

3421-11 Air Conditioning / Refrigeration Mechanic
(review)

Review rating: *Shortage*

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics was undertaken for this review. Shortages identified for air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics by DEEWR research in mid 2008 continue.

Of the surveyed vacancies 35 per cent were filled with employers receiving more than five applications per vacancy. Employers considered less than one applicant per vacancy suitable and 20 per cent of surveyed employers did not receive any applications for their advertised positions. Unmet demand appears to be strongest for tradespeople with skills in commercial installation and repair, with 30 per cent of surveyed employers seeking skills in this area. Applicants were mainly considered to be unsuitable due to poor communication skills or lack of licensing. One quarter of employers were recruiting to replace existing staff. A number of employers commented that the higher than average temperatures experienced this summer saw a rise in demand for air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics, 20 per cent of employers were recruiting for extra staff to meet higher demand over the summer period.

Of the surveyed employers 60 per cent were not expecting to recruit over the next six months, interestingly only a few employers were not recruiting due to economic circumstances and 15 per cent of employers had deferred recruitment due to the global economic crisis. Employers appeared confident that the number of entry level positions they had available would not decrease in the next six months, with 40 per cent stated this to be the case.

Labour Market Outlook

The slow down in global economic markets may see a rise in numbers of air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics seeking employment as they return to the general labour market from the mining sector.