

# Panelbeater

## ANZSCO 3241-11

Tasmania  
October 2018

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

In 2018, Tasmanian employers are unable to attract sufficient suitable applicants and the majority of vacancies remain unfilled. Shortages of panelbeaters have been persistent in Tasmania over the past five years.

### Key research findings<sup>1</sup>

- Two thirds of surveyed employers received no applicants.
- All surveyed employers sought qualified panelbeaters; however, less than a third of applicants were qualified.
  - Employers noted their ability to offer higher wages affected the number of qualified applicants.
- Employers noted that they have had difficulty filling vacancies for several years, and suggested that contributing factors included an ageing workforce, limited interest in apprenticeships and low retention rates for qualified panelbeaters.
- The main reasons applicants were considered unsuitable are a lack of qualifications and experience.
  - A small number of employers who had trouble filling vacancies hired apprentices or trades assistants to support qualified tradespeople.

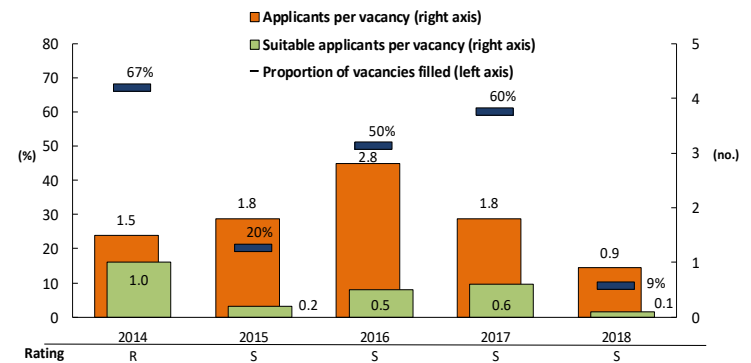
### Demand and supply

- Vehicle accident rates are a determinant of demand for panelbeaters. Data obtained from the Tasmanian Government shows that there were 11,446 heavy and light vehicle accidents during 2018, which has increased by 3.7 per cent since the previous year and is 11.4 per cent higher than the annual average in 2014.
- Formal training is through the apprenticeship system via a Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology<sup>2</sup>. Records show over the past four years commencements have remained relatively stable whilst completions have increased.
- According to the 2016 Census 220 people identified as panelbeaters in Tasmania.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>3</sup>

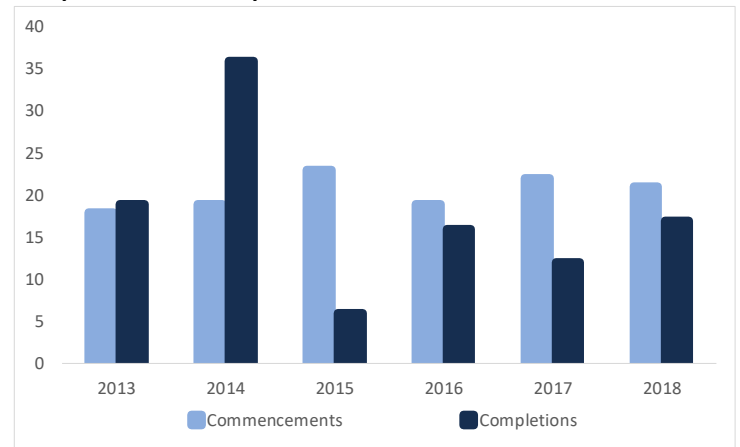


Figure 1: Survey results, Panelbeater, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: R = Regional Shortage; S = Shortage

Figure 2: Apprentices and trainees commencements and completions, Auto Repair Trades, June to 2018, estimates



<sup>1</sup> The Department of Jobs and Small Business supplemented this research by cold canvassing organisations as there were limited vacancies found in the lead-up to this report, and, as such, the findings should be used cautiously.

<sup>2</sup> Apprentice data for Auto Repair Trades incorporates panelbeater, vehicle body builders, trimmers and painters.

<sup>3</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#).

Additional Data Sources: ABS, 2016 Census of Housing and Population; Department of State Growth, Crash Data, Tasmania, unpublished; National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, June 2018 Estimates.