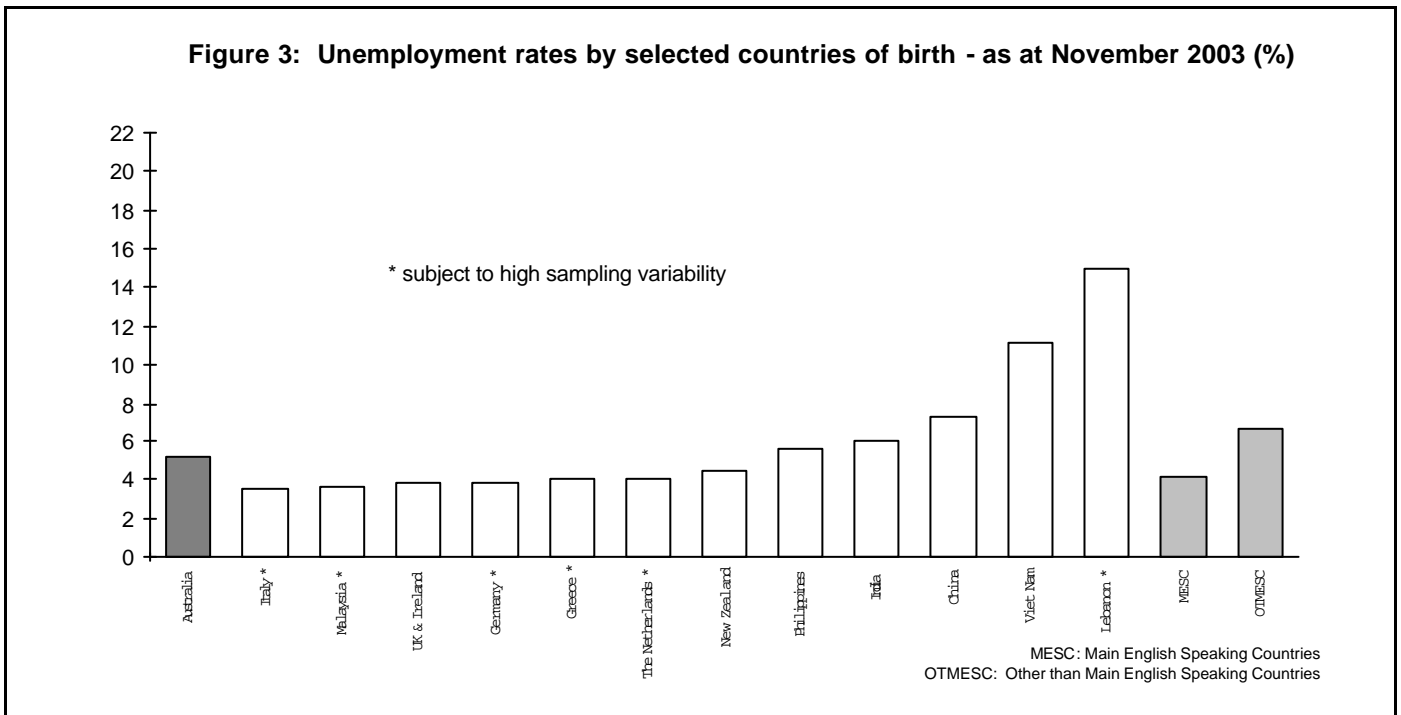
Generally those in more highly skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2003 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was about five times that of former Managers and Administrators.



MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates. These factors include the period since arrival in Australia (in general, recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for some years), skill levels, and English language proficiency.

Figure 3, below, shows unemployment rates for *people now in Australia who were born in* selected countries. For example, people born in Italy, Malaysia, UK and Ireland, and Germany have low unemployment rates (3.5%, 3.6%, 3.8% and 3.8% respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and Lebanon are very high (11.2% and 15.0% respectively).



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 November 2003, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Professionals (up 66 000) and Tradespersons (up 49 200). 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 rates of unemployment (for those who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) for occupational groups are presented in descending skill order below.

Percentage Growth Rates in Employment in the 12 months to November 2003		Unemployment Rate at November 2003	
Managers and Administrators	5.7%	Managers and Administrators	1.4%
Professionals	3.8%	Professionals	1.5%
Associate Professionals	3.6%	Associate Professionals	2.0%
Tradespersons	4.1%	Tradespersons	2.3%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	-2.5%	Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.6%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	0.3%	Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service	2.8%
Intermediate Production and Transport	-1.6%	Intermediate Production and Transport	3.8%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	0.0%	Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service	4.9%
Labourers	3.5%	Labourers	7.1%

Additional information on Professional, Associate Professional and Trades 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

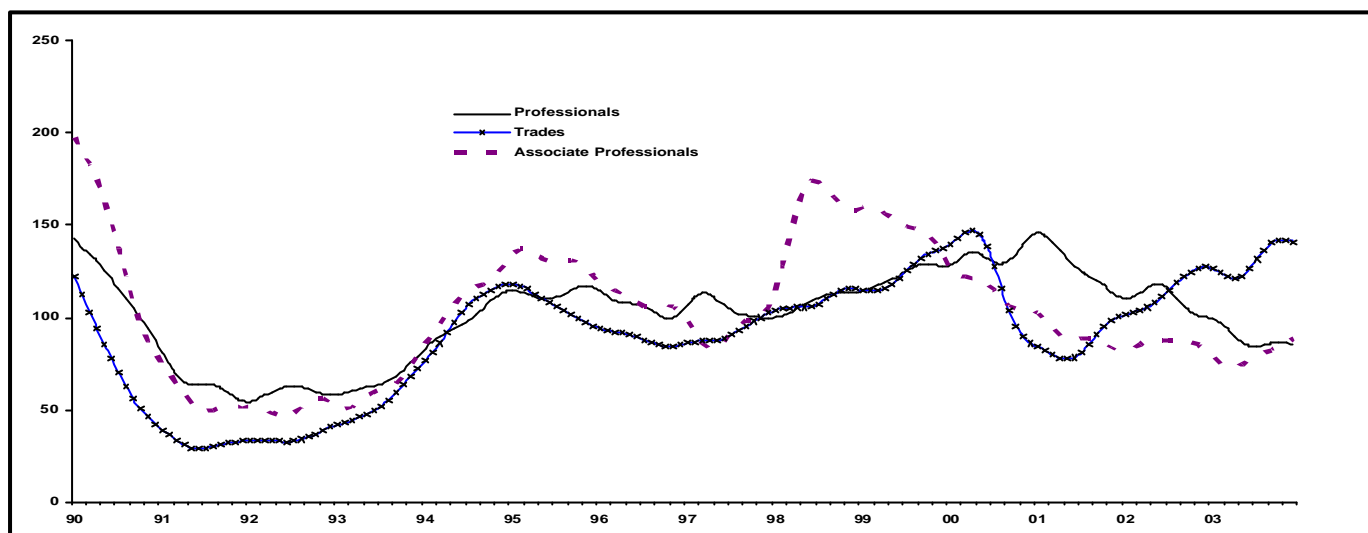
The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces the Skilled Vacancies Index (SVI) for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory. These are aggregated into the Professional, Associate Professional and Trades groups. The SVI indicates where there may be employment opportunities in the Australian labour market.

In December 2003, skilled vacancies were 0.3% higher than the previous December. In the 12 months to December 2003, SVI increases were recorded in Tasmania (up 24.2%), Western Australia (up 15.0%) and Queensland (up 9.0%), while decreases were recorded in Victoria (down 11.6%) and New South Wales (down 9.2%), and only minor changes in South Australia (up 0.3%) and Northern Territory (down 1.0%).

Advertised vacancies in December 2003 increased by 10.6% for Trades occupations and 7.2% for Associate Professional occupations, and decreased by 14.6% for Professional occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest annual increases were for Printing Trades (up 43.2%), Metal Trades (up 39.3%), Medical/Science Technical Officers (up 27.5%) and Electrical and Electronic Trades (up 24.0%).
- The strongest declines were recorded for Health Professionals (down 21.2%) and Wood Trades (down 15.6%).
- Over the 12 months to December 2003, 8 groups recorded increases and 10 groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancies Index, January 1990 to December 2003



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 future job prospect ratings are for the period to 2009-10. The ratings are 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. The listed occupations are examples from the skilled classifications categories, as listed in the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO).

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. For more information on the occupational classification, see ASCO, Second Edition (ABS Cat No 1220.0).

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2009-10	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2009-10
Managers and Administrators		Associate Professionals	
General Managers	G	Medical Technical Officers	G
Finance Managers	G	Building/Architectural Associate Professionals	A
Information Technology Managers	G	Financial Dealers and Brokers	VG
Sales and Marketing Managers	G	Shop Managers	A
Professionals		Trade Qualified Chefs*	VG
Mining and Materials Engineers	A	Hotel and Motel Managers	G
Accountants	VG	Enrolled Nurses	G
Marketing and Advertising Professionals	G	Tradespersons	
Computing Professionals	G	Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
General Medical Practitioners	VG	Motor Mechanics	A
Registered Nurses *	VG	Electricians	G
Registered Midwives*	G	Refrigeration & Airconditioning Mechanics *	VG
Registered Mental Health Nurses *	G	Bricklayers	G
Pharmacists *	VG	Plumbers	G
Occupational Therapists *	VG	Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
Physiotherapists *	VG	Gardeners	G
Medical Imaging Professionals *	VG	Printing Machinists	BA
Primary School Teachers	G	Cabinetmakers	G
Secondary School Teachers	VG	Hairdressers *	VG
Social Workers	G	Clothing Tradespersons	BA

*denotes occupations that are listed on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL).

Australian Jobs 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 decision making. Australian Jobs Update is available in electronic form on the Internet at the Australian WorkPlace Web-site at www.workplace.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 at www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook. DEWR contact officer: Jane Press (02) 6121 6703.



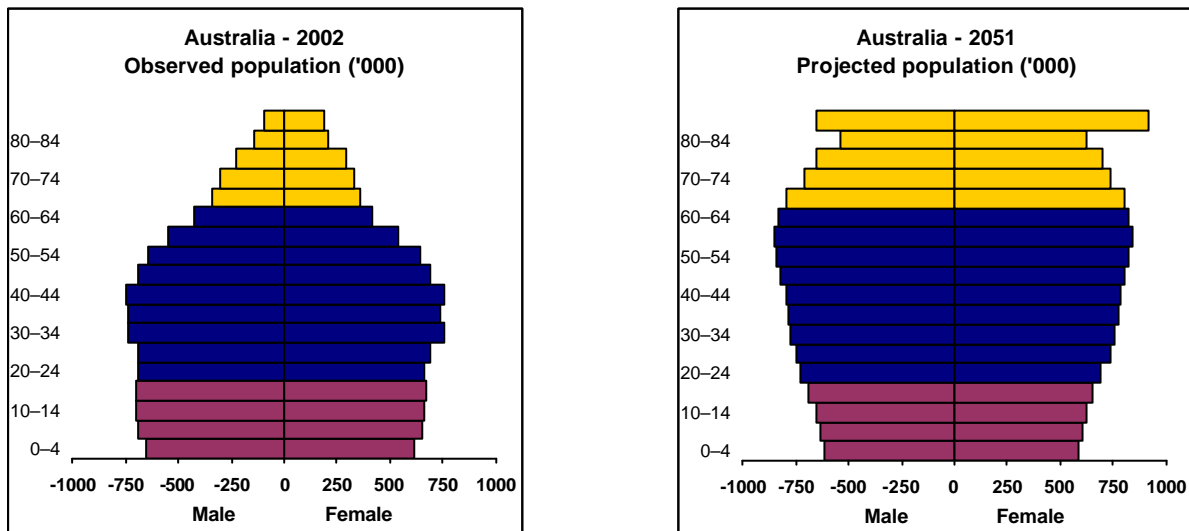
AUSTRALIA – Demographic Trends

PROJECTED AUSTRALIAN POPULATION TO 2051

According to projections of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), based on current levels and trends of fertility, mortality and international migration, Australia's population will stabilise at about 26 million by 2051.

Figure 1 shows the Australian population's age structure according to recent data (year 2002) and as projected by year 2051. The expected ageing of the Australian population is clearly evident: the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 12.7% in 2002 to 27.1% in 2051, while the proportion of the population aged under 15 years is projected to fall from 20.3% to 14.0% over the same period. As a result, the proportion of the population of working age (between 15 and 64 years) is projected to decrease from 67.2% in 2002 to 59.6% in 2051.

Figure 1 Australian population's age structure in 2002 and projected age structure in 2051



The gender structure of the population is also expected to change slightly. While in 2002 males were more numerous than females in the cohort groups aged up to 24 years and less numerous in the cohort groups aged 25 years and over, projections to 2051 show that males will be more numerous than females in all cohort groups aged up to 64 years while females will outnumber males in cohort groups aged 65 and over.

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Over the period to 2051, the population is expected to increase in all Australian States and Territories, except Tasmania and South Australia, with the largest increases projected in Queensland (73%), Northern Territory (55%) and Western Australia (49%). New South Wales is projected to remain the most populous State, while Queensland is projected to replace Victoria as second most populous State.

All of the capital cities will experience population growth with the exception of Hobart. Also, all of the capital cities are projected to achieve larger percentage growth than the non-metropolitan areas of their respective States, resulting in the further concentration of Australia's population within the capital cities. At June 2002, 64% of Australians lived in capital cities; this will increase to 67% by 2051.

Tasmania will overtake South Australia as the Australian State with the oldest median age, while the Northern Territory will still have the youngest median age, partly due to the stronger presence than in the rest of Australia of a relatively young Indigenous population.



Australian Government

**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Table A The Distribution of the Australian Population at June 2002 and 2051 ('000)									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST*
2002 (estimated)									
Population	6 640,4	4 872,5	3 707,2	1 927,3	1 520,2	472,7	198,0	321,8	19 662,8
Capital City	4 170,9	3 524,1	1 689,1	1 413,7	1 114,3	198,0	107,4	321,8	12 538,9
Balance	2 469,4	1 348,4	2 018,1	513,7	406,0	274,7	90,6		7 121,3
2051 (projected)									
Population	8 355.6	6 199.9	6 429.7	2 874.5	1 475.6	386.5	307.1	389.6	26 421.5
Capital City	5 652.5	4 792.8	3 018.5	2 235.2	1 134.6	175.7	199.3	389.6	17 598.2
Balance	2 703.1	1 407.1	3 411.2	639.3	341.0	210.8	107.8		8 820.3

*Australia includes other territories not represented in this table.

Population projections at State level include projections of interstate migration within Australia. In the financial year 2002-2003, almost 400,000 persons (equal to 2% of the population) moved from one State or Territory to another. Queensland recorded the strongest migration influx from interstate migration (about 39 000 persons) and New South Wales the largest loss (about 32 000 persons).

Over recent years, interstate migration patterns have been dominated by a northward stream to Queensland and a southward stream to Victoria with all other States and Territories experiencing net interstate migration losses. However, interstate migration is volatile and depends on many factors such as relative economic opportunities (specially for young skilled workers moving to and between capital cities), overseas immigration and settlement patterns, and lifestyle choices of the population (with a preference by many older persons to retire to the coast or in warmer climates).

Table B Population Age Structure by State / Territory at June 2002 and 2051 ('000)									
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST*
2002 (estimated)									
Under 15	20.1%	19.7%	21.0%	20.7%	19.0%	20.7%	25.7%	20.2%	20.3%
15-24	13.5%	13.8%	14.1%	14.5%	13.3%	13.3%	15.5%	16.2%	13.8%
25-44	29.9%	30.2%	29.5%	30.0%	28.6%	27.3%	34.8%	31.4%	29.8%
45-64	23.3%	23.2%	23.6%	23.6%	24.3%	24.8%	20.1%	23.5%	23.4%
65 and over	13.2%	13.1%	11.8%	11.2%	14.8%	14.0%	3.9%	8.8%	12.7%
<i>Median age (yrs)</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>36.0</i>	<i>35.3</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>37.7</i>	<i>29.9</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>35.9</i>
2051 (projected)									
Under 15	14.2%	13.6%	14.3%	14.1%	12.9%	13.3%	20.4%	14.3%	14.0%
15-24	10.2%	10.4%	10.7%	10.6%	9.9%	9.3%	13.0%	11.8%	10.5%
25-44	23.6%	23.6%	22.8%	23.2%	21.3%	19.1%	29.9%	25.8%	23.3%
45-64	25.2%	25.0%	25.4%	25.3%	24.8%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	25.1%
65 and over	26.9%	27.3%	26.8%	26.9%	31.1%	33.8%	12.1%	23.5%	27.1%
<i>Median age (yrs)</i>	<i>46.7</i>	<i>46.9</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>52.4</i>	<i>35.8</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>47.5</i>

*Australia includes other territories not represented in this table.