



Plumbers

ANZSCO 3341

Western Australia

September 2018

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

Surveyed employers across metropolitan and regional areas had little difficulty attracting suitably qualified and experienced applicants, and were able to fill a majority of their vacancies.

Key research findings

- Employers sought plumbers to install, maintain and repair plumbing systems across residential, commercial and industrial sites.
- A majority of employers filled their vacancies this year, with metropolitan and regional employers filling a similar proportion of their roles (87 per cent and 100 per cent respectively) and attracting a similar average number of suitable applicants (3.7 and 3.6 respectively).
- All surveyed employers sought applicants with a trade qualification in plumbing and a minimum of four years post-apprenticeship experience.
- Most vacancies required applicants with some specialist experience, such as roof plumbing, undertaking drainage works, fit outs or renovations.
 - Employers often sought applicants with additional accreditation in backflow prevention and a gas-fitting licence.
- Employers also required applicants to be solutions focused, demonstrate a high standard of workmanship, resourcefulness, the ability to work well with colleagues and engage professionally with clients.
 - It was standard for applicants to have a drivers licence and their own transport, a police clearance, a White Card and pass a drug and alcohol test.
- Applicants were most often deemed unsuitable due to a lack of overall experience in the trade, or a lack of experience in a sub-specialty or particular environment (e.g. mining sector experience).
 - Applicants whose resumes were poorly presented (for example, not tailored to the job requirements or that failed to demonstrate good literacy skills) were deemed unsuitable, as were those with uneven work histories and poor references.
 - Applicants who were unwilling to relocate were deemed unsuitable for regional vacancies.
 - A small proportion of applicants were not qualified plumbers, and therefore were deemed unsuitable.

2018 Survey Results¹



90%
of vacancies
filled



25.1
Applicants per
vacancy



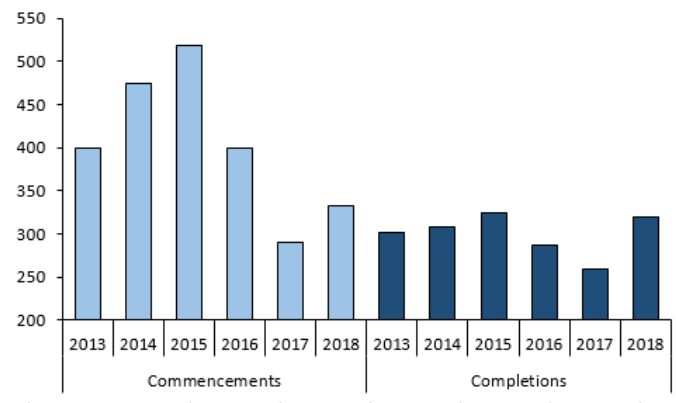
19.5
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



3.7
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- The main driver of demand for plumbers is activity in construction.
 - The number of building approvals have trended down since 2014, and declined by 12 per cent over the 12 months to August 2018. Total building commencements have declined since late 2014, and have fallen nine percent over the year to June 2018.
 - Online vacancies over the year to August 2018 declined by around 35 per cent from the series high reached in 2015.
- The Housing Industry Quarterly report for December 2018 indicated Perth was the only jurisdiction where a surplus of trades was identified during the December 2018 quarter, continuing the run to 13 consecutive quarters in surplus.



¹ 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; <https://hia.com.au/business-information/economic-information/economic-publications>; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates.