



ANZSCO 2321-11 Architect

Queensland June 2017

Current labour market rating

Shortage

Previous labour market rating (April 2016)

No Shortage

Comments

Employers in metropolitan and regional areas reported difficulties in recruiting skilled and experienced architects and half of the vacancies in the survey were unfilled.

Survey results

- In this year's survey, 50 per cent of all vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising. This was lower than the fill rate of 71.4 per cent in last year's survey. In metropolitan areas 40 per cent of vacancies were filled compared with 60 per cent of non-metropolitan vacancies.
 - Employers sought architects experienced in residential and commercial projects, urban planning and landscape, and specialty areas such as hospitality and health.
 - Many employers required architects proficient in the use of software packages Revit or AutoCAD or archiTAB.
- Around 50 per cent of employers were unable to attract any suitable applicants for their vacancies.
- Metropolitan vacancies attracted 23.8 applicants per vacancy, over three times more than the number of applicants (7.4) in regional areas.
- Around 26 per cent of all applicants held relevant qualifications and mandatory registration with the Board of Architects of Queensland.
- On average there were 0.6 suitable applicants per vacancy.

Unsuitable applicants

- Employers considered 85 per cent of the qualified applicants to be unsuitable for the position advertised.
 - Employers advised that many of the unsuitable applicants did not have the required years of experience working in residential and commercial project architecture.
 - Employers seeking specific experience, for example in the hospitality industry or high-end residential architecture found that many applicants were unsuitable for these positions as they lacked design or project management skills or had poor communication skills.
 - Employers also advised that graduate applicants graduates had limited or no practical work experience at the end of their Masters qualification and this presented challenges to gaining employment.
 - Some applicants who did not have experience with specific software such as Revit or archiTab were also considered unsuitable.

Demand and supply trends

- Architects in Queensland are predominantly employed in architectural services and demand is influenced levels of activity in the building industry.
- The demand for architectural services has grown due to residential building activity remaining strong.
 - The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates that the value of building work done over the year to December 2016 has increased by almost nine per cent to around \$17.8 billion.¹
- The Department of Employment's Internet Vacancy Index shows that the number of advertised job vacancies for architects declined over the six months to December 2016 but has since begun trending upwards in the three months to March 2017.² Despite these fluctuations the index is currently 33 per cent above the level at March 2015.
- All architects in Queensland must be registered with the Board of Architects of Queensland. Registration requires the completion of an appropriate three year undergraduate degree followed by a Masters of Architecture and successful completion of the Architectural Practice Examination.
- The Board of Architects of Queensland advised that as at June 2016, there were 2770 architects in Queensland, an increase of 1.7 per cent from June 2015.³
- Figures from the Department of Education and Training show that the number of graduates commencing a Masters or Architectural degree in 2015 was 157, a fall of almost 20 per cent from 2014.⁴
- The number of architectural graduates completing relevant post-graduate studies has increased by around ten per cent from 152 in 2014 to 168 in 2015.⁵
- Information from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection shows that temporary skilled migration is a minimal source of supply to this profession with less than ten 457 visas granted each year since 2012-13 for positions in Queensland. Less than five class 457 visas were granted in the 2016-17 financial year.⁶

¹ ABS, 8755.0 Construction Work Done, Australia, December 2016

² Department of Employment

³ Board of Architects of Queensland, Annual Report 2015-2016

⁴ Department of Education and Training,

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ Department of Immigration and Border Protection