

# Metal Machinists (First Class)

## ANZSCO 3232-14

Queensland  
November 2018

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

This labour market has tightened compared with 2016. Metal machinist vacancies attract few suitable applicants and the majority of vacancies are not filled.

### Key research findings

- The labour market for metal machinists is small, with just 440 employed in this trade in Queensland at the time of the 2016 census.
- Overall, 38% of vacancies were filled, the lowest proportion since 2012 (see Figure 1). There were few applicants, an average of 3.2 per vacancy, of whom 0.6 were considered suitable.
- Vacancies for Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machinists appear to be particularly difficult to fill.
- The main reason applicants were unsuitable was because they either lacked the technical skills required or did not have experience working in the occupation.
- Some employers also stated that vacancies were unfilled, or applicants were not considered, due to being unable to agree on remuneration.
- A small number of employers reported they had fitters and turners apply (who had the necessary transferable skills) who withdrew after considering the role.

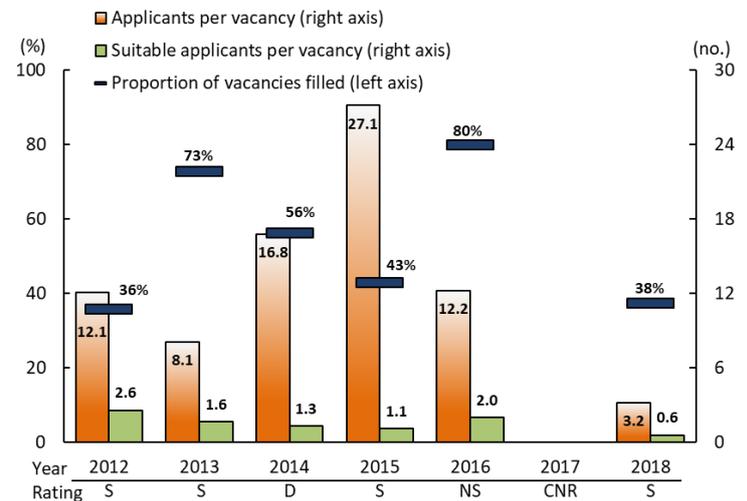
### Demand and supply

- Employment numbers for metal fitters and machinists have recovered from the lows recorded in late 2016 (following the end of the mining boom), but remain below the peak levels recorded in early to mid-2015.
- The Manufacturing and Other Services industries employ around 65% of all metal machinists. Over the last year, employment contracted for many sectors related to metal manufacturing, as well as machinery and transport repair or maintenance.
- While completion numbers for mechanical trades engineering apprenticeships have trended down since 2013-14, there has been an increase in commencement numbers in the last few years (see Figure 2).

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



Figure 1: Survey results, Metal Machinists, 2012 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; D = Recruitment difficulty; NS = No shortage; CNR = cannot rate

Figure 2: Mechanical 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, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; ABS, Labour Force, November 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, December 2018, 12 month average; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates, limited to certificate III and higher VET qualifications, MEM30205.