



## Accountants

### ANZSCO 2211-11, 12, 13

## New South Wales

April 2019

#### Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no shortage of accountants in metropolitan and regional New South Wales. Employers were generally able to fill vacancies for specific roles in corporate, financial, taxation and management accounting.

#### Key research findings

- Employers filled 69 per cent of vacancies within the survey period compared with 44 per cent in April 2018. There was an average of 28.5 applicants per vacancy, 20.2 qualified applicants and 2.2 suitable applicants.
- The majority of vacancies surveyed were for corporate and personal accountants in the following industries: education, healthcare, council, retail, mining, airline, forensic, advisory and legal.
- Generally, employers sought qualified applicants with relevant bachelor qualifications as a minimum. Several employers also required applicants to be, or in the process of becoming, a Certified Accountant or Certified Practising Accountant.
- Employers indicated a requirement for a minimum of 3 to 5 years' work experience in Australia, for intermediate and senior positions.
- Employers surveyed considered over 85 per cent of qualified applicants unsuitable due to a lack of industry specific experience such as public practice or tax accounting and insufficient work experience in the industry.
- Employers considered applicants unsuitable for a variety of reasons, including lack of required qualifications, lack of industry specific experience, lack of length of experience, not possessing the level of communication skills sought by the employers, not possessing a strong work history and poor application standards.

#### Demand and supply

- The average monthly number of internet vacancies for accountants in NSW decreased by 3.6 per cent in the year to April 2019.

#### 2019 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



69%  
of vacancies  
filled



28.5  
Applicants per  
vacancy

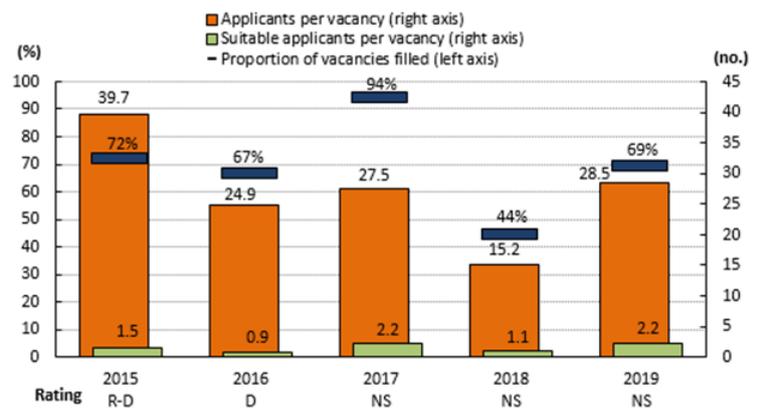


20.2  
Qualified  
applicants  
per vacancy



2.2  
Suitable  
applicants per  
vacancy

Figure 1: Survey results, Accountants, 2015 to 2019



Key to ratings: R-D = Regional recruitment difficulty; D = Recruitment difficulty; NS = No shortage

- The number of domestic students completing undergraduate courses in accounting from NSW universities averaged around 1930 per annum in the three years to 2017. This was around 11 per cent lower than the average for the previous three years.
- The estimated number of employed accountants in NSW has increased by 7.7 per cent in the year to February 2019. The broad movement has been an upwards from 2012 onwards.
- The number of temporary resident skilled visas granted averaged 639 per year in the five years to 2017-18.

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

Additional Data Sources: Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, June 2019, 12 month moving average; Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, employed persons by ANZSCO Unit group, Department of Employment trend; Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Resident (Skilled) Visas Granted