

Painting Trades Worker

ANZSCO 3322-11

Australian Capital Territory
September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Strong construction activity in the ACT is driving demand for painting trades workers. Most employers find it difficult to attract suitable applicants and fill advertised vacancies.

Key research findings

- Shortages of painting trades workers have been evident in seven of the last ten years.
- While the labour market for painting trades workers eased slightly in 2018 it remains tight.
 - Under half of advertised vacancies were filled.
 - On average, less than one applicant per vacancy was considered suitable.
 - Half of the employers surveyed received no suitable applicants.

Employer requirements

- Employers sought painters for work in the residential and non-residential sectors, across new and maintenance projects.
- An Occupational Health and Safety induction white card is required to work on construction sites in the ACT. Employers also commonly required applicants to have asbestos awareness training, Elevated Work Platform tickets and their own tools.
- A trade qualification is not required to work as a painter in the ACT. However, of the 30 per cent of applicants who were qualified, all were considered suitable.
 - Most employers were willing to accept around three years of trade experience in place of formal qualifications.
- Around 80 per cent of applicants were regarded as unsuitable, most commonly as they
 - lacked experience, and/or
 - lacked basic qualifications.

Demand and supply

- Demand for painting trades workers is influenced by activity in the construction industry, particularly building construction.
- The value of building work done in the ACT has increased by 3.9 per cent over the year to June 2018, and by 12.5 per cent over the last five years.

2018 Survey Results¹



46%
of vacancies filled



3.5
Applicants per vacancy

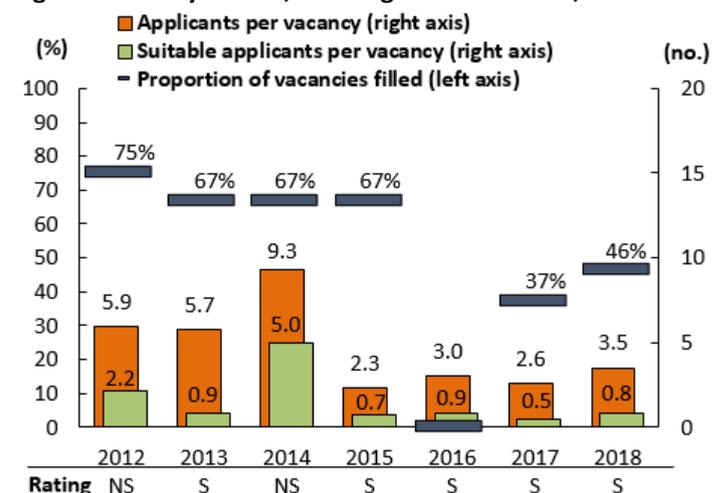


1.0
Qualified applicants per vacancy



0.8
Suitable applicants per vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Painting Trades Worker, 2012-2018



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

- There is a solid pipeline of residential work in the ACT.
 - Dwelling approvals increased by 64.9 per cent over the year to August 2018, significantly higher than any other state or territory.
- The number of people employed as painting trades workers in the ACT has more than doubled over the year to August 2018.
- The formal qualification for entry into this trade is an apprenticeship leading to a Certificate III in Painting and Decorating.
 - Apprenticeship numbers are relatively low in the ACT, averaging around 18 commencements and 7 completions annually over the past five years.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#). Additional Data Sources: NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III); ABS, Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, June 2018, chain volume measure, trend; ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, August 2018, trend; ABS, Labour Force, August 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend