

Building Associate	Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
ASCO Code: 3121-11	October 2006
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment	

Occupational demand

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey data indicates building, architectural and surveying associates work mainly in the construction industry in Australia, with a reasonable portion also working in the property and business services industry. These data indicate a small portion of people in these occupations in Australia are employed in the ACT.

ABS figures on Construction Work Done show the total value of construction work in the ACT in the June quarter 2006 was a record high. This was largely the result of the value of non-residential construction, which has grown significantly since 2001. The value of residential building construction has remained fairly steady over the past three years.

Occupational supply

ABS educational attainment data show about a third of building, architectural and surveying associates around Australia hold Certificate III/IV level qualifications, around 18 per cent have a Bachelor degree and 14 per cent hold Diploma or Advanced Diploma qualifications. Formal training for this occupation in the ACT is available through the Certificate IV in Building Studies, Residential, and Diploma of Building Studies, which are offered by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT).

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for building associates in the ACT was undertaken for this report. The advertisements surveyed were mainly for project managers, building site supervisors and estimators, in roughly equal numbers.

Approximately half of the vacancies were filled and employers received an average of six applications per vacancy, with around one applicant being considered suitable for each position. Employers commented that unsuitable applicants often did not have the construction industry specific experience they were seeking, with employer requirements ranging from office fitouts being undertaken in occupied offices to estimating for large scale commercial and domestic construction projects. Most employers noted receiving applications from people who had appropriate qualifications but lacked experience and from applicants who possessed experience in appropriate areas, however not in sufficient depth. On the whole, employers were not concerned about formal qualifications, but were more concerned with the level and relevance of applicants' experience.

Employers noted demand for skills in this occupation is currently high. A large number of employers who filled advertised vacancies did so through word of mouth.

Labour market outlook

Housing Industry of Association (HIA) projections show the strong performance of the construction industry in the ACT is likely to continue into 2007. There is no evidence to suggest there will be significant change in the labour market for building associates over the next six months.

National Office

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

October 2006