

# Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic ANZSCO 3421-11

Queensland  
September 2018

## Current labour market rating: Regional Shortage

A shortage of skilled airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics is evident in regional areas, with few applicants for positions in these areas.

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

- In 2018, surveyed employers in regional areas filled 25 per cent of their advertised vacancies, while those in Brisbane filled 71 per cent.
- Compared with 2017, applicant fields were substantially smaller in both regional and metropolitan areas.
  - In regional areas, there were 1.8 applicants per vacancy, on average, compared with 10.7 in 2017. In metropolitan areas, there were 5.6 applicants per vacancy, compared with 13.2 in 2017.
  - The number of suitable applicants also fell, with employers in regional areas now receiving an average of 0.8 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Several employers who service both the commercial and domestic industry did not receive any applicants in response to their advertisements.
- Employers reported that a majority of the applicants were qualified, typically holding a Certificate III in Airconditioning and Refrigeration.
- A small number of employers reported that applicants' experience was often limited, for example, to the installation of domestic air conditioners, and they generally regarded these applicants as unsuitable.
- A small number of employers noted that turnover in this occupation increases when mining industry is hiring.

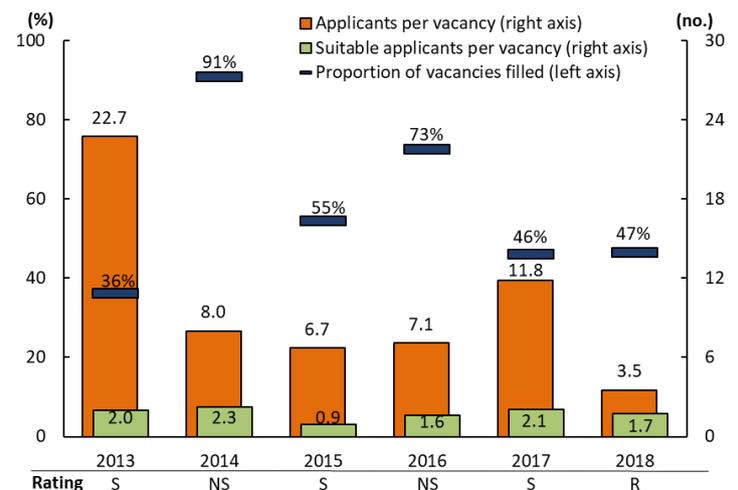
### Demand and supply

- There are currently around 3900 airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics employed in Queensland, around three quarters of whom are in the Construction industry, or in the Other Services industry (which includes repair and maintenance).
- Over the year to March 2018, there were there were around 370 airconditioning and refrigeration mechanic apprenticeship commencements and 150 completions in Queensland.

## 2018 Survey Results



Figure 1: Survey results, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics, 2018



Source: Department of Jobs and Small Business, Survey of Employers who Recently Advertised. Key to ratings: S = Shortage; R = Regional Shortage; NS = No shortage

- Completions have increased strongly over the past five years although it is not yet clear whether these gains will be sustained.
- Internet vacancies for this occupation in Queensland, declined over the year to September 2018, but remain similar to levels recorded throughout 2016 to mid-2018.

<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](#). Other data sources: ABS, Labour Force, November 2018; ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III); Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, September 2018, 12 month moving average.