

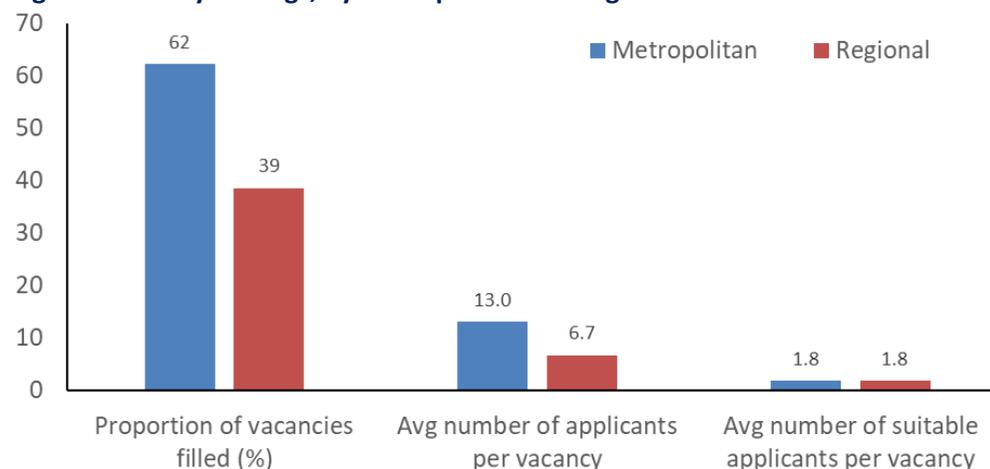
### Key research findings<sup>1</sup>

- Employers had more difficulty recruiting for construction trades in 2018 compared with the previous year, despite attracting a higher average number of applicants and suitable applicants (see Figure 2).
  - Overall, the proportion of vacancies filled fell from 66 per cent in 2017 to 49 per cent in 2018.
- More than half of the qualified applicants who applied were considered unsuitable, typically because they lacked specific experience in the occupation.
- There were several instances where employers were unable to fill vacancies despite attracting suitable applicants, this was generally because of a failure to agree on remuneration or the applicant found work elsewhere.
- Employers in regional areas of Queensland had greater difficulty recruiting for construction trades compared with employers in Brisbane (see Figure 1).
  - Regional employers filled 39 per cent of their vacancies while metropolitan employers filled 62 per cent (see Figure 1.)
- There was considerable variation in employers success filling vacancies depending on the occupation they were recruiting for. Carpenter and Joiner roles were more readily filled (73% filled) while just 13% of wall and floor tiling vacancies were filled (see Figure 3).

### Supply and demand

- Demand for construction trades workers is influenced by levels of activity in the commercial construction, home building and improvements sector.
- The Queensland economy is performing well, helped along by high liquid natural gas exports, post-Cyclone Debbie spending and a strong global economy. The industry outlook for 2018-19 forecasts more widely spread construction work across the state, with some downward pressures on high-rise unit blocks, but opportunities in tourism, aged care and student accommodation.<sup>2</sup>

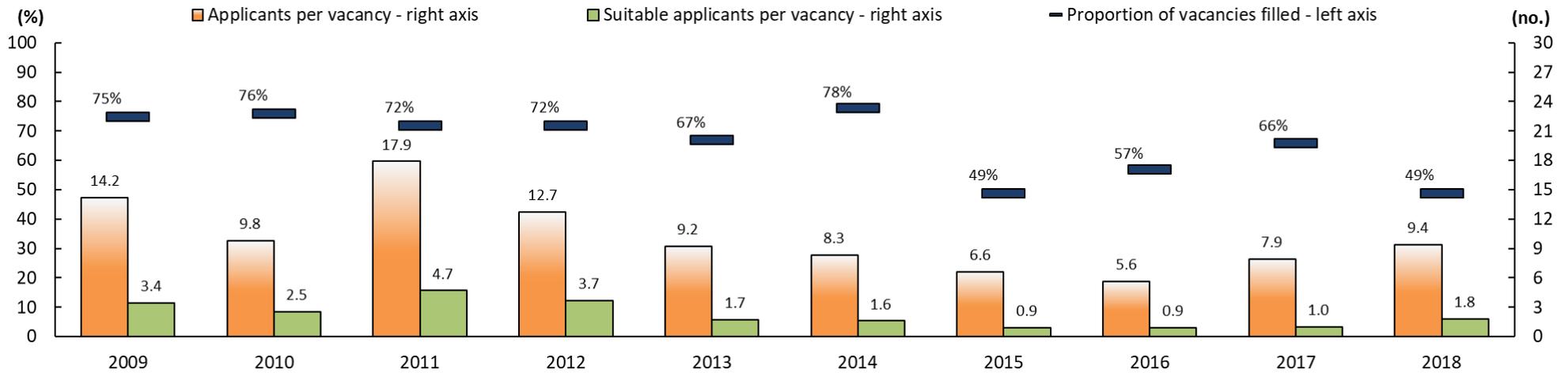
**Figure 1: Key findings, by metropolitan and regional areas**



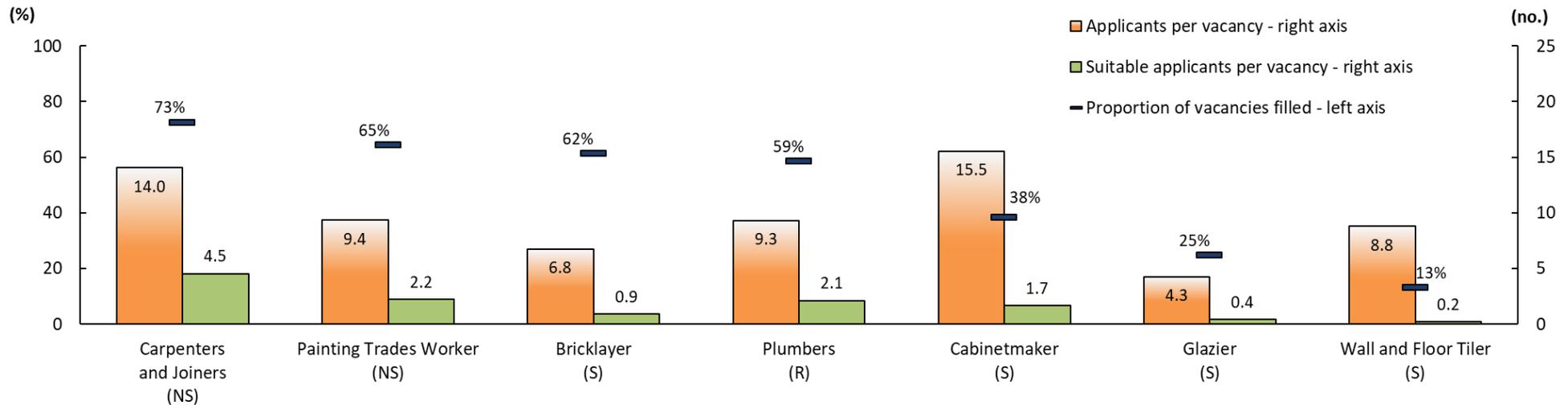
<sup>1</sup> The methodology for this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Visit the [skill shortages website](#) for more detailed information on each occupation in this cluster.

<sup>2</sup> Master Builders Queensland, Building Industry Outlook 2018

**Figure 2: Proportion of vacancies filled (%), average number of applicants and suitable applicants per vacancy (no.), Construction Trades, Queensland, time series 2009 to 2018**



**Figure 3: Proportion of vacancies filled (%), average number of applicants and suitable applicants per vacancy (no.), Construction Trades Queensland, 2018-19**



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; R = Shortages restricted to regional areas; NS = No Shortage