



Australian Labour Market Update - January 2019

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.

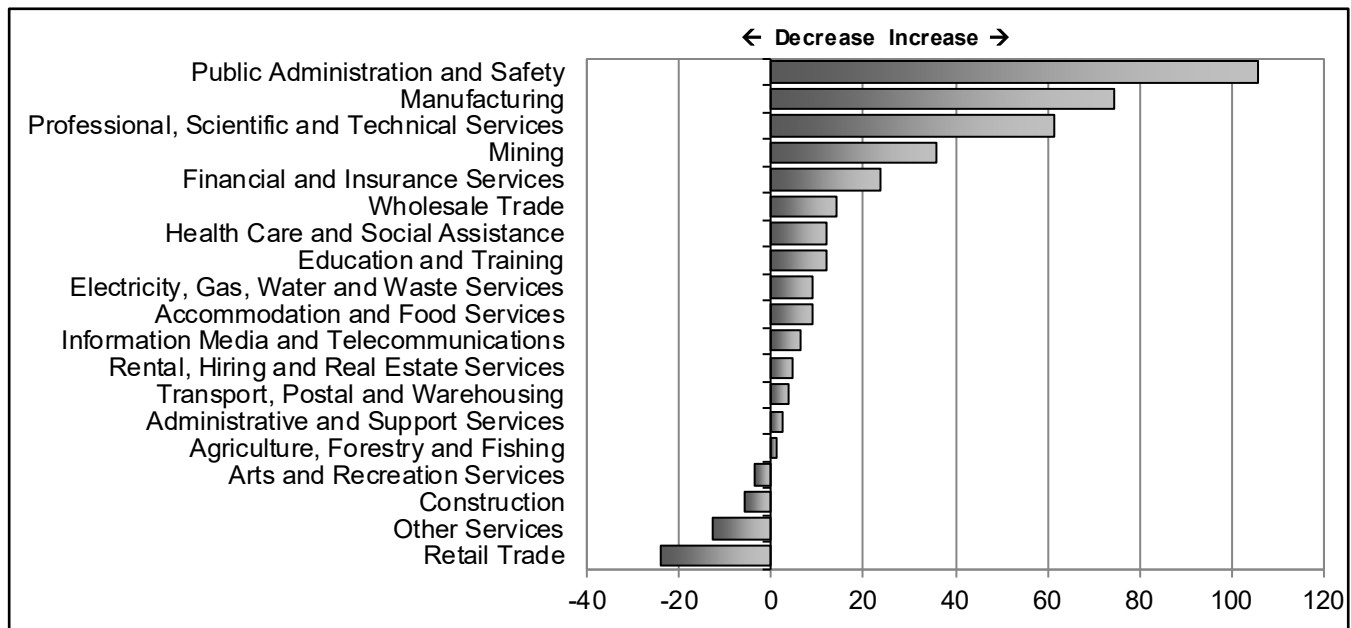
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2018.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to November 2018, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.3%) and New South Wales (NSW, 3.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2018, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (up 105 900), Manufacturing (up 74 400)², Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 61 300), Mining (up 36 000) and Financial and Insurance Services (up 23 700). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Retail Trade (down 23 800). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Mining (up 16.4%), Public Administration and Safety (up 14.5%) and Manufacturing (up 8.3%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—November 2017 to November 2018



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, November 2018, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trend data for November 2018 from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, December 2018 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

² While employment has increased recently in the Manufacturing industry, it remains the largest decreasing industry in terms of employment over the past 10 years. Employment in the industry is projected to grow over the five years to May 2023, but at a weaker rate (0.9%) than across all industries (7.1%).

Unemployment

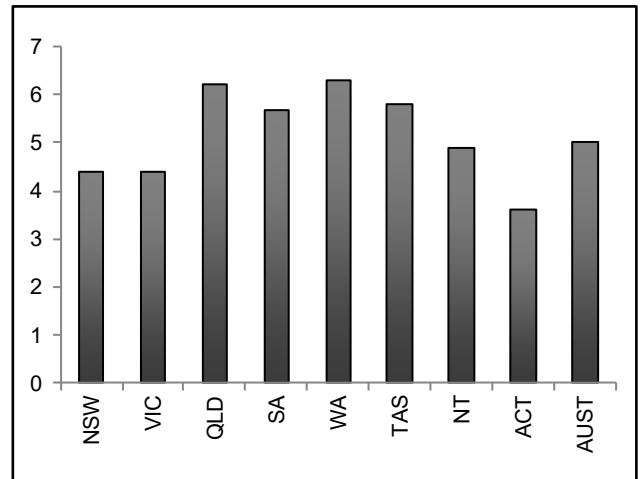
The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.0% in November 2018, compared to 5.5% in November 2017.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in Western Australia (WA, 5.9% to 6.3%), Queensland (5.9% to 6.2%) and the Northern Territory (NT, 4.4% to 4.9%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Victoria (5.8% to 4.4%), South Australia (SA, 5.9% to 5.7%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 4.0% to 3.6%), NSW (4.8% to 4.4%) and Tasmania (5.9% to 5.8%).

In November 2018, the trend unemployment rate was highest in WA (6.3%) and lowest in the ACT (3.6%). See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—November 2018

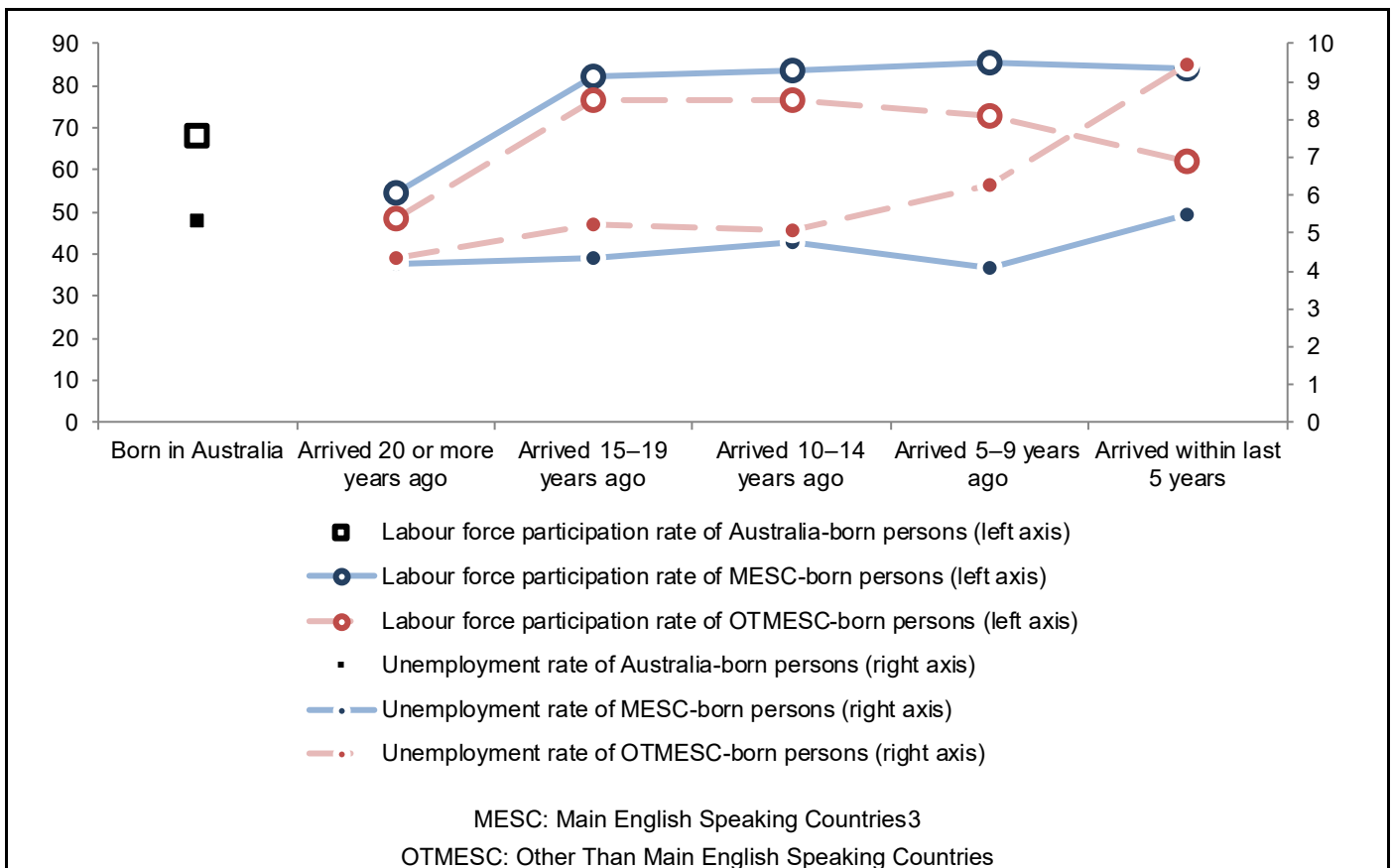


Migrant Unemployment

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 the participation and unemployment rates of the Australian-born and migrants by broad country of birth groups and period of residence in Australia (average of the last 12 months to November 2018).

Figure 3: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to November 2018

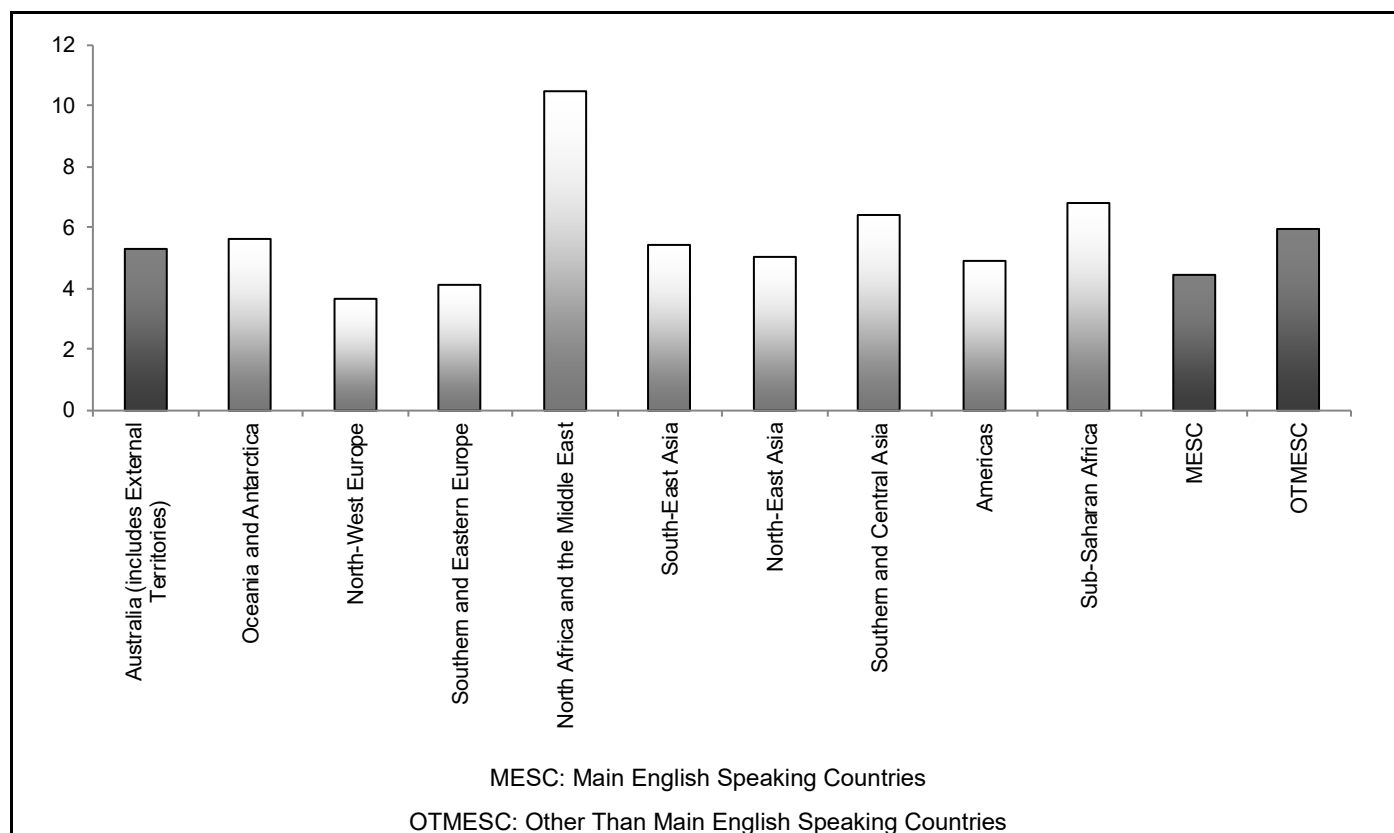


Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, November 2018, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.001.

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

Figure 4 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to November 2018) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe and Southern and Eastern Europe have relatively low unemployment rates (3.7% and 4.1% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (10.5%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (6.8%) are relatively high.

Figure 4: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to November 2018⁴



Employment by Occupation⁵

Over the 12 months to November 2018, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 149 600), Professionals (up 67 000), and Managers (up 36 200). The largest decrease occurred for Sales Workers (down 42 700). 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 2018

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	36.2	2.3
Professionals	67.0	2.3
Technicians and Trades Workers	7.0	0.4
Community and Personal Service Workers	-16.9	-1.3
Clerical and Administrative Workers	149.6	9.2
Sales Workers	-42.7	-3.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers	28.4	3.5
Labourers	22.2	1.8

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

⁴ In Figure 4, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

⁵ This section is based on November 2018 Department of Jobs and Small Business 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).

Internet Vacancy Trends

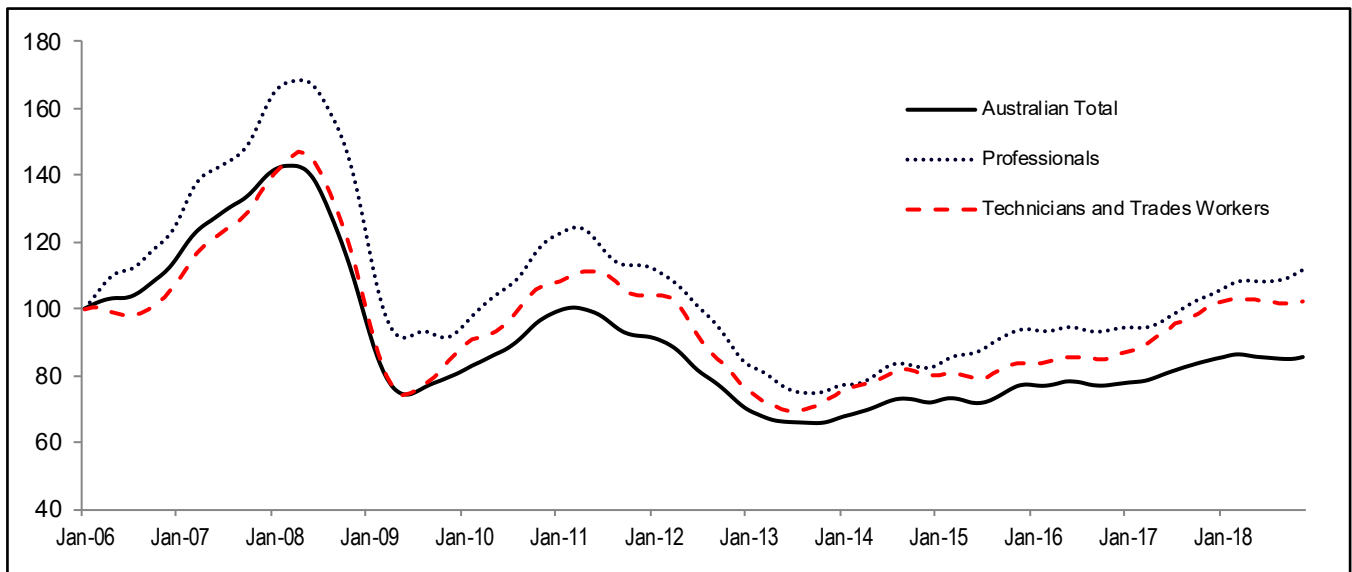
The Department of Jobs and Small Business produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁶ (see Figure 5). Over the year to November 2018, the IVI (trend) increased by 1.3% with increases recorded for four of the eight occupational groups.

The strongest occupational group increases were for Professionals (up 7.5%), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 6.8%), and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 2.8%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 29 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to November 2018, with the strongest increases for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 21.7%), Farmers and Farm Managers (up 20.6%), and Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals (up 18.5%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Construction and Trade Workers (down 17.1%).

Over the year to November 2018, vacancies rose in three states, with the strongest in Tasmania (up 28.2%), followed by Victoria (up 7.4%) and WA (up 6.0%). Falls were in the NT (down 5.1%), Queensland (down 3.5%), the ACT (down 2.4%), NSW (down 1.9%) and SA (down 1.7%).

Figure 5: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to November 2018



Source: Department of Jobs and Small Business, Vacancy Report (December 2018), Trend Index data.

Future Employment Change

The Labour Market Information Portal contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to May 2023 for different occupations and industries. As there may be significant variation between and within states, information on future employment change should be used with caution.

Future employment change estimates are indicative only and are intended to provide a guide to opportunities likely to be available over the five years to May 2023. It is important to note that these estimates do not provide any guidance about the number of people looking for opportunities in each occupation. As the Australian labour market can change quickly, 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@jobs.gov.au.

⁶ See Department of Jobs and Small Business, Vacancy Report (December 2018). The 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 Jobs and Small Business to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).



Hot Topic

Veterinarians

Veterinarians diagnose and treat disease and injury in animals and work to prevent disease in domestic and wild animals and humans. Abnormal conditions are found through physical examination, laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging techniques including radiography and ultrasound. Animals which may be family pets, livestock, horses or exotic animals are treated by Veterinarians medically, surgically and through the prescription of drugs, analgesics, and anaesthetics. Veterinarians also advise owners, government and industry on the health, nutrition, hygiene, breeding and animal welfare in areas as diverse as conservation, meat inspection, pharmaceuticals and research.ⁱ

In the Australian labour market, employers of Veterinarians seek applicants with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification in a highly relevant field of study. Veterinarians may also need other certifications.ⁱⁱ The occupation of Veterinarian is regulated by state and territory veterinary registration boards. Requirements may vary between workplaces and according to state/territory rules and regulations.

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Jobs and Small Business indicate that the occupation group of Veterinarians is expected to grow very strongly over the five years to May 2023. The number of job openings over the five years to May 2023 is expected to be around 7 000.ⁱⁱⁱ The majority of Veterinarians are employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (77.7%), Public Administration and Safety (8.6%), and Education and Training (5.1%). Table A provides a labour market profile for Veterinarians from the [Job Outlook](#) and [Labour Market Information Portal](#) websites.

Table A: Veterinarians—Key Labour Market Indicators

Key Indicator	Veterinarians
Occupation size (May 2018)	10 500
Most common level of educational attainment	Not available
Average age	38 years
Full-time share of employment	81.8%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	39.6
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 180
Unemployment rate	Average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2018)	19.3%
Projected (to May 2023) occupation size	12 100

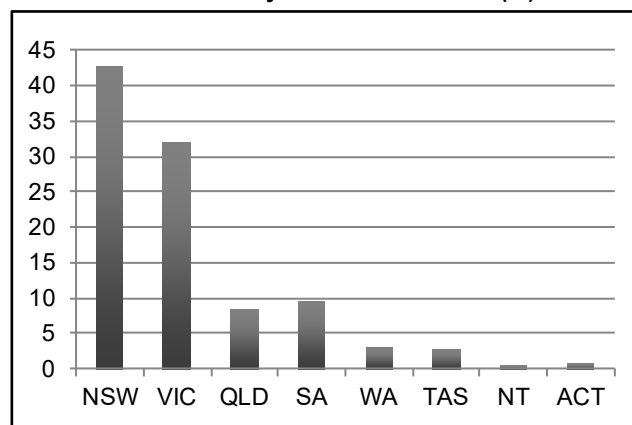
Regional Employment

Veterinarians are employed in all states and territories in Australia.^{iv}

For the four quarters to November 2018,^v the average share of employment of Veterinarians was highest in New South Wales (42.8%) and Victoria (32.1%).

Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest average share of Veterinarians (at fewer than 5.0% each). See Figure A (original data).

Figure A: Employment Distribution of Veterinarians by State/Territory to November 2018 (%)



Skills Assessment

Overseas-qualified Veterinarians wishing to apply for skilled migration to Australia need to obtain a skills assessment from the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). Overseas-trained Veterinarians with qualifications not recognised by the AVBC, will be required to sit the National Veterinary Examination before undertaking the skills assessment.

A comprehensive knowledge of English is essential to practice as a Veterinarian in Australia. Non-native English speakers will need to sit an approved English language test to complete their skills assessment.

Once the skills assessment is completed, the AVBC will mail the result letter to the applicant to be submitted to the Department of Home Affairs as evidence of the applicant's migration skills assessment. Further information on the Veterinarian skills assessment process is on the [AVBC website](#).

Overseas-qualified Veterinarians should note that registration with the relevant state or territory Veterinary registration board^{vi} is also necessary to be employed as a Veterinarian in Australia.

Related Occupations

Veterinary Nurses, Animal Nurses and Veterinary Assistants care for animals and assist Veterinarians in performing procedures and operations. Vocational qualifications and on-the-job training is usually needed.

Animal Attendants and Trainers maintain animals through cleaning, feeding, exercise, and the treatment of minor injuries. Animals are taught to obey commands and perform in competitions. On-the-job training is usually needed.

Life Scientists observe the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of living organisms. Zoologist is an occupation title within Life Scientists, focusing exclusively on the study of animals. A Bachelor Degree or higher qualification is usually needed.

Table B provides a labour market profile for these occupations from the [Job Outlook](#) website.

Table B: Related Occupations—Key Labour Market Indicators

Key Indicator	Veterinary Nurses and Assistants	Animal Attendants and Trainers	Life Scientists
Occupation size (May 2018)	11 600	15 100	9 600
Most common level of educational attainment	Certificate III/IV (48.0%)	Year 12 (47.0%)	Post Graduate ^{vii} (50.5%)
Average age	27 years	39 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	62.5%	50.8%	82.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	32.2	44.7	33.1
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$991	\$957	\$1 645
Unemployment rate	Above average	Average	Average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2018)	2.7%	4.1%	26.3%
Projected (to May 2023) occupation size	12 700	17 100	10 200

Employer-Sponsored Migration

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programs including the Temporary Skill Shortage, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programs is on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) website.

Seeking Employment in Australia

Veterinarians should note that acceptance of qualifications for a migration (visa) purpose does not assure 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 Jobs and Small Business 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 relevant Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies may include information on vacancies.

ⁱ Australian Veterinary Board Council with reference to [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\)](#) and Statistics New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, Cat. No. 1220.0, First Edition.

ⁱⁱ Department of Jobs and Small Business, www.joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation.aspx?search=Career&code=2347.

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^{iv} Employment distribution data differs from Veterinarian registration data which shows that at 30 June 2018, registration was distributed between New South Wales (27%), Victoria (26%), Queensland (24%), Western Australia (12%), South Australia (6%), Australian Capital Territory (3%), Tasmania (2%) and Northern Territory (1%).

^v [ABS Labour Force Survey](#) (original data), Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

^{vi} Contact information for state and territory Veterinary registration boards is at <https://avbc.asn.au/contacts>.

^{vii} Post-graduate means an AQF Post Graduate/Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate in a relevant field of study.