

<b>Architectural Associate</b>		<b>Queensland</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 3121-13	December 2006	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Most architectural associates are employed by private sector firms providing architectural, design and planning services to the building industry, although a significant proportion are directly employed by building companies themselves. Some architectural associates are self-employed and provide their services on a contract basis while others are employed in the public sector. In all cases, demand for architectural associates depends directly on the level of activity in the building industry. Building activity is presently at high levels across Queensland, supported by the State's growing population and recent strong growth in non-residential building. Australian Bureau of Statistics data on building activity confirm the present robust condition of the building industry in Queensland, while data on building approvals and the value of work yet to be done indicate that the outlook for the industry over coming months remains very positive.

### **Occupational supply**

Formal education for the occupation of architectural associate is generally at the level of a Certificate IV in Residential Drafting or a Diploma/Advanced Diploma of Building Design, which are offered through several technical colleges and institutes across Queensland. Only Central Queensland University offers a four year part time Associate Degree of Building Design and a five year part time Bachelor of Building Design, both of which are available through external study to students who are employed, or seeking work, in the industry. Most students undertaking these studies at any level do so while already working, at least in a basic capacity, in the role of an architectural associate. Data from the Department of Education, Science and Training indicate that there were 64 new enrolments at the university level in 2005 and 40 in 2004 when the courses were first established, but there have been minimal completions to date. Supply has also been supported by overseas migration, with net permanent and long term temporary arrivals to Queensland of 31 self-identified building, architectural and surveying associate professionals in 2005-06.

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

Employers contacted for this year's survey reported that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit architectural associates, mainly due to the lack of specific industry experience among potential employees. Only 65 per cent of the vacancies included in the survey were filled within six weeks of advertising, and a majority of employers claimed they had advertised several times. Over 75 per cent of the applicants were regarded as unsuitable, mostly because they lacked appropriate qualifications or experience. The need for local knowledge of the building industry and regulations can make the option of looking overseas for possible candidates much less attractive to employers. Some employers said that, when an advertised position cannot be filled, they are willing to recruit and train new employees with lower skill levels and support them in formal studies. Employers reported that work for skilled architectural associates continues to grow in most regions of Queensland and suggested greater marketing of the career in schools to help in addressing supply issues in coming years.

### **Labour market outlook**

With levels of residential construction holding up well in the State, supported by population growth, and significant continuing strength in the non-residential building sector, demand for architectural associates will remain high over the coming year. At the same time, the numbers of new entrants to the occupation are not expected to increase significantly. The present State-wide shortage of architectural associates is therefore expected to continue, and might intensify, through 2007.