

# ANZSCO 3232 Metal Fitters and Machinists

# Northern Territory December 2017

**Current labour market rating**

**No Shortage]**

Previous labour market rating (December 2016)

Recruitment Difficulty

## Comments

*The number of qualified metal fitters and machinists looking for work in the Northern Territory increased over the year.*

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

- The 2017 survey of employers who had recently advertised for metal fitters and machinists shows 60 per cent of vacancies were filled within the survey period. This is a decrease from the 2016 survey which showed 84 per cent of vacancies filled.
- Excluding a small number of employers who attracted large responses to their vacancies, there were on average 4.0 applicants per vacancy compared to 4.7 reported in 2016.
- On average, there were 4.0 qualified applicants per vacancy, a significant increase from 2016 results which showed 2.8 qualified applicants per vacancy. The 2017 survey also showed there were 2.0 suitable applicants per vacancy, an increase from the 1.3 suitable applicants per vacancy reported in 2016.
  - All applicants for metropolitan vacancies were qualified and considered suitable. On average there were 4.0 qualified applicants per vacancy an increase on the 2.8 qualified applicants in 2016.
  - In regional areas, the 2017 survey shows there were 3.5 qualified applicants per vacancy, of which 2.0 applicants per vacancy was considered suitable, a slight increase to the survey findings for regional areas in 2016.

## Unsuitable applicants

- There was no predominant reason why applicants were considered unsuitable. Employers listed a variety of reasons as to why applicants were unsuitable such as:
  - lack of specific experience;
  - remoteness and relocation issues;
  - applicant dislike of working conditions;
  - applicant wage/remuneration expectations; and
  - poor references

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<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#) and can also be accessed by the QR code.



## Demand and supply trends

- The average number of people employed as metal fitters and machinists in the Northern Territory decreased by 1.7 per cent over the year to August 2017.<sup>2</sup> However, the Department of Jobs and Small Business occupation projections show a decline in the growth of this occupation of 5.7 per cent nationally over the five years to May 2022.<sup>3</sup>
- Nationally, the Department's Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) increased by 0.5% in October 2017 and has risen 12 consecutive months for the first time since March 2011. However, the IVI shows that the number of online vacancies for metal fitters and machinists in the Northern Territory significantly increased (by over 40 per cent) in the 12 months to October 2017 compared to the previous 12 months.<sup>4</sup>
- Entry into this trade is through the completion of an apprenticeship in engineering fabrication. Training in Certificate III in Engineering-Fabrication Trade is available in the Northern Territory through Charles Darwin University and Site Skills Training.<sup>5</sup>
- There was an average of 47 Engineering-Fabrication Trade apprenticeship commencements per annum over the five years to June 2017, down from an average of 56 per annum in the five years to June 2012.
- Completions of Certificate III Engineering-Fabrication Trade remained relatively stable over the five years to June 2017, with an average of almost 29 apprentices completing per year. However, this is slightly down from the average of 32 per annum for the period 2007 to 2012.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2016-17, there were less than 5 primary applicant 457 visas grants for structural steel and welding trades workers in the Northern Territory. Visas granted for this occupation have decreased each year, since the peak of 30 granted 457 visas in 2011-12.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> ABS, *Labour Force Australia*, August 2017, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Trend data

<sup>3</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, Occupational Employment Projections to May 2022

<sup>4</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business Internet Vacancy Index data, October 2017, 12 month moving average.

<sup>5</sup> Myskill website

<sup>6</sup> National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Apprentices and Trainees, June 2017, estimates Counting: Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade

<sup>7</sup> Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Subclass 457 visas granted pivot table, (2017-18 to 30 September 2017 - comparison with previous years), as at 30 September 2017. ([www.data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au))