



# ANZSCO 3122-11,12 Tasmania Civil Engineering Draftsperson/Technician January 2017

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**Current labour market rating**

**No Shortage**

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

No Shortage

## **Comments**

*Recent research indicates there is currently no shortage of civil engineering draftspersons and technicians in Tasmania with employers filling the majority of vacancies. Employers advised qualifications were not essential for their vacancies, with most preferring workplace experience over qualifications.*

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

- The Department of Employment survey of employers who had recently advertised for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians found 67 per cent of vacancies were filled within the survey period. This compares with a vacancy fill rate of 75 per cent in January 2016.
- Overall employers reported an average of 5.0 applicants per vacancy. There was an average of one qualified applicant per vacancy, with most employers receiving a minimum of one suitable applicant per vacancy.
- Employers indicated qualifications were not essential for their positions.
  - A small number of employers indicated they were willing to take on a trainee, or train someone who was unqualified, provided they demonstrated the right attitude and work ethic. Some employers also reported the benefits of training an applicant to meet business standards and requirements.
- A small number of employers reported their vacancies remained unfilled despite receiving applications.
  - Employers advised candidates were unsuccessful as they lacked soft skills such as a positive attitude, mentality or could not demonstrate a level of workplace experience required.

## Unsuitable applicants

- A lack of several years' workplace experience was cited as the main reason an applicant was considered unsuitable to fill a vacancy.

## **Demand and supply trends**

- Demand for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians is usually dependent on activity within the construction industry.

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



- According to the latest Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board (TBCITB) industry report, building and construction activity levels are expected to improve slightly in the next two years.<sup>2</sup>
- Projected employment growth within the construction industry in Tasmania for the five year period November 2016 to November 2020 is expected to be 7.9 per cent.<sup>3</sup>
- The Department's 12 month average count of vacancies advertised online for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians show vacancy numbers have been slowly increasing after a low in February 2016, however vacancy numbers remain low.<sup>4</sup>
- TasTAFE offer formal training for the occupation through the completion of a Diploma of Engineering – Technical. Additionally, the TasTAFE offers a Certificate III in Engineering – Technical or Certificate IV in Engineering Drafting where students will cover skills and knowledge required for a draftsman producing specialist engineering drawings within an engineering design environment. Data on the number of student commencements or completions is unavailable at this stage.
  - According to 2011 ABS Census data, 56.9 per cent of civil engineering draftspersons have a qualification at diploma-level or above and another 24.5 per cent have a certificate-level qualification. In regards to civil engineering technicians, 39.0 per cent have a qualification at diploma-level or above while another 21.9 per cent hold a certificate-level qualification. The remaining data indicates around one-quarter of people working as civil engineering draftspersons or technicians did not hold a formal qualification.<sup>5</sup>

### Other indicators and issues

- The 2016-17 Tasmania State Budget includes \$1.8 billion over four years in infrastructure projects, which includes \$656 million in road and bridge improvements. In addition, \$62.3 million has been allocated for rail infrastructure, with total rail funding over the four years to 2019-20 of \$114.8 million. This makes up nearly 50 per cent of the state's 2016-17 budget.<sup>6</sup>
- The Australian and Tasmanian Governments announced the Perth Link Roads project, which is considered integral to the state's \$500 million Midland Highway upgrade. It is expected to go to tender in mid-2017, with construction expected to commence in late 2017 and be completed in 2020.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board (TBCITB) 2016 State of the Industry Report (<http://www.tbcitb.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/State-of-Industry-Report-2016-email-and-web.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Employment Projections based on ABS detailed data

<sup>4</sup> Department of Employment, *Internet Vacancy Index*, February 2017, 12 month moving average.

<sup>5</sup> ABS, *2011 Population Census data*, Tasmania

<sup>6</sup> *Tasmania: state economy and State Budget, 2016,17*;

[http://cdn.aigroup.com.au/Economic\\_Indicators/Economic\\_Outlook/Tas\\_2016\\_17\\_Budget\\_Economic\\_Outlook.pdf](http://cdn.aigroup.com.au/Economic_Indicators/Economic_Outlook/Tas_2016_17_Budget_Economic_Outlook.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> \$500M road project fast tracked, <http://www.insideconstruction.com.au/site/news/1051202/usd500m-road-project-fast-tracked>