

<b>Welder (First Class)</b>		<b>Victoria</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 4122-15	September 2007	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Demand for welders (first class) in Victoria is largely determined by the level of activity in the manufacturing industry, and more generally by overall economic activity. Nationally, transport equipment manufacturing is continuing to decline (Survey of Australian Manufacturing, September Quarter 2006). The Survey of Australian Manufacturing June 2007 discussed that growth in manufacturing activity strengthened moderately in the June quarter 2007, largely reflecting a broadening in demand, this has improved the 12 month outlook moderately for the industry. However, the appreciating dollar is continuing to dampen export prospects. Manufacturing employment in Victoria for the August quarter 2007 has seen a 4.8 per cent increase from same quarter in 2006.

Victoria's economy had relatively strong growth of 2.9 per cent over the year to December 2006. DEEWR Skilled Vacancies Index data show vacancy numbers for welders declined in 2006, after showing a slight increase in 2005.

### **Occupational supply**

ABS Education and Work figures show almost 60 per cent of employed boilermakers and welders nationally hold Certificate III/IV qualifications. About 470 people completed a Certificate III in Engineering (Fabrication Trade, Production Systems and other related streams) in 2005-06, a significant rise from the figure in 2004-05 of 383. Supply to the structural steel and welding trades from net migration increased significantly in 2005-06 to 167 structural steel and welding tradespersons. In 2006-07, migration contributed 210 structural steel and welding tradespeople to Victoria.

### **Employer and industry comments/current labour market**

The Survey of Employers who Recently Advertised (SERA) found that approximately half of vacancies were filled. There were more than two applicants for each vacancy on average with 0.7 per vacancy considered by employers unsuitable. The reasons applicants were considered by employers to be unsuitable for their positions included a lack of reliability of some applicants, and inappropriate skills set. Several employers reported applicants failed to attend scheduled interviews, and when applicants did attend interviews to undertake aptitude tests they often lacked skills required.

Employers suggested that finding qualified welders (first class) was difficult although they did not generally experience difficulty attracting employees with tickets in specialised welding methods. They also indicated they felt that skilled qualified welders (first class) are moving to Western Australia to take up mining positions, attracted by higher salaries. Some employers mentioned they are looking at sourcing applicants from overseas, although some suggest there are issues with qualification standards and verifying skill levels.

### **Labour market outlook**

The shortage is expected to continue over the next six to twelve months.