

3422-11 Electrical Linesworker
(review)

Review rating: *Shortage*

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for electrical linesworkers was undertaken for this review. Shortages identified for this occupation by DEEWR research in 2008 persist. Slightly more than 40 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled and employers received slightly more than one application per vacancy. Employers considered less than one applicant per vacancy to be suitable. Employers considered applicants to be unsuitable mainly due to lack of licenses. The majority of employers were recruiting to gain extra staff as a result of growth through large infrastructure projects for line upgrades.

Almost four in five surveyed employers expected to recruit in the next six months, and only one employer was not recruiting due to the economic downturn. The majority of employers were not expecting to reduce the number of entry level positions this year and a few employers stated that they no longer recruited for qualified tradespeople but relied on their own apprenticeship programs for a steady supply of electrical linesworkers. Some employers noted that when recruiting they received more applications than in prior years, this may be because of the global financial crisis (GFC) or the result of completions by apprentices entering the labour market.

Labour Market Outlook

There are no indications that the labour market for this occupation will change significantly over the next six months. However with many companies focusing on retention and recruitment of apprentices there may be a slight easing in the labour market for electrical linesworkers.