



# Cabinetmakers

## ANZSCO 3941-11

# Western Australia

## September 2018

### Current labour market rating: Regional shortage

Employers in the metropolitan area filled a majority of their vacancies, while those in regional areas struggled to attract qualified and suitable applicants. Many employers perceived a decline in the number of people entering the trade.

### Key research findings

- Employers sought cabinetmakers to design, build, install and repair custom cabinetry and furniture across the commercial and residential sectors.
- Employers in the metropolitan area filled 88 per cent of their vacancies and attracted an average of 4.8 suitable applicants. Those in regional areas filled 50 per cent roles and attracted 0.5 suitable applicants.
- All surveyed employers sought applicants with a trade qualification in cabinetmaking and at least four years of post-apprenticeship experience.
  - Despite these requirements, many employers received applications from carpenters; none were selected as these applicants lacked the necessary skills and experience.
  - However, in limited circumstances employers sought cabinetmakers with carpentry skills.
- Employers typically required applicants to be appropriately skilled in cabinetmaking software packages, with an ability to understand technical drawings, and skilled in the operation of CNC routers and panel saws, edgework and postforming.
- Separate from technical expertise, employers required applicants who were reliable, possessed a high standard of workmanship, effective communication skills, and who could work well in a team.
  - Employers also required applicants to hold a White Card, a valid driver licence and their own vehicle.
- Across regional Western Australia, employers advised of a low supply of applicants with a cabinetmaking qualification outside the metropolitan area, resulting in half of regional vacancies remaining unfilled.
- The main reason employers deemed applicants unsuitable was the lack of a qualification.
  - This issue affected regional employers to a greater extent than those in the metropolitan area.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



80%  
of vacancies filled



24.9  
Applicants per vacancy



5.8  
Qualified applicants per vacancy

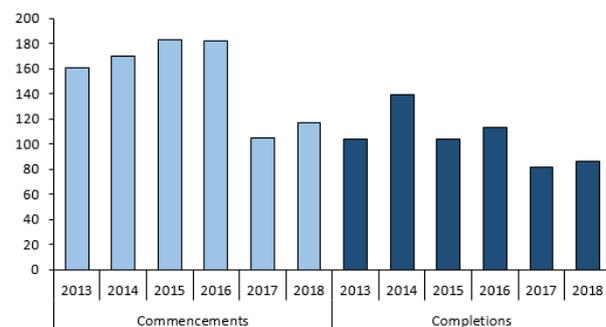


3.9  
Suitable applicants per vacancy

- A lack of relevant experience, such as experience in installation or on construction sites was another reason many applicants were deemed unsuitable.

### Demand and supply

- A majority of cabinetmakers are employed in manufacturing, with demand for this trade primarily driven by construction activity.
  - The number of building approvals have trended down since 2014, and declined by 12 per cent over the year to August 2018. Total building commencements have declined since late 2014, and have fallen nine percent over the year to June 2018.
- Online vacancies for cabinetmakers peaked in 2015-2016. Vacancies for this occupation currently sit around 40 per cent below this peak but are broadly in line with the 10-year average for this occupation.
- Entry into this profession is via an apprenticeship, through which a Certificate III in Furniture Making is obtained.



<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: ABS 8731, ABS 8352. Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates.