



# AUSTRALIAN JOBS REVIEW

JANUARY 2001

## 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 November 2000, the Australian labour market continued to improve:

- employment has increased; and
- the unemployment rate has fallen.

In this period advertised vacancies increased for professional occupations but decreased for other skilled occupational groups. The long-term outlook is, however, for some improvement in the labour market for skilled job seekers.

Some groups in the Australian community experience relatively more difficulty than others in finding employment. Those experiencing greater difficulty include recent migrants without strong proficiency in the English language.

Job Outlook: information on prospects, earnings, and characteristics for 390 occupations in Australia are available online in Job Outlook, which is a new feature of the Australian Job Search site:  
[www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)

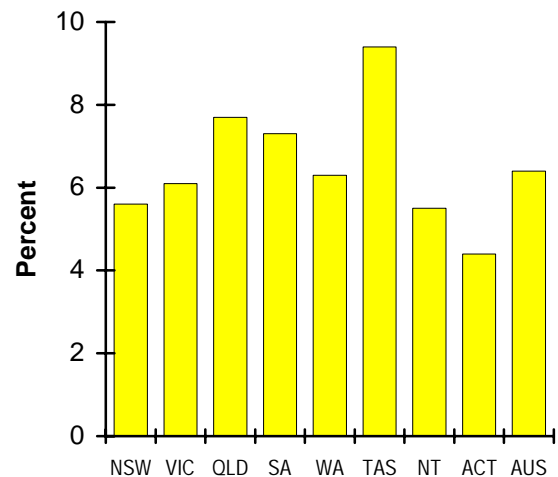
## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 6.4% in November 2000 - the unemployment rate has fallen steadily over the last year.

1999 - 2000 unemployment trends suggest that the labour market has improved in most States and Territories except Tasmania and the Northern Territory where the rate has increased.

In November 2000 the trend unemployment rate varied from State to State, being highest in Tasmania (see Figure 1 immediately below).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates by State/Territory – November 2000



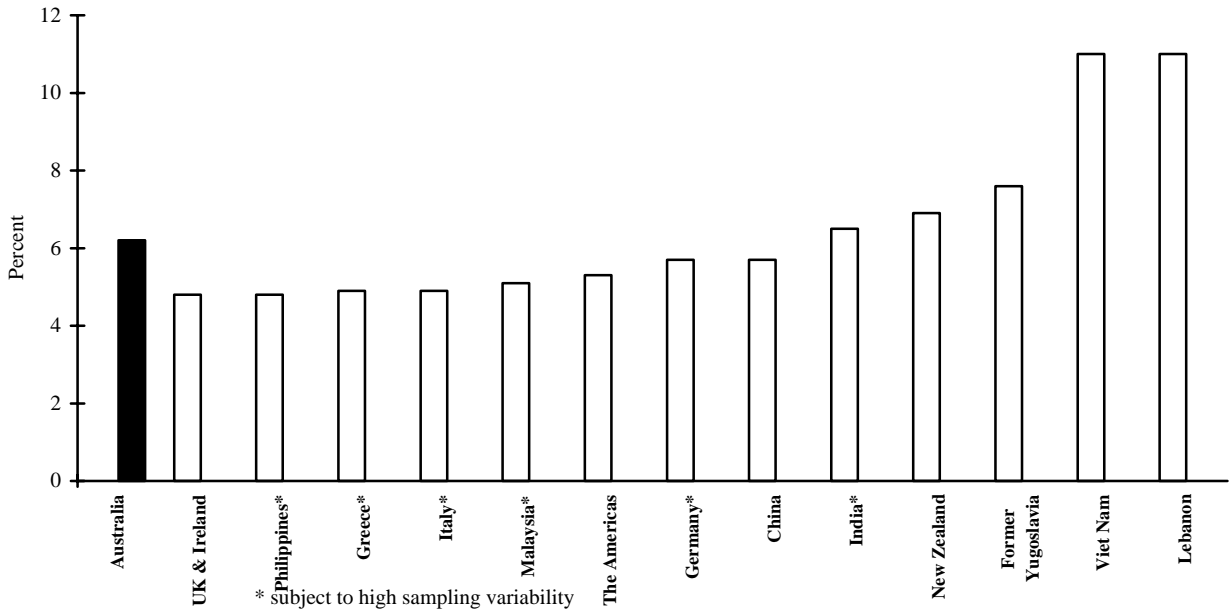
Generally those in more highly skilled occupations are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2000 the unemployment rate for Labourers was more than six times that for Professionals.

## 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 many years), skill levels, and English language proficiency. In November 2000, the unemployment rate for those born in the main English speaking countries was 5.2%, while the unemployment rate for those born in other countries (combined) was 7.2%.

Unemployment rates for migrants from a range of countries are provided in Figure 2 overleaf.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates by country of origin - as at November 2000



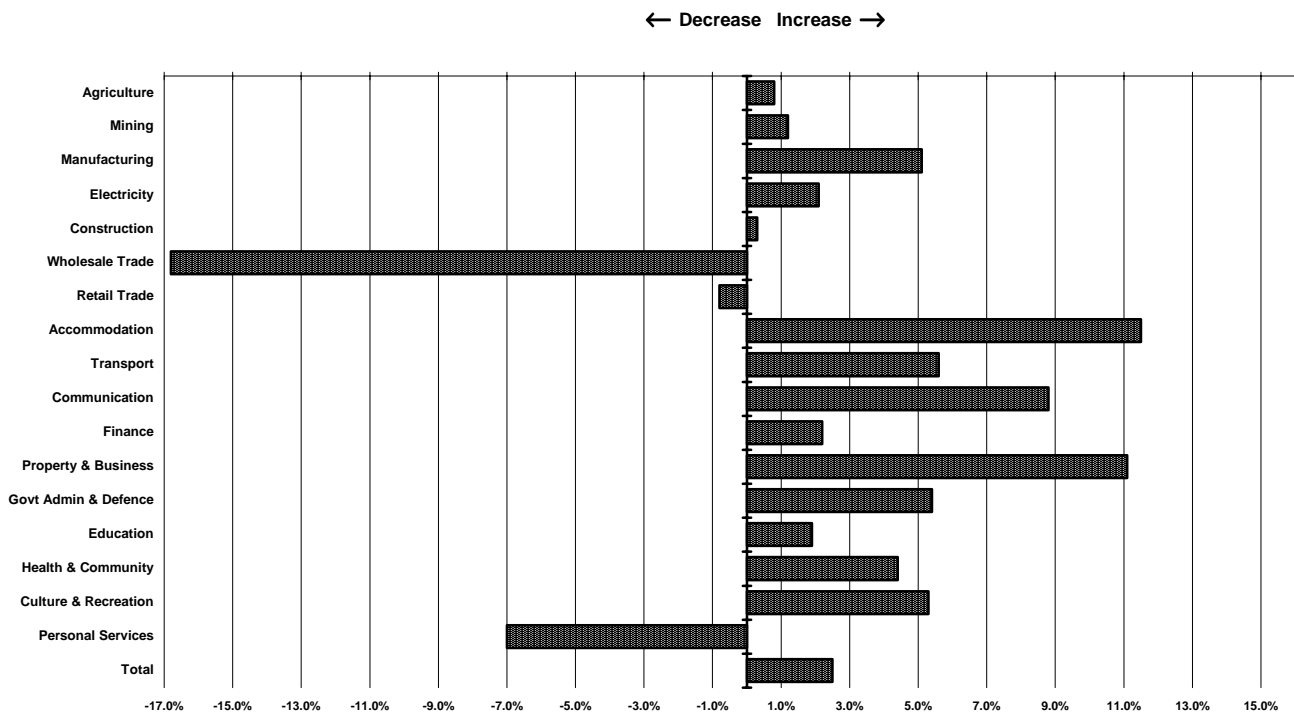
## EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to November 2000 the number of people employed in Australia grew by 2.5%. This is a marginally lower rate of growth than for the previous year (2.6%).

Employment increased in all States and Territories and employment growth was strongest in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and New South Wales.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the year to November 2000, the strongest numerical rises in employment occurred in the Property and Business Services industry (which grew by 108 600), and the Manufacturing Industry (up 55 000). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage change in employment by Industry – November 1999 to November 2000



**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 slowly or declining. Over the year to November 2000, the strongest numerical increases in employment occurred in Professional occupations (up 82 000) and Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service Workers (up 48 900). Employment growth rates, in declining skill order, are shown immediately below.

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>% Growth in Employment in the year to November 2000</b>
Managers and Administrators	-0.2
Professionals	5.3
Associate Professionals	3.8
Tradespersons	0.8
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	8.2
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	3.2
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	-0.2
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	0.8
Labourers	1.9

The unemployment rate for occupational groups generally reflects their skill levels. Highly-skilled occupational groups experience lower rates of unemployment, while higher unemployment rates are associated with lower skilled occupations. The rates of unemployment (for those who had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years) for occupational groups are presented in (descending skill) order:

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate at November 2000</b>
Managers and Administrators	1.0%
Professionals	1.2%
Associate Professionals	1.9%
Tradespersons	3.6%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.2%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	2.2%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	5.0%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	2.6%
Labourers	7.7%

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 less skilled occupations.

**SKILLED VACANCY TRENDS**

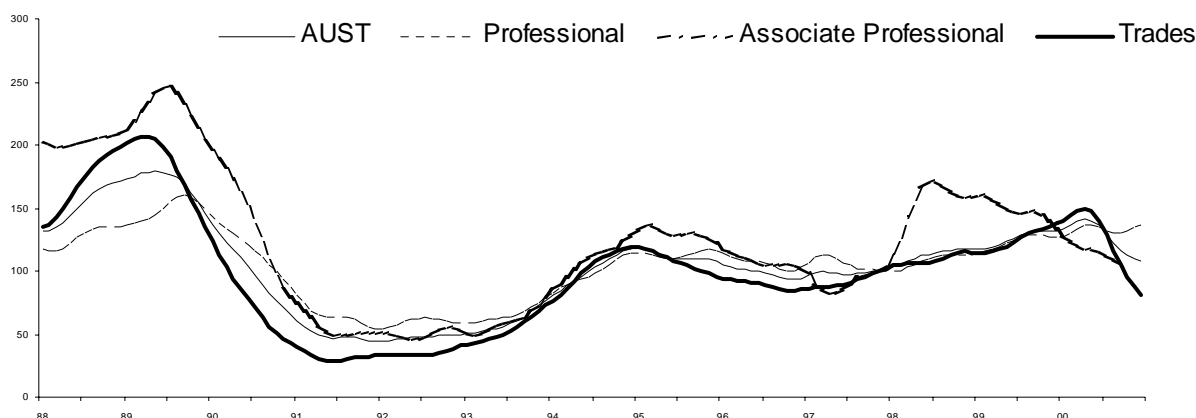
From job advertisements in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business produces the Skilled Vacancy Index (SVI – previously the Skilled Vacancy Survey), for 18 skilled occupational groups. These are aggregated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

The December 2000 SVI was 19% lower than that of the previous December. Over this period, decreases were recorded in almost all States and the Northern Territory, with the only increase recorded in Tasmania (up 34%)

Advertised vacancies over the year to December 2000 increased by 8% for Professional occupations but decreased by 26% for Associate Professional occupations and decreased by 41% for Trade occupations (see Figure 4 overleaf).

- Within these broad groups, the strongest increases were recorded by Science Professionals (up 49%) and Health Professionals (up 20%).
- Greatest declines were recorded for Construction Trades (down 70%) and Wood and Textile Trades (down 50%).
- Over the year, four groups recorded increases and fourteen groups recorded decreases.

Figure 4: Skilled Vacancy Survey Index, February 1988 to December 2000



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

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2005-06
<b>Managers and Administrators</b>	
General Managers	L
Sales & Marketing Managers	A
<b>Professionals</b>	
Life Scientists	A
Accountants	G
Marketing/Advertising Professionals	G
Computing Professionals	G
General Medical Practitioners	G
Registered Nurses	G
Primary School Teachers	A
Secondary School Teachers	G
Social Workers	G
Painters, Potters and Sculptors	A
<b>Associate Professionals</b>	
Medical Technical Officers	A
Building/Architectural Assoc Professionals	A
Shop Managers	A
Hotel/Motel Managers	A
Enrolled Nurses	A

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2005-06
<b>Tradespersons and Related Workers</b>	
Mechanical Engineering Tradespersons	A
Motor Mechanics	G
Electricians	A
Bricklayers	A
Plumbers	A
Bakers and Pastrycooks	G
General and Landscape Gardeners	G
Printing Machinists	L
Cabinetmakers	G
Hairdressers	A
Clothing Tradespersons	L
<b>Advanced Clerical &amp; Service Workers</b>	
Secretaries & Personal Assistants	A
Bookkeepers	A
<b>Intermediate Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
General Clerks	A
Keyboard Operators	A
Receptionists	G
Child Care Workers & Nannies	G
<b>Intermediate Production/Transport</b>	
Construction Plant Operators	A
General Stationary Plant Operators	L
Truck Drivers	A
<b>Elementary Clerical, Sales/Service</b>	
Registry & Filing Clerks	L
Sales Assistants	G
<b>Labourers &amp; Related Workers</b>	
Cleaners	A
Product Assemblers	A
Hand Packers	L