



Structural Steel and Welding Trades Worker

ANZSCO 3223-11, 12, 13

South Australia
December 2018

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

3223-11 Metal Fabricator: No Shortage

3223-12 Pressure Welder: Cannot rate

3223-13 Welder (First Class): Cannot rate

The labour market for structural steel and welding trades workers has tightened in recent years, however the number of suitable applicants has increased.

Key research findings

- The employer survey indicated there were no shortages in the structural steel and welding trades workers in South Australia. With most work in manufacturing, construction and mining.
- The demand for structural steel and welding trades workers had fallen due to cuts in funding and changes to the industry.²
- Employers indicated suitable applicant numbers were also low for each vacancy lodged.
- Reasons why applicants were unsuccessful or deemed unsuitable were due to:
 - Lack of basic skills
 - Relevant experience
 - Poor applications, including requiring interview and poor references
- Some employers advised there were challenges in finding enough qualified applicants and applicants look for better remuneration as new projects opened up with other employers who required staff quickly.

2018 Survey Results¹



70%
of vacancies filled



6.4
Applicants per vacancy



3.1
Qualified applicants per vacancy



0.9
Suitable applicants per vacancy

Demand and supply

- The Census indicated structural steel and welding trades industry is male dominated with 99.1 per cent being male employees in comparison to 0.9 per cent being female.⁵
- The demand for structural steel and welding trades workers had decreased based on labour market conditions within South Australia.³
- Advertised internet vacancy data indicated vacancies were steady and, decreased slightly in December 2018.⁴
- There were 252 commencements of Certificate III in Engineering-Fabrication Trade in the 2017-18 Financial Year in South Australia, and only 129 completions.
- The overall five year average is 188 and the number of completions in 2017-18 was the lowest in five years.⁶
- Of all workers in structural steel and welding in Australia, 7.8 per cent were employed in South Australia. In Victoria it was 28.0 per cent and in NSW it was 24.5 per cent.⁷

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

Additional Data Sources:

² Australian Bureau of Statistics, ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1, Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers

³ Government of South Australia, Mid-Year Budget Review 2018-19, December 2018

⁴ Internet Vacancy Data November 2018

⁵ ABS Census Data 2016

⁶ NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, June 2018, estimates

⁷ Source: Based on ABS Labour Force Survey, annual average 2017, Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003: Customised Report