

<b>Printing Machinist</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 3923-11	November 2009
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	No shortage
<b>Comment:</b>	

### **Occupational demand**

ABS 2006 Census data show there were approximately 7300 printing machinists employed in Australia in 2006. The majority of printing machinists are employed in the manufacturing industry (approximately 70 per cent) and information telecommunications industry (approximately 23 per cent). More recent ABS Labour Force Survey data for printers (includes printing machinist and small offset printer) show in August 2009, employment for this occupation has decreased slightly over recent years. Activity levels in the printing industry have also declined according to the ABS September 2009 quarter national accounts data. This data shows a decrease of 15 per cent in economic growth in the printing industry over the year to September 2009. The DEEWR Skilled Vacancy Index indicates a decline in vacancies for printing trades with a 35 per cent decrease over the year to November 2009.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry to this occupation is generally via completion of a Certificate III in Printing and Graphic Arts as a four year apprenticeship. According to National Centre of Vocational Education Research data, course commencements increased significantly over the three years to 2008 averaging around 243 per year. Course completions fluctuated and averaged 19 over the same period. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data show net migration has made a minor contribution to the supply of printing machinists and small offset printers in recent years.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for printing machinists was undertaken for this report. As the number of advertised vacancies identified for this survey was small, some employers were cold canvassed.

Nationally 63 per cent of vacancies were filled and on average employers received 15 applicants per vacancy and considered two applicants per vacancy as suitable. Vacancies surveyed were an even mix of replacement and new positions and most were filled within two to three weeks of advertising. The main reasons applicants were considered unsuitable were lack of experience and lack of qualifications.

The majority of employers were seeking trade qualified printing machinists and almost half of employers surveyed were looking for applicants with specific printing machine experience such as Heidelberg, Komori and Roland press experience. The employers seeking specific printing machine experience filled more than three quarters of their vacancies and more than half of these vacancies attracted multiple suitable applicants.

### **Labour market outlook**

The current labour market suggests that there is no shortage of printing machinists in Australia and there is no indication that the labour market will change significantly over the next six months.