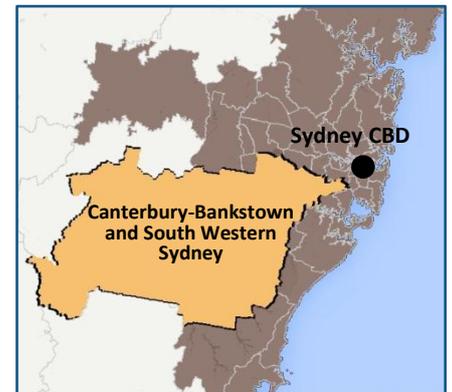




Labour Market Conditions in Canterbury-Bankstown and South Western Sydney¹

- While the labour market in the region remains subdued, conditions have improved slightly over the last year, with increasing employment growth and the unemployment rate falling slightly to 7.1 per cent².
- Employment growth has been strong in the *Health Care and Social Assistance* and *Education and Training* industries. On the other hand, employment has fallen in a number of industries, most notably in *Manufacturing*.³
 - The mixed fortunes of these industries have resulted in strong employment growth for females, while male full-time employment has decreased.³



- Many people in the region are from a non-English speaking background, with 43 per cent of the working age population born in an Other Than Main English Speaking Country (most commonly Vietnam, Lebanon and Iraq).⁴

What employers are telling us?⁵

The survey results suggest that local recruitment conditions remain challenging for job seekers.

- Recruitment activity in the region remains subdued, with an annual average of 13 vacancies per 100 staff.
- Job seekers face increasing competition for vacancies, with an average of 11.9 applicants per vacancy, compared with 9.6 in the 2013 survey.
 - Of these, fewer than three applicants on average were interviewed. The most common reason applicants did not get an interview was a lack of experience (40 per cent).
 - Importantly, 74 per cent of employers who recently recruited for lower skilled occupations (such as Sales Assistants and Labourers) reported that experience was not required to gain the position, suggesting that many local employers are willing to provide opportunities for new or inexperienced job seekers.
- Employers have become increasingly optimistic about future recruitment, with more employers having either recently increased or intending to increase staff numbers compared with previous surveys.
- Most recruiting employers received an application from a person from a non-English speaking background, with two-thirds of these employers reporting that a lack of English language skills reduced an applicant's employment prospects.

	CBSWS March 2014	CBSWS June 2013	Combined results for all recently surveyed regions
Average annual vacancies per 100 staff	13	12	16
Unfilled vacancy rate	2.6%	4.2%	3.7%
Average applicants per vacancy	11.9	9.6	10.6
Experienced difficulty recruiting	40%	39%	35%

Where are the opportunities?

- Employers reported difficulty filling vacancies across a range of occupations and skill levels, including *Architectural, Building and Surveying Technicians, Bar Attendants and Baristas, Accounting Clerks, Metal Fitters and Machinists, Real Estate Sales Agents* and *Construction Labourers*.
 - Employers also expected to recruit for a variety of growth and high turnover occupations in the 12 months following the survey, such as *Sales Assistants, Hospitality Workers, Child Carers, Truck Drivers* and *Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers*.

¹ The region comprises the Bankstown, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury, Fairfield, Liverpool and Wollondilly Local Government Areas.

² Department of Employment, *Small Area Labour Markets*, December quarter 2013.

³ ABS, *Labour Force Survey*, April 2014, three-month / four-quarter averages of the Inner South West, South West and Outer South West Level 4 Statistical Areas

⁴ ABS, *Census of Population and Housing*, 2011.

⁵ Based on responses from 355 employers in Canterbury-Bankstown and South Western Sydney in March 2014.