



Electrical Engineer

ANZSCO 2333-11

South Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no evidence of a shortage of Electrical Engineers in South Australia.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were in the solar, energy and defence industries.
- The proportion of vacancies filled in 2019 was higher (90 per cent) when compared with last year (50 per cent).
- The average number of applicants increased in 2019 (37.7) compared to 2018 (14.1).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy also increased in 2019 (4.7) compared with 2018 (2.3).
- In 2019 the average number of qualified applicants increased (24.2) compared to 2018 (12.6).
- The reasons applicants were considered unsuitable included;
 - lacking technical experience in specialised areas, for example, industrial automation, control systems, solar and renewable energy
 - lacking experience in the occupation
 - not an appropriate 'fit' due to poor communication and client relationship building skills.
- Employers required applicants to hold a Bachelor of Engineering, majoring in electrical engineering. Most employers required at least two years of experience.
 - For specialised technical roles, some employers required five to ten years of experience.
- Employers indicated South Australian electrical engineers were more willing to travel interstate to take up mining roles and fly in fly out positions.
- Remuneration was also a consideration when attracting the right candidate for the roles, particularly when recruiting for technical specialist skills in the energy or power sectors.

2019 Survey Results¹



90%
of vacancies
filled



37.7
Applicants per
vacancy



24.2
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



4.7
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- At the 2016 Census, there were 740 electrical engineers in South Australia. Of these, 30.6 per cent were employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry and 21.6 per cent are employed in the Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services Industry.²
- South Australian undergraduate commencement rates in Electrical Engineering increased in the two years to 2017 to reach the highest level in more than ten years. Completion rates increased from 2016 to 2017, but remain relatively low.³

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#) | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.

² ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, customised tables

³ Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017