



ANZSCO 3322-11 Painting Trades Worker

Queensland September 2016

Current labour market rating

Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2015)

Shortage

Comments

The survey found that employers experienced difficulty filling vacancies across metropolitan and regional areas, indicating a shortage. Around 43 per cent of vacancies for painting trades workers remained unfilled after four weeks of advertising.

Survey results

- The Department of Employment Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised for painting trades workers found 57 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, compared to 59 per cent in 2015.
- The proportion of vacancies filled was slightly higher in regional areas (60 per cent) than in metropolitan areas (54 per cent).
- Across the State there were similar numbers of applicants per vacancy reported this year (6.7) as there were last year (6.9).
- There was an average of 7.1 applicants and 1.5 suitable applicants per metropolitan vacancy, whereas regional vacancies attracted 6.3 applicants and 0.7 suitable applicants per vacancy.

Unsuitable applicants

- The most common reasons cited by employers for the unsuitability of applicants were that they lacked trade qualifications, did not have the relevant skill set or lacked the required experience.
- Numerous applicants failed work trials because they could not demonstrate that they could perform work to the required trade standards nor work at an acceptable rate.
- A number of employers indicated that some applicants had unrealistic wage expectations.

Demand and supply trends

- Painting trades' workers are employed predominantly by painting and decorating services, which rely on activity levels in the construction industry. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that the seasonally adjusted total value of building work done in the year to March 2016 was around \$18.6 billion, an increase of 7.1 per cent over the previous year.¹
- The Department of Employment's Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) showed that the number of Queensland vacancies for painting trades workers lodged online in the year to July 2016 was 11 per cent higher than for the same period the previous year.²

¹ ABS, 8752.0 - Building Activity, Australia, Mar 2016 - Table 02 Value of Building Work Done by Sector, States and Territories - Chain Volume Measures (seasonally adjusted data)

² Department of Employment, State and National 4 Digit Internet Vacancy Index, July 2016, 4 digit 12 monthly average

- Formal entry to this trade is via the completion of an apprenticeship in Painting and Decorating.
- Figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) show that apprenticeship commencements in the year to March 2016 were 64.8 per cent higher than the previous year.³
- The number of newly qualified painting trades workers entering the Queensland labour market was 161 in the year to March 2016 compared to 212 in the previous year.⁴
- Data from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection indicates that temporary skilled migration is a minor source of supply to this profession. The numbers of 457 Visas granted for painting trades workers to work in Queensland increased from seven in 2010-11 to 30 in 2012-13, before falling to less than five in 2015- 16.⁵

³ NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2016 data (Certificate III). All quoted data refer to the four quarters ending March each year.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Subclass 457 Visa Grants Quarterly Pivot Table 30 June 2016, <https://www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/statistical-info/temp-entrants/subclass-457.htm>