

<b>Carpenter and Joiner</b>		<b>Victoria</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code: 3312-11,12,13</b>	September 2009	
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	Carpenter: Shortage, Joiner: Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Carpenters construct, erect, install, renovate and repair structures and fixtures of wood, plywood, wallboard and other materials. Joiners cut, shape and fit timber parts in workshops to form structures and fittings, ready for installation. The 2006 ABS Census data for Victoria indicates there are 20 567 Carpenters and 1082 Joiners employed in Victoria with approximately 89 per cent of Carpenters working in construction, and 6 per cent in manufacturing. Conversely, 74 per cent of Joiners work in manufacturing and 21 per cent in construction. The demand for Carpenters in Victoria is largely determined by the level of activity in the housing construction industry. ABS building activity trend estimate data for the June quarter 2009 indicates the total value of building work done in Victoria (residential and non-residential) rose by 1.2 per cent and has risen for 13 quarters.

### **Occupational supply**

The 2006 ABS Census data for Victoria indicates that approximately 71 per cent of employed Carpenters and 66 per cent of Joiners have attained Certificate III qualifications or higher while approximately 27 per cent in both trades have no post school qualifications. DEEWR estimates a total of 1 528 apprentices completed their training in 2008-09 to attain qualifications in carpentry, a significant increase when compared to the 1 416 completions in 2007-08. Commencements have declined significantly by 17 per cent with 2 433 commencements in 2008-09 compared to 2 919 commencements in 2007-08. A total of 140 joinery apprentices completed their training in 2008-09, a slight increase when compared to the 131 completions in 2007-08. Net migration to Victoria of carpentry and joinery tradespersons contributed approximately 111 tradespersons for the period 2007-08, similar to the previous year.

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

The DEEWR Survey of Employers who Recently Advertised (SERA) for Carpenters and Joiners found that approximately 74 per cent of Carpenter vacancies were filled. However none of the Joiner vacancies were filled. There were no vacancies available for Carpenters/Joiners. The average number of applicants per vacancy for Carpenters was two, with only one applicant per vacancy assessed as suitable. There were three applicants per vacancy for Joiners, with no suitable applicants. Only a small number of employers with vacancies for Joiners were able to be contacted. Some of the employers contacted would only employ people with trade qualifications. The majority of employers stated that carpentry trade qualifications were not as important as skills and experience. However, trade qualifications were seen as mandatory for all Joiner vacancies. Inadequate skills, lack of experience and a poor attitude and presentation were the reasons most cited by employers as to why applicants were considered unsuitable. A large percentage of employers were looking for sub-contract Carpenters with their own tools and transport. A majority of employers commented that there were plenty of unskilled and unqualified tradespeople working as Carpenters. A small number of employers received applications from mainly commercial sector Carpenters and said that the shortage of skilled carpenters was particular to the residential sector. As domestic Carpenters required a different skills set, many employers would not hire carpenters from a commercial background. Many employers commented that technology and changes to course structures have changed the carpentry trade and that apprentices may not be learning a full range of practical skills, as many frames are made off-site and apprentices simply assemble them. Employers looking for Joiners expressed the view that the trade has a low profile amongst school leavers looking for a career in the construction trades.

### **Labour market outlook**

There was no evidence to suggest that the shortages in these trades will ease in the next six months.