

<b>Carpenters and Joiners</b>		<b>New South Wales</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 3312-11, 12, 13	September 2009	
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	3312-11 Carpenter and Joiner: No shortage 3312-12 Carpenter: No shortage 3312-13 Joiner: No shortage	
<b>Comment:</b> <i>No general shortage of Carpenters and Joiners was evident in NSW.</i>		

### **Occupational demand**

Census, Labour Force Survey and apprenticeship data suggest that employment of Carpenters and Joiners grew by two per cent a year between 2001 and 2006. Industry activity has been mixed since then. The real value of building work done in NSW fell by eight per cent in 2008-09 after growing by only one per cent the previous year. Engineering construction activity has been stronger, growing by 31 per cent in 2008-09, following growth of eight per cent the previous year. It is likely that employment growth since 2006 has been low and concentrated in engineering construction.

### **Occupational supply**

Apprenticeship completions in these trades increased by 34 per cent in the three years to 2008-09. The training rate (apprenticeship completions as a percentage of employed Carpenters and Joiners) is 5.8 per cent a year, which is well above the average of 3.0 per cent for the trades as a whole. DEEWR estimates that wastage from these trades was 3.7 per cent a year from 2001 to 2006. Net immigration of Carpenters and Joiners from overseas to NSW was 201 persons in 2007-2008: 30 per cent above the average for the previous five years. However, ABS Census data show that overseas immigration from 2001 to 2006 was offset by a net loss of Carpenters and Joiners interstate.

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

A DEEWR survey of employers who had recently advertised for Carpenters and Joiners found that 98 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, which was a significant improvement on the success rate of 48 per cent in 2008. The survey found an average of 16 applicants per vacancy, of which an average of three per vacancy were considered suitable by employers. Employers were generally able to fill vacancies for Carpenters and Joiners with few difficulties across most sectors of the industry, including new residential building, new commercial construction, shop fitting and Joinery. In many instances employers were seeking Carpenters with experience in a particular specialisation (such as formwork Carpentry, frame and roof Carpentry, or wooden window frame Joinery) and were able to fill their vacancies readily. Other employers were able to fill multiple vacancies (for up to 30 Carpenters) within a week of advertising and had to turn away suitable applicants. A minority of employers experienced more difficulty in filling vacancies (for example, having to advertise more than once or trial a number of applicants before finding one with suitable skills) but there were no specialisations or industry sectors where this was particularly evident. In contrast to the result in 2008, employers seeking Joiners for workshop or site work were also generally able to fill their vacancies. Although some employers seeking Joiners for high quality detail work reported that most applicants were unable to demonstrate satisfactory skills when trialled, their vacancies were eventually filled. Other vacancies were filled with relative ease, with one employer based in the western suburbs of Sydney attributing this to the recent closure of a number of Joinery workshops due to the economic slowdown.

### **Labour market outlook**

The Construction Forecasting Council is forecasting a modest recovery in building activity in 2009-10, although it expects further strong growth in the engineering construction sector, which employs fewer Carpenters. As a result, demand for Carpenters and Joiners is likely to grow only moderately over the short term. Although no general shortage in the occupation is expected over the next 12 months, recruitment difficulties may emerge in some sectors as construction strengthens.