



Plumbers

ANZSCO 3341

Tasmania
August 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

The labour market has tightened over recent years and a shortage is apparent in 2018. The demand for plumbers in Tasmania is strong, while the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy has decreased over recent years. All surveyed specialisations are in shortage.

Key research findings¹

- Employers faced difficulties filling vacancies regardless of the specialisation surveyed: general plumbers, gasfitters, roof plumbers, airconditioning and mechanical services plumbers.
- The majority of vacancies remained unfilled with only 42 per cent of surveyed vacancies being filled.
- A third of all surveyed employers received no suitable applicants.
 - The main reasons employers considered applicants unsuitable were due to not holding the required qualification, level of experience or were not the right fit for the business.
- Most surveyed employers sought qualified and experienced plumbers.
 - A small number of employers reported employing apprentices when unable to fill vacancies.

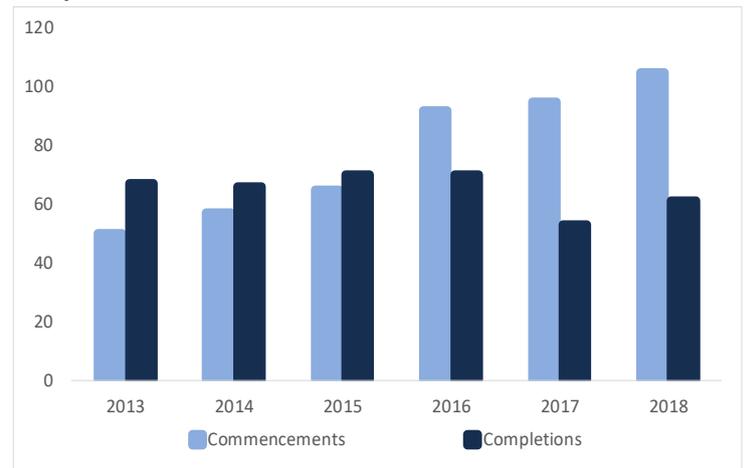
Demand and supply

- The demand for plumbers is influenced by the level of activity in the building and construction industry, which has remained high since the last survey in 2017.
 - The value of building work approved (chain volume measures) in Tasmania increased by 29.1 per cent for the year to June 2018, compared to a national decrease of 6.6 per cent over the same period.
 - Surveyed employers noted demand is being driven by an increase in large construction projects and flood damage repairs in southern Tasmania.
 - Construction industry employment in Tasmania is projected to grow by 6.0 per cent over the four years to May 2022.

2018 Survey Results²



Figure 1: Apprentices and trainees commencements and completions, Plumber, March 2013 to 2018, estimates



- Formal training is through the apprenticeship system via a Certificate III in Plumbing. In recent years fewer apprenticeships have been completed, although a steady year-on-year increase in commencements since 2013 suggests there may be additional supply in the future.
- According to the 2016 Census data, 1,200 people identified as plumbers in Tasmania; 33.6 per cent were owner managers and 65.2 per cent were employees.
 - Over two thirds of plumbers reported their occupation as plumber (general) (69.0 per cent).

¹ The Department of Jobs and Small Business supplemented this research by cold canvassing organisations as there were limited vacancies found in the lead-up to this report, and, as such, the findings should be used cautiously.

² The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business](#).

Additional data sources: ABS, Building Approvals, Aug 2018; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Employment Projections, Regional projections – five years to May 2022; National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National Apprentice and Trainee Collection, March 2018 estimates.