



ANZSCO 3122-11,12

Civil Engineering Draftsperson and Technician

South Australia

April 2017

Current labour market rating

No Shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

Shortage

Comments

Labour market conditions have eased compared with last year. Employers attracted a sufficient number of applicants and suitable applicants to fill a large majority of advertised vacancies surveyed.

Survey results

- Employer contacts included engineering consultancy practices and local government.
- A survey of employers who had recently advertised for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians showed that employers had little difficulty recruiting.
 - Survey results showed 71 per cent of vacancies were filled in 2017 up from around half in 2016 but similar to results recorded in 2014 and 2015.
- On average, there were 23 applicants per vacancy of whom 14.1 were qualified and 8.7 were suitable. Applicant and suitable applicant numbers have been highly variable over recent years, with this year's survey suggesting there has been a marked increase in the average number of suitable applicants compared with 2016.
- Last year's survey occurred at the commencement of or anticipated commencement of a number of major redevelopment projects. Last year's survey may have marked a period of peak demand for civil engineering drafters.
- Most contacts had little difficulty filling vacancies and were positive about the strength of the labour market for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians.
- Considering employers in general had multiple suitable candidates to select from and were able to consistently fill vacancies the occupation is rated as not in shortage.

Unsuitable applicants

- In general, unsuitable applicants lacked the required qualification, experience or technical skills.
- Almost 40 per cent of applicants did not hold the relevant qualifications specified for the vacancy.
- Some employers also favoured experience specific to their industry (e.g. local government, civil construction) or location due to regulation differences between jurisdictions.
- Technical skills relating to software use was important to employers. Employers required applicants to have knowledge and experience in operating CAD® software as the industry standard. Many applicants lacked these skills.

- Some employers required software and technical skills beyond the CAD® industry standard. For example, experience in 12D® and MicroStation® was heavily favoured in some vacancies and few applicants met this need.

Demand and supply trends

- Demand for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians is largely determined by engineering construction activity levels.
- ABS data shows the value of work done in South Australian engineering construction activity increased in the year to the September quarter 2016 by around three per cent¹. Around a quarter of the total value was attributed to work completed on bridges, railways and harbours with approximately a fifth each attributed to Telecommunications, Heavy industry and Roads, highways and subdivisions.
- ABS data shows Engineering Construction Activity value of work yet to be done for the year to December 2016 is at its highest level since 2014². Value of work yet to be done increased 21 per cent since 2015 and represents similar conditions to 2012 and 2013. Almost 60 per cent of the total value is represented by Roads, highways and subdivisions.
- The total value of SA building approvals³ increased by 14 per cent in 2016 compared with the previous calendar year.
- Consistent with the value indicators that suggest growth in engineering activity, advertised internet vacancies⁴ for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians in South Australia recorded an increase in 2016 to levels consistently higher than those experienced since 2013.
- Contacts surveyed were consistently positive about the outlook for the industry and many noted the multiple major civil works currently being undertaken in Adelaide.
- Occupational supply is dependent on a combination of on-the-job experience and formal training, usually at the Certificate IV or Diploma qualification level.
- The number of Certificate IV and Diploma level students in training courses classified to the occupations of civil engineering draftsperson and technician increased in 2015 compared with 2014 (the latest period available)⁵. Despite the 2015 increase, student numbers in 2015 remain well below any of the previous six years.
- Net overseas migration data⁶ for civil engineering draftspersons and technicians suggests there was a small net increase in South Australia in 2015. The number of Subclass 457 visas granted⁷ for this occupation is small.

¹ ABS, Engineering Construction Activity, ABS Cat. No. 8762.0 Table 22

² ABS, Engineering Construction Activity, ABS Cat. No. 8762.0 Table 23

³ ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, Cat. No. 8731.0

⁴ Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index

⁵ NCVER, VOCSTATS. Only includes data from the publicly funded vocational education and training sector.

⁶ <https://data.gov.au/dataset/overseas-arrivals-and-departures> (BP0022 OAD Pivot 2016-17)

⁷ <https://data.gov.au/dataset/visa-temporary-work-skilled>