



# ANZSCO 2333-11 Electrical Engineer

## Queensland March 2018

**Current labour market rating:** No shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2017): No Shortage

### Comments

Employers in both metropolitan and regional areas continue to fill the majority of vacancies and are able to choose from multiple suitably qualified and experienced applicants.

### Survey results<sup>1</sup>

- Employers sought electrical engineers with experience across a number of diverse practices including communication systems, control systems, asset management and contracting.
- Vacancies were across industries including tactical communications, power generation, and renewables with the resources sector representing almost one third of advertisements.
- Almost one third of employers required electrical engineers with Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ) endorsements.
- In this year's survey, 90 per cent of vacancies were filled across Queensland, compared with 80 per cent in 2017. All metropolitan vacancies were filled, with approximately 80 per cent of regional vacancies also filled.
- On average there were 46 applicants per vacancy this year, compared with 60.8 applicants in last year's survey.
  - There were almost twice as many applicants per metropolitan vacancy (59.4) than per regional vacancy (32.6).
- Employers reported that 76 per cent of all applicants across Queensland were qualified electrical engineers.
  - The average number of qualified applicants per metropolitan vacancy was 50.6, while regional vacancies attracted 19.6 qualified applicants.
- Overall, there was an average of 3.3 suitable applicants per vacancy compared with 5.5 suitable applicants reported in last year's survey.
  - Metropolitan vacancies attracted around 4.6 suitable applicants and there were 2.2 suitable applicants per regional vacancy.
- Most of the vacancies surveyed were senior positions requiring more than 5 years' experience in the relevant area.

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#) | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government and can also be accessed by the QR code.



## Unsuitable applicants

- Approximately 26 per cent of applicants were not qualified. A number of employers indicated however that they did not have complete knowledge of all applicants as their recruitment process is somewhat automated, shortlisting applicants automatically based on responses to vacancy criteria. Therefore, not all applications were scrutinised.
- The proportion of qualified applicants found unsuitable across Queensland was 90 per cent.
  - Employers in metropolitan areas considered 92 per cent of qualified applicants unsuitable, while employers of regional vacancies considered 85 per cent of applicants as unsuitable.
- The majority of applicants were considered unsuitable due to a lack of experience.
  - Some applicants did not have the requisite length of experience that employers sought for senior positions while other applicants lacked particular experience or skills such as design, management and operation maintenance.

## Demand and supply trends

- Demand for Electrical Engineers is rising slightly while supply remains stable.
- Electrical engineers are employed primarily in engineering design and consultancy services, electricity distribution and transmission and electrical services.
  - ABS Labor Force Survey figures indicate that over the 12 months to February 2018 the number of persons employed as electrical engineers in Queensland increased by around 2.7 per cent.<sup>2</sup>
  - Internet vacancies for electrical engineers also increased in the year to March 2018 (82) which is almost double the advertised vacancies for the previous year (46).<sup>3</sup>
- As at the latest census figures (2016), there are a total of 2700 people working as electrical engineers in Queensland.<sup>4</sup>
- Electrical engineers who are not working under the supervision of a RPEQ must be registered with the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland.
  - As of 1 May 2018, there are 500 electrical engineers residing in Queensland and registered with the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland.<sup>5</sup>
- Formal entry to this profession is via the completion of a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) degree.
  - Latest data from the Department of Education and Training 2016 shows the number of students that commenced a Bachelor Degree in electrical engineering in Queensland in 2016 was 29, a slight drop from 2015 (38).<sup>6</sup>
  - The number of completions for electrical engineering bachelor degrees in Queensland in 2016 however was 69 which is slightly higher than 2015 (51).<sup>7</sup>
- Data from the Department of Home Affairs indicates that temporary skilled migration is a declining source of supply to this profession. From a high of 93 in 2011 this has consistently declined over the last five years dropping from 61 being granted in 2012 to 11 being granted in 2017 and only eight Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457 ) granted in Queensland in the nine months to 31 March 2018.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> ABS, Labour Force, February 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend – released February 2018

<sup>3</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, April 2018, 12 month moving average

<sup>4</sup> ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016

<sup>5</sup> Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland, Search Register, May 2018

<sup>6</sup> Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2016, customised tables

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) program, 31 March 2018