



Electrical Engineer

ANZSCO 2333-11

New South Wales
April 2019

Current labour market rating: Shortage

There is a shortage of Electrical Engineers in New South Wales following no shortage in 2018.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 52 per cent of vacancies with an average of 16.1 applicants per vacancy, 13.3 qualified applicants and 2.0 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Employers had difficulty filling vacancies at all levels of seniority from graduates to intermediate and senior roles.
- All employers sought applicants with relevant qualifications.
- Around 85 per cent of qualified applicants were considered unsuitable, mainly because they lacked sufficient and relevant industry experience and specialised technical skills for the role advertised.
 - Many employers noted that there was a shortage of candidates with the required experience and skill set.
- Vacancies surveyed were mainly from engineering consulting firms, servicing companies, specialist recruitment firms and electrical companies across various sectors including transport, healthcare, residential, infrastructure, mining, heavy industrial, building services, and manufacturing.

Demand and supply

- Preliminary data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that the inflation-adjusted value of residential building work grew by 3.4 per cent over the year to March 2019 after rising by more than 5.0 per cent in each of the previous five years.
 - Non-residential work increased by 12.6 per cent over the year to March 2019 while total building rose by 6.4 per cent.
 - Engineering construction rose by 6.7 per cent in the year to March 2019 following an increase of 24.9 per cent in the previous year.

2019 Survey Results¹

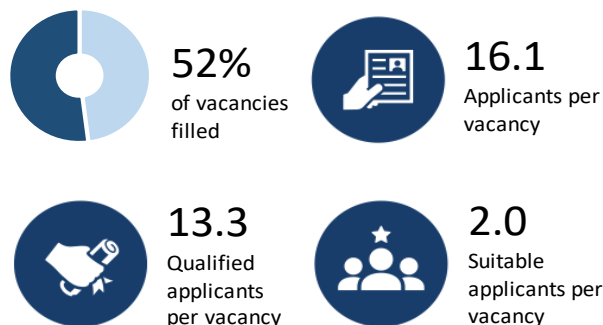
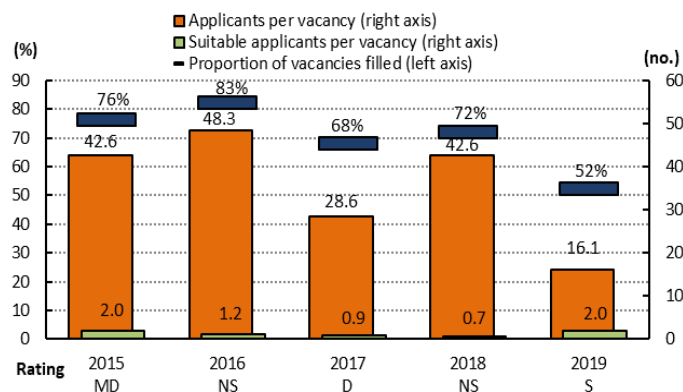


Figure 1: Survey results, Electrical Engineer, 2015 to 2019



Key to ratings: MD = Metropolitan recruitment difficulty; NS = No shortage; D = Recruitment difficulty; S = Shortage

- Manufacturing production at the national level declined by 1.5 per cent over the year to March 2019 while electricity, gas, water and waste services sector rose slightly (by 0.2 per cent) over the same period.
- In NSW, the average number of bachelor degree completions in electrical engineering was 231 in the two years to 2017. This was above the average of 193 for the previous three years and the average for the past decade of 179.
 - Commencements averaged 211 in the two years to 2017, which was lower than the average of 312 for the previous three year period and the average of 228 for the past decade.

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

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Construction Work Done, Preliminary, March 2019 (8755.0), Table 4 and Table 8, chain volume measures, original; ABS, Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, March 2019 (5206.0), Table 6, chain volume measure, trend series; Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.