

<b>Civil, Structural, Transport Engineer</b>	<b>Australian Capital Territory (ACT)</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 2332-11, 14, 15	February 2009
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage
<b>Comment</b>	

### **Occupational demand**

ABS Census data indicate the majority of civil engineering professionals in the ACT are employed in Engineering Design and Engineering Consulting Services. Demand for civil engineering professionals in the ACT appears to be strong with 60 per cent of employers commenting they have many civil infrastructure projects commencing in 2009. ABS Engineering Construction Activity data for the ACT show infrastructure activity in the year leading up to December 2008 has been strong with a rise of five per cent in the value of work done and a considerable rise in the value of work yet to be done for same period.

Census data show employment growth for this occupation of 28 per cent between 2001 and 2006, more recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) data show employment may have fallen slightly over the year to 2009.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry to this occupation is through completion of a bachelor degree or higher qualification. Training for civil engineers is not available in the ACT which suggests supply is reliant on interstate and overseas migration.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship net migration figures show there was a minimal gain of civil, structural and transport engineers from overseas.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for civil, structural and transport engineers was conducted for this report with a number of employers cold canvassed due to limited vacancies being identified over the survey period. One third of the surveyed vacancies were filled, significantly lower than the 57 per cent fill rate recorded in 2008. Employers generally indicated they were recruiting due to business growth.

Employers received slightly less than five applications per vacancy with less than one applicant per vacancy considered by employers to be suitable. Most applicants were qualified engineers but were regarded as unsuitable by employers as they had insufficient experience or lacked knowledge of Australian infrastructure.

The majority of employers noted the current economic downturn has yet to affect them with around 80 per cent of employers expecting to recruit in the next six months. Some employers stated the global recession is most likely to affect recent graduates and engineers who have less than five years experience as this group is generally the first to feel the impact of job cuts. It was noted there is little movement at present among employed engineers who have five or more years' experience.

### **Labour market outlook**

Demand for civil engineers in the ACT is expected to remain strong over the next six months and there is no evidence to suggest that skill shortages for this occupation will ease. Recent proposed Government budget initiatives to bolster infrastructure projects may see demand for this occupation increase.