

Architectural Associate		Tasmania
ASCO Code: 3121-13	November 2006	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
Comment <i>Architectural Associates may also be known as architectural draftspersons, building designers, architectural technicians, or technical officers.</i>		

Occupational demand

There were 113 architectural associates recorded at the 2001 Census. Unfortunately the occupation is too small to be picked up in subsequent labour market surveys, and so no more recent data is available. However, given that there has been a construction boom in Tasmania since 2001 it seems reasonable to assume that demand has increased somewhat in the mean time. Services to the construction industry is where most (72 per cent) architectural associates are employed.

Occupational supply

TAFE Tasmania offer formal training for architectural associates in Tasmania. Under State legislation governing the building industry a certificate IV in residential drafting is the minimum qualification required for someone to be registered as a building designer. TAFE sources suggest that demand for architectural associates is such at present, that there is little incentive for people to progress from the certificate IV to diploma level, as it is common for all people undertaking the certificate IV to already be employed before they have completed their course.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

All of the employers who advertised in the lead up to this report were able to eventually fill their vacancies, but none of them were filled as a result of their advertisements, and none were filled within six weeks of advertising. People arriving from interstate, and the use of agencies were the most common methods of filling the vacancies. None of the employers who advertised received any applicants at all through their job advertisements. Other employers who were contacted also indicated that they would expect it to be very difficult to fill vacancies for architectural associates, should they need to recruit at present. The combination of the length of time it takes to fill vacancies, and the absence of any responses to advertisements support a rating of shortage.

Labour market outlook

Despite a slowing of domestic construction in the second half of 2006, demand for architectural associates is still expect to outstrip supply for at least the next 12 months, ensuring that shortages will remain.