



## **AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET**

### **LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

The capital city of England, London, was chosen as a location for an *Australia Needs Skills* expo because it is one of the foremost financial, commercial, industrial and cultural centres of the world.

London is the headquarters for many companies with the central offices of more than half of the United Kingdom's top 100 listed companies (the FTSE 100) and more than 100 of Europe's 500 largest companies located in London. More than 70 per cent of the FTSE 100 is located within London's metropolitan area.

The financial services sector is a major source of overall employment in London. The Bank of England, Lloyd's, the stock exchange and numerous other banks and investment companies have their central office there, primarily in the city but increasingly at Canary Wharf.

London still remains one of the world's greatest ports. It exports manufactured goods and imports petroleum, tea, wool, raw sugar, timber, butter, metals and meat. Consumer goods, clothing, precision instruments, jewellery, and stationery are produced but manufacturing has lost a number of jobs in the once-dominant textile, furniture, printing, and chemical-processing industries as firms have moved outside the area. Engineering, scientific research and tourism are also important to the economy.

### **SKILLS ANALYSIS**

According to the most recent Census report, the United Kingdom's top three major employment sectors, and employment percentages of the total labour force available for those sectors, are:

	<u>Percentage of total labour force</u>
• services – financial and business	82 per cent
• manufacturing	12 per cent
• construction	5 per cent

In 2005/06, the top 10 occupations in demand in Australia, filled by migrants from the United Kingdom were:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. registered nurses    | 6. carpenter and joiners |
| 2. general electricians | 7. bricklayers           |
| 3. accountants          | 8. fitters               |
| 4. hairdressers         | 9. general plumbers      |
| 5. motor mechanics      | 10. chefs                |



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#### **OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**Capital:** London, 12 653 500 (metro. area), 7 465 100 (city proper)

**Largest cities:** Glasgow, 1 099 400; Birmingham, 971 800; Liverpool, 461 900; Edinburgh, 460 000; Leeds, 417 000; Bristol, 406 500; Manchester, 390 700; Bradford, 288 400

**Principal languages:** English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic

**Literacy rate:** 99 per cent (2003 est.)

**Economic summary:** **GDP/PPP** (2005 est.): \$1.83 trillion; per capita \$30 300. **Real growth rate:** 1.8 per cent. **Inflation:** 2.1 per cent. **Unemployment:** 4.7 per cent. **Arable land:** 23 per cent.

- **Agriculture:** cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables, cattle, sheep, poultry and fish.
- **Labour force:** 30.07 million; agriculture 0.5 per cent, industry 19.1 per cent and services 79.5 per cent (2004).

**Industries:** machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing and other consumer goods.

**Natural resources:** coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica, arable land.

**Exports:** \$372.7 billion (f.o.b., 2005 est.): manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco.

**Major trading partners:** United States, Germany, France, Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium and Spain (2005).

The main industrial and commercial areas of the United Kingdom are the regions where approximately one third of the country's population lives. The administrative and financial centre and most important port is Greater London, which also has various manufacturing industries. London is Europe's foremost financial city.

Metal goods, vehicles, aircraft, synthetic fibres and electronic equipment are made in the West Midlands region, which with the addition of Coventry roughly corresponds to the former metropolitan county of West Midlands.

Greater Manchester has cotton and synthetic textiles, coal and chemical industries and is a transport and warehousing centre. Liverpool, Britain's second port, along with Southport and Saint Helens are part of the Merseyside region. Leeds, Bradford, and the neighbouring metropolitan districts are Britain's main centre of woollen, worsted and other textile production. The Tyneside-Wearside region, with Newcastle upon Tyne at its centre and Sunderland its main city, has coal mines and steel, electrical engineering, chemical and shipbuilding and repair industries.