



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, August 2014.¹

Employment

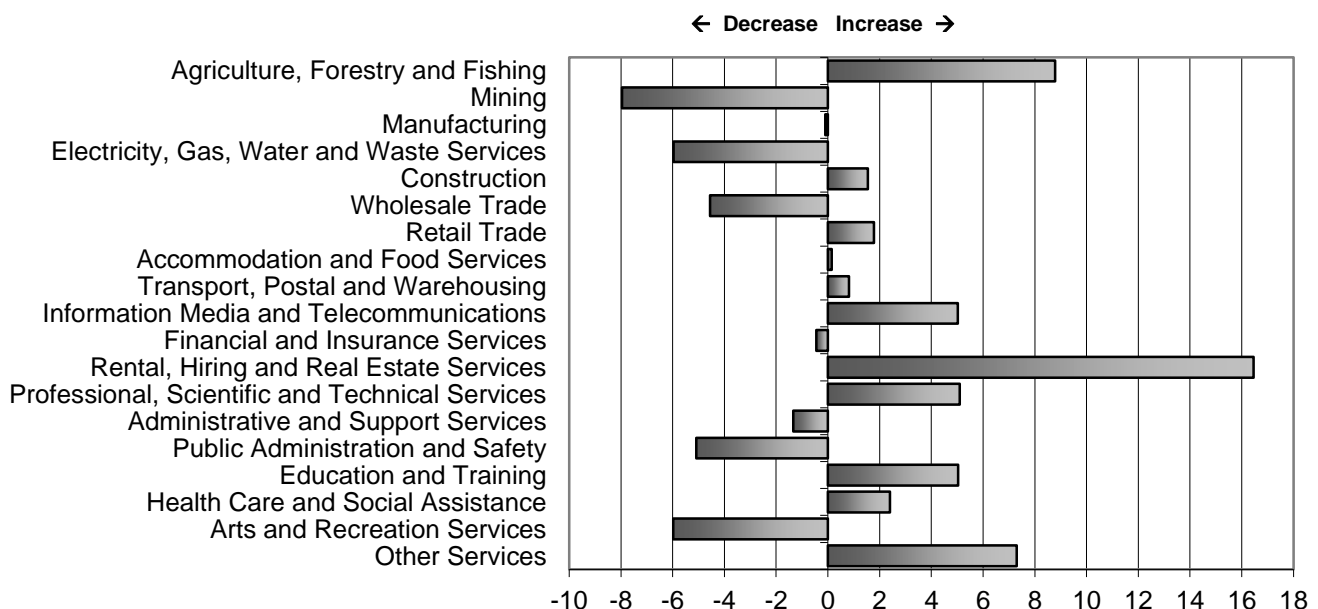
While trend employment has continued to expand over the year to August 2014, increasing by 127 600 (or 1.1 per cent), underlying labour market conditions are soft. The current pace of trend employment growth of 7 400 jobs per month remains well below the recent peak of 18 800 jobs per month recorded in March 2014.

In line with the latest Budget Forecasts, the pace of employment growth is likely to remain reasonably modest over the coming months, with the unemployment rate expected to edge up over the remainder of 2014.

Over the 12 months to August 2014, employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories (the States). The largest employment growth occurred in Western Australia (WA, 3.2%), Tasmania (2.4%), Queensland (1.7%) and the Northern Territory (NT, 1.4%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to August 2014, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 45 800), Education and Training (up 44 700), Other Services² (up 33 800) and Health Care and Social Assistance (up 33 100). The largest decreases in trend employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (down 38 500) and Mining (down 21 300). The strongest rate of employment growth was in Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (up 16.5%) while the strongest rate of trend employment decrease was in Mining (down 8.0%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

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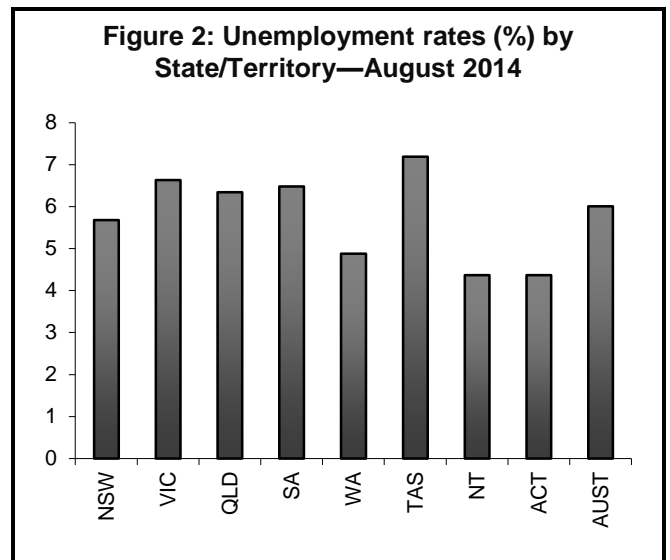
¹ Data in the first and third paragraphs of the Employment section and data in the Unemployment section are from the ABS Labour Force Survey, September 2014.
² Other Services includes a range of personal services (such as hair, beauty, diet and weight management), religious, civic and other interest group services, repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery, and private households employing staff.

Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 6.0% in August 2014 compared with 5.7% in August 2013.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in all states and territories except the NT (declined from 5.5% to 4.4%), Tasmania (declined from 8.2% to 7.2%) and New South Wales (NSW, where it remained stable at 5.7%).

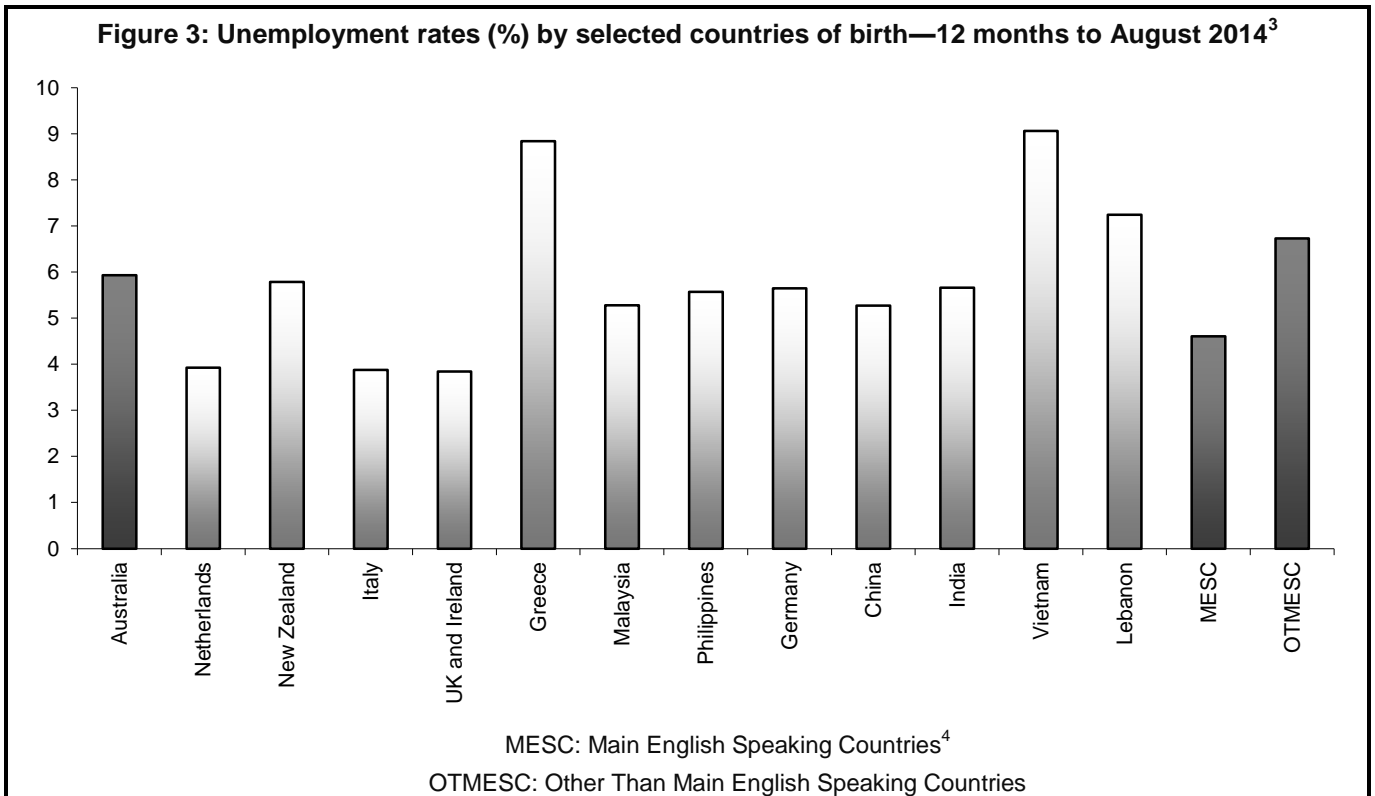
In August 2014, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (7.2%), Victoria (6.6%), South Australia (SA, 6.5%) and Queensland (6.3%) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 4.4%), the NT (4.4%), WA (4.9%) and NSW (5.7%). See Figure 2.



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 August 2014) for people resident in Australia born in selected overseas countries. People born in the UK and Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands have relatively low unemployment rates (3.8%, 3.9% and 3.9% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in Vietnam and Greece are relatively high (9.1% and 8.8% 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 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 August 2014 (average of the last four quarters), the largest increases in employment occurred for Managers (up 62 500), Professionals (up 38 700) and Community and Personal Service Workers (up 27 300). Employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Employment growth rates by occupation—12 months to August 2014⁶

Occupational Group	Employment Growth Rate (%)
Managers	4.3
Professionals	1.5
Technicians and Trades Workers	1.5
Community and Personal Service Workers	2.4
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-1.8
Sales Workers	2.4
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-2.2
Labourers	-0.1

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

Internet Vacancy Trends⁷

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report⁸, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁹ (see Figure 4). Over the year to August 2014, the IVI (trend) increased by 11.6%, with increases recorded in all of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 18.4%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 17.8%). The weakest occupation group increases were for Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 3.9%) and Sales Workers (up 5.4%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 43 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to August 2014, with the strongest increases being for Construction Trades (up 50.9%), Construction and Mining Labourers (up 25.5%), Skilled Animal and Horticultural Workers (up 24.1%) and Education Professionals (up 23.5%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Engineers (down 18.9%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (down 8.7%) and Food Preparation Assistants (down 8.6%).

Over the year to August 2014, vacancies increased in all states and both territories. The strongest increases in vacancies were in NSW (up 19.9%), Victoria (up 11.0%), WA (up 8.1%), Tasmania (up 7.1%) and the ACT (up 6.5%).

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).

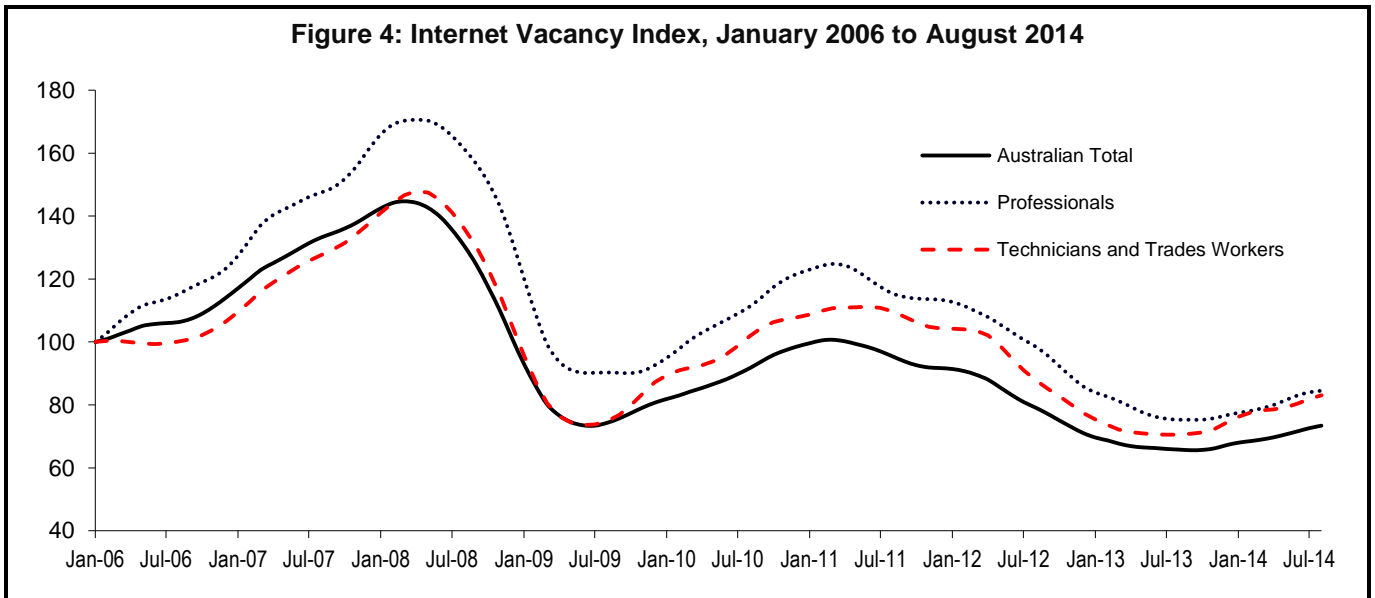
⁶ At the time of publication, ABS August 2014 unemployment rate data for occupations were not available. Future Australian Labour Market Update editions are expected to include this information for the reference month.

⁷ See Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (August 2014).

⁸ See Department of Employment Labour Market Information Portal website (www.lmip.gov.au).

⁹ The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, 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, then indexed (January 2006=100).

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



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

Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2014 publication contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2018 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 2018. 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.



The Labour Market Experience of Recent Migrants

This Hot Topic provides an overview of the labour market experience of recent migrantsⁱ under the Skill and Family Streams of Australia’s permanent Migration Programme.

This Hot Topic is produced every three years and, unless otherwise stated, uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, November 2013 (ABS Cat. No. 6250.0)—the 2013 Survey.

Labour Force Status of Recent Migrants

In November 2013, 5.3% of Australia’s population aged 15 years or over were recent migrants. Of the estimated 921 300 recent migrants, 602 100 were employed, 45 100 were unemployed and 274 100 were not in the labour force.

Employment

In November 2013, 65% of recent migrants were employed. Several factors contribute to employment outcomes for recent migrants. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had higher employment rates than those with permanent visas only (73% and 60% respectively). Recent migrants in the Skill Stream (73%) were more likely to have been employed than those in the Family Stream (55%). See Figure A.

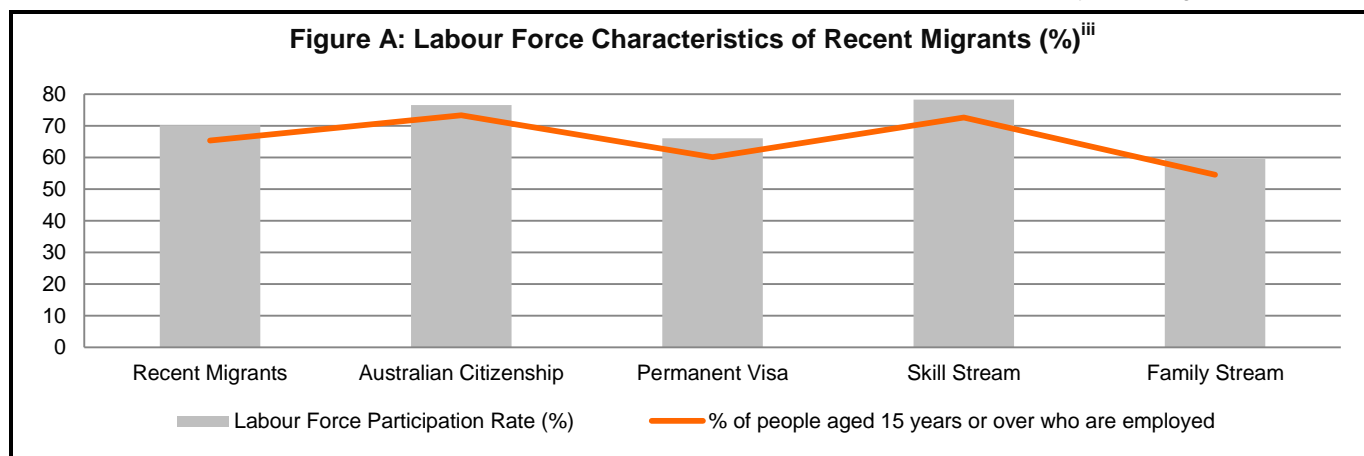
Around one third (34%) of the recent migrants who had been employed since arriving in Australia experienced difficulty finding their first job. The most common reasons for that difficulty were a lack of Australian work experience or references (62%), language difficulties (33%), a lack of local contacts or networks (28%), no jobs or vacancies in locality or line of work (15%) and skills or qualifications not recognised (15%).

Unemployment

According to the 2013 Survey, the unemployment rate for recent migrants was 7.0% compared with 5.4% for the Australian-born population. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had an unemployment rate of 4.3%ⁱⁱ, while those on a permanent visa had an unemployment rate of 9.0%.

Labour Force Participation

The 2013 Survey estimated the labour force participation rate for recent migrants was 70% compared with 68% for the Australian-born. The participation rate for recent migrants without Australian citizenship and with a Skill Stream visa was 78% while those with a Family Stream visa had a participation rate of 60%. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had a higher workforce participation rate than those who remained on permanent visas (77% and 66% respectively). See Figure A.



Skills and Qualifications

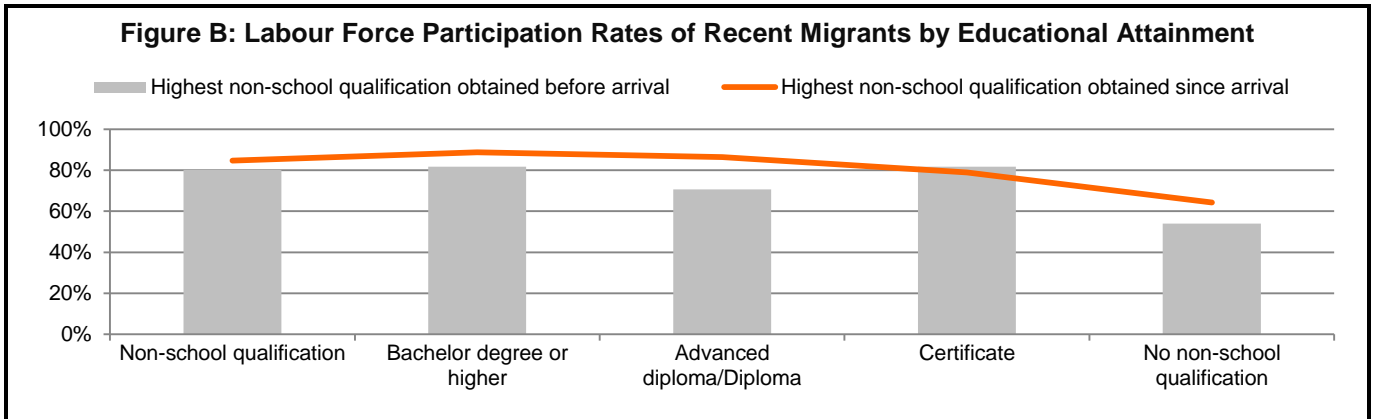
In the Australian labour market, higher levels of educational attainment among recent migrants are generally associated with higher levels of labour force participation and lower levels of educational attainment are associated with lower levels of labour force participation.

The 2013 Survey data shows that recent migrants who arrived with non-school qualifications^{iv} had higher participation rates and slightly lower unemployment rates than recent migrants who did not have non-school qualifications on arrival.

Recent migrants who arrived with a non-school qualification had a labour force participation rate of 80%, while the participation rate for recent migrants without a non-school qualification was significantly lower at 54%.

Recent migrants who obtained a non-school qualification since arrival in Australia tended to fare better in the labour market than those recent migrants who had not obtained a non-school qualification since arrival in Australia.

In November 2013, recent migrants who gained a non-school qualification since arriving in Australia had a labour force participation rate of 85%. However the participation rate for recent migrants who had not obtained a non-school qualification since arrival was significantly lower at 64%. See Figure B.

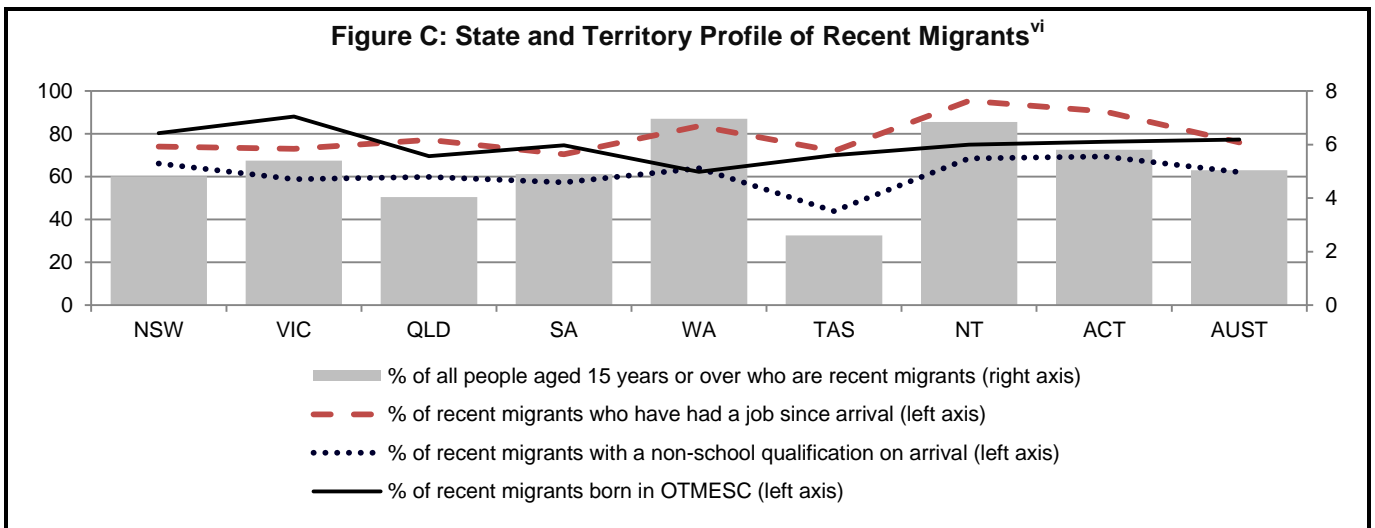


State and Territory Profile of Recent Migrants

According to the 2013 Survey, the percentage of recent migrants who had a job since arrival in Australia was highest in the Northern Territory (NT, 95%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 90%) and Western Australia (WA, 84%).

The percentage of recent migrants with a non-school qualification was reasonably uniform across all states apart from Tasmania (although the sample size is small for that state). The percentage of recent migrants born in Other Than Main English Speaking Countries (OTMESC) was highest in Victoria (88%) and New South Wales (80%). The percentage of recent migrants born in Main English Speaking Countries (MESC)^v was highest in WA (38%).

Recent migrants in WA and the NT represented a relatively high percentage of all people aged 15 years or over (7.0% and 6.8% respectively). See Figure C.



ⁱ Recent migrants are—for the purposes of the 2013 Survey and this Hot Topic—defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2003, were aged 15 years or over on arrival, were not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, did not hold New Zealand citizenship, and had permanent Australian resident status by holding a permanent visa or by having gained Australian citizenship.

ⁱⁱ This estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Skill Stream and Family Stream data in Figure A relate to recent migrants who had not obtained Australian citizenship at November 2013.

^{iv} Non-school qualifications include Postgraduate Degree, Master Degree, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate, Bachelor Degree, Advanced Diploma and Diploma, and Certificates I, II, III and IV. See ABS, Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, November 2013, Glossary (ABS Cat. No. 6250.0).

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

^{vi} Estimates for Tasmania, the NT and the ACT in Figure C may be subject to high sampling variability.