

Locksmith	Australia
ASCO Code: 4115-15	September 2007
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment	

Occupational demand

ABS Labour Force Survey data show that employment in precision metal trades, the group in which Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) includes this occupation, rose by 8 per cent in the year to May 2007, and ABS Census data show employment of locksmiths increased by 5 per cent between 2001 and 2006 to almost 2000. Demand for locksmiths has steadily grown over recent years due to a number of factors such as increased public awareness of security, a booming construction industry and the need for commercial security systems, increased “lock out” business and emerging technologies relating to security system design. Employer comments suggest that, due to relatively small set up costs, many qualified locksmiths set up their own small businesses.

Occupational supply

Although National Centre for Vocational Education Research data show commencement figures have risen steadily for this occupation over the last five years, from 50 to 110, completion rates have remained relatively steady at about 30 per year. Some employers commented that access to training may be a factor inhibiting new formal supply, as apprentices in some States have to travel interstate to complete their TAFE requirements. Some employers also commented that many qualified locksmiths are securing employment in related areas of industry, such as with security firms, which is contributing to wastage in this occupation. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data shows that migration for precision metal trades does not contribute significant numbers of skilled workers in these trades to the Australian labour market.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised was undertaken for this report. Fewer than 20 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising. On average, employers reported receiving slightly more than one application per vacancy with about one quarter of applicants nationally considered by employers to be suitable for the advertised positions.

In New South Wales, employers reported slightly more than half of the vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, while in Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory no surveyed vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising. Many employers stated that they had been advertising for a considerable time, in some cases months, without receiving any applications.

Labour market outlook

The labour market for locksmiths is not expected to change significantly over the next six months.