



Australian Labour Market for Migrants - January 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.

Labour market conditions in Australia were particularly robust in 2022 and the unemployment rate fell to levels not seen in close to 50 years. However, the strong pace of employment growth will be difficult to sustain and 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.

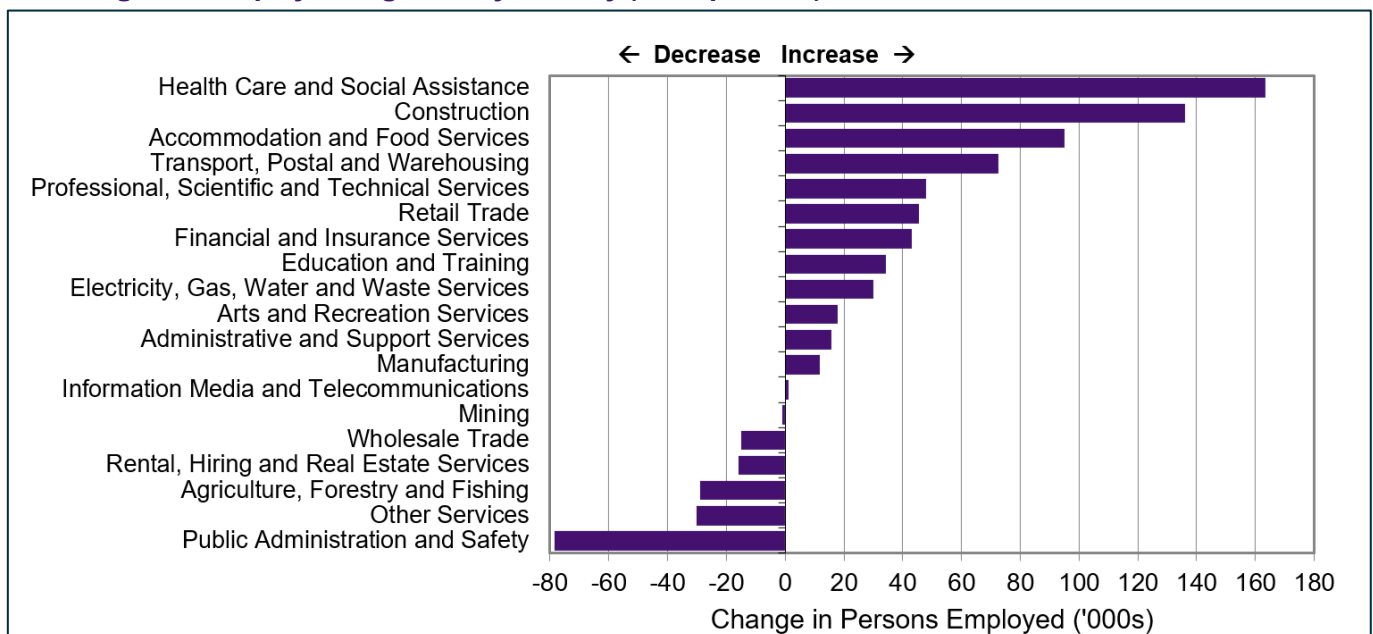
Unless otherwise stated, data in this publication is from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2022.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to November 2022, employment opportunities and growth varied widely across industries. The largest increases in seasonally adjusted employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 163,400), Construction (up by 136,200), and Accommodation and Food Services (up by 95,000). The largest decreases in employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (down by 78,400), Other Services (down by 30,300), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (down by 28,800).

The strongest rates of employment growth were in Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (up by 22.3%), Construction (up by 11.8%), and Accommodation and Food Services (up by 11.2%). Changes in employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—November 2021 to November 2022



Source: ABS (2022). Table 04. Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved January 9, 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>.

¹ The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use seasonally adjusted data for November 2022 from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, November 2022 time series spreadsheets. Previous editions of this publication used trend data which is not currently available due to a break in time series.

Figure 2 shows that in November 2022 (seasonally adjusted data), the ACT had the highest share (58.8%) of workers in selected occupation groups (i.e. Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and Trade Workers), followed by Victoria (54.8%) and NSW (53.1%).

In the 12 months to November 2022, the share of workers employed in a managerial, professional or trade occupation increased in Queensland (up by 0.7pp²), Tasmania (up by 0.4pp), NSW (up by 0.4pp), SA (up by 0.3pp), Victoria (up by 0.3pp) and the ACT (up by 0.3pp). The share of workers employed in a managerial, professional or trade occupation was stable in the NT and fell in WA (down by 0.2pp).

Figure 2: Share of Employment, Selected Occupation Groups* by State/Territory, November 2021 and 2022



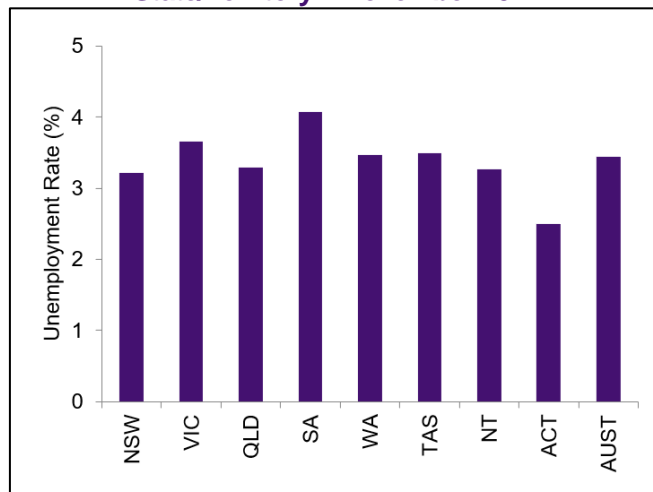
Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment in Australia was 3.4% in November 2022, compared with 4.6% in November 2021.

Over the 12 months to November 2022, the unemployment rate decreased in all states and territories. The largest falls were in Tasmania (5.1% to 3.5%), Queensland (4.7% to 3.3%) and New South Wales (NSW, 4.6% to 3.2%).

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5%, while South Australia's (SA) unemployment rate was the highest at 4.1%. See Figure 3.

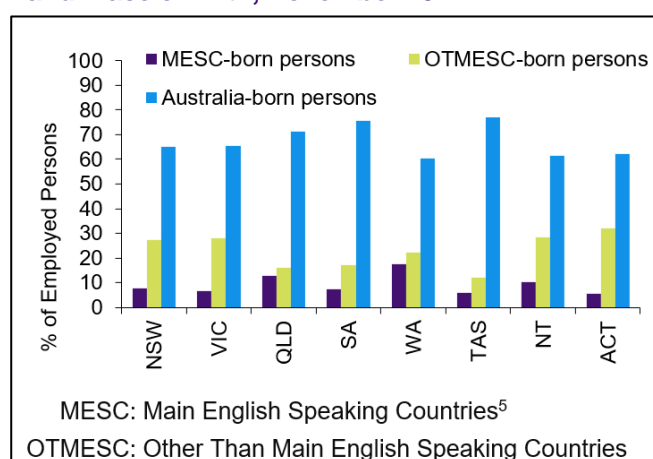
Figure 3: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—November 2022³



Migrant Employment

The Australian-born represent the highest share of employed people in Tasmania (82.0%), and lowest share in WA (60.4%). The share of employed people born in other than main English-speaking countries, is highest in the ACT and NT (32.2% and 28.4% of workers, respectively). See Figure 4.

Figure 4: Share of Employment by State/Territory and Place of Birth, November 2022⁴



² "pp" is percentage points.

³ Source: ABS (2022). Tables 04 to 11. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate. *Labour Force, Australia*. Retrieved December 22, 2022. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release>.

⁴ Source: ABS (2022). LM7. Labour force status by Elapsed years since arrival, Main English-speaking countries, Sex, State and Territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved December 22, 2022. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>

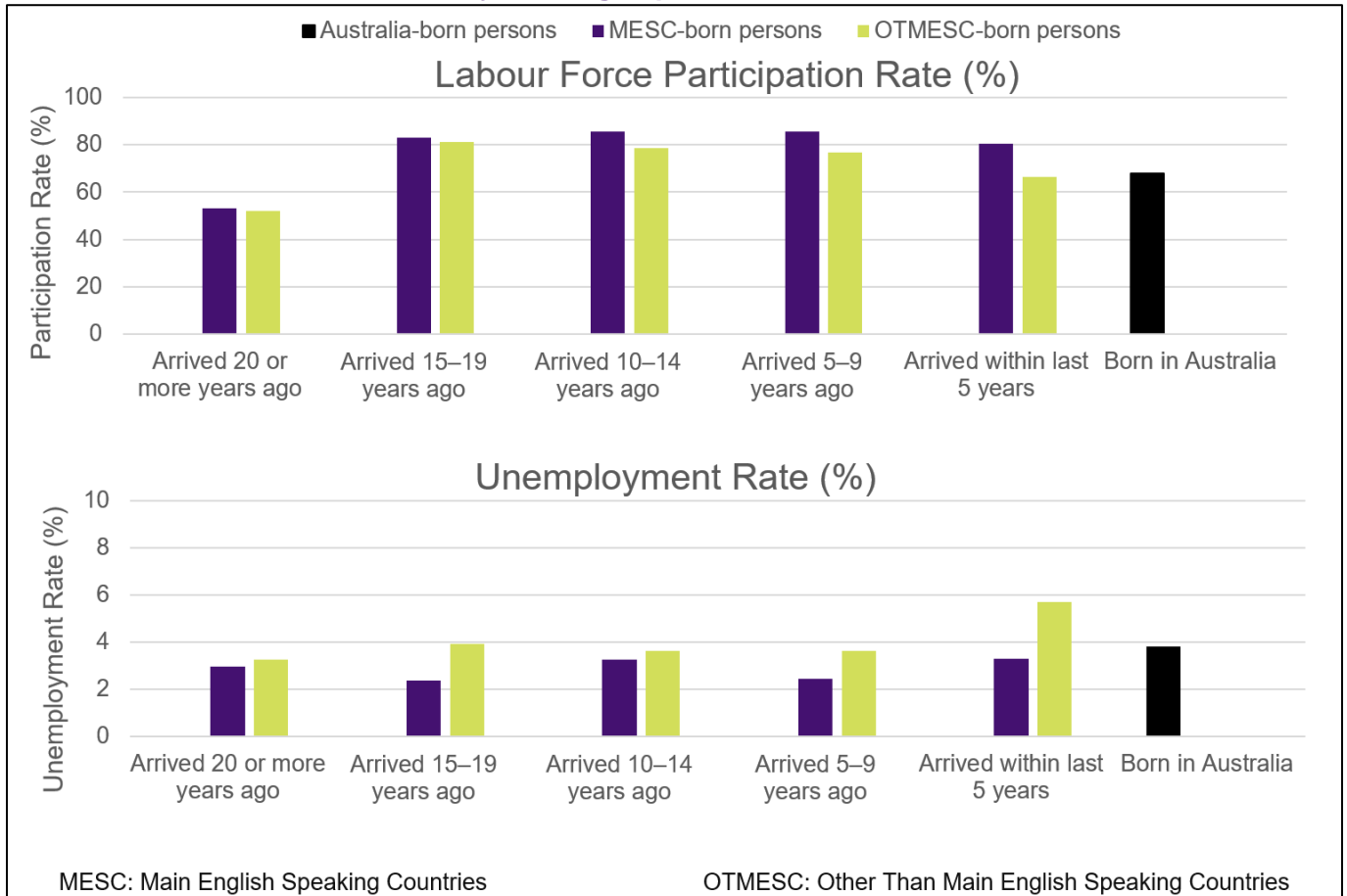
⁵ MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

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 November 2022).

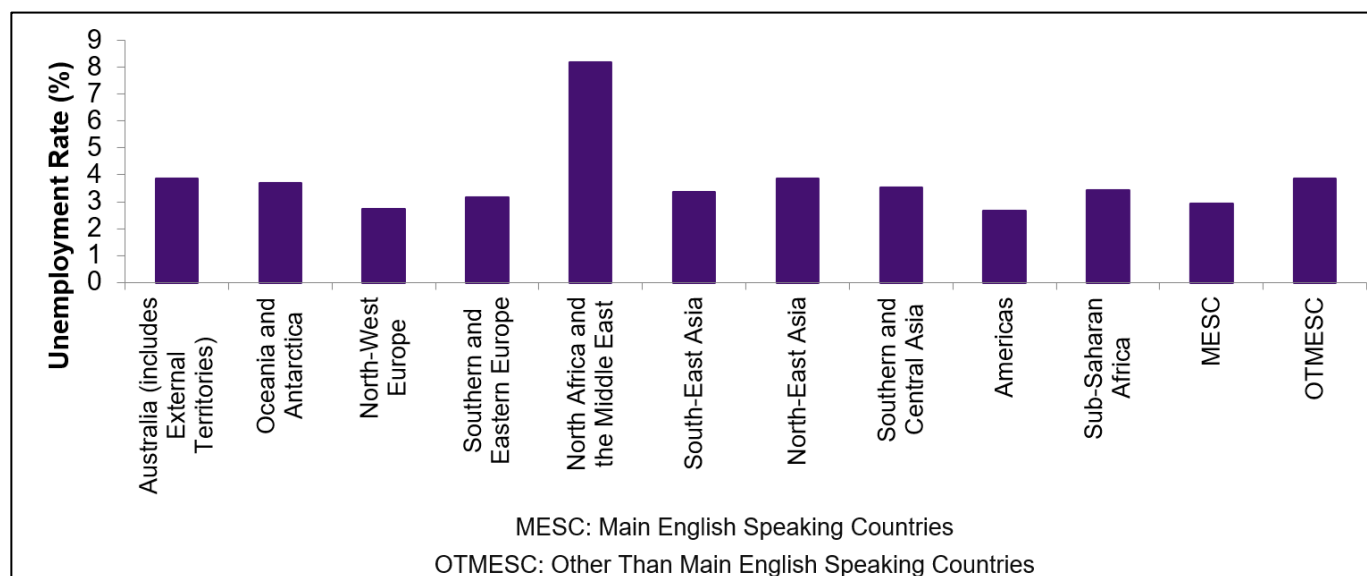
Figure 5: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to November 2022



Source: ABS (2022). LM7 – Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, main English-speaking countries, sex, state and territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved December 22, 2022. <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 November 2022) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (by subcontinent). People born in North-West Europe, and the Americas have relatively low unemployment rates (both at 2.7%), while the unemployment rate for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (8.2%) is 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 November 2022⁶



Source: ABS (2022). LM5 - Labour force status by age, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and sex & LM7 - Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, main English-speaking countries, sex, state and territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved December 22, 2022. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>.

Employment by occupation⁷

Over the 12 months to November 2022, the largest increases in employment (in seasonally adjusted terms) occurred for Professionals (up by 222,900), and Community and Personal Service Workers (up by 118,900). The largest decrease occurred for Sales Workers (down by 5,400). Employment growth rates for the major occupation groups are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Seasonally adjusted employment growth by occupation—12 months to November 2022

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	40.6	2.3
Professionals	222.9	6.7
Technicians and Trades Workers	71.9	4.0
Community and Personal Service Workers	118.9	8.4
Clerical and Administrative Workers	7.2	0.4
Sales Workers	-5.4	-0.5
Machinery Operators and Drivers	38.4	4.5
Labourers	53.2	4.6

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

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

⁷ This section is based on November 2022 Jobs and Skills Australia seasonally adjusted 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).

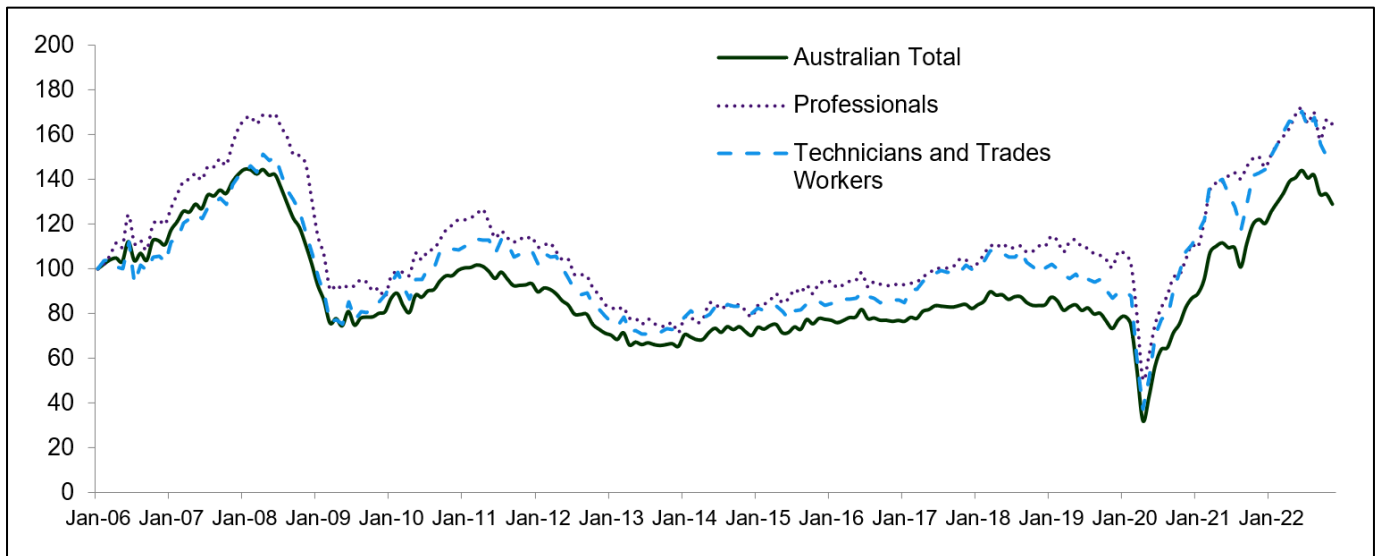
Internet Vacancy Data⁸

Jobs and Skills Australia produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 7). Over the year to November 2022, the seasonally adjusted IVI increased by 5.6% with the largest increases for Community and Personal Service Workers (up by 9.8%), Professionals (up by 9.7%) and Managers (up by 7.7%). The seasonally adjusted IVI fell for Labourers (down by 4.8%) and Sales Workers (down by 2.8%) for this period.

At the more detailed occupation level, seasonally adjusted vacancies increased in 36 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to November 2022, with the strongest increases for Jewellery, Arts and Other Trades Workers (up by 64.0%), Educational Professionals (up by 60.2%) and Engineers (up by 27.5%). The largest decreases were for Food Preparation Assistants (down by 23.2%), Hairdressers, Printing, Clothing and Wood Trades Workers (down by 17.0%), and Farm Forestry and Garden Workers (down by 11.8%).

Over the year to November 2022, seasonally adjusted vacancies rose in all states and territories. Vacancies rose in Queensland (by 15.2%), Tasmania (by 11.7%), WA (by 9.0%), SA (by 6.2%), ACT (by 2.1%), Victoria (by 2.1%), NSW (by 1.7%), and NT (by 0.6%). For a full list of occupations and their recent growth in vacancies, see the [Vacancy Report](#).

Figure 7: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to November 2022



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, [Vacancy Report](#), November 2022, seasonally adjusted data.

Future Employment Change

The [National Skills Commission](#) website⁹ contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to November 2026 for different occupations and industries.

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 November 2026. 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.

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.

⁸ See [Internet Vacancy Index](#) (November 2022). 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 National Skills Commission to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100). November 2022 data is used in Figure 5 to be consistent with all other data used in this publication.

⁹ The National Skills Commission website will soon be archived and future employment change estimates will be released on the [Jobs and Skills Australia](#) website.