



ANZSCO 3122 New South Wales Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians April 2017

Current labour market rating

No shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

Shortage

Comments

There is no shortage of civil engineering draftspersons and technicians in NSW, with nearly all vacancies filling across a range of industries and locations. Around half of all surveyed vacancies attract multiple suitable applicants.

Survey results

- The Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised (SERA) was conducted for the occupation of civil engineering draftspersons and technicians in April 2017.
- Around 80 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled (compared with 40 per cent in 2016).
- There has typically been little difficulty recruiting for this occupation over the five years to 2017, with it being rated as being in shortage only once (2016).
- While there was an average of 15.2 applicants per vacancy, around a fifth of all applicants were qualified engineering draftspersons and technicians (an average of 2.8 per vacancy).
 - For this occupation, qualifications include Civil Drafting Certificates III/IV, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas. The majority of employers, though, indicated they had no preference regarding which civil drafting qualification suitable applicants possessed.
 - In 2017, the number of applicants (15.2) and suitable applicants per vacancy (1.4) were either below or in line with the average over the five years to 2016 (19.1 and 1.4 respectively).
- While surveyed employers across the state were able to fill most of their vacancies, employers in regional NSW attracted more applicants per vacancy than their metropolitan counterparts (17.0 compared to 13.2).
 - Additionally, regional employers considered more applicants per vacancy to be suitable (1.6 compared to 1.2).
- The surveyed vacancies were sourced from a range of businesses including consultancies, local councils, state government and project management firms.
 - These employers sought people with a range of experience in the following areas: civil engineering, transport, residential and hydraulic.
- While the level of drafting experience required varied between employers, most were looking for civil engineering draftspersons with around two to three years of experience.
- Surveyed employers frequently sought applicants who had a high level of proficiency in specific drafting software, in particular AutoCAD, 12D and Revit.
 - A number of employers commented that they were unwilling to offer training in these software programs.

- Some employers placed a strong emphasis on an applicant's soft skills, with these employers seeking draftspersons who had strong communication skills, could work well within a team as well as independently.
- There were only a small number of vacancies that remained unfilled and these were based either in regional NSW (in locations where there is difficulty securing accommodation) or were specialist positions that failed to attract applicants with the relevant experience. There is, however, no pattern indicating a shortage or recruitment difficulty in any particular sector, specialisation or region.
- This occupation has been rated as not being in shortage consistent with a large percentage of vacancies being filled and around half of all surveyed employers having been able to choose between multiple suitable applicants.

Unsuitable applicants

- Around 80 per cent of qualified applicants were considered to be unsuitable.
 - These applicants lacked the minimum level of experience required, were not proficient in the drafting software used by the employer or were considered unsatisfactory when interviewed.

Demand and supply trends

- Demand for this occupation is likely to have increased over the year, with strong growth in building work continuing and engineering construction demonstrating signs of recovery.¹
 - The value of building activity in NSW rose by 15.1 per cent over the year to 2016, following growth of 9.7 per cent in 2015.
 - Engineering construction increased by 8.2 per cent over the year to 2016, which is the first annual increase recorded since 2012.
 - Reflecting this growth, the total value of construction work done increased by 12.6 per cent over the year to 2016 (compared with 3.2 per cent over the year to 2015).
- The number of students undertaking Government funded courses for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians has declined since 2012 to around 450 in 2015 (which is around 40 per cent less than the average over the five years to 2014).²
- There were around 45 primary applicant 457 temporary skilled migration visas granted for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians in 2016-17 (nearly double the number granted in the three years ended 2015-16).³ 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 NCVET, *Students and Courses*, 2015.

³ 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.