



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

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is at the Job Outlook website.

Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, February 2014.¹

Employment

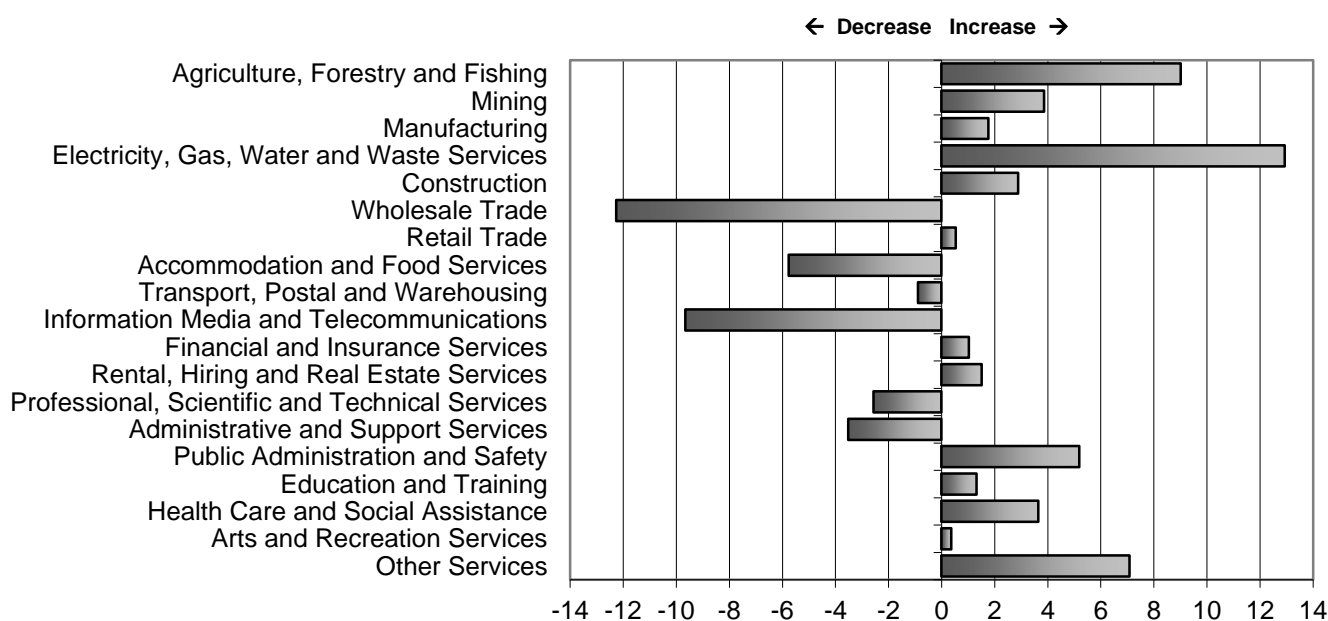
While trend employment has continued to expand over the year to February 2014, increasing by 73 100 (or 0.6 per cent), underlying labour market conditions remain soft. The current pace of trend employment growth of 14 900 jobs per month, remains below the recent peak of 16 800 jobs per month recorded in December 2012.

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 2014.

Over the 12 months to February 2014, employment (in trend terms) increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 6.6%), Western Australia (WA, 1.7%), Queensland (1.5%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 1.3%), Victoria (VIC, 0.6%) and New South Wales (NSW, 0.1%). Employment declined in South Australia (SA, down 2.0%) and Tasmania (down 0.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to February 2014, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 49 800), Public Administration and Safety (up 37 000) and Other Services² (up 32 000). The largest decreases in trend employment occurred in Wholesale Trade (down 53 600) and Accommodation and Food Services (down 45 400). The strongest rate of employment growth was in Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (up 12.9%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (up 9.0%) while the strongest rate of trend employment decrease was in Wholesale Trade (down 12.3%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry—February 2013 to February 2014



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, February 2014, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

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¹ Data in first and third paragraphs of the Employment section and data in the Unemployment section (other than the fourth paragraph) are from the ABS Labour Force Survey, March 2014.

² Other Services includes a range of personal services (such as hair, beauty, diet and weight management), religious, civic and other interest group services, repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery, and private households employing staff.

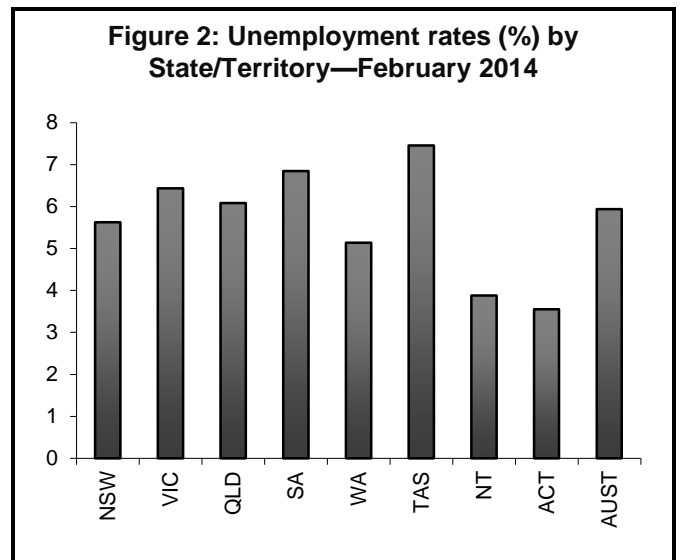
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.9% in February 2014 compared with 5.5% in February 2013.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in all states and territories except the NT (declined from 4.8% to 3.9%) and the ACT (declined from 4.5% to 3.5%).

In February 2014, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.5%), SA (6.8%), Victoria (6.4%), Queensland (6.1%) and NSW (5.6%) and lowest in the ACT (3.5%), the NT (3.9%) and WA (5.1%). See Figure 2.

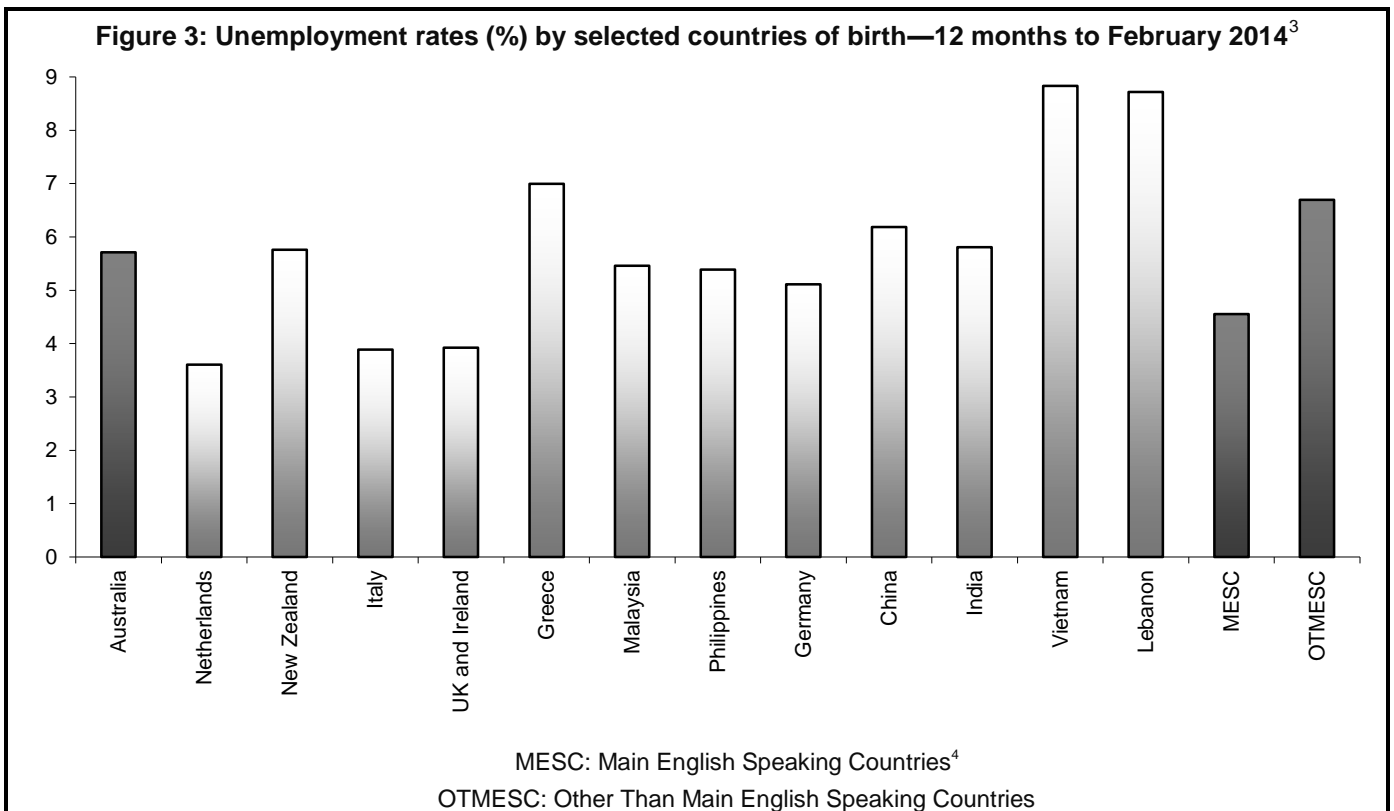
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For the four quarters to February 2014, the unemployment rate for those formerly employed as Labourers was more than three times that of former Professionals.



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 on average than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to February 2014) for people resident in Australia born in selected overseas countries. People born in the Netherlands, Italy and UK and Ireland have relatively low unemployment rates (3.6%, 3.9% and 3.9% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and Lebanon are relatively high (8.8% and 8.7% respectively).



³ 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 may be 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 2014 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Managers (up 37 100), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 36 600) and Sales Workers (up 26 200). Employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Employment growth rates and unemployment rates by occupation—12 months to February 2014

Occupational Group	Employment Growth Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
Managers	2.6	2.1
Professionals	0.7	2.2
Technicians and Trades Workers	0.5	3.5
Community and Personal Service Workers	3.3	3.6
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-1.1	3.2
Sales Workers	2.5	4.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1.4	4.8
Labourers	-2.0	7.1

Highly skilled occupational groups tend to experience lower rates of unemployment compared with less skilled occupational groups, 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) in Table 1 above.

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 February 2014, the IVI (trend) declined by 3.4%, with decreases being recorded for five of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group decreases were for Labourers (down 10.3%) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (down 10.2%). The largest occupation group increases were for Sales Workers (up 5.1%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 4.2%).

Over the year to February 2014 the most significant IVI decreases were in WA (down 19.0%) and the ACT (down 16.4%), while the largest increases were in Tasmania (up 4.9%) and Victoria (up 4.1%).

Over the year to February 2014, vacancies decreased in 27 of the 48 occupation clusters, with the largest decreases being for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 56.0%), Engineers (down 51.2%) and Machine and Stationary Plant Operators (down 20.7%).

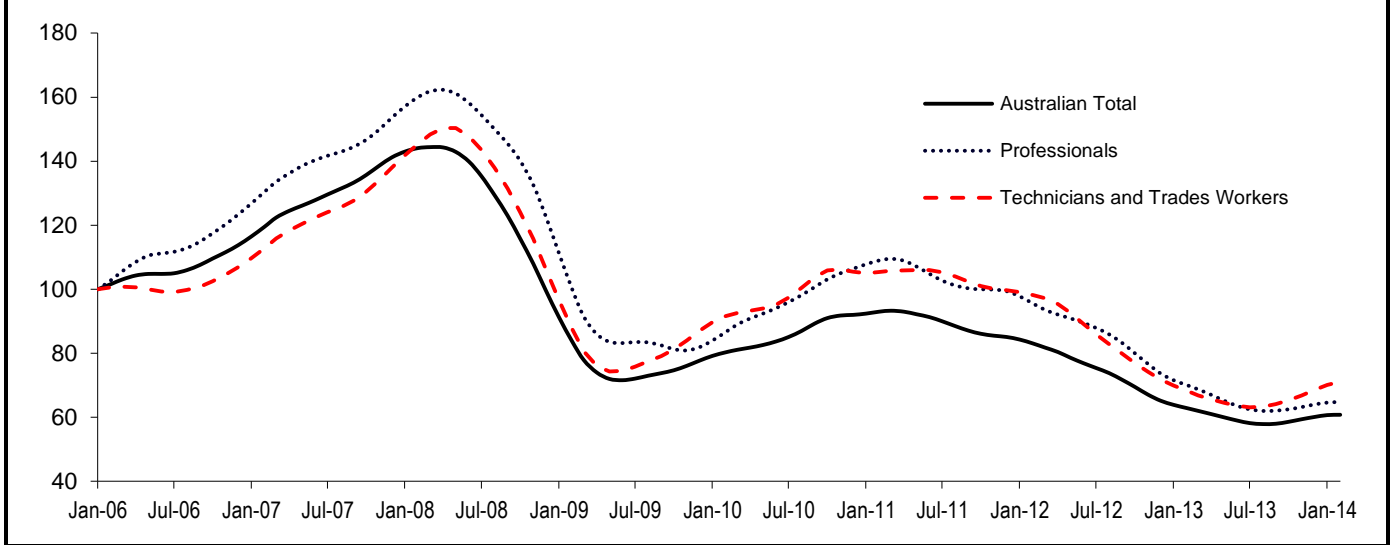
The largest increase over this period was for Construction Trades (up 32.3%), Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 30.0%) and Sports, Travel and Personal Service Workers (up 19.1%).

⁵ This section is based on ABS Labour Force Survey original data. Occupational Groups are from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

⁶ Available on the Department of Employment's Labour Market Information Portal website.

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 ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, and then indexed (January 2006 = 100). Since July 2013, the IVI has been affected by MyCareer's move to free job advertising. The Department of Employment has made an adjustment to the data to take account of this change, in order to provide a more reliable indicator of recent vacancy trends.

Figure 4: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to February 2014



Source: Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (February 2014), Trend Index data.

Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2013 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@employment.gov.au.



Australia—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 2014.

The Australian Population

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 32.0% and 24.8% of the total population respectively). The States which experienced the strongest population growth over the 12 months to 30 June 2013 were Western Australia (WA, up 3.3%), the Northern Territory (NT, up 2.1%), Queensland and Victoria (both up 1.9%). Tasmania experienced the weakest growth (0.2%).

Table A: Distribution of the Australian Resident Population at 30 June 2013*

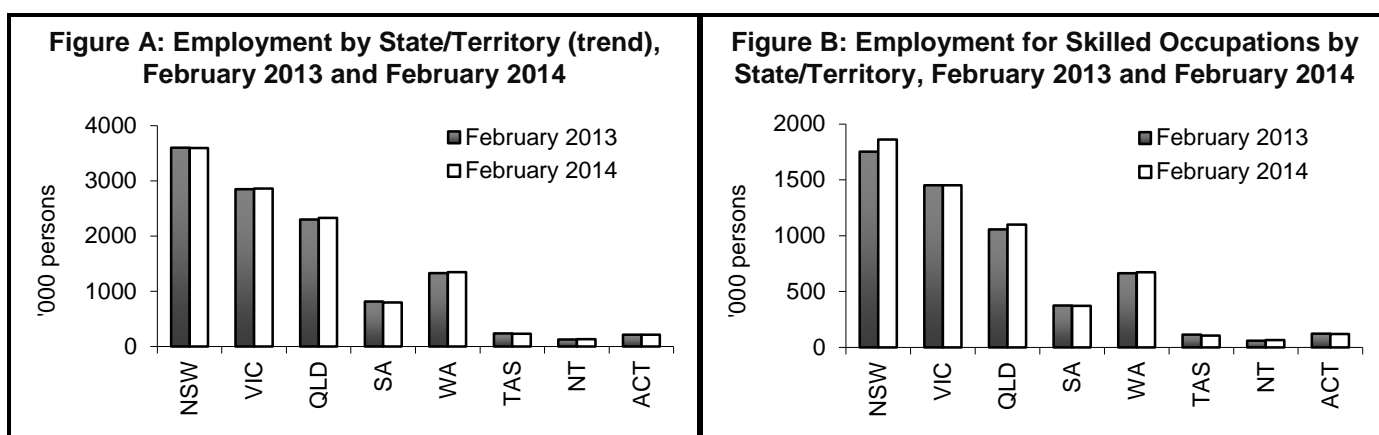
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Population	7 410 399	5 739 341	4 656 803	1 670 827	2 519 321	513 159	240 759	381 488	23 135 281
Share of Australian Population (%)	32.0	24.8	20.1	7.2	10.9	2.2	1.0	1.6	100.0
Population growth (%)**	1.4	1.9	1.9	0.9	3.3	0.2	2.1	1.7	1.8
Capital City (%)	64.2	75.8	48.1	77.3	78.3	42.5	56.6	100.0	66.3
Balance of State (%)	35.8	24.2	51.9	22.7	21.7	57.5	43.4	0.0	33.7

* Estimated resident population at 30 June 2013 is preliminary.

** Percentage growth in the 12 months from 30 June 2012 to 30 June 2013. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2013 is preliminary. Estimated resident population at 30 June 2012 is revised.

Source: ABS (2014), *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2013*, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0; and ABS (2014), *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2012-13*, ABS Cat. No. 3218.0.

State and Territory Employment



Trend employment increased in the NT (up 6.6%), WA (up 1.7%), Queensland (up 1.5%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, up 1.3%), Victoria (up 0.6%) and NSW (up 0.1%) over the 12 months to February 2014. Trend employment fell in South Australia (SA, down 2.0%) and Tasmania (down 0.1%). See Figure A.⁸

Figure B shows NSW (1.86 million), Victoria (1.45 million) and Queensland (1.1 million) employ the largest number of workers in skilled occupations⁹ (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trades Workers) (original data). The NT recorded the highest employment growth in skilled occupations (up 12.4%) followed by NSW (up 6.2%) and Queensland (up 4.2%) over the 12 months to February 2014.

⁸ Data in this paragraph and in Figure A are from the ABS Labour Force Survey, March 2014.

⁹ ANZSCO Major Groups 1 to 3 includes most but not all occupations where the indicative skill level for employment in the Australian labour market is aligned to an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III (including at least two years of on-the-job training) or higher qualification.

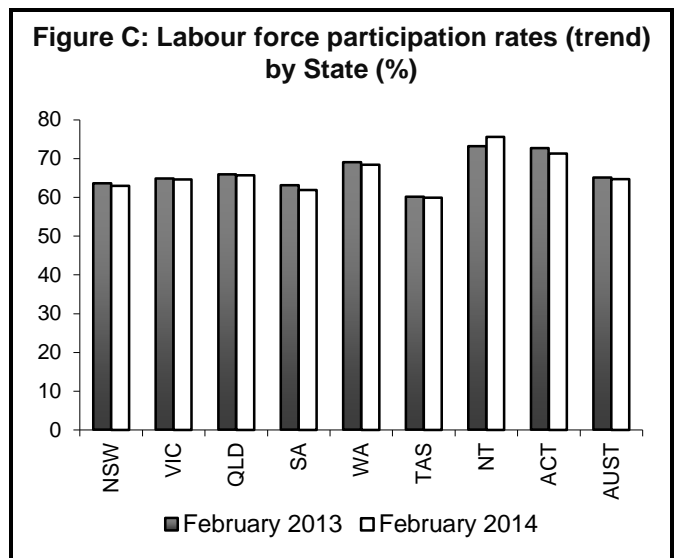
State and Territory Labour Force

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 2014, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 64.7% (see Figure C). The NT recorded the only increase in the participation rate over this period (3.4 percentage points), with SA and the ACT recording the largest decreases (1.9 and 1.8 percentage points respectively).

Full-time employment (trend data) decreased by 0.3% in the 12 months to February 2014, while part-time employment increased by 2.4%.

Male full-time employment (trend data) decreased by 0.5% while female full-time employment remained steady. Male part-time employment increased by 5.3% while female part-time employment increased by 1.2%.



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 and NT have a relatively high proportion of employed persons in Public Administration and Safety; WA in Mining, Victoria and SA in Manufacturing; and SA and Tasmania in Health Care and Social Assistance. 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 and State/Territory to February 2014 (% of total employment)

Industry	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.3	3.0	2.5	4.6	2.1	5.6	1.4	0.2*	2.7
Mining	1.2	0.5	3.4	1.5	8.3	1.8	3.9	0.0*	2.3
Manufacturing	7.7	9.8	7.6	9.8	6.8	8.0	3.3	1.8	8.1
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.5	0.6	1.3
Construction	8.0	8.5	10.0	8.5	10.6	7.6	11.4	6.7	8.9
Wholesale Trade	3.9	4.0	3.1	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.0	1.0	3.5
Retail Trade	10.4	10.7	11.4	11.1	10.0	11.9	8.0	7.4	10.7
Accommodation and Food Services	7.4	6.3	6.5	6.2	5.9	7.8	6.0	5.7	6.7
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.1	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.5	4.6	5.1	2.3	5.1
Information Media and Telecommunications	2.2	2.0	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.8
Financial and Insurance Services	5.0	4.1	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.6	3.7
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.3	2.0	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.3	8.8	7.1	5.7	7.5	4.4	5.1	9.6	7.8
Administrative and Support Services	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.4
Public Administration and Safety	6.0	5.0	6.5	6.9	6.0	7.1	17.0	32.7	6.5
Education and Training	7.9	8.0	7.4	7.9	7.3	9.0	8.8	9.0	7.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	12.4	12.3	12.0	13.9	10.5	13.3	11.9	9.6	12.1
Arts and Recreation Services	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.4	2.1	1.8
Other Services	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.6	3.2	4.1
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 2014.

* This estimate may be subject to high sampling variability.