

Study Report

on **Expansion** of

Overseas Employment

Australia



Report on **Australia**
Labour Market
Bangladesh **Aspect**



Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
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Introduction

Bangladesh and Australia are tied in an excellent bi-lateral relationship.

A good number of Bangladeshi professionals and skilled manpower are working in Australia with good reputation both as migrant workers and immigrants.

There exists ample opportunities of employment for Bangladeshi workers in various sectors.

Country Profile

Commonwealth of Australia

Population	23 Million (December 2013)
Proportion of Population Born Overseas	28% (June 2013)
Proportion of Population Who Identify as Being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Origin	2.5% (2011)
Capital City	Canberra
Largest City	Sydney Population 4.67 million (2013)
Surface Area	7.69 million sqkms (2.96 million sq miles)
Main Language	English + More than 300 others
Currency	Australian Dollar (AUD)
Life Expectancy	84 years (women) 80 years (men)

**Gross Domestic Product
Per Capita**

A\$67, 100 (2013)

Workforce

12.3 million (June 2014)

Inflation Rate

3% (June 2014)

**Value of Exports of Goods
and Services**

A\$318.5 billion (2013)

**Major Goods and
Services Exports**

Iron ores and concentrates, coal,
natural gas, education travel
services, gold

Major Imports

Recreational travel services,
crude petroleum, passenger
motor vehicles, refined petroleum,
freight transport services

Main Trading Partners

China, Japan, United States,
Republic of Korea & Singapore

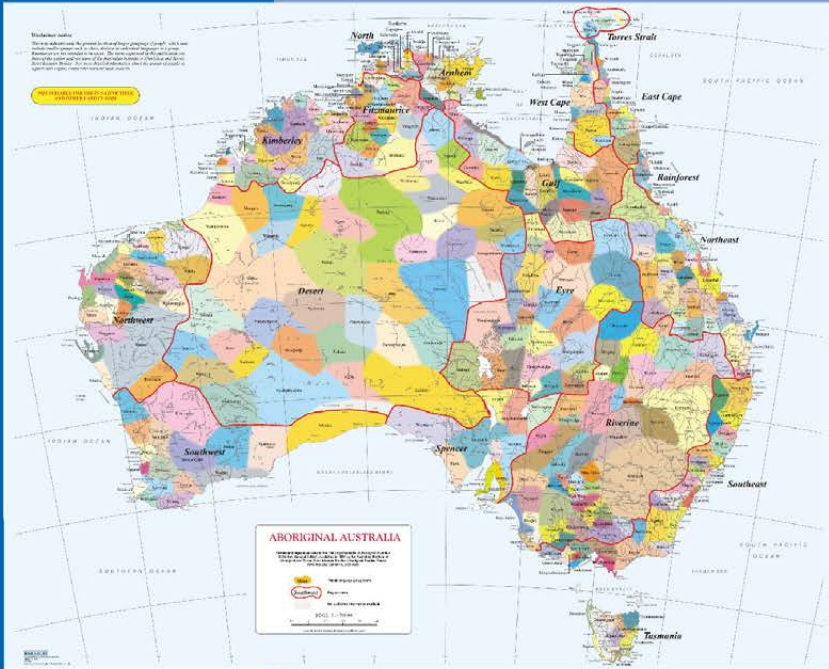
National Day

Australia Day: 26 January

International Students

410,925 (2013)

Map



Bangladesh- Australia Political Relations

Australia recognized Bangladesh on 31st January 1972. Australia was the fourth country (the first from the developed world) to recognise Bangladesh's independence. A resident mission was established in Australia on 07 April 1972 and Bangladesh has been maintaining an excellent relationship and understanding with the Commonwealth of Australia since then. This excellent relationship is based on democratic traditions, shared values, and common global interests including climate change and security. As members of the international community, both countries cooperate closely on matters of mutual interests in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and the Commonwealth. Australia supported Bangladesh's membership to ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

At the political level, Australia has always supported strengthening of democratic institutions and the promotion of good governance in Bangladesh. Australia welcomed the return of democracy through the general elections held in December 2008 and congratulated the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the assumption of the office after a landslide victory in the elections.

The number of Bangladeshis settling permanently in Australia has increased significantly in recent years. It is assumed that around 70 to 90 thousand Bangladesh-born people live in Australia.

Sporting links have also played an important role in strengthening Bangladesh-Australia relations. Cricket Australia signed an MOU with Bangladesh Cricket Board in 2000 for a range of cooperation, including young players studying at the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Adelaide. The inaugural winter cricket series between Australia and Bangladesh was held in Darwin and Cairns in June and July 2003. The Bangladesh Cricket team last visited Australia in August, 2008 and the Australian cricket team last toured Bangladesh in April, 2011.

Bangladesh-Australia Trade Relations

Australia is one of the important trading partners for Bangladesh with bilateral trade of over one billion US dollar annually. Two-way export and import linkages are the key elements in bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Australia. Although balance of trade remains slightly in favour of Australia, the two-way trade is increasing steadily. Bangladesh enjoys duty and quota free access to the Australian since July 2003 subject to the fulfilment of Rules of Origin (RoO) criteria.

Bangladesh's export to Australia mainly consists of readymade garments, woven fabrics, knitwear, textile manufactures, home textile, leather goods and footwear, processed food, fish, jute goods etc. Major Australian export consists of wheat, vegetables, lentil and pulses, milk cream and other dairy products, cotton, fertilizers, oil seeds, primary plastic products, machinery and transport equipment, scraps and some other industrial raw materials.

The growth of Bangladesh's export in Australia is depicted in the following table:

Bangladesh Export to Australia

Year	Volume of Export (In US\$ Million)
2009-10	110.79
2010-11	252.93
2011-12	142.02
2012-13	461.90
2013-14	479.38
2014-15 (June 2014 - April 2015)	500.89

Source : Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka

Australia's Export to Bangladesh

Year	Volume of Export (in US\$ million)
2011	308.09
2012	302.07
2013	247.05
2014	213.61

Source : Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia.

Labour Migration Diplomacy and visits



To explore employment opportunities in Australia, a five members delegation headed by Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Mr. Nurul Islam B.Sc paid an official visit to Australia from 22-29 November, 2015. During the visit, he had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Peter Dutton MP, Minister for the Department of Immigration and Border protection, Commonwealth of Australia. Two ministers discussed extensively on the possibility of recruitment of workers from Bangladesh, strengthening and expanding co-operation between the border protection forces of the two countries, relaxing of student visa for aspiring Bangladeshi students and other issues of mutual interest. It was very much fruitful discussion in promoting the employment prospect of Bangladeshi manpower in to Australia.

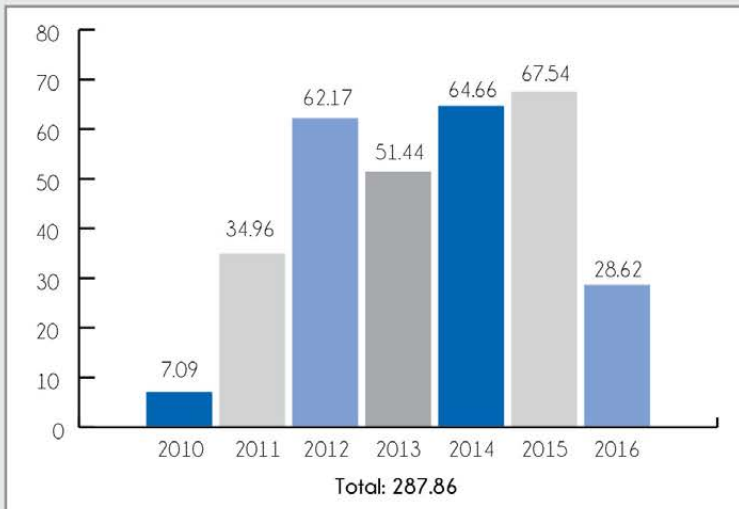
Referring to growing needs of workers in Australia, particularly in the agriculture sector, Hon'ble Minister requested his Australian counterpart Mr. Peter Dutton MP, to consider recruiting seasonal workers from Bangladesh. In response, Minister Dutton suggested that both countries could further discuss the issue. He also assured to reflect on the Bangladesh proposal of targeted skill development which may lead to seasonal employment in Australia. Mission is working on this issue.

Year Wise Overseas Employment in Australia

2010	02
2011	10
2012	26
2013	49
2014	10
2015	24
2016(June)	03

Source : Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Year Wise Remittances from Australia (\$USD in millions)



Source : Bangladesh Bank

Opportunities of Bangladeshi manpower in the Australian Labour Market

Most of the Bangladeshi expatriates in Australia are employed in skill-based trades. Besides them, there are professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Nurses, Teachers and Researchers as well.

It is recognized from the secondary sources that there seems to have prospect for a number of occupations such as; chef, child carer, butcher, hair dresser, plumber, welder, electrician, bricklayer and roof, floor & wall tiles setter, air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanic, automotive mechanics. There are opportunities for the professionals as well like doctors, nurses, physiotherapist, sonographer, mechanical, electrical engineer, software engineer etc.

Immigration, either permanent or short term to Australia is mostly skill-based and employment opportunities for foreign workers is subject to local industry requirement and certified qualification is needed for particular trades.

In addition to agricultural sector, there are demands in the mineral industry of Australia. It is gathered from the website that minerals industry directly employs more than 200,000 skilled, highly paid workers across Australia subject to having the particular skills.

Meat processing industries, Agriculture and Mining are identified sectors in which Bangladeshi may introduce their skilled manpower.

Challenges and Opportunities

All the occupations in demand require IELTS score and skill assessment.

At present there is no database of the Bangladeshi migrants in Australia. Labour wing is planning to prepare a data base of Bangladesh Community in Australia.

There is no comprehensive program of skill development targeting Australian labour market.

Australian employment market needs well qualified skilled worker in various specified occupations which can be approached by Bangladeshi trained manpower.

National Technical and Vocational Qualification Framework (NTVQF) has been adopted with the technical expertise from Australian qualification framework; therefore scope exists in making mutual recognition of NVQF between these two countries which may facilitate employment of Bangladeshi skilled and professional manpower in Australia.

'Careers Australia', a private sector training organization and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) of South Australia, a State-owned training organization have shown keen interest in collaborating with Bangladesh for skill development and vocational training, including capacity building of our trainers and the trainees.

Way Forward

The Labour Wing has started functioning in Canberra in May 2015. With a view to exploring the prospects for employment opportunities, Labour Wing has analysed the skill shortage list of different states of Australia received from secondary sources.

Currently mission is focusing on upskilling Bangladesh workers in line with the labor market demand of countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

After analyzing the present context of Australia, the following steps are essential to be adopted:

1. Collaboration with 'Careers Australia' and TAFE (South Australia) to prepare the Bangladesh workforce for meeting particular skill requirement of the industries.
2. Recruiting agencies in Bangladesh specially who have the expertise to send skilled workers in Singapore, South Korea etc. may be engaged in exploring avenues to introduce in to the labour market in Australia.
3. Upskilling of Bangladeshi manpower to make them competent for the Australian Labour Market.
4. Need assessment to identify the occupations in response to skill shortages in the Australian labour market and exploring the potential sectors for Bangladeshi skilled workers.
5. Coordinating with TAFE - SA and 'Careers Australia' for skill development programs.
6. Persuasion for the inclusion of Bangladesh as source country in the 'seasonal worker program' of Australian Government.
7. Linking up with the industries, chamber of commerce, entrepreneurs as the potential sources of employment.

