



# ANZSCO 3121-11 Architectural Draftsperson

Victoria  
January 2017

## Current labour market rating

Previous labour market rating (January 2016)

## Recruitment Difficulty

No Shortage

## Comments

*Survey results indicate no shortage of architectural draftspersons in Victoria. Some employers, however, are encountering difficulty in recruiting qualified and experienced architectural draftspersons for residential design projects.*

## Survey results

- The Department of Employment 2017 Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised (SERA) found that 62 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled from averages of 10.3 applicants and 1.0 suitable applicants per vacancy.
  - While this represents a decline from the 92 per fill rate in 2016, it is within the range of vacancy fill rates recorded in previous years.
- Half of all applicants held a qualification, however, 72 per cent of these applicants were considered unsuitable by employers with lack of experience often cited as the main reason.
- Surveyed vacancies ranged from intermediate to senior positions within firms undertaking commercial, retail and residential projects. Residential projects were predominantly medium density builds and high-end design projects.
- Vacancies that remained unfilled at the time of survey were mainly in residential design projects and required formal qualifications. Employers indicated that a lack of suitable qualified applicants was the largest contributing factor to unfilled vacancies. To counteract this issue a small number of employers adjusted their expectations and modified the position requirements.
- A limited number of employers had unfilled roles due to suitable applicants obtaining other work prior to being offered the advertised position.

## Employer requirements

- Two-thirds of employers required applicants to hold a qualification such as an advanced diploma or degree, however, a limited number of employers—largely from metropolitan areas— did not require applicants to hold a qualification, instead prioritising demonstrable relevant experience.
- Duties commonly included documentation preparation; provision of preliminary design input and preparation of working drawings for various builds and developments, as well as liaising with internal and external stakeholders.
- The majority of surveyed employers sought applicants with a comprehensive understanding of the relevant regulatory framework, including knowledge of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and National Construction Code (NCC).
- Experience with one or more of the standard industry software packages such as AutoCAD, ArchiCAD, Sketchup or Revit was considered essential by all employers.

- Employers consistently desired applicants with excellent communication skills. The ability to liaise with clients, sub-contractors and other stakeholders was considered central to most drafting roles.
- Almost one-third of employers sought an applicant who was enthusiastic, persistent and motivated.
- Employers also valued applicants with employability skills such as time management skills, problem solving ability and attention to detail.
- A small number of employers considered that applicants who appeared overqualified would not commit long term to the advertised vacancy.

### **Demand and supply**

- Demand for architectural services in Victoria is largely driven by activity within the residential and non-residential building sectors.
  - For the non-residential sector in Victoria, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows that while the value of building approvals has fluctuated over the twelve months to February 2017, over the past five years the value of non-residential building approvals has trended upwards.<sup>1</sup>
  - ABS data also indicates that the number of building approvals in the residential building sector in Victoria has trended upwards over the past five years.<sup>2</sup>
- The Department of Employment Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) for February 2017 shows steady growth in the number of online architectural draftsperson vacancies in Victoria since November 2013, however, vacancy numbers remain below the peak experienced in August 2011.<sup>3</sup>
- The latest available data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) shows that the number of students enrolled in courses related to the architectural draftsperson occupation has decreased each year from a peak in 2012.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ABS, cat. no. 8731.0, Building Approvals, Australia, Table 41. Value of Non-residential Building Approved - States and Territories, Trend, February 2017

<sup>2</sup> ABS, cat. no. 8731.0, *Building Approvals, Australia*, Table 02. Number of Dwelling Units Approved, by Sector, Trend, Victoria, February 2016

<sup>3</sup> Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index, February 2017, 12 month moving average

<sup>4</sup> NCVER, Students and Courses, 2015