

Sheetmetal Trades Worker ANZSCO 3222-11

New South Wales
December 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

This is the first year since 2013 that there has been a state wide shortage in NSW for sheetmetal trades workers. However, there was a metropolitan shortage from 2015 to 2017. The proportion of vacancies filled in 2018, at 25%, was much lower than the average for the previous four years of 58% (see Figure 1).

Key research findings

- Employers filled 25% of vacancies with an average of 6.9 applicants, 1.2 qualified applicants and 0.5 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- The majority of vacancies surveyed were in manufacturing settings. These included the manufacture of kitchen ventilation and air conditioning systems as well as enclosures and custom sheetmetal work.
- Employers sought qualified applicants with a preference of two to four years industry experience. High technical skills were also required in the forming, assembly and finishing of sheetmetal.
- Among qualified applicants, 62% were considered unsuitable for the role. The majority of qualified applicants were unsuitable due to a lack of technical skills and experience such as in the fabrication and finishing of components.
- Employers, who were unable to fill their vacancies, commented that existing staff were working overtime, or they were considering hiring additional general labourers or apprentices.

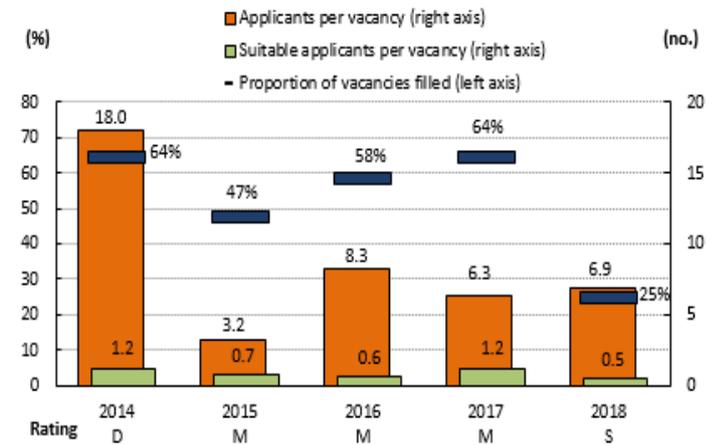
Demand and supply

- Usually entry into this trade is through the completion of an apprenticeship, a Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade. There were 467 completions over the year to June 2018, the lowest in a decade. However, the 867 commencements were the highest since 2012-13.
 - This data supports employer's comments that it is becoming harder to source suitable applicants for this occupation.

2018 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Sheetmetal Trades Worker, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: D = Recruitment difficulty, M = Metropolitan shortage, S = Shortage

- Vacancies advertised on the internet for sheetmetal trade workers has declined by 6% over the four months to December 2018. However, this followed a rise of around 72% over the five year to August 2018.
- The number of primary applicant's of temporary skilled migration visas granted to sheetmetal trades worker is very small compared to the apprenticeship completions, with an average of around 12 visas being granted in NSW in the five years to 2017-18.
- The ABS Census data shows there were 1,400 sheetmetal trades workers in 2016, a drop of 26% from 2011 where there were 1,890 employed in this occupation.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates; Internet Vacancy Index, December 2018, 12 month moving average; Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Work (Skilled) Visas Granted; ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing.