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AUSTRALIA

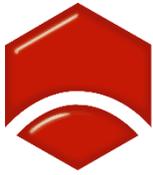
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# Engineering Vacancies Report

September 2017 Update

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8 November 2017



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

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## Introduction

This policy report investigates the current state of engineering employment in Australia by analysing the direction of change in engineering vacancy numbers. The Australian Government Department of Employment has released its September 2017 Vacancies Report which covers trends in job vacancies to the end of September 2017, including revisions for previous months. The statistics presented are the Department's revised and preferred trend series. All the vacancy numbers and graphs presented in this report are in trend terms.

Job vacancies can provide a valuable gauge of the state of the labour market as vacancies are a key indicator of unmet demand for labour in the economy<sup>1</sup>. When the demand for labour is strong, the levels of vacancies will also generally rise. Analysing movements in engineering vacancies can provide a broad indication of the direction of the engineering labour market. This report will investigate vacancy trends in Australia as well each state and territory. Further analysis of engineering occupations is also investigated, and this is to Australian and New Zealand Standard Classifications of Occupations (ANZSCO) four-digit unit group classifications.

This report will include trends in the engineering occupations of:

- *Engineering managers* (unit group 1332). This includes engineering managers only.
- *Chemical and materials engineers* (unit group 2331). This includes chemical engineers and materials engineers.
- *Civil engineering professionals* (unit group 2332). This includes civil engineers, geotechnical engineers, quantity surveyors, structural engineers and transport engineers.
- *Electrical engineers* (unit group 2333). This includes electrical engineers only.
- *Electronics engineers* (unit group 2334). This includes electronics engineers only.
- *Industrial, mechanical and production engineers* (unit group 2335). This includes industrial engineers, mechanical engineers and production or plant engineers.
- *Mining engineers* (unit group 2336). This includes mining engineers and petroleum engineers.
- *Other engineering professionals* (unit group 2339). This includes aeronautical engineers, agricultural engineers, biomedical engineers, engineering technologists, environmental engineers, naval architects and engineering professionals not elsewhere classified.
- *ICT support and test engineers* (unit group 2632). This includes ICT quality assurance engineers, ICT support engineers and ICT systems test engineers. It must be noted that for this occupation it can be hard to gauge how many of these occupations are engineering specific, so some caution should be taken with numbers for this occupation.
- *Telecommunications engineers* (unit group 2633). This includes telecommunications engineers and telecommunications network engineers.

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<sup>1</sup> Edwards. K, and Gustafsson. L, 2013. Reserve Bank of Australia, Bulletin, September Quarter, *Indicators of Labour Demand*. [www.rba.gov.au](http://www.rba.gov.au)

## Executive Summary

Engineering vacancies in Australia have been much more variable than general vacancies in Australia over the last decade. The engineering profession saw pronounced engineering job growth periods during the resources boom, and was able to recover after the Global Financial Crisis. However, engineering jobs deteriorated after 2013, and did not show signs of recovery until late 2016. Over the first nine months of 2017 engineering vacancies have grown slowly, but steadily. The biggest points of note compared to the June update is a slow-down in engineering vacancies in New South Wales and the ACT, and continued strong growth in Victoria.

Engineering job vacancy numbers are still being led by New South Wales, which has recorded over 1,300 vacancies in September 2017. Engineering vacancies in the state have grown 12 per cent in the last 12 months, however there has been a fall of 1.4 per cent in the last three months. New South Wales is followed in engineering vacancy numbers by Victoria with 900 vacancies recorded in September 2017. In the last nine months engineering vacancy numbers have grown 20.7 per cent, with growth of 11 per cent in the last three months alone.

Over the first nine months of 2017 engineering vacancies have also grown in Queensland (725 in September 2017) and in Western Australia (587 in September 2017), with 25.3 per cent growth in Queensland and 30.7 per cent growth in Western Australia. South Australia has also continued to see strong growth in engineering vacancy numbers throughout 2017 (162 in September 2017) with growth of 18.6 per cent over this time period.

The smaller jurisdictions of Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory usually record much more variable growth rates than the other jurisdictions due to their smaller size, but there has been solid growth recorded in the first nine months of 2017 for Tasmania (38.8 per cent) and the Northern Territory (28.5 per cent). The ACT on the other hand has seen the largest fall of all jurisdictions in 2017 with a fall of 13.5 per cent in engineering vacancies.

The majority of the engineering job vacancies recorded are for civil engineering occupations. Civil engineering vacancies dominate the vacancies for engineers in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. In Queensland and the Northern Territory, civil engineering vacancies are also the predominant engineering occupation vacancy, but there is also a high amount of mining engineering jobs recorded in those jurisdictions. In the ACT Civil engineering occupations are fairly even with ICT Support and Test Engineers. In Western Australia, the most engineering occupation vacancies are for mining engineers which has grown particularly strong throughout 2017.

Other engineering occupations such as industrial and mechanical engineering vacancies have grown over the course of 2017 led by Victoria and Western Australia, with smaller growth for this occupation in New South Wales and South Australia. Electrical engineering occupation vacancies have also continued to grow over 2017 in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, with smaller growth recorded in South Australia. Other occupations are also recording more vacancies, most likely a flow-on effect of major projects underway in some of the larger states, however they come off a much smaller base than the larger occupations of civil, mining, electrical, and industrial and mechanical.

# Australia

Engineering vacancies in Australia have historically shown a higher level of variance compared to job vacancies in Australia overall. Engineering job vacancies were heavily influenced by the construction phase of the resources boom and the Global Financial Crisis (GFC).

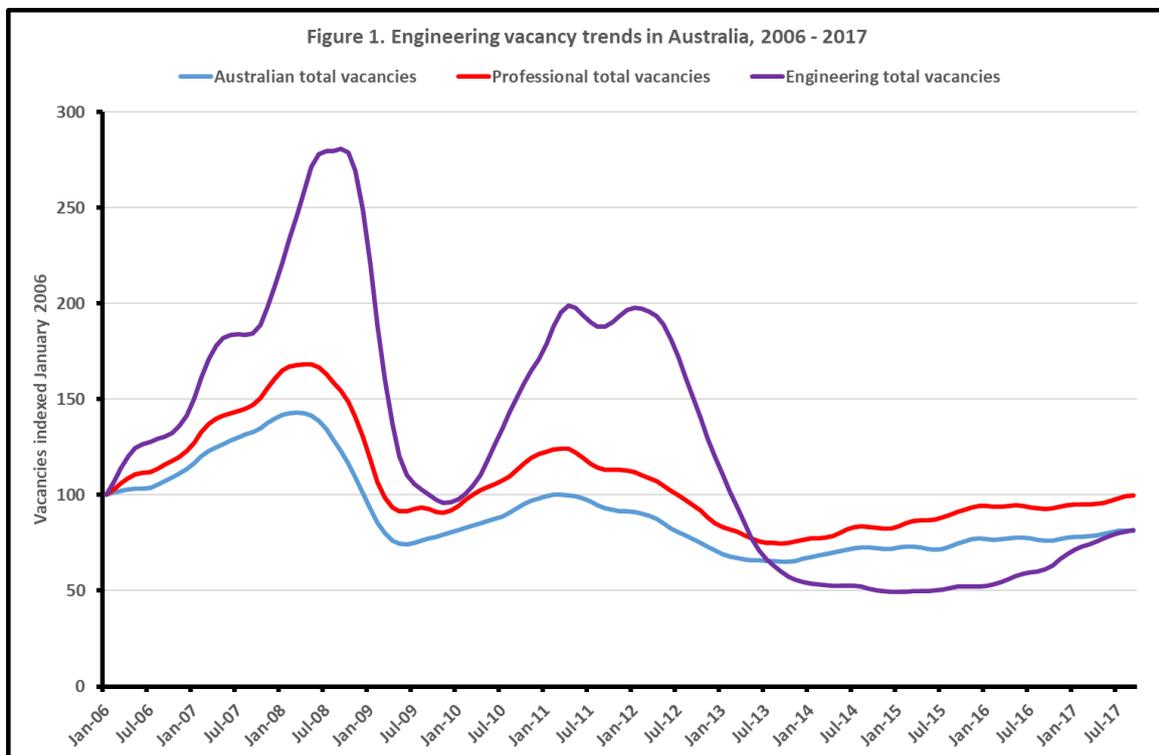


Figure 1 provides background information about the changes to the Australian labour force, the professional occupation labour force, and the engineering labour force over the last decade. As demonstrated above, engineering vacancies have been considerably more influenced by economic forces compared to the broader labour market. In 2006 Australia's engineering labour force grew significantly to meet the demand for engineers during the construction phase of the resources boom, peaking in 2008. The engineering labour force then weathered the GFC which soon followed, and a second period of strong job growth was seen in 2010 and 2011.

This recovery was short-lived and the engineering labour market began to deteriorate rapidly from December 2012 as engineering vacancies began a 30-month slide. This deterioration continued through to 2014 and engineering vacancies remained at low levels, until new signs of growth appeared again in 2016. The first nine months of 2017 has seen a slower and stable growth compared to the growth of the booms in earlier years, as the engineering job market slowly returns closer to the levels seen just before the resources boom. The recent growth in the number of engineering vacancies is a sign of improvement in the engineering labour force.

At its peak in September 2008, there were 13,002 vacancies recorded for engineers, while at its lowest point in January 2015, there were only 2,280 vacancies recorded for engineers.

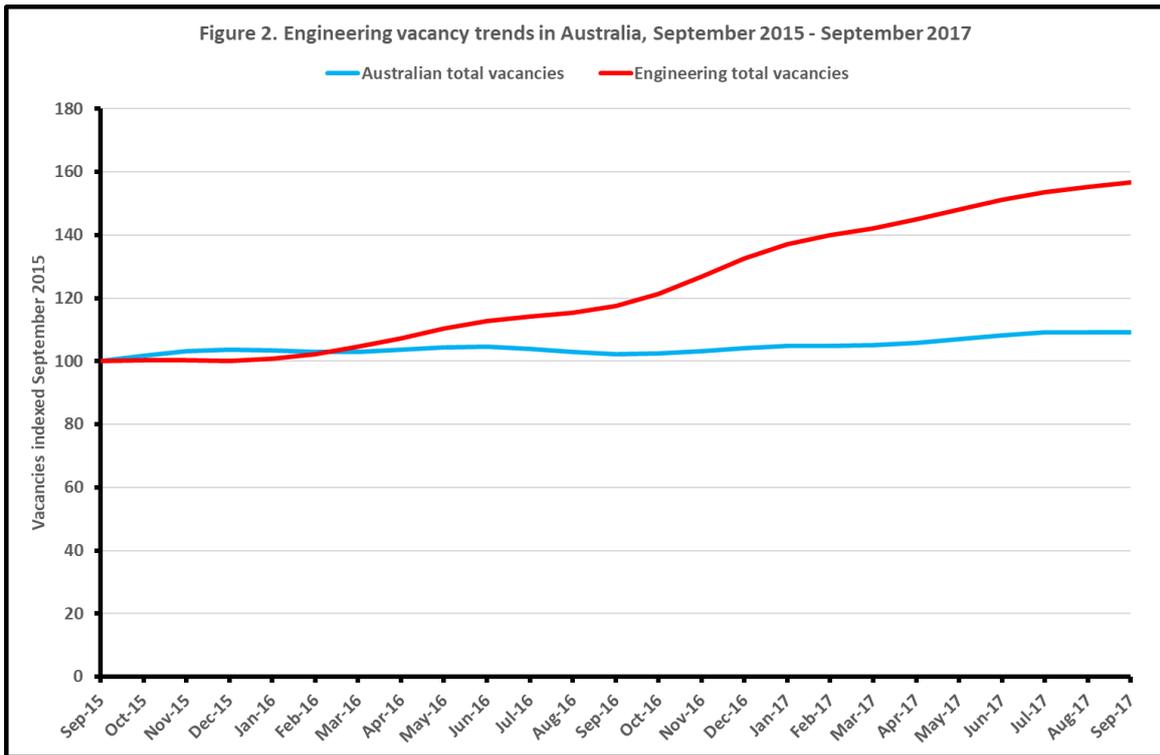


Figure 2 shows the growth of both Australian total vacancies and engineering vacancies in the last two years. Engineering vacancies grew at a higher rate than the total Australian labour force during this period with higher growth throughout 2016, continuing through 2017. Engineering vacancies grew from 2,414 in September 2015 to 2,838 in September 2016. This growth continued over the following 12 months with 3,783 engineering vacancies recorded in September 2017, growth of 33.3 per cent over that period. In the first nine months of 2017, engineering vacancy numbers have continued to climb, recording growth of 14.4 per cent. Engineering vacancies have also continued to climb in the last three months, growing steadily at 3.7 per cent.

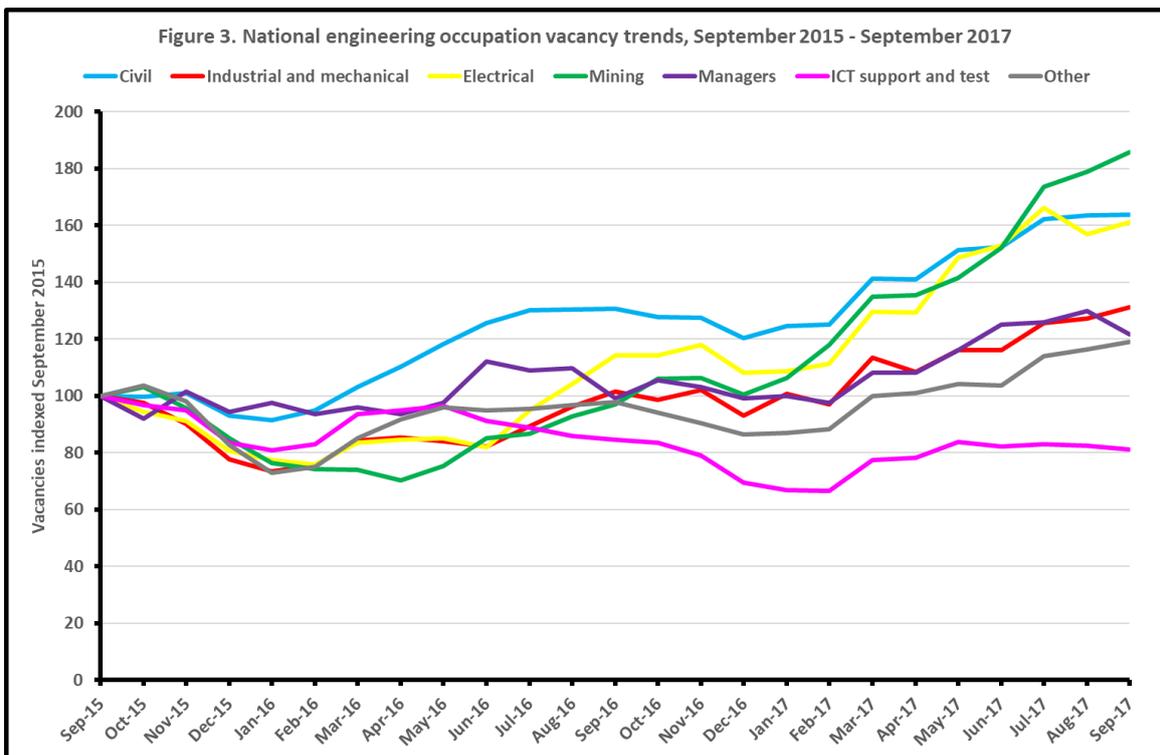


Figure 3 provides further insight to the growth trends of engineering occupations which have fuelled the overall growth in engineering vacancies over the past decade. Figure 3 shows trends for engineering occupations over the last two years, with many occupations increasing numbers in mid-2016 and early 2017. Looking at figure 3:

- Civil engineering occupations have been driving the majority of growth in overall engineering vacancies over the past 12 months, as the largest occupation, and this is on the back of growth in New South Wales and Victoria. Civil engineering vacancies consistently record the highest number of all engineering vacancies with 2,216 vacancies recorded in September 2017. This is up from 1,685 recorded in January 2017, and much higher than the 1,352 recorded in September 2015.
- Vacancies for industrial and mechanical engineers has grown steadily over the last 12 months with 615 vacancies recorded in September 2017. This is up from 476 vacancies recorded a year ago in September 2016.
- Vacancy numbers for electrical engineers has seen consistent growth over the last 12 months. In September 2016 there were 223 vacancies recorded, growing to 314 in September 2017. Electrical engineering jobs are spread through the major states in Australia.
- Mining engineering occupations have grown over the last 12 months, with numbers continuing to climb strongly in the last six months, leading growth in engineering vacancies. This comes off the back of strong growth in mining engineering vacancies in Western Australia, and to a lesser extent in Queensland. In January of this year there was 298 vacancies recorded, which has quickly moved up to 520 recorded in September.
- Engineering manager occupations have remained fairly consistent over the past two years, with a small spike in the most recent months of 2017. In September 2016 there were 123 vacancies recorded, staying steady to 124 recorded in January 2017, growing more sharply in recent months to 151 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- ICT support and Test engineer vacancies are not following the trend of other engineering occupations, and have actually recorded a fall in numbers over the last two years. In September 2015 there were 640 vacancies for this occupation, dropping to 542 recorded in September 2016, continuing to fall to 520 recorded in September 2017.

Other occupations that are not shown in Figure 3 as they have consistently recorded much smaller numbers historically, and growth can be much more variable in these occupations.

Telecommunications engineering occupations have been reasonably stable over the last two years. In September 2015 there were 90 vacancies recorded for telecommunications engineers, very similar to the 94 recorded in September 2017.

Vacancies for chemical and materials engineers, as well as electronics engineers has been consistent over the past two years, but these occupations remain at much lower levels when compared to the other occupations. In September 2017 there were 37 vacancies recorded for chemical and materials engineers, and 45 for electronics engineers.

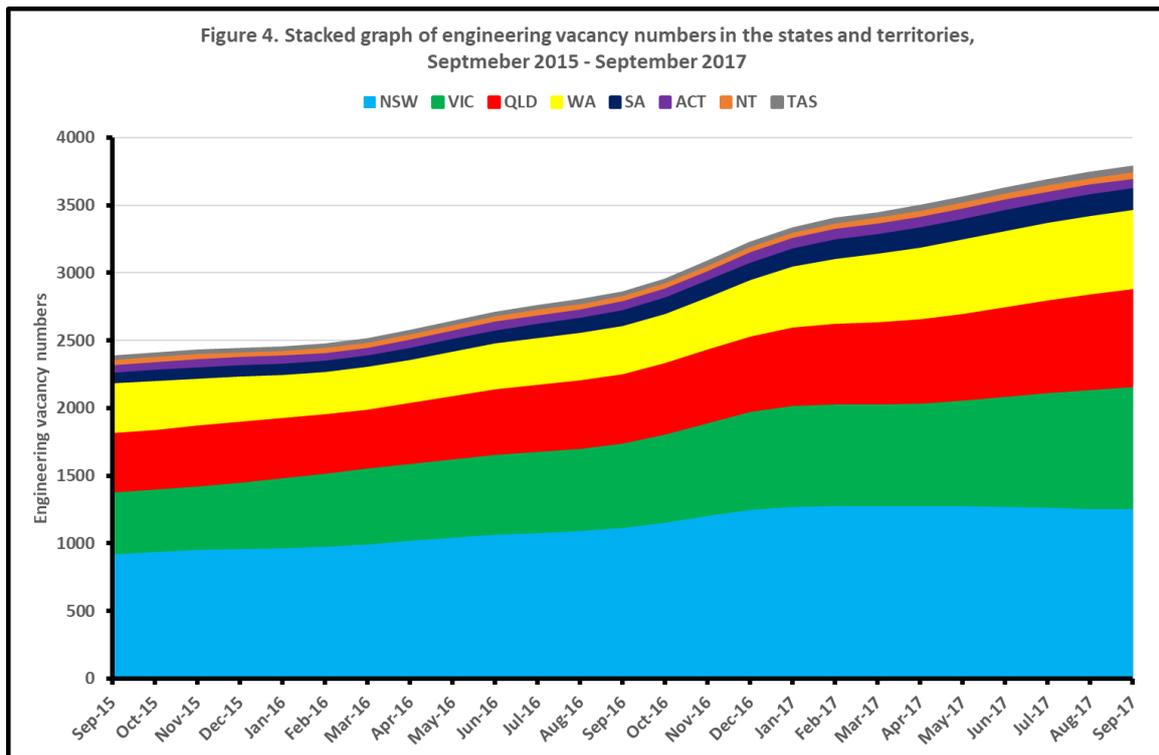


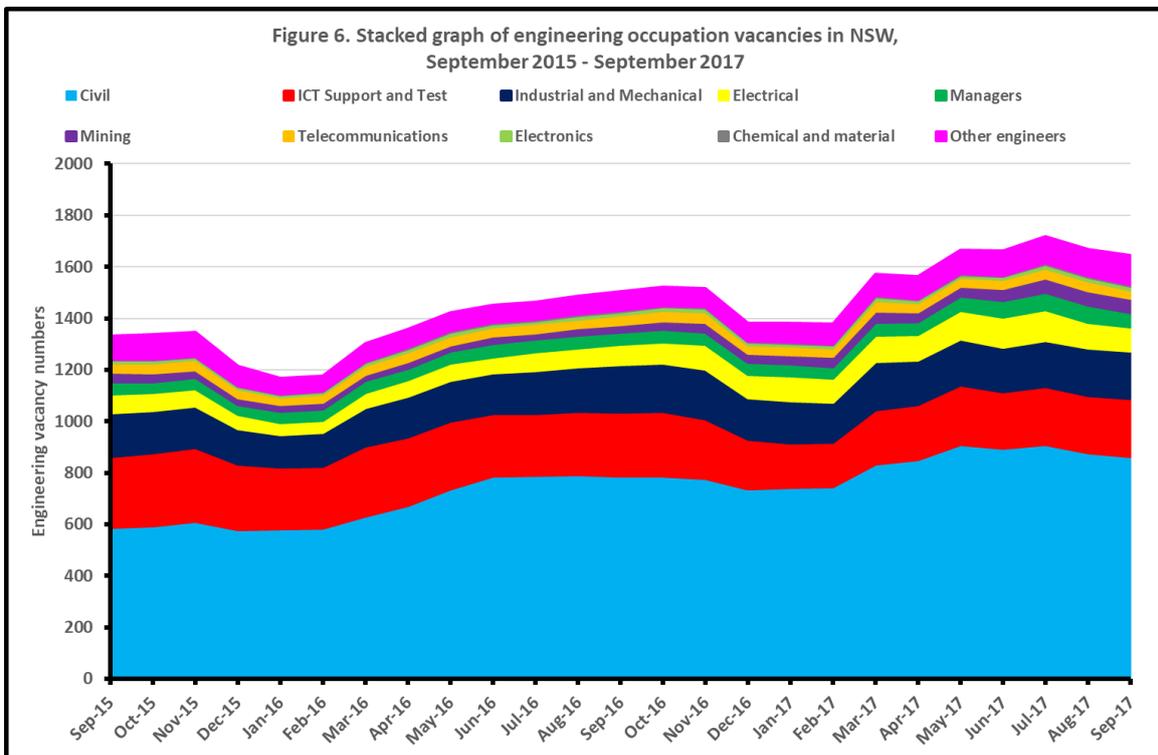
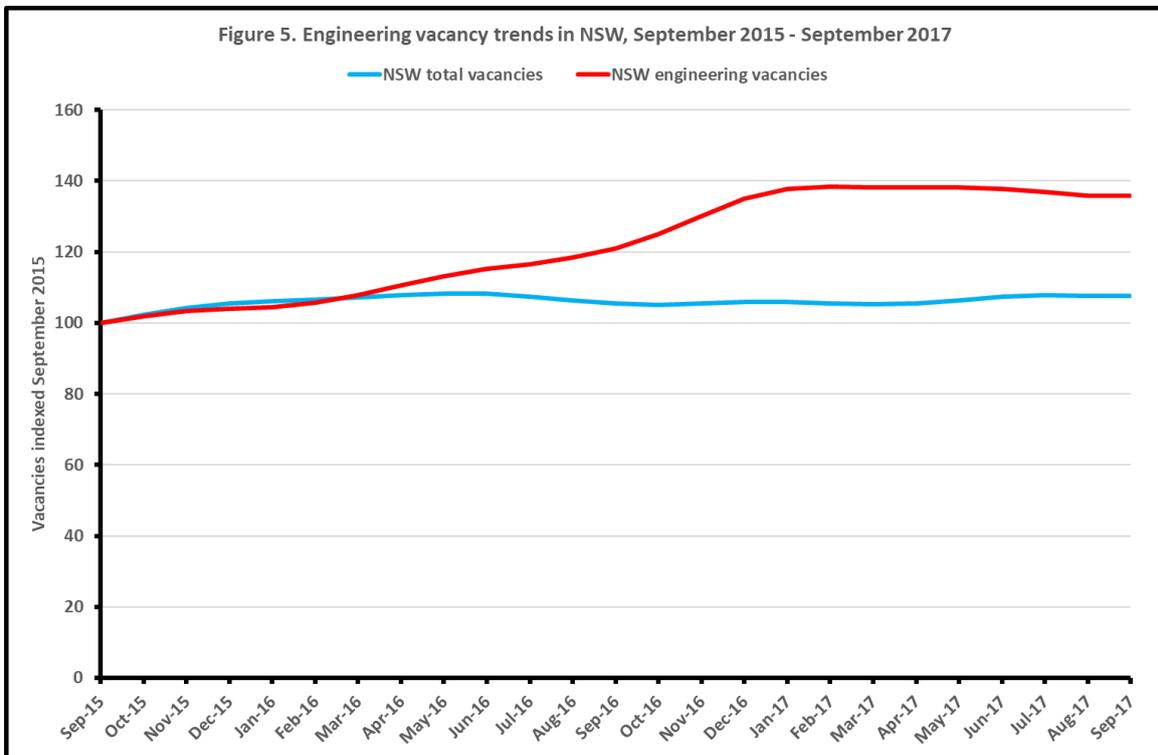
Figure 4 is a stacked graph which shows how engineering vacancies are shared throughout the states and territories. As seen in Figure 4 New South Wales is the state which has consistently recorded the largest amount of engineering vacancies, followed by Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. Most of the growth seen in the Australian engineering labour market can be attributed to increasing vacancy numbers seen in these larger states. Growth during the second half of 2016 was the first real indication that a recovery may be underway in the engineering labour market, and growth has continued throughout the first nine months of 2017, but at a slightly lower growth rate. This growth is much more of a slow consistent growth compared to the rapid growth of the booms in 2008 and 2011.

What Figure 4 also tells us is that growth isn't concentrated in only one jurisdiction, and is more in standing with job vacancies after a boom in a sector which was so strong it masked growth in other sectors. During the resources boom we also witnessed more significant growth in the states more dependent on resources. The pattern that we are seeing in the last few years may be more promising to see as we have moved away from a resources dependent pattern towards a more normal pattern where growth is more evenly distributed between the states and territories.

In the following chapters this report discusses each state and territory in more detail including the engineering occupations which are pushing up the number of vacancies in each state.

## New South Wales

New South Wales has consistently recorded the highest number of engineering vacancies in Australia for the last two years. Figure 5 below shows engineering vacancy trends in NSW in comparison to overall vacancy trends in the state, while Figure 6 is a stacked graph of the engineering occupations in the state.



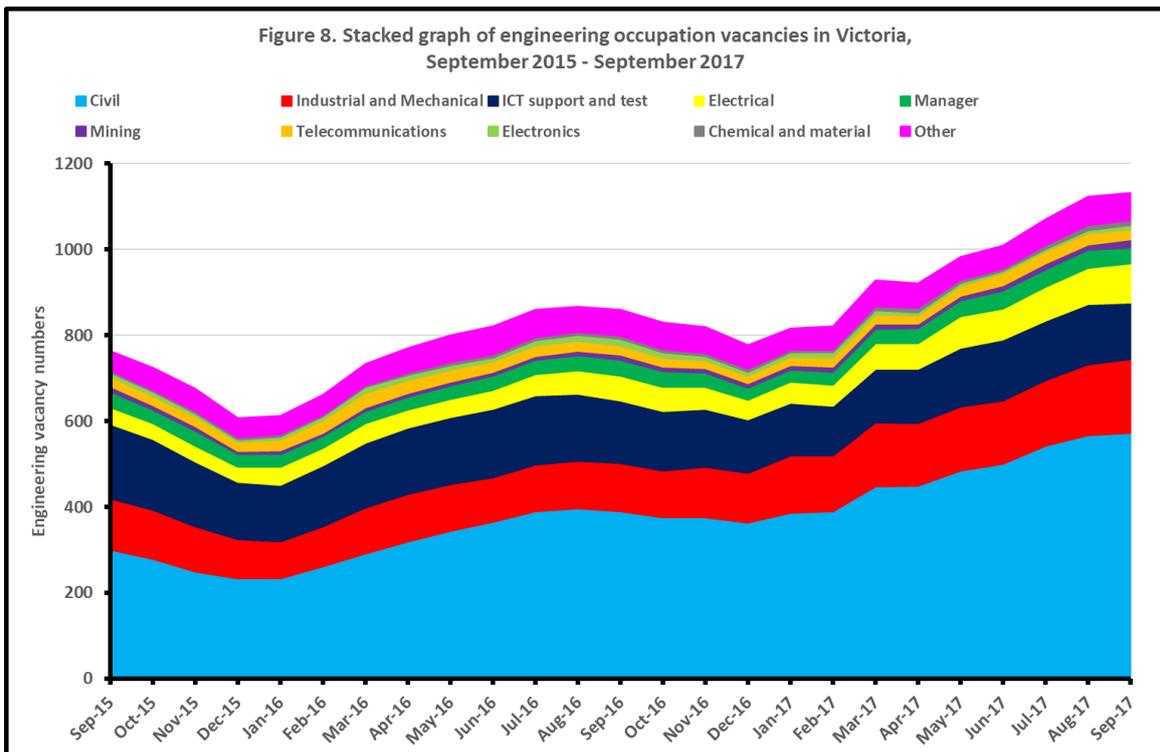
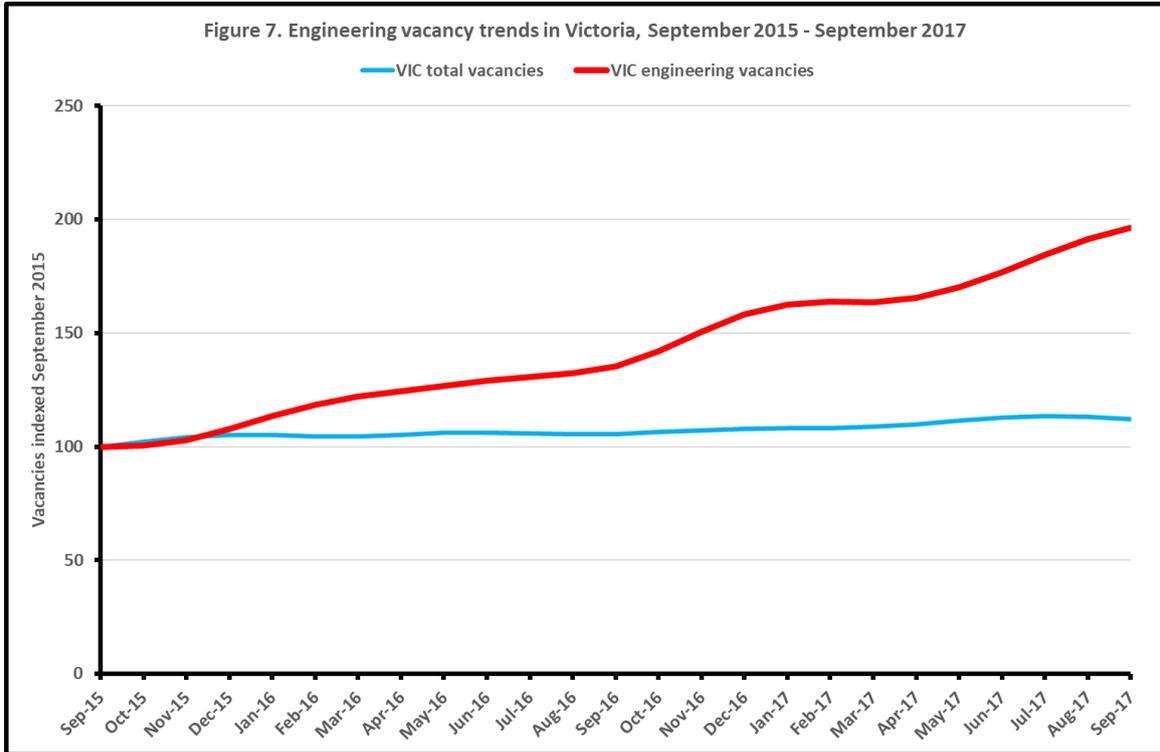
Engineering vacancy growth trends in NSW have consistently been higher than overall NSW vacancies for the last two years. Over the last 12 months total NSW vacancy numbers have grown by 2.1 per cent, compared to 12.3 per cent for NSW engineering vacancies over the same time period. However, the growth seen over 2016 has steadied in 2017 and fallen slightly over the course of the last few months, recording a fall of 1.4 per cent over the last nine months. In January 2017 there was 1,283 vacancies recorded for engineers, which fell slightly to 1,265 vacancies recorded in September 2017.

Engineering vacancy numbers in NSW are dominated by vacancies recorded in Civil engineering occupations, which make up roughly two-thirds of all engineering vacancies in the state. Some points of note in NSW are:

- Civil engineering occupations continue to drive the increasing numbers in NSW engineering vacancies, growing strongly in 2016, and the first few months of 2017 before slowing in recent months. In September 2015 there was 587 vacancies recorded, which grew to 911 recorded in July 2017. In recent months this has dropped back down to 863 recorded in September 2017. There have been a number of major infrastructure projects in the state which could have contributed to some of this growth in recent times such as the Sydney Rapid Transit Project, the WestConnex Project and the Regional Road Freight Corridor Project.
- Industrial and mechanical engineering occupations have grown slightly over the last two years, with the biggest growth occurring during mid-2016, before tracking at a steady rate over the first nine months of 2017. In January 2016 there was 126 vacancies recorded which grew to 173 in January 2017, and pushing slightly higher to 184 recorded in September 2017.
- Electrical engineering occupations have also seen growth in vacancy numbers recorded during 2016, showing some higher growth during the middle of 2017 and falling away slightly in recent months. In January 2016 there were 48 vacancies recorded for electrical engineers in NSW, growing to 95 in January 2017. In July there were 120 recorded, before falling down to 92 in September 2017.
- Engineering manager occupation vacancies have remained reasonably steady in NSW. In January 2016 there was 42 recorded, compared to 46 recorded a year later. In September 2017, this has grown slightly to 58 recorded.
- Vacancies for mining engineers in NSW have grown slightly over the two-year period. In September 2015 there were 36 vacancies for mining engineers, growing to 54 vacancies in September 2017.
- Vacancies for telecommunications engineers have remained steady over the past 12 months, hovering between 30 and 40 vacancies recorded in a month.
- Electronics and chemical and materials have consistently remained the two occupations with the lowest vacancy number in the state. Electronics engineering vacancies have grown in the last nine months from 9 vacancies in January to 14 in September, while chemical and materials vacancies have remained in single figures each month.

# Victoria

Victoria has seen a rise in engineering vacancies over the last two years with strong growth throughout 2016. Figure 7 below shows the vacancy trends for engineering vacancies in Victoria in comparison to trends for all Victorian vacancies. Figure 8 is a stacked graph of the engineering occupations in the state.

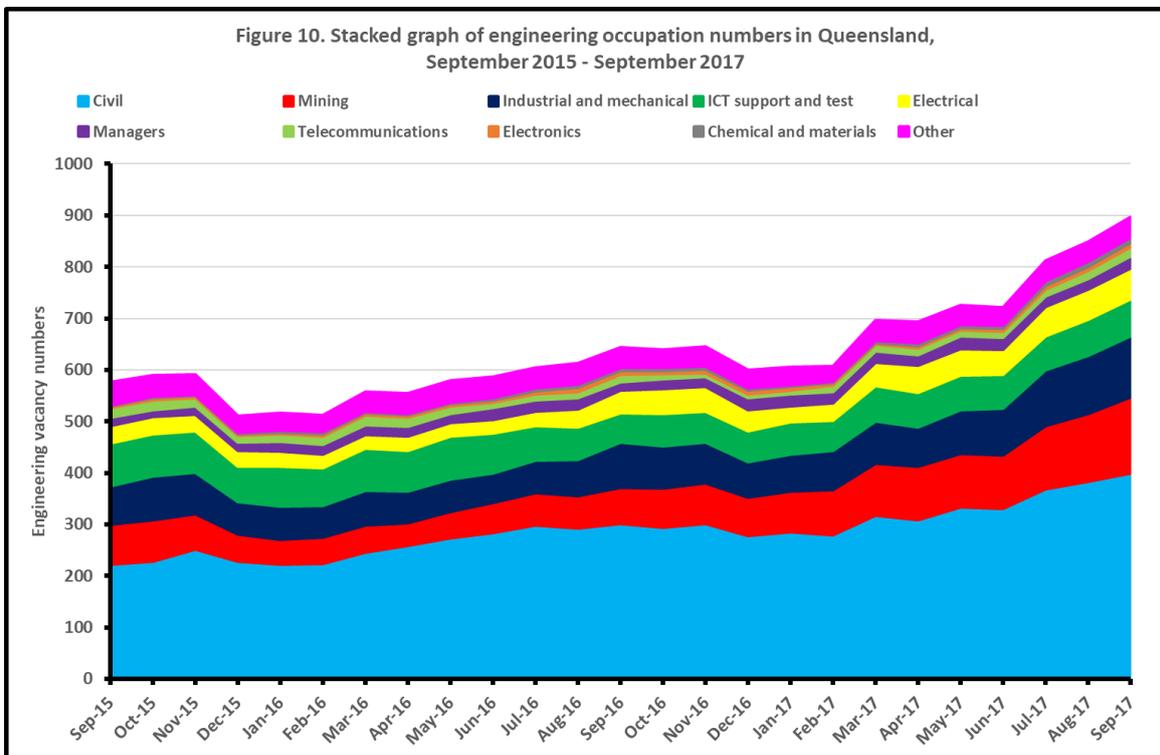
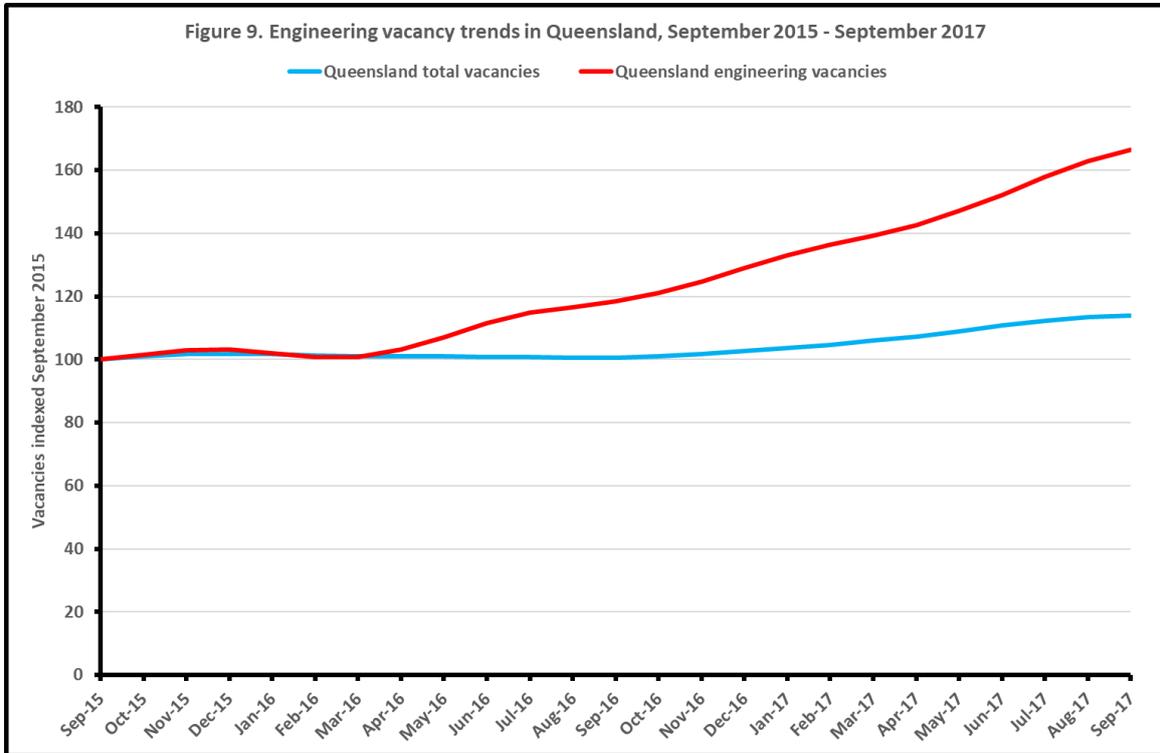


Engineering vacancy trends in Victoria have been higher than overall Victorian vacancies since September 2016 with growth in a number of engineering occupations in this time. Over the past year total Victorian vacancies have grown by 3.7 per cent, compared to 44.9 per cent for engineers. Over the first half of 2017, engineering vacancies have grown 20.7 per cent. In the last three months' strong growth in engineering vacancies continued, growing 11 percent. In September 2015 there was 458 vacancies recorded for engineers, which grew to 900 vacancies in September 2017. Engineering vacancies in Victoria are dominated by vacancies recorded in Civil engineering occupations in the state as seen in figure 8. Some points of note are:

- Civil engineering occupations have been the main driver in the growth of Victorian engineering vacancy numbers, pushing overall engineering vacancies for the state. In September 2015 there was 300 vacancies recorded for civil engineering professionals, which grew to 572 vacancies recorded in September 2017. In 2017 alone civil engineering vacancies increased by 186 vacancies recorded in nine months. Some major construction projects are underway in Victoria which may be pushing these numbers, including the Metro Trains Project which has begun its design phase, the Metro Tunnel Project which is underway, and the upgrade to crossings and train stations which were recently completed.
- Industrial and mechanical engineering occupations have grown slightly over the last two years, with the strong growth seen throughout 2017. In December 2016 there was 117 vacancies recorded for industrial and mechanical engineers, growing to 172 recorded in September 2017.
- Electrical engineering occupations have risen steadily over the two-year period, with strong growth during 2017. In September 2015 there was 39 vacancies recorded, rising to 49 recorded in January and February 2017. However, by September 2017 this has risen further to 91 vacancies recorded.
- Engineering manager occupation vacancies have remained steady in Victoria. In September 2015 there were 36 vacancies recorded, remaining steady with 37 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- Vacancies for mining engineers in Victoria could be considered at low levels, especially when compared to Queensland and Western Australia, but even compared to NSW. Over the last two-year period vacancies recorded has hovered around 10 vacancies a month with no real growth over that period. However slight growth is seen in recent months with 19 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- ICT Support and Test engineering vacancies have slowly declined over the last two years. In September 2015 there were 174 vacancies recorded, which dropped to 132 recorded in September 2017.
- Vacancies for telecommunications engineers can remained stable over the past two years. In September 2015 there were 23 vacancies recorded, which has not moved much at all with 24 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- Electronics and chemical and materials have consistently remained the two occupations with the lowest vacancies, with both consistently recording lower vacancies per month over the last two years.

# Queensland

Queensland engineering vacancies increased during the second half of 2016 after a long period of low numbers. Figure 9 below shows engineering vacancy trends in Queensland over the past two years, in comparison to Queensland total vacancies. Figure 10 is a stacked graph of the engineering occupation vacancies in the state.

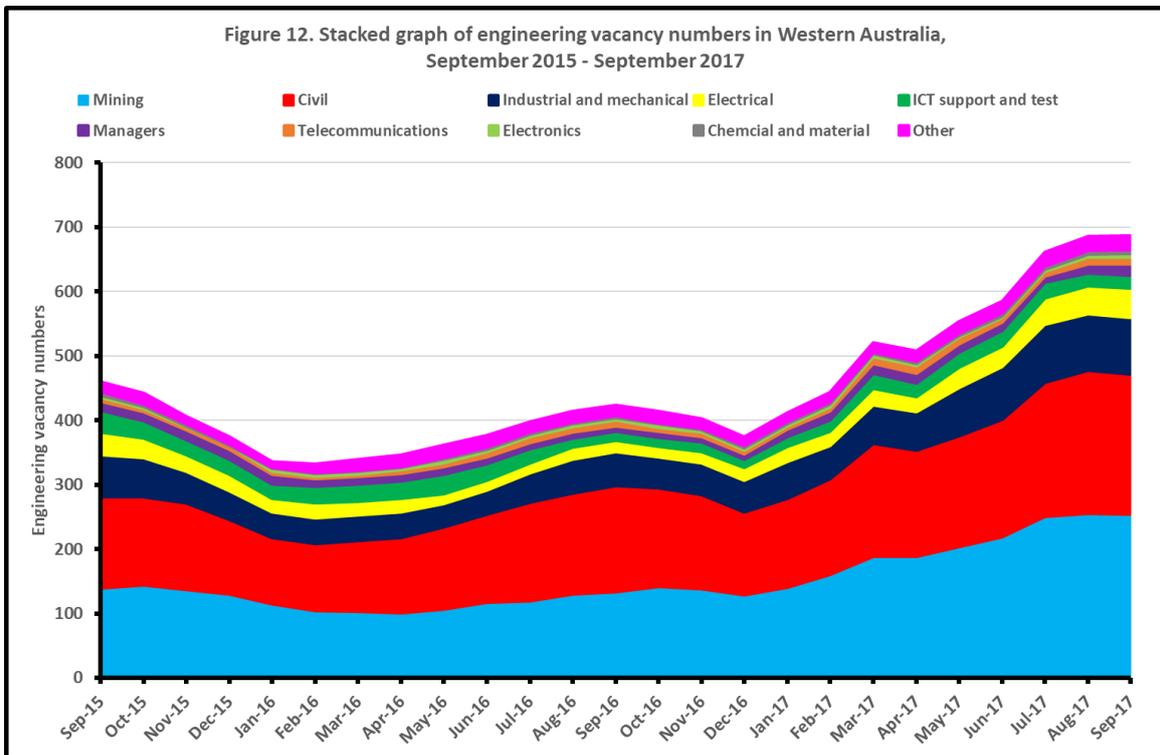
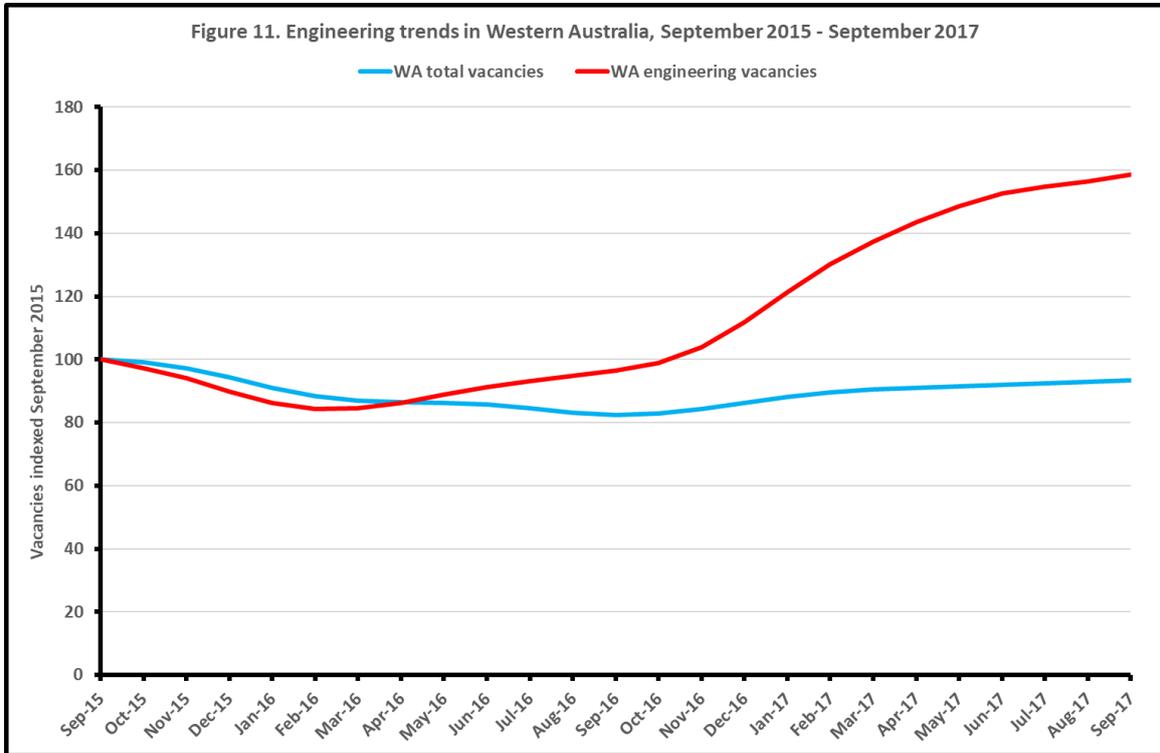


Engineering vacancy trends in Queensland started to lift in mid-2016, and engineering vacancy numbers have grown at a higher rate than the Queensland total vacancies since then. From September 2016 to September 2017 engineering vacancies have grown 40.7 per cent, compared to 13.3 percent for total Queensland vacancies. Over the first nine months of 2017, engineering vacancies have grown 25.3 per cent, and over the last three months they have grown strongly at 9.4 per cent. In September 2015 there was 435 vacancies for engineers, which has grown to 725 vacancies in September 2017. Engineering vacancies in Queensland comprise a large portion of civil engineering occupations, which is followed by mining engineering occupations, and industrial and mechanical occupations as seen in figure 8. Some points of note in Queensland are:

- Civil engineering occupations have recorded the highest number of engineering vacancies in Queensland. In September 2015 there was 222 vacancies recorded, which grew to 301 in September 2016, continuing to climb to 400 vacancies recorded in September 2017. There are some major projects underway in Queensland which may have contributed to this improvement. This includes infrastructure construction on the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program and the Inland Rail Project, as well as other construction projects like the Queens Wharf Precinct Project, preparation works for the Commonwealth Games and a number of solar farm projects in the state.
- Vacancies for mining engineers in Queensland fell in the early months of 2016, but have since started a continuous rise. In August 2016 there was 62 mining engineering vacancies in Queensland, but this has grown to 147 recorded in September 2017. This growth could be on the back of investment in mining projects such as the bauxite mine near Weipa.
- Industrial and mechanical engineering have remained fairly constant over the last two years, with some solid growth in the most recent months. In September 2015 there were 75 vacancies recorded, dropping to 57 recorded in June 2016, jumping back up to 118 recorded in September 2017.
- Electrical engineering vacancy numbers have been variable over the last two years, moving anywhere from 26 to 50 vacancies. In the last nine months vacancies for electrical engineers have grown from 30 recorded in January to 59 recorded in September.
- ICT Support and Test engineers and Engineering manager occupation vacancies have remained steady in Queensland. Over the two-year period ICT support and test engineering vacancies have hovered between 60 and 80 vacancies a month, while engineering managers have hovered between 15 and 25 vacancies a month.
- Telecommunications, electronics and chemical and materials have consistently remained the three occupations with the lowest vacancies, and each of these occupations has seen slight growth in the last three months consistent with all other engineering occupations.

# Western Australia

Western Australia engineering vacancies increased during the second half of 2016 after a period of falling numbers in late 2015. Figure 11 below shows engineering vacancy trends in WA over the past two years, in comparison to WA total vacancies. Figure 12 is a stacked graph of the engineering occupation vacancies in the state.

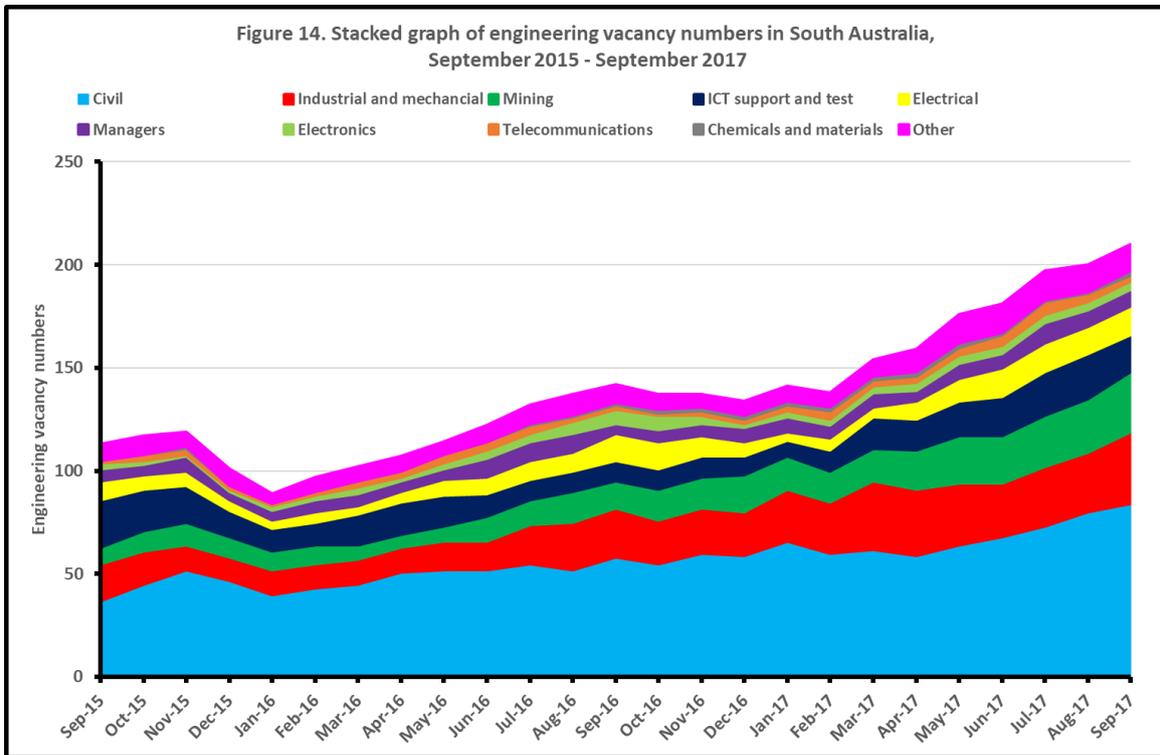
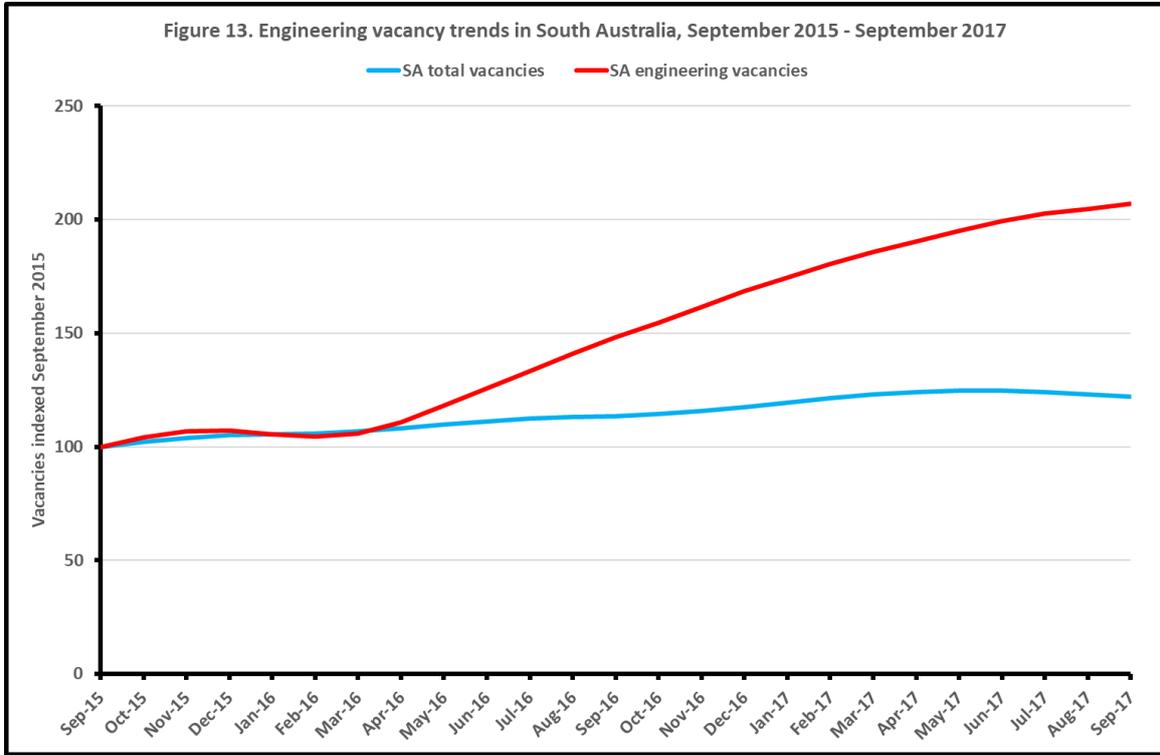


Engineering vacancy trends in WA took off from mid-2016 and have continued to grow throughout 2017. From September 2015 to September 2016 engineering vacancies in the state fell from 370 to 357. However, over the next 12 months engineering vacancy numbers grew to 587, a rise of 64.4 per cent. Total WA vacancies over the same 12-month period only grew at 13.1 per cent. Over the last three months this growth has remained fairly steady, growing at 3.9 per cent. As seen in figure 12 Engineering vacancies in WA are predominately made up of mining and civil engineering occupations, followed by much smaller numbers in industrial and mechanical occupations, as well as electrical occupations. Some points of note in WA are:

- In September 2017 there were more vacancies recorded for mining engineers than any other engineering occupation in WA. Growth in these vacancies was seen in late 2016, but it was the first few months of 2017, where mining engineering occupations lifted, and become the largest in the state. In September 2016 there was 133 mining engineering vacancies growing to 254 recorded in September 2017. Mining engineering vacancies now make up almost 40 per cent of all engineering vacancies in Western Australia. Mining engineering jobs continue to grow strongly in Western Australia, and this is likely on the back of BHP and RIO announcing new projects.
- Civil engineering occupations also really grew from mid-2016. In September 2015 there was 142 vacancies recorded, falling to 110 in March 2016. However, over the first six months of 2017 vacancies began to rise again and in September 2017 vacancies had risen to 218. Some of this growth could be attributed to preparation for some infrastructure construction projects beginning in the state such as the two-year tunnelling operation for the Forrestfield-Airport train line.
- Industrial and mechanical engineering have remained fairly constant over the last two years, with a small rise seen in the last few months. In September 2015 there were 66 vacancies recorded, falling to 53 vacancies in September 2016. Vacancy numbers fell to 49 in December 2016, but in the last nine months have increased to 87 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- Electrical engineering vacancy numbers have followed the same trends as other engineering occupations over the last two years, rising in the most recent nine months. In September 2015 there was 35 vacancies for electrical engineers, falling to just 18 recorded in September 2016. However they have grown again to record 46 vacancies in September 2017.
- Engineering manager and ICT Test and Support engineering vacancies have remained reasonably steady in WA, with both occupations recording between 15 and 25 vacancies over the past nine months.
- Telecommunications, electronics and chemical and materials have consistently remained the three occupations with the lowest vacancies for engineers in the state with most months recorded under 10 engineering vacancies in each occupation.

# South Australia

South Australia engineering vacancies have more than doubled over the past two years. Figure 13 shows the trend of engineering vacancies in SA in comparison to the trend of overall vacancies in the state. Figure 14 is a stacked graph of all of the engineering occupation vacancies in the state over the same time period.



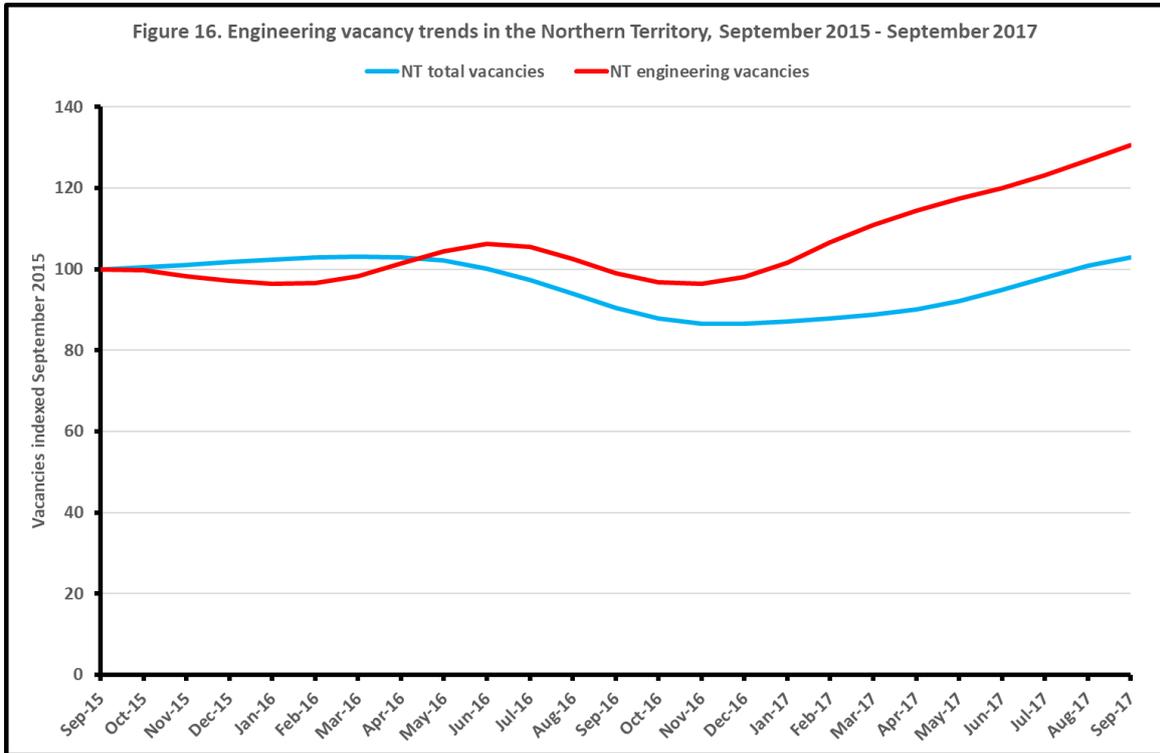
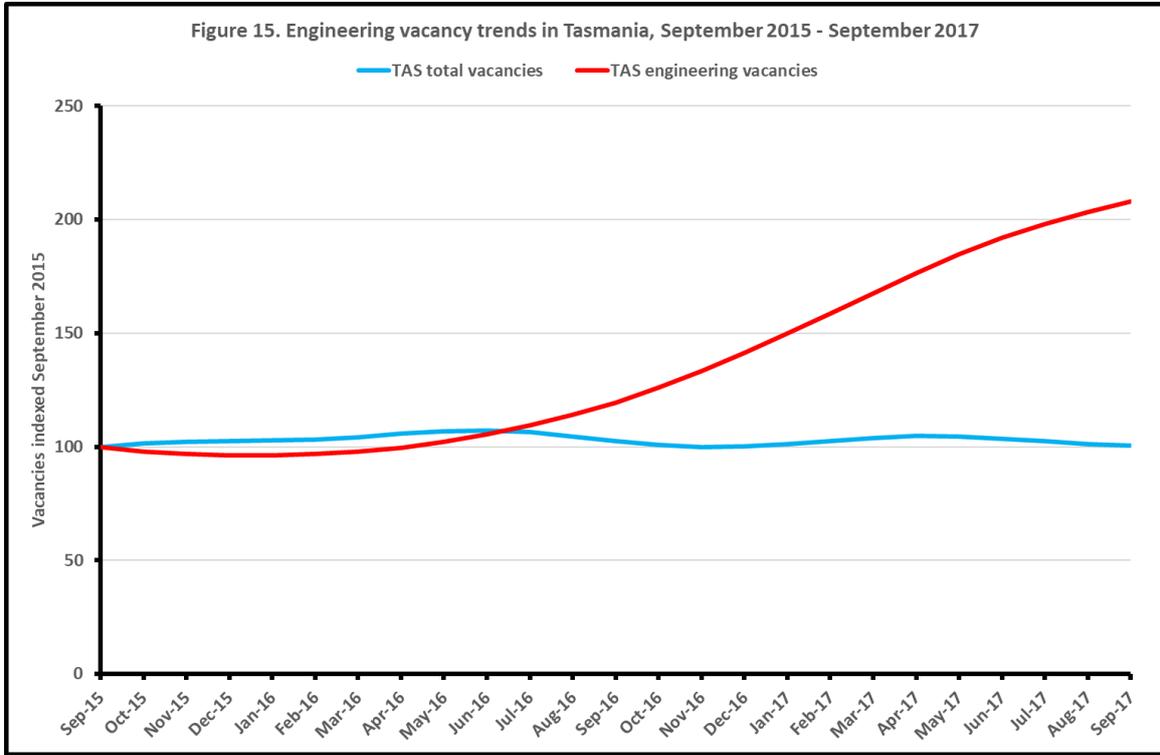
Engineering vacancy trends in SA have grown strongly since mid-2016, outpacing the growth of total SA vacancies. Between September 2016 and September 2017 engineering vacancies have grown 39.6 per cent compared to 7.4 per cent for the total state vacancies. In the last nine months engineering vacancies have grown 18.6 per cent.

Engineering vacancies rises in SA have been on the back of rises in Civil, industrial and mechanical, and mining occupations. Some points of note in SA are:

- Civil engineering occupations have consistently recorded the highest number of engineering vacancies in SA. There has been significant growth in Civil engineering occupations over the last two years. In September 2015 there was 37 vacancies recorded, which grew to 84 vacancies recorded in September 2017. A number of civil engineering projects are currently underway in South Australia which could be influencing this growth. They include the Darlington Upgrade Project, the O-Bahn City Access Project and the Torrens Road to River Torrens Project.
- Vacancies for Industrial and mechanical engineering occupations have grown steadily in the last two years. In September 2015 there was 18 vacancies recorded and this grew to 35 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- Mining engineering vacancy numbers have also grown significantly over the two-year period. In September 2015 there was eight vacancies for mining engineers in SA, which has since grown to 29 vacancies recorded in September 2017.
- Electrical engineering vacancies have seen a small spike in the last six months, growing from only four vacancies recorded in January 2017, to 14 recorded in September 2017.
- ICT Support and Test engineering vacancies fell from September 2015 to September 2016, but have since recovered to record 18 vacancies in September 2017.
- Engineering manager, telecommunications engineers, electronics engineers and chemical and materials engineering occupations have remained low in SA over the last two years. In September 2017 there were eight vacancies for engineering managers, three vacancies for telecommunications engineers, four vacancies for electronics engineers, and two vacancies for chemical and materials engineers.

# Tasmania and the territories

Vacancy numbers for Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are notably smaller than the other states, which means the variability in the vacancy trends can be much greater than in the larger states. As occupation data in these jurisdictions is so small, only the two-year trend analysis is presented.



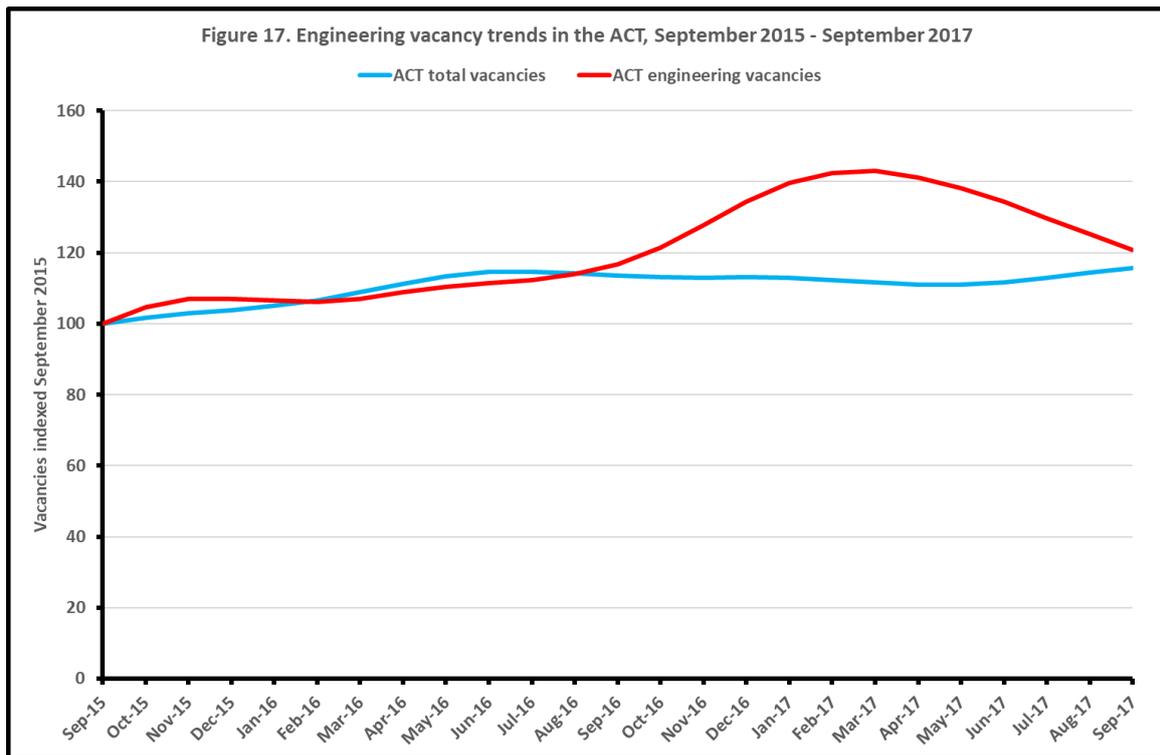


Figure 15 shows the two-year trend for engineering occupations in Tasmania in comparison to total Tasmanian vacancies. As seen in figure 16, engineering vacancies in Tasmania have been growing at a higher rate than overall Tasmanian vacancies since late 2016. However, it must be remembered that this has been off a small base number, so growth trends will be much more variable. In September 2016 there was 14 vacancies recorded for engineers, but on the back of strong growth in 2017 there was 25 vacancies recorded in September 2017. The majority of these engineering vacancies were civil engineering occupations. This increase could be attributed to a number of construction projects currently happening in Tasmania including the UTas building construction, the Midlands Highway Upgrade Project and a large water and sewerage capital works program.

Figure 17 shows the two-year trend for engineering occupations in the NT in comparison to total NT vacancies. Engineering vacancies in the NT have been variable, but it must be remembered that the growth is off a much smaller base than other states. In September 2015 there was 38 vacancies recorded for engineers, which remained steady with 38 vacancies recorded in September 2016. There was a small spike in growth in the first few months of 2017, which has resulted in 50 vacancies being recorded in September 2017. Civil engineering occupations are the engineering occupation with the most vacancies recorded in the NT, followed by mining engineering occupations. A number of projects are underway in the NT which may be contributing to these numbers, including some Defence infrastructure development projects, public infrastructure developments and LNG plant projects.

Figure 18 shows the two-year trend for engineering occupations in the ACT in comparison to total ACT vacancies. Engineering vacancies in the ACT had a small spike in late 2016, but has since fallen away in recent months. In September 2015 there was 56 vacancies recorded for engineers, growing to 65 vacancies in September 2016. This continued to rise to 80 vacancies recorded in March 2017, falling back to 67 vacancies recorded in September 2017. In the ACT Civil engineering occupations and ICT Support and Test engineering occupations are the two dominant occupations, but again it is unclear how many of these occupations are engineering specific. The ACT has some infrastructure projects underway which may be contributing to some of the increase in vacancies seen. This includes the Stage 1 of the Canberra Light Rail Project, a number of road duplications, and the upgrade of the ACT Law Courts Facilities.



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