

Surveyor	Western Australia
ANZSCO Code: 2322-12	March 2009
Labour market rating:	No Shortage
Comment	

Occupational demand

The 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data show that in WA, the majority of surveyors work in the industry divisions of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (52 per cent) and Mining (24 per cent). The two main specific industries of surveyor employment are Surveying and Mapping Services and Mining (in particular Iron, Gold and Nickel). Demand is in the specialised work areas of cadastral/land surveying, engineering surveying, geodetic surveying, mine surveying, remote sensing and topographic surveying. ABS census data show the number of surveyors in WA has increased between 2001 and 2006 by 24 per cent to 1120. ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS) data indicate that from November 2007 to November 2008 there was a small reduction in the employment of cartographers and surveyors.

Occupational supply

To become a licensed surveyor in WA (for cadastral work), a four-year Bachelor of Surveying is required, plus a further two years experience working under a licensed surveyor. The individual must then complete an examination conducted by the Surveyors Licensing Board of WA. Curtin University offers bachelor degree courses in Surveying and in Mine and Engineering Surveying. Graduate numbers for these courses have shown a slight decline, with nine graduates of the Surveying course in 2007, from 13 in 2006 and 15 in 2005, and four graduates of the Mine and Engineering Surveying course in 2007, compared with nine in 2006 and five in 2005. TAFE also has a certificate IV and a diploma level course in surveying. However, TAFE level qualification is not enough to become a licensed surveyor. The net gain in overseas migration of those classified as Cartographers and Surveyors to Western Australia was recorded as 53 persons in 2007-08 which was more than the net gain of 29 in 2006-07.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A DEEWR survey of employers who had recently advertised for surveyors found that 83 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks following advertising. There were approximately 11 applicants per vacancy of whom five per vacancy were considered by employers to be suitable. A small number of employers reported they were unable to fill positions due to the location of the vacancy. All employers surveyed said they were able to attract suitable applicants. This is a notable change from 2006 when the occupation was last surveyed in WA, when less than two thirds of advertised vacancies were filled. A significant proportion of employers said they had received improved responses to their advertised vacancies compared with their recruitment experiences of 12 months ago. They advised that they encountered no difficulties filling positions. A feature of this occupation is that a significant proportion of potential vacancies are for sub-contracting arrangements, rather than outright employment. The employers surveyed said they did not have difficulty filling sub-contracting positions. A large employer indicated that work for surveyors in the metropolitan areas of WA has decreased but work in regional and remote areas had increased due to major construction projects. Most surveyed employers indicated it was unlikely they would recruit for this occupation again in the following six months. The Industry Body for Surveyors in WA indicated the slowing of activity in some areas of the mining and construction industries had increased the availability of surveyors.

Labour market outlook

The current economic climate is contracting demand and no shortage is evident. This is likely to continue in the short term.