



Mechanical Engineer

ANZSCO 2335-12

Queensland
May 2019

Current labour market rating: No shortage

Despite signs of a tightening labour market, employers for mechanical engineers filled around three quarters of advertised vacancies and generally attracted large numbers of qualified applicants.

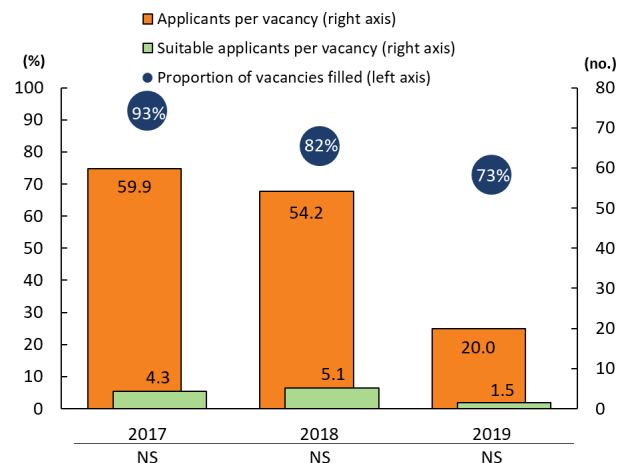
Key research findings

- Shortages have not been apparent for mechanical engineers in Queensland for most of the last decade.
- Consistent with this, in 2019 around three quarters of surveyed vacancies were filled and employers continued to attract large numbers of applicants.
- Despite vacancies being readily filled, this labour market has tightened over the past two years, with both the proportion of vacancies filled and applicant numbers declining (Figure 1).
- Employers sought mechanical engineers who had experience in the sector in which they operate (for example, in mining, rail or manufacturing).
- It was also a requirement that all suitable applicants were familiar with Queensland and Australian building codes and regulations.
- Around 90 per cent of all qualified mechanical engineers were unsuitable. Most unsuitable mechanical engineers had experience outside of the sector in which the business operates, with employers not considering this experience to be transferable.
- A small number of mechanical engineers withdrew from recruitment rounds as they specifically sought fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) work. Most employers said FIFO work is offered only in very rare circumstances, with current roles generally requiring successful applicants to be either based in the region or able to participate in a drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) arrangement.

2019 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Mechanical Engineer, 2017 to 2019



Key to ratings: NS = No shortage

Demand and supply

- There are signs of strengthening demand for mechanical engineers in Queensland, reflecting the survey results that show a tightening labour market.
 - Employment and advertised vacancy numbers for the broad group of Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers have grown in recent years (but remain below the levels recorded a decade ago).
 - New supply, though, has also risen over recent years, likely limiting potential shortages.
 - The number of people completing degrees specialising in Mechanical Engineering almost doubled in Queensland over the five years to 2017.

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

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Labour Force, May 2019, Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business trend; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business; Internet Vacancy Index, May 2019, 12 month moving averages; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised data tables (domestic students).

Where data for the broad group of Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers are used, more detailed data are not available (Census data suggest that Mechanical Engineers account for around 70 per cent of this group).