

Surveyor	Victoria
ANZSCO Code: 2322-12	March 2009
Labour market rating:	Shortage
Comment:	

Occupational demand

Demand for surveyors is generated by business levels within the overall economy and more specifically by the level of construction activity. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census data indicate about 80 per cent of surveyors are employed in the building and construction sector with 29 per cent working in housing construction. Housing Industry Association forecast data indicate construction activity will improve only marginally from 2009-2010. The National Building Economic Stimulus plan may generate some demand for surveyors through major projects. DEEWR Skilled Vacancy Index data suggests demand for surveyors has remained stable since 2006.

Occupational Supply

To register as a licensed surveyor under the *Surveying Act 2004* you must successfully complete a university degree in surveying or geomatics or an equivalent qualification as approved by the Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria (the Board). To practise cadastral surveying in Victoria you must be registered as a licensed surveyor and obtain practical training in cadastral surveying following graduation under the supervision of a licensed surveyor, and pass examinations in cadastral surveying set by the Board. There are 535 people currently registered as licensed surveyors registered by the Board in Victoria, this includes eight female surveyors. Data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship indicate net immigration of surveyors into Victoria during 2007-2008 was negligible.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for surveyors was conducted for this report. Vacancies were difficult to source and only represented employers in metropolitan Melbourne so a number of employers in Regional Victoria were also canvassed for their experiences. Overall, only 10 per cent of advertised positions were filled and the number of applicants per vacancy and number of suitable applicants per vacancy were also very low. A number of employers indicated they had had vacancies for over 3 months with a small number indicating they had been trying to fill their positions for over a year. More established companies and recruitment agencies did not believe there was a shortage of surveyors in Victoria, however, other employers had a different experience finding difficulties in placing experienced and qualified surveyors and indicating the quality of applicants was low. Regional employers found sourcing suitable applicants particularly difficult as it required moving to regional areas or extensive travel.

A significant issue amongst surveying professionals is an ageing workforce, the median age for a surveyor is 55 plus. The majority of employers described a marked decline in business during late 2008 to early 2009. Some employers cited they were currently preparing for large future projects through the National Building Economic Stimulus plan. Generally, employers described the turnover of surveyors to be low across the industry. There were general comments relating to the low exposure of surveying as a career option for school leavers and graduates. Employers viewed current surveying courses as too theoretical and stated students perceived the courses as 'too difficult'.

Labour market outlook

There was no evidence to suggest that the labour market outlook will change for surveyors in the next six months.