

Carpenter and Joiner, Carpenter, Joiner		South Australia
ANZSCO Code: 3312-11, 3312-12, 3312-13	July 2009	
Labour market rating:	3312-11 Carpenter & Joiner: No shortage 3312-12 Carpenter: No shortage 3312-13 Joiner: shortage	
Comment:		

Occupational demand

Demand for these trades is closely linked to conditions in the building and construction industry. Apart from a modest downturn in late 2006 and early 2007, South Australian building activity has grown consistently for much of the past decade. ABS data show that the total value of building work done (in trend terms) increased for eight consecutive quarters to the March quarter 2009 (the latest available). However, the rate of growth in building activity has eased in recent quarters following a broader slowdown in the Australian economy due to the global financial crisis. Consequently, demand for some building tradespersons has declined. DEEWR's Skilled Vacancies Index data show a significant fall in the number of newspaper advertisements for Carpenters and Joiners in the twelve months to July.

Occupational supply

The number of persons completing a contract of training in Carpentry and Joinery continues to rise. There were 256 completions in 2008, which was 31 per cent above the average for the previous five years. Historically, most apprenticeship completions have been for Carpenters or Carpenters and Joiners, with relatively few completions in the discrete field of Joiner. ABS 2006 Census data show that around 30 per cent of workers in these trades have no post-school qualifications. Net immigration of Carpenters and Joiners to South Australia (SA) averaged 44 persons per annum in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for Carpentry and Joinery tradespersons found that 87 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks, compared to a fill rate of 46 per cent obtained from a similar survey in 2008. Employers seeking Carpenters or Carpenters and Joiners experienced no difficulty sourcing qualified, competent tradespersons to fill a range of vacancies, including 1st and 2nd fix Carpenters, building maintenance and repair roles, and for staircase construction and installation. Most employers reported receiving large numbers of applicants and, on average, there were two suitable applicants per vacancy. Employer recruitment experiences in respect of Joiners were less favourable. Only around one third of recently advertised vacancies for Joiners were filled within four weeks, although overall demand for Joiners was noticeably lower compared to Carpenters and represented a small percentage of total surveyed vacancies. Joiner vacancies elicited a relatively strong response but there were few trade qualified people amongst the applicants and this was the primary reason for recruitment difficulties. Overall, the shortage of Carpenters evident a year ago is no longer visible, while employers continue to experience difficulties recruiting qualified Joiners.

Labour market outlook

Forward indicators of building activity – building approvals data (trend) – show a significant decline in the value of new projects approved for construction in South Australia in the year to June 2009, with particular weakness in non-residential building approvals. At the same time, the Australian Government has implemented a number of fiscal stimulus measures intended to support building and construction work going forward. On balance, the labour market for Carpentry and Joinery tradespersons is not expected to change significantly over the short-term.