

<b>Graphic Pre-Press Tradesperson</b>		<b>Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 3922-11	November 2009	
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

ABS 2006 Census data shows that approximately 5000 graphic pre-press tradespersons were employed in Australia in 2006. Recent ABS Labour Force Survey data shows employment in the occupation has been decreasing gradually over the past ten years to 2009, most significantly over the past two years to an employment level of 2400. This decline was reflected in employer comments ascertained during the survey for this report. Activity levels in the printing industry have also declined according to the ABS September 2009 quarter national accounts. This data shows a decrease of 15 per cent in economic growth in the printing industry over the year to September 2009. The DEEWR Skill Vacancies Index indicates a decline in vacancies for printing trades with a decrease in vacancies of 35 per cent over the year to November 2009

### **Occupational supply**

Entry into the occupation is generally via completion of a Certificate IV in Printing and Graphic Arts as a four year apprenticeship. According to National Centre for Vocational Education Research data, course commencements fluctuated over five years to 2008 averaging at 108 per year. Course completions averaged 67 per year over the same period. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data show migration has had minimal impact on the supply of graphic pre-press tradespersons.

### **Employer and industry comments/current labour market**

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for graphic pre-press tradespersons was undertaken for this report. As the number of advertised vacancies identified for this survey was small, some employers were cold canvassed despite not having recently advertised.

Nationally 64 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising. On average employers received 11 applicants per vacancy and considered 1.3 applicants per vacancy suitable. Almost half of the vacancies surveyed were replacement positions. The main reasons applicants were considered unsuitable were lack of relevant experience and lack of appropriate qualifications.

Most employers surveyed did not specifically require trade qualifications and instead were seeking relevant print experience from their applicants. In addition to print experience, about one quarter of employers were seeking digital program skills such as InDesign, PhotoShop and Illustrator. As a result, a significant number of employers found graphic designers applying for positions rather than graphic pre-press workers. Those employers who did not fill their vacancies reported they had not been able to recruit graphic pre-press trade workers with relevant experience and qualifications. In addition employers commented on a lower number of apprentices entering the trade.

### **Labour market outlook**

There is no indication that the labour market for graphic pre-press tradespersons will change significantly over the next six months.