

Wall and Floor Tiler		Victoria
ANZSCO Code: 3334-11	September 2009	
Labour market rating:	Shortage	
Comment:		

Occupational demand

Wall and Floor Tilers (tilers) lay ceramic, clay, slate and glass tiles on external and internal walls and floors to provide protective and decorative finishes. Much of the work is undertaken on new buildings, including houses, shops, offices, factories and swimming pools, but wall and floor tilers also renovate existing buildings. ABS 2006 Census data indicates there are approximately 2492 tilers employed in Victoria. Demand for tilers is primarily determined by the level of construction activity and the need for maintenance, repair and renovation work.

Occupational supply

ABS 2006 Census data indicates 45 per cent of tilers in Victoria have Certificate III or above and 55 per cent entered the profession informally. Apprenticeship and Training Commencements and Completion data in Victoria remains stable and indicates 427 commencements and 147 completions during 2008-2009, similar to figures collected over the past four years. There is no legal requirement for licensing or registration for this occupation in Victoria. Immigration data for 2007-2008 indicate that the supply to this occupation from net migration is negligible.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

The Survey of Employers who Recently Advertised (SERA) found 75 per cent of vacancies were filled, marginally higher than last year at 64 per cent. Many employers surveyed expressed the view that there is a shortage of qualified and experienced tilers in Victoria. While most employers surveyed stated they were seeking qualified candidates, many indicated they had experienced difficulties finding candidates. In some instances, employers trialed numerous applicants but all were unsuitable due to a lack of skills and experience. A small number of employers indicated they regarded tiling experience as more important than qualifications.

Many of the employers surveyed in metropolitan and regional areas stated there was a high demand for their work and indicated they expected this to continue, particularly as a result of construction generated by the first home owners grant in Victoria. A small number of metropolitan employers stated that there is a severe shortage of tilers who are trained to replicate the more intricate European or Middle Eastern styles of tiling. Occasionally, employers find an overseas applicant who has this specific experience.

In rural regions, all of the employers contacted stated they have expanded their work radius due to work demands from other local townships in the region, with some travelling regularly from regional centres to work in Melbourne's urban fringe.

Labour market outlook

Given the ongoing demand in the construction sector, it is anticipated that the shortage in this occupation will continue over the next six months.