

Key research findings¹

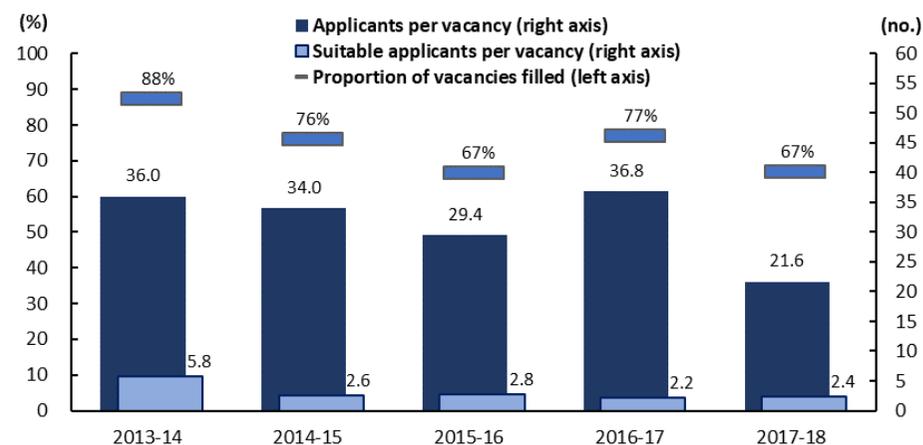
- The labour market for accountants tightened slightly in 2017-18. Employers attracted smaller candidate fields and filled a lower proportion of vacancies compared with the previous year. That said, they were still able to fill the majority of their vacancies.
- Employers attracted an average of 14.6 qualified applicants per vacancy, but a large proportion of these applicants were considered to be unsuitable.
- The primary reason for unsuitability amongst applicants was inexperience (with employers preferring those who had two or more years of experience), or a lack of experience within certain occupations and specialisations.
 - Applicants with poor employability skills (such as communication, interpersonal skills and being the right organisational fit) were also considered unsuitable.
- Surveyed employers in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory experienced some difficulties filling their vacancies.
 - Employers in the Northern Territory experienced widespread shortages while shortages in Victoria were restricted to regional areas. Employers in South Australia experienced difficulties recruiting general or taxation accountants.

Supply and demand²

- Internet vacancies increased by 4.0 per cent over the year to June 2018 and the number of employed accountants increased by 8.5 per cent over the year to May 2018, suggesting a modest increase in the demand for accountants.

- Higher education course commencements and completions have fallen over the year to 2016 and have been trending down since 2012. The large fields of qualified and suitable applicants relative to other occupations, however, suggest that supply continues to adequately meet demand.
- Graduate outcomes data show that full-time employment outcomes for new accounting graduates continued to improve with 78 per cent of accounting graduates finding work four months after graduation, an increase of 1.8 percentage points over the year to 2017.

Figure 1: Proportion of vacancies filled (%), average no. of applicants and suitable applicants per vacancy, Accountants, Australia, 2013-14 to 2017-18



¹ The methodology is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). For more information go to jobs.gov.au/skill-shortages or contact skillshortages@jobs.gov.au

² Data sources: ABS, Labour Force Survey, May 2018, trend data; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, May 2018; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Statistics Data Cube, award courses, domestic students; QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey, custom tables, 2017