

Vehicle Painter	Australia
ASCO Code: 4214-11	July 2006
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment	

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised vacancies for vehicle painters was undertaken for this report. Less than half (43 per cent) of the advertised vacancies were filled within 4 weeks of advertising.

Employers in most states and territories reported difficulty recruiting skilled vehicle painters (although employers in New South Wales were generally able to fill their vacancies) and 20 per cent of employers surveyed did not receive any response to their advertisements. Employers in Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia had the most difficulty, and vacancies in regional and rural areas were harder to fill than those in metropolitan areas.

Although there were relatively large numbers of applicants in the larger states, overall only 23 per cent of applicants were considered by employers to be suitable for their vacancies. Applicants considered unsuitable were either unqualified or were tradespeople who lacked relevant experience or particular skills required by employers.

The main reason suggested by employers for the shortage of vehicle painters was the relatively low wages for the type of work and skills required, and the low number of apprentices entering the trade. Most employers commented that apprentices often do not finish their apprenticeship or they leave the trade soon after completing their apprenticeship due to the relatively low wages. Employers in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia commented that they could not compete with wages offered to tradespeople by the mining industry.

Labour market outlook

There are no indications that the labour market for vehicle painters will change significantly over the next six months, and the shortage is expected to persist.