



Urban and Regional Planner

ANZSCO 2326-11

Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no shortage of urban and regional planners in Australia. Most employers fill their vacancies with ease, however, public sector employers fill vacancies more readily than employers in the private sector.

Key research findings

- Although this labour market has tightened, no national shortage of urban and regional planners was identified, consistent with findings over the last decade.
 - The proportion of vacancies filled and the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy declined in 2019 (Figure 1). Employers were nevertheless able to fill most vacancies and usually had a choice of suitable candidates.
- While 95 per cent of public sector vacancies were filled, consultancies and private businesses filled around 58 per cent of their vacancies. Private sector employers also had substantially fewer suitable applicants.
- Most employers sought at least five years of experience, although many employers indicated there were few applicants with this level of experience, and noted that there was a relative abundance of junior and graduate planners.
- Almost all employers required a bachelor's degree in town or urban and regional planning, and experience working with local planning systems and legislation. Around 30 per cent of applicants were unqualified.
- Approximately three quarters of the qualified applicants were considered unsuitable, mainly because they lacked specific experience (e.g. in local government, statutory or strategic planning), or experience in the occupation.

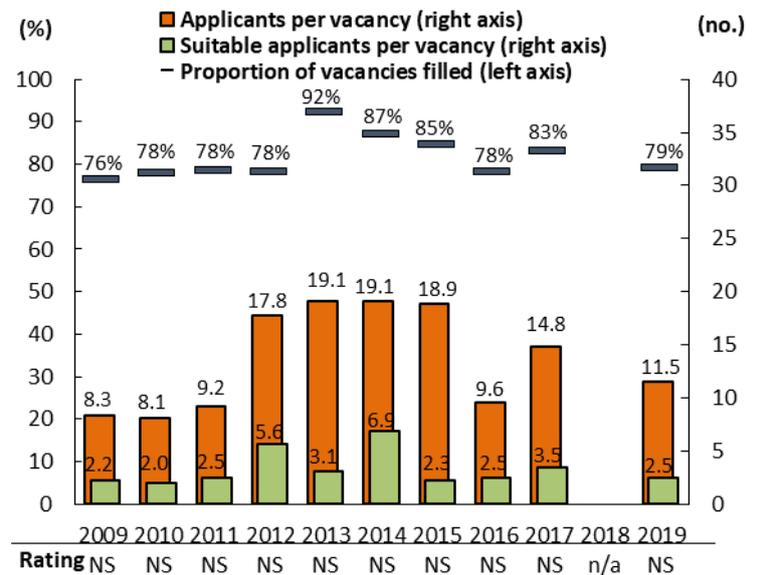
Demand and supply trends

- The demand for urban and regional planners has been strong in recent years, while new supply has been stable.
- Over the five years to February 2019, employment in this occupation increased by around 34 per cent, compared with 11 per cent growth across all occupations.
- Over the last five years, internet advertised vacancies for urban and regional planners have almost doubled, while vacancies for all occupations grew by 28 per cent.

2019 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey Results, Urban and Regional Planner, 2009 to 2019



Key to ratings: NS = No shortage; na = Not assessed

- After peaking in 2013, and then declining in 2014, bachelor's degree completions in Urban Design and Regional Planning have remained stable in recent years.
- In 2018, 84.6 per cent of graduates in this field who were available for full-time employment were employed full-time, four months after graduating. This was well above the average for all graduates (73.1 per cent), and significantly better than the outcomes for Urban Design and Regional Planning graduates over the past five years.
- Employment in this occupation is projected to increase by 7.6 per cent over the five years to May 2023, compared with 7.1 per cent across all occupations.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#)

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Labour Force, Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business trend; Department of Employment, Skills, Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2019; Department of Education, Higher Education Data Collection, 2018, customised tables; QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Occupation Employment Projections to May 2023.