

<b>Civil Engineering Associate Professional</b>	<b>Australian Capital Territory (ACT)</b>
ASCO Code: 3122	October 2006
Labour market rating	Recruitment Difficulty
Comment	

### **Occupational demand**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey data shows about half of civil engineering associates nationally work in the property and business services industry, with about 10 to 15 per cent also working in each of the government administration and defence and construction industries.

Demand for civil engineering associates in the ACT typically depends on the level of engineering construction. Housing Industry Association (HIA) estimates predict a 20 per cent increase in the value of engineering construction work done in the ACT during the 2006-07 financial year, with this level of engineering construction work being sustained through 2007-08.

### **Occupational supply**

Forty one per cent of civil engineering associates nationally hold a Diploma or Advanced Diploma and another 35 per cent hold a Bachelor degree. Training in this occupation in the ACT is available through the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), which offers courses at diploma and advanced diploma level in Civil Engineering.

### **Employer and industry comments/current labour market**

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for civil engineering associates in the ACT was undertaken for this report. Positions surveyed included general civil engineering associates, as well as the specialisations civil engineering design draftsman, road design draftsman and structural engineering drafting officer. Approximately half the positions surveyed were for senior level civil engineering associate professionals.

The majority of employers contacted experienced difficulty filling vacancies for civil engineering associates. Vacancy fill rates were around 30 per cent, and although employers received around six applications per vacancy, few applicants were considered by employers to be suitable. Senior positions in particular attracted few applications from suitable civil engineering associates.

Applicants were typically considered by employers to be unsuitable because they lacked relevant experience and qualifications. Although some applicants had qualifications and experience in the construction industry, and even specific areas of civil engineering, employers did not feel their level of experience was sufficient or relevant to their requirements. Numerous employers noted they required applicants to have skills using specific software packages.

### **Labour market outlook**

With the Housing Industry Association expecting high levels of construction work to continue in the short term there is not expected to be any significant change in the labour market for civil engineering associates over the next six months.