



## 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.

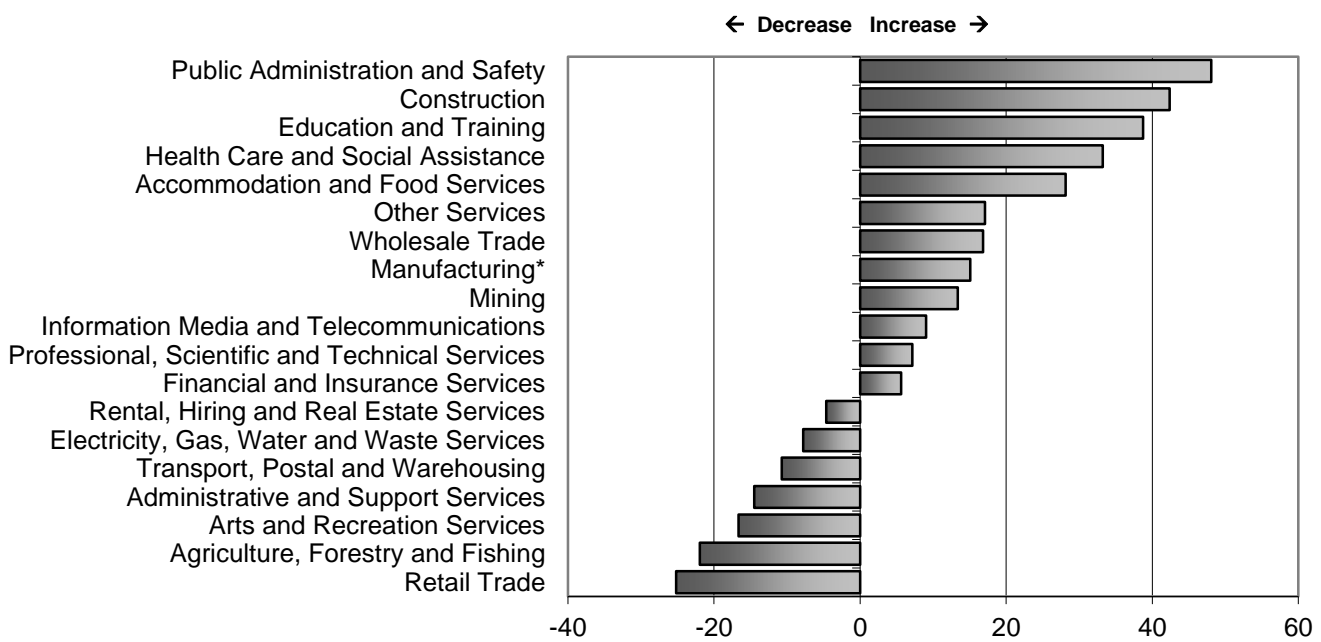
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2017.<sup>1</sup>

## Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2017, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in Victoria (3.5%), the Northern Territory (NT, 3.3%) and Tasmania (3.3%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2017, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Public Administration and Safety (up 48 100), Construction (up 42 400), Education and Training (up 38 700), Health Care and Social Assistance (up 33 200) and Accommodation and Food Services (up 28 100). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Retail Trade (down 25 200). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Public Administration and Safety (up 6.3%) and Mining (up 6.0%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

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



\* Current employment data for the Manufacturing industry is not consistent with long-term trends and caution should be exercised when using this data.

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

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

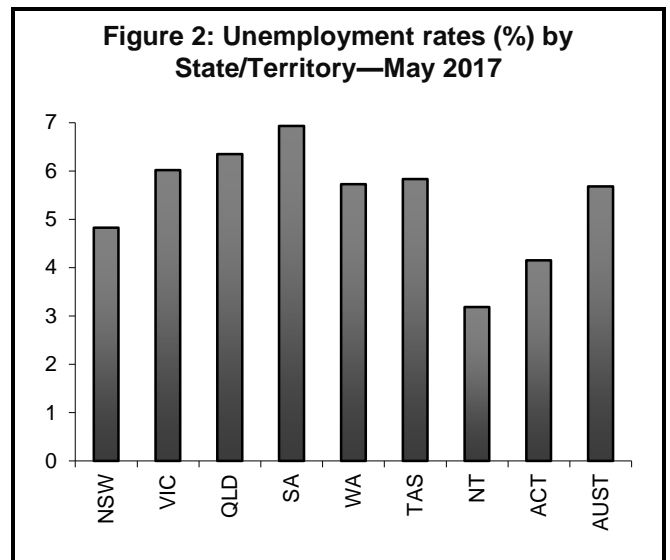
# Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.7% in May 2017, which is the same as for May 2016.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 3.7% to 4.2%), Victoria (5.7% to 6.0%) and Queensland (6.3% to 6.4%). It remained steady in South Australia (SA, 6.9%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in the NT (3.9% to 3.2%), Tasmania (6.5% to 5.8%), New South Wales (NSW, 5.2% to 4.8%) and Western Australia (WA, 5.9% to 5.7%).

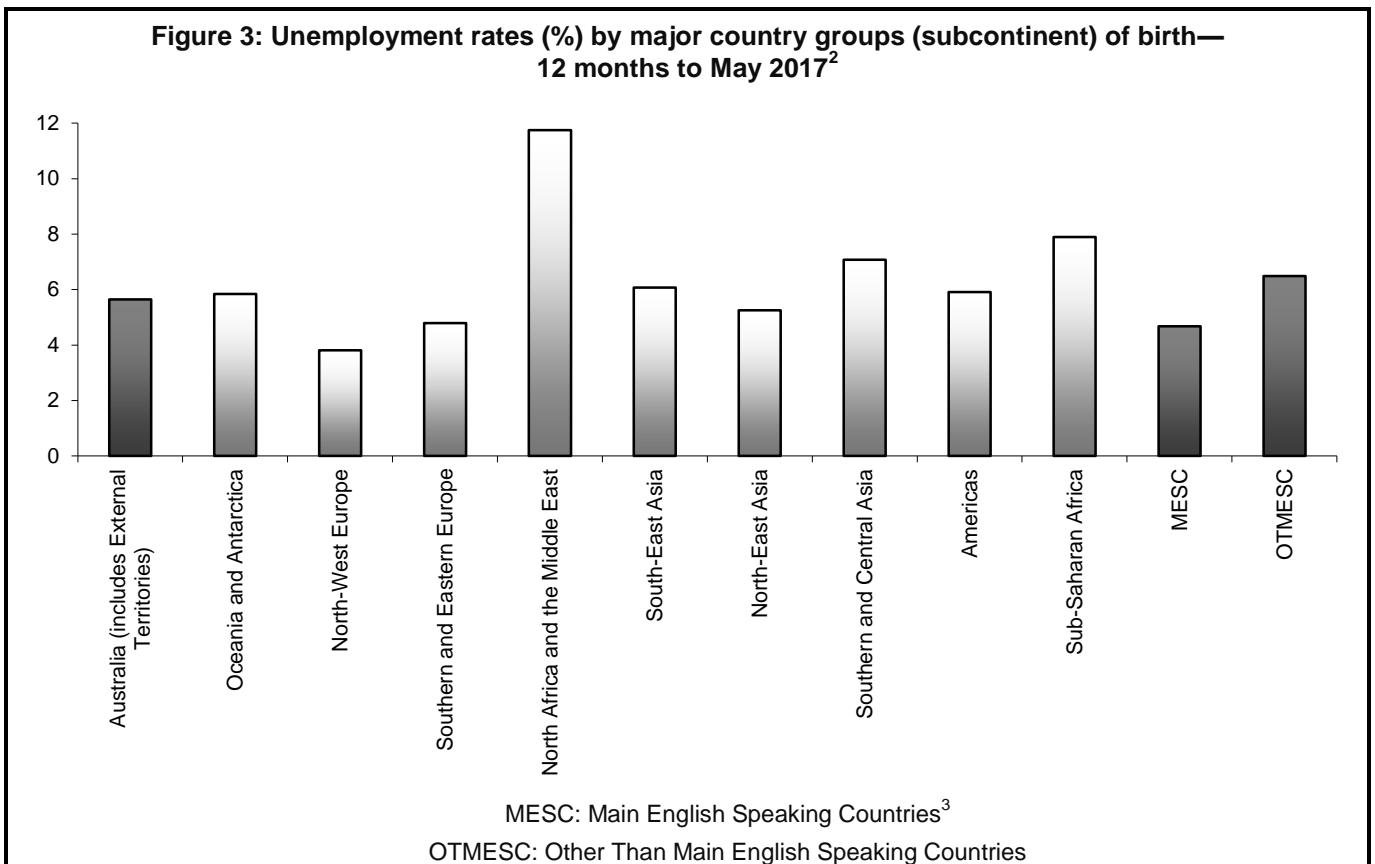
In May 2017, the trend unemployment rate was highest in SA (6.9%) and lowest in the NT (3.2%). See Figure 2.



# 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 unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 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 (3.8% and 4.8% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (11.7%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (7.9%) are relatively high.



<sup>2</sup> 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'.

<sup>3</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

## Employment by Occupation<sup>4</sup>

Over the 12 months to May 2017, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 107 800), Labourers (up 54 400) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 23 900). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

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

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	14.1	0.9
Professionals	107.8	3.9
Technicians and Trades Workers	23.9	1.4
Community and Personal Service Workers	0.2	0.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	-42.4	-2.5
Sales Workers	-35.0	-3.1
Machinery Operators and Drivers	10.9	1.4
Labourers	54.4	4.7

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

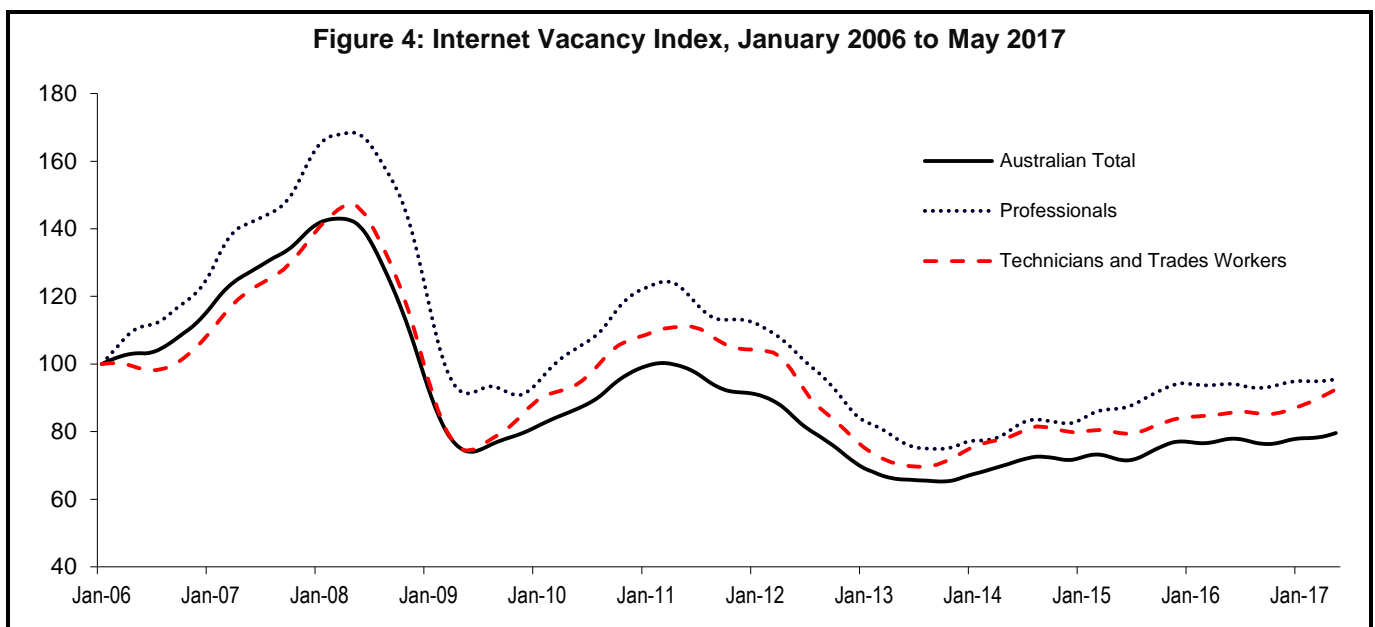
## Internet Vacancy Trends

The Department of Employment produces the monthly [Vacancy Report](#) which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)<sup>5</sup> (see Figure 4). Over the year to May 2017, the IVI (trend) increased by 2.7% with increases recorded for six of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 20.8%), Technicians and Trades Workers (up 8.5%) and Labourers (up 6.9%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 29 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2017, with the strongest increases for Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (up 35.5%), Engineers (up 34.8%) and Machine and Stationary Plant Operators (up 30.3%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Education Professionals (down 11.0%).

Over the year to May 2017, vacancies rose in four states. The strongest rises were in SA (up 14.9%), followed by WA (up 6.9%) and Queensland (up 6.7%). The falls were in the NT (down 11.8%), NSW (down 1.7%) and the ACT (down 1.2%).



Source: Department of Employment, [Vacancy Report](#) (June 2017), Trend Index data.

<sup>4</sup> This section is based on May 2017 Department of Employment 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).

<sup>5</sup> See Department of Employment, [Vacancy Report](#) (May 2017 and June 2017 (for Figure 4)). 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 Department of Employment to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).

## Future Employment Change

The [Labour Market Information Portal](#) contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to November 2020 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 November 2020. 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@employment.gov.au](mailto:migration@employment.gov.au).



## The Labour Market Experience of Recent Migrants

This Hot Topic provides an overview of the labour market experience of recent migrants<sup>i</sup> under the Skill and Family Streams of Australia's permanent Migration Program.

This Hot Topic is produced every three years and, unless otherwise stated, uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, November 2016 (ABS Cat. No. 6250.0)—the 2016 Survey.

## Labour Force Status of Recent Migrants

In November 2016, 4.9% of Australia's population aged 15 years or over were recent migrants. Of the estimated 946 800 recent migrants, 651 100 were employed, 46 300 were unemployed and 251 200 were not in the labour force.<sup>ii</sup>

### Employment

In November 2016, almost 70% of recent migrants were employed. Several factors contribute to employment outcomes for recent migrants. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had higher employment rates than those with permanent visas only (77% and 63% respectively). Of recent migrants without Australian citizenship, those in the Skill Stream were more likely to have been employed than those in the Family Stream (75% and 54% respectively). See Figure A.

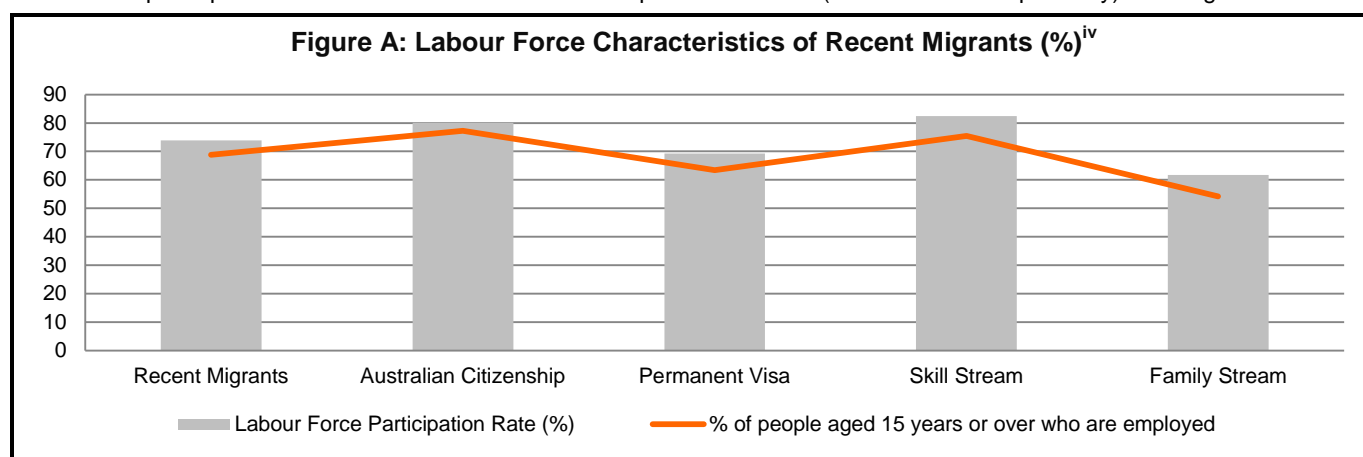
Around three in 10 of the recent migrants who had been employed since arriving in Australia experienced difficulty finding their first job. The most common reasons for that difficulty were a lack of Australian work experience or references (65%), a lack of local contacts or networks (31%), language difficulties (25%), skills or qualifications not recognised (16%), and no jobs or vacancies in locality or line of work (13%).

### Unemployment

According to the 2016 Survey, the unemployment rate for recent migrants was 6.6% compared with 5.4% for the Australian-born population. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had an unemployment rate of 3.3%<sup>iii</sup>, while those on a permanent visa had an unemployment rate of 8.8%.

## Labour Force Participation

The 2016 Survey estimated the labour force participation rate for recent migrants was 74% compared with 70% for the Australian-born. The participation rate for recent migrants without Australian citizenship and with a Skill Stream visa was 82% while those with a Family Stream visa had a participation rate of 62%. Recent migrants with Australian citizenship had a higher labour force participation rate than those who remained on permanent visas (80% and 69% respectively). See Figure A.



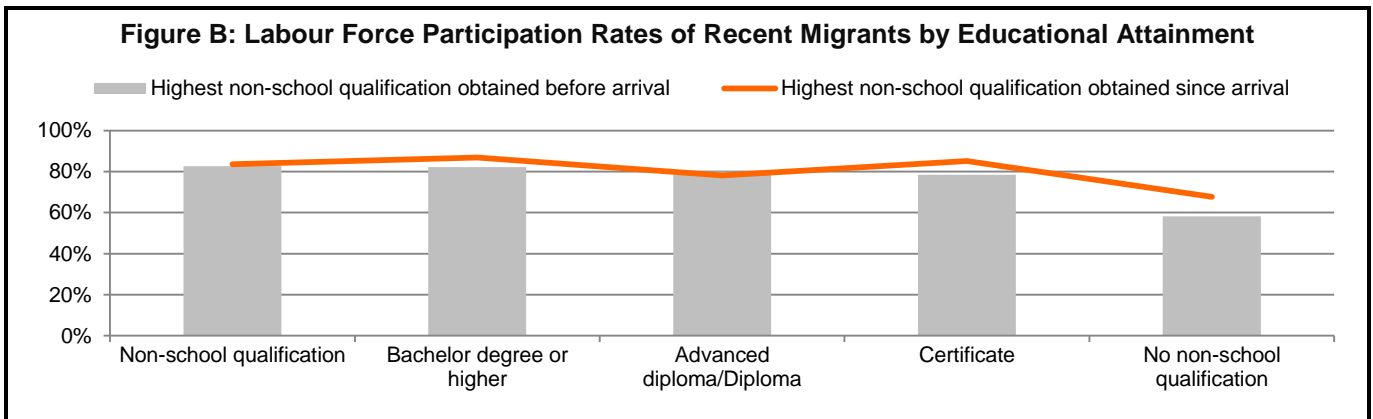
## Skills and Qualifications

In the Australian labour market, higher levels of educational attainment among recent migrants are generally associated with higher levels of labour force participation and lower levels of educational attainment are associated with lower levels of labour force participation.

The 2016 Survey data shows that recent migrants who arrived with non-school qualifications<sup>v</sup> had higher participation rates and slightly higher unemployment rates than recent migrants who did not have non-school qualifications on arrival.

Recent migrants who arrived with a non-school qualification had a labour force participation rate of 83%, while the participation rate for recent migrants who arrived without a non-school qualification was significantly lower at 58%. Further, recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival in Australia tended to fare better in the labour market.

In November 2016, recent migrants who gained a non-school qualification since arriving in Australia had a labour force participation rate of 84%. However, the participation rate for recent migrants who had not obtained a non-school qualification since arrival was significantly lower at 68%. See Figure B.

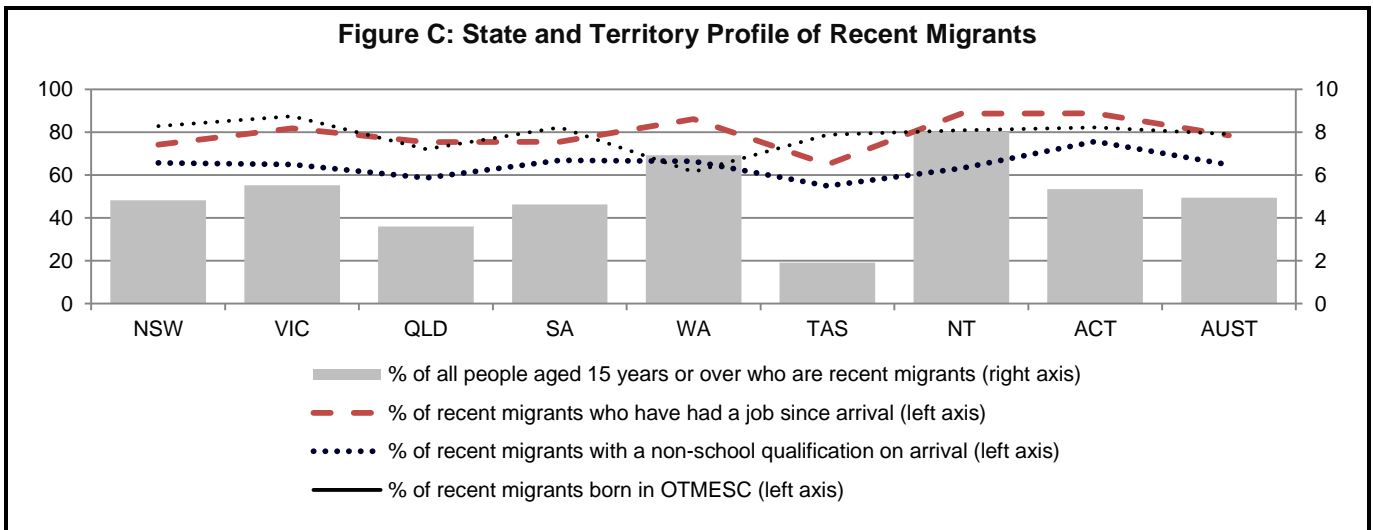


## State and Territory Profile of Recent Migrants

According to the 2016 Survey, the percentage of recent migrants who had a job since arrival in Australia was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 89%), the Northern Territory (NT, 89%) and Western Australia (WA, 86%).

The percentage of recent migrants with a non-school qualification was reasonably uniform across the states and territories, but was relatively high in the ACT (76%) and relatively low in Tasmania (55%) and Queensland (59%). The percentage of recent migrants born in Other Than Main English Speaking Countries (OTMESC)<sup>vi</sup> was highest in Victoria (88%) and New South Wales (83%), and lowest in WA (61%).

Recent migrants represented a relatively high percentage of all people aged 15 years or over in the NT and WA (8.0% and 6.9% respectively). See Figure C.



<sup>i</sup> Recent migrants are—for the purposes of the 2016 Survey and this Hot Topic—defined as people who were born overseas, first arrived to live in Australia (for one year or more) after 2006, were aged 15 years or over on arrival, were not an Australian citizen or New Zealand (NZ) citizen on arrival, did not hold NZ citizenship at November 2016 and had permanent Australian resident status at November 2016 by holding a permanent visa or by having gained Australian citizenship.

<sup>ii</sup> Discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals in this Hot Topic as cells in the ABS source tables have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. See the ABS Cat. No. 6250.0 Explanatory Notes for more information.

<sup>iii</sup> This estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

<sup>iv</sup> The Skill Stream and Family Stream data in Figure A relate to recent migrants who had not obtained Australian citizenship at November 2016.

<sup>v</sup> Non-school qualifications include Postgraduate Degree, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate, Bachelor Degree, Advanced Diploma and Diploma, and Certificates (I, II, III, IV and not further defined). See ABS, Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, November 2016, Glossary (ABS Cat. No. 6250.0).

<sup>vi</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.