

Sheetmetal Trades Worker

ANZSCO 3222-11

South Australia
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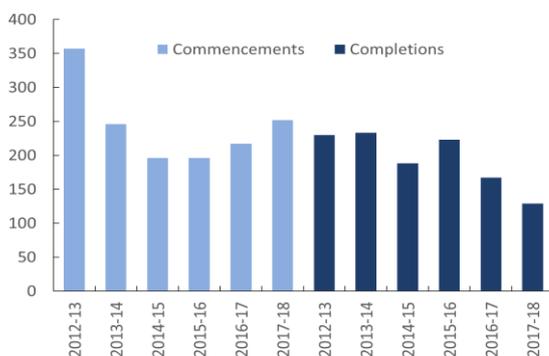
Current labour market rating: Shortage

The labour market for sheetmetal trades workers has tightened in recent years, with applicant numbers and the proportion of vacancies filled falling significantly.

Key research findings

- The main reasons why applicants were unsuccessful were due to:
 - Lack of relevant experience
 - Lack of basic qualifications
- Employers surveyed identified that the demand varied depending on work needs of the industry.
- In 2018, the number of vacancies filled rose with 44 per cent of vacancies filled, compared 22 per cent in 2017.
- There was an average of 29.1 applicants per vacancy in 2018 compared to only 4 applicants per vacancy in 2017.
- Employers also identified applicants were working in regional mining areas for temporary shutdown work, which meant less candidates for vacancies.
- Employers indicated several applicants had moved interstate to work in the mines.
- Employers reported a vast majority of applicants had just left school and did not have the qualifications or experience required for the vacancy.

Figure 1: Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade commencements and completions 2012-13 to 2017-18



2018 Survey Results¹



Demand and supply

- The Census identified the industry is male dominated.²
 - Of the sheetmetal workers in South Australia 88.3 per cent were employees and 10.7 per cent were owner managers.
 - Approximately 90 per cent resided in Greater Adelaide.
 - Approximately, 71 per cent of sheetmetal trades workers had a certificate III or IV, and 28.2 per cent have no post-school qualifications.
- The reduction of South Australian manufacturing activity, which includes the closure of General Motors Holden and its supply chain, and a gap in Defence ship building in 2017, suggests a decrease in demand for the occupation.³
- In 2017, sheet metal trades were estimated as being 12.4 per cent of the total workforce in South Australia.⁴
- Apprentices and Trainee Data for Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade indicated completions declined from 167 in the 2016-17 Financial Year to 129 in 2017-18.⁵

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business.

Additional Data Sources:

² Census of Population and Housing 2016

³ Government of South Australia, Mid-Year Budget Review 2018-19, December 2018

⁴ ABS Labour Force Survey, annual average 2017, Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003: Customised Report

⁵ NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates