

Surveying and Cartographic Associates		Northern Territory (NT)
ASCO Code: 3121-15	November 2006	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
Comment		

Occupational demand

ABS Census data show that there were 27 surveying and cartographic associates employed in the NT in 2001. Since 2001, ABS Labour Force Survey data indicate that the number of building, architectural and surveying associate professionals declined over 2002 and 2003, before stabilising from 2004 onwards. The value of both residential and non-residential building work done has grown considerably since 2001. The annual average growth rate over the past five years to June 2006 has been 19 per cent and growth has been particularly strong for the past two years. In chain volume measure terms, the value of building work done is at the highest level since the previous construction boom peak in 1998. Expenditure on mineral exploration (other than for petroleum) in the NT has also more than doubled over the past three years. These results suggest increased demand for surveying and cartographic associates from the 2001 level.

Occupational supply

There are no local training courses available for surveying and cartographic associates. Businesses will often resort to attracting people into trainee roles and getting them to study part time in addition to on the job training. For example, some employers have people in trainee roles who study (predominately by correspondence) at Leederville Technical College in Perth.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

Very few employers were found who have recently advertised for surveying or cartographic associates. However, none who did were successful in filling their vacancies.

Turnover is not typically high for the occupation, which has limited recruitment activity. However employers suggest the workforce is aging and many surveying and cartographic associates are approaching retirement age. Employers commented that there seems to be difficulty attracting young people into the field and that this was constraining supply. The extreme climate and remote work requirements make these roles even less attractive in the NT.

Employers commented that demand for their work had been strong and the continuing mining and construction booms kept them very busy. Strong demand was still present early in the wet season even though it is traditionally a quieter period.

Labour market outlook

Employers commented that there was a lot of construction work still in the pipeline and that the mining boom was likely to continue. Strong demand for surveying and cartographic associates therefore is likely to persist. With issues in attracting new supply also set to continue, the occupation is likely to remain in shortage over the coming year.