

Fibrous Plasterer

ANZSCO 3332-11

Australian Capital Territory
September 2018

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers continue to experience difficulty filling advertised fibrous plasterer roles, with shortages now apparent in the ACT for the third consecutive year. With apprenticeship numbers for this occupation remaining very low in the ACT, shortages are likely to continue for the medium term.

Key research findings

- The labour market for fibrous plasterers remained tight in 2018 with few surveyed employers filling their vacancies.
 - There was an average of one applicant per vacancy and a very small proportion of applicants were considered to be suitable.
 - Around one in five employers failed to attract any applicants.
- Some employers who were unable to fill their vacancies said they would need to limit or turn down future work.
- Employers generally sought fibrous plasterers who had experience in their field of construction, could work unsupervised and possessed their own transport.
- All surveyed employers indicated they were prepared to compromise on trade qualification requirements and hire an experienced but unqualified tradesperson.
- Most applicants were considered to be unsuitable because they lacked experience in the trade.
- The majority of surveyed employers work predominately in residential construction.

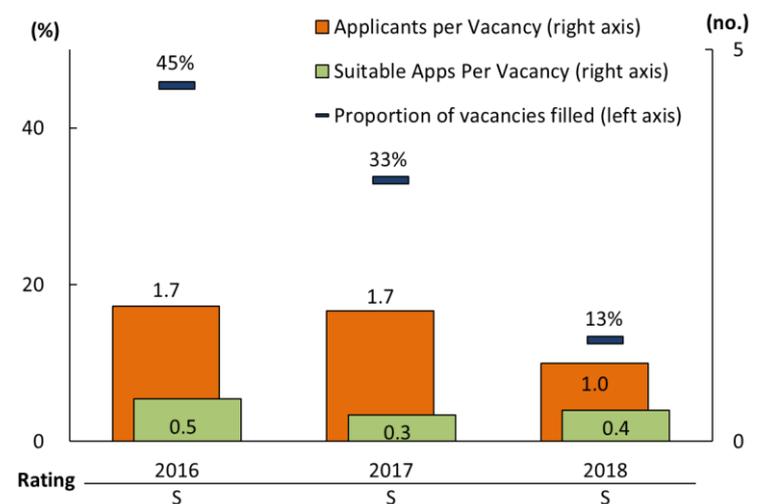
Demand and supply

- This is a small labour market, with 230 fibrous plasterers employed in the ACT in 2016.
- The demand for fibrous plasterers is driven by construction activity, particularly building construction.
- Supporting the demand for these workers, the value of building work done in the ACT has increased strongly over the past three years (up by more than 40 per cent), to a near historical high in September 2018.

2018 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Fibrous Plasterer, ACT, 2016 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage

- New supply has not matched demand, with fibrous plastering apprenticeships consistently low in the ACT.
 - Over the past five years, commencements averaged less than 10 per year, while completions averaged less than five.

Outlook

- There is a solid pipeline of building work in the ACT, which will support the demand for fibrous plasterers in the near term.
 - Building approvals have risen strongly over the past year to a historically high level.

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

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Building Approvals, September 2018, trend; ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; ABS, Construction Work Done, September 2018, chain volume measures, trend; NCVER, Apprentices and Trainees, March 2018, estimates.