



Quantity Surveyor ANZSCO 2332-13

Australia
March 2019

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers experienced difficulty recruiting quantity surveyors across most sectors, and had few suitable applicants per vacancy.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 45 per cent of advertised vacancies, the lowest proportion since 2010, and well below the 74 per cent filled in 2017 when the occupation was last assessed.
- Since 2017, the number of applicants per vacancy has decreased from 14.8 to 11.5 and the number of suitable applicants per vacancy has decreased from 2.4 to 1.2.
- Employers experienced difficulty filling vacancies in the commercial, civil and residential sectors, and for consultancy services.
- Most surveyed employers were in metropolitan areas, with those in Queensland filling the lowest proportion of vacancies (13 per cent) compared with the average across the other states and territories (53 per cent).

Employer requirements and unsuitable applicants

- All employers sought quantity surveyors with a relevant degree.
 - Around two thirds also required or preferred applicants to hold membership with the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors or a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors qualification.
- Nearly 45 per cent of employers had no suitable applicants.
- While an average of 9.7 applicants per vacancy were qualified, only 1.2 were considered suitable. Many were unsuitable because they lacked general or specific experience, such as:
 - working in Australia, or in a particular city
 - in a certain sector (e.g. commercial or civil construction)
 - working for a consultancy.
- More than 10 per cent of employers did not fill their vacancies despite having suitable applicants.
- A number of employers only received suitable applicants a significant amount of time after advertising.

2019 Survey Results¹



45%
of vacancies filled



11.5
Applicants per vacancy

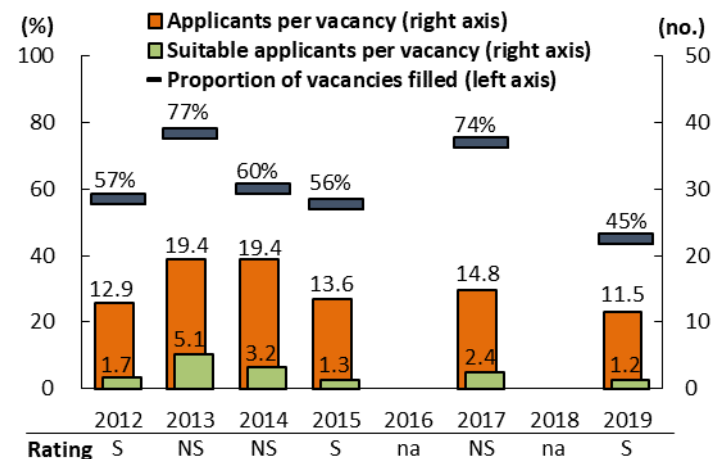


9.7
Qualified applicants per vacancy



1.2
Suitable applicants per vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Quantity Surveyor, 2012 to 2019



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; NS = No shortage; na = Not assessed

Supply and demand trends

- The labour market for this occupation has tightened in the last two years, influenced by a reduction in the number of new graduates and growth in construction activity.
- Entry to the occupation is usually through the completion of a bachelor's or master's degree in building construction management or similar.²
 - Completions decreased by 6 per cent in the two years to December 2017, while commencements increased by 15 per cent over this period, indicating a possible increase of new workers in the future.
- Construction activity has grown moderately in the two years to the December quarter 2018.
 - The value of engineering construction work done increased by 8 per cent, while the value of building work done increased by 5 per cent over this period.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#)

Additional Data Sources: Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data (domestic students), 2017 (most recent data); QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey, January 2019, customised tables; ABS, 8752.0 Building Activity, Australia, December 2018, Table 1; ABS, 8762.0 Engineering Construction, Australia, December 2018, Table 1

² These courses are relevant to other occupations and there are no data on the number of students who specialise in quantity surveying.