



ANZSCO 2515-11, 13 Hospital and Retail Pharmacist

Australian Capital Territory
May 2018

Current labour market rating – Shortage

This labour market has tightened in recent years and shortages are now apparent for the first time in a decade. The demand for pharmacists has strengthened in recent years, while the number of students completing relevant training in the ACT has fallen.

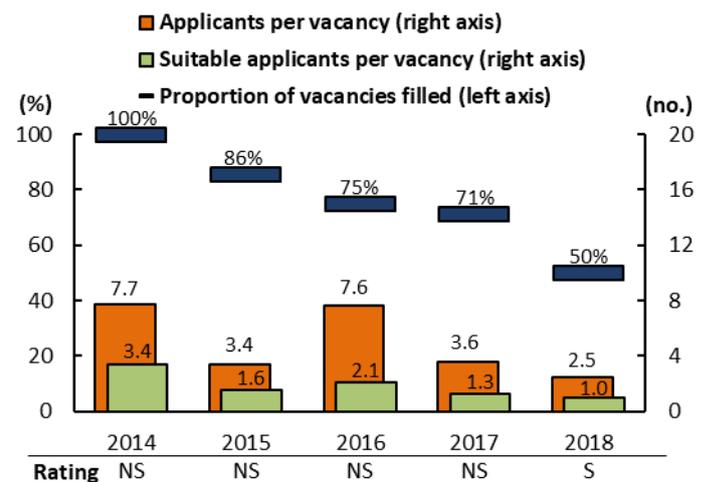
Key issues¹

- Surveyed employers attracted very few applicants in 2018 and only half of their vacancies were filled.
 - Applicant numbers and the proportion of vacancies filled have declined steadily in recent years and are now at historically low levels (see figure on right).
- Employers generally had difficulty regardless of whether they were recruiting for positions in hospitals or retail pharmacies.
- One quarter of applicants did not hold the qualification required for registration as a pharmacist.
- In addition, a number of qualified applicants were regarded as unsuitable, typically because they lacked the required experience (which usually needed to be specific to the sector and role).
- Some employers had unfilled vacancies despite attracting suitable applicants due, for instance, to reasons which included suitable applicants deciding not to relocate to the ACT, and employers and applicants being unable to agree on work hours.

2018 Survey results



Figure 1: Survey results, Hospital and Retail Pharmacist, 2014 to 2018



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

Demand and supply trends

- The demand for pharmacists in the ACT is strong. The number of registered and practising pharmacists in the ACT increased by around 32 per cent over the five years to March 2018, while advertised vacancy numbers were at an historic high in the year to June 2018.
- New supply is reducing, with the total number of students completing either a Bachelor of Pharmacy or Master of Pharmacy in the ACT falling over the five years to 2016. Commencements, though, have increased strongly since the introduction of a new bachelor degree course at the University of Canberra in 2013, which may lead to increased supply over the next few years.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#). Additional data sources: Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2016; AHPRA, Pharmacy Board of Australia, Registrant Data, various issues; Departments of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, June 2018, 12 month moving average