

<b>Butcher or Smallgoods Maker</b>		<b>South Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 3512-11	September 2009	
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	No shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

According to the 2006 ABS Census there were approximately 1300 Butcher or Smallgoods Makers working in South Australia (SA), the vast majority being classified as butchers. Around 90 per cent of them work in either the retail or wholesale trade industries, while a small number are employed in food manufacturing. Demand for the trade is therefore highly dependent on sales of meat products, particularly through various retail trade outlets, such as independent butcher shops, supermarket meat departments or butcher shop chains. ABS seasonally adjusted retail trade data show a modest decline in SA food turnover in the three months to June 2009 of around 1.6 per cent, compared to a 2.1 per cent increase in total retail turnover during the same period. DEEWR's Skilled Vacancies Index data show a sizeable fall in the number of newspaper advertisements for the occupation in the twelve months to August 2009.

### **Occupational supply**

Combined apprenticeship commencements for Butcher or Smallgoods Makers increased by 11 per cent over the five years to 2008, which averaged around 100 commencements per annum. Despite a relatively high rate of attrition during training, the completion rate increased by around seven per cent over the same period. Apprenticeship completions averaged approximately 45 persons per year in the five years to 2008, slightly above the average of 41 persons per annum recorded previously. Due to a significant rise in commencements from 2006 onwards, DEEWR estimates completions will be well above the recent five year average in 2009 and 2010. Supply to the occupation from skilled migration has slowed, with official data showing a substantial decline in permanent and long-term arrivals in the general category of 'meat tradespersons' in 2007-08 compared to the previous year.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for butchers or smallgoods makers found 91 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks. On average, there were nine applicants and 2.4 suitable applicants per vacancy, respectively. Almost none of the employers surveyed reported recruitment difficulties, although several noted turnover is relatively high amongst the occupation. Around two-thirds of recently advertised vacancies were the result of replacement demand, while only one-third of vacancies were the result of business expansion. Employers commented wage rates for qualified Butcher or Smallgoods Makers are not particularly high or attractive compared to some other occupations, while many retail outlets trade seven days which contributes to wastage/turnover rates. Only a small percentage of contacts employed apprentice Butcher or Smallgoods Makers, but those who did indicated finding suitable persons was generally not difficult. Taking into consideration both the high vacancy fill rate and feedback from employers, the labour market for trade qualified butchers or smallgoods makers is rated as 'no shortage'.

### **Labour market outlook**

There is no evidence to suggest demand conditions will change significantly in the short term. Moreover, the majority of employers surveyed for this report said they were not intending to advertise for Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the following six months, other than for replacement needs. At the same time, apprenticeship completions are projected to increase in 2009. A shortage of Butcher or Smallgoods Makers is therefore not expected to emerge over the near-term.