

<b>Driller</b>	<b>Australia</b>
ASCO Code: 4986-11	December 2006
Labour market rating	Recruitment difficulty
<b>Comment</b>	

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for drillers was undertaken for this report. A number of employers in this survey were seeking employees with specialist or industry-specific skills such as water drilling or underground reverse circulation drilling.

Almost three quarters of the vacancies surveyed were successfully filled. Employers as a whole commented that they did not think there was a shortage of drillers but noted it is sometimes a difficult occupation to recruit for. Over half of the vacancies for drillers were located in regional Australia which may reflect the industries that have strong demand for drillers, such as mining. Metropolitan areas did not have as many vacancies but employers in metropolitan areas also commented that vacancies were sometimes hard to fill.

Employers received an average of three applicants and one suitable applicant per vacancy. It was noted by employers that many applicants came from trade or labouring backgrounds without any drilling experience. A small number of applicants were considered by employers to be unsuitable because they lacked the qualifications and licensing employers were seeking, such as heavy vehicle licenses or underground mining tickets. Some employers hired driller's offsiders (trainees) in lieu of fully trained drillers. Employers also stated that there were not many young people applying for jobs, with most applicants being between 35 and 50 years of age.

While this survey indicates employers are having some difficulty filling job vacancies for drillers, this difficulty does not appear to result from a shortage in the supply of skills in this occupation. Rather, recruitment difficulties experienced by employers appear to result predominantly from the recent resources boom, which has increased demand for drillers who have mining experience, and licensing and the continuing drought.

### **Labour market outlook**

There is no evidence to suggest there will be significant change in the level of supply or demand for skills in this occupation over the next six months.