

## **AUSTRALIA**

March 2009

### **3233-13 Locksmith**

**(review)**

**Review rating:** *Shortage*

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

A survey of employers who recently advertised for locksmiths was undertaken in March 2009. The shortage of locksmiths identified when the occupation was assessed on a state basis in late 2008 persists. Nationally 25 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, a fall from the 37 per cent fill rate achieved in late 2008.

Employers received 3.4 applicants per vacancy at this time compared to 1.8 in 2008, with almost twice as many applicants considered suitable by employers. However, most (82 per cent) of suitable applicants applied for the same three vacancies, including two in Sydney and one in Mt Isa. Two positions in Sydney attracted multiple suitable applicants and both employers noted that this response was unusual suggesting it may be the result of the current economic situation. A vacancy in Mt Isa also receiving multiple suitable applicants was filled after being advertised nationally. This position offered a significantly higher than usual salary and provided additional benefits such as subsidised housing and annual air fares to a capital city.

Two vacancies in West Australia and Northern Territory were vacant for sometime before being filled and each attracted only one applicant despite the employers advertising widely.

None of the employers interviewed are deferring recruitment of qualified or apprentice locksmiths due to current economic conditions and all intended to recruit as required during the next six months.

#### **Labour Market Outlook**

There are no indications that the labour market for locksmiths will change significantly over the next six months.