

Surveyor		Northern Territory
ANZSCO Code: 2322-12	February 2009	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
Comment		

Occupational demand

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data show that there were 52 surveyors employed in the NT in 2006, which is a 21 per cent decrease from 2001. The labour market for surveyors is too small for ABS Labour Force data to provide a meaningful indicator of employment since 2006. Demand for surveyors comes predominately from the civil construction and mining sectors. The value of engineering construction work done in the NT increased throughout 2008 (ABS 8762.0), after declining during 2007, to surpass 2006 levels. Mining industry sales and service income in the NT increased by 12.5 per cent in 2007-08 over the previous year while wages and salaries expenditure increased by 72 per cent (ABS 8155.0). After increasing to a record level in December 2008, expenditure on mineral exploration (excluding petroleum) in the NT dropped substantially in the first quarter this year (ABS 8412.0). Although exploration in the March quarter is seasonally low, the decline is also an indication of reduced activity in the mining sector as a result of the global financial crisis.

Occupational supply

There are no local training courses for surveyors available in the NT and there is a strong reliance on attracting people from interstate for vacancies. Some employers tend to use industry networks to source suitable people. However, many commented on the lack of local supply for the occupation and their reliance on interstate recruitment. Most employers preferred local and interstate applicants over overseas applicants.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

Half of the employers surveyed managed to fill their surveyor vacancies. Multiple applicants were received for each vacancy, however, a small number (38 per cent) were considered suitable and some vacancies remained vacant for extended periods. Employers tended to advertise via the internet and use recruitment agencies, but only attracted a limited response to vacancies.

Vacancies were due to both increased demand and job turnover. Some vacancies were filled by internal transfer with fly-in-fly-out options. While some contacts said demand had waned as a result of the global financial crisis, others suggested that demand remained strong and they had created new vacancies due to increased workloads or company expansion.

Labour market outlook

The global financial crisis has affected demand for surveyors in the mining and construction industries. However, demand for surveyors in the NT is expected to hold and issues attracting new supply set to remain. The shortage extends to vacancies at the graduate level with a lack of local supply considered a key issue. The occupation is expected to remain in shortage over the coming year.