



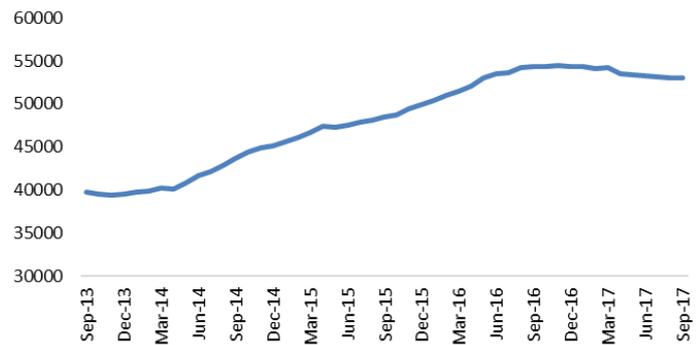
Sydney Recruitment Conditions Monitor

Labour market conditions in Sydney have strengthened over the past four years, with annual employment growth averaging 1.9 per cent and the unemployment rate declining to a nine year low of 4.7 per cent in September 2017. Since 2013, the number of job vacancies advertised on the internet have increased by 33 per cent, with vacancies for Construction Trades Workers up by 56 per cent, highlighting the recent strength in the Construction sector.

Unemployment rate

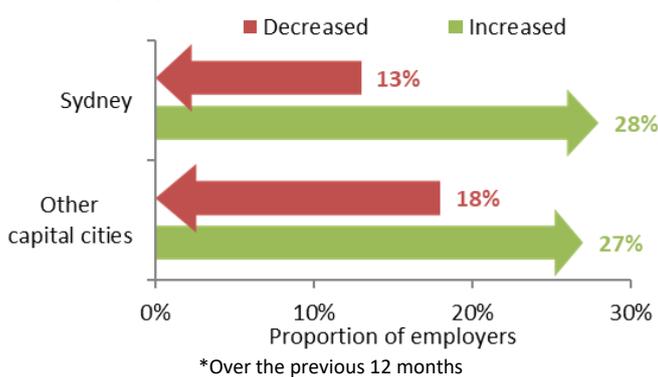


Monthly Internet Vacancies

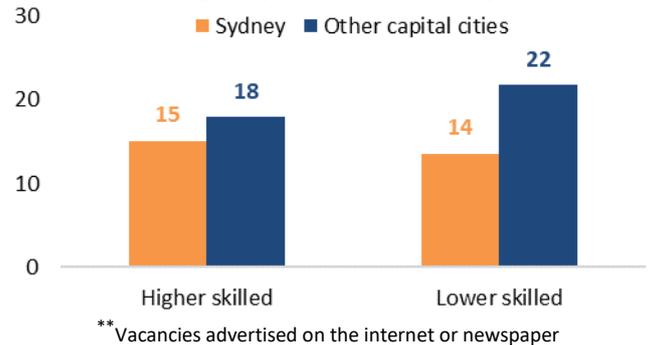


Results from the Department of Employment's *Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences* show that recruitment conditions in Sydney have been stronger than in other capital cities. While the proportion of employers in Sydney reporting an increase in staff numbers over the year to June 2017 (28 per cent) was similar with other capital cities (27 per cent), a significantly smaller proportion reported reducing staff numbers (13 per cent compared with 18 per cent). As labour market conditions have strengthened, employers in Sydney attracted smaller fields of applicants than employers in other capital cities. This disparity was most pronounced for lower skilled positions, which attracted an average of 14 applicants per vacancy in Sydney compared with 22 applicants for other capital cities.

Employers who increased/decreased staff*

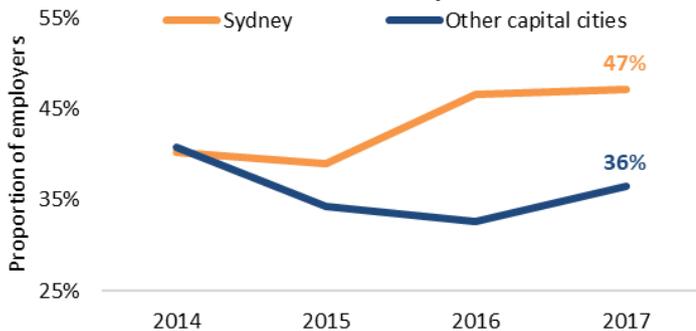


Average applicants per vacancy**

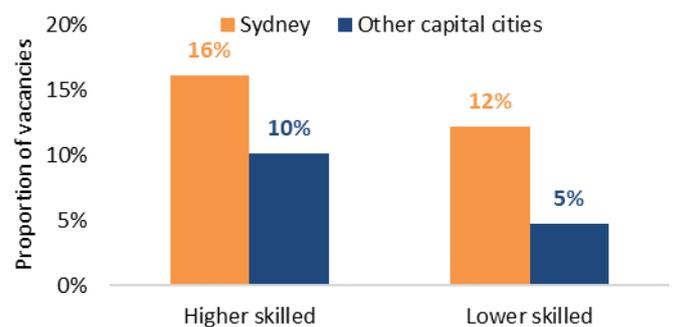


With fewer applicants, employers in Sydney have been reporting recruitment difficulties more frequently than employers in other capital cities. Across all industries, the proportion of employers in Sydney reporting difficulty recruiting in their most recent recruitment round has increased from 40 per cent in 2014 to 47 per cent in 2017. Over the same period, the rate of recruitment difficulty for other capital cities has fallen from 41 per cent to 36 per cent. The increasingly challenging recruitment conditions for employers in Sydney have resulted in a higher proportion of vacancies remaining unfilled. In 2017, employers in Sydney reported that 16 per cent of higher skilled vacancies and 12 per cent of lower skilled vacancies remained unfilled. This compares with 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively for the other capital cities.

Recruitment difficulty



Unfilled vacancies



The Department of Employment monitors recruitment conditions using the *Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences*. Each year more than 1,000 employers from across Sydney respond to the survey.