



Primary School Teacher

ANZSCO 2412-13

South Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is an adequate supply of Primary School Teachers to meet the current demand in South Australia.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were recruiting general classroom teachers. Some vacancies required specialist skills, including Agriculture, Music and Physical Education Teachers.
- All vacancies were filled in 2019, compared to 2018 when the majority were filled (91).
- The average number of applicants decreased in 2019 (12.8) compared to 2018 (17.1).
- The average number of qualified applicants per vacancy decreased in 2019 (4.5) compared to 2018 (15.4).
- The average number of suitable applicants decreased in 2019 (2.5), compared to 2018 (2.8).
- Regional vacancies attracted significantly fewer applicants than vacancies in the metropolitan area. Employers stated recent graduates were generally more willing to relocate to regional areas.
- Recruitment of Government Primary School Teachers is managed centrally by the South Australian Department for Education and positions are not normally advertised externally.
- Employers identified that there were some difficulties to recruit for various STEM subjects (mathematics, science and agriculture). Recruiting for subjects such as physical education and English were considerably less difficult.
- Most employers advised they sought applicants who could teach across various subjects. Some employers preferred applicants with an understanding of, or experience with a particular faith (e.g. Catholicism).

2019 Survey Results¹



100%
of vacancies
filled



12.8
Applicants per
vacancy



4.5
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



2.5
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- The demand for primary school teachers is driven by demography – the number of people aged 5 to 11 years old in South Australia has been projected to remain relatively stable in the five years to 2023.²
- In 2018 there were 11,144 primary school teachers in South Australia, which was an increase of around 6 per cent from 2013. The number of primary school students (168,345) grew by around 5 per cent in the same period.³
- South Australian training completion numbers for undergraduate primary education degrees have been relatively stable since 2013, with around 221 completions in 2017.⁴

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

² ABS, Cat. No 3222.0., Population Projections, Australia, Table B4. Population projections, By age and sex, South Australia – Series B

³ ABS, Cat. No 4221.0 Schools, Australia, 2018, Table 51a: In-school Staff (FTE) by School, Level, Function, Sex, Affiliation, States and Territories, 2006-2018.

⁴ Department of Education - Higher Education Student Data Collection 2017, customised tables