

<b>Tailor, Dressmaker</b>		<b>Australia</b>
ASCO Code: 4941-13,15	December 2006	
Labour market rating	Recruitment Difficulty	
Comment		

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for tailors and dressmakers was undertaken for this report. The majority of the positions surveyed were for dressmakers many of whom were to make evening and bridal gowns in particular. The remainder of the positions were predominantly for general tailoring and dressmaking roles.

Approximately half of the employers surveyed filled their vacancies for tailors and dressmakers without encountering notable difficulty. The majority of employers with vacancies which were unfilled were seeking more specialised skills, received interest from suitable applicants who were not prepared to travel to the location of the vacancy or received interest from applicants who were seeking working arrangements which were not offered by employers.

Around 60 per cent of the vacancies surveyed were successfully filled. Employers in Western Australia reported a higher fill rate than employers in other areas of Australia. Few vacancies were located in Queensland and therefore no evidence is present to suggest whether employers in Queensland are having any more or less difficulty filling vacancies than employers in other states and territories. Similarly, few vacancies were located in regional areas.

On average, employers received five applicants and one suitable applicant per vacancy. Employers in South Australia reported receiving fewer applications than employers in other states and territories. Most of the employers surveyed noted unsuitable applicants did not have the skills and experience sought. A number of employers also noted applicants had poor communication skills.

While around 40 per cent of vacancies surveyed were unfilled, nearly 85 per cent of all vacancies surveyed received interest from suitable applicants. Many positions required particular skills such as hand sewing, costume-making, embroidery or beading, and these positions, whilst often attracting skilled and experienced dressmakers, were the most likely to be unfilled.

Overall, there does not appear to be a shortage of skilled tailors or dressmakers, although some employers are experiencing difficulty recruiting specialist skills or people willing to work under specific conditions or hours.

A number of employers commented that they believed the average age of people with skills in this occupation has been increasing. Further, many employers believe training numbers in this occupation are insufficient. Numerous employers contacted in conducting this survey noted they were small businesses and employers were required to perform some form of customer service role, as well as fulfilling tailoring and dressmaking tasks.

### **Labour market outlook**

There is no evidence to suggest there will be significant change in the level of supply or demand for skills in this occupation over the next six months.