



# Australian Labour Market Update—July 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.

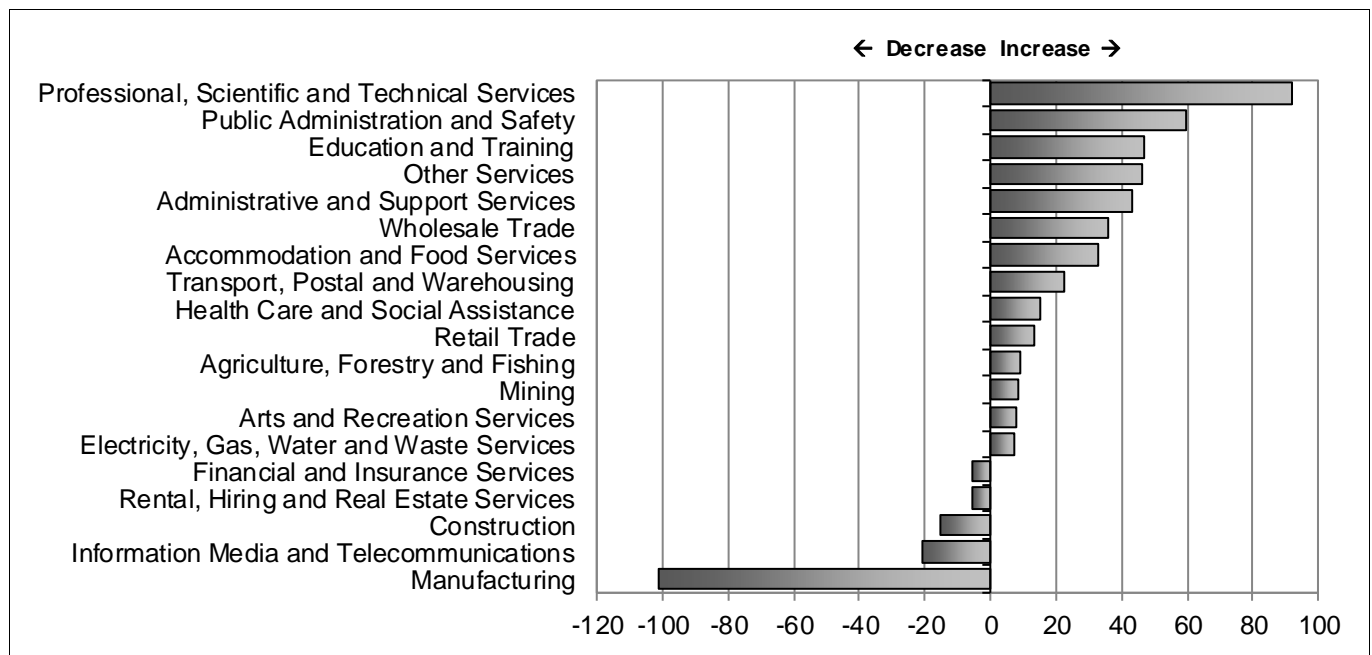
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2019.<sup>1</sup>

## Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2019, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.8%) and New South Wales (NSW, 3.4%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 92 100) and Public Administration and Safety (up 59 600). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Manufacturing (down 101 400). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Administrative and Support Services (up 10.6%), Other Services (up 9.8%) and Wholesale Trade (up 9.7%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—May 2018 to May 2019**



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2019, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

<sup>1</sup> The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trend data for May 2019 from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, June 2019 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

# Unemployment

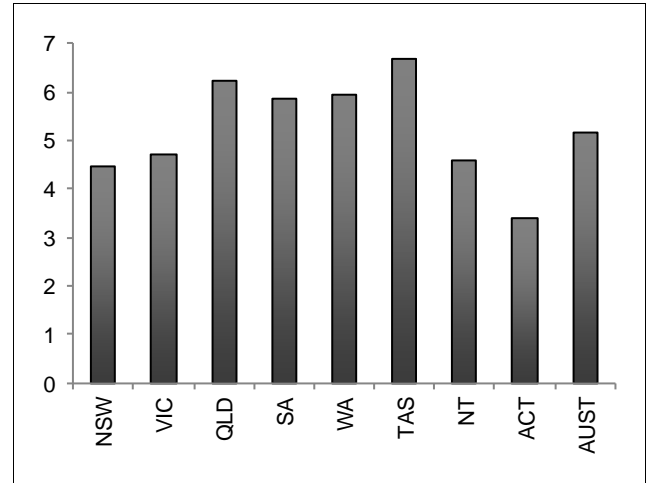
The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.2% in May 2019, compared to 5.4% in May 2018.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in Tasmania (6.0% to 6.7%), the Northern Territory (NT, 4.1% to 4.6%), South Australia (SA, 5.7% to 5.9%) and Queensland (6.1% to 6.2%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Victoria (5.1% to 4.7%), NSW (4.9% to 4.5%), Western Australia (WA, 6.3% to 5.9%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 3.7% to 3.4%).

In May 2019, the trend unemployment rate was highest in Tasmania (6.7%) and lowest in the ACT (3.4%). See Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—May 2019**

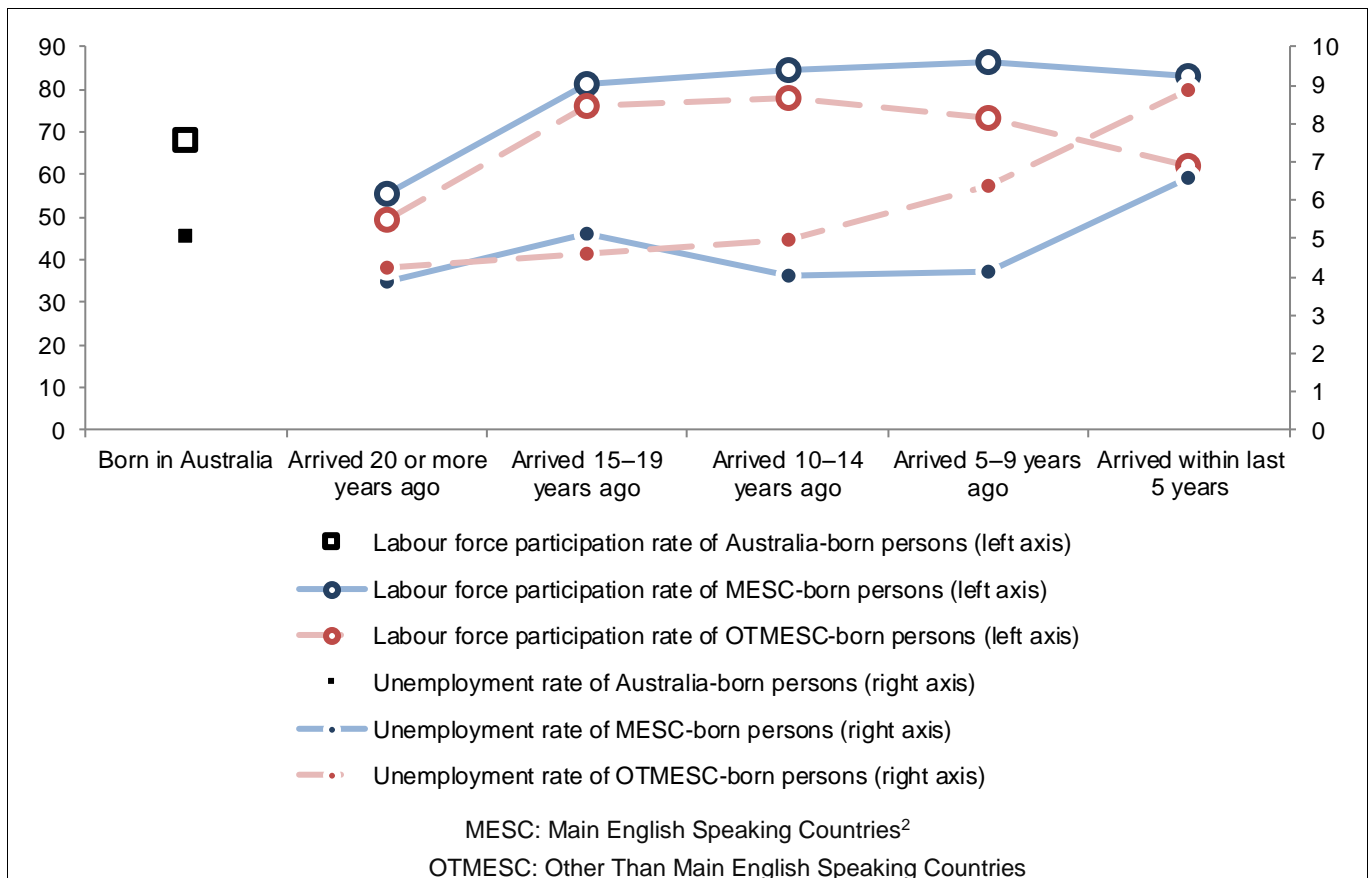


# Migrant Unemployment

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 May 2019).

**Figure 3: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to May 2019**

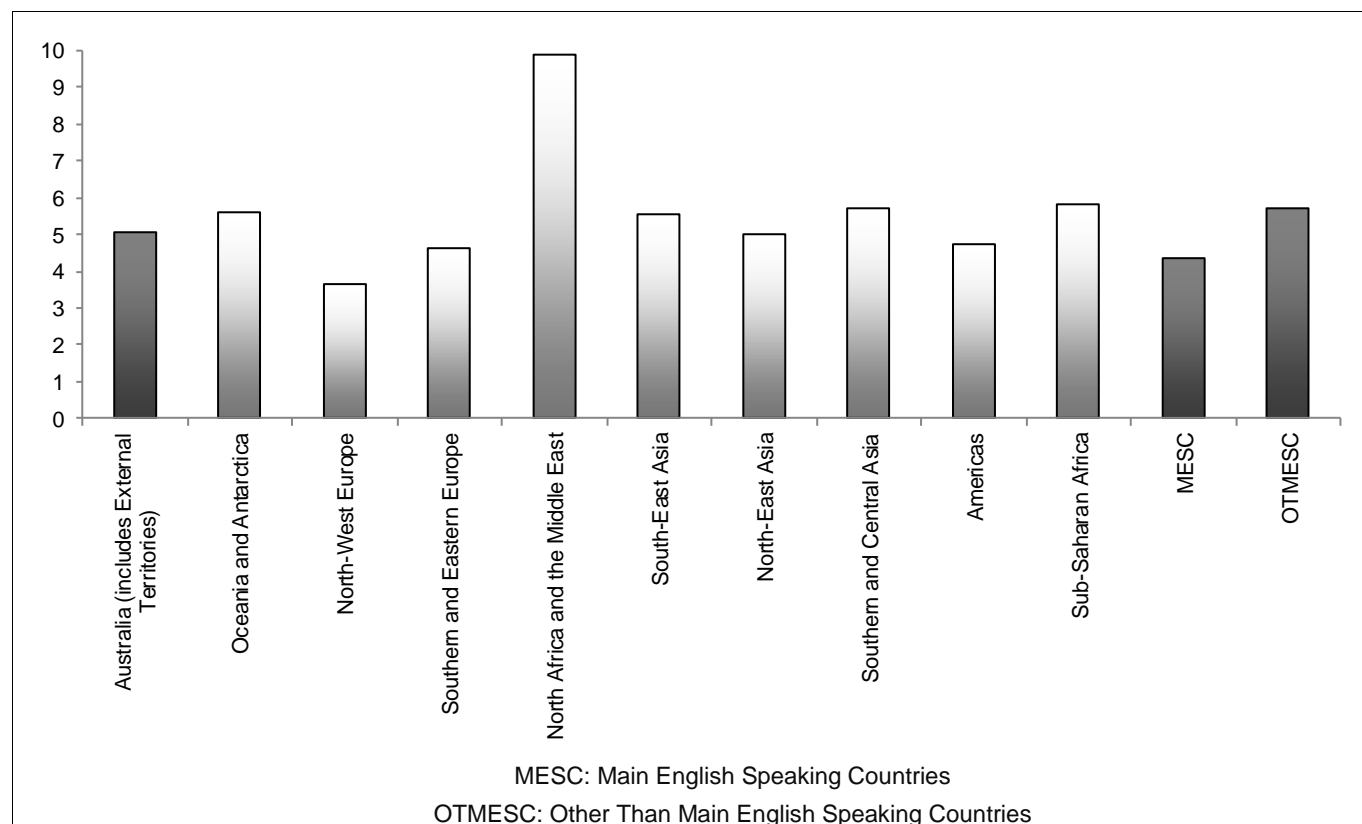


Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, May 2019, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.001.

<sup>2</sup> 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 May 2019) 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 4.6% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (9.9%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (5.8%) are relatively high.

**Figure 4: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to May 2019<sup>3</sup>**



## Employment by Occupation<sup>4</sup>

Over the 12 months to May 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 104 800), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 98 900), and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up 89 700). The largest decrease occurred for Managers (down 54 200). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to May 2019**

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	-54.2	-3.4
Professionals	104.8	3.5
Technicians and Trades Workers	1.3	0.1
Community and Personal Service Workers	98.9	7.6
Clerical and Administrative Workers	89.7	5.3
Sales Workers	-18.6	-1.6
Machinery Operators and Drivers	61.9	7.5
Labourers	-14.4	-1.2

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

<sup>3</sup> In Figure 4, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

<sup>4</sup> This section is based on May 2019 Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family 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

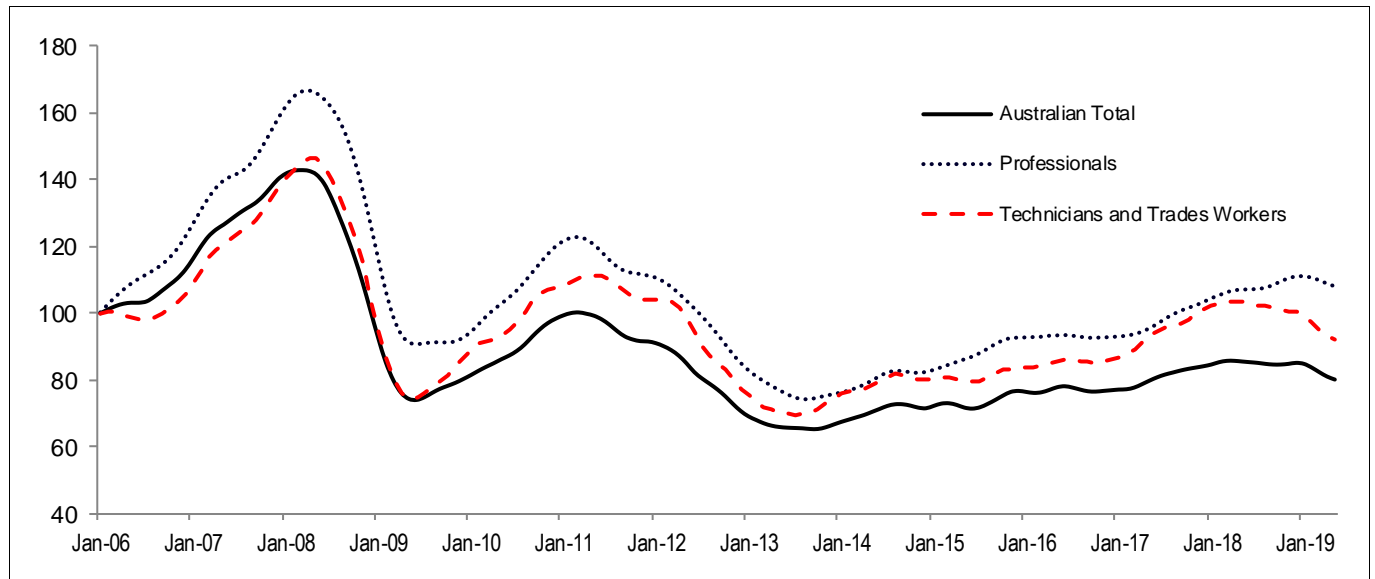
The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business produces the monthly [Vacancy Report](#) which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)<sup>5</sup> (see Figure 5). Over the year to May 2019, the IVI (trend) decreased by 6.3% with increases recorded for two of the eight occupational groups.

The occupational group increases were for Community and Personal Service Workers (up 4.0%) and Professionals (up 0.9%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 11 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2019, with the strongest increases for Education Professionals (up 64.3%), Farmers and Farm Managers (up 28.8%), Health and Welfare Support Workers (up 23.3%), Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals (up 22.6%) and Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up 12.5%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Construction Trades Workers (down 24.5%).

Over the year to May 2019, vacancies rose in two states and territories. The strongest rises were in Tasmania (up 12.4%) and the ACT (up 6.7%). The falls were in the NT (down 10.5%), NSW (down 9.9%), Victoria (down 6.2%), Queensland (down 5.1%), WA (down 1.9%) and SA (down 1.1%).

**Figure 5: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to May 2019**



Source: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [Vacancy Report](#) (June 2019), 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@employment.gov.au](mailto:migration@employment.gov.au).

<sup>5</sup> See Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [Vacancy Report](#) (June 2019). 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 Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).



## Hot Topic

# Civil Engineering Professionals

Civil Engineering Professionals plan and design the construction and development of dams, roadways, expansion bridges, sewerage and water systems, habitations and buildings, airports and other important infrastructure in a locality or country.

## Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business indicate that the occupation group of Civil Engineering Professionals is projected to grow 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 28 000.<sup>i</sup> Most Civil Engineering Professionals are employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (42.9%), Construction (27.5%) and Public Administration and Safety (13.4%) industries. Table A provides a labour market profile for Civil Engineering Professionals from the [Job Outlook](#) and [Labour Market Information Portal](#) websites.

**Table A: Civil Engineering Professionals—Key Labour Market Indicators**

Key Indicator	Civil Engineering Professionals
Occupation size (May 2018)	53 300
Most common level of educational attainment	Bachelor degree
Average age	36 years
Full-time share of employment	90%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	46
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 962
Unemployment rate	Below average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2018)	27.8%
Projected (to May 2023) occupation size	60 500

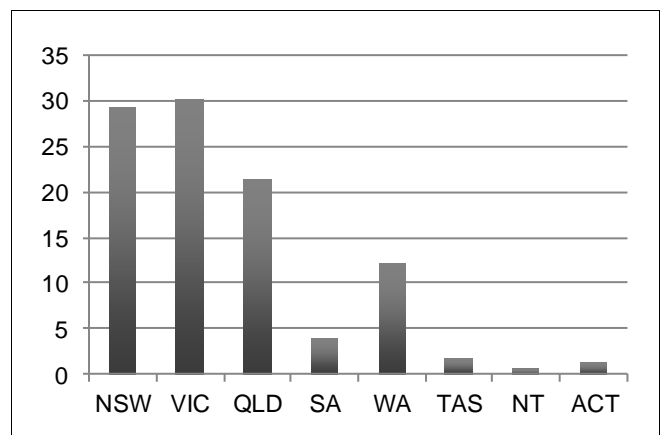
## Regional Employment

Civil Engineering Professionals are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

At May 2019,<sup>ii</sup> the average share of employment of Civil Engineering Professionals was highest in Victoria (30.1%) and New South Wales (29.3%).

Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory employed the smallest share of Civil Engineering Professionals (at fewer than 2.0% each). See Figure A (trend data).

**Figure A: Employment Distribution of Civil Engineering Professionals by State/Territory—May 2019 (%)**



## Skills Assessment

Overseas-qualified Civil Engineering Professionals wishing to apply for permanent or temporary skilled migration to Australia need to obtain a skill assessment by Engineers Australia. Engineers Australia has different assessment pathways depending on the type of qualification and educational background<sup>iii</sup>. Information on the process, supporting documentation and fees required for the Migration Skills Assessment is on the [Engineers Australia](#) website.

## Related Occupations

Occupations related to Civil Engineering Professionals are Engineering Managers, Surveyors and Spatial Scientists, and Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians. Engineering Managers plan, organise, direct, control and coordinate the engineering and technical operations of organisations. Surveyors and Spatial Scientists plan, direct and conduct survey work; and Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians assist in civil engineering research, design, construction, operations and maintenance. The Australian labour market requires formal qualifications to work in these occupations and work experience may be required in addition to a qualification. 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	Engineering Managers	Surveyors and Spatial Scientists	Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians
Occupation size (May 2018)	22 900	12 300	8 500
Most common level of educational attainment	Bachelor degree (44.3%)	Bachelor degree (44.2%)	Advanced Diploma/Diploma (38.6%)
Average age	45 years	40 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	94%	87%	89%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	47	45	42
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$3 427	\$1 958	\$1 574
Unemployment rate	Below average	Average	Average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2018)	16.8%	-26.8%	-38.0%
Projected (to May 2023) occupation size	26 400	11 900	8 700

## 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

Civil Engineering Professionals 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 Employment, Skills, Small and Family 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.

Queries on the Australian Labour Market Update publication should be emailed to [migration@employment.gov.au](mailto:migration@employment.gov.au).

<sup>i</sup> Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [www.joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation?search=Career&code=2332](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation?search=Career&code=2332).

<sup>ii</sup> [ABS Labour Force Survey](#), Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003. The data has been trended by the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.

<sup>iii</sup> The [Engineers Australia](#) website includes information on the five assessment pathways for the assessment for engineering professionals covering: Competency Demonstrate Report; Accredited Australian Qualifications; Washington Accord Qualifications; Sydney Accord Qualifications; and Dublin Accord Qualifications.