



Secondary School Teacher

ANZSCO 2414-11

South Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no evidence of a shortage of secondary school teachers in South Australia.

Key research findings

- Surveyed employers were from a mix of standalone secondary and combined (reception to Year 12) schools.
- All vacancies were filled in 2019, compared to 79 per cent in 2018.
- The average number of applicants per vacancy was 10.5, a decrease from 2018 (13.8).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy in 2019 was 2.6, a slight increase from 2018 (2.3).
 - In metropolitan Adelaide, the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy was 2.9.
 - Regionally there was, on average, 1.0 suitable applicant per vacancy.
- On average there were 4.0 qualified applicants per vacancy.
- Recruitment of Government secondary school teachers is managed centrally by the South Australian Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) and positions are not normally advertised externally.
- Around 30 per cent of the applicants were considered unsuitable. The main reasons for unsuitability included:
 - Lack of practical experience in teaching. The schools were looking for specific subject curriculum experience, not just general experience in teaching.
 - Applicants did not have a teacher's registration. Some graduates had a gap between finishing their degree to gaining teacher registration
 - Applicants were not considered an appropriate 'fit' for the school culture and values.
- Subjects where employers found it more difficult to recruit were mathematics, and science and technology.

2019 Survey Results¹



100%
of vacancies
filled



10.5
Applicants per
vacancy



4.0
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



2.6
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

- Regional employers found new graduates were generally willing to relocate to regional areas.

Demand and supply

- The demand for secondary school teachers is driven by demography – the number of people aged 12 to 18 years old in South Australia (SA) is projected to grow an average of around 1 per cent per year in the five years to 2023.²
- In 2018 there were 8400 secondary school teachers in SA. A slight increase of 1.6 per cent from 2017, and from 2013 (3 percent).³
- The SA Department for Education anticipates there will be a continuing steady supply of prospective secondary school teachers.⁴
- In SA an average of around 207 people completed an undergraduate Secondary School Teacher degree from 2012 to 2017.⁵

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family 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 Information provided by the SA Department for Education.

⁵ Department of Education - Higher Education Student Data Collection 2017, customised tables