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, February 2013.

EMPLOYMENT

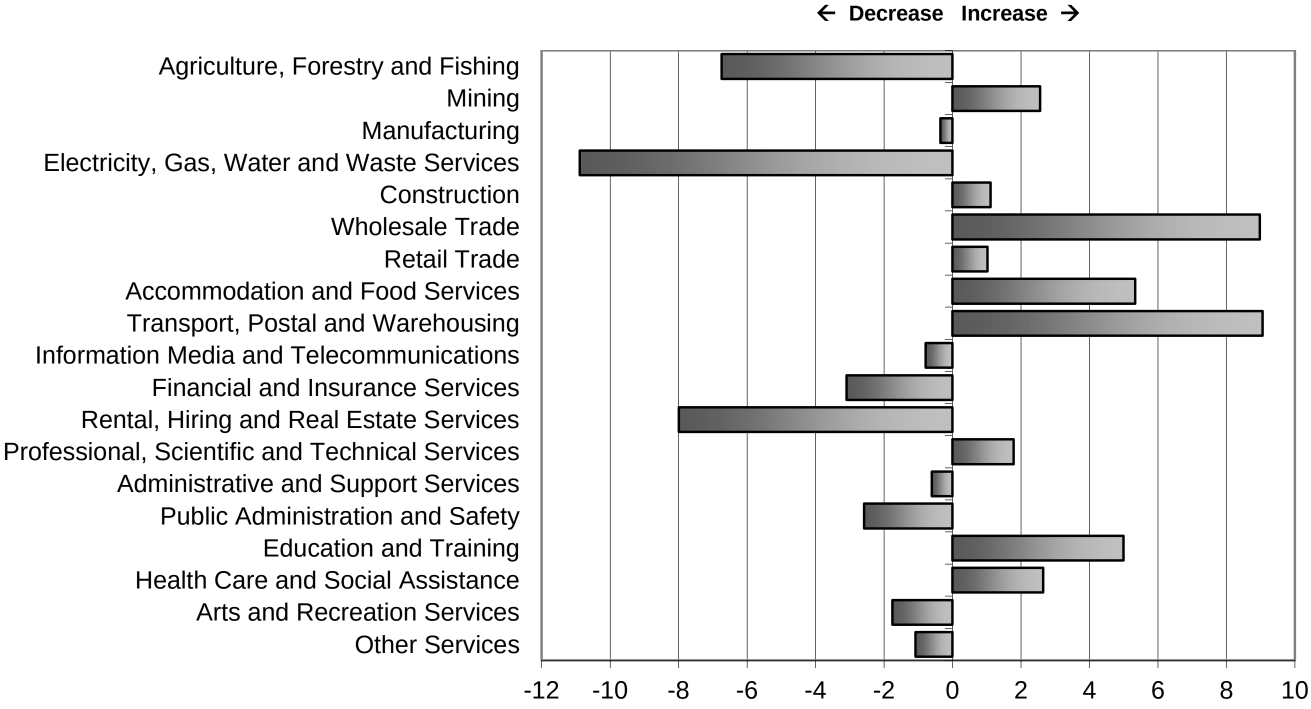
Labour market conditions in Australia have improved slightly over the year to February 2013, with trend employment increasing by 132 700 (or 1.2%) compared with an increase of 87 300 (or 0.8%) over the previous year, although underlying labour market conditions remain relatively soft. The pace of trend employment growth has slowed, from an average of 19 000 jobs per month in March 2012 to 15 500 jobs per month in February 2013.

Going forward, 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 February 2013, employment (in trend terms) increased in Western Australia (WA, 3.0%), New South Wales (NSW, 1.6%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 1.4%), Victoria (VIC, 0.9%), Queensland (QLD, 0.3%), the Northern Territory (NT, 0.2%) and South Australia (SA, 0.2%). Employment fell in Tasmania by 0.3%.

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2013, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Transport, Postal and Warehousing (up 50 400), Education and Training (up 43 600), and Accommodation and Food Services (up 40 400). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Transport, Postal and Warehousing (9.1%), Wholesale Trade (9.0%), Accommodation and Food Services (5.3%), and Education and Training (5.0%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

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UNEMPLOYMENT

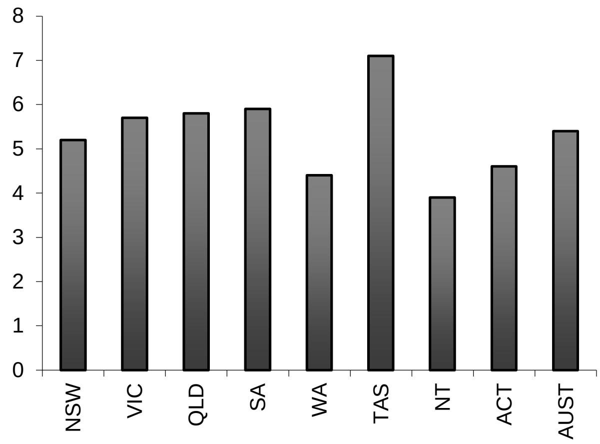
The trend rate of unemployment was 5.4% in February 2013 compared with 5.1% in February 2012.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates decreased in the NT (from 4.1% to 3.9%), remained unchanged in Tasmania, and rose in all other states.

In February 2013, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.1%) and lowest in the NT (3.9%), WA (4.4%) and the ACT (4.6%).

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

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory – February 2013

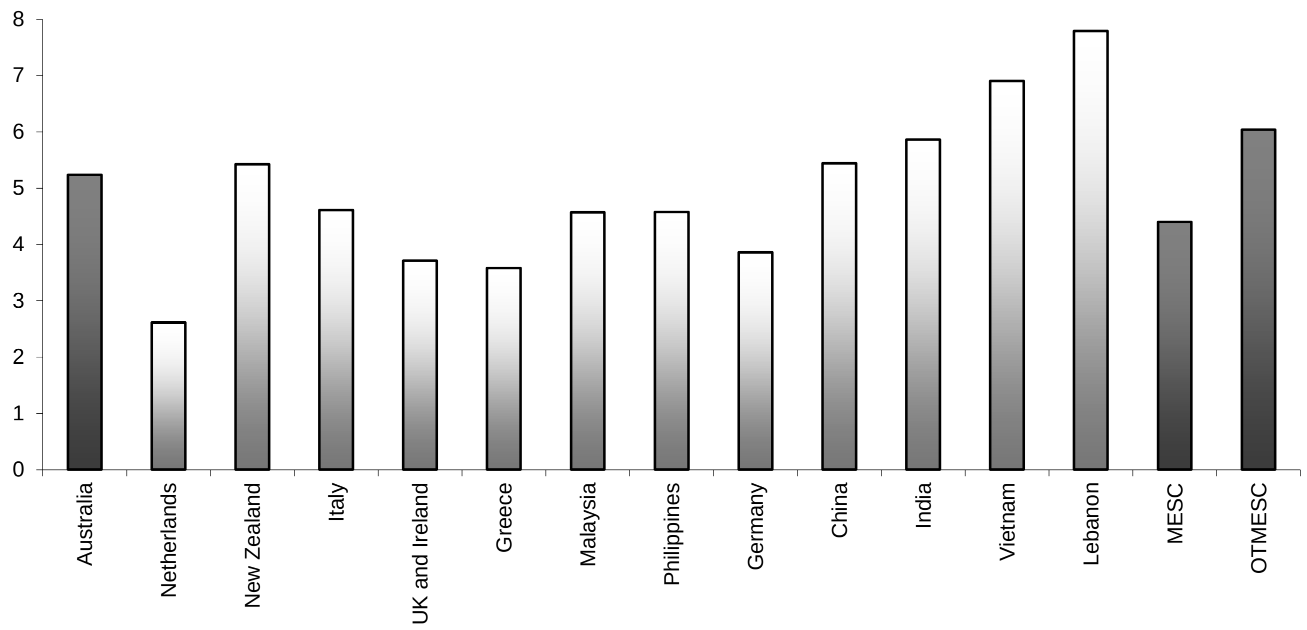


MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

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 February 2013) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. People born in the Netherlands, Greece, and UK and Ireland have relatively low unemployment rates (2.6%, 3.6% and 3.7% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Lebanon and Vietnam are relatively high (7.8% and 6.9% respectively).

Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by selected countries of birth – 12 months to February 2013[1]



MESC: Main English Speaking Countries[2]
OTMESC: Other Than Main English Speaking Countries

[1] The estimates for individual countries in Figure 3 may be subject to high sampling variability. Figure 3 uses original data.
[2] MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION[3]

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 February 2013 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Professionals (up 82 800), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 32 000), and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 23 200). Employment growth rates, in descending skill order, are shown below.

Employment Growth Rates for the 12 months to February 2013	
Managers	-0.2%
Professionals	3.4%
Technicians and Trades Workers	1.4%
Community and Personal Service Workers	2.9%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-0.5%
Sales Workers	1.2%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-0.3%
Labourers	0.9%

Unemployment Rates for the 12 months to February 2013	
Managers	1.8%
Professionals	1.8%
Technicians and Trades Workers	3.0%
Community and Personal Service Workers	3.4%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.9%
Sales Workers	4.2%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	4.6%
Labourers	7.1%

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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) produces the monthly Vacancy Report[4], containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)[5] (see Figure 4). Over the year to February 2013, the IVI (trend) decreased by 25.4%, with decreases for all eight occupational groups and in all States and Territories.

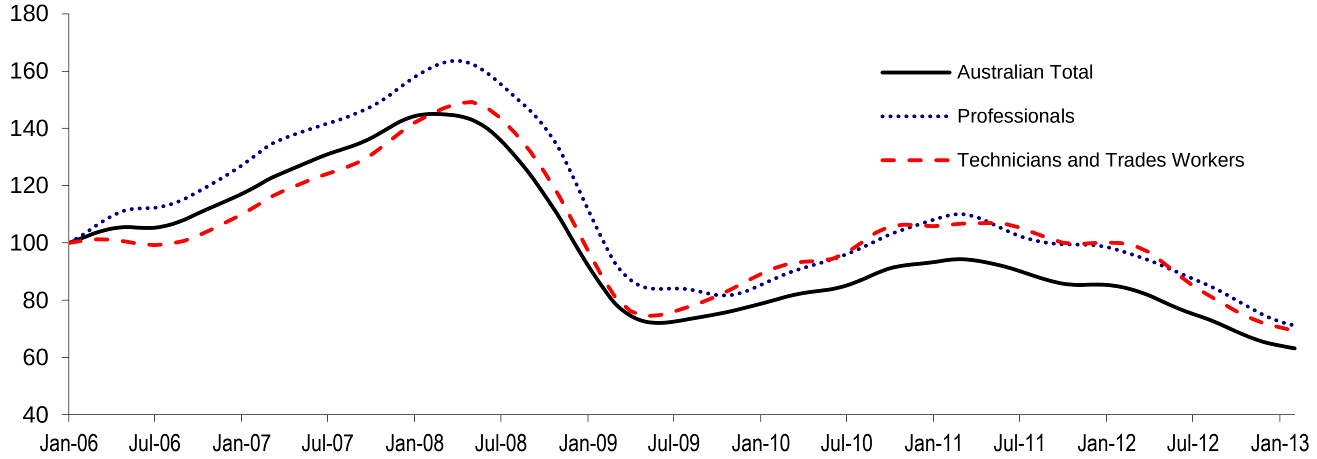
Over the year to February 2013, the most significant IVI decreases were in Queensland (down 34.2%) and WA (down 32.8%).

The largest occupational group decreases were for Technicians and Trades Workers (down 30.6%) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (down 30.3%).

Over the year to February 2013, vacancies decreased in 47 of the 48 occupation clusters, with the largest decreases being for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 64.9%), Engineers (down 49.9%), Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians (down 39.2%), Clerical and Office Support Workers, Couriers (down 37.8%), and Automotive and Engineering Trades (down 37.5%).

[3] This section is based on ABS Labour Force Survey original data.
[4] Available from http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport.
[5] The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online vacancies newly lodged on SEEK, MyCareer, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before IVI vacancies are coded by DEEWR 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.

Figure 4: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to February 2013



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Internet Vacancy Index (February 2013), http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport.

FUTURE JOB OPENINGS

The Australian Jobs 2012 publication (at www.deewr.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 2016-17 and the number of openings likely to result due to job turnover. 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 next five years. It is important to note that 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.

Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Australian Labour Market Update April 2013

Hot Topic

Australia – its States and Territories

This Hot Topic focuses on the Australian States and Territories (the States), and provides an overview of the Australian population, its regional distribution and relative economic performance. It is an annual publication included in the April edition of the Australian Labour Market Update.

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

THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.1% and 24.8% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2012 were Western Australia (WA, up 3.3%) and Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (both up 1.9%). Tasmania experienced the weakest growth (0.2%).

Table A: The Distribution of the Australian Population at 30 June 2012*

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Population	7 290 345	5 623 492	4 560 059	1 654 778	2 430 252	512 019	234 836	374 658	22 683 573
Share of Australian Population (%)	32.1	24.8	20.1	7.3	10.7	2.3	1.0	1.7	100.0
Capital City	20.6	18.7	9.7	5.6	8.4	1.0	0.6	1.7	66.1
Balance of State	11.6	6.1	10.4	1.7	2.3	1.3	0.5	0.0	33.9
Share of State population aged 15-64 (%)	66.4	67.4	66.9	66.0	68.5	64.8	71.5	70.8	67.0
Population growth (%)**	1.1	1.6	1.9	1.0	3.3	0.2	1.5	1.9	1.6

* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2012 is preliminary.
** Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2011 to 30 June 2012. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2012 is preliminary. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2011 is preliminary rebased.
Source: ABS (2013), Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2012, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2013), Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011-12, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

STATE AND TERRITORY EMPLOYMENT

Trend employment increased in WA (up 3.0%), NSW (up 1.6%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, up 1.4%), Victoria (up 0.9%), Queensland (up 0.3%), the Northern Territory (NT, up 0.2%) and South Australia (SA, up 0.2%) over the 12 months to February 2013. Trend employment fell in Tasmania (down 0.3%).

Figure B shows NSW (1.8 million), Victoria (1.5 million) and Queensland (1.1 million) employ the largest number of workers in 'skilled' occupations[6] (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data). The ACT recorded the highest employment growth (up 5.0%) followed by WA (up 4.3%) over the 12 months to February 2013.

Figure A: Employment by State/Territory (trend) – February 2012 and February 2013

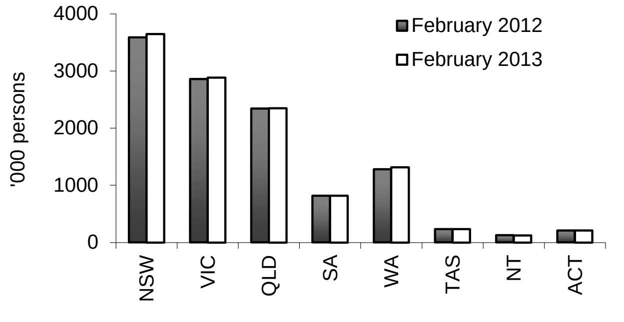
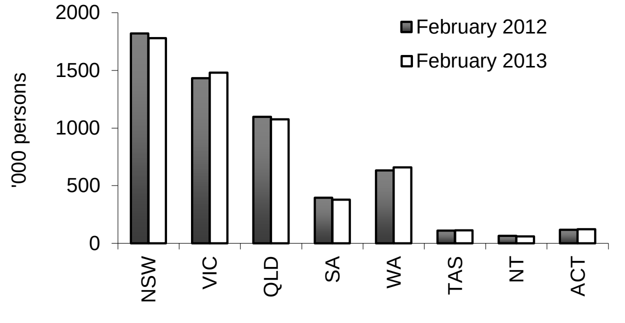


Figure B: Employment for 'Skilled' Occupations by State/Territory – February 2012 and February 2013



[6] ANZSCO Major Groups 1 to 3 includes most but not all skilled occupations where the entry level requirement for employment in the Australian labour market is an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III or higher qualification.

STATE AND TERRITORY LABOUR FORCE[7]

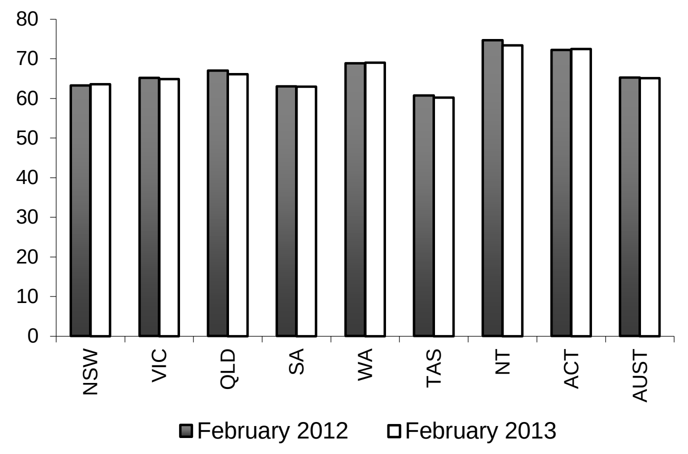
The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. The labour force is based on employed persons plus unemployed persons.

Over the 12 months to February 2013, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) decreased slightly by 0.2 percentage points to 65.1% (see Figure C). NSW and the ACT recorded the largest increases in the participation rate over this period (0.3 and 0.2 percentage points respectively), with the NT, Queensland and Tasmania recording the largest decreases (1.3, 0.9 and 0.5 percentage points respectively).

Full-time employment (trend data) grew by 0.7% in the 12 months to February 2013, while part-time employment increased by 2.4%.

Male full-time employment increased by 0.6% while female full-time employment increased by 0.8%. Male part-time employment increased by 2.5% while female part-time employment increased by 2.3%.

Figure C: Labour force participation rates by State (%)



INDUSTRY BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Table B below provides estimates of the percentage of employment in each State for each industry (original data). It shows the ACT had a relatively high proportion of employed persons in Public Administration and Safety; WA in Mining, Victoria in Manufacturing; Tasmania and SA in Health Care and Social Assistance; and NSW in Financial and Insurance Services. The industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health Care and Social Assistance followed by Retail Trade, Construction and Manufacturing.

Table B: Employment Distribution by Industry, States and Territories to February 2013 (% of total employment)

INDUSTRY	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.4	2.8	3.0	4.4	3.0	4.9	2.6	0.4*	2.9
Mining	1.3	0.4	3.2	1.7	8.7	2.1	3.5	0.1*	2.3
Manufacturing	8.3	10.4	7.2	8.9	7.3	7.5	3.0	1.5	8.3
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.3
Construction	8.0	8.4	10.0	8.2	9.7	7.7	11.0	6.3	8.7
Wholesale Trade	3.9	4.5	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.7	1.2	3.7
Retail Trade	10.3	11.1	10.6	11.2	10.2	10.7	8.6	7.4	10.6
Accommodation and Food Services	7.5	6.5	7.0	6.6	5.5	7.5	6.0	5.6	6.8
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.2	4.7	5.8	4.2	4.7	4.8	5.4	2.5	5.0
Information Media and Telecommunications	2.6	2.2	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.0
Financial and Insurance Services	4.9	4.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.4	1.3	1.9	3.6
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.8
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.7	8.7	6.8	6.4	7.7	5.2	5.8	10.6	8.0
Administrative and Support Services	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	2.7	3.4	2.5	3.4
Public Administration and Safety	5.4	4.6	6.4	6.6	5.4	6.9	13.3	31.5	6.1
Education and Training	7.5	8.1	7.8	8.3	7.4	9.5	9.5	9.0	7.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.9	11.7	12.2	13.7	10.7	14.9	11.6	9.6	11.9
Arts and Recreation Services	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.8
Other Services	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.2	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey original data for the 4 quarters to February 2013.
* This estimate may be subject to high sampling variability.

[7] From April 2011, this section is based on ABS trend data rather than ABS original data (previous editions).