



# Painting Trades Worker ANZSCO 3322-11

## Queensland September 2018

**Current labour market rating:** No Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2017): Shortage

### Comments

The labour market for painting trades workers in Queensland has eased, with employers reporting a higher proportion of filled vacancies, and more suitable applicants, compared with 2017.

### Survey results<sup>1</sup>

- The proportion of vacancies filled increased in 2018, with around 65 per cent of vacancies filled (compared with 61 per cent of vacancies filled in 2017). Metropolitan employers filled vacancies more readily than regional employers.
- There was a substantial increase in the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy this year, with 2.2 suitable applicants per vacancy (compared with 0.6 suitable applicants per vacancy in 2017).
- Applicant numbers were generally consistent with last year (on average, 9.4 per vacancy).
  - Employers in metropolitan areas attracted more applicants than regional employers (on average, 14.4 applicants per vacancy, compared with 5.8 applicants per vacancy in regional areas).
- A higher proportion of applicants were qualified in 2018 (38 per cent), compared with last year (27 per cent).
  - The proportion of qualified applicants was significantly higher for regional vacancies, compared with metropolitan vacancies (64 per cent, compared with 23 per cent in metropolitan areas).

### Unsuitable applicants

- Employers considered applicants unsuitable most commonly because they lacked trade qualifications.
- Some applicants lacked skill or experience in the occupation.
  - Employers stated a high proportion of applicants failed work trials.
- Many employers reported applicants failed to attend work trials, and that reliability of painting trades employees was an industry-wide issue.
- Some vacancies remained unfilled due to lack of agreement over remuneration.

### Demand and supply trends

- Available indicators suggest demand for painting trades workers in Queensland has decreased.
- Around 90 per cent of painting trades workers are employed in the construction industry.<sup>2</sup> Demand for the occupation is influenced by activity levels in this sector.
  - The value of building approvals in Queensland has trended downwards since January 2018, and declined by around 18 per cent in the year to December 2018.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016

<sup>3</sup> ABS, Building Approvals, December 2018, trend.

- The total value of building work done also declined in the year to September 2018.<sup>4</sup>
- The number of Queensland internet advertised vacancies for painting trades workers decreased by around 25 per cent in the year to September 2018.<sup>5</sup>
- The number of painting trades workers employed in Queensland declined by around 25 per cent in the year to August 2018.<sup>6</sup>
- Around 65 per cent of Queensland painting trades workers hold a Certificate III in Painting and Decorating.<sup>7</sup> Apprenticeship training is a major source of supply to the occupation.
  - Apprenticeship completions in painting and decorating in Queensland tracked below the long term average and decreased by around 16 per cent, in the year to March 2018 (185 trade completions).

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<sup>4</sup> ABS, Building Activity, September 2018, trend.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, September 2018, 12 month moving average

<sup>6</sup> ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business, trend

<sup>7</sup> ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016