



## Civil Engineering Professionals<sup>1</sup> ANZSCO 2331- 11, 12, 14, 15

## Australian Capital Territory April 2018

### Current labour market rating – Shortage

Despite the majority of employers attracting multiple qualified applicants, very few are considered to be suitable and a substantial number of vacancies remain unfilled. Strong engineering construction activity is continuing to drive demand for these professionals.

### Key issues

- Civil engineering professionals design, plan, organise and oversee the construction of civil engineering projects. In addition, this classification also includes structural engineers, transport engineers and geotechnical engineers.
- Around 60 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled and there was, on average, less than one suitable applicant per vacancy. A number of employers noted that they had directly approached the suitable applicant who filled their vacancies.
- While employers attracted an average of 3.6 qualified applicants per vacancy, the majority (78 per cent) were considered unsuitable.
- A large proportion of qualified applicants were considered unsuitable as they lacked the relevant experience required for the role. This included length of experience as well as experience in certain specialisations.
- A number of employers required applicants to have local experience and civil engineering qualifications from Australian universities.
- Similarly, a small number of employers preferred applicants who had specific knowledge of the relevant ACT rules and regulations.

### 2018 Survey results (excludes graduate vacancies)



### Demand and supply information<sup>2</sup>

- At the time of the 2016 Census, there were around 470 civil engineering professionals employed in the ACT, more than 60 per cent of whom were employed in either the construction industry or in engineering consultancy firms.
- Engineering construction activity in the ACT has been strong over the last three years, increasing the demand for civil engineers. Engineering construction is currently at record high levels in the ACT, boosted by the construction of the light rail network.
- Consistent with this, the level of internet vacancies for civil engineering professionals in the ACT has more than doubled in the same period.
- A bachelor's degree in civil engineering was introduced in the ACT in 2016, which will increase the local supply of civil engineering graduates, when the first cohort of students graduate in late 2019.

<sup>1</sup>The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#) | Department of Jobs and Small Business. Results exclude a small number of graduate vacancies which attracted very large numbers of applicants.

<sup>2</sup> Data Sources: ABS, 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, December 2017, Table 2, chain volume measures, trend; Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index, April 2018, 12 month moving average; "UNSW Canberra opens its doors to engineering students," Media Release, 12 November 2015, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy.