

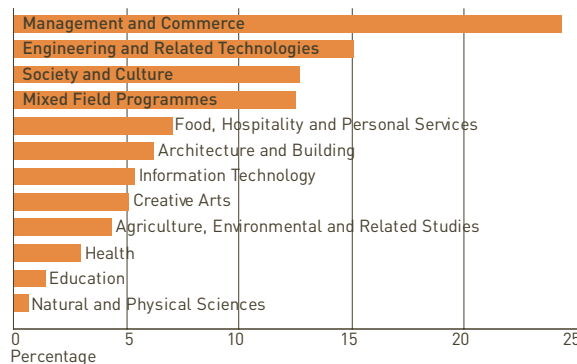
Demand for skills

TAFE students and industry sectors

Management and commerce is the most popular field of VET study, comprising 24% of student contact hours. Engineering and related technologies, where skills shortages exist, had 15% of student contact hours in 2002-04.

Demand for VET services reflects the development of pathways through post compulsory education, as well as the make-up of the economy, and factors such as employment growth and turnover, numbers of new entrants, concentrations of qualifications, skills shortages and emerging skill needs, and the age profile of an industry's employees.

1 Student contact hours in TAFE, ACE and private RTOs by field Melbourne, 2002-2004



Skills shortages

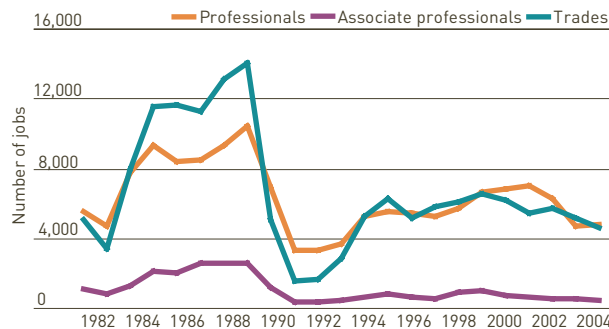
A recent survey of 1,000 employers commissioned by the Victorian Department of Education and Training tested anecdotal evidence of skill shortages. Respondents indicated shortages were adversely affecting their industry's operations and therefore the economy. The survey showed an extra 24,000 jobs were waiting to be filled due to a lack of skilled labour.

The reasons for skills shortages are complex and varied and may result from economic or demographic change, people not working in the occupation for which they are qualified and/or experienced, cyclical fluctuations in demand, new technologies, inflexible wages and regional mismatches.

Job ads reflect both economic conditions and skills demand. Advertisement rates for Victoria for associate professionals have been lower than for professionals and tradespersons, even in the last decade of stronger employment (see Figure 2).

The Commonwealth Government's skill demand monitoring shows construction trades skills are in particular demand in Melbourne (see Figure 3).

2 Number of jobs advertised Victoria, 1982-2004



3 Skills in demand in Victoria in 2005

TRADES (December 2004)	CHILD CARE (June 2005)
ENGINEERING TRADES	Child Care Coordinator S
Metal Fitter S	Child Care Worker S
Metal Machinist S	PROFESSIONS (June 2005)
Toolmaker S	ENGINEERS
Metal Fabricator S	Civil Engineer R
Welder S	Electrical Engineer S
Sheetmetal Worker S	ACCOUNTANTS
AUTOMOTIVE TRADES	Accountant S
Motor Mechanic S	REGISTERED NURSES
Auto Electrician S	Registered Nurse (general) S
Panel Beater S	Accident/Emergency S
Vehicle Painter S	Aged Care S
ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONICS TRADES	Cardiothoracic S
Electrician S	Critical/Intensive Care S
Refrigeration and S	Neonatal Intensive Care S
Airconditioning Mechanic S	Neurological S
Electrical Powerline Trades S	Oncology S
Electronic Instrument Trades S	Operating Theatre S
Electronic Equipment Trades S	Paediatric S
CONSTRUCTION TRADES	Perioperative S
Carpenter and Joiner M-D, R	Renal S
Fibrous Plasterer M-D, R	Registered Midwife S
Bricklayer M-D, R	Mental Health Nurse S
Solid Plasterer M-D, R	Enrolled Nurse D
Plumber S	HEALTH SPECIALISTS
FOOD TRADES	Dentist S
Chef S	Pharmacist (Hospital/Retail) S
Pastrycook S	Occupational Therapist S
Cook S	Physiotherapist S
PRINTING TRADES	Speech Pathologist S
Binder and Finisher D	Podiatrist S
OTHER TRADES	Nuclear Medicine Tech D
Cabinetmaker M-D, R	Audiologist S
Hairdresser S	SECONDARY TEACHERS
Furniture Upholsterer S	Secondary Teacher S
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	Manual Arts/Tech Studies S
Database	Physics S
Oracle D	Maths S
Sybase SQL Server D	LOTE S
General Application Devel./Software	Information Technology S
Java S	OTHER PROFESSIONS
Net technologies S	Social Worker R-D
Internet, Networking/Lan/WAN	Lawyer D
Firewall/Internet security D	Urban and Regional Planner S
Java Security S	Communications
Client/Server applications	Radio D
SAP S	Broadband CDMA D
PeopleSoft D	Process & Systems Mgt
System Software Support	Commercial business D
Data Warehousing D	E-Commerce
Operating Systems	E-commerce security S
Unix D	Security
Solaris D	Network Security S
VMS D	Risk Management S
	CISSP S
	PKI D
	GIS (eg Mapinfo) D

S = State-wide shortage D = Recruitment difficulty
R = Shortage in regional areas M-D = Recruitment difficulty (metropolitan areas)