

## **AUSTRALIA**

March 2009

### ***3242-12 Vehicle Trimmer***

**(review)**

**Review rating:** *Shortage*

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for vehicle trimmers was conducted for this review and a number of employers were cold canvassed due to limited vacancies being identified during the survey period. Results are based on a very small number of vacancies and should be treated with caution. No vacancies were identified in NSW, VIC, SA, WA or the ACT.

When this occupation was researched in late 2008 the fill rate was 39 per cent with slightly more than one applicant per vacancy. In 2008 slightly more than 66 per cent of surveyed employers were seeking qualified vehicle trimmers, and in light of shortages were putting on apprentices.

The current research shows a considerably higher fill rate, of 57 per cent, with more than eight applicants per vacancy. Surveyed employers appeared to be filling positions with experienced applicants rather than qualified trimmers with only 20 per cent of employer's requiring formal qualifications. The current survey indicates employers are less likely to recruit apprentices. Over half of employers surveyed commented they did not have entry level positions. Employers in 2008 and 2009 are continuing to receive less than one suitable applicant per vacancy.

Interestingly, in the main, employers were recruiting due to business growth, but the majority of employers who were cold canvassed stated they had not recruited in the last six months and many said they do not have work levels to support recruitment of extra staff. Many employers are also not intending to recruit in the next six months as they indicated they have sufficient levels of staff. More than one third of surveyed businesses are one person or very small business operations.

#### **Labour Market Outlook**

There are no indications that the labour market for qualified vehicle trimmers will change significantly over the next six months.