

Plumber ANZSCO 3341

Northern Territory September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers are seeking additional and specialist experience and skills suitable for their business needs.

Key research findings

- The Department of Jobs and Small Business surveyed employers who had recently advertised for plumbers finding 50 per cent of vacancies were filled.
- Despite attracting more applicants for regional vacancies, the proportion of suitable applicants was similar for both metropolitan and regional vacancies, (1.1 compared to 0.9, respectively) and was reflected in the vacancy fill rates, with 50 per cent of vacancies filled in both areas.
- 80 per cent of surveyed employers had positions remain vacant, with 20 per cent of employers receiving no applications.
- 98 per cent of applicants were qualified, with 66 per cent of these applicants considered unsuitable as they did not possess additional qualifications or experience, such as gas tickets, roof or residential plumbing experience.

Demand and supply

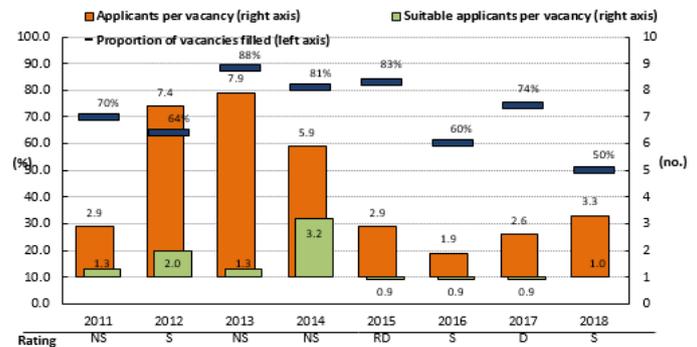
- Over 75 per cent of plumbers are employed in the construction industry and therefore occupational demand is mainly influenced by developments in this sector.
- Overall, the construction sector in the Northern Territory has fallen for five quarters.
- The total value of building work done in the NT fell by 19.5 per cent over the year to September 2018 this was due mainly to a 22 per cent decrease in engineering construction.
- The largest decrease was over the September 2018 quarter which fell by 24 per cent between June and September 2018.
- A major source of supply to the trade is new apprenticeship graduates who have completed their training in Certificate III in Plumbing.
- Since 2014, the number of commencements in this trade has been decreasing by 4 per cent each year, although averaging 47 new commencements per year. In 2018, there were 39 new commencements which is the lowest number recorded over the last ten years.

- Completion rates increased slightly over the year to September, with 33 apprentices graduating, up from 28 in 2017. Although the number of apprentices completing their training has decreased by 2 per cent each year over the past four years, on average 34 apprentices are completing their trade training each year over the same period.
- Internet vacancies for plumbers in the NT has remained at similar levels over the past four years.
- The number of plumbers registered with the Plumbers and Drainers Licensing board has slightly increased from 609 in 2017 to 629 in 2018.

2018 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Plumbers, 2011 to 2018



Key to ratings: R = Regional Shortage; NS = No shortage S = Shortage; D = Recruitment difficulty; RD = Regional Recruitment Difficulty

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: 2016 Census Population and Housing; Construction Work Done, Preliminary, December 2018, Cat 8755.0; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, as at September 2018; Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board – Registration Data as at October 2018