

Chef

ANZSCO 3513-11

Australian Capital Territory

October 2018

Current labour market rating: No shortage

Most employers are able to attract suitable applicants for vacancies of various seniority levels across different establishment types. Recent demand is subdued, contributing to an increase in applicant numbers.

Key research findings

- Employers generally attracted suitable applicants and were able to fill vacancies without difficulty.
 - Around three quarters of vacancies were filled.
 - On average, there were 6.7 qualified applicants per vacancy, compared with 5.5 in 2017.
 - Despite the high applicant numbers, around a third of surveyed employers did not have any suitable applicants.
- Employers were surveyed from various businesses such as restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs and catering services.
- Employers sought qualified and experienced chefs across all seniority levels including commis chef, chef de partie, sous chef and head chef.
- Employer requirements commonly included:
 - post qualification experience, from two years for lower level roles, up to seven years for senior positions
 - specialist skills in a particular cuisine or experience in a similar role.
- Around 30 per cent of applicants were not qualified and were therefore considered unsuitable.
- Of the qualified applicants, more than three quarters were considered unsuitable, mainly because they lacked the type or length of experience required.

Demand and supply

- After a long period of growth, the ACT café and restaurant sector has shown signs of easing over the last few years, slowing the growth in the demand for chefs.
 - Retail turnover for cafés, restaurants and catering services grew by an average of 11.4 per cent per year from January 2012 to a series peak in January 2016. Since then (up to October 2018) turnover has fallen by an annualised rate of 2.9 per cent.

2018 Survey Results¹



72%
of vacancies filled



9.3
Applicants per vacancy

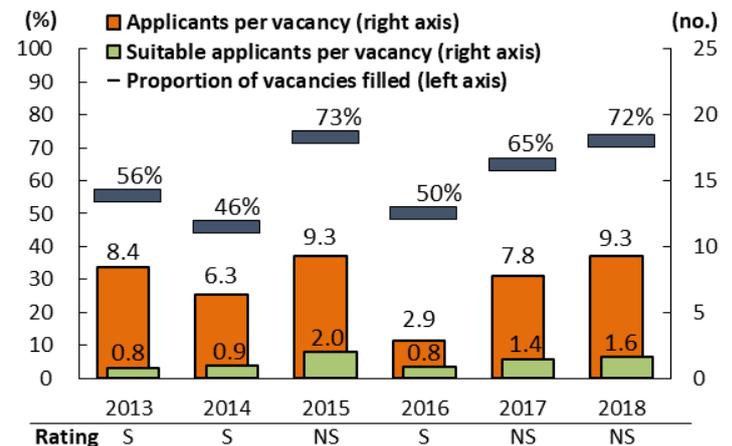


6.7
Qualified applicants per vacancy



1.6
Suitable applicants per vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Chef, 2013 to 2018



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

- The number of café and restaurant businesses grew by an average of 6.3 per cent per year from June 2012 to June 2015. In the two years to June 2017 the annual average growth has slowed to 2.3 per cent.
- Additionally, the number of internet vacancies for chefs in the ACT decreased by nearly 40 per cent in the two years to October 2018 after reaching a series peak in October 2016.
- Training for this occupation is usually through the completion of an apprenticeship at the Certificate III or IV level in Commercial Cookery or similar.
 - After four years of growth to June 2017, commencements in the ACT decreased from 230 to 150 in the year to June 2018.
 - Completions decreased to 50 in the year to June 2018 after reaching a peak of 90 in 2014.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, various releases; ABS, Retail Trade, October 2018, trend; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, October 2018, 12 month moving average; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates (Certificate III and IV).