



# Australian Labour Market for Migrants—July 2023

The Australian Labour Market for Migrants publication provides information on the Australian labour market. It is intended to inform recent migrants to Australia, people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis, and organisations providing services to migrants and potential visa applicants.

Australia’s labour market conditions are robust with continuing strong demand and growth in labour supply. However, the Australian labour market is not immune to the international forces driving higher inflation and slower global growth. See the [Jobs and Skills Australia](#) and [Labour Market Insights](#) websites for relevant labour market data and analysis.

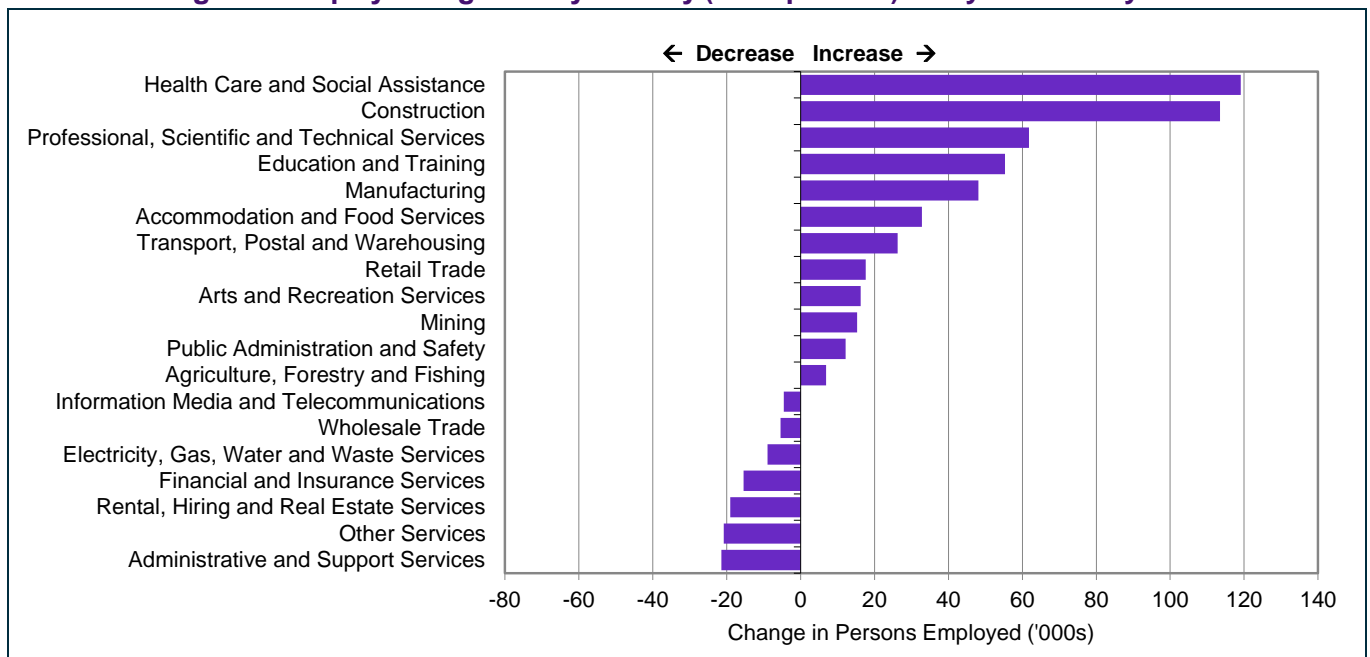
Unless otherwise stated, data in this publication is from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2023.<sup>1</sup>

## Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2023, employment opportunities and growth varied widely across industries. The largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 119,100), Construction (up by 113,500), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up by 61,800). The largest decreases in employment occurred in Administrative and Support Services (down by 21,400), Other Services (down by 20,800), and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (down by 19,000).

The strongest rates of employment growth were in Construction (up by 9.3%), Arts and Recreation Services (up by 7.0%), and Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 5.9%). Changes in employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—May 2022 to May 2023**



Source: ABS (2023). Table 04. Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, trend data. Retrieved June 22, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>

<sup>1</sup> The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trend data for May 2023 from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 time series spreadsheets. Previous editions of this publication used seasonally adjusted data due to a break in the trend time series.  
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Figure 2 shows that in May 2023 (trend data), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) had the highest share (59.8%) of workers in selected occupation groups (i.e. Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trade Workers), followed by Victoria (54.7%) and New South Wales (NSW, 54.2%).

In the 12 months to May 2023, the share of workers employed in a selected occupation group increased in all states and territories. The largest increases were in the Northern Territory (NT, up by 1.0pp<sup>2</sup>), the ACT (up by 0.9pp), and Tasmania (up by 0.9pp). The smallest increase was for Victoria (up by 0.1pp), followed by New South Wales (NSW, up by 0.2pp).

**Figure 2: Share of Employment, Selected Occupation Groups\* by State/Territory, May 2022 and 2023**



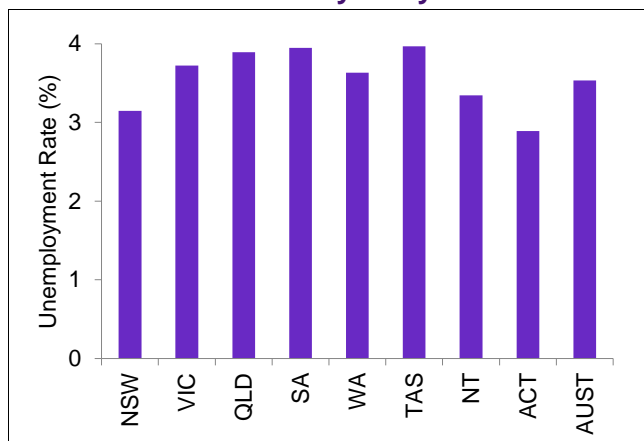
## Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 3.5% in May 2023, compared with 3.7% in May 2022.

Over the 12 months to May 2023, the unemployment rate decreased in all states and territories apart from WA where it rose (3.2% to 3.6%). The largest falls were in the NT (3.9% to 3.3%) SA (4.5% to 3.9%) and NSW (3.5% to 3.1%).

The ACT recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.9%, while the SA unemployment rate was the highest at 3.9%. See Figure 3.

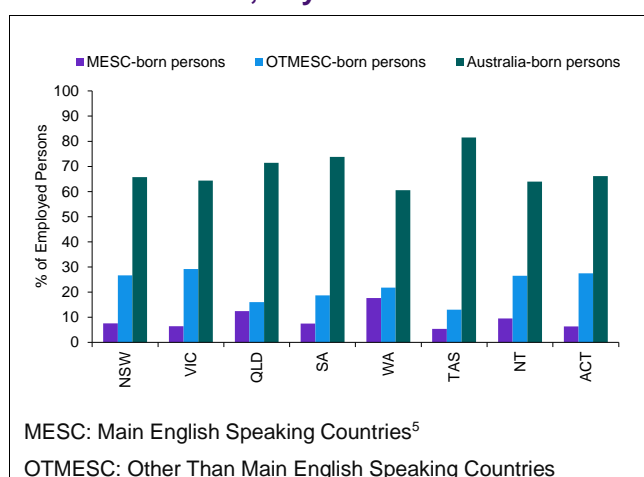
**Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—May 2023<sup>3</sup>**



## Migrant Employment

The Australian-born represent the highest share of employed people in Tasmania (81.5%), and lowest share in WA (60.5%). The share of employed people born in other than main English-speaking countries, is highest in Victoria and the ACT (29.2% and 27.5% of workers, respectively). See Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Share of Employment by State/Territory and Place of Birth, May 2023<sup>4</sup>**



<sup>2</sup> "pp" is percentage points.

<sup>3</sup> Source: ABS (2023). Tables 04 to 11. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, *Labour Force, Australia*. Retrieved June 22, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/feb-2023>.

<sup>4</sup> Source: ABS (2023). LM7. Labour force status by Elapsed years since arrival, Main English-speaking countries, Sex, State and Territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved June 23, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>

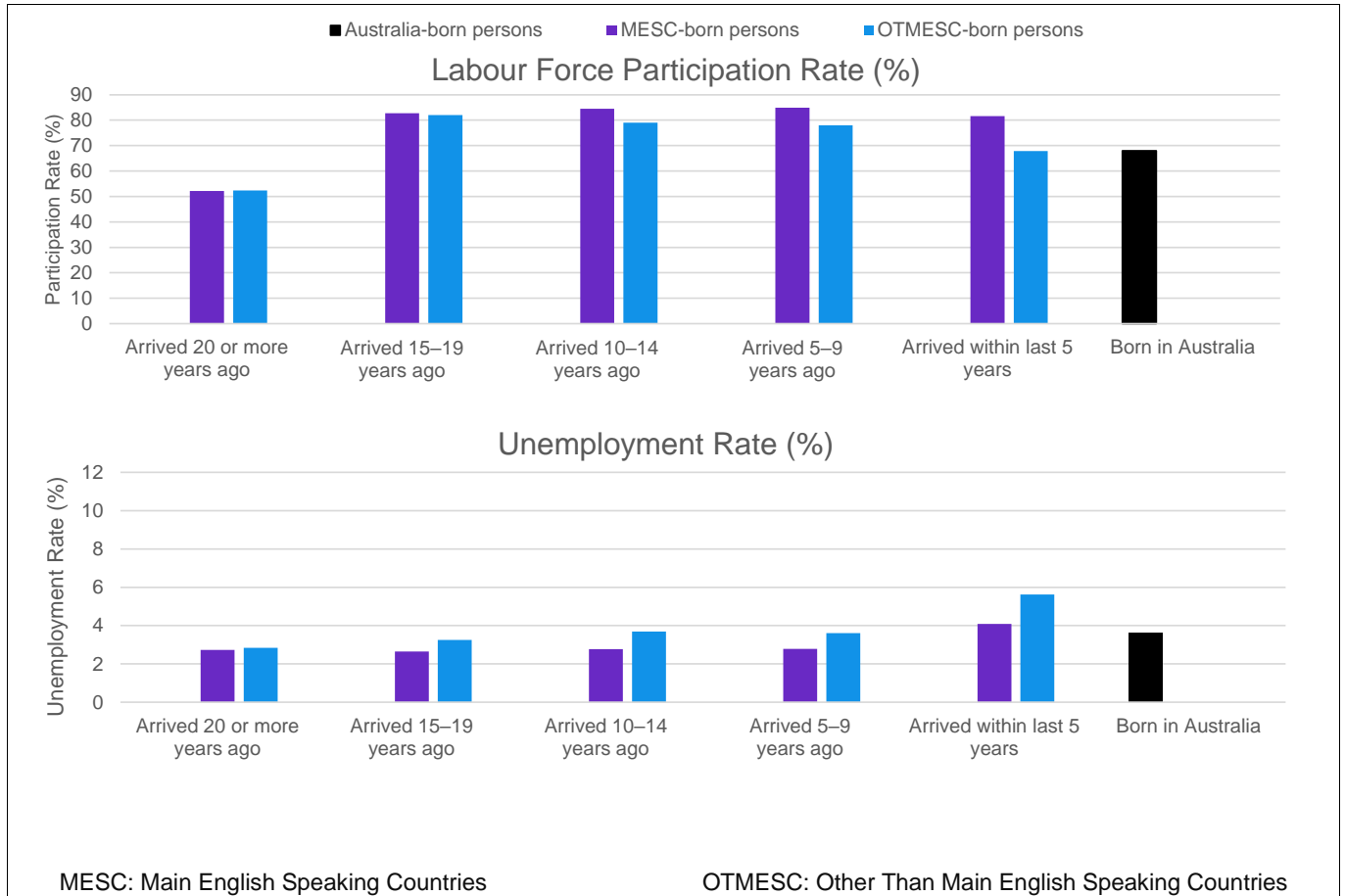
<sup>5</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand. [Australian Labour Market for Migrants—July 2023](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release)

## 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 shows recently arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate on average than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

Figure 5 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 2023).

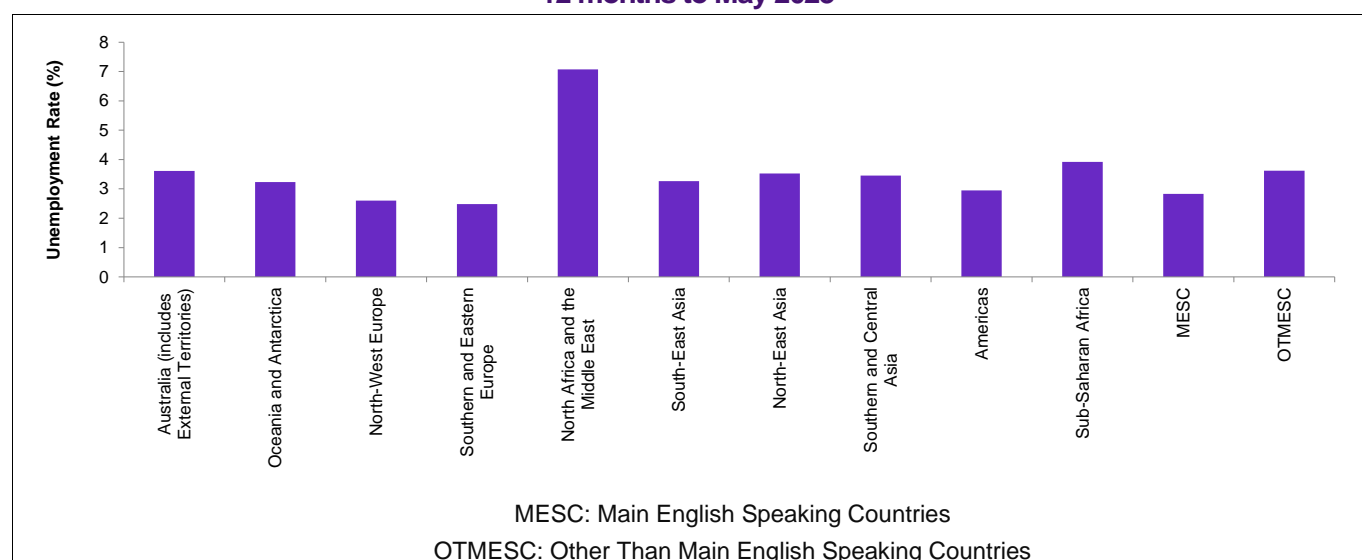
**Figure 5: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to May 2023**



Source: ABS (2023). LM7 – Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, main English-speaking countries, sex, state and territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved June 26, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>

Figure 6 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 2023) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (by subcontinent). People born in Southern and Eastern Europe had the lowest unemployment rate (at 2.5%), while the unemployment rate for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (7.1%) was relatively high (possibly reflecting English language proficiency and period of residence in Australia).

**Figure 6: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to May 2023<sup>6</sup>**



Source: ABS (2023). LM5 - Labour force status by age, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC) and sex and LM7 - Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, main English-speaking countries, sex, state and territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved June 26, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>.

## Employment by occupation<sup>7</sup>

Over the 12 months to May 2023, the largest increases in employment (in trend terms) occurred for Professionals (up by 145,300), Community and Personal Service Workers (up by 88,100) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up by 65,100). The smallest increase occurred for Machinery Operators and Drivers (up by 12,000). Employment growth rates for the major occupation groups are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to May 2023**

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	62.1	3.5
Professionals	145.3	4.2
Technicians and Trades Workers	65.1	3.5
Community and Personal Service Workers	88.1	6.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	33.5	1.9
Sales Workers	13.8	1.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	12.0	1.4
Labourers	50.1	4.3

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

<sup>6</sup> In Figure 4, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

<sup>7</sup> This section is based on May 2023 Jobs and Skills Australia 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).

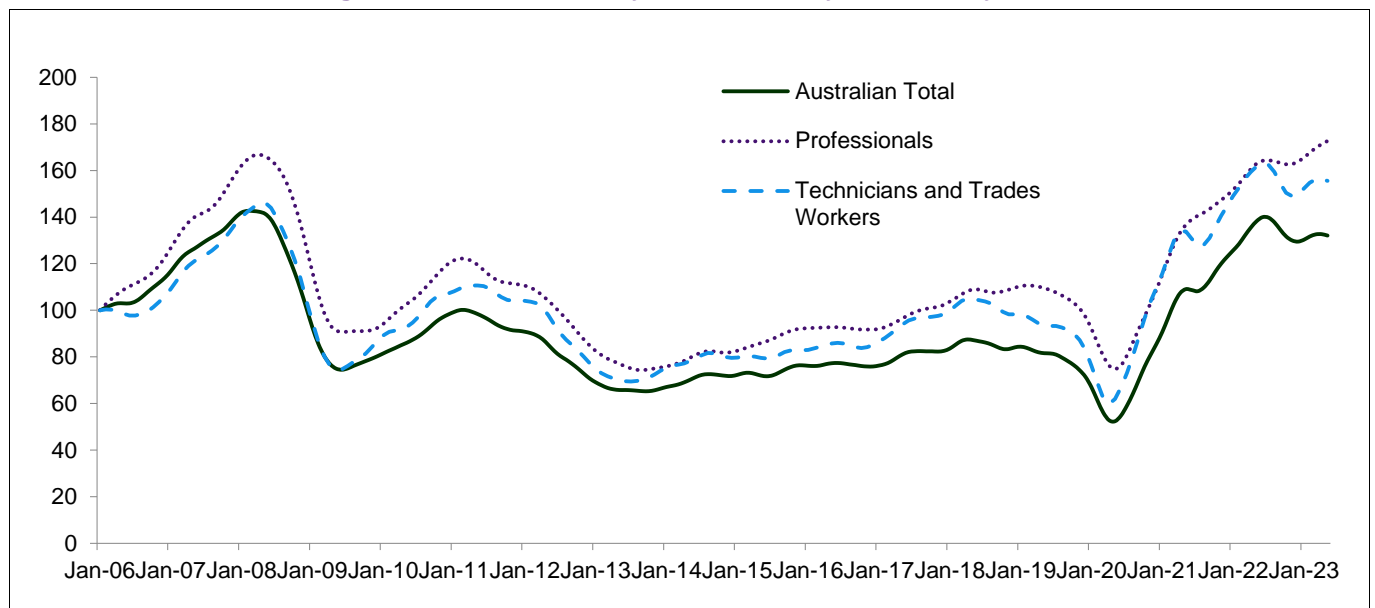
## Internet Vacancy Data<sup>8</sup>

Jobs and Skills Australia produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 7). Over the year to May 2023, the trend IVI decreased by 4.5% with increases for Professionals (up by 5.9%) and Managers (up by 2.0%). For this period, the largest fall in trend IVI was for Labourers (down by 25.5%) and Sales Workers (down by 15.4%).

At the more detailed occupation level, trend vacancies increased in 18 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2023, with the strongest increases for Medical Practitioners and Nurses (up by 40.3%), Jeweller, Arts and Other Trades Workers (up by 36.2%), and Education Professionals (up by 31.0%). The largest decreases were for Food Preparation Assistants (down by 53.6%), Food Trades Workers (down by 33.4%) and Cleaners and Laundry Workers (down by 32.4%).

Over the year to May 2023, trend vacancies rose in Tasmania (up by 9.8%), NT (up by 4.6%), SA (up by 3.5%) and Queensland (up by 2.3%). Vacancies fell in WA (down by 0.1%), the ACT (down by 1.2%), Victoria (down by 8.0%) and NSW (down by 9.7%). For a full list of occupations and their recent growth in vacancies, see the [Vacancy Report](#).

**Figure 7: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to May 2023**



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, [Vacancy Report](#), June 2023, trend data.

## Further Information

Queries on the Australian Labour Market for Migrants publication, including requests for copies of Hot Topics attached to previous editions, should be emailed to [migration@jobsandskills.gov.au](mailto:migration@jobsandskills.gov.au).

<sup>8</sup> See [Internet Vacancy Index | Jobs and Skills Australia](#) (June 2023). The IVI is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, CareerOne and the [Find a job \(workforceaustralia.gov.au\)](#) website during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before IVI vacancies are coded by Jobs and Skills Australia to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100). May 2023 data is used in Figure 5 to be consistent with all other data used in this publication.



## Hot Topic: Australia—States and Territories

This Hot Topic provides an overview of the Australian population; its regional, state and territory distribution; and labour market. Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2023.

In June 2021, the Government released its fifth Intergenerational Report<sup>9</sup> which highlighted the economic challenges and the opportunities facing Australia, and highlights the longer-term economic and demographic impacts of COVID-19 on Australia.

In December 2022, the Australian Government released its third Population Statement<sup>10</sup> which details the early impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australia's population and projects its impact over the next decade. The Statement notes that population growth over this period is forecast to increase from 0.1% in 2020-21 and by 1.4% by 2022–23, before declining slightly to 1.2% by 2032–33.

The 2023-24 Budget included revised forecasts and population growth is now projected to be 2.0 per cent in 2022-23 and 1.7% in 2023-24. These revised forecasts in part reflect a rebound in temporary migration following the reopening of Australia's international borders.<sup>11</sup>

### The Australian Population

Australia's population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 31.4% and 25.5% of the total population respectively). As of June 2022, two-thirds of Australians live in capital cities. Tasmania and Queensland had the highest share of their populations living outside their capital cities (55.8% and 50.7%, respectively).

Net Overseas Migration (NOM) was 170,920 in the 2021-22 financial year. NOM was highest in NSW and Victoria (receiving 62,210 and 55,630 persons, respectively) and the lowest in the Northern Territory (NT, 2,130 persons) and Tasmania (2,750 persons).

**Table A: Distribution of the Australian Resident Population at 30 June 2022\***

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Population	8 165 731	6 625 964	5 320 496	1 821 200	2 789 148	571 013	250 219	456 844	26 005 540
Share of Australian Population (%)	31.4	25.5	20.5	7.0	10.7	2.2	1.0	1.8	100.0
Capital City (%)	64.9	76.0	49.3	77.9	79.8	44.2	59.7	100.0	67.2
Balance of State (%)	35.1	24.0	50.7	22.1	20.2	55.8	40.3	0.0	32.8
Net Overseas Migration**	62 210	55 630	23 430	12 080	9 500	2 750	2 130	3 120	170 920

\*Source: ABS (2023). National, State and Territory Population. Regional Population 2021-22.

\*\* Source: Net overseas migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Age and sex – Financial years, 2004-05 onwards. Year to 30 June 2022. Retrieved 5 July 2023.

<sup>9</sup> See [2021 Intergenerational Report](#)

<sup>10</sup> See [2022 Population Statement | Centre for Population](#)

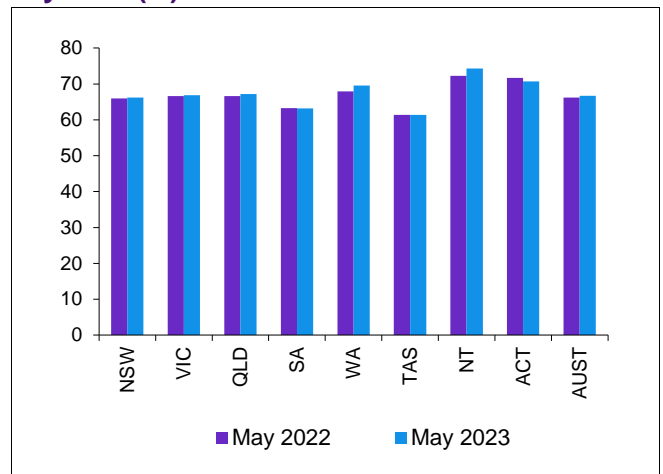
<sup>11</sup> See [2022 Population Statement | Centre for Population](#)

## State and Territory Labour Force

The labour force participation rate is calculated by expressing the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over. The labour force is based on employed persons plus unemployed persons.

Over the 12 months to May 2023, the labour force participation rate for Australia (trend data) increased by 0.5pp to 66.7% (see Figure A). The NT and Western Australia (WA) recorded the largest increases in the participation rate (2.0pp and 1.7pp respectively), with South Australia (SA) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) recording decreases (down by 0.2pp and 1.4pp, respectively).

**Figure A: Labour force participation rates (trend) by State (%)**



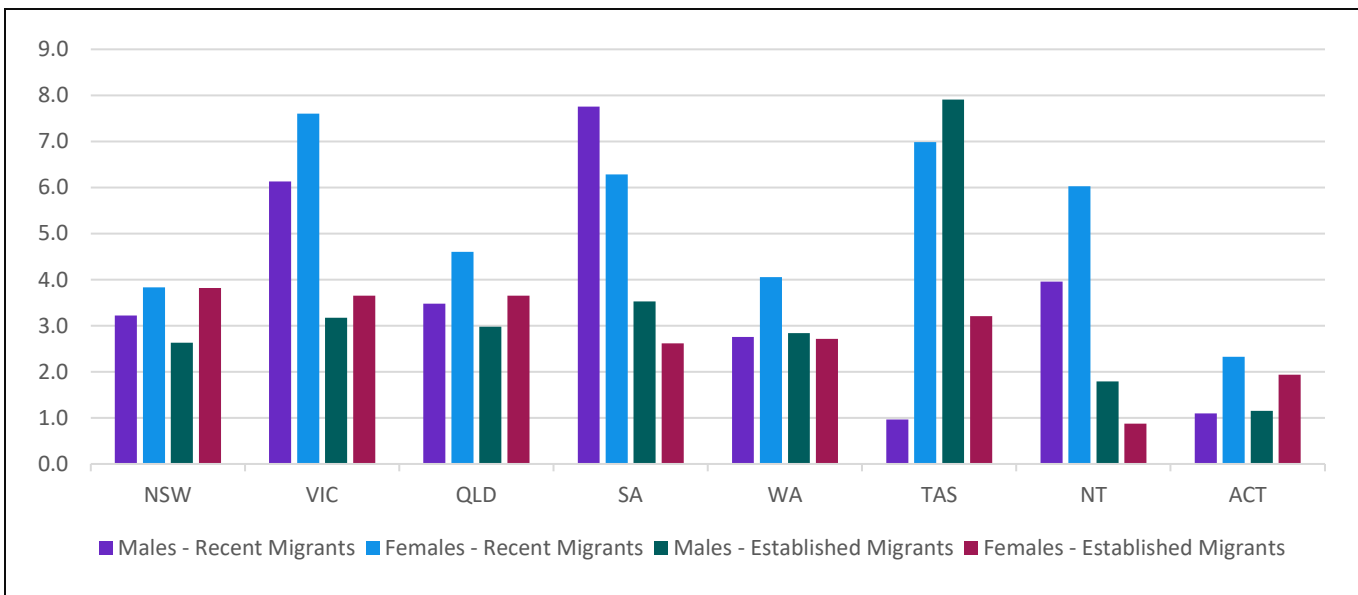
## Unemployment and Gender

Figure B shows unemployment rates for migrants who have arrived in Australia less than ten years ago (recent migrants) and more than ten years ago (established migrants) by gender. Generally, female migrants had higher unemployment rates than male migrants for most states and territories, except for SA. Female unemployment rates were lower for established migrants than for recent migrants.

In May 2023, recent female migrants had the highest unemployment rate in six states and territories. The highest female recent migrant unemployment rate was in Victoria at 7.6%. The ACT had the lowest unemployment rates for all groups, with female unemployment at 2.3% for recent migrants and 1.9% for established migrants.

In Tasmania, established male migrants had the highest unemployment rate of all groups, at 7.9%. In SA, male unemployment rates were higher than female unemployment rates, at 7.8% for recent migrants and 3.5% for established migrants.

**Figure B: Unemployment Rates, Recent and Established Migrants by State and Gender (%)**



Source: ABS (2023). LM4 Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), sex, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved June 26, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>.

## Industry by State and Territory

Table B shows the industry share of total employment for each state and territory (trend data). It shows the ACT (28.0%) and the NT (15.5%) have a relatively large proportion of employed persons in Public Administration and Safety; and SA (17.4%), Tasmania (16.7%) and NT (16.8%) in Health Care and Social Assistance. The industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health Care and Social Assistance (15.3%) followed by Construction (9.5%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Retail Trade (both 9.4%).

**Table B: Employment Distribution by Industry and State/Territory at May 2023 (% of persons)**

Industry	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.9	2.0	5.7	1.1	0.3*	2.2
Mining	0.8	0.3	2.6	1.5	10.1	1.1	3.2	0.1*	2.2
Manufacturing	6.2	7.6	6.4	7.7	5.5	7.0	2.6	1.7	6.4
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.8	0.7	1.1
Construction	9.3	9.8	9.5	8.4	9.0	8.3	7.2	6.4	9.5
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.6	1.9	1.4	1.0	2.6
Retail Trade	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	8.7	10.1	7.9	6.7	9.4
Accommodation and Food Services	6.9	6.4	7.1	6.6	6.6	7.8	7.7	5.9	6.8
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.1	5.0	5.4	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.2	2.2	5.1
Information Media and Telecommunications	1.7	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.4
Financial and Insurance Services	5.3	4.4	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.2	0.7	1.7	3.8
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10.4	10.4	7.8	7.6	7.8	6.8	6.0	14.1	9.4
Administrative and Support Services	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.5	2.9	2.5	4.2	2.8	2.9
Public Administration and Safety	6.2	5.2	6.5	6.9	6.4	7.2	15.5	28.0	6.5
Education and Training	8.0	8.3	8.8	8.0	8.1	8.8	9.3	8.4	8.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	14.5	15.4	16.3	17.4	13.4	16.7	16.8	12.5	15.3
Arts and Recreation Services	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.6	3.1	2.0	1.8
Other Services	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.9	3.2	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS (2023). EQ06 - Employed persons by Industry group of main job (ANZSIC), Sex, State and Territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved June 2023, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>. The State-level data are trended by Jobs and Skills Australia. The Australia-level data are trended by the ABS.

\* Note: Data for smaller industries in the ACT can be volatile and estimates should be interpreted with caution.

## Further Information

Queries on this Hot Topic should be emailed to [migration@jobsandskills.gov.au](mailto:migration@jobsandskills.gov.au).