



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 interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is available at www.joboutlook.gov.au.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, August 2013.

EMPLOYMENT¹

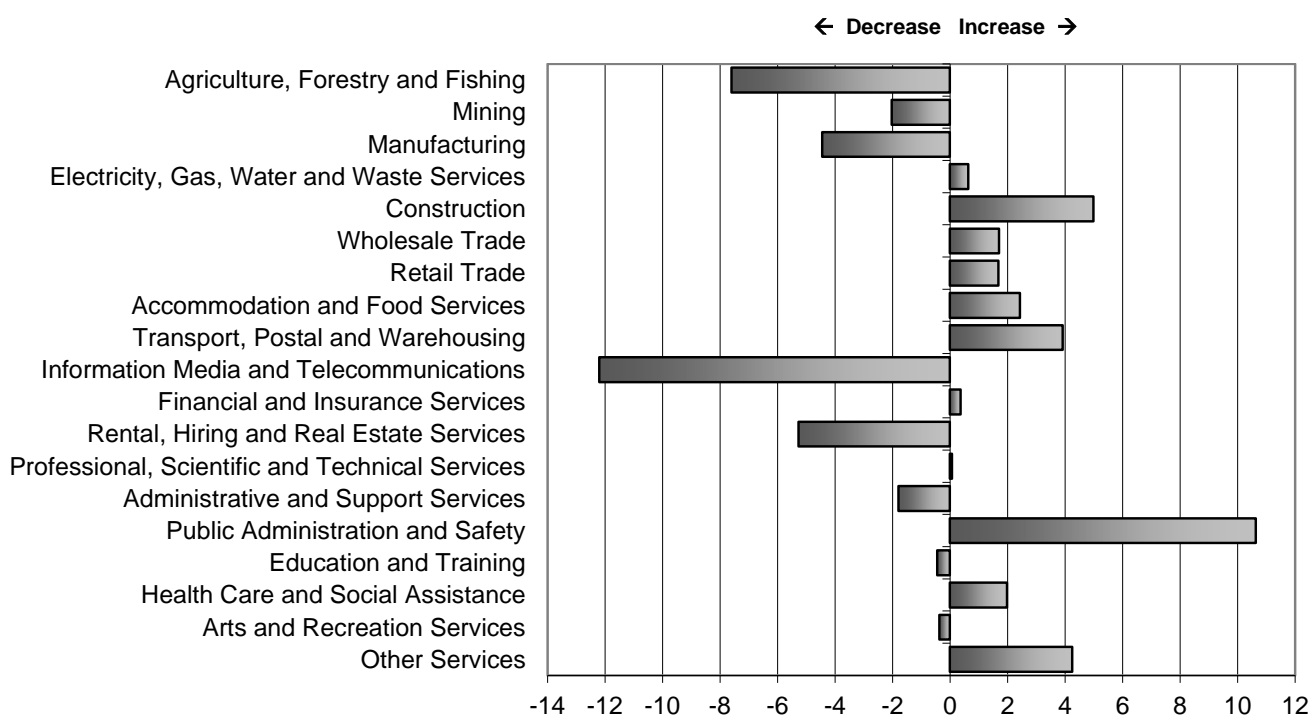
Trend employment has continued to expand over the year to August 2013, increasing by 116 500 (or 1.0%). The underlying labour market conditions remained soft and the pace of trend employment growth slowed from an average increase of 18 600 jobs per month in January 2013, to a decline of 1 100 jobs per month in August 2013.

In line with a number of leading indicators of labour market activity, the pace of employment growth is likely to remain reasonably modest over the coming months, with the unemployment rate continuing to edge up over the course of 2013.

Over the 12 months to August 2013, employment (in trend terms) increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 1.8%), New South Wales (NSW, 1.4%), Queensland (QLD, 1.2%), Western Australia (WA, 1.0%), Victoria (VIC, 0.8%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 0.7%). Employment fell in Tasmania (TAS, down 1.5%) and South Australia (SA, down 0.3%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2013, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (up 74 000), Construction (up 49 700) and Health Care and Social Assistance (up 27 100). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Manufacturing (down 42 800). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Public Administration and Safety (up 10.6%) and Construction (up 5.0%). The strongest rates of trend employment decrease were in Information Media and Telecommunications (down 12.2%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (down 7.6%). Trend employment continued to fall in Mining (down 2.0%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – August 2012 to August 2013



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, August 2013, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ Data in the first and third paragraphs in this section are from the ABS Labour Force Survey, September 2013.

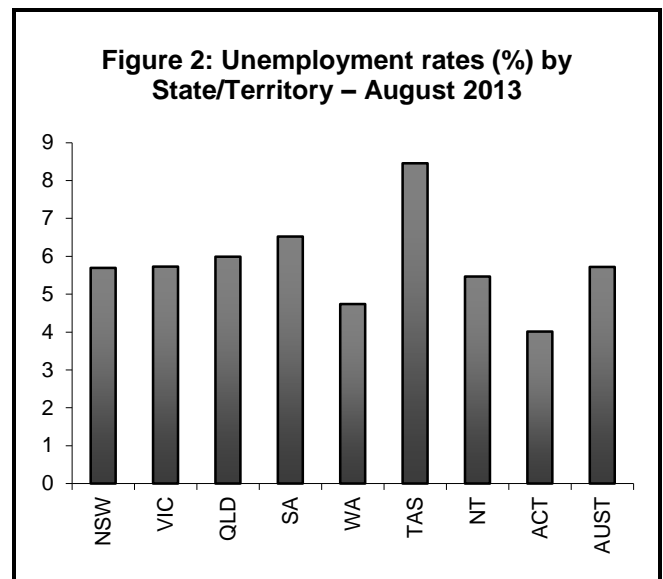
UNEMPLOYMENT²

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.7% in August 2013 compared with 5.3% in August 2012.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in all states and territories.

In August 2013, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (8.5%), SA (6.5%) and Queensland (6.0%) and lowest in the ACT (4.0%), WA (4.7%) and the NT (5.5%). See Figure 2.

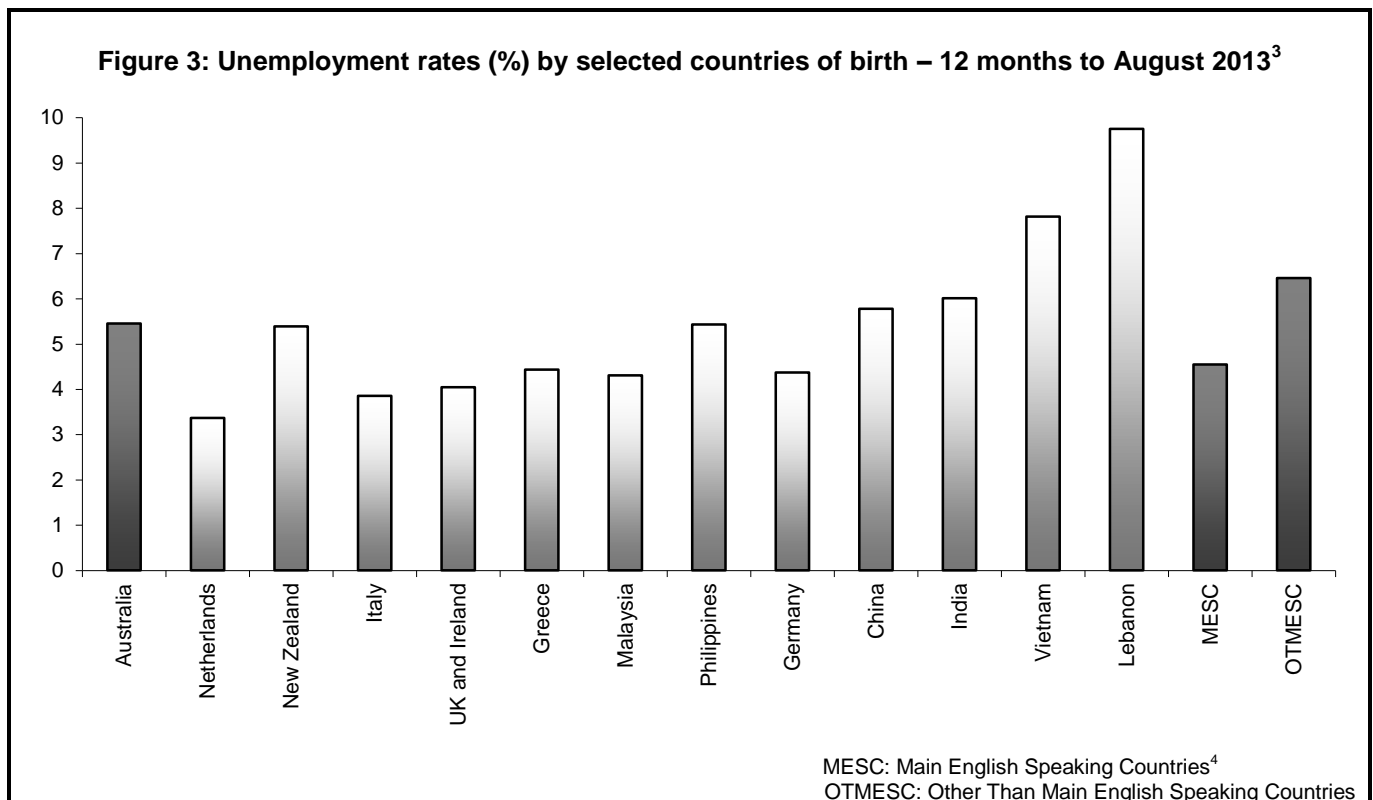
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to August 2013, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was almost four times that of former Professionals.



MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including skill level, age, English proficiency, recent and relevant work experience, and the period since arrival in Australia. Data consistently show recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to August 2013) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. People born in the Netherlands, Italy and UK and Ireland have relatively low unemployment rates (3.4%, 3.9% and 4.0% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (9.8% and 7.8% respectively).



² With the exception of the fourth paragraph, this section is based on the ABS Labour Force Survey, September 2013.

³ The estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 may be subject to high sampling variability. Figure 3 uses original data.

⁴ MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION⁵

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 2013 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 52 400) and Professionals (up 42 700). Employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to August 2013		Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to August 2013	
Managers	-0.7%	Managers	1.7%
Professionals	1.7%	Professionals	2.0%
Technicians and Trades Workers	0.2%	Technicians and Trades Workers	3.3%
Community and Personal Service Workers	4.8%	Community and Personal Service Workers	3.3%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	0.2%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	3.1%
Sales Workers	2.6%	Sales Workers	4.6%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	3.5%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.8%
Labourers	-0.3%	Labourers	7.3%

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 worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) by occupational group are presented in descending skill order (average of the last four quarters).

Additional information on occupational groups is provided in the following section on internet vacancy trends.

INTERNET VACANCY TRENDS

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report⁶, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁷ (see Figure 4). Over the year to August 2013, the IVI (trend) decreased by 15.4%, with decreases being recorded for all eight occupational groups and all States and Territories.

Over the year to August 2013, the most significant IVI decreases were in WA (down 33.8%), Queensland (down 23.7%) and the ACT (down 23.2%).

The largest occupational group decreases were for Machinery Operators and Drivers (down 25.5%), Technicians and Trades Workers (down 20.7%) and Professionals (down 20.5%).

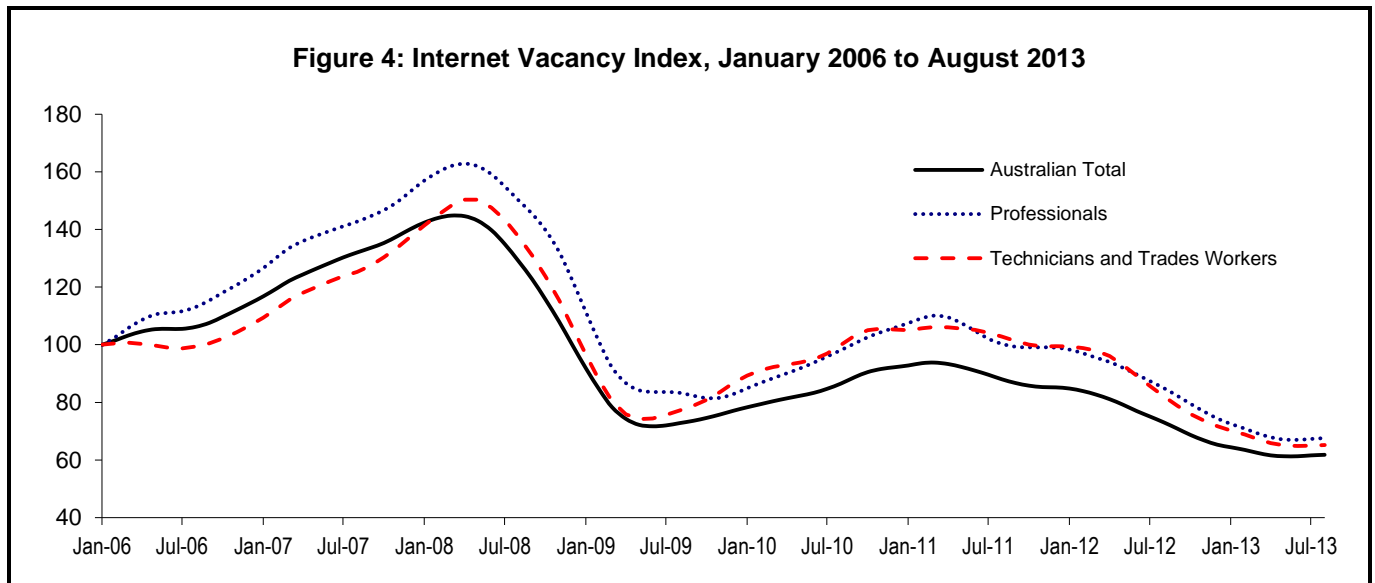
Over the year to August 2013, vacancies decreased in 43 of the 48 occupation clusters, with the strongest decreases being for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 75.9%), Engineers (down 60.8%) and Automotive and Engineering Trades (down 38.9%).

The largest increase over this period was for Education Professionals (up 16.3%), followed by Sports, Travel and Personal Service Workers (up 6.9%).

⁵ This section is based on ABS Labour Force Survey original data.

⁶ See <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport>.

⁷ The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, MyCareer, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before IVI vacancies are coded by the Department of Employment to occupations based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0). The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, and then indexed (January 2006 = 100). Minor changes in the series may occur from month to month due to back casting. The series published each month is the most up to date at the time and overwrites previous data.



Source: Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index (August 2013), <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport>.

FUTURE JOB OPENINGS

The Australian Jobs 2013 publication (at www.employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication) contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2017 and the number of openings likely due to workers leaving their occupation group for other employment or leaving the workforce. As there may be significant variation between and within States, information on job openings should be used with caution.

Job Openings estimates are indicative only and are intended to provide a guide to opportunities likely to be available over the five years to November 2017. It is important to note these estimates do not provide any guidance about how many people are looking for opportunities in each occupation. The Australian labour market can change quickly so information on the Australian labour market should be re-assessed prior to making a decision to lodge a visa application.

Queries on the Australian Labour Market Update publication should be emailed to migration@deewr.gov.au.



Hospital and Retail Pharmacists

In Australia, Hospital and Retail Pharmacists ensure the safe and quality use of medicines and optimise health outcomes by contributing to the selection and prescription of pharmaceuticals and medical products.⁸

LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment indicate the occupation of Pharmacist⁹ will have moderate employment growth for the five years to November 2017. The majority of Pharmacists are employed in the Retail Trade¹⁰ industry (80.4 per cent). Table A provides a labour market profile for Pharmacists from *Job Outlook* data (see www.joboutlook.gov.au). Findings of the Department's labour market research for this occupation indicate the local labour market is adequately supplied and employers generally have multiple suitable applicants from whom to choose. Details are at <http://docs.employment.gov.au/node/31521>¹¹. The website of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also includes information on the Pharmacy workforce in Australia.¹²

Table A: Pharmacists – Key Labour Market Indicators

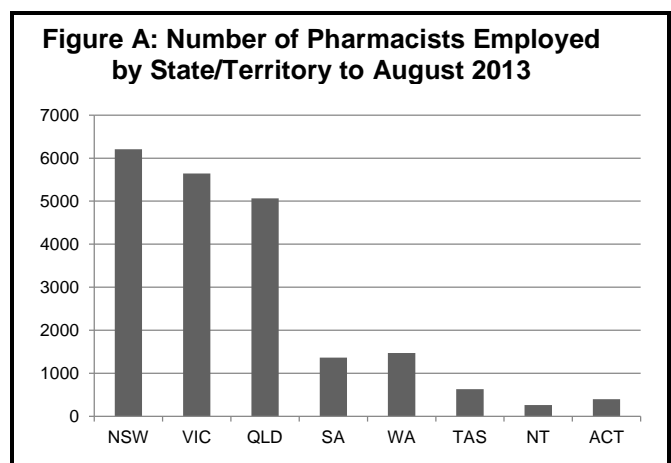
Key Indicator	Pharmacists
Occupation size ¹³	24 100
Females	63.6%
Males	36.4%
Median age	32 years
Full-time share of employment	75.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	38.7
Weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1384
Unemployment rate	below average
Employment growth over past 5 years (to November 2012)	31.3%
Expected future employment growth (5 years to November 2017)	4.6%

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Pharmacists are employed in all States and Territories in Australia.

For the eight quarters to August 2013¹⁴, the average employment of Pharmacists was highest in New South Wales (NSW, 6 207), Victoria (VIC, 5 645) and Queensland (QLD, 5 067).

The Northern Territory (NT), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Tasmania (TAS), South Australia (SA) and Western Australia (WA) employed the smallest number of Pharmacists. See Figure A (original data).



Source: ABS Labour Force Survey (original data), August 2013.

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ), ANZSCO, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, ABS Cat. No. 1220.0.

⁹ Labour Market Profile and Regional Employment data includes Hospital Pharmacist, Retail Pharmacist and Industrial Pharmacist.

¹⁰ ABS and SNZ, Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0), ABS Cat. No. 1220.0.

¹¹ Department of Employment's Skill Shortage Research findings do not include the occupation of Industrial Pharmacist, which represents less than 5 per cent of the workforce for the Pharmacy occupation group (which also includes Hospital Pharmacist and Retail Pharmacist).

¹² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Allied Health Workforce 2012, Chapter 4 at www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129544591.

¹³ At November 2012.

¹⁴ ABS Labour Force Survey (original data).

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is the Australian assessing authority for Hospital and Retail Pharmacists. Individuals applying to migrate to Australia in these occupations must complete an assessment through the APC prior to lodging a migration (visa) application.

The APC has two Streams under which it assesses overseas pharmacy qualifications and experience to ensure applicants have the necessary knowledge to practice as a Hospital or Retail Pharmacist in Australia. Most applicants are required to undertake the Stream A process which includes the Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS). Stream B requires applicants to undertake the Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP) and is restricted to applicants from countries recognised by the APC as having educational processes, practice competencies and structures that are substantially comparable with those in Australia (includes the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and the United States of America).

Information on the APC skill assessment process and evidentiary requirements is available on its website at www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/content/index.php?id=6.

Applicants successfully completing the KAPS are eligible to apply for provisional registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA). To qualify for general registration they must satisfactorily complete a period of supervised practice in a pharmacy in Australia approved by the PBA, an internship program, and written and oral examinations, and meet prescribed English language proficiency requirements.

Applicants successfully completing the CAOP are eligible to apply for limited registration with the PBA. To qualify for general registration the minimum requirements they must satisfactorily complete are a period of supervised practice in a pharmacy in Australia approved by the PBA and an oral legislation assessment.

Information on the PBA registration requirements is available on its website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION

The Australian Government has in place several employer-sponsored migration programs, including the Temporary Work Skilled, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programs is on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) website at www.immi.gov.au.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Overseas-qualified Pharmacists seeking to work in Australia who are not Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents or New Zealand citizens will need to contact the nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission to apply for a visa with a work right. Addresses of all Australian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates are available from the DIBP website at www.immi.gov.au/contacts.

Overseas-qualified Pharmacists should note acceptance of overseas qualifications for migration purposes does not assure employment in the occupation in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors such as the number of vacancies, skill needs in the Australian labour market, and suitability of an applicant for employment in a particular job in Australia.

The Department of Employment is not an employment agency and is not able to assist visa applicants or potential migrants to obtain employment in Australia. Australian employers are increasingly using the internet to advertise vacancies and websites of Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies often include information on vacancies.