



Electrician (General) ANZSCO 3411-11

South Australia
September 2018

Current labour market rating:

Metro Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2017): Regional Shortage

Comments

This year's survey results showed a significant difference in the recruitment experience of metropolitan compared to regional employers. Employers in the metropolitan South Australia had a low fill rate of vacancies compared to employers in regional areas than last year.

Survey results¹

- Most employers attracted suitable applicants and were able to fill their vacancies.
 - The survey results showed there were 8.1 applicants per vacancy of which, 5.5 of applicants were qualified and 1.8 were suitable applicants.
 - Approximately 52 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks and 38 per cent of employers had unfilled vacancies, with some attempting to fill multiple vacancies. The previous employer survey conducted in 2017 found that around 69 per cent of vacancies were filled within four weeks.
- Data showed a significant difference when comparing regional and metropolitan areas.
 - On average, metropolitan employers filled 44 per cent of vacancies and attracted an average of 8.1 applicants per vacancy and 1.8 suitable applicants per vacancy.
 - In regional areas, employers filled 80 per cent of vacancies, attracted an average of 12.0 applicants per vacancy and 4.0 suitable applicants received per vacancy. It is important to note that a small sample of regional employers were surveyed in comparison to the metro employers surveyed.
- Most of the employers surveyed were electrical services contractors who offer services to customers in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Some businesses specialised in solar panel installations and telecommunications.

Unsuitable applicants

- All vacancies surveyed required applicants to be trade qualified and licensed. Employers advised 68 per cent of applicants satisfied these criteria.
- In some instances, vacancies remained unfilled even though there were suitable applicants due to location and unrealistic remuneration expectations.
- The main reasons for unsuitability were lack of basic qualification, lack of experience in the occupation, lack of industry-specific experience, poor references and work history. A lack of additional qualifications/registrations was also a factor in applicants deemed unsuitable for the vacancy.
- Other reasons employers found applicants to be unsuitable were poor personal attributes such as attitude, character and presentation.
- Employers recruiting electricians to work on solar panel installations preferred candidates who were Clean Energy Council (CEC) accredited. Employers clarified in some instances they were willing to cover the costs involved in obtaining additional qualifications of a suitable applicant.

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

Demand and supply trends

- According to the 2016 ABS Census, there were 7600 employed electricians in South Australia; this represented an approximate 3.4 per cent decrease compared to 2011 census data where there were 7870 employed electricians. Approximately 76.5 per cent of employed electricians lived in metro areas while 23.5 per cent lived in regional areas.²
- The 2016 Census also indicated that approximately 59.5 per cent of electricians were employed in the construction industry, 12.6 per cent were employed in the manufacturing industry and 6 per cent were employed in electricity, gas, water and waste services industry. Therefore, activity levels in the construction and manufacturing industries mainly influenced the demand for this trade.
- The Census also indicated approximately 78.9 per cent obtained Certificate III and IV qualification.
- In June 2018, HIA data indicated the availability of electrical trades continued to improve marginally³.
- Overall, the construction sector in South Australia appeared strong despite some recent indicators of steady activity.
 - The total value of building work done in South Australia increased in the year to March 2018 compared with the previous 12-month period and is above the five-year average.⁴
 - The value of building work commenced in South Australia as of March 2018 is above the five-year average, a 19.2 per cent increase compared with the previous 12 months.⁵
 - The value of South Australian residential building approvals increased slightly in the year to May⁶, which provided an indication of future demand, the number of building approvals remained well above the five-year average.⁷
- The value of building work yet to be done increased by 39 per cent from March 2017 to March 2018.⁸
- There was a steady decline in apprenticeship commencements over five consecutive years to March 2017, figures indicated there was a 38 per cent increase in 2018.
- In 2018, only 67 per cent of commenced trainees completed their training contracts.⁹
There were 386 completions in March 2018, which indicates they are below the five-year average of 443 completions. The number of trainees completing their contracts of training as an electrician has fluctuated over the last five years, reaching (501) in 2015.¹⁰

² ABS, Census of Housing and Population, 2016

³ HIA Trades Report June 2018

⁴ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 16, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁵ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 44, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁶ ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0

⁷ ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0, Table 33, estimates based on 12 month totals

⁸ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 50, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁹ NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III)

¹⁰ NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates (limited to certificate III)