

# Victorian Employer Skills Survey 2021

## Wimmera Southern 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

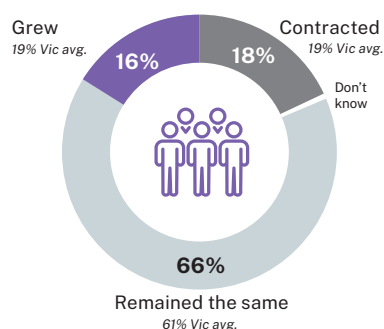


### Business climate

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

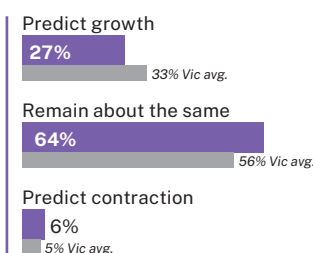
#### Workforce

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



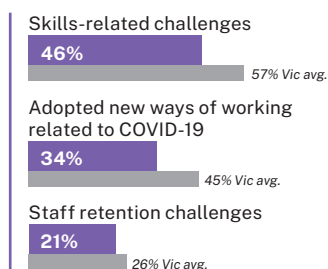
#### Outlook

Employers in Wimmera Southern Mallee are optimistic about their future growth. More expected their workforce to remain the same size (compared to state average.).



#### Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 skills-related challenges experienced by employers in Wimmera was the lowest reported across all regions.

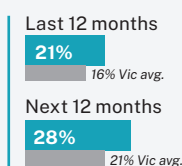


### Skills

Finding candidates with the right skills presented the most common skills challenge in the past year. More employers are expecting skill shortages in 2022 than in 2021.

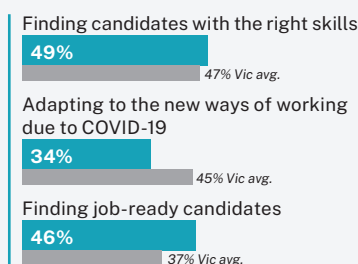
#### Skills shortages

Almost three in ten of employers in Wimmera Southern Mallee are expecting to face skills shortages in 2022. This was the highest across the state.



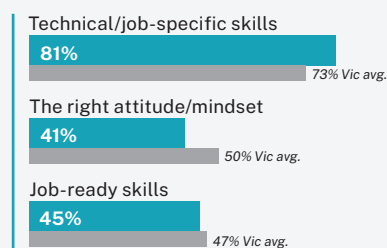
#### Skills challenges

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 and fewer needed workers with the right attitude compared to the state average.



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

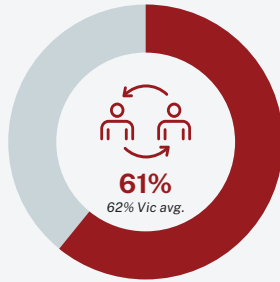


## Recruitment

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

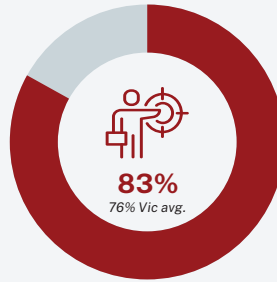
### Recruitment need

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



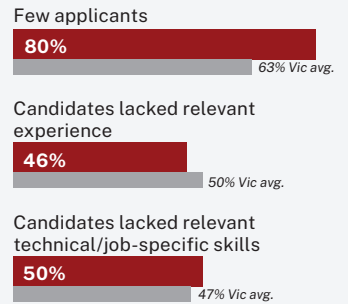
### Recruitment challenges

Five out of six employers reported having difficulties recruiting for particular roles. This was the highest rate across the state.



### Type of challenge

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

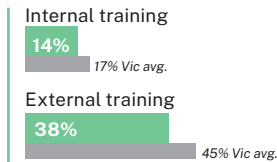


## Training

**More than half of Wimmera Southern Mallee employers engaged in some form of training.**

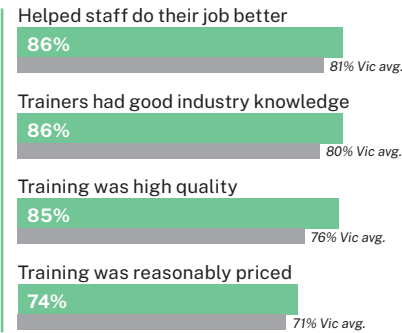
### Engagement in training

More employers in the region used both internal and external training (48% compared to 37% state average). Fewer used external or internal training only.



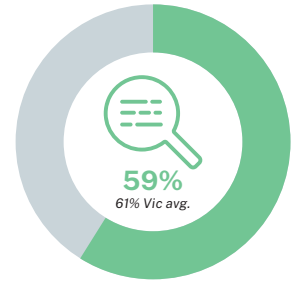
### Satisfaction with training

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



### Skillsets

Almost three in five employers said they would consider a skillset (microcredential or part qualification) rather than a full qualification to upskill their staff.

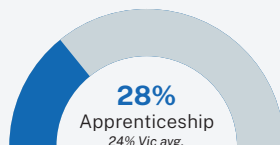


## Apprentices, trainees and work placements

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

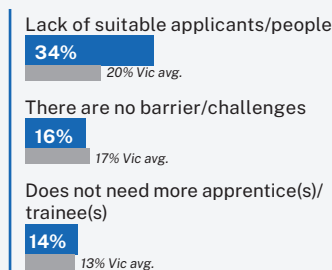
### Apprentices & Trainees

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



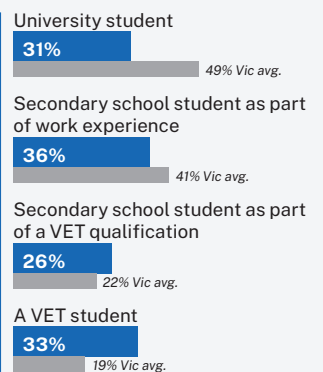
### Challenges

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 (24% compared to the state average 21%). The most common type of work placement students were:



■ Indicates state wide average for Victoria

