



# Metal Machinist (First Class)

## ANZSCO 323214

South Australia  
December 2018

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

Less than half of vacancies were filled in this occupation however employers have indicated an increase in applicant numbers and the proportion of vacancies filled in the last year.

### Key research findings

- Metal machinist (first class) has been in shortage for six of the past seven years.
- The average number of filled vacancies increased significantly in the last twelve months. On average, there was 2.3 qualified applicants per vacancy in 2018 compared to the average of 1.5 qualified applicants in 2017.
- Employers advised a lack of experience and essential skills were the most common reasons for applicant unsuitability.
- Employers sought applicants who had experience in varying fields for their advertised vacancy.
- Some employers attributed difficulties in attracting suitable applicants being offered better remuneration within the mining industry.
- Employers preferred applicants who were able to demonstrate the essential technical skills as well as employability skills, such as being the right 'organisational fit' and having 'an eye for detail'.
- Employers' preferred demonstrated problem solving skills and the ability to read and interpret drawings as sought after skills.
- Metropolitan employers attracted a slightly higher number of applicants than regional employers.
- Employers advised location and travel time influenced willingness of applicants to accept employment.

### 2018 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



44%  
of vacancies  
filled



10  
Applicants per  
vacancy



2.3  
Qualified  
applicants  
per vacancy



1.2  
Suitable  
applicants per  
vacancy

### Demand and supply

- At the 2016 Census there were around 190 metal machinists (first class) employed in South Australia. This number has decreased by 20 per cent since the 2011 Census.<sup>2</sup>The number of metal machinists (first class) has declined steadily since 2006.
- Three quarters of metal machinists (first class) had certificate III qualifications and around ten percent had achieved an advanced diploma.<sup>3</sup>
- A reduction in apprentices between 2014 and 2017 has affected the availability of qualified applicants. In the last 12 months, there has been an increase in the number of apprenticeships undertaken.
- There has been an increase of 56 commencements with 252 Certificate III in Engineering in the Fabrication trade in comparison to 196 from 2014 to 2016.<sup>4</sup>
- The new manufacturing hub (at Tonsley) has been promoted as playing a pivotal role in advancing South Australia's manufacturing industry.<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> ABS2016 Census of Population and Housing

<sup>3</sup> NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees 2018, March quarter

<sup>4</sup> SA.gov Advanced manufacturing and future industries