

Bricklayer

ANZSCO 3311-11

Victoria
August 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

This is the fourth consecutive year a shortage has been evident for this occupation, noting that in 2016 the shortage was identified in metropolitan areas only.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 55 per cent of vacancies from averages of 4.3 applicants, 1.2 qualified applicants and 0.6 suitable applicant per vacancy.
- Almost all vacancies were located in metropolitan areas.
- While the vacancy fill rate and average number of applicants per vacancy have increased in the year to August 2018, the average number of suitable applicants remains the same as last year.
- All employers required qualified and experienced applicants.
- Employers sought applicants with attributes such as a positive attitude, reliability, good work ethic and aptitude for hard work.
 - The capacity to work well with brick and block were of higher importance to employers than duration of experience in the industry.
- Twenty eight per cent of applicants held the relevant trade qualification and of these, half were unsuitable.
 - Employers found applicants to be unsuitable if they failed to attend or complete work trials, or demonstrated poor aptitude for the role.
- Almost all employers reported ongoing challenges recruiting and retaining skilled workers.

Demand and supply

- Demand for bricklayers is mainly driven by trends within the construction industry.
 - There were 4893 dwelling units approved in August 2018, below the monthly average of 6188 over the past year and below the average of 5513 approved per month since July 2013.
 - There were housing finance commitments undertaken in July 2018 for the construction of 1972 dwellings. This is above the monthly averages of 1839 dwellings over the last year and 1636 dwellings over the last five years.

2018 Survey Results¹

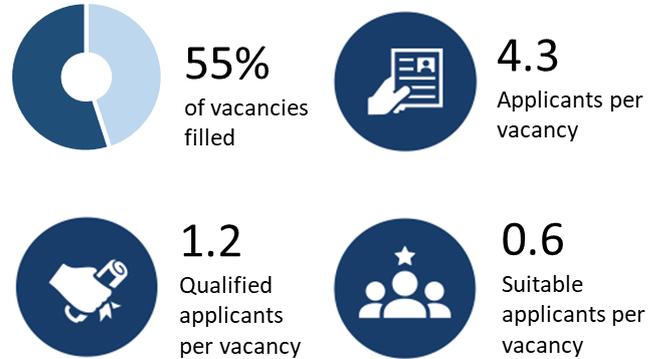
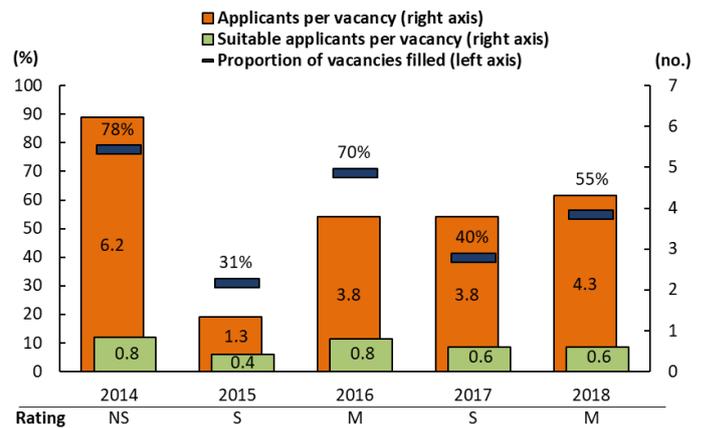


Figure 1: Survey results, Bricklayer, 2014 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; M = Metropolitan shortage; NS = No shortage

- Entry into the trade is usually through the completion of a recognised apprenticeship, typically a Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying.
 - The number of students commencing training increased over the four quarters to March 2018 to 384, above the five-year annual average of 360.
 - Completions decreased over the same period to 141 people, below the five-year annual average of 162.
- Overall construction industry demand indicators are mixed, but is unlikely to be met by supply in the foreseeable future.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Building Approvals, Australia, Table 31 Value of Building Approved - Victoria, August 2018; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018, 12 month moving average; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III).