

# Metal Fabricator

## ANZSCO 3223-11

Queensland  
November 2018

### Current labour market rating: No Shortage

Consistent with results from recent years, no shortages of metal fabricators are evident in Queensland.

#### Employer requirements

- Almost all surveyed employers were advertising for boilermakers. Tasks of the advertised positions generally included fabricating or repairing a range of metal plant and equipment. Employers were generally seeking qualified and experienced metal fabricators.
- Other common requirements were the ability to read and understand drawings, a driver's licence, other relevant licences or tickets, a commitment to safety, the ability to work unsupervised and attention to detail.

#### Key research findings

- 79 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled. Employers received, on average, 10.2 applicants per vacancy, of whom 1.5 were considered suitable.
- Employers most commonly found applicants unsuitable due to lacking qualifications, experience or failing skills tests. Lacking specific experience in the employers' sector was also a common reason for candidates not being considered for the position.
- A number of employers also mentioned being unable to agree with candidates on remuneration.

#### Demand and supply

- While conditions in the Queensland economy remain positive, employment in many metal manufacturing sub-sectors declined over the year to November 2018.
- Between late 2013 and mid-2015, the number of employed structural steel and welding trades workers (which includes metal fabricators) declined significantly, and no sustained growth has been evident since. Employment is currently at the lowest level recorded since May 2006.
- The number of fabrication engineering trade apprentices<sup>2</sup> commencing in Queensland rose sharply in the year to June 2018, to 915. Completions, though, continue to decline, falling to around 500 over the same period.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>

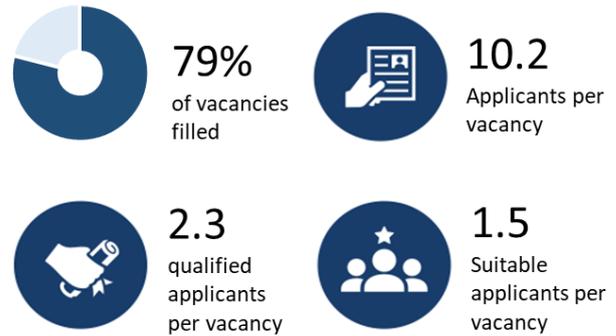
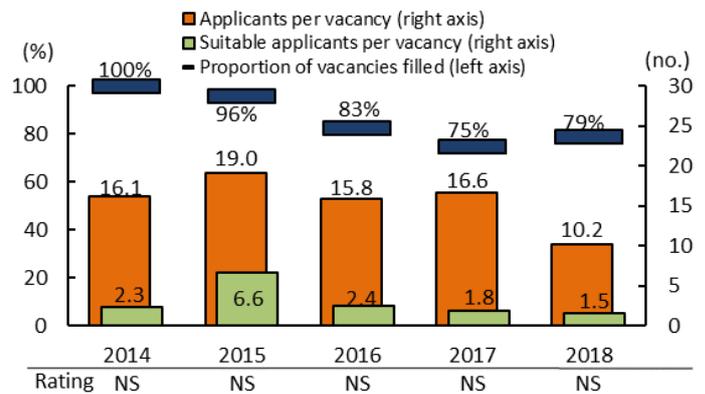
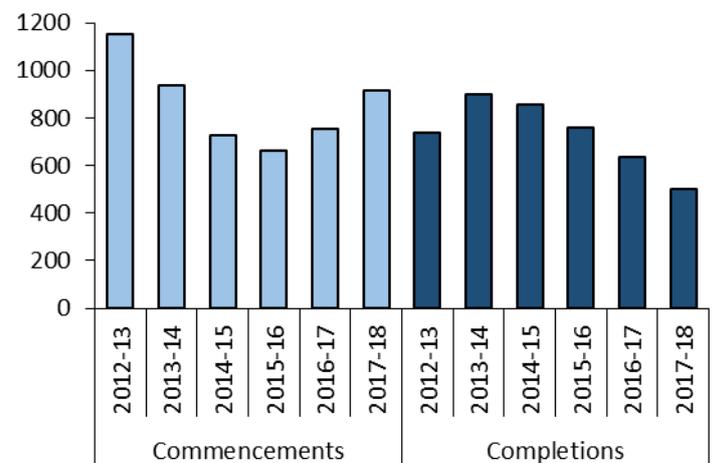


Figure 1: Survey results, Metal Fabricator, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: NS = No shortage

Figure 2: Fabrication Trades Engineering apprenticeship commencements and completions, 2012-13 to 2017-18



<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: ABS, Labour Force Survey, November 2018 (Department of Jobs and Small Business trended).

<sup>2</sup> NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018 (separate data are not available for metal fabricators).