

<b>Architect</b>	<b>South Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 2321-11	February 2009
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No Shortage
<b>Comment</b>	

### **Occupational demand**

Close to 90 per cent of architects are employed in the professional, scientific and technical services industry, particularly in architectural services. Demand for architects is influenced by the level of residential and non-residential building activity. Apart from a modest downturn in late 2006 and early 2007, South Australian building activity has been expanding strongly since 2001. ABS data show that the total value of building work done (in trend terms) increased for seven consecutive quarters to the December quarter 2008 (the latest available). DEEWR's Skilled Vacancies Index data show a significant increase in the number of newspaper vacancies for architects in 2007, followed by a fall in 2008 which was nonetheless higher than the 2006 level. ABS Labour Force Survey data (averaged over four quarters) recorded an increase in the number of employed architects and landscape architects (disaggregated data are unavailable) up to November 2008. In South Australia, architects are required to be registered with the Architects Board of South Australia. As at February 2009, there were 641 active registered architects with South Australian postal addresses, compared to 617 in 2006. The aggregate workforce size of employers contacted for this survey fell by eight per cent over the past 12 months, indicating falling demand.

### **Occupational supply**

Entrants to this profession have usually completed the Bachelor of Architecture at either the University of Adelaide or the University of South Australia. The University of South Australia offers a five year full-time or equivalent degree course whereas the University of Adelaide offers a three year full-time or equivalent Bachelor of Design Studies course followed by the two year full-time or equivalent Bachelor of Architecture. In total, the universities have averaged around 150 student commencements over the past ten years. However, many of the graduates of the Bachelor of Design Studies do not enrol in the Bachelor of Architecture resulting in apparent low completion rates. Over the past five years there has been an average of 57 completions per annum across both institutions.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for architects showed that 73 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks, this compared with a fill rate of 53 per cent in 2006. On average, employers received eight applicants per vacancy, compared to six in 2006. However, since most applicants were deemed unsuitable, there was an average of 1.8 suitable applicants per vacancy. The main reasons given by employers for rejecting unsuitable applicants were lack of experience, relevant qualifications and knowledge of Australian design standards (among migrant applicants). Around half of positions advertised were for replacement staff. None of the employers contacted had current unfilled positions and a number reported recently reducing staffing levels. Consequently, the current labour market for architects is rated as not being in shortage.

### **Labour market outlook**

The number of new graduates entering this occupation over the next few years will be slightly higher than the average of the previous ten years. Based on DEEWR projections, there will be around 59 university completions in 2009 and 63 in 2010. With regards to labour demand, forward indicators of activity in the South Australian construction industry suggest a slowdown will occur. A number of employers reported an increase in the number of projects and developments either postponed or cancelled at the end of 2008. Given expected falling demand, shortages of architects are unlikely to emerge over the next 12 months.