

<b>Fitter</b>	<b>Australian Capital Territory (ACT)</b>
ASCO Code: 4112-11	July 2007
Labour market rating	No Shortage
<b>Comment:</b>	

### **Occupational demand**

Nationally, manufacturing is the main employer of fitters, however within the ACT this is a small industry. ABS Labour Force Survey data show that the metal trades are small occupations within the ACT with only around 300 metal fitters and machinists employed. The same survey suggests that employment of metal fitters and machinists has fallen over the past five years. DEEWR Skilled Vacancies Index data show the number of advertised vacancies for metal trades fell over the year ending June 2007 by 14 per cent. However, as there are generally few advertised vacancies, reflecting the small employment size, these data should be used cautiously.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry to the trade of metal fitting is usually through an AQF Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical trade). Over the past six years there has been an average of eight commencements per annum, and an average of five completions per annum for this Certificate. Overseas departures and arrivals information from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship shows the net inflow from overseas of metal fitters and machinists to the ACT is minimal.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for fitters conducted for this report found that about 70 percent of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, unchanged from the vacancy fill rate recorded in the ACT in 2006. The large number of applications and suitable applicants for large public sector positions suggest overall there are adequate numbers of qualified fitters. Most vacancies were filled easily and the small number of positions that were difficult to fill generally required shift work.

There was an average of five applicants per advertised vacancy, but on average less than two were considered by employers to be suitable for their advertised positions. The reasons employers gave for considering candidates to be unsuitable varied, but included lack of experience in the occupation and lack of local qualifications. Most employers who advertised did not want someone skilled only as a metal fitter. They were generally seeking applicants who had a range of other skills that are developed with a few years post apprenticeship experience. Some employers were looking for computer skills as well as the ability to fabricate and repair broken machinery or parts, while others wanted skills in both fitting and machining.

### **Labour market outlook**

There are no indications that the labour market s will change significantly over the next six months.