

Roof Tiler		Victoria
ANZSCO Code: 3333-11	September 2009	
Labour market rating:	Shortage	
Comment:		

Occupational demand

A Roof Tiler covers roofs with tiles, sheets and shingles to form a waterproof surface. ABS 2006 Census data indicates there are 1,494 Roof Tilers across the state. Demand is strongly linked to levels of building and construction activity and Victoria employs about 16 per cent of the nation's Roof Tilers. The Victorian government is currently offering visa sponsorship to potential overseas candidates to counteract the shortage of Roof Tilers.

Occupational supply

Roof Tilers need to have completed formal qualifications achieved through study, training or work experience. ABS 2006 Census data indicates 58 per cent of Roof Tilers in Victoria have attained either Certificate III or Certificate IV. Victorian Apprenticeship and Training Commencements and Completion data indicates 337 commencements and 91 during 2008-2009 which is consistent with commencements and completions for the last four years in this course. There is no requirement for Roof Tilers to be registered with the Building Commission unless they work in more than one trade and the work is valued over a specified amount. Immigration data for 2007-2008 indicate that the supply to this occupation from net migration is negligible.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

SERA data indicates 33 per cent of vacancies were filled and these figures are slightly down from the fill rate of 40 per cent recorded in 2007. There was an average of 1.4 suitable applicants per vacancy (0.4 in 2007). A large number of contacts expressed the view that there is a shortage of Roof Tilers across Victoria. While most employers surveyed stated they were seeking qualified candidates, many contacts indicated they experienced difficulties finding these candidates. In order to meet demand, employers indicated they were willing to employ apprentices, however, contacts also stated they had difficulties finding apprentices. There was consensus from all contacts that the physically demanding nature of the trade is a major deterrent in attracting and retaining apprentices and qualified staff alike. Metropolitan and regional contacts reported a high turnover of recruits soon after commencing, due to the physical demands of the work. A small number of regional contacts stated they had been advertising for over twelve months for apprentices and had received either no response or had employed apprentices who left after a matter of days. Many of the regional contacts stated they travelled extensively across Victoria for work because there were not enough local Roof Tilers in some locations to undertake all the available work.

Employers expressed the view that increased exposure would generate more interest in the trade as a career option for young people. It was also suggested that higher wages and additional training incentives for existing apprentices could assist with retention levels in this trade. Employers commented that they are competing with a consumer trend in the industry to install tin roofs which can be fitted to new and renovated homes by a Roofing Plumber. It was suggested that due to the shortage of Roof Tilers, home owners are electing to install tin roofs rather than face delays waiting for a Roof Tiler to undertake tiling work.

Labour market outlook

Given the ongoing demand in the construction sector and the high attrition rate in this occupation, it is anticipated that shortage of Roof Tilers will continue over the next six months.