

Surveying and Cartographic Associate		Tasmania
ASCO Code: 3121-15	June 2006	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
<p>Comment <i>Most Tasmanian surveying firms are very small, primarily consisting of self-employed people or partnerships, who do not directly employ any other surveyors, or surveying associates. Larger surveying companies tend not to be involved in cadastral surveying as they find it difficult to compete on a cost basis with the smaller firms with low overheads.</i></p>		

Occupational demand

Surveying and Cartographic Associate is a very small occupation in Tasmania, with only 39 counted at the 2001 Census. The small size of the occupation means that Census data is the only available data for this group. However, demand for surveying and cartographic associates in Tasmania is primarily linked to property development, and most surveying companies in Tasmania are cadastral, or land surveyors. With the increase in levels of construction activity and development of new subdivisions over the last few years, it is likely that this has created additional demand for surveying associates.

Occupational supply

The Hobart campus of TAFE Tasmania offers both a diploma and an advanced diploma in spatial information services. TAFE sources advise that the number of people completing the diploma course each year would usually be in single figures. However in 2005 the numbers completing were around 10 in the diploma course and seven in the advance diploma, but these numbers were slightly higher than they have been in recent years.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

No employers advertised in the lead up to this report. However, employers contacted indicated that they would expect difficulties if they did attempt to recruit. Some employers indicated they had attempted to recruit at some stage in the last 12 months, but none were able to fill their vacancies. Other employers indicated they actually preferred to recruit diploma qualified people than degree qualified, as they had more practical “hands on” skills and experience that enabled them to become operational more quickly. Industry sources suggest that there is a low level of awareness of surveying among young people which makes it difficult to attract people to the relevant formal training courses.

Labour market outlook

The small size of this occupations suggests that although demand is relatively low, when vacancies do occur they will remain difficult to fill over the next 12 months at least. Low numbers undertaking the relevant training are given as the main reasons, due to low levels of public awareness of surveyors and surveying associates.