



Civil Engineering Professionals ANZSCO 2332 (except 2332-13 Quantity Surveyor)

South Australia
April 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no evidence of a shortage of Civil Engineers in South Australia. This labour market has eased in the last year.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were private consultancy firms and employers in the construction, renewable energy and defence industries.
- The proportion of vacancies filled in 2019 was higher (73 per cent) than last year (50 per cent filled).
- The average number of applicants (18.6 per vacancy) decreased compared to 2018 (34.0 per vacancy).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy increased this year (3.3 compared to 1.2 in 2018).
 - In metropolitan Adelaide, the average number of suitable applicants per vacancy was 3.3.
 - Regionally, there was an average of 3.0 applicants.
- The average number of qualified applicants per vacancy (9.0) declined this year compared to last year (12.7).
- The reasons applicants were considered unsuitable included:
 - a lack of experience in senior management or consultancy positions
 - lacking specialised skills required for specific industries
 - lacking soft skills, including being able to work in a team and demonstrated leadership skills
 - not being considered an appropriate fit for the organisation's culture and values.
- Employers required applicants to have a bachelor's degree specialising in a civil engineering field and most employers required a minimum of two years experience.
- Employers found it difficult to recruit experienced senior civil engineers for management level roles and roles that required five to ten years of experience.
- Regional employers tended to recruit applicants who needed to relocate as skills were not found locally.

2019 Survey Results¹



Demand and supply

- At the 2016 Census there were 1580 civil engineers (excluding quantity surveyor) in South Australia.
- Within the occupation of civil engineer, 42.3 per cent of people were employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry and 25.4 per cent are employed in the Construction Industry.
- In South Australia 86.7 per cent of the civil engineering workforce is male, 13.3 per cent female.
- The demand for civil engineers is driven by engineering construction activity. 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.
- An average of 214 students commenced an undergraduate Civil Engineering degree in the five years to 2017. There were around 162 civil engineering undergraduate degree completions in the same time period.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business](#)

Additional Data Sources: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2016; ABS, Cat No. 8762.0 – Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, Dec 2018; Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017