



# Accountant

## ANZSCO 2211

South Australia  
April 2019

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

There is a shortage of accountants in South Australia. Most applicants lack the specific experience employers require.

#### Key research findings

- The occupations surveyed included general, financial, taxation and management accountants across the accounting services, manufacturing, mining and construction industries.
- Around 57 per cent of the surveyed vacancies were filled, compared with 46 per cent filled in 2018 (which was a five year low in the time series).
- The average number of applicants per vacancy was higher in 2019 (28.1), than in 2018 (24.2).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy declined this year (1.4) compared with 2018 (1.7).
- Employers who sought financial accountants had the least difficulty in finding qualified and suitable applicants.
- Employers seeking senior public practice accountants had the most significant recruitment difficulties, with all positions remaining unfilled.

#### Employer Requirements

- All employers required a bachelor's degree in accounting or commerce. Around 70 per cent of the applicants held these qualifications.
- Most employers sought Chartered Accountant (CA) or Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) qualifications (or for applicants to be working towards the qualifications), and Australian accounting experience.
- Vacancies for senior public practice accountants generally required at least five years of public practice experience, CA or CPA qualifications and significant taxation and client servicing experience.

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



- Other skills and experience sought included experience in financial reporting systems, database management, and tenancy and project management methodologies.

#### Unsuitable applicants

- Around 90 per cent of the qualified applicants were considered unsuitable, most commonly because they lacked specific experience (e.g. Australian taxation legislation or public practice accounting experience), or experience in the occupation.

#### Demand and supply

- The number of accountants in SA was stable from the 2011 to the 2016 Census (around 8000 workers).<sup>2</sup>
- In the year to March 2019, advertised internet vacancies decreased by around 7 per cent. Over the five years to 2019, vacancies declined by around 9 per cent.<sup>3</sup>
- South Australian undergraduate course completions in accounting have trended downwards since 2013, and decreased by around 7 per cent from 2016 to 2017.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business](#).

<sup>2</sup> ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016, customised tables

<sup>3</sup> Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2019, 12 month moving average

<sup>4</sup> Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables