



Cabinetmaker

3941-11

South Australia
September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Previous labour market rating (September 2017): Shortage

Comments

Employers surveyed have indicated a continued decline in the past 12 months with approximately a third of cabinetmaker vacancies being filled within four weeks. Most employer reported difficulties in attracting applicants that were qualified, and had the skills and experience for the vacancy.

Survey results¹

- A survey of employers across cabinet making, joinery and shop fitting business who had recently advertised have been contacted across residential and commercial sectors.
- On average there were 9.5 applicants per vacancy and an average of 0.4 applicants were suitable for the role. This is a further decline from 2017 where there was 0.6 suitable applicants per vacancy. This year's average is the lowest number recorded in ten years.
- Only 35 percent of vacancies were filled in 2018 and this represented a further decline from 2017. It is also considerably lower than the previous employer survey conducted in September 2016 when the proportion of vacancies filled was 100 per cent.
- Employers surveyed reported significant difficulties in attracting applicants that were qualified and had the skills and experience to do the role.
- The occupation of cabinetmakers has been rated as having a shortage in 2018 and this has been the case for four out of the last five years. The lack of suitable applicants continues to be of concern for employers. Several have said that they have had to decline work due to not having enough qualified staff to do the work. Some employers have stated that they are considering closing the business due to being unable to attract applicants that were capable of working to high standards.

Unsuitable applicants

- The average number of applicants per vacancy had risen by an average of 2 since 2017; however, 87 per cent of applicants were not qualified and therefore were not suitable for the vacancy. All employers surveyed required trade qualified cabinetmakers.
- The main reason for applicants being unsuitable was due to lacking the qualification or the skills and experience to do the role.
- Approximately 52 per cent of qualified applicants were considered unsuitable for the role and 60 per cent of employers had unfilled vacancies, which is a further decrease on 2017 where 50 per cent of vacancies were not filled.
- Other reasons for unsuitability included lack of sufficient technical skills and competency in the role. There were also applicants that lived too far from the place of work or were not happy to take the job due to the remuneration offered.

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

Demand and supply trends

- At the ABS 2016 Census there were 1700 employed cabinetmakers in South Australia.²
- Approximately 73 per cent of cabinetmakers were employed in the manufacturing industry and a further 15.7 per cent are in the construction industry. Demand for cabinetmaking products and services has been closely linked to building activity in the construction industry.
- Over 31 per cent of the workforce were self-employed; many of these work as installers.
- Overall, the construction sector in South Australia appears strong despite some recent indicators of steady activity.
 - The total value of building work done in South Australia improved in the year to March 2018 compared with the previous 12-month period and is above the five-year average.³
 - The value of building work commenced in South Australia is above the five-year average as at March 2018, this is a 19.2 per cent increase compared with the previous 12 months.⁴
 - The value of South Australian residential building approvals increased slightly in the year to May 2018,⁵ which provides an indication of future demand, the number of building approvals remain well above the five-year average.⁶
 - The value of building work yet to be done has increased by 39 per cent from March 2017 in comparison to March 2018.⁷
- According to ABS 2016 Census, around 69 per cent of cabinetmakers hold a Certificate III qualification or higher, indicating a high reliance on formal training as a source of occupational supply.⁸
- South Australian apprenticeship completions⁹ in cabinetmaking fell in 2016 (50) and decreased again in 2017 (43). There were minimal improvements in 2018 at 48 completions.
- The HIA Trades Report indicates that South Australia has maintained a relatively balanced supply of trades in recent years, but the deterioration in the availability of trades in South Australia reflects a growth in the number of multi-story apartment projects in the market.¹⁰

² ABS, Census of Housing and Population, 2016

³ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 16, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁴ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 44, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁵ ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0

⁶ ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0, Table 33, estimates based on 12 month totals

⁷ ABS, Building Activity, Australia, Cat. No. 8752.0, Table 50, estimates based on four quarter totals

⁸ ABS, Census of Housing and Population, 2016

⁹ NCVET, VOCSTATS

¹⁰ HIA Trades Report