

## Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic ANZSCO 3421-11

Australian Capital Territory  
September 2018

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

This is a relatively small labour market and there are few vacancies advertised for airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics in the ACT. The majority of employers attract low numbers of suitable applicants and most vacancies remain unfilled.

### Key research findings

- Employers generally had difficulty filling their vacancies.
  - Although employers attracted an average of 5.7 applicants per vacancy, only 0.5 per vacancy were deemed to be suitable.
  - A third of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising.
- The occupation has been in shortage for three of the past four years.

### Employer requirements

- Employers sought skilled workers to install, maintain, and repair airconditioning or refrigeration systems across the residential and commercial sectors.
- Successful applicants were required to be trade qualified and have experience working with a range of airconditioning and refrigeration equipment.
- An Australian Refrigeration Council Refrigerant Handling Licence is required to work on refrigeration and airconditioning equipment.
  - Other requirements include a construction induction (white) card, asbestos awareness training, a driver's licence and good customer service skills.

### Unsuitable applicants

- Applicants were considered to be unsuitable if they were not qualified or licensed.
- Although employers attracted many qualified applicants, most were not suitable because they
  - lacked the minimum length of general or specialised trade experience
  - had a poor employment history.

### Demand and supply

- This is a small labour market, with around 290 licensed airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics in the ACT.

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

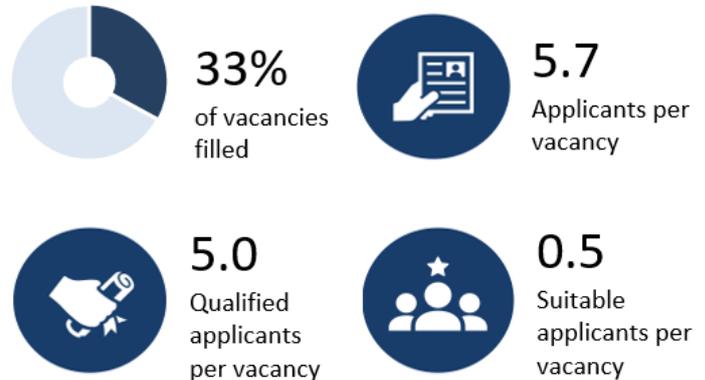
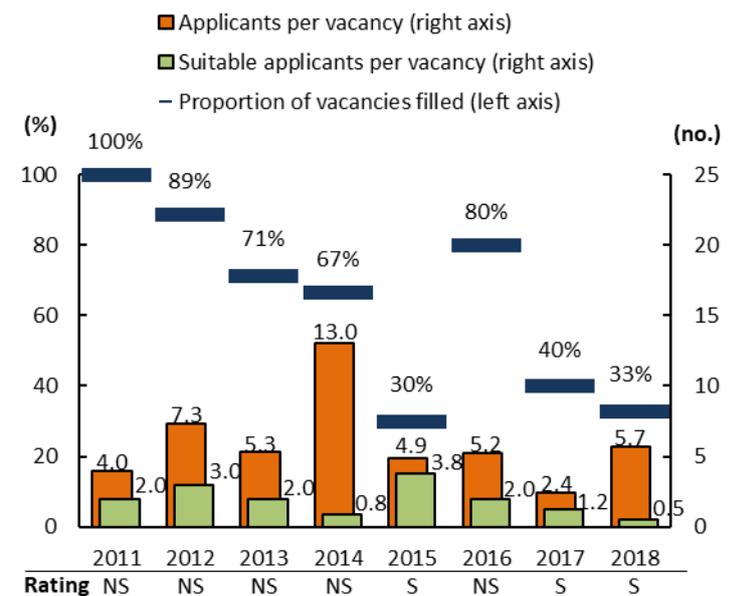


Figure 1: Survey results, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic, 2011 to 2018



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

- Entry to this trade is through the completion of an apprenticeship. Training numbers are relatively low (reflecting the small size of this occupation in the ACT).
  - Apprenticeship and traineeship commencements increased over the past three years to around 60 in the year to March 2018.
  - While the number of completions remains small, recent growth in commencements suggest that completions will likely expand in the near future.

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#).

Additional Data Sources: Australian Refrigeration Council, special data request, July 2017. These data include apprentice (trainee) licence holders; NCVET, VOCSTATS, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates.