



Surveyor

ANZSCO 2322-12

South Australia

April 2019

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Consistent with last year, there is a shortage of surveyors in South Australia. Employers reported there are few suitable applicants, mainly because a proportion of surveyors have relocated to other states, for better remuneration.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were across the the civil contracting and mining industries.
- The proportion of vacancies filled has trended sharply downwards since 2016. In 2019, 22 per cent of vacancies were filled, compared with 43 per cent filled in 2018.
- Applicant numbers have also declined substantially in recent years. In 2019 the average number of applicants per vacancy was 4.4, compared with 27.5 in 2016.
- The average number of qualified applicants per vacancy has increased this year (4.1 per vacancy, compared with 0.9 per vacancy in 2018).
- Suitable applicant numbers were relatively unchanged in 2019 (on average, 0.9 per vacancy).
- Most employers stated a shortage of local talent has made it difficult to recruit experienced surveyors in South Australia.
 - Some employers reported a proportion of graduates moved interstate for higher wages in recent years, which has reduced the supply of experienced surveyors in the labour market.
 - Some suitable applicants declined job offers due to a failure to agree on remuneration.
- A number of employers reported graduates generally did not have the skills and experience they required. Other employers stated some students found employment before obtaining their qualifications, mainly due to a lack of experienced applicants.
- Most employers required applicants to have a tertiary surveying qualification at either the diploma or degree level, a minimum of two years of experience and good team communication skills.
- Other requirements included proficiency across a number of surveying instruments and software.



22%
of vacancies
filled



4.4
Applicants per
vacancy



4.1
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



0.8
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- The number of South Australian licensed cadastral surveyors has decreased in recent years. In 2017-18 there were 136, which was fewer than in 2013-14 (145).¹
- At the 2016 Census over half of surveyors had either bachelor or postgraduate qualifications, with 30 per cent having an advanced diploma or diploma.²
- The demand for surveyors is driven by building construction, engineering projects and land subdivisions.
 - The value of buildings approved in South Australia declined by around 25 per cent in the year to February 2019.³
 - Following a long period of growth, South Australian engineering construction activity peaked in June 2018, and then declined by around 15 per cent by December 2018.⁴
 - The number of Greenfield allotments produced in Adelaide increased by around 40 per cent in 2018 (3,110 allotments).⁵
- The average income for surveyors in SA was around \$82,000 per year in 2016-17. Surveyors in Western Australia, in comparison, earned on average 25.8 per cent more than those based in SA.⁶

¹ Surveyors Board of South Australia, Annual Reports, 2013-14 to 2017-18

² ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, customised tables

³ ABS, Cat. No. 8731.0, ABS, Building Approvals, Australia, February 2019, TABLE 33. Value of building Approved South Australia

⁴ ABS, Cat. No 8762.0 - Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, Dec 2018

⁵ Urban Development Institute of Australia, National State of the Land Report 2019, table created by Research4

⁶ Australian Tax Office Taxation Statistics 2016-17, Statistics, Feb 2019