



# Bricklayer

## ANZSCO 3311-11

Western Australia  
September 2018

### Current labour market rating: No Shortage

Employers in the metropolitan area filled almost two thirds of their vacancies, but noted that many applicants lacked the necessary experience in the trade and quality of workmanship they required. Many employers commented on lower levels of demand for bricklaying services.

### Key research findings

- Employers filled almost two thirds of their vacancies and attracted an average of 1.0 suitable applicants.
- Those in the metropolitan area were seeking bricklayers for medium to large-scale projects, while employers in regional areas advised their work was limited to small projects such as fencing and small structures.
  - A majority of employers cited challenging business conditions, driven by low levels of demand for their services and low rates of pay.
- Surveyed employers generally had extensive experience in the industry (around 20 years) providing services across the residential and commercial sectors.
  - Some held specialist expertise such as the restoration of heritage buildings or extensive experience in prestige builds.
- Overall, 66 per cent of applicants held a formal qualification in the trade.
  - A majority of employers required applicants who were trade qualified, while around five per cent advised qualifications were of secondary concern, provided the applicant had the necessary skills and produced high quality work.
- Employers placed considerable emphasis on the need for applicants to demonstrate quality work, reliability, a physical capacity for the trade and a good attitude in the workplace.
  - Employers also required applicants to hold a White Card, an ABN, pass a drug and alcohol test, hold a valid driver licence and have reliable transport.
- Vacancies remained unfilled due to no suitable applicants applying; insufficient numbers of suitable applicants, or where suitable applicants declined a role.
- Employers cited a lack of a trade qualification and low quality work as the primary reasons they deemed applicants to be unsuitable.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



63%  
of vacancies filled



10.8  
Applicants per vacancy



5.6  
Qualified applicants per vacancy

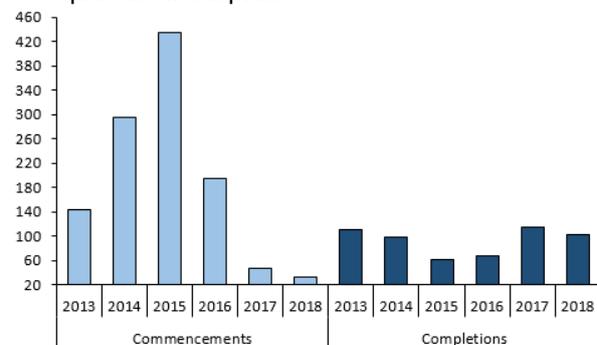


1.0  
Suitable applicants per vacancy

- Other reasons included applicants who lacked the necessary speed or physical stamina for the position, sought higher wages or who lacked specialised expertise (such as the skills necessary for heritage restoration jobs and high-end builds).

### Demand and supply

- Demand for this trade is primarily driven by activity in the construction industry.
  - The number of building approvals have trended down since 2014, and declined by 12 per cent over the 12 months to August 2018. Total building commencements have declined since late 2014, and have fallen nine percent over the year to June 2018.
- Vacancies reached a series high in 2014-15, followed by a steep decline. Data over the year to August 2018 show a 75 per cent decline from the 2014-15 series high.
- The Housing Industry Quarterly report for December 2018 indicated Perth was the only jurisdiction where a surplus of trades was identified during the December 2018 quarter, continuing the run to 13 consecutive quarters in surplus.



<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: Census 2016, ABS 8731, ABS 8352, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2018, <https://hia.com.au/business-information/economic-information/economic-publications>; NCVET, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates.