

# Victorian Employer Skills Survey 2021

## Great South Coast Region

The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) asked businesses about their skills, recruitment and training needs for the Victorian Employer Skills Survey 2021.

Findings from the survey will help the Victorian government identify areas of skills demand, drive innovation across the VET sector and better plan for Victoria's future training needs.

The VSA conducted the survey between August and December 2021. It approached 70,000 businesses and achieved a response rate of 20.5%, with coverage across all industries, business sizes and regions in the state.

**i** The statistics below reflect the experience of employers across the five key survey domains: Business climate | Skills | Recruitment | Training | Apprentices, trainees and work placements

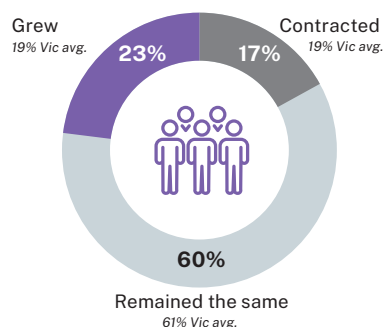


### Business climate

Despite the global pandemic, many Great South Coast employers adapted to maintain or grow their workforce. Employers had a mostly positive outlook for the year ahead.

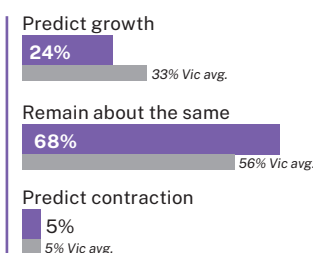
#### Workforce

More employers reported growing their workforce over the past 12 months (compared to the state average).



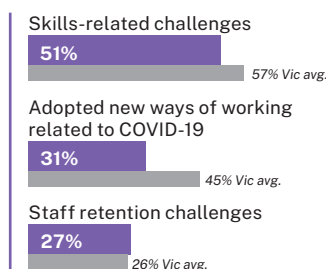
#### Outlook

Great South Coast employers reported the most pessimistic business outlook across the state, with fewer workplaces expecting to grow in the next 12 months.



#### Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 skills-related challenges experienced by employers in Great South Coast was lower than the state average.

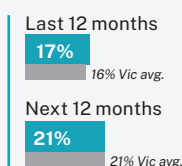


### Skills

COVID-19 presented the most common skills challenge in the past year. More employers are expecting skill shortages in 2022 than in 2021.

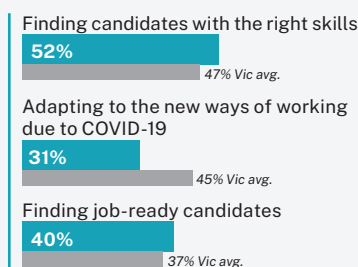
#### Skills shortages

Around one in five employers in Great South Coast expect to face skills shortages in 2022. This was similar to the state average.



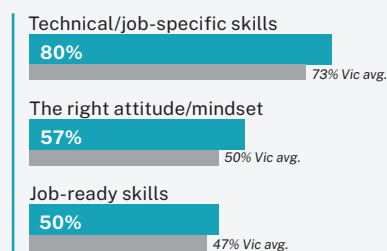
#### Skills challenges

The top skills challenges reported by employers were the same across all regions. They were:



#### Skills needs

More employers in the region reported needing workers with job-specific skills, the right attitude and job-ready skills compared to the state average.



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

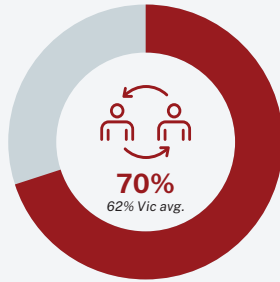


## Recruitment

**Most Great South Coast employers had undertaken some recruitment activity over the past year and the majority reported experiencing challenges.**

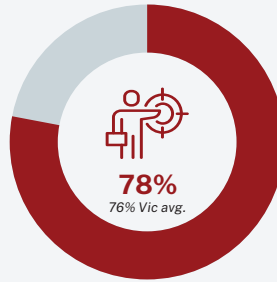
### Recruitment need

Recruitment activity undertaken in the region over the past 12 months was the highest across the state.



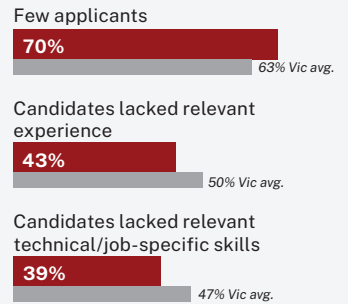
### Recruitment challenges

Almost four in five employers reported having difficulties recruiting for particular roles. This was higher than the state average.



### Type of challenge

The most common challenges faced by employers were related to the number, experience and job-specific skills of candidates.

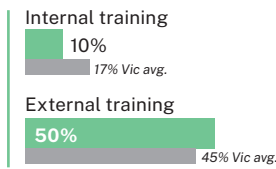


## Training

**More than half of Great South Coast employers engaged in some form of training.**

### Engagement in training

More employers in the region used external training only or both internal and external training (40% compared to 37% state average).



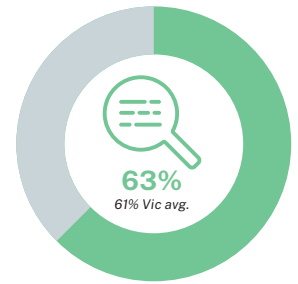
### Satisfaction with training

Levels of satisfaction with training were higher than the state average for quality and price, but lower for industry knowledge.



### Skillsets

Almost two-thirds of employers said they would consider a skillset (microcredential or part qualification) rather than a full qualification to upskill their staff.

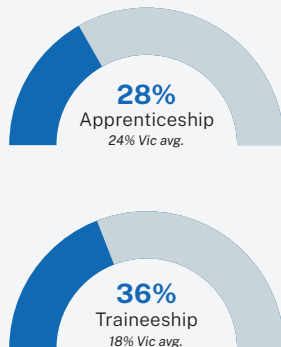


## Apprentices, Trainees and Work Placements

**Great South Coast employers continue to make use of apprentices, trainees, and work placements to assist them in filling the skills pipeline.**

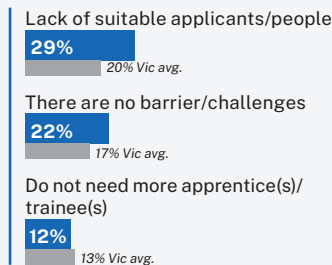
### Apprentices and trainees

Uptake of trainees over the past 12 months in the region was double the state average.



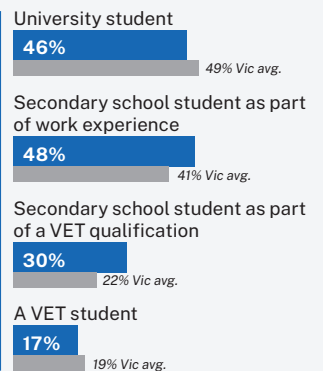
### Challenges

Employers cited lack of suitable applicants, cost and need for apprentices and trainees as the most common barrier.



### Work placement students

More employers in the region took on work placement students (26% compared to the state average 21%). The most common type of work placement students were:



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

