



Australian Labour Market Update

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.

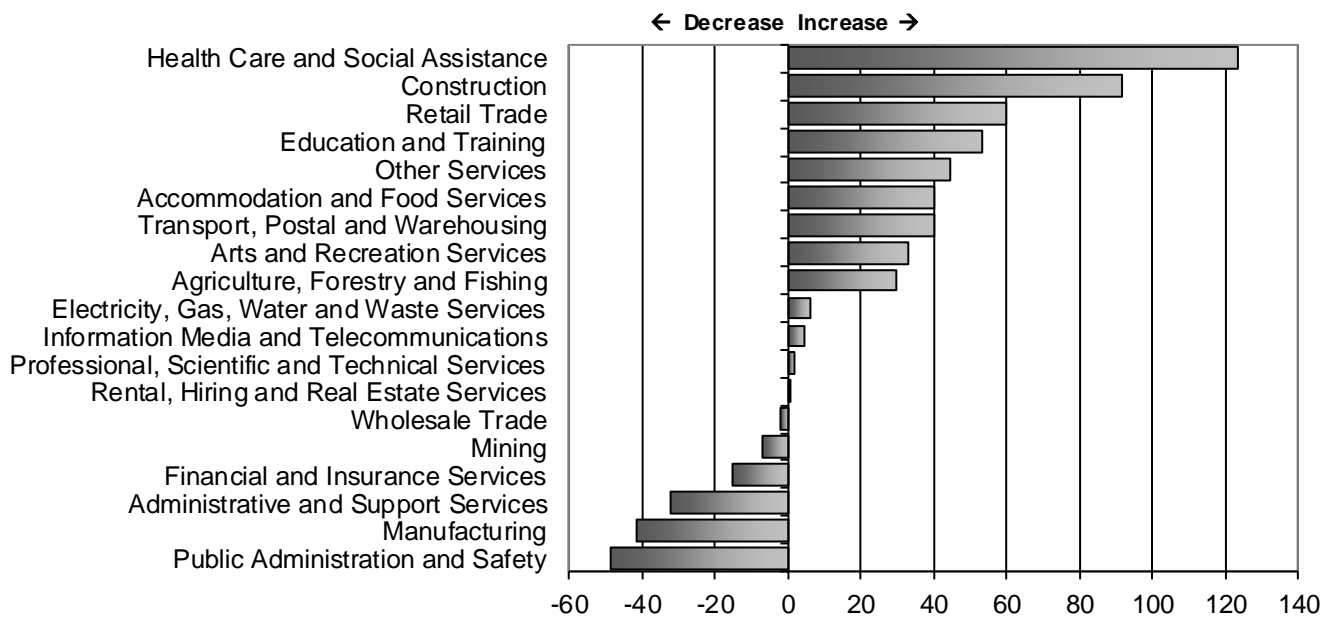
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2017.¹

Employment

Over the 12 months to November 2017, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Queensland (4.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 4.1%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2017, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 123 800), Construction (up 91 500), Retail Trade (up 60 000) and Education and Training (up 53 300). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (down 48 500). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Arts and Recreation Services (up 15.4%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (up 10.1%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—November 2016 to November 2017



Source: ABS, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, November 2017*, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

¹ The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, December 2017 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets.

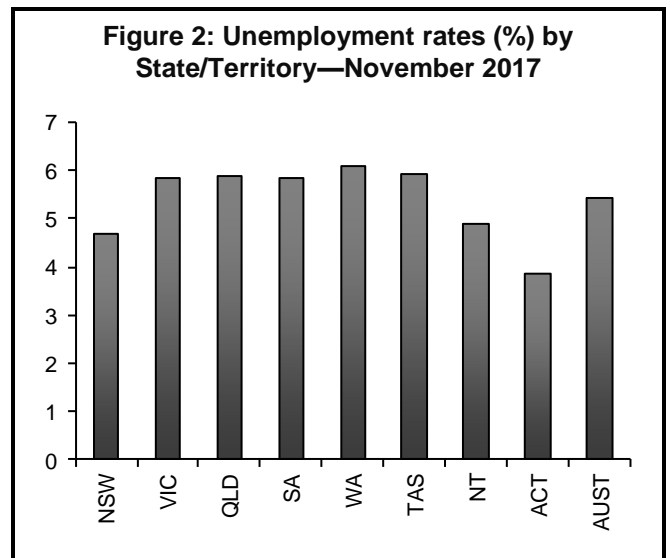
Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.5% in November 2017, compared to 5.7% in November 2016.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 3.5% to 4.9%) and the ACT (3.8% to 3.9%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in South Australia (SA, 6.6% to 5.9%), Western Australia (WA, 6.5% to 6.1%), New South Wales (NSW, 5.0% to 4.7%), Tasmania (6.3% to 5.9%) and Queensland (6.1% to 5.9%).

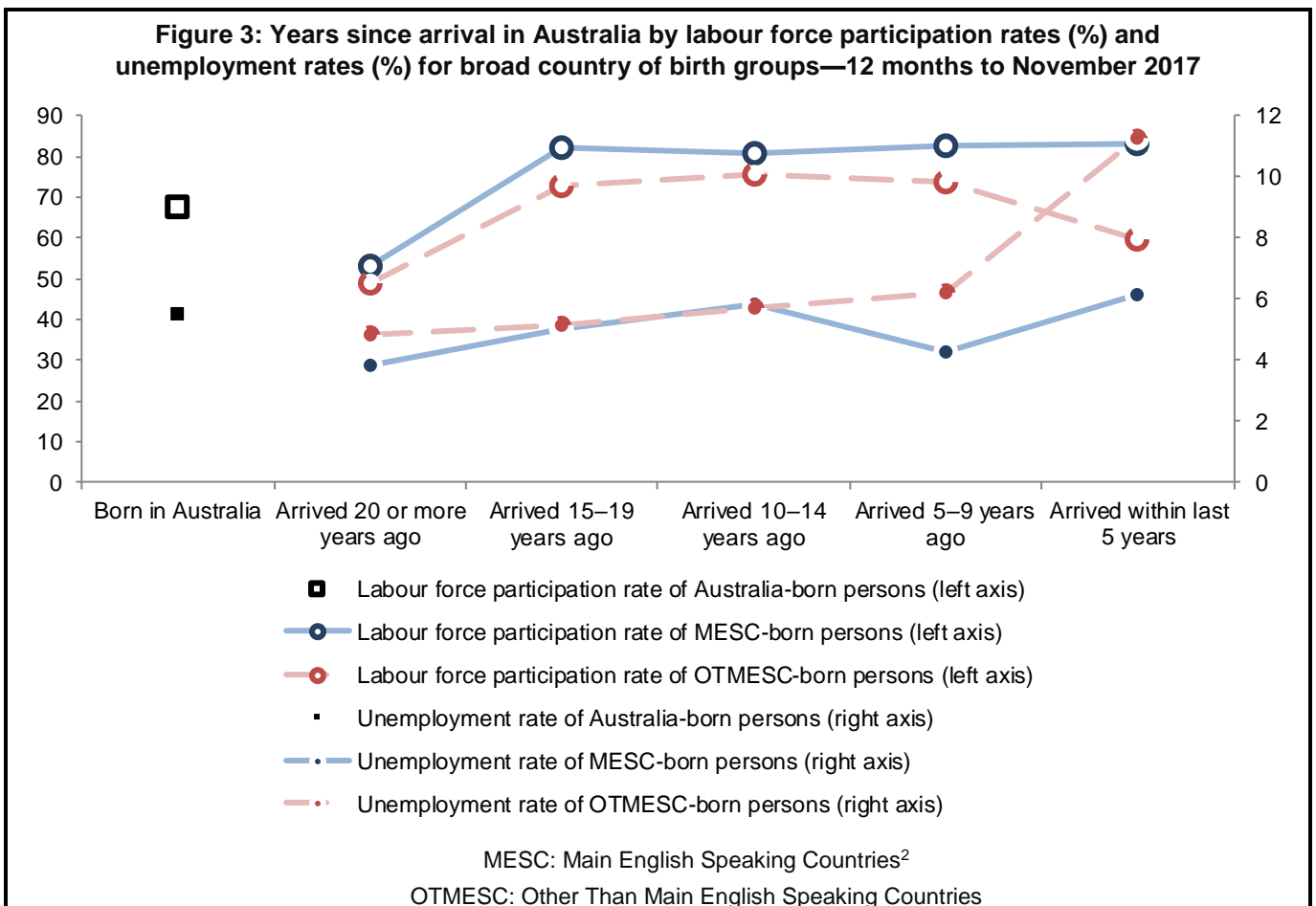
In November 2017, the trend unemployment rate was highest in WA (6.1%), Tasmania, Queensland and SA (all 5.9%), and lowest in the ACT (3.9%). See Figure 2.



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.

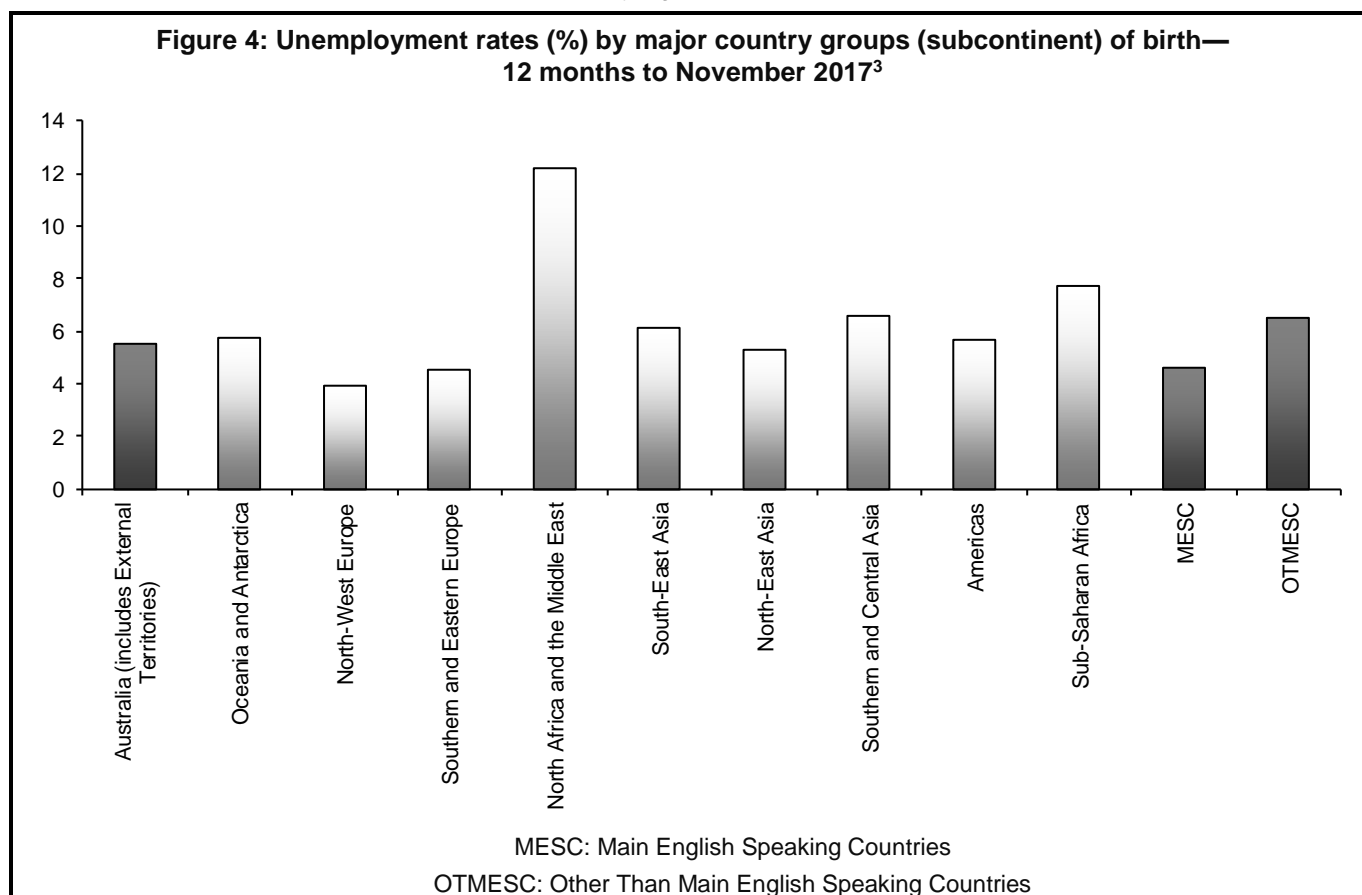
Figure 3 below shows the participation and unemployment rates of the Australian-born and migrants by broad country of birth groups and period of residence in Australia (average of the last 12 months to November 2017).



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, November 2017, 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 2017) 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 (3.9% and 4.5% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (12.2%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (7.7%) are relatively high.



Employment by Occupation⁴

Over the 12 months to November 2017, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Technicians and Trades Workers (up 89 300), Professionals (up 87 800) and Community and Personal Service Workers (up 72 200). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to November 2017

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	2.8	0.2
Professionals	87.8	3.1
Technicians and Trades Workers	89.3	5.3
Community and Personal Service Workers	72.2	5.7
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-5.0	-0.3
Sales Workers	51.8	4.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers	26.6	3.4
Labourers	17.8	1.5

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

³ From October 2015, Figure 3 of the Australian Labour Market Update uses major country groups (subcontinent) of birth data from the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 1269.0). In SACC, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is included within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

⁴ This section is based on November 2017 Department of Jobs and Small 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).

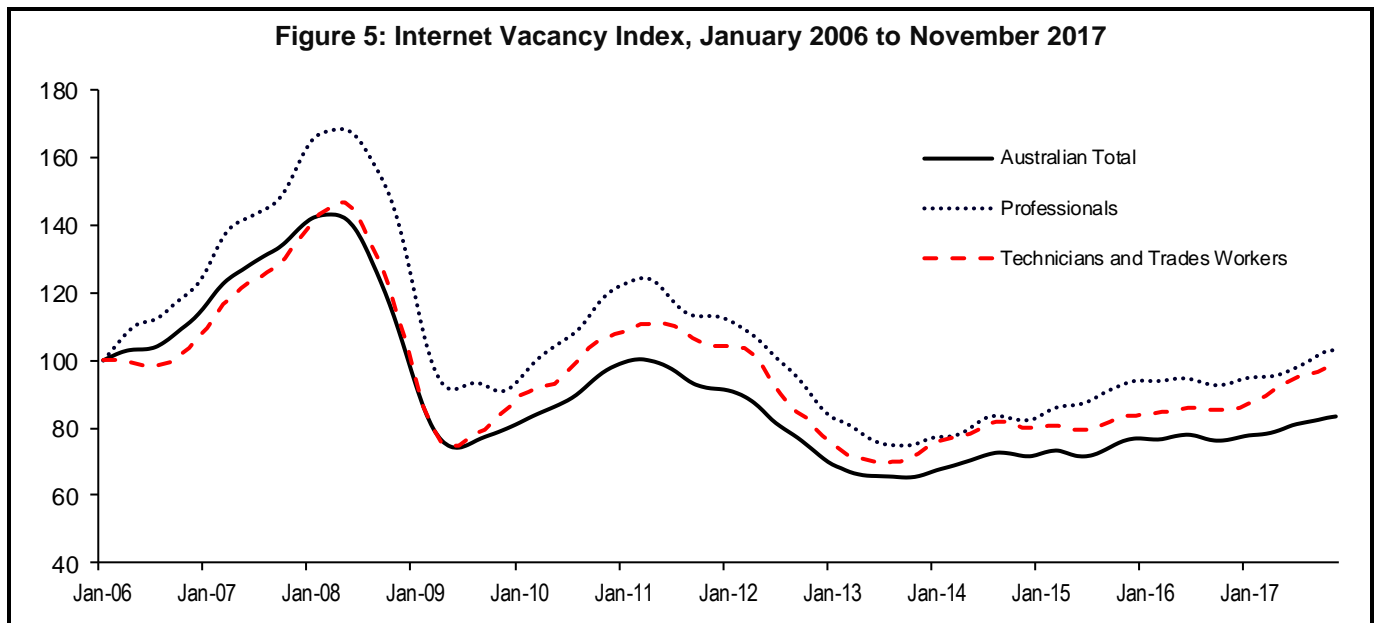
Internet Vacancy Trends

The Department of Jobs and Small Business produces the monthly [Vacancy Report](#) which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)⁵ (see Figure 5). Over the year to November 2017, the IVI (trend) increased by 8.5% with increases recorded for seven of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Technicians and Trades Workers (up 15.3%), Professionals (up 12.0%) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 10.6%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 38 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to November 2017, with the strongest increases for Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers (up 36.8%), Engineers (up 35.1%), Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (up 34.9%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 21.9%) and Hospitality Workers (up 20.4%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Sales Representatives and Agents (down 9.1%).

Over the year to November 2017, vacancies rose in all states and territories, except for Tasmania (down 0.3%). The strongest rises were in WA (up 17.3%), followed by the NT (up 16.7%) and Queensland (up 13.0%).



Source: Department of Jobs and Small Business, [Vacancy Report](#) (December 2017), Trend Index data.

Future Employment Change

The [Labour Market Information Portal](#) contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to May 2022 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 2022. 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@jobs.gov.au.

⁵ See Department of Jobs and Small Business [Vacancy Report](#) (November 2017 and (for Figure 5) December 2017). The Internet Vacancy Index (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 now Department of Jobs and Small Business (former Department of Employment) to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).



Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists

Audiologists provide diagnostic assessment and rehabilitative services related to human hearing defects. Speech Pathologists assess and treat people with communication disorders (such as speech, language, voice, fluency and literacy difficulties) and people who have physical problems with eating or swallowing.ⁱ

In the Australian labour market, employers of Audiologists generally seek applicants with the equivalent of an Australian university Master level degree. Membership of Audiology Australia or the Australian College of Audiology Ltd is recommended and some employers may require a Certificate of Clinical Practice. Employers of Speech Pathologists generally seek applicants with a recognised qualification at either a Bachelor or Master level degree. Most Australian employers also require applicants to demonstrate they are eligible for Certified Practising membership of [Speech Pathology Australia](#).

Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Jobs and Small Business (former Department of Employment) indicate that the occupation group of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists is expected to grow very strongly by 32.6% over the five years to May 2022. The number of job openings over the five years to May 2022 is expected to be around 6,000. The majority of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists are employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance (75.3%) and Public Administration and Safety (13.8%) industries. Table A provides a labour market profile for Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists from the [Job Outlook](#) and [Labour Market Information Portal](#) websites.

Table A: Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists—Key Labour Market Indicators

Key Indicator	Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists
Occupation size (May 2017)	9 200
Most common level of educational attainment	Bachelor degree (59.9%)
Average age	38 years
Full-time share of employment	61.0%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	32.9
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	Not available
Unemployment rate	Below average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2017)	47.6% ⁱⁱ
Projected (to May 2022) occupation size	12 100

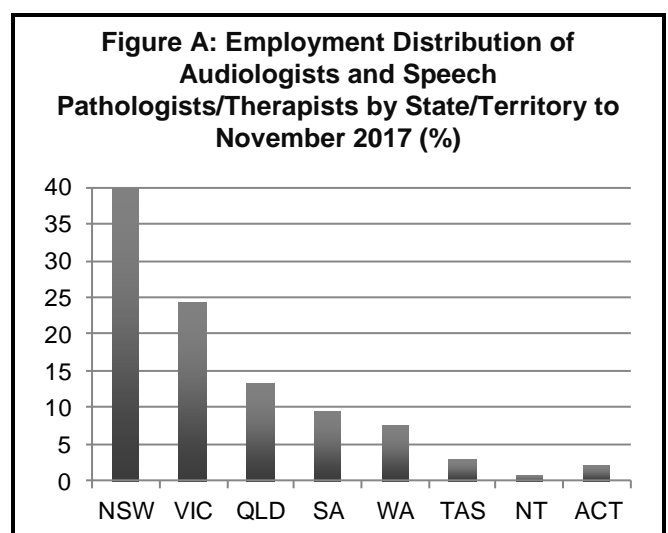
Labour market research by the Department of Jobs and Small Business suggests there has been a shortage of Audiologists over the past three years. Recruitment of Audiologists was difficult for many employers in 2017, although employers who specifically sought Audiologists for paediatric work in public hospitals had greater success in attracting applicants and filling vacancies.ⁱⁱⁱ

Regional Employment

Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

For the four quarters to November 2017^{iv}, the average share of employment of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists was highest in New South Wales (39.9%), Victoria (24.3%) and Queensland (13.1%).

South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory employed the smallest average share of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists (at fewer than 10.0% each). See Figure A (original data).



Skills Assessment

Audiologists who wish to apply for skilled migration to Australia need to first obtain a skills assessment from VETASSESS. The VETASSESS skills assessment criteria for Audiologists includes a qualification at the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree level, in a field of study highly relevant to the nominated occupation. In addition, applicants must have at least one year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level completed in the last five years that is highly relevant to the nominated occupation. For more information click [here](#).

Speech Pathologists with overseas qualifications and training who wish to apply for skilled migration to Australia need to submit an application to Speech Pathology Australia for either a Mutual Recognition Agreement (if eligible) or an Overseas Qualification Competency Assessment. Applicants for the latter assessment must have at least 1,000 hours or one year of relevant speech pathology practice employment completed in the last five years and be able to demonstrate a high level of English language competence. For more information click [here](#).

Employer-Sponsored Migration

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programs including the Temporary Work Skilled, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programs is on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) (former Department of Immigration and Border Protection) website.

Seeking Employment in Australia

Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists 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 Jobs and Small 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 often include information on vacancies.

ⁱ Adapted from [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\)](#) and Statistics New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, Cat. No. 1220.0, First Edition.

ⁱⁱ [ABS Labour Force Survey](#), Department of Employment trend data to May 2017.

ⁱⁱⁱ The most recent [occupational report for Audiologist in Australia](#) is on the Department of Jobs and Small Business website.

^{iv} [ABS Labour Force Survey](#) (original data), Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.