



Telecommunications Trades Workers

ANZSCO 3424

Australia
September 2018

Telecommunications trades workers install, maintain and repair data transmission equipment, aerial lines, conduits, cables, radio antennae and telecommunications equipment and appliances.

Current labour market rating: No shortage

This labour market eased in 2018 and widespread shortages are no longer apparent, with employers generally attracting sufficient numbers of suitable candidates.

Key research findings

- Fields of applicants were relatively large in 2018 and nearly four in five employers attracted suitable applicants.
- That said, employers continue to have more difficulty than they did from 2012 to 2014 (Figure 1).
 - Some employers suggested that the ongoing National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout is still affecting the availability of skilled workers.
- A significant number of surveyed vacancies were for work relating to the rollout of the NBN.
- Most employers sought applicants with Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) open cabling registration and around two thirds of vacancies required applicants to be trade qualified.
- In addition, employers typically sought applicants with experience and skills specific to the role.

Demand

- The demand for telecommunications trades workers has strengthened in recent years.
 - Over the past three years, advertised vacancies and the level of employment have grown strongly (up by 37 and 31 per cent, respectively).
- Telecommunications infrastructure investment, which influences the demand for these workers, continues to be historically high but has fallen recently.
 - Telecommunications construction activity fell by around 20 per cent over the year to June 2018.
- Employment in this occupation is projected to fall by 8.0 per cent over the five years to May 2023, with demand from telecommunications investment likely to fall as the NBN rollout approaches completion.

2018 Survey Results¹



62%
of vacancies
filled



12.1
Applicants per
vacancy

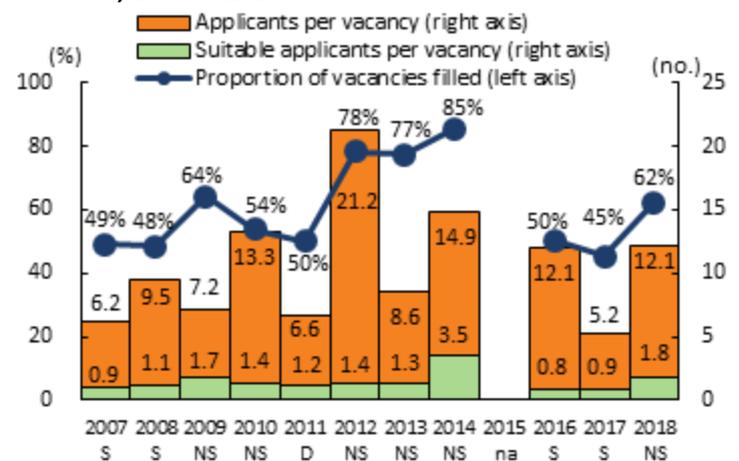


3.0
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



1.8
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Telecommunications trades workers, Australia, 2007 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; NS = No shortage;
D = Recruitment Difficulty; na = not assessed

Supply

- Many of the surveyed employers cited ACMA open cabling registration as a requirement. Prerequisites for registration include the completion of specific competencies in the ICT or Electrotechnology training packages, which are often undertaken as part of a certificate III qualification.
- The number of students enrolled in certificate III courses relevant to this occupation peaked in 2016, but fell sharply in 2017.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: ABS, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations; ABS, 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, June 2018, original; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018, 12 month moving average; ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend; NCVER VOCSTATS, TVA program enrolments, 2017; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Employment Projections to May 2023