

AUSTRALIA

March 2009

3234-12 Toolmaker

(review)

Review rating: *No Shortage*

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who have recently advertised was undertaken for this review. As vacancies were hard to identify during this survey period, other additional employers were cold canvassed.

Employers who advertised filled 63 per cent of their vacancies within four weeks of advertising. On average, there were 4.9 suitable applicants per vacancy, increasing significantly from when the occupation was last assessed in late 2008. The majority of employers commented they received more applicants than they had in previous recruitment exercises. Employers who had not recently advertised felt they would have little trouble in filling potential vacancies with suitable applicants in the current labour market. Employers felt that this was due to local engineering companies' restructuring their workforce in response to the current economic climate, increasing the availability of toolmakers in their area.

A number of employers commented that demand for toolmakers is affected by the manufacturing industry moving offshore. In light of this slowing demand for toolmaking services, some employers reported they preferred toolmakers with general workshop skills because of their versatility.

Lack of qualifications and experience were the main reasons employers found applicants unsuitable. Unfilled vacancies were mainly concentrated in vacancies where employers were looking for specialised experience.

Labour Market Outlook

There is no evidence to suggest the labour market for toolmakers will change in the next 6 months.