



Mechanical Engineer

ANZSCO 2335-11

Western Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No shortage

Employers attracted large numbers of suitably qualified applicants and filled 60 per cent of their vacancies.

Key research findings

- Surveyed employers included those providing mechanical engineering services to the mining, manufacturing, construction and transport sectors throughout the metropolitan and regional areas of the state.
 - Employers in the metropolitan area attracted an average of 1.7 suitable applicants to their vacancies, and filled 67 per cent of their roles.
 - Those in regional areas attracted a similar average number of suitable applicants per vacancy (1.5) and filled 50 per cent of their vacancies.
- All employers required applicants to hold tertiary qualifications in mechanical engineering, and 96 per cent of applicants met this requirement.
 - Employers typically required applicants to be proficient in design software such as AutoCAD.
- Separate to qualifications and technical experience, employers typically required applicants with the skills to work effectively in a team, and hold well-developed interpersonal, communication and time management skills.
- A large proportion of employers had vacancies with a focus on design, and sought applicants with design experience to enable them to commence in the role with minimal delay.
 - These employers were typically unwilling to consider applicants without design experience.
 - Some employers favourably viewed applicants with experience in a workshop environment.
- Applicants were deemed unsuitable for a range of reasons, including lack of the technical skills, the necessary specialist experience, lack of general experience in the occupation (for roles requiring less specialised expertise), and poor communication skills.

2019 Survey Results¹



60%
of vacancies
filled



45.2
Applicants per
vacancy



43.6
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



1.6
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- Data show the most recent period of significant growth in vacancies for mechanical engineers occurred over 2011 to 2012, after which vacancy levels declined and then flattened. Over the 12 months to April 2019, however, vacancy numbers grew by over 25 per cent. It is important to note that current vacancy levels remain well below the peak in 2012.
- Over the 5 years to 2016, data show an average of 340 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in mechanical engineering were completed each year in Western Australia. There were 423 undergraduate and postgraduate completions in this field in 2017.

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

Additional Data Sources: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2019; Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.