

Sheetmetal Trades Worker

ANZSCO 3222-11

Queensland
December 2018

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

More than three quarters of vacancies were filled, with employers attracting suitable applicants across both regional and metropolitan areas.

Key research findings

- Employers generally attracted suitable applicants and were able to fill vacancies easily.
 - More than three quarters of vacancies were filled and, on average, 1.6 applicants per vacancy were considered suitable.

Recruitment experience

- Overall, there was little difference in the recruitment experiences of regional and Brisbane employers in 2018.
 - The difficulties experienced in Brisbane in 2017, and in regional areas during the past two years, appear to be easing.
- The size of applicant fields has declined over the past few years, although the number of applicants employers regard as suitable has largely remained stable.
 - In 2018, there were, on average, 8.5 applicants per vacancy, compared with the peak of 30.8 applicants per vacancy found in 2015.
- Some contacts stated that a number of sheetmetal workers had transitioned from light manufacturing to heavy manufacturing (particularly boilermaker roles) which offer higher wage rates. It is therefore difficult to attract them back to sheetmetal work.

Unsuitable applicants

- The main reasons that applicants were considered unsuitable were:
 - their failure to hold basic qualifications
 - a lack of specific experience in the relevant industry
 - poor technical skills, quality and speed of work.

Demand and supply

- While indicators of the demand for sheetmetal trades workers are mixed, supply to the occupation has fallen.
- Employment of sheetmetal trades workers grew in 2018, while online vacancies declined.

2018 Survey Results¹



81%
of vacancies filled



8.5
Applicants per vacancy

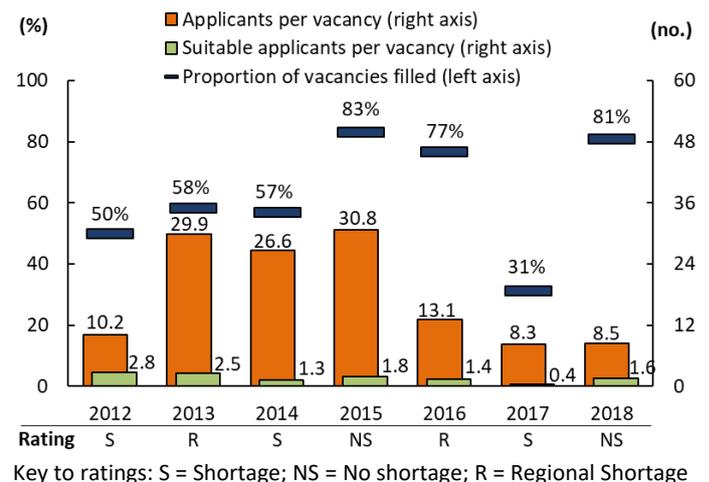


2.3
Qualified applicants per vacancy



1.6
Suitable applicants per vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Sheetmetal Trades Worker, Queensland, 2012 to 2018



- The gross value added by the Queensland manufacturing industry, in which most sheetmetal trades workers are employed, grew by 3.5% in the year to June 2018. This follows several years of consecutive falls.
- The number of apprentices completing a Certificate III in Engineering Fabrication (which includes other related trade occupations) fell by 44% over the four years to the June quarter 2018. Future completions, however, may increase due to recent growth in apprenticeship commencements.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: ABS, 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2017-18, Table 4; ABS, Labour Force, November 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, 12 month moving average; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III)