

Binder and Finisher	Australia
ANZSCO Code: 3921-11	November 2009
Labour market rating:	Shortage
Comment:	

Occupational demand

ABS 2006 Census data show that approximately 2600 binders and finishers were employed in Australia in 2006. More recent ABS Labour Force Survey data shows the number of binders, finishers and screen printers has decreased over recent years. Activity levels in the printing industry have also declined according to the ABS September 2009 quarter national accounts. This data shows a decrease of 15 per cent in economic growth in the printing industry over the year to September 2009. The DEEWR Skill Vacancies Index indicates a decline in vacancies for printing trades with a decrease of 35 per cent over the year to November 2009.

Occupational supply

Entry into the occupation is generally through the completion of a Certificate III in Printing and Graphic Arts (Print Finishing) as a four year apprenticeship. According to National Centre for Vocational Education and Research data, course commencements over three years to 2008, averaged 115 per year. Course completions averaged 60 per year over the same period. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data shows that migration has had minimal impact on the supply of binders and finishers in Australia in recent years.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for binders and finishers was undertaken for this report. As vacancies were difficult to identify during the research period, some employers were cold canvassed despite not having recently advertised.

Nationally, 56 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising. On average, employers received eight applicants per vacancy and considered one to be suitable. The majority of vacancies surveyed were replacement positions and most vacancies were filled within three weeks of advertising.

Many of the employers surveyed reported they had encountered significant difficulties in finding trade qualified workers, particularly with experience. The majority of employers surveyed required trade qualifications and experience from their applicants. About one quarter of employers who advertised were seeking binders and finishers with extensive experience only, however those applicants with qualifications would be highly regarded. The main reasons applicants were considered unsuitable were lack of qualifications and lack of experience. Even though many applicants lacked trade qualifications, a significant number had relevant print experience, suggesting on-the-job training.

Labour market outlook

There is no indication that the labour market for binders and finishers will change significantly over the next six months.