



# ANZSCO 2322-12 Surveyor

## Queensland April 2018

**Current labour market rating:** Metropolitan Shortage  
**Previous labour market rating (April 2017):** Metropolitan Shortage

### Comments

Regional employers are generally able to fill vacancies for Surveyors, with over two suitable applicants per vacancy. However, metropolitan employers are experiencing a shortage with less than half of the vacancies surveyed filled.

### Survey results<sup>1</sup>

- Vacancies were filled at a similar rate as last year decreasing by seven per cent.
  - Fifty eight per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising; regionally, 71 per cent of vacancies were filled, while metropolitan vacancies were significantly lower with just 40 per cent filled.
  - The average amount of applicants per vacancy dropped by around 34 per cent this year, falling from 24.5 per vacancy in 2017 to 16.2 in 2018.
  - Regional employers attracted a far larger number of applicants with an average of 21 per vacancy compared with 10 for metropolitan vacancies.
  - The average amount of suitable applicants per vacancy was around two in both metropolitan and regional areas of the state.
- All vacancies required qualifications, and there were, on average, around four qualified applicants per vacancy.

### Unsuitable applicants

- Although the number of qualified applicants per vacancy were similar in metropolitan and regional areas, employers in metropolitan areas reported no suitable applicants for 60 per cent of the vacancies. This was substantially higher than in regional parts of the state, with only 17 per cent of regional employers reporting no suitable applicants.
- The most common reason applicants were considered not suitable across the state was a lack of experience.
  - This was particularly evident when surveying metropolitan vacancies. Employers attributed this to experienced surveyors electing to work in the mines in regional areas as it has the attraction of higher remuneration.
  - Several employers mentioned difficulty in sourcing applicants in the medium range of 5-8 years' experience with recent graduates not having the required level of experience.

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#) and can also be accessed by the QR code.



- Several employers reported that applicants were unsuitable due to lack of appropriate registration or poor cultural fit with the organisation.
- A number of employers considered applicants unsuitable if they lacked experience in specialisations such as cadastral surveying, or in certain industries such as mining, engineering or construction.
- Some employers stated that they were unable to meet remuneration expectations of some applicants, or that applicants were not prepared to relocate to take up positions.

## Demand and supply trends

- The levels of activity in the construction and resources sectors influence demand for surveyors in Queensland.
  - Total value of construction work increased by 2.3 per cent over the year to December 2017.<sup>2</sup>
  - The value of engineering construction increased by 9.7 per cent whilst the value of building construction fell by 3.9 per cent for the same period.<sup>3</sup>
- The Department of Jobs and Small Business' Internet Vacancy Index indicates that online vacancies for cartographers and surveyors declined sharply over the 5 years from April 2012 (148) to April 2017 (43), however showed a slight increase in vacancies lodged online over the last 12 months to April 2018 (67).<sup>4</sup>
- In Queensland, formal entry to this profession is via the completion of a Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology majoring in Surveying at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) or the completion of a Bachelor of Science, majoring in geographical and computational science at the University of Queensland (UQ).<sup>5</sup>
  - Course graduates may register with the Surveyors Board of Queensland as a Surveying Graduate and undertake the process required for registration as a surveyor.
  - Once registered as a surveyor it is also possible to undertake further processes to obtain additional endorsements. Engineering, mining or consulting endorsements can be undertaken with a three-year degree. To obtain a cadastral endorsement, surveyors must have completed the four-year degree.
- Respondents continued to be concerned about supply into the profession, citing factors such as limited tertiary course offerings and obstacles such as cost and length of the registration process.
  - Figures provided by the USQ, indicates that at the start of 2018 there were 682 students currently enrolled in surveying degrees. Distance education was the attendance mode for 85 percent of these students and around half of all students were based in Queensland. This suggests the data probably overestimates the level of local supply.
  - The majority of surveying students who graduated between 2010 and 2016 completed the shorter degree and were therefore ineligible for a cadastral endorsement which is the largest specialisation.
  - Figures from the Surveyors Board of Queensland indicate that in the three year period 2015-17, the number of survey graduates declined by 23 per cent. In the same period cadastral surveyors declined by eight per cent.<sup>6</sup>
- Information from the Department of Home Affairs shows that temporary skilled migration is a minor source of supply to this occupation with an average of around ten visas granted each year over the three years to 30 June 2017. In the nine months to 31 March 2018, seven visas were granted for positions in Queensland.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> ABS, 8755.0 Construction Work Done, Table 08, December 2017

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2018, 12 month moving average

<sup>5</sup> Where to Study Surveying and Spatial Science - QLD

<sup>6</sup> Surveyors Board of Queensland

<sup>7</sup> Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) program, 31 March 2017

## Other indicators and issues

- The Surveyors Board of Queensland advised that 54 per cent of the surveyors holding cadastral endorsements were 55 years of age or older (at 15 June 2018).<sup>8</sup> Survey respondents expressed concern that as this older cohort retires there is potential for a structural undersupply in relation to the cadastral specialisation.

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<sup>8</sup> Unpublished data from the Surveyors Board of Queensland.