ANZSCO 3122-11,12 Western Australia
Civil Engineering Draftsperson/ Technician April 2017

Current labour market rating No Shortage
Previous labour market rating (April 2016) No Shortage

Comments

Employers were generally able to fill vacancies with qualified and experienced applicants across a range of specialisations.

Survey results

- Consistent with the results of the previous survey, this survey found that 92 per cent of vacancies were filled. Surveyed vacancies were situated across metropolitan and regional areas and involved work in residential housing, public infrastructure, roads and urban development.
- Vacancies attracted an average of 35.5 applicants compared with 50.7 applicants per vacancy in the previous survey.
  - Metropolitan vacancies attracted an average of 39.5 applicants while regional vacancies attracted an average of 22.0 applicants.
- On average there were 6.3 suitable applicants per surveyed vacancy, compared to 2.6 applicants per vacancy in the previous survey.
  - Metropolitan vacancies attracted an average of 7.2 suitable applicants while regional vacancies attracted an average of 3.3 suitable applicants.
- Most employers sought applicants with recent experience in AutoCAD or other design software packages.
- Vacancies were unfilled where applicants did not hold the specific professional experience deemed necessary by the employer.

Unsuitable applicants

- This survey found that 87 per cent of qualified applicants were deemed unsuitable.
- The most commonly cited reasons identified by employers for applicant unsuitability was a lack of specific experience, for example a lack of experience in drafting for bridges, roads and highways or drainage and water services.
  - Applicants with limited experience in the occupation or in using specific software packages such as AutoCAD were also considered unsuitable.
  - Furthermore, applicants were also deemed unsuitable where they had remuneration expectations beyond what employers were willing or able to meet or lacked a relevant qualification.
Most employers indicated it was essential for applicants to have extensive knowledge of local statutory requirements and building codes and experience in dealing with local councils.

**Demand and supply trends**

- Demand for Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians is cyclical and is influenced by the volume of investment activity in the private and public construction industry, and land and housing development projects.
- Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows the trend value of engineering construction activity done in Western Australia fell by 50 per cent ($5 billion) over the year to December 2016.\(^1\)
- ABS data shows total building approvals in WA decreased by 11 per cent over the year to March 2017.\(^2\)
- ABS data shows the value of construction work done in Western Australia decreased by 19 per cent over the year to December 2016.\(^3\)
- Department of Employment data shows the number of advertisements for these occupations is near its lowest level in 10 years.
  - Vacancies averaged at 16 per month over the year to March 2017.\(^4\)
  - Vacancies for this occupation peaked at an average of 132 per month over the year to March 2009.\(^5\)
- Data shows the number of people in this occupation in Western Australia peaked in May 2013 at around 3000. Numbers declined by 80 per cent between May 2013 and February 2016 but have since trended upwards again and sit at around 1,900 people.\(^6\)
- To become a Civil Engineering Draftsperson in Western Australia, students usually need to complete a formal qualification or a traineeship in civil construction design. The Diploma of Civil Construction Design and the Advanced Diploma of Civil Construction Design are offered at TAFE Colleges and other registered training organisations throughout Western Australia.
  - The number of students undertaking Government funded courses for Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians in Western Australia in 2015 is 22 per cent below the average of the previous three years.\(^7\)

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1. ABS Engineering Construction Activity, 8762.0 Table 4, Trend, Western Australia, December 2016
2. ABS Building Approvals, Western Australia, Cat. 8731.0, Trend data
3. ABS Construction Work Done, Western Australia, Preliminary, 8755, Table 8, Trend, December 2016.
4. Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2017, 12 month moving average
5. Department of Employment, Internet Vacancy Index, March 2017, 12 month moving average
6. Department of Employment, Labour Force Data, 12 Month Average, Trend

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