



Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic

ANZSCO 3421-11

Tasmania
August 2018

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is strong demand for airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics in Tasmania in 2018. The majority of surveyed employers are able to fill their vacancies; however some report the need to recruit from outside of Tasmania or hire short-term contractors.

Key research findings¹

- The number of vacancies filled has remained stable over the past five years.
- All surveyed employers sought qualified applicants.
 - A number of employers indicated there was strong competition for qualified applicants and a high level of movement within the industry, with attractive contracts being offered for work on large construction projects.
 - For the small number of vacancies that were not filled, employers advised this was due to qualified applicants seeking higher wages.
- Half of the employers surveyed reported filling vacancies via their networks rather than formal advertising.
- Most surveyed employers considered unqualified applicants unsuitable. In addition, employers sought candidates with experience across industries or projects.

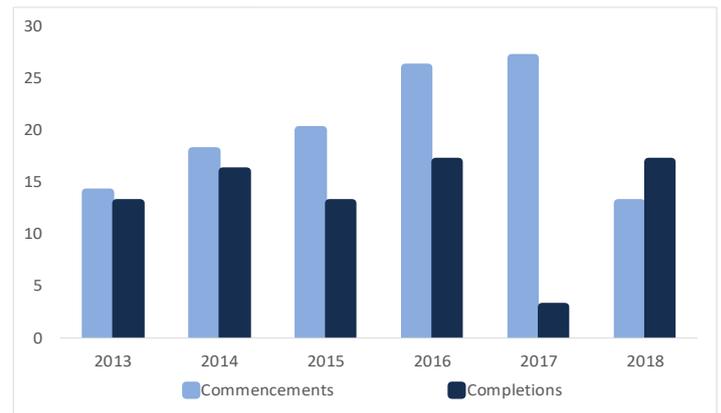
Demand and supply

- Demand for airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics is largely driven by the level of activity in the building and construction industry.
 - The value of building work approved (chain volume measures) in Tasmania increased by 29.1 per cent for the year to June 2018.
 - Construction industry employment in Tasmania is projected to grow by 6.0 per cent over the four years to May 2022 compared with 5.6 per cent for all industries.

2018 Survey Results²



Figure 1: Apprentices and trainees commencements and completions, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic, March 2013 to 2018, estimates



- Formal training is through the apprenticeship system via a Certificate III in Airconditioning and Refrigeration. The number of completions sharply dropped in 2017, suggesting there could be future supply issues if demand stays strong.
- According to the 2016 Census data, 270 people identified as airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics in Tasmania, 16.3 per cent were owner managers and 82.6 per cent were employees.
 - Most airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics hold a qualification, with 83.1 per cent holding either a certificate III or higher.

¹ 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.

² The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#).

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Building Approvals, Aug 2018; ABS, 2016 Census of Housing and Population; Department of Jobs and Small Business Employment Projections, Regional projections – five years to May 2022; National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2018 estimates.