

Panelbeater

ANZSCO 3241-11

New South Wales
December 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

There was a shortage of panelbeaters across New South Wales in 2018. This continues the shortage for this occupation since 2011 (see Figure 1).

Key research findings

- The majority of vacancies were for collision and damage repair with some other vacancies in custom and vintage car restoration.
- This year's proportion of vacancies filled, 28%, was lower than the average of the previous five years of 41%.
- Employers had difficulty finding qualified and skilled applicants with sufficient and relevant experience. Applicants who lived outside the job site locality were also considered unsuitable.
- Seventy eight per cent of applicants lacked qualifications and were considered unsuitable. Employers commented that the general skill level of applicants was low.
- Regional employers in particular struggled to fill vacancies, receiving no qualified applicants.
- Employers managed the staff shortfall with existing staff working extra hours, hiring additional labourers and retaining panelbeaters with a low skill set.
- A number of employers indicated that they recruit through networking and word of mouth rather than advertising. Some employers described a high turnover in this trade.
- Regional employers described investing time and resources in training apprentices to accommodate for the shortage of qualified panelbeaters. Many employers indicated that they had more success in recruiting apprentices than qualified panelbeaters.

Demand and supply

- Entry into this trade is usually through the completion of an apprenticeship, generally a Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology. There were around 260 completions and 465 commencements over the year to June 2018 for the broad occupational group

2018 Survey Results¹

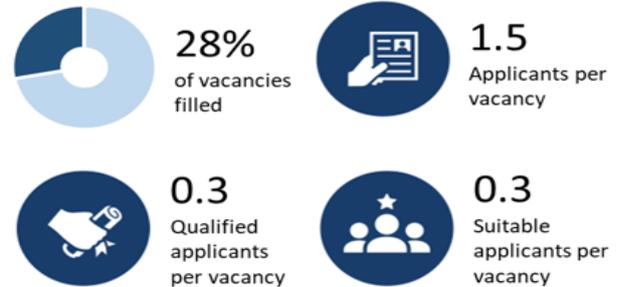
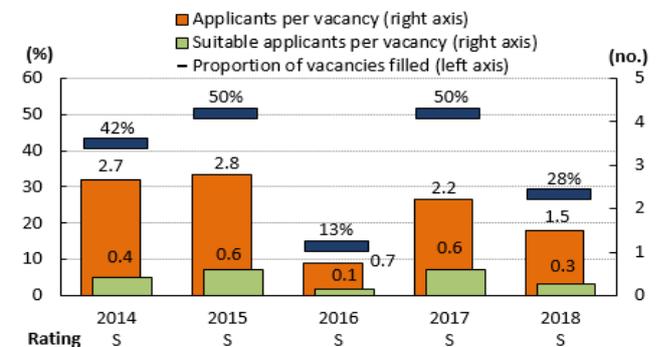


Figure 1: Survey results, Panelbeater, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage

of panelbeaters, vehicle body builders, trimmers and painters. This was below the previous five-year annual averages of 299 completions and 481 commencements.

- The number of internet vacancies advertised for panelbeaters have been on a decade long decline and in December 2018 were at the lowest level since the beginning of the data series in 2006.
- The number of temporary resident skilled visas granted averaged 29 per year in the five years to 2017-18. This remains a minor source of supply for this occupation.
- The number of business operating in NSW in the automotive body, paint and interior repair industry rose by 3.0% over the year to June 2018 and by 1.5% the previous year.
- There has been a long-term decline in the number of serious motor vehicle crashes in NSW. The number of crashes involving casualties in 2017 (around 16,800) was 26% lower than in 2007.

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, 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2014 to June 2018; NSW Centre for Road Safety, Annual statistical statement for road traffic casualty crashes in New South Wales 2017