



Australian Labour Market Overview—September 2022

The Australian Labour Market Overview provides information on the Australian labour market. It is intended to inform recent migrants to Australia, and people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Analysis by the National Skills Commission suggests the COVID-19 pandemic will have longer term impacts on the Australian labour market. While they may not be dramatic, these effects will be enduring and include the way in which jobs are done and the need for post-secondary qualifications. Information on job prospects, earnings and related information is on the [National Skills Commission](#) and [Labour Market Insights](#) websites.

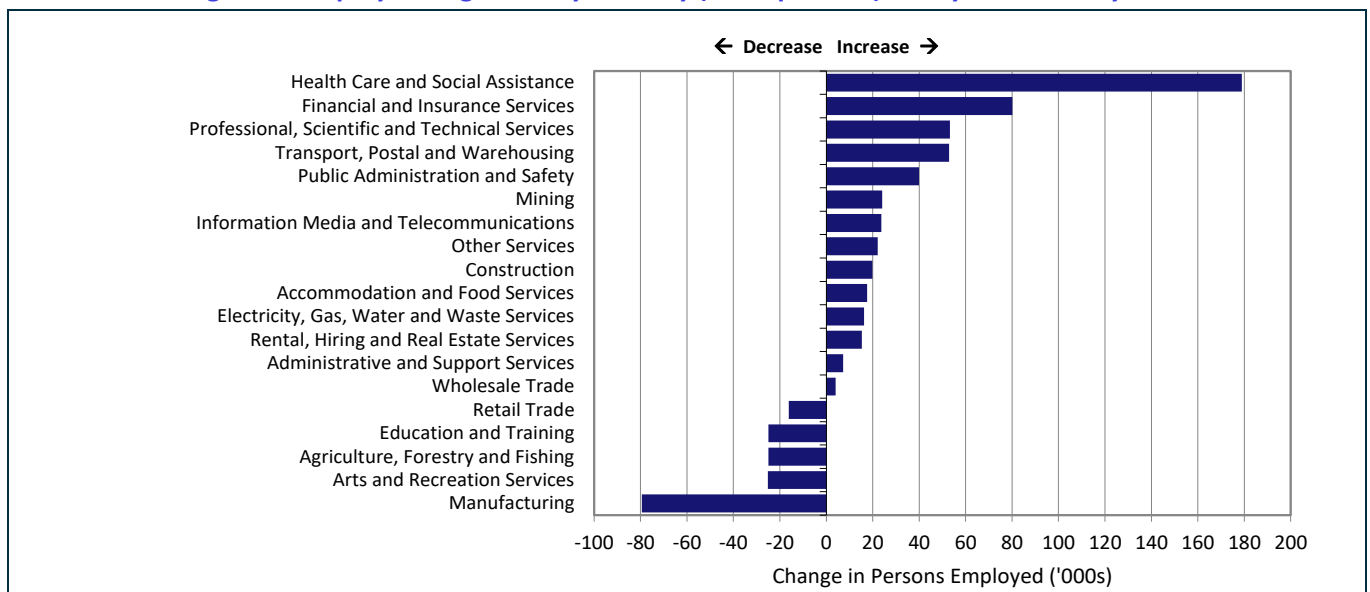
Unless otherwise stated, data in this publication is from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2022.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2022, employment opportunities and growth varied widely across industries. The largest increases in employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 179,000), Financial and Insurance Services (up by 80,100), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up by 53,300). The largest decreases in employment occurred in Manufacturing (down by 79,500), Arts and Recreation Services (down by 25,200) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (down by 25,000).

The strongest rates of employment growth were in Financial and Insurance Services (up by 16.4%), Information Media and Telecommunications (up by 13.2%), and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (up by 11.1%). Changes in employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



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

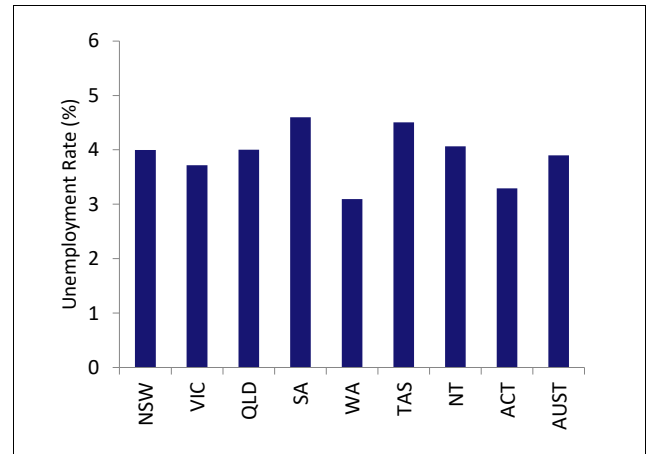
Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment in Australia was 3.9% in May 2022, compared with 5.1% in May 2021.

Over the 12 months to May 2022, the unemployment rate decreased in all states and territories. The largest falls were in Western Australia (WA, 4.7% to 3.1%), Queensland (5.5% to 4.0%) and South Australia (SA, 5.9% to 4.6%).

WA recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1%, while SA’s unemployment rate was the highest at 4.6%. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Unemployment rates (%) by State/Territory—May 2022

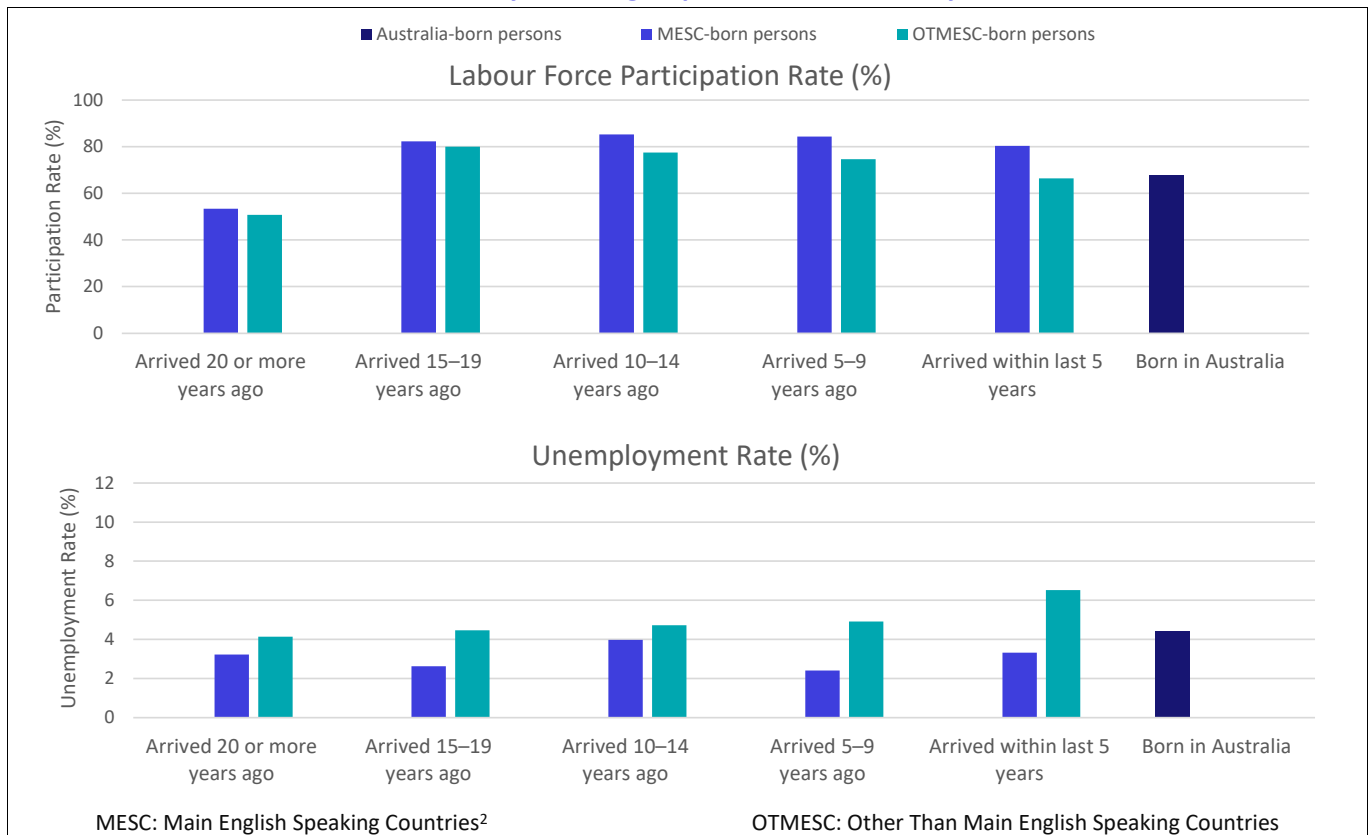


Migrant Unemployment

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 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 2022).

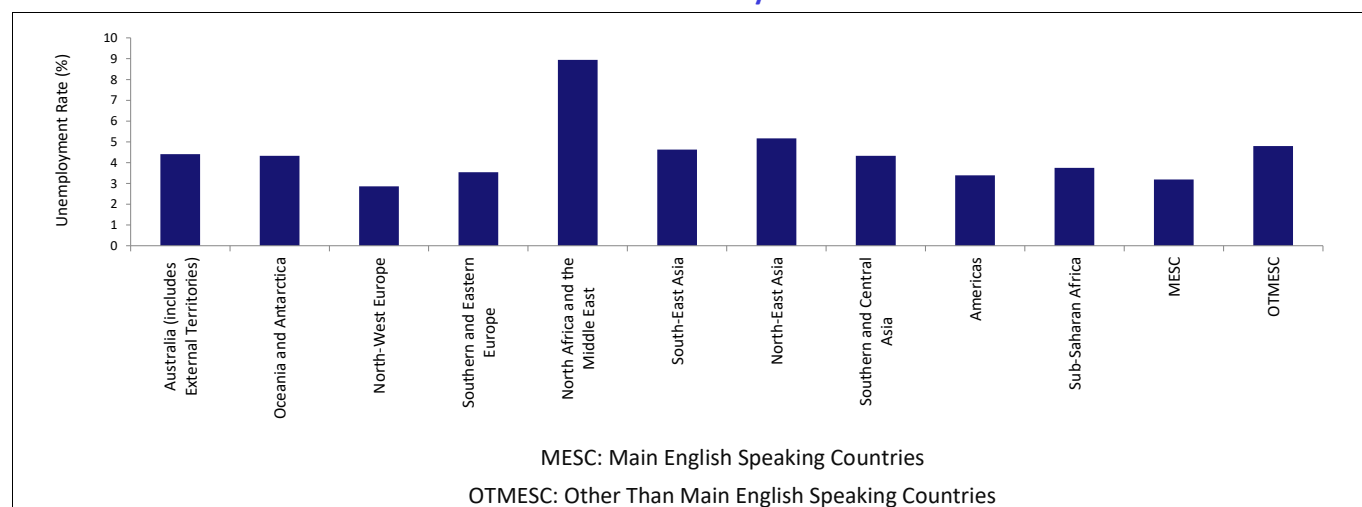
Figure 3: Years since arrival in Australia by labour force participation rates (%) and unemployment rates (%) for broad country of birth groups—12 months to May 2022



² MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.
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Figure 4 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 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 (2.9% and 3.4% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (8.9%) and North-East Asia (5.2%) are relatively high (possibly reflecting English language proficiency and period of residence in Australia).

Figure 4: Unemployment rates (%) by major country groups (subcontinent) of birth—12 months to May 2022³



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 July 5, 2022. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release>.

Employment by occupation⁴

Over the 12 months to May 2022, the largest increases in employment (in seasonally adjusted terms) occurred for Professionals (up by 162,400), and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up by 100,400). The largest decrease occurred for Labourers (down by 44,000). 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 May 2022

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	-7.5	-0.4
Professionals	162.4	4.7
Technicians and Trades Workers	85.0	4.8
Community and Personal Service Workers	29.0	2.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	100.4	5.8
Sales Workers	-0.7	-0.1
Machinery Operators and Drivers	64.8	8.2
Labourers	-44.0	-3.7

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

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

⁴ This section is based on May 2022 National Skills Commission 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 Data

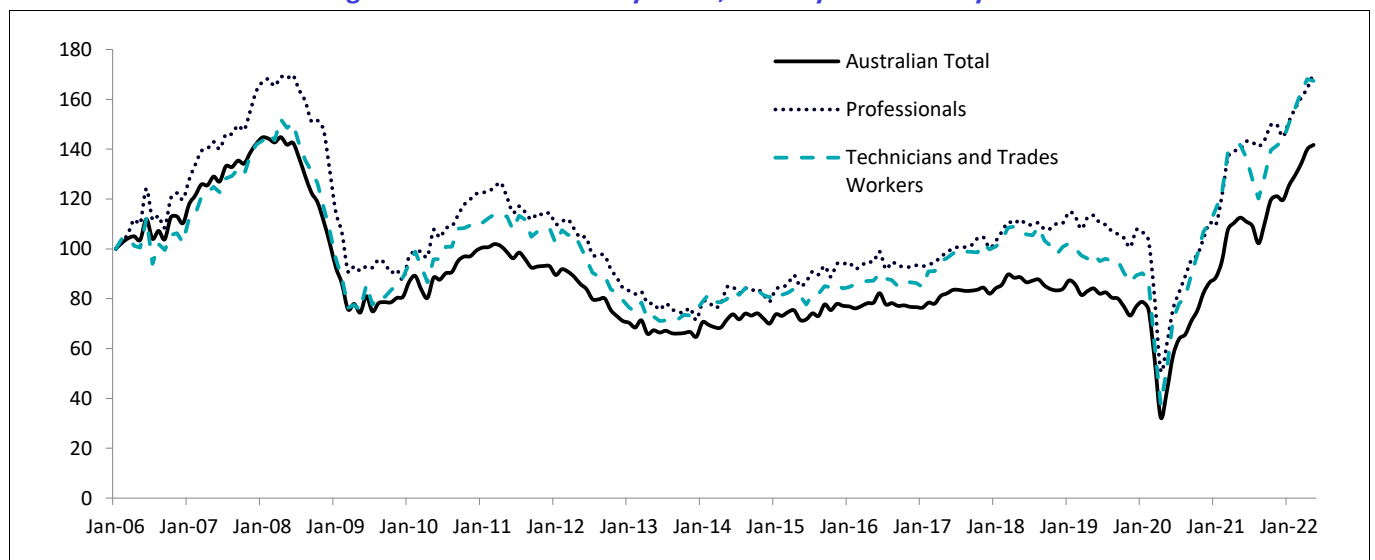
The National Skills Commission produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) (see Figure 5). Over the year to May 2022, the seasonally adjusted IVI increased by 25.9% with the largest increases for Community and Personal Service Workers (up by 39.0%), Sales Workers (up by 32.4%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (up by 28.3%).

While there were no occupational group decreases in seasonally adjusted IVI, the smallest occupational group increases recorded were for Technicians and Trades workers (up by 18.0%) and Professionals (up by 21.9%).

At the more detailed occupation level, seasonally adjusted vacancies increased in all of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2022, with the strongest increases for Sports, Travel and Personal Service Workers (up by 53.0%), Cleaners and Laundry Workers (up by 48.0%) and Education Professionals (up by 47.2%). The weakest increases were for Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (up by 2.1%), Construction Trades Workers (up by 5.1%) and Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals (up by 6.3%).

Over the year to May 2022, seasonally adjusted vacancies rose in all states and territories. Vacancies rose in Tasmania (by 47.7%), Queensland (by 31.2%), WA (by 30.7%), Victoria (by 25.2%), SA (by 23.5%), NSW (by 22.5%), NT (by 22.0%) and ACT (by 16.6%). For a full list of occupations and their recent growth in vacancies, see the [Vacancy Report](#).

Figure 5: Internet Vacancy Index, January 2006 to May 2022



Source: National Skills Commission, [Vacancy Report](#) (July 2022), Seasonally Adjusted Index data.

Future Employment Change⁵

The [National Skills Commission](#) website 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 Overview publication, including requests for copies of previous Hot Topics, should be emailed to migration@skillscommission.gov.au.

⁵ See National Skills Commission, [Vacancy Report](#) (June 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). May 2022 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 2022.

In June 2021, the Government released its fifth Intergenerational Report⁶ 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 2021, the Australian Government released its second Population Statement⁷ 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 0.3% in 2021–22 to 1.4% by 2024–25, before declining slightly to 1.2% by 2031–32.

The Australian Population

Australia’s population is concentrated in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (with 31.8% and 25.6% of the total population respectively). The 2021 Census shows that two-thirds of Australians live in capital cities. Tasmania and Queensland have the highest share of their populations living outside their capital cities (55.7% and 51.0%, respectively).

Of the total Australian population, 27.7% were born overseas. The highest shares of overseas-born persons resident in Australia are in Western Australia (WA, 32.2%) and Victoria (30.0%).

Table A: Distribution of the Australian Resident Population at 9 August 2021*

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Population	8 072 163	6 503 491	5 156 138	1 781 516	2 660 026	557 571	232 605	454 499	25 422 788
Share of Australian Population (%)	31.8	25.6	20.3	7.0	10.5	2.2	0.9	1.8	100.0
Capital City (%)	64.8	75.6	49.0	77.9	79.6	44.3	60.1	100.0	67.0
Balance of State (%)	35.2	24.4	51.0	22.1	20.4	55.7	39.9	0.0	33.0
Population born overseas (%)	29.3	30.0	22.7	24.1	32.2	15.4	21.8	28.7	27.7

* Australian resident population at 9 August 2021
Source: Census 2021

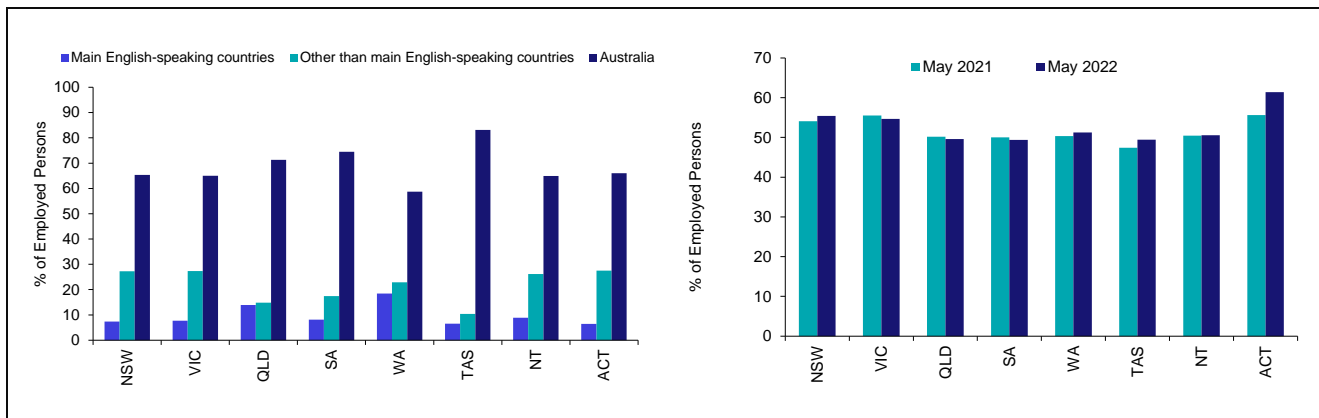
⁶ See [2021 Intergenerational Report](#)

⁷ See [2021 Population Statement | Centre for Population](#)

State and Territory Employment

Figure A: Share of Employment by State/Territory and Place of Birth, May 2022

Figure B: Share of Employment of Skilled Occupations by State/Territory, May 2021 and May 2022



The Australian-born represent the highest share of employed people in Tasmania (83.1%), and lowest share in WA (58.7%). The share of employed people born in other than main English-speaking countries is highest in NSW and Victoria (both 27.3% of workers). In Queensland, the shares of workers born in main English-speaking countries and workers born in other than main English-speaking countries are roughly equal (13.9% and 14.8%, respectively).

Figure B shows that in May 2022, the ACT has the highest share (61.4%) of workers in skilled occupations (Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and trade workers; seasonally adjusted data), followed by NSW (55.4%) and Victoria (54.7%).

In the 12 months to May 2022, the share of workers employed in a skilled occupation increased in the ACT (up by 5.8pp⁸), Tasmania (up by 2.0pp), NSW (up by 1.3pp), WA (up by 0.9pp) and the NT (up by 0.1pp). The share of workers employed in a skilled occupation fell in Victoria (down by 0.8pp), and Queensland and SA (both down by 0.6pp).

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 2022, the labour force participation rate for Australia (seasonally adjusted data) increased by 0.5pp to 66.7% (see Figure C). The NT and WA recorded the largest increases in the participation rate (2.0pp and 1.7pp respectively), with SA and the ACT recording decreases (down by 0.1pp and 1.0pp, respectively).

Figure C: Labour force participation rates (seasonally adjusted) by State (%)



⁸ "pp" is percentage points

Industry by State and Territory

Table B below shows the industry share of total employment in each State (seasonally adjusted data). It shows the ACT (28.7%) and the NT (17.3%) have a relatively large proportion of employed persons in Public administration and safety; and NT (18.1%), SA (17.0%) and Queensland (15.7%) in Health care and social assistance. The industries that employ the largest number of persons in Australia are Health care and social assistance (14.7%) followed by Retail trade (9.6%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (9.4%).

Table B: Employment Distribution by Industry and State/Territory at May 2022 (% of persons)

Industry	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.0	1.9	2.5	3.9	2.1	5.8	1.5	0.3*	2.3
Mining	0.8	0.3	2.9	1.6	9.3	1.0	1.9	0.1*	2.1
Manufacturing	5.9	7.6	6.9	7.7	5.6	7.0	2.6	1.6	6.6
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.7	1.2
Construction	8.3	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.8	7.1	5.6	8.7
Wholesale Trade	2.6	3.1	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.2	1.7	0.4*	2.6
Retail Trade	9.7	9.6	9.4	10.2	9.7	10.7	7.9	7.1	9.6
Accommodation and Food Services	6.1	6.1	7.6	6.2	6.4	8.1	6.4	5.7	6.5
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.0	4.9	4.2	5.3	2.1	5.0
Information Media and Telecommunications	1.8	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.5
Financial and Insurance Services	6.0	4.6	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.2	0.7	1.5	4.1
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10.5	10.4	7.9	7.4	7.5	6.6	5.4	14.7	9.4
Administrative and Support Services	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.1	2.3	3.9	2.5	3.2
Public Administration and Safety	6.2	5.8	6.3	7.2	7.1	6.7	17.3	28.7	6.8
Education and Training	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.5	7.8	9.2	8.6	8.1	8.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	14.2	14.4	15.7	17.0	13.3	14.9	18.1	13.6	14.7
Arts and Recreation Services	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.7
Other Services	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.6	5.0	2.9	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS (2022). EQ06 - Employed persons by Industry group of main job (ANZSIC), Sex, State and Territory. *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. Retrieved July 2022, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/jun-2022>. The State-level data are trended by the National Skills Commission. 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@skillscommission.gov.au.