



# Electrical Engineer

## ANZSCO 2333-11

Northern Territory  
March 2019

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers were unable to attract sufficient experienced and suitable applicants to fill their vacancies.

### Key research findings

- Surveyed employers filled 67 per cent of their vacancies.
- Although 81 per cent of applicants were qualified, 69 per cent of qualified applicants were considered unsuitable.
- Most employers required senior level experience with strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Some employers noted that although a proportion of applicants were technically proficient electrical engineers, they lacked business development and relationship building skills and experience.
- Other reasons for unsuitability included a lack of experience in the occupation (e.g. recent graduates) or lack of relevant experience for the particular role.
- Some employers had a preference for applicants who lived locally.

### Demand and supply

- In the Northern Territory, electrical engineers are mainly employed in the electricity, gas, water and waste services and professional, scientific and technical services or manufacturing industries. Demand is driven by electrical engineering infrastructure projects including activity levels in the construction, manufacturing and mining industries.
- The value of engineering construction activity in the Northern Territory has decreased by around three quarters over the year to the March quarter 2019.
- While the number of online vacancies for electrical engineers in the Northern Territory increased over the year to March 2019, it remains below the 2009 peak.

### 2019 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



67%  
of vacancies  
filled



12.8  
Applicants per  
vacancy



10.3  
Qualified  
applicants  
per vacancy



1.7  
Suitable  
applicants per  
vacancy

- Training for this profession in the Northern Territory is through Charles Darwin University (CDU), which offers the following courses: Bachelor of Engineering Science, Bachelor of Engineering Honours and a Master of Engineering.

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

Additional data sources: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Place of Usual Residence, 2011 and 2016; ABS, Cat 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, March 2019, Table 2, Value of Work Done, States and Territories, Chain Volume Measures, Trend data; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2019 – 12 Month moving average.