

Chef

ANZSCO 3513-11

New South Wales
December 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

In 2018, there was a shortage of chefs in New South Wales for the third consecutive year. This year's percentage of vacancies filled remains similar to the average over the past five years of 53% (see Figure 1).

Key research findings

- The majority of vacancies surveyed were for positions in the hospitality industry including hotels, cafes, and restaurants. Other vacancies were in hospitals and regional accommodation centres.
- Employers sought applicants with qualifications, additional certificates in Food Safety and Hygiene, and up to five years relevant experience.
- Around two thirds of qualified applicants were considered to be unsuitable. This was largely due to applicants lacking the skills, length of experience and specific experience such as in the type of kitchen or at the specific chef level.
- Recruiting was more challenging for establishments that were not part of a hotel chain or hospitality group, in both regional and metropolitan areas.
 - About a third of these employers were recruiting at the senior chef level. They filled only 29% of vacancies, receiving an average of 0.6 suitable applicants per vacancy.
 - Employers also commented upon compromising in skill level and experience in order to recruit or retain staff.

Demand and supply

- While internet vacancies for chef positions in December 2018 were 2.2% higher than a year earlier, they were around 14% below the series high in September 2016.
- The demand for chefs reflects activity in several sectors including tourism. Tourism Research Australia forecasts an above-average growth rate for NSW with total growth in visitor numbers to rise by 4.5% in 2018-19. Domestic

2018 Survey Results¹

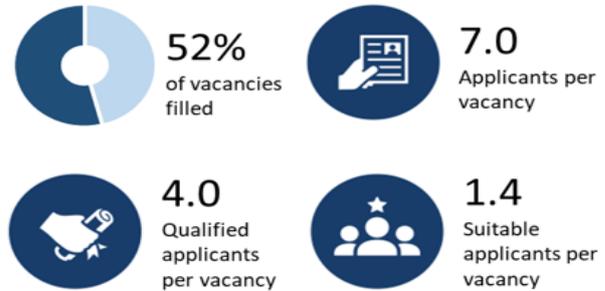
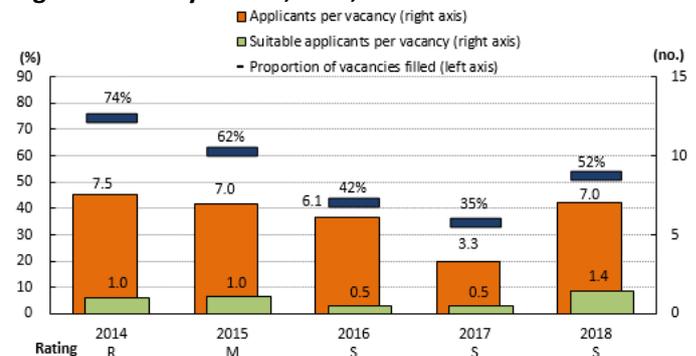


Figure 1: Survey results, Chef, 2014-2018



Key to ratings: R = Regional Shortage, M = Metropolitan Shortage, S = Shortage
visitor numbers are forecast to rise by 2.6% and overseas visitors to NSW by 6.5%.

- The ABS (non-inflation adjusted) trend estimate of turnover in cafes, restaurants and catering services in NSW increased by 2.3 % over the year to December 2018.
- In the three years to 2017-18, the average number of primary temporary skilled visas granted for chef in NSW was 470. This was higher than the average of around 395 for the three years to 2014-15.
- Entry into this trade is usually through the completion of a Certificate III or Certificate IV in chefs and cooks. In the three years to 2017-18, the average number of completions was around 720. This was below the average of around 765 for the previous three years.
 - Over the same period, the number of commencements declined from around 1540 to around 1265.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, December 2018, 12 month moving average; Tourism Research Australia, State and Territory Tourism Forecasts 2017, estimates; ABS, 8501.0 Retail Trade Australia, December 2018, trend, Table 13; Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Work (Skilled) Visas Granted; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates.