



# Mechanical Engineer

## ANZSCO 2335-12

South Australia  
April 2019

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers found it challenging to recruit Mechanical Engineers with the required technical experience.

### Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were private consultancy firms and employers in the energy, water, agriculture and defence industries.
- In 2019 a higher proportion of vacancies were filled (60 per cent) compared to 2018 (25 per cent).
- The average number of applicants increased significantly in 2019 (94.0), compared to 2018 (20.4).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy was relatively unchanged in 2019 (1.2), from 2018 (1.1).
  - In metropolitan Adelaide, the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy was 1.0.
  - Regionally, there was an average of 2.0 applicants.
- The average number of qualified applicants per vacancy increased in 2019 (81.4) compared to in 2018 (17.6).
- The reasons why applicants were considered unsuitable included:
  - Applicants lacked skills and experience in technical fields in specific industries
  - Applicants lacked basic soft skills including being able to work in a team and communication skills
  - Applicants were not considered an appropriate 'fit' for the organisation's culture and values.
- Employers required applicants to have a tertiary qualification, a bachelor degree specialising in mechanical engineering field and most employers required a minimum of two to five years experience.
- Employers found it difficult to recruit experienced Mechanical Engineers in specialised fields that required five to ten years experience and met specific industry requirements.
- Regional employers tended to recruit applicants who needed to relocate as skills were not found locally.

### 2019 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



60%  
of vacancies filled



94.0  
Applicants per vacancy



81.4  
Qualified applicants per vacancy

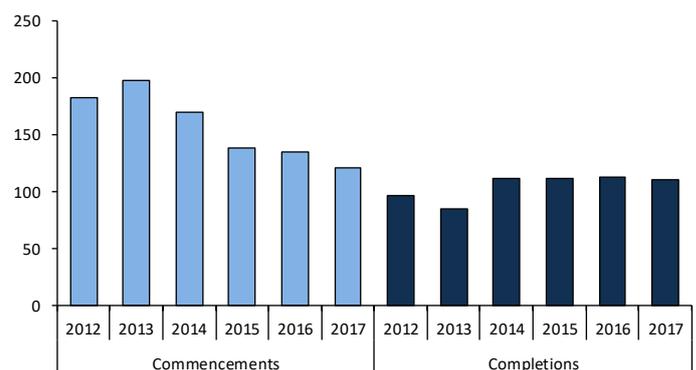


1.2  
Suitable applicants per vacancy

### Demand and supply

- At the 2016 Census, there were 890 Mechanical Engineers in South Australia. Of these, 33 per cent were employed in the Manufacturing Industry and 27.9 per cent were employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry.<sup>2</sup>
- In South Australia 95.7 per cent of the mechanical engineering workforce were male, 4.3 per cent female.<sup>3</sup>
- Undergraduate commencements have declined since 2015, likely to lead to fewer completions.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1: Undergraduate commencements and completions, Mechanical Engineer, SA, 2012 to 2017**



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

<sup>2</sup> ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, customised tables

<sup>3</sup> ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, customised tables

<sup>4</sup> Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017.