



Veterinarian

ANZSCO 2347-11

Australia
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Current labour market rating – Shortage

The labour market for veterinarians has tightened in recent years, with applicant numbers and the proportion of vacancies filled falling significantly, and shortages are apparent. The demand for veterinarians has increased strongly over the past few years, while the growth in new supply has slowed over this period.

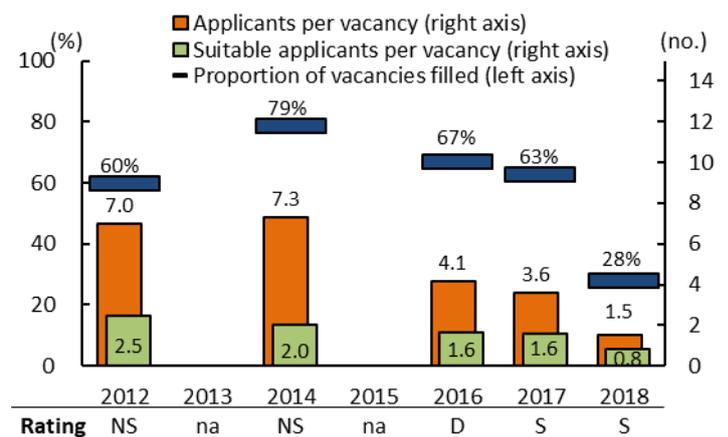
Key issues

- Applicant numbers were historically low in 2018 (figure 1) and, while almost all applicants held relevant qualifications, around half were regarded as unsuitable, typically because they lacked
 - experience (which often needed to be in a particular veterinary specialisation) or
 - employability skills (such as customer service).
- Shortages are widespread, with employers generally having difficulty recruiting veterinarians regardless of their location or the specialisation for which they were recruiting.
- The demand for veterinarians has strengthened.
 - The number of employed veterinarians has increased in recent years and advertised vacancy numbers for this profession are at an historic high.
- Completions in courses leading to provisional registration as a veterinary practitioner remain high by historical standards. That said, the growth in completions has slowed over the past three years (figure 2) and veterinary science graduates have strong employment outcomes, suggesting that the demand currently exceeds supply.
 - In 2017, 81.4 per cent of Veterinary Science graduates were employed full-time four months after graduating, well above the average for all graduates (71.8 per cent).

2018 Survey results¹

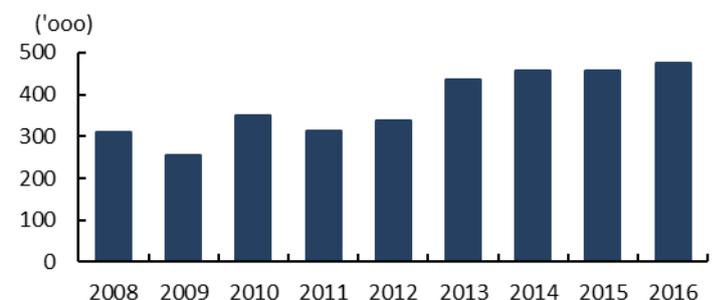


Figure 1: Survey results, Veterinarian, 2012 to 2018



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; D = Recruitment difficulty; NS = No shortage; na = Not assessed

Figure 2: Higher education completions in courses leading to provisional registration as a veterinary practitioner, 2008 to 2016



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

Additional data sources: ABS, Labour Force, February 2017; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, April 2018, 12 month moving average; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Statistics (domestic students); QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey