

www.jobmarkets.com.au

**Job Markets Australia
2026-2027**

Information Paper

This information paper
was prepared by Rodney Stinson,

Yorkcross Pty Ltd
GPO Box 2171, Sydney NSW 2001
www.jobmarkets.com.au www.whatjobspay.com.au
webmaster@jobmarkets.com.au

Except for the Jobs and Skills Australia data in the Employment Outlook field, the content of the *Job Markets Australia* database and this Information Paper is the intellectual property of Rodney Stinson. © 2026 Rodney Stinson All Rights Reserved

No part of the content can be commercialized, copied or transmitted to any medium by whatever means without the prior written authorization of Rodney Stinson, from whom prior written permission for variations to the permitted fair use clauses of the Copyright Act 1968 [Commonwealth of Australia] must also be obtained. Those accessing the database are bound by the website's Terms and Conditions, which set out more fully the copyright requirements.

Part 1 **page 3**

Introduction
Privacy policy and monitoring
Online availability
Information fields
Find, Query, Rank and Filter
Jobs by ANZSCO Groups
Reports and invoices supplied as PDF files

Part 2 **page 4**

Description and recommended use
of *Job Markets Australia*

Part 3 **page 5**

Occupations and Job Duties
Current Job Numbers Nationally and by State and Capital City
Regional/Local Jobs
Physical Demands
English Competency
Job Orientation
Career Interests
Digital Literacy
Skill Level
Employment Outlook
 with *Jobs and Skills Australia's* future demand and shortages analysis
Industries with Jobs
Level of Schooling of Workers
Post-school Qualifications of Workers
Worker Characteristics – full-time, part-time, older and younger
 workers and self-employment
Average Weekly Full-time Earnings
Average Retirement Age
O*NET® data
OSCA occupations classified to JMA's ANZSCO Occupations NEW

Part 4 **page 10**

Sources and methodology

Attachments **page 11**

Explanation of Physical Demands – Strength Ratings
Explanation of English Competency
Job Orientation: Working with Data, Ideas, People or Things
Explanation of Career Interests: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic,
 Social Enterprising, Conventional
Explanation of Digital Literacy
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge – O*NET® data
Explanation of the Importance and Level ratings in O*NET®

Part 1

Introduction, *Privacy Policy and Monitoring*

The *Job Markets Australia* database at www.jobmarkets.com.au was formerly called *Archangel® Job Markets Australia*. Yorkcross Pty Ltd. operates the website

Microsoft Azure hosts the www.jobmarkets.com.au website. The proprietary software running on the host's server automatically collects specific information about visitors to the website. This will be used to monitor website usage, including browsing patterns, and to improve layout, accessibility, and performance.

Those using pay-as-you-go for the report/s from the database are directed to the very secure PayPal® website, whose stipulated privacy policies are adhered to by Yorkcross Pty Ltd. No personal or identifying details about the PayPal® payee or payment type are known to www.jobmarkets.com.au, except for information to be included on the tax invoice. That information is not retained on the www.jobmarkets.com.au website but on the PayPal® website.

The www.jobmarkets.com.au website does not ask for, and cannot otherwise obtain, the name of anyone or any organisation using PrePaid credits. The security of the PrePaid code is the purchaser's responsibility.

Online Availability

Yorkcross Pty Ltd cannot guarantee 100% availability of the website and the *Job Markets Australia* database because an external commercial organization's server hosts the website. In the event of less than 100% availability, Yorkcross Pty Ltd cannot be held responsible for any unavailability.

Information Fields

Every occupation in the database has the following information fields, except when no reliable data are available. Those with an asterisk are part of the Query function, where you can nominate search criteria to identify occupations that meet your criteria.

<u>ANZSCO title and code</u>	*searchable fields in the Query function
Skill Level*	
National, State and Capital City – Current Number of Jobs [Regional/Local Number of Jobs when selected#]	
Actual Level of Schooling by Age-group	
Actual Post-school Qualification Levels by Age-group	
Employment Outlook* and Brief Reasons with <i>Jobs and Skills Australia's</i> future demand and shortages analysis	
Industries with Jobs	
Self-employment*	
Older Workers' Job Shares*	
Young Workers' Job Shares*	
Gender Job Shares*	
Incidence of Part-time Work*	
Average Weekly Full-time Earnings by Age-group	
Digital Literacy	
English Competency – Speaking* Listening* Reading* Writing*	
Physical Demand Rating*	
Career Interests*	
Job Orientation*	
Average Retirement Age	
O*NET® skills, abilities, and knowledge – importance and level	
OSCA occupations classified to JMA's ANZSCO Occupations	

Find, Query, Sort and Filter

The Find function entails typing the full or part title or code of the occupation in which you are interested. If the full title does not locate the occupation, this could mean the occupation has a different title in the database or is part of another occupation in the *ANZSCO Dictionary*. To establish the title used in the *ANZSCO Dictionary*, and thus in the database, you can open one of the PDF files on Job Resources in the toolbar. One PDF file is the entire dictionary and the others have summary extracts.

To include an occupation in a report, it needs first to be selected into the Report Manager. You do that by ticking the box next to the occupation in a list generated by the Find or Query functions, and then clicking Add Job/s.

The Query function gives you a powerful tool to identify occupations that meet your specified criteria. When you want to run a new Query, remember that, to begin with, everything about all occupations is included. You only *deselect* what you *don't want* included in your Query.

For instance, if you're interested in older workers and nothing else at this stage, then simply go to the older workers field and deselect the younger options you do not want to include and leave the other fields unchanged. Then run the Query.

There is one exception. With the Job Orientation field, you do select Data, People, or Things.

The Filter option lets you exclude any otherwise suitable occupations in the Query results when they have a Regional/Local job count of 3 or fewer or no Regional/Local jobs.

The Rank option lets you sort from highest to lowest the earnings within one age-group among the list of occupations meeting your search criteria in the Query function. This entails selecting one age-group in the earnings ranking display.

Jobs by ANZSCO Groups

The ANZSCO structure with its major groups, minor groups and over 1,000 occupations is not displayed in the database. You can see the structure in a PDF file of the complete *ANZSCO Dictionary* on the Job Resources page on the toolbar on www.jobmarkets.com.au's homepage.

Reports and Invoices Supplied as PDF Files

The reports and invoices generated on www.jobmarkets.com.au are supplied as PDF files. To open and print the PDF files, you will need to have installed the Adobe Acrobat® Reader® software, which can be downloaded free from the www.adobe.com website, or its equivalent.

Part 2

Description

The *Job Markets Australia* database provides essential statistics and other data and information for use by professionals preparing reports for litigated cases, workers compensation matters, and other contested issues where earnings and labour market considerations are of crucial importance. The database has been cited and relied on in those arenas since the late 1990s. The well-researched database also assists informed decision-making by professionals and others who help and provide advice and direction to job seekers in general, people in rehabilitation or outplacement programs, school leavers, university and college students, and anyone looking to change or plan their career.

The database's comprehensive information is set out in a concise, systematic way, and it has the capacity to sort and analyze all occupations according to 15 key factors, such as the physical demand rating, English competency, and the incidence of older workers. It also allows you to nominate specific regions, sub-regions, and localities to see the number of accessible jobs.

Job Markets Australia is a standard (and authoritative) reference on the labour market and earnings for 1,063 detailed occupations in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' own revised *Occupation Experimental Update version 1 (OCCEV1P)*, reflecting the (revised) 1st edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Dictionary*.

In summary, the *Job Markets Australia* database has been designed to assist individuals, organizations, and others to understand the issues and to make informed decisions with respect to preparing for, and participating in, the labour market. Before they finalize their reports and recommendations, and certainly before decisions are made and acted on, Yorkcross Pty Ltd and Rodney Stinson would advise individuals, organizations and others accessing the database or with access to database reports (or extracts from database reports) to confirm from other sources and authorities the relevance and accuracy of the assessments, analysis and ratings contained in *Job Markets Australia*.

Recommended Use of Job Markets Australia

The assessments and ratings in *Job Markets Australia* give a reliable indication of important labour market variables and characteristics for each occupation. These have a national focus and can be applied as a type of benchmark against which State/Territory and regional/local labour markets may be measured. The national focus provides an overview, which may or may not apply at the State/Territory or regional/local levels. If users believe that the regional or local situation is, or may be, different from the national assessments and rating regarding the employment outlook and so on, the best approach is to identify the reason or reasons for the difference and to conclude which assessment or rating is to be preferred.

Some regions and localities have unemployment rates that are either well above or well below the national averages. The regional economy, for instance, may be doing better or worse than the national economy or key regional industries may be performing at high or depressed levels. Where these general considerations are documented or where special regional and local factors are known to exist, then they would constitute sufficient reasons for concluding that the regional or local situation would be brighter or worse than the national assessment or rating given in *Job Markets Australia* for an occupation, though the magnitude of the difference might not always be great.

This questioning approach, joined with knowledge of regional and local factors and an appreciation of the distinctive characteristics of individual job seekers, is an effective way to apply the assessments and ratings in *Job Markets Australia*. Primarily, however, the database provides a sound framework at the national level, and it is only against such a framework that the regional and local situation and the relative potential of specific applicants can be fairly and consistently determined. To help in determining the regional job situation a range of reliable statistics are in the database, including the State and Territory current number and share of jobs within each occupation and job numbers for the region, sub-region, and localities levels.

Part 3

Occupations and their Job Duties

The occupations in the database are now coded to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' own revised *Occupation Experimental Update version 1 (OCCEV1P)*, which is based on the 1st edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Dictionary*, revision 1.2. The job duties as set out in the Bureau's own update are cited in *Job Markets Australia*. For more details, go to the www.abs.gov.au website and type "OCCEV1P" in the homepage's Search function. The Bureau's advises, "This was a targeted update limited to occupations relating to agriculture, cyber security, naval ship building and emerging occupations and relates to the Australian labour market only. The *ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2021* represents the 2021 Australian update." The Bureau also published revision 1.3 in 2022 which added the following occupations: 139917 Regulatory Affairs Manager, 224114, Data Analyst, 224115 Data Scientist 334117, Fire Protection Plumber and 394113 Furniture Maker. No statistics for them are currently available.

Current Number of Jobs Nationally and by State and Capital City

Every occupation has an estimate of its current number of jobs nationally, by State/Territory and by capital city. The statistics reflect the 2025 data from the *Labour Force* survey and the locational job shares sourced from the *2021 Population Census*, both conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Any job number well below 1,000 should be taken as an indicative figure and certainly not as a definitive statement of the actual number of jobs.

Establishing the number of accessible jobs is of crucial importance to understanding the employment opportunities in a locality. Regarding occupations, a rule of thumb is that the larger the occupation the more likely it is to be found in big and small labour markets. Examples are truck drivers, school teachers, and accountants. Examples of occupations whose jobs would not be found in all labour markets include actuaries, botanists, and tram drivers, which have relatively few jobs nationally. Even so, there are medium-sized occupational fields that have their jobs solely or mainly in industries that are not spread evenly across State/Territory and regional/local labour markets. Instances of this are commercial fishing and advertising.

Regional, Sub-Regional and Localities

The 2026-2027 issue provides job numbers for each occupation in specific regions, sub-regions, and localities through the Regional Jobs setting in the database. It does not have an option for selecting local government areas. The *Regional and Local Jobs by Occupation* paper on the Sources page shows the geographic locations for each State and Territory and explains (with examples) how to make optimum use of the Regional Jobs setting.

There is understatement in most of the regional/local job numbers owing to the many respondents to the last *Census* failing to provide sufficient occupational or regional/local detail. The regional/local job numbers also do not reflect job growth or job loss after 2021. In addition, jobs that are second or third jobs and not primary jobs are not included in the numbers. Multiple job holders make up 6.6% of all employment nationally.

The professional may want to comment on the local job-count in some cases. If the number is thought to be too low or too high, it is recommended that this be noted. The smaller the figure, the more caution is required in its application in the decision-making process. Conversely, the larger the figure, the greater confidence can be about its use.

Physical Demands

A strength rating is given for each occupation in the online database. There are five strength ratings: sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy, and the definitions for these are based on lifting of weights and frequency, standing, walking, and sustaining other physical postures or movements in a work situation. The definitions are included in the attachment to this *Information Paper*, and they have been sourced, with adaptation to metric weights, from the U.S. *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*. Yorkcross Pty Ltd commissioned a senior physiotherapist to establish the physical demand ratings for occupations in the Australian labour market context. The results of that study have at times been augmented by the ratings published in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.

English Competency

For each occupation the database provides a rating of minimum competency for four distinct aspects of communication in the English language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Ratings were established through analyst assessment of the English competency required for workers carrying out the core duties of a given occupation in workplaces where English is the language of communication and supervision.

Consideration was given to both the usual competency levels accepted by employers and the competency demands relative to other occupations of similar, higher, or lesser skill. The ratings

are put forward as a guide to English language requirements. See the attachment to this Information Paper for a fuller explanation.

Job Orientation

The Database has short descriptors of job orientation for each occupation, showing which of data, ideas, people, and things is “most important” or “important”. An attachment to this Information Paper has a short description of job orientation. Yorkcross Pty Ltd commissioned an experienced vocational psychologist to provide the job orientation ratings for occupations in the Australian labour market context.

Career Interests

All occupations are coded to the three highest scoring Career Interests reflecting the Holland inventory. The Interest categories are: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional. The first ranked Career Interest/s can be searched through the Query function. There is an explanation of each Interest category in the attachments section of this Paper.

Yorkcross Pty Ltd commissioned a local research study to provide the career interests for occupations in the Australian labour market context. The results of that study were occasionally augmented by the interest codes published in the O*NET® database on www.onetcenter.org and later desk-research by an occupational researcher. As O*NET® noted, these codes are compatible with Holland's R-I-A-S-E-C Interest Structure (Holland, 1985).

Digital Literacy

Through desk-based research but without field studies, an experienced occupational researcher determined the usual competency levels required for four key digital areas: Windows/other operating systems and smart devices; email/Internet use; Office suite and equivalent software; and the scope for industry/workplace systems. The digital areas for each ANZSCO occupation were assigned to one of five competency levels, 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest.

After the scores were totaled, each occupation was assessed as requiring Extensive, Considerable, Medium, Some, or Little or No digital literacy. An explanation of Digital Literacy is given in the Attachments section of this paper.

Skill Level

The *ANZSCO Dictionary's* skill level rating for each occupation is shown next to the six-digit code. These ratings are particularly relevant for those occupations that are placed in more skilled groups in the ANZSCO classification than their skill alone would warrant. The hospitality managers in Major Group 1 Managers are an example. Their Skill Level 2 is below that of most other Managers in Major Group 1, who have Skill Level 1. The *ANZSCO Dictionary* is no longer based solely on assessed skill as the classification at times takes account of industry and field of work considerations.

Employment Outlook

This field gives the expected job future for each occupation, ranging from poor to excellent. Three determinants of the employment outlook are the prospects for vacancies due to the creation of new jobs, the potential for vacancies due to staff turnover in existing positions, and the stability of labour demand in the occupation in question. New jobs generate far fewer job openings and vacancies than staff and worker turnover, included in which is occupational wastage (due to movement to another occupation, age-related or health retirement, full-time study, or home/family responsibilities etc).

When labour demand for an occupation is stable or very stable, then its rating may be better than the frequency of vacancies alone might suggest. Although prospects for new jobs may be

uncertain, vacancies usually result from staff turnover. Occupations in the mining and exploration industries generally have unstable labour demand, for example. That is, it can rise and fall very quickly, depending on greater competition and trade restrictions in the global economy affecting their respective industries. For many occupations, however, the employment impact of fluctuations in economic or industry activity over the short to medium-term, whether favourable or adverse, is usually felt at the margin and universal disruption in labour demand is uncommon. Nonetheless, some might still be subject to significant and quite sudden variations in their labour demand due to unforeseen/unknown factors, such as changes in government policy and regulations or a very sudden or severe recession.

Sharp alterations in the employment outlook often cannot be anticipated, because they are so unexpected and thus cannot be forecast. The COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent example. An earlier example is the September 11 event in the United States of America. Both began to impact immediately or very soon on specific industries. Another example of the unavoidable imprecision of forecasting is labour demand in the building/construction industry. The existence of cycles in the industry's activity and the importance of approvals and commencements data are well known, but the timing of the industry's peaks and troughs, their duration and their precise effects on labour demand are unlikely to be forecast accurately.

Accurate forecasting of the timing, intensity and real effects of general economic downturns or recessions (and their positive counterparts, upturns and booms) is seldom achieved. For example, when an earlier issue of the database was finalized in June, 2009, the likely seriousness of the impact on Australia's economy from the global financial crisis that emerged in mid-2008 was still being debated. The labour market ratings were therefore not altered in anticipation of possible deterioration in demand for specific occupations. As things transpired, the resources sector boom picked up, again linked to expansion in the Chinese economy, and peaked in 2012, before declining and subsequently increasing. Industries in the services and manufacturing sectors have at times been performing poorly because of the prevailing conditions in the global economy, the value of the Australian dollar and/or adverse structural change such as greater import competition. The entries for the employment outlook by occupation take account of these factors and an occupation's relative sensitivity to economic downturns and recessions. The same conservative approach has been adopted for the issue.

Since the 2024-2025 issue, data have been included from *Jobs and Skills Australia's* future demand and shortages analysis, as published on its www.jobsandskills.gov.au/data website. The extracted data remain the copyright of the Commonwealth of Australia, which has provided a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence allowing such use.

Industries with Jobs

This information field lists the industries providing the biggest percentage shares of jobs in each occupation.

Level of Schooling of Workers

In each occupation there is a table showing the highest level of schooling attained by workers in four age-groups: the 15 to 29 age-group covering students working while studying, school leavers and new university and college graduates, those of prime working age in the 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 age-groups, and late middle aged and older workers in the 50 to 69 age-group. This information field and the Post-school Qualifications field replace the former usual minimum Qualification field. For information on the general trends in schooling levels, see the paper on the Sources page at www.jobmarkets.com.au.

Post-school Qualifications

The highest level of post-school qualifications attained by the workers in each occupation are shown in a table showing the analyzed figures for the same four age-groups in the preceding paragraph. The usual minimum Qualifications field published in the past was withdrawn, as it

had lost its usefulness. For information on general trends in post-school qualifications, see the paper on the Sources page at www.jobmarkets.com.au.

Average Retirement Age

Using a static form of research methodology, single-year-of age data for each occupation have been analyzed to estimate the average retirement age for persons. That figure is included in a report when you select this variable as one of the content options. Information on the methodology is provided in a paper on the Sources page of the database's website.

Worker Characteristics

Five information fields have analyzed statistics showing the key characteristics of the workers already working in each occupation, as explained below.

Self-employment: the figures and commentary indicate the incidence of self-employment, and the proportion within an occupation of those who do, or do not, employ others, and whether their self-employment is through an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise.

Older workers' share of jobs: the percentages of jobs held by workers over 45, workers over 55, workers over 65, and those over 67 are given for each occupation, and so are the overall workforce averages. The Single Year of Age job shares field has been retired.

Young Workers: this field shows by occupation the share of jobs held by young workers (that is, those under 30). It gives separate percentages for the jobs held by teenagers, 20 to 24 year olds, and 25 to 29 year olds, as well as the workforce averages.

Gender: many occupations continue to have unequal proportions of male and female workers. The current percentages for females by age-group are shown for each occupation.

Part-time work: the prevalence of part-time work has, of course, been increasing. Because this field is based on hours of work in Census week, rather than full-time or part-time status, it tends to overstate the proportion of part-time jobs. Four hourly ranges are given, starting with 1 to 9 hours.

Full-time working hours: the distribution of full-time working hours is included for each occupation, showing the proportions that are working 35 to 39 hours a week, 40 to 44 hours, 45 to 49 hours, and 50 hours or more.

Average Weekly Full-time Income

Estimates of average weekly full-time earnings as at August, 2024 are provided in the *Job Markets Australia* database for each occupation by age-group. Full-time employment is defined as 35 hours a week or more. The earnings in this issue are derived from the Bureau's *Characteristics of Employment* survey in August, 2025, for which the Bureau supplied a commissioned table in December, 2025.

The average weekly full-time earnings published in the database include the wage/salary, as well as overtime and allowances, but not the compulsory superannuation levy. The Bureau advises that its originating figures equate to the overall value of the salary package. Estimates of earnings have been suppressed whenever the number of workers counted in the *2021 Population Census* was considered too small to permit calculation of reliable income data.

Adult new entrants with little or no experience in the same occupational area are likely to have incomes close to those shown for younger workers. A handy pointer to likely starting earnings in their case is the figure for the 20 to 24 age-group. Experienced workers in the same occupation have an earnings premium which usually ensures they earn higher income in older age-groups, the major exception being many, but by no means all, lesser-skilled occupations.

A detailed paper explaining the earnings methodology and its uses is included on the Sources page of www.jobmarkets.com.au.

*O*NET® Data*

A statement of the skills, abilities and knowledge for each occupation has been compiled from the original O*NET® data on www.onetcenter.org. The statement lists all the variables for these three factors and gives the percentage analysis for their importance and level in each occupation. These percentages were calculated using the O*NET® standardizing formulae provided for that purpose that were applied to the scale of the activity. More information regarding the importance and level rating is included as an attachment on page 21.

OSCA 2024 occupations classified to JMA's ANZSCO Occupations

The Australian Bureau of Statistics introduced the *Occupation Standard Classification for Australia 2024* version 1 in December, 2024. It was developed after a penetrating review of the *ANZSCO Dictionary*, public consultations, engagement with stakeholders, extensive analysis, and penetrating quality assurance processes with local and international experts. The Bureau has advised that it will publish labour market statistics coded to *OSCA 2024* from September, 2026. Every *ANZSCO* occupation in the database has been classified to the applicable *OSCA 2024* occupation/s; to include that, select the *OSCA* field in the online Job Report Content Options.

Part 4

Sources and Methodology

Rodney Stinson researched and prepared *Job Markets Australia*. He has spent more than 45 years researching occupations and analyzing employment, earnings, and labour market trends, and for over 35 years he has worked in his own labour market consultancy. The *Job Markets Australia* database is a development of his pioneering reference books and computer databases in the *Job Prospects Australia* and *What Jobs Pay* series.

The *Job Markets Australia* database could not have been produced without the extensive statistical resources of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Time-series and the latest data are sourced from its *Labour Force* survey up to November, 2025, and at times supplementary surveys and other collection series. Most importantly, extensive reliance is placed on the most detailed analysis of cross-tabulated tables from the *2021 Population Census* regarding occupation, industry, age, hours, and related data sets. It is best practice to rely on that detailed Census data, but for inter-Censal change one must draw on the Bureau's *Labour Force* survey and other series. Even with smoothing, that survey's quarterly estimates do not deliver statistically reliable data for many details and cross-tabulations in small and medium-sized occupations. In fact, it is not designed to do so.

Few of the Bureau's original statistics are quoted in *Job Markets Australia*, as they have generally been heavily analyzed and transformed. The overriding goal for the research and analysis work was to establish for each occupation what it had in common with other occupations and the characteristics that were different from or shared with only some occupations. Many of the information fields in *Job Markets Australia* do not rely on the Bureau's data, and those fields are based on Rodney Stinson's understanding and judgements about occupational characteristics and labour market realities or the input of specialist consultants.

The approach and the principles underlying Rodney Stinson's work for *Job Markets Australia* are essentially the same as those he utilizes when he prepares reports in his consultancy, Yorkcross Pty Ltd. These reports are requested by law firms, insurance companies, and functional capacity centres, among others, to determine the employment opportunities and market rate or achievable earnings for a worker, specific occupations, or this or that region. The findings help to document what past or future economic loss, if any, may have resulted from an individual's inability to work due to an accident or similar mishap, either in their former occupation or other occupations, as well as the fields having the best potential for re-training and possible future employment. To ensure these reports are soundly based, fair and defensible in litigated matters in the Court system, Rodney Stinson originally devised in-house databases. In time, their contents were revealed in the *Job Prospects* and *Job Markets Australia* databases. In view of his labour market expertise, Rodney Stinson is called on to give expert testimony on the labour market, earnings, and employment in Court proceedings.

Attachments

Explanation of Physical Demand — Strength Rating

In the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (revised 4th edition, 1991), compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, each occupation is assigned a strength rating which reflects the overall physical demands of average, successful performance of its occupational duties. There are five strength ratings: Sedentary, Light, Medium, Heavy, and Very Heavy. The strength ratings for each occupation in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* are based on an evaluation of three sets of physical activities against the criteria set out below.

Yorkcross Pty Ltd commissioned a senior physiotherapist to establish the physical demand ratings for occupations in the Australian labour market context, using the same sets of physical activities and the same criteria. The results of that study were occasionally augmented by the ratings published for some occupations in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.

The strength ratings for occupations in the *ANZSCO Dictionary* are included in the *Job Markets Australia* database to assist professionals in the medical, rehabilitation, training, and other fields to identify occupations that are or could be within the physical capabilities of specific individuals. The strength ratings relate to the selected physical activities of occupations. While the strength ratings are a reliable guide concerning those activities, they do not take into consideration the physical demands of such occupational duties as keyboarding or working with small hand tools or the scope for psychological stress.

Other more specific physical requirements in occupations may be ascertained from the O*NET[®] data on physical abilities when O*NET[®] data are included in a *Job Markets* report.

Acknowledgement is made that the following sections on physical activities and evaluation criteria are essentially identical to similar sections on pages 1012 and 1013 of the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (revised 4th edition, 1991). The material is in the public domain, but one major addition is the provision of metric equivalents to that book's imperial weights.

Physical Activities

1. Standing, Walking, Sitting

- Standing - Remaining on one's feet in an upright position at a workstation without moving about.
- Walking - Moving about on foot.
- Sitting - Remaining in a seated position.

2. Lifting, Carrying, Pushing, Pulling

- Lifting - Raising or lowering an object from one level to another (including upward pulling).
- Carrying - Transporting an object, usually holding it in the hands or arms, or on the shoulder.
- Pushing - Exerting force upon an object so that the object moves away from the force (includes slapping, striking, kicking, and treadle actions).
- Pulling - Exerting force upon an object so that the object moves toward the force (includes jerking).

Lifting, pushing, and pulling are evaluated in terms of both intensity and duration. Consideration is given to the weight handled, position of the worker's body, and the aid given by helpers or mechanical equipment. Carrying most often is evaluated in terms of duration, weight carried, and distance carried.

Determining the strength rating for an occupation requires careful attention to evaluating the force and physical effort the average worker must exert. For instance, if the worker is in a crouching position, it may be much more difficult to push an object than if pushed at waist height. Also, if the worker is required to lift and carry continuously or push and pull objects over long distances, the worker may exert as much physical effort as is required to similarly move objects twice as heavy, but less frequently and/or over shorter distances.

3. Controls

Controls entail the use of one or both arms or hands (hand/arm) and/or one or both feet or legs (foot/leg) to move controls on machinery or equipment. Controls include but are not limited to buttons, knobs, pedals, levers, and cranks.

Criteria for Strength Ratings

Sedentary Work

Criteria

(i) exerting up to 10 pounds (4.54 kilograms) of force occasionally [*occasionally is defined as any activity or condition that exists up to 1/3 of the time*]

and/or (ii) exerting a negligible amount of force frequently [*frequently is defined as any activity or condition that exists from 1/3 to 2/3 of the time*] to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects, including the human body.

Description

Sedentary work involves sitting most of the time but may involve walking or standing for brief periods of time. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required only occasionally and the other sedentary criteria are met.

Light Work

Criteria

(i) exerting up to 20 pounds (9.07 kilograms) of force occasionally

and/or (ii) exerting up to 10 pounds (4.54 kilograms) of force frequently.

and/or (iii) exerting a negligible amount of force constantly [*constantly is defined as any activity or condition that exists 2/3 or more of the time*] to move objects.

Additional Criteria

In instances where the weight lifted may itself be negligible, an occupation should still be rated light work if the duties require:

(a) walking or standing to a significant degree

or (b) sitting most of the time but also pushing and/or pulling of arm or leg controls.

and/or (c) working at a production rate pace entailing the constant pushing and/or pulling of materials even though the weight of those materials is negligible. Maintaining a production rate pace, especially in an industrial setting, can be and is physically demanding for the average worker; hence, the additional criteria.

Medium Work

Criteria

(i) exerting 20 to 50 pounds (9.07 to 22.68 kilograms) of force occasionally

and/or (ii) exerting 10 to 25 pounds (4.54 to 11.34 kilograms) of force frequently

and/or (iii) exerting greater than negligible up to 10 pounds (4.54 kilograms) of force constantly to move objects

Heavy Work

Criteria

(i) exerting 50 to 100 pounds (22.68 to 45.36 kilograms) of force occasionally

and/or (ii) exerting 25 to 50 pounds (11.34 to 22.68 kilograms) of force frequently

and/or (iii) exerting 10 to 20 pounds (4.54 to 9.07 kilograms) of force constantly to move objects

Very Heavy Work

Criteria

(i) exerting more than 100 pounds (45.36 kilograms) of force occasionally

and/or (ii) exerting more than 50 pounds (22.68 kilograms) of force frequently

and/or (iii) exerting more than 20 pounds (9.07 kilograms) of force constantly to move objects

Explanation of English Competency

Each of the ANZSCO occupations in the *Job Markets Australia* database has been given a rating of minimum competency for four distinct aspects of communication in the English language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Ratings were established for each occupation after an experienced occupational analyst assessed the English competency required for workers carrying out the core duties of a given occupation in workplaces where English is the language of communication and supervision. Consideration was given to both the usual competency levels accepted by employers and the competency demands relative to other occupations of similar, greater, or lesser skill. The resulting ratings are put forward as a guide to English language requirements. There is no similar set of ratings data for such a substantial number of occupations in the Australian labour market.

For skilled occupations, the ratings represent not only the minimum competency levels but also the usual and, in most instances, necessary requirements of employers looking to recruit inexperienced staff or promote existing employees. There would be few jobs in skilled occupations for which the exact level of competency implied in the component scores is not mandatory. For lesser-skilled occupations, the ratings are put forward as the minimum requirements in relation to the English language, but they might not always prevail across the occupations in question. For some forms of self-employment, the ratings would have to be adjusted upwards, to show the level of competency that would be needed to conduct one's own business in English with clients, customers, or patients.

The English competency study found that a small number of occupations require the highest competency in all aspects of the English language, two examples being Judges and Barristers, and that a bigger number call for considerable competency in all or most aspects. The study also found there continues to be a significant stock of occupations in the Australian workforce in which workers with minimal or no competency in one or all aspects of English work may work successfully. Most occupations, however, now have English language requirements that are in, or close to, the mid-ranges of competency. Entry to the last-mentioned occupations or to the most skilled occupations by job seekers with minimal or no competency in English would, in most instances, be unlikely or very unlikely.

Because Australia's cultural and social diversity extends to many workplaces, reasonable scope exists for languages other than English to be the primary or sole language of communication and supervision in the workplace. Instances of this include kitchen workers in ethnic restaurants (for example, Cantonese-style restaurants in Chinatown locations) and domestic cleaners working in the homes of others in the same immigrant group or being supervised by someone in their own language group. The crucial factor in such arrangements is probably the presence of supervisors (or owner/managers) who understand and use the language other than English in the workplace and who also have sufficient competency in English to ensure that business operations run smoothly and that the work is performed satisfactorily and meets occupational health/safety requirements.

Explanation of JOB ORIENTATION: Working with Data, Ideas, People or Things

There are four fundamental types of job orientation identified for the ANZSCO occupations and specializations in the *Job Markets Australia* database. Yorkcross Pty Ltd commissioned an experienced vocational psychologist to provide the job orientation types applying to the local occupations.

A concise description of each type is given below. The descriptors "most important" or "important" may be selected for one or more types when searching the database in the Query function.

Working with DATA involves files, accounts, business procedures, numbers, and facts in general, and it entails planning, organizing, or processing information in an ordered way and/or in new and improved ways.

Working with IDEAS involves thinking creatively, developing expertise in selected subjects, and communicating the results, in writing, through design, art or music, or scientific or other formulae.

Working with PEOPLE involves caring for, helping, teaching, serving, or selling to others, and it may entail organizing, motivating, and entertaining them or discussing issues and procedures to solve problems and achieve goals.

Working with THINGS involves the use of materials, tools, machinery, and equipment, and includes working with animals and plants.

Explanation of CAREER INTERESTS

Career Interests show a person's preferences for work environments and outcomes. These Career Interests, which originate from the Holland Codes, are based on local research and O*NET® data. The explanations are sourced from O*NET®.

REALISTIC — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outdoors, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.

INVESTIGATIVE — Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.

ARTISTIC — Artistic occupations frequently involve working with forms, designs, and patterns. They often self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

SOCIAL — Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

ENTERPRISING — Enterprising occupations frequently involve starting up and carrying out projects. These occupations can involve leading people and making many decisions. Sometimes they require risk taking and other deal with business.

CONVENTIONAL — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.

Explanation of DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital literacy levels range from (1) to (5) – (1) being the highest assessed level and (5) the lowest. These have been assigned to occupations by an experienced occupational analyst. They are described in terms of the specific vocational preparation (or its substitutes) usually undertaken by those employed in them, in relation to Windows/Mac operating system and smart devices; Internet/email use; Office suite; and industry/workplace software.

Level 1 Extensive Digital Literacy

The knowledge, skills and competencies for extensive digital literacy are equal to an IT degree for IT professionals; in certain instances (eg support desk work) an IT diploma may suffice when joined with practical skills gained through experience. Those without an IT qualification would obtain an extensive level of digital literacy through a combination of short courses, on-the-job training, and/or self-tuition and purposeful experience. These pathways firmly underpin the required areas of professional expertise.

Level 2 Considerable Digital Literacy

At this level, people acquire the understanding, skills and competencies required for a considerable level of digital literacy through a combination of short IT courses, on-the-job training, self-tuition, and/or purposeful experience. Most occupations requiring this level are

professional or technical. Digital literacy here focuses on achieving and sustaining areas of employment expertise, especially in the mastery of industry/workplace software.

Level 3 Medium Level of Digital Literacy

A medium level of digital literacy may be achieved through a variety of paths. Staff employed in support and administrative occupations may complete certificate courses incorporating digital competencies. Most occupations at this level usually have short forms of specific, broad, or informal vocational preparation. People could follow these pathways, alone or together, in the workplace or off the job perhaps at a TAFE college or organized by professional/industry bodies. At this level there is a strong merging of work-oriented digital literacy with that acquired through regular home computer use, school or post-school study, smart devices, and other integrated technology.

Level 4 Basic Digital Literacy

A basic level of digital literacy may result from computer use at home, school or elsewhere, as well as from experience in everyday integrated technology such as smart devices and ITMs. In any event, employers, workmates, or equipment suppliers would provide the required competencies through brief episodes of informal training, demonstration, and/or supervision. Data workers here frequently use touch screens or keypads, in addition to the keyboard itself.

Level 5 Little or No Digital Literacy

Occupations for which little or no digital literacy is necessary may have a short workplace demonstration in elementary competencies that focus on the interface with one or a handful of industry/workplace digital applications. A fellow worker may demonstrate the competencies as part of an initial induction session or when the new worker undertakes different or more responsible job duties. In that regard, previous use of a home computer or integrated technology such as smart phones would assist learning.

Explanation of SKILLS . . . sourced from O*NET® data

There are 35 fields for the various kinds of workplace skills. O*NET® groups these into basic skills, social skills, complex problem-solving skills, technical skills, systems skills, and resource management skills. The importance of each skill factor and the level required are part of the O*NET® data available for each ANZSCO occupation in the database. Refer to page 21 for an explanation of importance and level. Rodney Stinson compiled the crosswalk between the O*NET® occupations and the ANZSCO occupations. The crosswalk is at times inexact owing to the differences between the O*NET® and ANZSCO classifications.

Basic Skills: These are developed capacities that facilitate learning or the more rapid acquisition of knowledge.

Reading Comprehension

Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Active Listening

Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Writing

Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Speaking

Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Mathematics

Using mathematics to solve problems.

Science

Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

Critical Thinking

Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.

Active Learning

Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

Learning Strategies

Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.

Monitoring

Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Social Skills: These are developed capacities that are used in working with people to achieve goals.

Social Perceptiveness

Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Coordination

Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Persuasion

Persuading others to change their minds or behavior.

Negotiation

Bringing others together and trying to reconcile differences.

Instructing

Teaching others how to do something.

Service Orientation

Actively looking for ways to help people.

Complex Problem Solving Skills: These are developed capacities that are used to solve novel, ill-defined problems in complex, real-world settings.

Complex Problem Solving

Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

Technical Skills: Technical skills are developed capacities that are used to design, set-up, operate, and correct malfunctions involving application of machines or technological systems

Operation Analysis

Analyzing needs and product requirements to create a design.

Technology Design

Generating or adapting equipment and technology to serve user needs.

Equipment Selection

Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.

Installation

Installing equipment, machines, wiring, or programs to meet specifications.

Programming

Writing computer programs for various purposes.

Operation Monitoring

Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.

Operation and Control

Controlling operations of equipment or systems.

Equipment Maintenance

Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed.

Troubleshooting

Determining causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.

Repairing

Repairing machines or systems using the needed tools.

Quality Control Analysis

Conducting tests and inspections of products, services, or processes to evaluate quality or performance.

System Skills: These are developed capacities that are used to understand, monitor, and improve socio-technical systems.

Judgement and Decision Making

Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

Systems Analysis

Determining how a system should work and how changes in conditions, operations, and the environment will affect outcomes.

Systems Evaluation

Identifying measures or indicators of system performance and the actions needed to improve or correct performance, relative to the goals of the system.

Resource Management Skills: These are developed capacities that are used to allocate resources efficiently.

Time Management

Managing one's own time and the time of others.

Management of Financial Resources

Determining how money will be spent to get the work done, and accounting for these expenditures.

Management of Material Resources

Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work.

Management of Personnel Resources

Motivating, developing, and directing people as they work, identifying the best people for the job.

Explanation of ABILITIES . . . sourced from O*NET® data

O*NET© groups the 52 fields for the main abilities required to perform different occupational duties under the headings of cognitive abilities, psychomotor abilities, physical abilities, and sensory abilities. A listing and short definition of the occupational skills are set out below.

Cognitive Abilities

Oral Comprehension	The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
Written Comprehension	The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
Oral Expression	The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
Written Expression	The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
Fluency of Ideas	The ability to come up with several ideas about a topic (the number of ideas is important, not their quality, correctness, or creativity).
Originality	The ability to come up with unusual or clever ideas about a topic or given situation, or to develop creative ways to solve a problem.
Problem Sensitivity	The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not include solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
Deductive Reasoning	The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
Inductive Reasoning	The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship between seemingly unrelated events).
Information Ordering	The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules) e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
Category Flexibility	The ability to generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in diverse ways.
Mathematical Reasoning	The ability to choose the right mathematical methods or formulas to solve a problem.
Number Facility	The ability to add, subtract, multiply, or divide quickly and correctly.
Memorisation	The ability to remember information such as words, numbers, pictures, and procedures.
Speed of Closure	The ability to quickly make sense of, combine, and organize information into meaningful patterns.
Flexibility of Closure	The ability to identify or detect a known pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in other distracting material.
Perceptual Speed	The ability to quickly and accurately compare similarities and differences among sets of letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns. The things to be compared may be presented at the same

time or one after the other. This ability also includes comparing a presented object with a remembered object.

Spatial Orientation	The ability to know your location in relation to the environment or to know where other objects are in relation to you.
Visualisation	The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around or when its parts are moved or rearranged.
Selective Attention	The ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.
Time Sharing	The ability to shift back and forth between two or more activities or sources of information (such as speech, sounds, touch, or other sources).

Psychomotor Abilities

Arm-Hand Steadiness	The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
Manual Dexterity	The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
Finger Dexterity	The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.
Control Precision	The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or vehicle to an exact position.
Multilimb Coordination	The ability to coordinate two or more limbs (for example) two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down. It does not involve performing the activities while the whole body is in motion.
Response Orientation	The ability to choose quickly between two or more movements in response to two or more different signals (lights, sounds, pictures). It includes the speed with which the correct response is started with the hand, foot, or other body part.
Rate Control	The ability to time your movements or the movement of a piece of equipment in anticipation of changes in the speed and/or direction of a moving object or scene.
Reaction Time	The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
Wrist-Finger Speed	The ability to make fast, simple, repeated movements of the fingers, hands, and wrists.
Speed of Limb Movement	The ability to quickly move the arms and legs.

Physical Abilities

Static Strength	The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.
Explosive Strength	The ability to use short bursts of muscle force to propel oneself (as in jumping or sprinting), or to throw an object.

Dynamic Strength	The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.
Trunk Strength	The ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body repeatedly or continuously over time without 'giving out' or fatiguing.
Stamina	The ability to exert yourself physically over extended periods of time without getting winded or out of breath.
Extent Flexibility	The ability to bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, arms, and/or legs.
Dynamic Flexibility	The ability to quickly and repeatedly bend, stretch, twist, or reach out with your body, arms, and/or legs.
Gross Body Coordination	The ability to coordinate the movement of your arms, legs, and torso together when the whole body is in motion.
Gross Body Equilibrium	The ability to keep or regain your body balance or stay upright when in an unstable position.

Sensory Abilities

Near Vision	The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
Far Vision	The ability to see details at a distance.
Visual Color Discrimination	The ability to match or detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness.
Night Vision	The ability to see under low light conditions.
Peripheral Vision	The ability to see objects or movement of objects to one's side when the eyes are looking ahead.
Depth Perception	The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object.
Glare Sensitivity	The ability to see bright objects in the presence of glare or bright lighting.
Hearing Sensitivity	The ability to detect or tell the difference between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.
Auditory Attention	The ability to focus on a single source of sound in the presence of other distracting sounds.
Sound Localisation	The ability to tell the direction from which a sound originated.
Speech Recognition	The ability to identify and understand the speech of another.
Speech Clarity	The ability to speak clearly so others can understand.

Explanation of KNOWLEDGE . . . sourced from O*NET[®]

17 O*NET[®] fields regarding the knowledge required to perform different occupational duties.

Customer and Personal Service	Therapy and Counselling	Sales and Marketing
Computers and Electronic	Communications and Media	Design

Administration and Management	Building and Construction	Transportation
Engineering and Technology	Telecommunications	Mechanical
Education and Training	Public Safety and Security	Clerical
Production and Processing	Personnel and Human Resources	

The O*NET® Importance and Level Ratings

The *Job Markets Australia* database includes the O*NET® ratings for the Importance and Level of each of the skills, abilities and knowledge fields associated with each occupation.

O*NET® collected the original data on Importance on a 1-5 scale and those for Level on a 0-7 scale. The O*NET® researchers then standardized the data to a scale ranging from 0 to 100. This makes the results more intuitively understandable to users of the O*NET® and *Job Markets Australia* database. The O*NET® Resource Center publishes equations for standardizing the original O*NET® data – see www.onetcenter.org – and these established the Importance and Level percentages used in the *Job Markets Australia* database.

The difference between Importance and Level is crucial. For instance, many occupations may require the same skill, but the level at which the skill is needed can and does vary. Another way of describing Importance is how often the skill is required. Another way of describing Level is the amount (or extent) of the skill required.

Let us take the O*NET® skill of "speaking" as our example and choose two ANZSCO occupations in the Australian legal industry to illustrate how rankings for the skill may differ.

O*NET® defines speaking as: "Talking to others to convey information effectively". This skill is important for both Solicitors and Legal Executives (usually called Paralegals in Australia), for it is central to their job duties and workplaces. Regarding Importance, O*NET® determines a high percentage of skill for Solicitors and quite a high percentage for Legal Executives, as shown below.

But Solicitors, who may frequently argue cases before judges and juries, require an elevated Level of speaking skill, while Legal Executives need only have an average Level of speaking skill.

Their given ratings in the *Job Markets Australia* database are:

	Importance	Level
Solicitors	87%	64%
Legal Executives	65%	50%

The *Job Markets Australia* percentage for Importance shows where an occupation's need for the skill exists on a range from not important to extremely important.

The *Job Markets Australia* percentage for Level shows where an occupation's need for a specified degree of skill performance on a continuum (of all occupations).

This explanation about the O*NET® ratings for one aspect of Skills also applies to the published ratings for Importance and Level for all data fields in the Skills, Abilities and Knowledge included in the *Job Markets Australia* database.