



# Electrical Engineer

## ANZSCO 2333-11

Queensland  
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### Current labour market rating: Shortage

The labour market for electrical engineers has tightened substantially, with a significant reduction in the number of suitable applicants per vacancy and the proportion of advertised vacancies filled.

### Key research findings

- Employers experienced difficulties in attracting suitable applicants, filling just two thirds of their vacancies.
- The average number of applicants per vacancy has fallen substantially over the past few years.
  - In 2019, on average, there were 14.5 applicants per vacancy, compared with the peak of 60.8 applicants per vacancy in 2017.
  - At 1.3, the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy was the lowest in eight years.
- Employers in regional areas reported more recruitment difficulties than those based in Brisbane.
- Some employers noted that it was easier to recruit graduates than experienced electrical engineers.

### Unsuitable applicants

- The main reasons qualified applicants were considered unsuitable were:
  - insufficient local experience in the relevant industry (e.g. building services)
  - a lack of specific technical knowledge or experience (e.g. signalling or solar power systems design).
- Some vacancies were unfilled despite attracting suitable applicants as there was no agreement on remuneration.

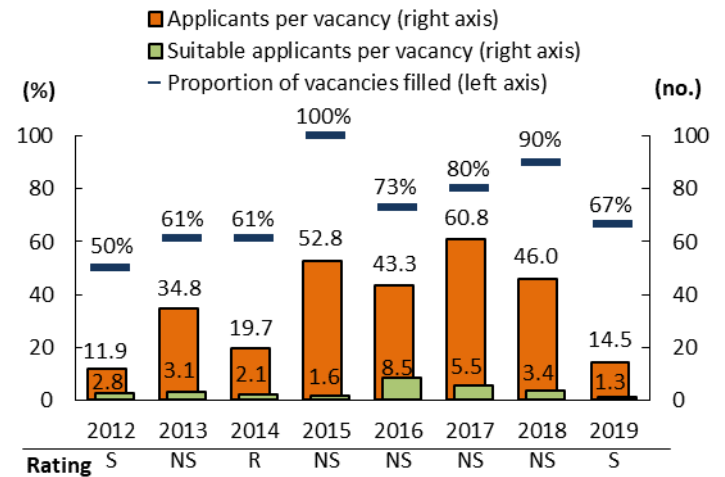
### Demand and supply trends

- The demand for electrical engineers has increased, while supply to the occupation has also grown.
  - In the year to February 2019, online vacancies for electrical engineers in Queensland increased by 23.9%, compared with 0.6% across all occupations.
  - The value of engineering work done in the electricity generation, transmission and pipelines sector increased by more than 50% in 2018.

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



Figure 1: Survey results, Electrical Engineer, 2012 to 2019



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; NS = No shortage; R = Regional Shortage

- Bachelor degree graduate completions in Queensland grew by 11% in 2017, following a rise of 30% in 2016.
  - These increases may not directly mitigate shortages in the near term, as some employers indicated it was relatively easy to fill graduate positions.
- The majority of electrical engineers in Queensland are employed in two industries, which have mixed growth prospects over the five years to May 2023 (Table 1).

Table 1: Projected employment growth, Qld, five years to May 2023, key employing industries for electrical engineers

Industry	Growth (%)
Electricity, Gas, Waste and Water Services	5.8
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	9.8
All industries	7.0

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business](#). Additional Data Sources: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index (12 month moving average), February 2019; ABS, 8762.0, Engineering Construction Activity, Table 19 (four quarter total); Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data (domestic students), 2017; ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Regional Employment Projections