

Arborist

ANZSCO 3622-12

Australia
September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

While shortages of arborists have been evident since 2005, the labour market is significantly tighter in 2018, with this year's survey finding the lowest proportion of vacancies filled on record.

Key research findings

- Ongoing shortages are a key feature of this labour market, which tightened substantially in 2018.
 - Around 15 per cent of vacancies were filled, a significant decrease compared with the previous three years (Figure 1).
 - More than half of the employers surveyed attracted no suitable applicants.
- Some employers stated an inability to fill vacancies has resulted in unsustainable working hours, a need to decline work or an inability to grow their businesses.
- Due to a lack of suitable domestic applicants, many employers stated they had recruited qualified arborists from the United Kingdom to address shortages in previous years. According to these employers, recruitment difficulties have increased because of a reduction in overseas applicants.

Employer Requirements

- All employers sought certificate III qualifications in arboriculture, with many stating this was necessary to meet requirements in government contracts.
- Most employers sought arborists with good physical fitness and at least one to two years of experience, mainly due to the hazardous and physical nature of the work.
- Around 90 per cent of the applicants were considered unsuitable, most commonly because they lacked qualifications or experience, or appeared unreliable due to their failure to attend interviews or return phone calls.

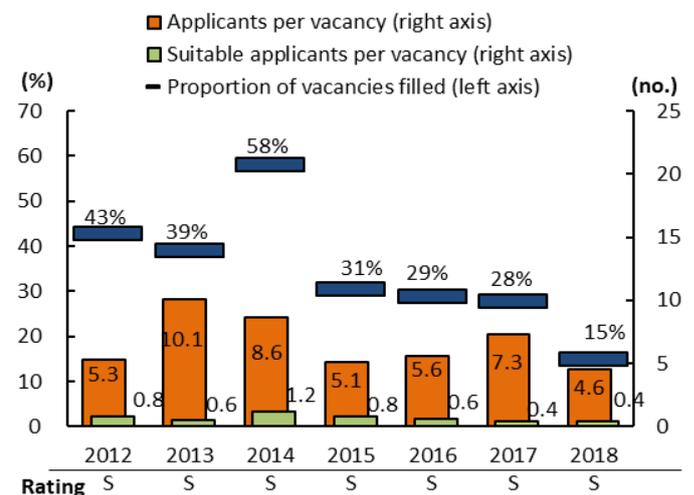
Demand and supply

- New supply to the occupation remains below levels recorded in 2014, while there are signs that the demand has continued to grow.
 - Internet advertised vacancies for the broad occupational group gardeners (which includes arborists) increased by 50 per cent over the five years to September 2018, while vacancies for all occupations grew by 24 per cent.

2018 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Arborists, 2012 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage

- In the year to September 2018, growth was more subdued, with gardener vacancies increasing by 6 per cent compared with 7.5 per cent across all occupations.
- Apprenticeship and traineeship completions (in arboriculture and horticulture) have remained steady over the past three years. While there was a significant increase between 2012 and 2014, completions have since returned to previous levels.
- Apprenticeship commencements over the past three years have also declined, suggesting new training supply is unlikely to significantly mitigate shortages in this occupation in the near future.
- Employment for gardeners is projected to grow by 14 per cent in the five years to May 2023, compared with projected growth of 7.1 per cent for all occupations.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Sources: Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, September 2018; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Occupation Projections to May 2023.