

ANZSCO 3411-11 Electrician (General)

Queensland September 2018

Current labour market rating

No Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2017)

Recruitment Difficulty

Comments

Employers are generally able to fill their electrician vacancies with suitably qualified and experienced candidates, although they noted declining availability of experienced electricians across domestic, commercial and industrial work.

Survey results¹

- Employers filled 68 per cent of their surveyed vacancies in 2018.
- On average, there was 18.9 applicants per vacancy, of whom 14.7 were qualified and 2.2 were regarded as suitable.
- Employers in metropolitan areas had greater ease filling their vacancies than regional employers.
 - Metropolitan employers attracted larger fields of qualified applicants (an average of 25.6 per vacancy, compared with 7.2) and filled a higher proportion of their vacancies (78 per cent, compared with 62 per cent).
- A number of vacancies remained unfilled because the employer and candidate failed to agree on remuneration.
 - Some employers seeking to fill roles in the domestic sector reported that they were unable to meet the pay expectations of electricians returning from the Mining industry.
 - A number of regional employers noted that their remuneration package was not considered to be sufficient for applicants to relocate to regional areas.

Unsuitable applicants

- Applicants who did not hold the required qualifications and licensing were considered to be unsuitable. In addition, two thirds of qualified applicants were regarded as unsuitable, commonly because they lacked the required sector-specific experience.
- Some applicants were regarded as unsuitable because they lacked the customer service skills required for work in the domestic market.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government

Demand and supply trends

- The demand for electricians in Queensland is relatively subdued.
 - Construction activity, which influences the demand for these workers, has been stable in Queensland over the past five years, remaining well below peak levels recorded five years ago.²
 - There has been very little employment growth for electricians in Queensland in recent years, with employment falling over the past year.³
 - While advertised vacancy numbers for electricians in Queensland have risen over the past two years, they remain well below the peak a decade ago.⁴
- Entry to this trade is through the completion of an apprenticeship.
- The number of people completing electrician apprenticeships in Queensland has fallen in recent years, to around 1200 in the year to March 2018 (down from a peak of almost 2000 in the year to March 2012). Commencements have fallen for much of the past decade, but have risen in recent years (up by almost 25 per cent over the past four years, to around 1950 in the year to March 2018).⁵

² ABS, 8755.0 - Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, September 2018, trend, chain volume measures

³ ABS, Labour Force, August 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend

⁴ Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, September 2018, 12 month moving average

⁵ NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III). General Electrician or Electrician