



ANZSCO 3121-11 Architectural Draftsperson

New South Wales
April 2017

Current labour market rating

No shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

Shortage

Comments

Surveyed employers experience little difficulty recruiting architectural draftspersons. Most advertised roles across metropolitan and regional NSW attract multiple suitable applicants.

Survey results

- The Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised (SERA) was conducted for the occupation of architectural draftsperson in April 2017.
- Around 82 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled (compared with 44 per cent in 2016).
 - The proportion of vacancies filled this year is above the average filled from 2012 to 2016 (75 per cent).
- There was an average of 23.7 applicants per vacancy, of whom 7.7 were qualified architectural draftspersons (compared with 9.9 and 4.0 in 2016).
 - For this occupation, a qualification includes a Certificate III/IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Bachelor in Architectural Design. Most employers surveyed, however, indicated that their minimum qualification requirement was at the diploma level.
- There was an average of 2.6 suitable applicants per vacancy (a rise from 0.5 in 2016).
 - This is the largest average number of suitable applicants per vacancy since 2012.
- There was little variance in the number of qualified applicants and suitable applicants per vacancy between employers in Sydney and regional NSW.
- The majority of architectural firms surveyed specialised in residential drafting. A number of other firms performed commercial and industrial drafting.
- Employers had a preference for draftspersons with Australian drafting experience as these applicants had worked according to national building codes, standards and legislation.
 - Additionally, some employers also sought applicants who had experience in their immediate area as they required draftspersons who were familiar with council applications and processes.
- Surveyed employers frequently sought applicants who had a high level of proficiency with the Building Information Management software programs used by the firm. These included AutoCAD, Revit and SketchUp.
 - Few employers were prepared to offer training in these software programs.
- There was also a strong emphasis on an applicant's soft skills. Most employers require draftspersons who could work well in a team and had strong interpersonal and communication skills.

- This occupation has been rated as not being in shortage consistent with a large percentage of surveyed vacancies filled and there being, on average, multiple suitable applicants per vacancy.

Unsuitable applicants

- There were a large number of unqualified applicants and all of these were considered to be unsuitable. Some of these applicants were mechanical and industrial draftspersons, but employers were unwilling to hire applicants who did not have architectural design qualifications.
- Nearly three quarters of all qualified applicants were considered to be unsuitable. Reasons why these applicants were unsuitable included:
 - did not have the required experience in the design software used by the firm
 - lacked the minimum level of experience required
 - did not have a background in the sector in which the vacancy was located
 - were considered to be overqualified, with some employers unwilling to hire qualified architects for a drafting role.

Demand and supply trends

- Demand for architectural draftspersons is influenced by strong building activity across the state.¹
 - Preliminary data from the Australia Bureau of Statistics indicate total residential building grew by 20.8 per cent over the year to 2016 (following an increase of 14.1 per cent over the previous year).
 - Non-residential work increased by 5.0 per cent over the same period (following growth of 2.7 per cent over the previous year).
- The number of internet vacancies for architectural, building and surveying technicians (individual data are not available) rose moderately over the year to April 2017. In December 2016 it reached the highest level since the series began in December 2006 (with the lowest level having been in February 2013). It remained around that level through to April 2017.²
- In 2015, there were around 2000 students in NSW TAFE courses related to architectural drafting. This figure has increased nearly every year since 2008 and currently stands at a series high (with the numbers of students in 2015 around a third higher than the average for the previous five years).³ The rise in completions helps explain why there is no shortage of architectural draftspersons at a time when there is a high level of building activity.
The number of primary applicant 457 temporary skilled migration visas granted for architectural draftspersons averaged around 90 in the year ended 2015-16 (which is nearly double the average per annum over the five years to 2014-15).⁴ Note that the visas are only for four years and there is no automatic conversion to permanent residency.

¹ ABS, *Construction Work Done, Preliminary*, December 2016, Table 8, chain volume measures, original data.

² Department of Employment, *Internet Vacancy Index*, April 2017, 12 month moving average.

³ NCVET, *Government Funded Students and Courses*, 2015 (limited to domestic students in a Training Package or Nationally Accredited Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma).

⁴ Department of Immigration and Border Protection, *Subclass 457 visas granted pivot table*, <https://data.gov.au/dataset/visa-temporary-work-skilled>, accessed 21 July 2017.