

# Electrician (General) ANZSCO 3411-11

## Australian Capital Territory August 2018

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

The demand for electricians in the ACT has been strong in recent years, while new supply has fallen, and shortages are now apparent for the first time since 2008.

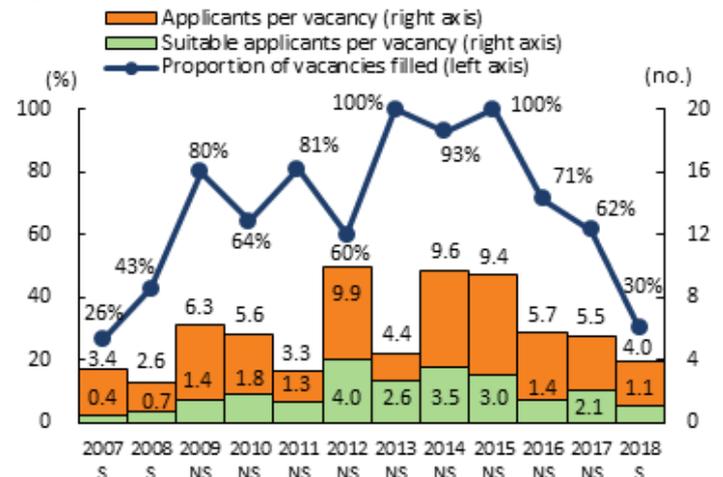
### Key research findings

- In 2018, the proportion of vacancies filled and the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy were at the lowest levels in a decade (Figure 1).
  - Around 90 per cent of surveyed employers had at least one unfilled vacancy.
- This is a licensable trade and employers sought trade qualified and licensed electricians.
- Surveyed employers generally sought applicants with experience as an electrician (typically specific to the role) and valued those with communication skills.
- Around half the applicants did not hold the required trade qualification. In addition, around 40 per cent of qualified applicants were regarded as unsuitable, commonly because they lacked the required experience.
- The demand for electricians is influenced by construction activity, which has been robust in the ACT over the last three years, and employer comments suggest that the demand for electrical work in the ACT is strong.
  - Consistent with this, the number of advertised vacancies for electricians in the ACT has risen strongly during this period.
- New supply has not kept pace with this demand, with electrician apprenticeship completions falling over the past three years (Figure 2). Apprenticeship completions, though, are likely to rise over the next few years with commencements increasing strongly in recent years.
- Indicators of future demand from construction are mixed.
  - The number of dwelling approvals in the ACT has increased strongly over past year to an historic high, indicating a solid pipeline of residential building.
  - Master Builders Australia, however, forecasts declining levels of total construction in the ACT over the next two years, including large falls in non-residential building and engineering construction.

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

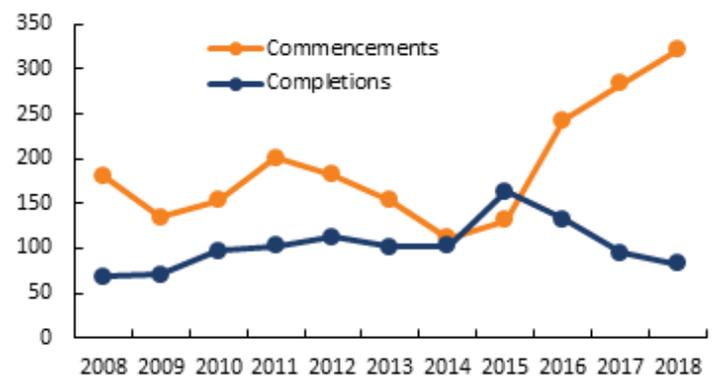


Figure 1: Survey results, Electrician, ACT, 2007 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; NS = No shortage

Figure 2: Electrician apprenticeship commencements and completions, ACT, 2008 to 2018 (year to March)



<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 8755.0 Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, June 2018, chain volume measures, trend; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018, 12 month moving average; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018 (limited to certificate III); ABS, 8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia, August 2018, trend; Master Builders Australia, Industry Forecasts Australian Capital Territory, June 2018