

<b>Motor Mechanic</b>		<b>Australia</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 4211-11	July 2006	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment</b>		

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for motor mechanics was undertaken for this report. Less than half (46 per cent) of the advertised vacancies were filled within 4 weeks of advertising. About one third of surveyed vacancies were for diesel mechanics, and the fill rate for these positions (32 per cent) was lower than for other vacancies.

Most employers reported similar experience recruiting qualified mechanics, although employers in Queensland and Western Australia had the most difficulty, and vacancies in regional and rural areas were slightly harder to fill than those in metropolitan areas. This was especially evident in South Australia where all metropolitan vacancies were filled within a few days of advertising but none of the vacancies in regional/rural areas were filled within four weeks.

Almost 60 per cent of applicants were considered by employers to be suitable for their vacancies. Applicants who were considered unsuitable were either unqualified, or were tradespeople who lacked recent relevant experience or particular specialist skills. A number of employers had vacancies which remained unfilled despite receiving applications from suitably qualified mechanics. In most cases these vacancies were unfilled because applicants were unwilling to work for the offered wages or in a particular location.

The main reason suggested by employers for the lack of motor mechanics was relatively low wages offered for the type of work and skills required. Employers in Queensland and Western Australia commented that they could not compete with wages offered to tradespeople by the mining and resource industry.

A number of employers commented on the need for mechanics to keep informed of new technology in all types of vehicles.

### **Labour market outlook**

There is no evidence of significant changes in the level of demand or supply to this trade over the next six months, and shortages are expected to persist.