



# Sheetmetal Trades Worker

## ANZSCO 3222-11

Western Australia  
December 2018

### Current labour market rating: No shortage<sup>1</sup>

Despite often requiring applicants to have prior experience in specialist products or industries, surveyed employers attracted an average of 1.2 suitable applicants per vacancy and filled a majority of their vacancies.

### Key research findings

- Surveyed employers included those looking for sheet metal trades workers for the manufacture of metal-based products for maritime use, the oil and gas sector, hospitality, pharmaceutical firms and for use in mining.
- Employers required expertise in the operation of guillotines, plate rollers, plate folders and hand tools, to work a range of materials including aluminium, stainless steel, carbon steel and galvanised steel.
  - Well-developed skills in the interpretation of architectural, mechanical, structural and shop drawings were also requirements for all positions.
  - A number of employers also sought applicants with the ability to undertake MIG and TIG welding, previous experience in heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) and additional licences such as a forklift licence.
- Employers sought applicants who were reliable and solutions-focused, who could integrate well into existing teams, mentor junior colleagues and work unsupervised.
- Many roles were highly specialised, with a large proportion of workshops catering to specific industries or providing specialist products. As such, employers often sought applicants with previous experience that was relevant to the focus of their workshops.
- Employers required applicants with an appropriate trade qualification and at least four years post-apprenticeship experience.
- Fifty-five per cent of applicants were appropriately qualified, 84 per cent of whom were deemed unsuitable.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>2</sup>



80%  
of vacancies  
filled



13.7  
Applicants per  
vacancy



7.6  
Qualified  
applicants  
per vacancy

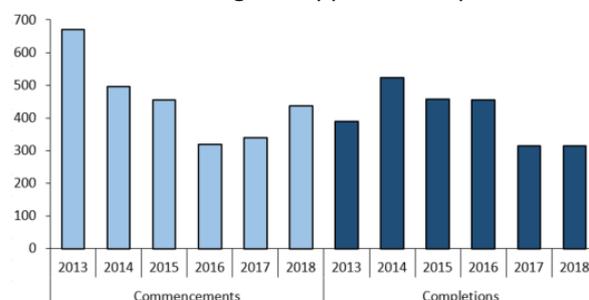


1.2  
Suitable  
applicants per  
vacancy

- Qualified applicants were deemed unsuitable due to a lack of specialised experience such as experience in ductwork manufacturing or prior experience in the manufacture of products for maritime use.
  - Other reasons employers deemed applicants unsuitable included poor communication skills, unstable work histories, poorly presented applications and failed work trials. Employers rejected those applicants who sought wages considerably in excess of the amount offered.

### Demand and supply

- Data at December 2018 show that vacancies have grown by 19 per cent over the last 12 months, but may be entering a period of decline.
- Entry into this profession is via a Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Light YC), which is obtained through an apprenticeship.



<sup>1</sup> Insufficient data was obtained to comment on the availability of this trade in regional areas of Western Australia, therefore the findings of this survey should be considered relevant only to the Perth metropolitan area.

<sup>2</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#).

Additional Data Sources: Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index December 2018; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates.