

Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic

ANZSCO 3421-11

Victoria
August 2018

Current labour market rating: No shortage

This is the first time no shortage has been identified for this occupation in five years, noting that a metropolitan only shortage was identified in 2015.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 82 per cent of vacancies from averages of 4.1 applicants, 2.5 qualified applicants and 1.6 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Many employers found it difficult to attract suitable applicants as well as pay the relatively high level of remuneration demanded by the preferred applicant.
- Positions in regional areas attracted fewer qualified and suitable applicants per vacancy.
- The industrial refrigeration sector experienced the most difficulty filling vacancies.
- All employers required applicants to be qualified and be endorsed for the particular sector.
- Inexperience in the relevant industry sector was the most common reason for the unsuitability of qualified applicants.

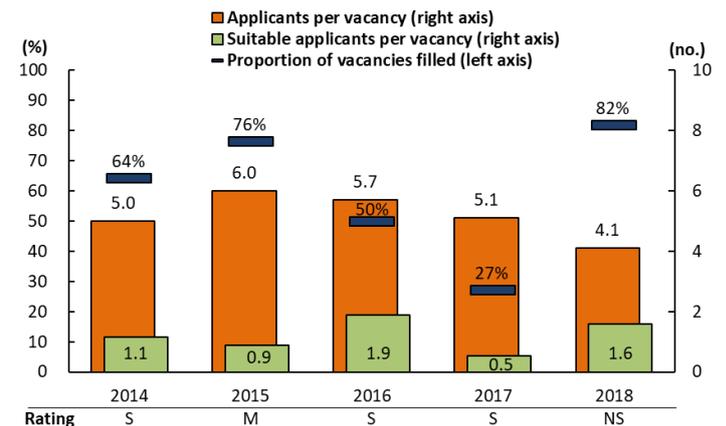
Demand and supply

- Most indicators suggest that demand for this occupation is likely to continue to increase, however, it is unclear to what extent it will be met by supply in the foreseeable future.
- Demand for airconditioning and refrigeration mechanics is partly driven by building activity levels.
- The value of building approvals in August 2018 was just over one billion dollars and follows a monthly average of almost 1.2 billion dollars in the year to August 2018.
- Internet vacancies for this occupation increased by 30 per cent over the year to August 2018 and have increased by 105 per cent over five years.
- Entry into the trade is usually through completion of an apprenticeship, typically a Certificate III in Refrigeration and Airconditioning.
 - For the year to March 2018 the number commencements were 294, above the five-year annual average of 249. Completions of 161 over the same period is an increase over the five-year average of 120.

2018 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage M = Metropolitan shortage NS = No shortage

- Refrigerant handling licensing and restricted class electrical licensing are generally regarded by the industry as mandatory qualifications.
 - There were 4300 people with full refrigerant handling licence in Victoria in 2017, a 9.7 per cent increase on the level recorded in 2016 and an average annual increase of 11.1 per cent since 2012.
 - Data from Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) shows that there were a total of 1384 restricted class electrical licences issued for 2017-18 compared to 1381 for the 2016-17 year.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Building Approvals, Australia, Table 31 Value of Building Approved - Victoria, August 2018; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018, 12 month moving average; Energy Safe Victoria (ESV), Electrical licensing and registrations 2017-18; Australian Refrigeration Council, Holders of full refrigerant licences; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III).