



Carpenters and Joiners

ANZSCO 3312

South Australia
September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2017): Recruitment Difficulty

Comments

Labour market conditions for carpenters and joiners have continued to tighten for employers seeking to fill vacancies with only 31 per cent of vacancies being filled. Results in 2018 showed a slight improvement with 1.3 applicants per vacancy deemed suitable compared to 0.7 suitable applicants per vacancy in 2017.

Survey results¹

- The survey of employers who recently advertised for the occupation of carpenters and joiners were conducted in September quarter 2018.
- Employers surveyed indicated that there was an average of 11.3 applicants per vacancy with an average number of qualified applicants per vacancy of 3.3 applicants. Of those qualified, 1.3 were found to be suitable for employment.
- There was a variation in the results from 2017 where 52 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks. Employers received an average of 22.8 applicants with 0.7 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- In regional South Australia 50 per cent of vacancies were filled in comparison to 27 per cent of vacancies filled in metropolitan Adelaide. It is important to note that a very small sample of regional employers were surveyed.
- Employers in regional areas had 50 per cent of vacancies that remained unfilled in comparison to 75 per cent of vacancies that were left unfilled in metropolitan areas. Overall, the percentage of unfilled vacancies was 70 per cent in South Australia.
- A broad mixture of employers were surveyed across, construction, commercial, residential building and the industrial sector, requiring first and second fix carpenters.
 - Some employers ideally sought applicants with an Elevated Work Platform ticket and a White Card. SafeWork SA mandates that people who access operational work zones must hold a white card (or general construction card).²
- Some employers advised that they have taken on apprentices, as they were unable to fill positions with qualified applicants. They would continue to do so as long as they could attract new applicants that were willing to work and had the right attributes for the job.
- Of the employers that were surveyed they identified qualified applicants who were not offered an interview were unsuitable as they lived interstate or lived too far from the location of the business.
- Some employers commented that, because of being unable to fill their vacancy, they are not able to take on available extra work.
- All employers surveyed required applicants to have completed a carpentry or joinery apprenticeship compared to 95 per cent in 2017.

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

² Safework SA, White Cards, <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/business-industry/construction/licences-competencies/white-card#>

Unsuitable applicants

- Out of the 147 qualified applicants, 72 per cent were qualified and were unsuitable for the role.
 - Applicants lacked basic qualifications; lacked experience in the occupation required or did not have communication skills necessary for the role.
 - Several applicants failed to present for trial and or interview and were therefore deemed unsuitable and unreliable.

Demand and supply trends

- Demand for carpenters and the level of activity in the construction Industry generally influences joiners.
- Deterioration in the availability of trades in South Australia reflects a growth in the number of multi-story apartment projects in the market,
- HIA data determined that carpentry remains one of the trades in shortest supply.³
- According to the 2016, ABS Census data there were 250 carpenters and joiners in South Australia. Of those 170 were employees and 80 were self-employed.
- Of those employed 49.2 per cent are employed in the construction industry in South Australia and 40.6 per cent in manufacturing. Data indicates that 210 are found in Adelaide and 40 in the rest of the state.⁴
- ABS Census data in 2016 also identified that 78.2 per cent of carpenter and joiners held a Certificate III and IV
- The value of building work done has improved and is at a five year high, specifically March 2017 to March 2018 where there was a 19.2 per cent increase.⁵
- The value of building work commenced in South Australia increased since the previous 12 months.⁶
- Trade availability in Adelaide has continued to decrease since March 2016 with the biggest decrease from March to June quarter 2018 with a decline of approximately (-0.40).⁷
- Regional South Australia also continued to see a decline in availability of trades.⁸

³ HIA Trades Report

⁴ ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2016, Place of usual residence

⁵ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 16, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁶ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat No. 8752.0, Table 44, estimates based on four quarter totals.

⁷ HIA Trades Report

⁸ HIA Trades report