



Chef

ANZSCO 3513-11

South Australia
November 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Unlike the previous two years, shortages of chefs were apparent in the 2018 survey results.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed reported ongoing difficulties in attracting suitable and qualified applicants.
- The proportion of vacancies filled in the metropolitan area was 50 per cent compared to 25 per cent in regional areas.
- The number of metropolitan suitable applicants was 0.9, compared to 0.5 in regional areas.
- Regional employers identified difficulties in keeping chefs. Working in higher end establishments and better remuneration made the metropolitan area more attractive.
- Employers required chefs with experience and specialist skills such as al-a carte, buffet, fine dining, cuisine specific, functions and general food service.
- Reasons why candidates were unsuitable were due to lack of qualifications, experience and technical skills. Also poor application and interview skills, as well as references and work history being unsatisfactory.
- Failure to present for interview/trial, location and remuneration expectations were also factors.
- Some reasons vacancies remain unfilled included candidates finding other work or not taking up the job for personal reasons.
- According to employers turnover of chefs remains high and continues to be instrumental in driving demand.

2018 Survey Results¹



44%
of vacancies
filled



26.4
Applicants per
vacancy



5.9
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



0.8
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- At the 2016 Census, 81.3 per cent of chefs worked in the accommodation and food services industry.²
- South Australian Businesses in the Café and Restaurants rose from 2190 in June 2016 to 2263 in June 2017 and slight increases were also experienced in Pubs, Taverns and Bars (626 to 634), Clubs (hospitality) (213 to 217) and Catering (237 to 254).³
- Course commencements in South Australia indicated a recent decline. In the 2017-18 Financial Year, 203 students commenced certificate III qualifications for chefs and cooks. This was much lower than the five-year average (322) and the ten year average (348).
- The number of apprenticeship completions have remained steady over the last five years with 106 completions in 2017-18.
- Course completion rates were at a high of 141 in 2013-14 and the following year dropped to a ten-year low of 99. Completion rates continue to reflect that it is difficult to meet the demand for chefs in South Australia.⁴

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

² ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016

³ ABS Data 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses including Entries and Exits, June 2013 to Jun 2017

⁴ NCVER Statistical Report Apprentices & Trainees Sept. 2018 South Australia