



Australian Labour Market Update—January 2020

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.

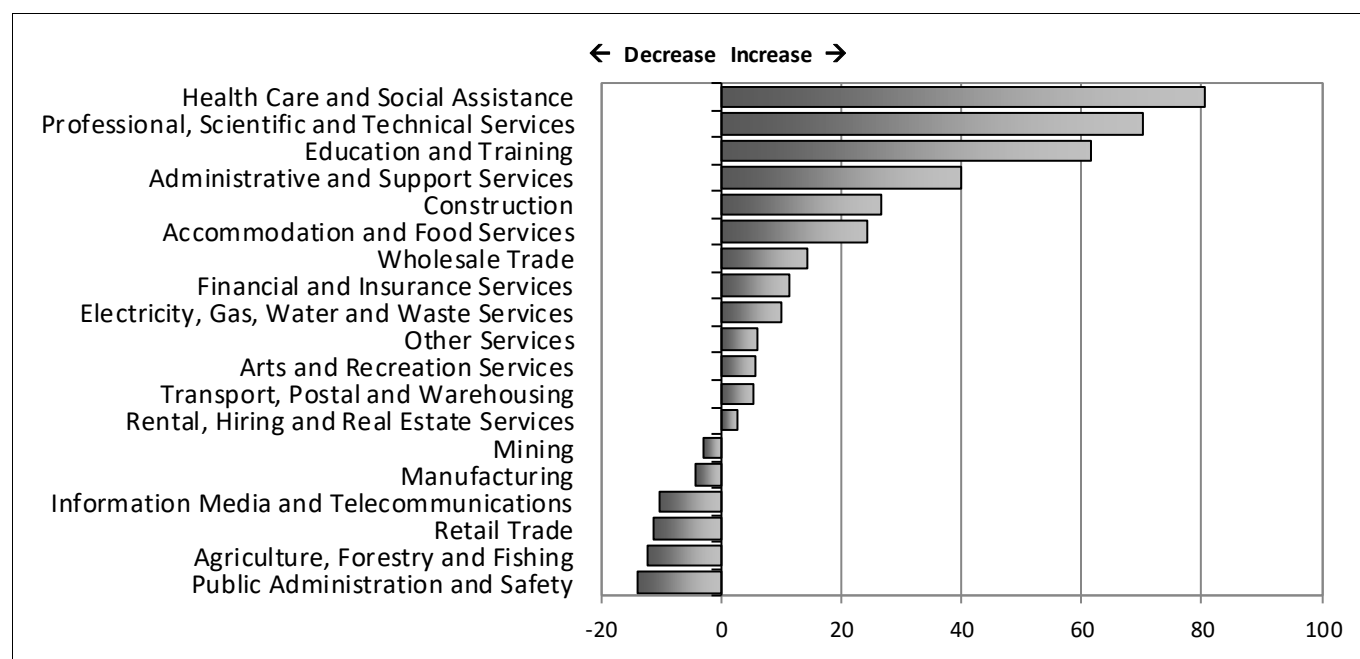
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2019.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to November 2019, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 3.4%), Victoria (3.0%) and Queensland (2.3%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 80 700), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 70 300) and Education and Training (up 61 700). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Administrative and Support Services (up 9.7%), Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (up 6.7%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 6.4%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

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

Unemployment

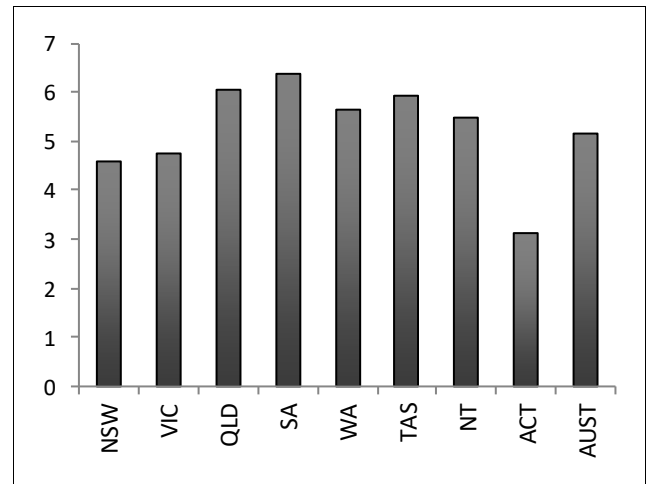
The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.2% in November 2019, compared to 5.0% in November 2018.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 4.6% to 5.5%), South Australia (SA, 5.8% to 6.4%), New South Wales (NSW, 4.3% to 4.6%) and Victoria (4.6% to 4.8%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in Western Australia (WA, 6.3% to 5.6%), the ACT (3.6% to 3.1%) and Tasmania (6.2% to 5.9%).

In November 2019, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (6.4%) and lowest in the ACT (3.1%). See Figure 2.

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

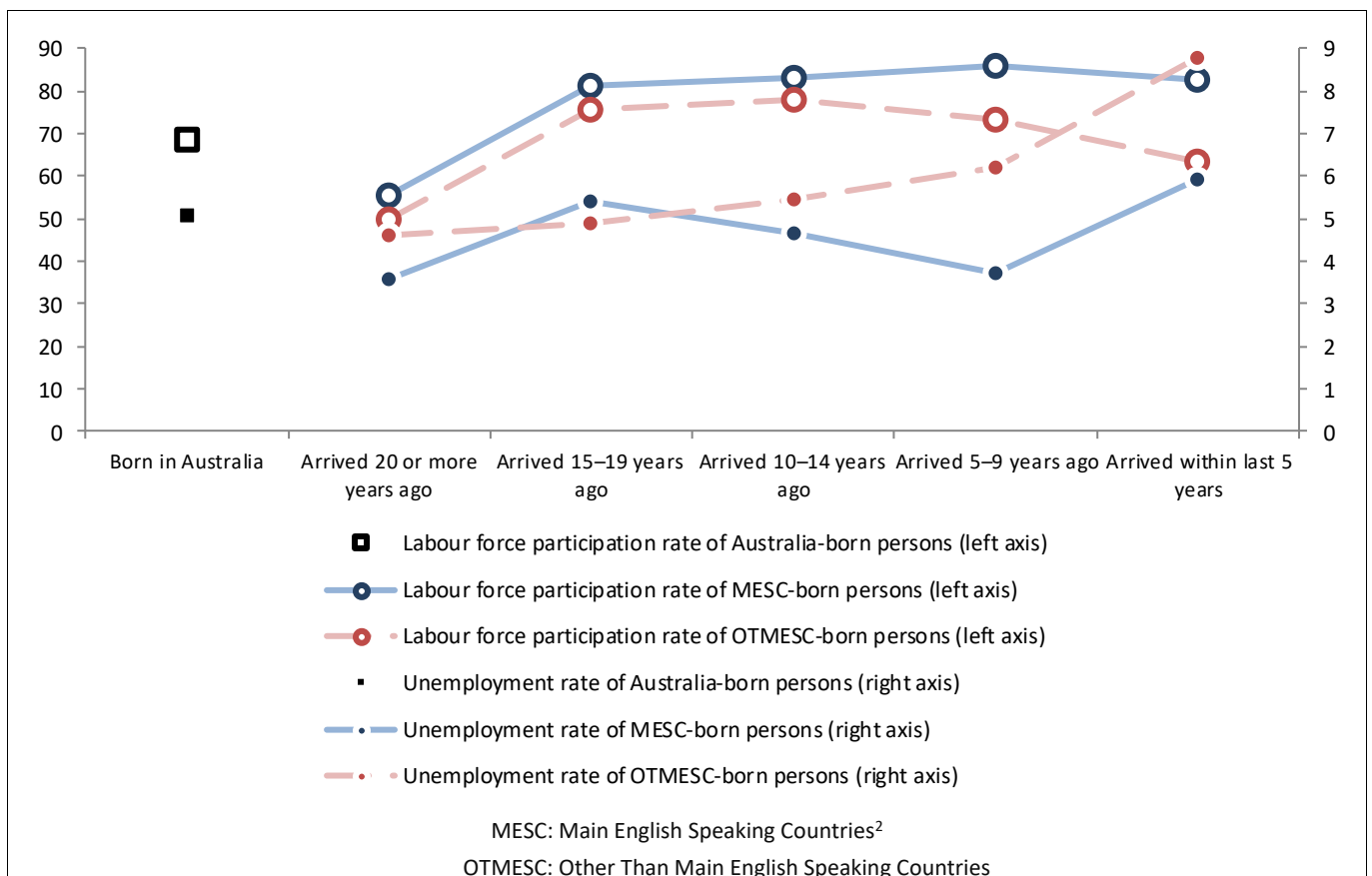


Migrant Unemployment

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 November 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 November 2019

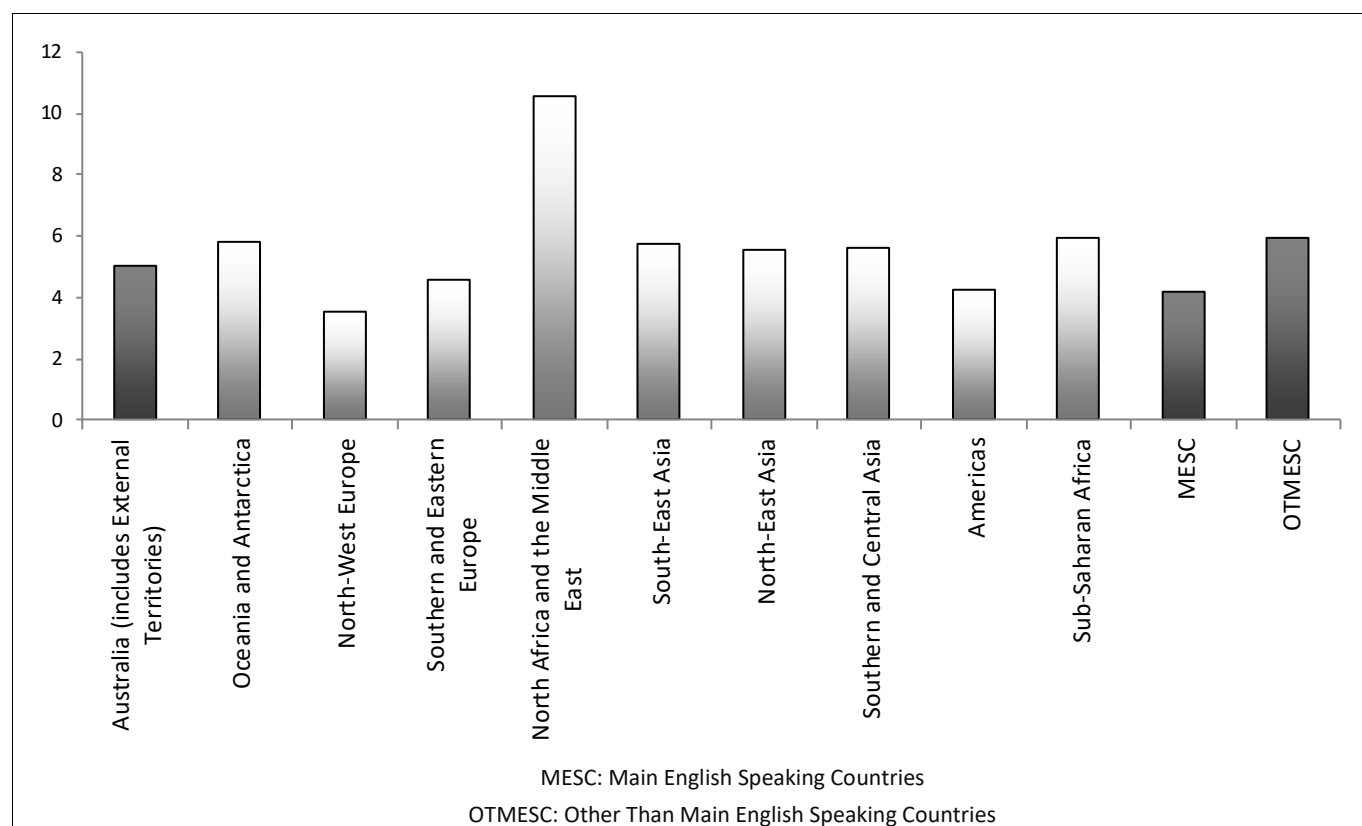


Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, November 2019, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.001.

² 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 2019) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe and Americas have relatively low unemployment rates (3.5% and 4.2% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (10.6%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (5.9%) are relatively high.

Figure 4: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to November 2019³



Employment by Occupation⁴

Over the 12 months to November 2019, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 165 300), Community and Personal Service Workers (up 57 100) and Labourers (up 38 300). The largest decrease occurred for Managers (down 31 500). 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 2019

| Occupational Group | 1 Year Change ('000 persons) | 1 Year Change (%) |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Managers | -31.5 | -2.0 |
| Professionals | 165.3 | 5.4 |
| Technicians and Trades Workers | 8.9 | 0.5 |
| Community and Personal Service Workers | 57.1 | 4.2 |
| Clerical and Administrative Workers | -5.7 | -0.3 |
| Sales Workers | -4.2 | -0.4 |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | 13.5 | 1.6 |
| Labourers | 38.3 | 3.1 |

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

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

⁴ This section is based on November 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).

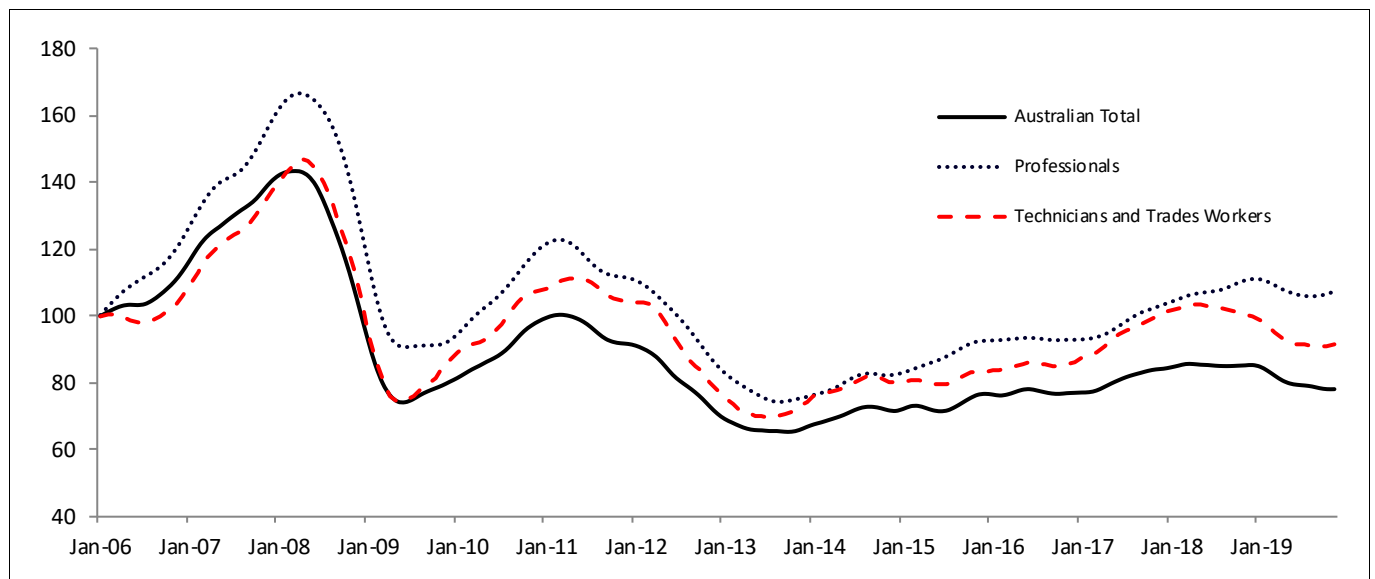
Internet Vacancy Trends

The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business produces the monthly [Vacancy Report](#) which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁵ (see Figure 5). Over the year to November 2019, the IVI (trend) decreased by 8.4% with decreases recorded for all eight occupational groups.

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in seven of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to November 2019, with the strongest increases for Education Professionals (up 21.8%), Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals (up 12.0%), Farmers and Farm Managers (up 10.8%) and Hospitality Workers (up 4.6%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Sales Support Workers (down 27.2%).

Over the year to November 2019, vacancies rose in two states and territories. The rises were in the ACT (up 11.3%) and WA (up 1.9%). The falls were in NSW (down 14.7%), the NT (down 11.6%), Tasmania (down 9.1%), Victoria (down 8.2%), Queensland (down 5.9%) and SA (down 2.3%).

Figure 5: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to November 2019



Source: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [Vacancy Report](#) (December 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 2024 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 2024. 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 should be emailed to migration@employment.gov.au or migration@dese.gov.au.

⁵ See Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [Vacancy Report](#) (December 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

Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics

Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics diagnose, test, repair, and install industrial, commercial and domestic airconditioning and refrigeration systems and equipment. In the Australian labour market, most Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics have completed an apprenticeship in a relevant field of study and hold relevant Australian licences.

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business indicate that the occupation group of Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics is expected to remain stable for the five years to 2024¹. Most Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics are employed in the Construction (44.8%), Other Services (38.4%), and Manufacturing (4.2%) industries. Table A provides a labour market profile for Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics from the [Job Outlook](#) and [Labour Market Information Portal](#) websites.

Table A: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics Key Labour Market Indicators

| Key Indicator | Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Occupation size (May 2019) | 33 600 |
| Most common level of educational attainment | Certificate III/IV |
| Average age | 33 years |
| Full-time share of employment | 89% |
| Average weekly hours (full-time) | 44 |
| Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax) | \$1 400 |
| Unemployment rate | Below average |
| Employment growth over past five years (to May 2019) | 41.8% |
| Projected (to May 2024) occupation size | 34 800 |

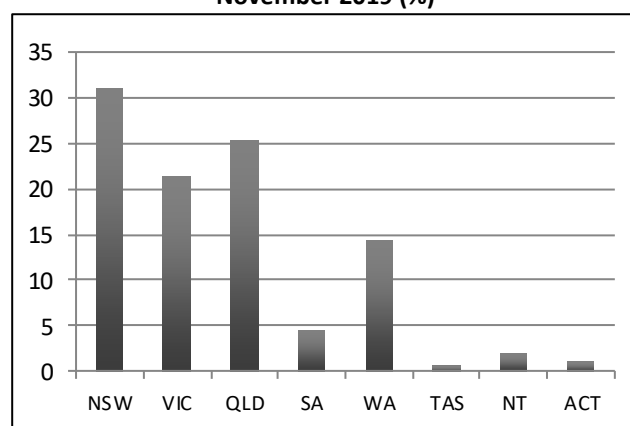
Regional Employment

Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

At November 2019, the average share of employment of Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics was highest in New South Wales (30.9%) and Queensland (25.4%).

Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest average share of Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics (at less than 2.0% each). See Figure A (trend data).

Figure A: Employment Distribution of Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics by State/Territory— November 2019 (%)



Skills Assessment

Overseas-qualified Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics wishing to apply for permanent skilled migration to Australia need to obtain a skills assessment by Trade Recognition Australia (TRA). TRA conducts skills assessments through the Offshore Skills Assessment Program (OSAP) and the Trades Recognition Service (TRS). Information on the process, supporting documentation and fees required for OSAP and TRS is on the [TRA](#) websiteⁱⁱ.

Related Occupations

Occupations related to Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics include Electrician (General); Airconditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber; and Electronic Engineering Technician. Electricians (General) diagnose, repair, and install electrical equipment, wiring and control systems. Airconditioning and Mechanical Services Plumbers diagnose, repair, and install ducting and equipment for heating, cooling and ventilation of buildings or vessels. Electronic Engineering Technicians evaluates and analysis data, electronic circuitry and equipment. For these occupations, the entry requirement in the Australian labour market is an AQF Certificate III/IV in a relevant field of study. 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 | Electrician (General) | Airconditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber | Electronic Engineering Technician |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Occupation size (August 2016) ⁱⁱⁱ | 111 900 | 2 800 | 3 800 |
| Most common level of educational attainment | Certificate III/IV (77.4%) | Certificate III/IV (79.9%) | Certificate III/IV (39.0%) |
| Average age | 34 years | 31 years | 43 years |
| Full-time share of employment | 90% | 95% | 89% |
| Average weekly hours (full-time) | 45 | 43 | 43 |
| Employment growth over past five years (to 2016) | 3.8% | 3.7% | -11.6% |

Employer-Sponsored Migration

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored skilled migration (visa) programs. Information on these visa programs and other temporary visas with a work right is on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) website.

Seeking Employment in Australia

Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics and Related Occupations (see above) 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.

ⁱ Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, [Labour Market Information Portal](#).

ⁱⁱ Further information on the TRA requirements for the assessment of applicants for Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic is at [TRA](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ ABS Census 2016 data, noting this differs from the reference year for Table A.