

AUSTRALIA

March 2009

3232-11 Fitter (General)

-12 Fitter and Turner

**-13 Fitter-Welder
(review)**

Review rating: *No shortage*

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who recently advertised was undertaken in March 2009 for this review. The percentage of vacancies filled more than doubled since the research was last undertaken in December 2008, from 44 per cent to 92 per cent. The number of suitable applicants also increased significantly from 1.1 per vacancy in December 2008, to 6.5 in March 2009.

Employers that advertised for fitter positions over the previous 12 months felt they had a much better response to their advertisements early in 2009. A number commented they are finding considerably more capable and skilled fitters for their business and received multiple suitable applicants for their vacancy. Some employers suggested that the impact of the global financial crisis and resulting restructuring of mine sites and engineering companies has increased the availability of suitable fitters. The majority of employers reported filling their vacancies within a couple of weeks of advertising.

Reasons employers found applicants unsuitable were no trade qualifications or relevant experience to the job, overseas applicants looking for employer sponsorship, and a high rate of turnover in previous employment.

Labour Market Outlook

The current labour market suggests there is no shortage of skilled fitters. Employer comments suggest the labour market has eased significantly since the downturn in the economy and this is expected to continue over the next 6 to 12 months.