

Victorian Employer Skills Survey 2021

Loddon Mallee 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

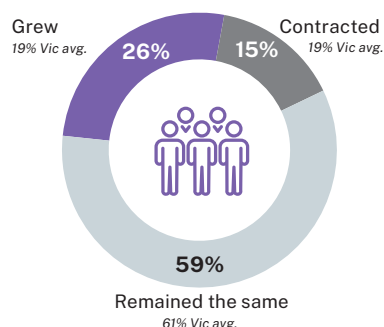


Business climate

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

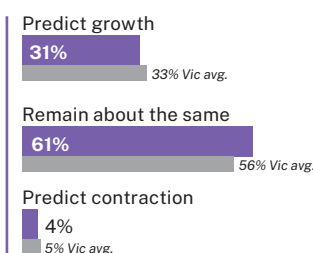
Workforce

Over a quarter of employers in Loddon Mallee reported growing their workforce over the past 12 months. This was the highest rate across the state.



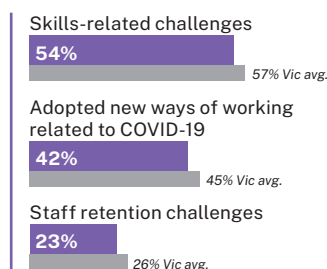
Outlook

Employers in the Loddon Mallee region are optimistic about their future growth. More expected their workforce to remain the same size compared to the state average.



Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 skills-related challenges experienced by employers in the Loddon Mallee region were lower than the state average.

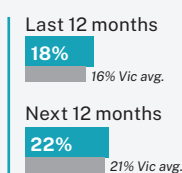


Skills

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

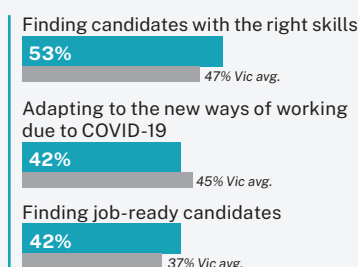
Skills shortages

Over one in five employers in Loddon Mallee are expecting to face skills shortages in 2022. This was similar to the state average.



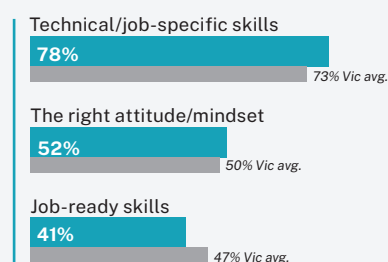
Skills challenges

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



Skills needs

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



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

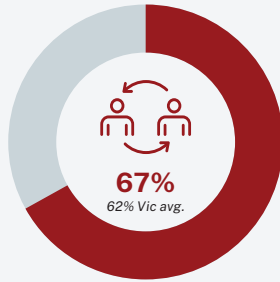


Recruitment

Most Loddon Mallee employers had undertaken some recruitment activity over the past year and the majority reported experiencing challenges.

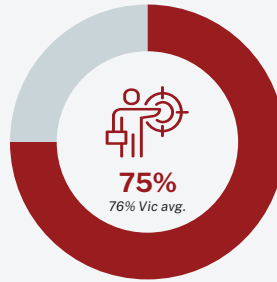
Recruitment need

More employers undertook some form of recruitment over the past 12 months, compared to the state average.



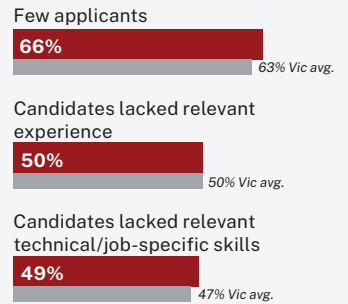
Recruitment challenges

The majority of employers in the region reported having difficulties recruiting for particular roles. This was similar to 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.

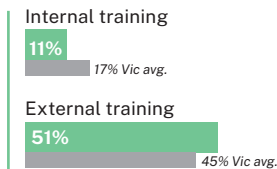


Training

More than half of Loddon Mallee employers engaged in some form of training.

Engagement in training

More employers in the region used external training, fewer used internal training and 38% used both (compared to 37% state average).



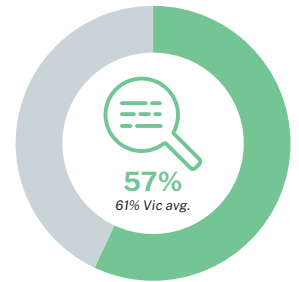
Satisfaction with training

Levels of satisfaction with training was higher than the state average.



Skillsets

Over half of employers said they would consider a skillset (micro credential or part qualification) rather than a full qualification to upskill their staff.

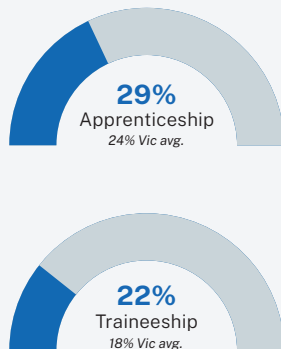


Apprentices, trainees and work placements

Loddon Mallee employers continue to make use of apprentices, trainees, and work placements to assist them in filling the skills pipeline.

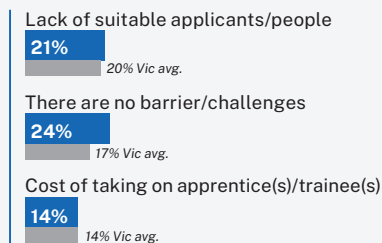
Apprentices and trainees

Uptake of apprentices and trainees over the past 12 months was higher than the state average.



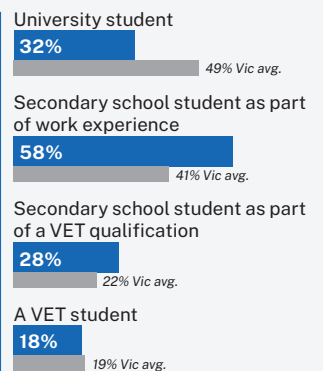
Challenges

Higher proportions of employers in Loddon Mallee cited lack of suitable applicants as a barrier.



Work placement students

One quarter of employers (25%) had taken on a work placement student (compared to 21% in Victoria). The most common type of work placement students were:



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

