

Cabinetmaker		Australia
ASCO Code: 4922-11	July 2006	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
Comment		

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

Cabinetmakers are primarily employed in manufacturing (more than 90 per cent nationally), making residential kitchen/bathroom cabinets and furniture or undertaking shop and commercial fitouts.

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for cabinetmakers undertaken for this report showed about 40 per cent of the advertised vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising.

Vacancies for cabinetmakers to work on shopfitting had the highest fill rate, with vacancies for kitchen/bathroom cabinet and furniture manufacturing slightly below the average for all cabinetmakers.

Most employers reported similar experience recruiting qualified cabinetmakers, although employers in New South Wales and the Northern Territory had the most difficulty, and vacancies in regional and rural areas were slightly harder to fill than those in metropolitan areas. About 40 per cent of employers who advertised did not attract any suitable applicants, but 20 per cent of employers received applications from three or more suitably skilled and experienced cabinetmakers.

Overall, less than half (40 per cent) of applicants were considered by employers to be suitable for their vacancies. Applicants who were considered unsuitable were either unqualified, or were tradespeople who lacked recent relevant experience or particular specialist skills. Employers in the furniture manufacturing industry commented they require more highly skilled cabinetmakers than other industries, with some employers contacted specialising in custom-made high quality office furniture for executive offices and boardrooms. Less than 30 per cent of applicants for these positions were considered by employers to be suitable.

Employers commented on the low number of apprentices entering and remaining in the trade over the last five to ten years and suggested that it could be a contributing factor to the shortage of qualified cabinetmakers.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence of significant changes in the labour market for this trade over the next six months, and shortage of cabinetmakers is expected to persist.