



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.

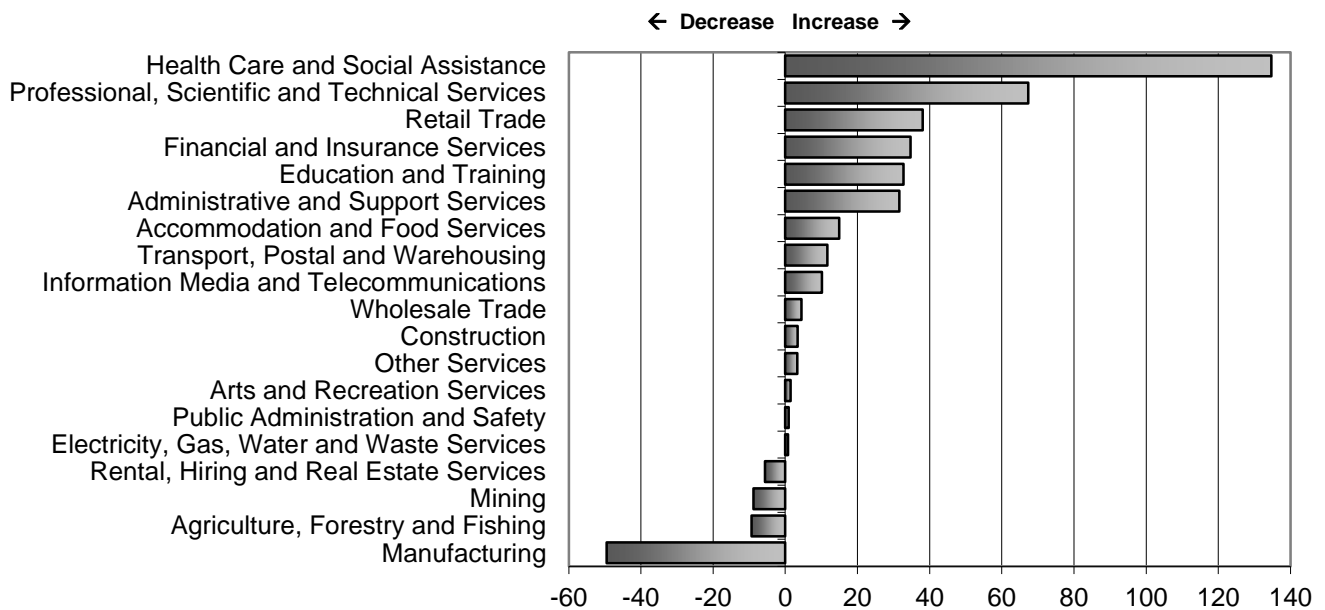
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2015.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to November 2015, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in New South Wales (NSW, 4.5%), the Northern Territory (NT, 2.8%), Queensland (2.6%) and Victoria (2.3%). The only state with a decline in employment growth was Tasmania (0.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 134 700), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 67 300) and Retail Trade (up 38 100). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Manufacturing (down 49 500). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 9.7%) and Financial and Insurance Services (up 8.6%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—November 2014 to November 2015



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, November 2015, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, December 2015 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

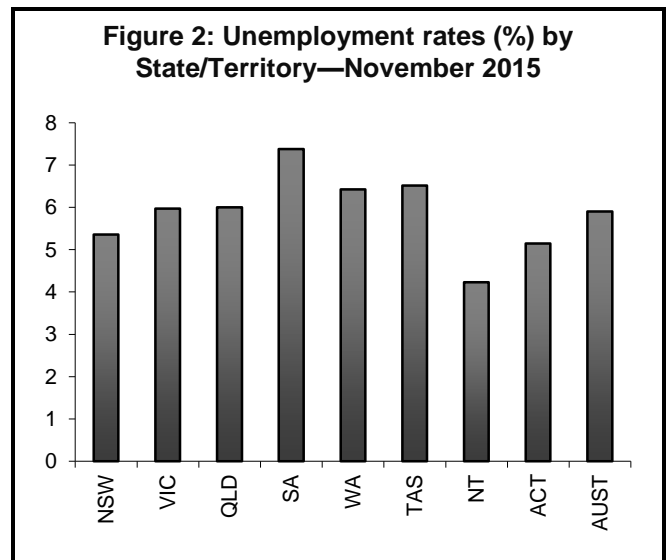
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.9% in November 2015 compared with 6.3% in November 2014.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in Western Australia (WA, 5.4% to 6.4%), South Australia (SA, 6.7% to 7.4%), the NT (3.8% to 4.2%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 4.8% to 5.2%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Victoria (6.6% to 6.0%), NSW (6.0% to 5.4%), Queensland (6.6% to 6.0%) and Tasmania (6.8% to 6.5%).

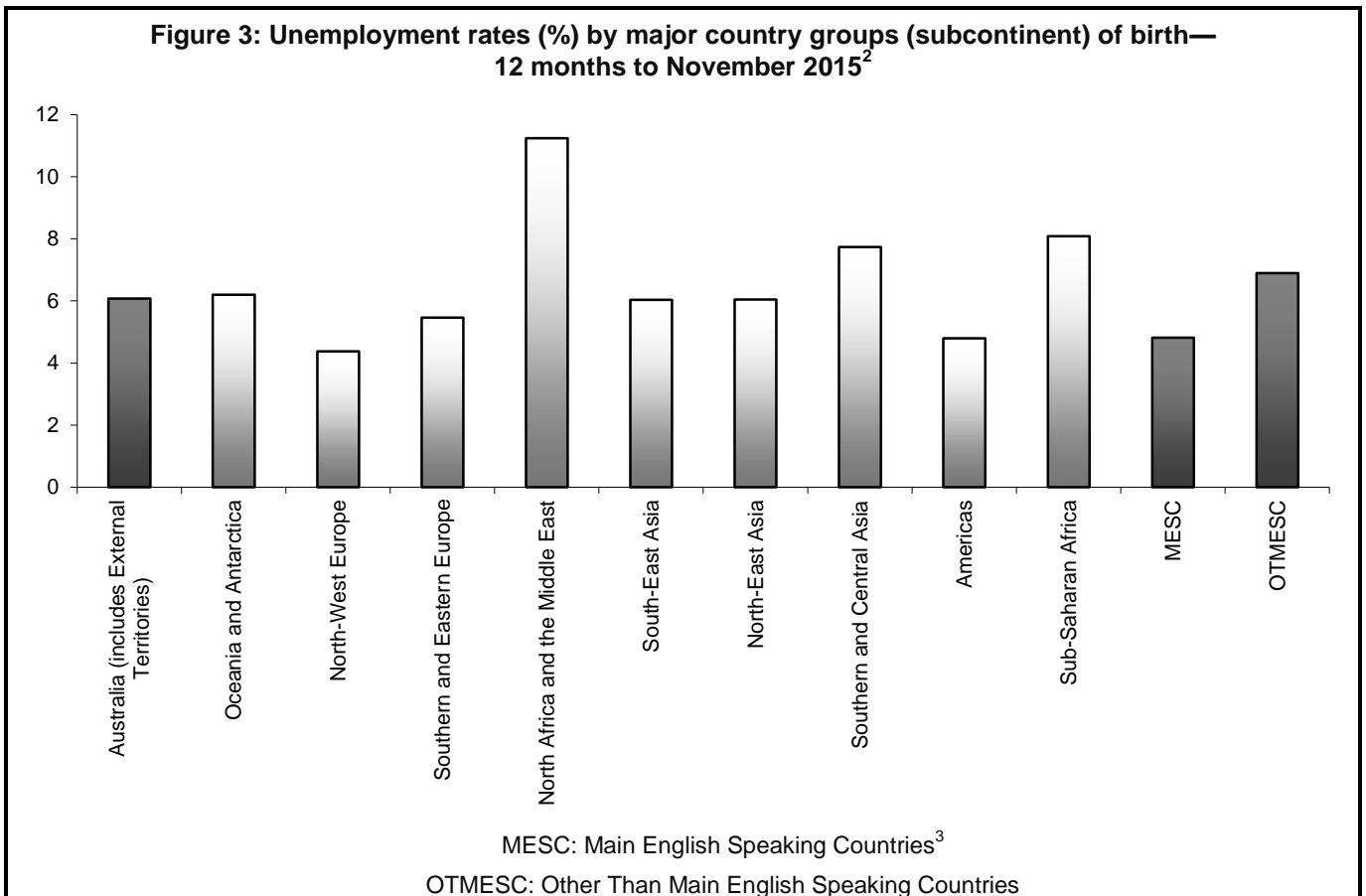
In November 2015, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (7.4%) and lowest in the NT (4.2%). See Figure 2.



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 November 2015) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe and the Americas have relatively low unemployment rates (4.4% and 4.8% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (11.2%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (8.1%) are relatively high.



² From October 2015, Figure 3 of the Australian Labour Market Update uses major country groups (subcontinent) of birth data from the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 1269.0). In SACC, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is included within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

³ MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

Employment by Occupation⁴

Over the 12 months to November 2015, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 109 300), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 73 000) and Sales Workers (up 36 400). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to November 2015

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	22.0	1.5
Professionals	109.3	4.2
Technicians and Trades Workers	35.0	2.1
Community and Personal Service Workers	73.0	6.4
Clerical and Administrative Workers	22.4	1.4
Sales Workers	36.4	3.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	-17.9	-2.4
Labourers	1.6	0.1

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

Internet Vacancy Trends⁵

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report, containing the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 4). Over the year to November 2015, the IVI (trend) increased by 6.5%, with increases recorded in six of the eight occupational groups.

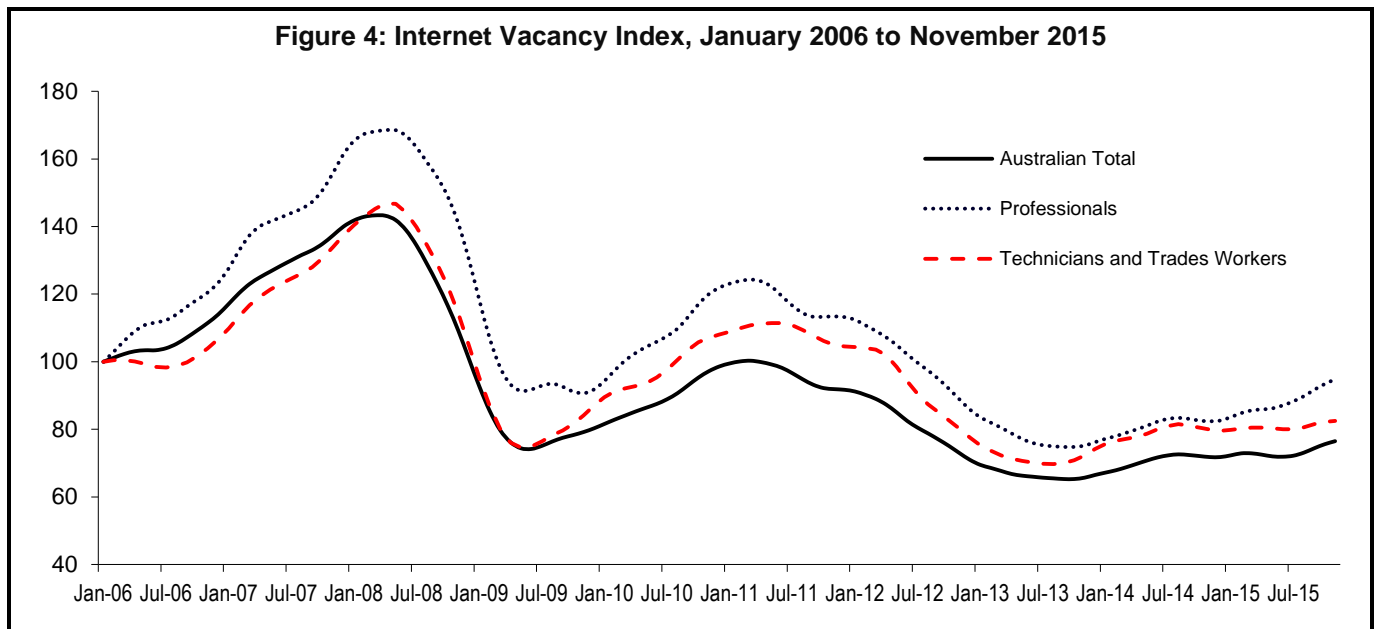
The largest occupational group increases were for Professionals (up 14.4%) and Managers (up 11.1%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 37 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to November 2015, with the strongest increases being for Health, Education, ICT and Other Managers (up 25.8%) and Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 24.8%). The strongest decreases over this period were for Food Preparation Assistants (down 27.6%), Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (down 19.2%) and Cleaners and Laundry Workers (down 15.1%).

Over the year to November 2015, vacancies rose in three states and the ACT, which recorded the strongest rise (up 25.1%). The largest falls were in the NT (down 17.2%) and WA (down 13.3%).

⁴ This section is based on November 2015 Department of Employment trend data derived from ABS Labour Force Survey data. Occupational Groups are from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

⁵ See Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (November 2015 and December 2015 (for Figure 4)) on the Department of Employment's Labour Market Information Portal website (www.lmip.gov.au). 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).



Source: Department of Employment, *Vacancy Report (December 2015)*, Trend Index data.

Future Job Openings

The Australian Jobs 2015⁶ publication contains information on future job openings, which reflects the number of new jobs expected to be created over the five years to November 2019 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 2019. It is important to note that these estimates do not provide any guidance about the number of people looking for opportunities in each occupation. The Australian labour market can change quickly so information 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.

⁶ <http://employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication>.



Optometrist and Orthoptist

Optometrists and Orthoptists perform eye examinations and vision tests; prescribe lenses, other optical aids and therapy; and diagnose and manage eye movement disorders and associated sensory problemsⁱ.

In the Australian labour market, employers seek applicants with a relevant Bachelor degree or higher qualification. To practise in Australia, Optometrists must complete a course in Australia or New Zealand accredited by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) or be assessed by OCANZ and meet the Optometry Board of Australia's registration standards. It is advisable that Orthoptists are registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board.

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment indicate that the occupation group of Optometrists and Orthoptists will grow strongly to November 2019. However, this is a very small occupation group, employing 6 800 people at November 2015 and opportunities may be limited in some regions. Optometrists and Orthoptists are mainly employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. Table A provides a labour market profile for Optometrists and Orthoptists from the *Job Outlook* website, www.joboutlook.gov.au.

Table A: Optometrists and Orthoptists—Key Labour Market Indicators

Key Indicator	Optometrists and Orthoptists
Most common level of educational attainment	Postgraduate degree, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate (52.4%)
Median age	40 years
Full-time share of employment	74.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	34.9
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 600
Unemployment rate	below average
Employment growth over past five years (to November 2014)	169.5%
Projected (to November 2019) occupation size	6 200

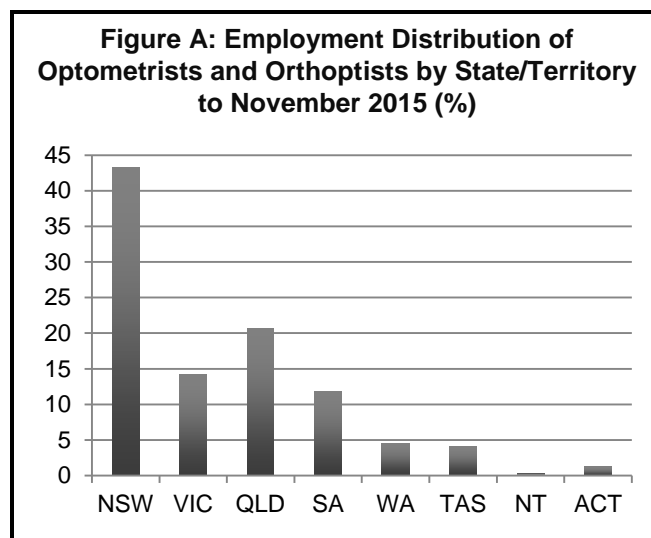
Research by the Department of Employment on the labour market for Optometrists shows employers continue to attract few suitable applicants and experience difficulty filling their vacancies, but higher training numbers are expected to result in an increased supply of graduates over the next few years. The most recent occupational reports for Optometrists are on the Department's website (<https://docs.employment.gov.au/node/35029>).

Regional Employment

Optometrists and Orthoptists are employed in all States and Territories in Australia.

For the four quarters to November 2015ⁱⁱ, the average employment of Optometrists and Orthoptists was highest in New South Wales (43.2%), Queensland (20.7%), Victoria (14.2%) and South Australia (11.8%).

Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest number of Optometrists and Orthoptists. See Figure A (four quarter average of original data).



Skills Assessment

OCANZ is the Australian assessing authority for overseas-trained Optometrists wishing to practise in Australia, and for those with an accredited Optometry qualification seeking to migrate under Australia's skilled migration programmes. A guide to the process is on the OCANZ website (www.ocanz.org/migration/overview-of-the-assessment-process-overseas-optometrist).

There is a two part assessment process for overseas-trained Optometrists to gain limited registration to practise in Australia. An application for a Competency in Optometry Examination must be submitted with evidence of an undergraduate or bachelor degree qualification in a relevant field of study to OCANZ. After this application is processed, a Competency in Optometry Examination must be taken which includes a written and a clinical examination section.

Optometrists must also be registered to practise in Australia. Information on the registration process is on the Optometry Board of Australia website (www.optometryboard.gov.au/Registration/Overseas-Practitioners.aspx) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website (www.ahpra.gov.au).

Since 1 December 2014, full registration as an Optometrist requires qualifications to prescribe or supply scheduled medicines to patients for the treatment of conditions of the eye, requiring either completion of an approved program of postgraduate study in ocular therapeutics in Australia or completion of the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT) examination administered by OCANZ.

VETASSESS is the Australian assessing authority for overseas-trained Orthoptists. An online application form must be completed and submitted with evidence of a qualification comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) bachelor degree or higher degree, in a field of study highly relevant to this occupation. In addition to this, evidence of at least one year of post-qualification employment is required. Further information on the assessment process is on the VETASSESS website (www.vetassess.com.au/skills-assessment-for-migration/general-occupations/application-process).

Employer-Sponsored Migration

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

Seeking Employment in Australia

Optometrists and Orthoptists should note that neither acceptance of qualifications for migration (visa) purposes, nor registration in Australia as either an Optometrist or an Orthoptist, assures employment in these or related occupations 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.

ⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, Cat. No. 1220.0, First Edition, www.abs.gov.au.

ⁱⁱ ABS Labour Force Survey (original data).