

Statistician	Australia
ANZSCO Code: 2241-13	November 2008
Labour market rating	Recruitment Difficulty
Comment: <i>Employers seeking statisticians with experience in biology and genetics found it difficult to recruit</i>	

Occupational Demand

Statisticians are primarily employed in market research and statistical services, higher education, scientific research services, government administration and hospitals. ABS Census data show there were approximately 2600 statisticians employed in Australia in 2006, an increase of 14 per cent from 2001. ABS Labour Force Survey data show continued growth since 2006 with an increase in employment of approximately 10 per cent between the four quarters to August 2007 and the four quarters to August 2008.

ABS Census 2006 data show statisticians are employed primarily in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, with low employment numbers in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. This distribution has been reflected in the survey work for this report.

Occupational Supply

ABS Census 2006 data show 39 per cent of statisticians hold a bachelor degree, and a further 41 per cent have a postgraduate qualification. Entry to the occupation may be through various qualifications including commerce or science and it is therefore difficult to obtain information on how many peoples enter the occupation through study.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship net migration data show an average of 72 mathematicians, statisticians and actuaries (data are not available for statisticians solely) per annum entered Australia each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for statisticians was undertaken for this report. Due to the low number of vacancies identified during the survey period some employers were canvassed despite not having recently advertised. Nationally, 65 per cent of the surveyed vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising. On average, employers received approximately 11 applications per advertised vacancy, with two applicants per vacancy being considered by employers to be suitable.

When this occupation was assessed in March 2008, the fill rate was higher, at 75 per cent, however the number of applicants per vacancy considered by employers to be suitable was the same. The difference in the fill rate may be accounted for by a number of employers in the most recent survey who sought statisticians with specialist knowledge like survey methodology or biology backgrounds who found it difficult to fill vacancies.

Approximately one third of surveyed employers did not receive any applications from suitable candidates in response to their advertising. Employers considered applicants who had too little experience, both in terms of length and type of experience, to be unsuitable. Other reasons applicants were considered to be unsuitable included lack of qualifications, incorrect completion of selection criteria, and lack of experience as a consultant. In some cases employers required applicants to hold Australian citizenship or permanent residency before they would consider them for their advertised vacancies.

Employers commented on the competitiveness of the labour market, saying suitable applicants had often found other employment before they were able to offer them a position.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest the labour market for statisticians will change significantly over the next six months.

National Office

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

November 2008