

<b>Metal Machinist (First Class)</b>		<b>Victoria</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 4112-13	September 2007	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Demand for metal machinists in Victoria is largely determined by the level of activity in the manufacturing industry, as most metal machinists are employed in the manufacturing sector, and more generally by overall economic activity. The Survey of Australian Manufacturing June 2007 discussed that growth in manufacturing activity strengthened moderately in the June quarter 2007, largely reflecting a broadening in demand, and this has improved the 12 month outlook moderately for the industry. However the appreciating dollar is continuing to dampen export prospects. Manufacturing employment in Victoria for the August quarter has seen a 4.8 per cent increase from the 2006 August quarter.

Victoria's economy had relatively strong growth of 2.9 per cent over the year to December 2006. DEEWR Skilled Vacancies Index data shows demand for metal machinists started to exhibit a slight increase in 2006, after being on a downward cycle since 2002.

### **Occupational supply**

ABS education and work figures suggest around two thirds of employed metal fitters and machinists nationally hold Certificate III/IV qualifications. Almost 650 persons completed a Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical Trade, Production Systems and other related streams) in 2005-06 a significant increase compared with 465 persons in 2004-05. Supply to the trades of metal fitter and machinist from net migration increased slightly, up by about 7 per cent between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Net immigration to Victoria during 2006-07 contributed around 140 metal fitters and machinists.

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

The Survey of Employers who Recently Advertised (SERA) found that almost 80 per cent of vacancies were filled. There were about eight applicants per vacancy with an average of 3.5 suitable applicants per vacancy.

The reasons applicants were considered by employers to be unsuitable for their advertised positions included inadequate knowledge of machinery, and limited past experience. Employers stated they were looking for applicants who had worked on and had experience with machinery similar to that of the recruiting employer and that they were seeking applicants that were able to step straight into the role.

Most employers found suitable applicants, but those employers whose businesses are located in Melbourne's western suburbs generally found it easier to attract suitable applicants than those in the city and regional areas.

### **Labour market outlook**

The relatively balanced labour market for metal machinists in Victoria is expected to continue over the next six months.