



Panelbeater

ANZSCO 3241-11

South Australia
November 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Surveyed employers in the regional and metropolitan areas reported difficulties in attracting adequate numbers of qualified and suitable applicants per vacancy.

Key research findings

- In 2018, only 8 per cent of panelbeater vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertisement. This has been the lowest vacancy fill rate since 2014.
- The majority of businesses surveyed were automotive collision repairers and other businesses in structural repairs and restoring classic and vintage cars.
- All employers' specified applicants were required to be trade qualified however only 15 per cent of all applicants were qualified.
 - The proportion of qualified applicants who were unsuitable was 80 per cent. The major reasons for applicants' unsuitability for the role were lack of basic qualification, lack of specific experience and lack of technical skills.
 - Of the employers surveyed, 89 per cent received no suitable applicants.
 - Most employers required applicants to have at least five years of experience in crash repairs, which had an impact on the ability of employers to fill their vacancies.
 - Employers in the regional areas reported location and lack of training facilities in the region as the main reason why they did not attract enough applicants.
- Most employers commented there was a lack of interest in trades from younger people. Promotion of trades is not a focus in comparison to university studies.
- Remuneration is relatively low in comparison to other occupations that do not involved laborious work.

2018 Survey Results¹



Demand and supply

- Around 73 per cent of panelbeaters held a Certificate III or higher qualification, indicating occupational supply was largely dependent on apprenticeship training.²
- Around 85 per cent of panelbeaters were employed in the automotive repair and maintenance industry group.³
- Employment in this industry group and occupation also increased in the year to August 2018.⁴
- Commencements in the auto-repair trades remained steady in the year ending Nov 2018 (108), the highest rate since 2012-2013 (132). The number of training completions decreased with a result of (44) as at November 2018. Results indicate a 15 per cent decrease after a five-year peak concluding in the year 2013-2014.⁵
- South Australian internet advertised vacancies recorded a decrease in the number of advertised vacancies for panelbeaters in the year ending November 2018.⁶

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

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2016 Census of Population and Housing

³ Ibid

⁴ ABS, Labour Force Survey, Department of Jobs and Small Business Trend

⁵ National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), *Apprentices and Trainees*, June 2018, estimates (limited to Certificate III)

⁶ Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, November 2018, 12 month moving average