

<b>Landscape Architect</b>		<b>South Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 2321-12	February 2009	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No Shortage	
<b>Comment</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

According to the 2006 ABS Census, there are around 154 employed landscape architects in South Australia. This represented an increase of 90 per cent compared to the workforce size in the previous Census in 2001. Over half of landscape architects are employed in the professional, scientific and technical services industry, especially in architectural services. A further 38 per cent are employed in the construction industry. Demand for landscape architects is principally influenced by the level of large-scale residential and non-residential building activity. Apart from a modest downturn in late 2006 and early 2007, South Australian building activity has been expanding strongly since 2001. ABS data show that the total value of building work done (in trend terms) increased for seven consecutive quarters to the December quarter 2008 (the latest available). This included non-residential building activity. Newspaper vacancies data indicated a sharp increase in advertised vacancies occurred in 2006 followed by a slight decline in both 2007 and 2008. Nonetheless, the number of advertised vacancies remained higher in 2008 than in either 2005 or 2004. ABS Labour Force Survey data (averaged over four quarters) recorded an increase in the number of employed architects and landscape architects (disaggregated data are unavailable) up to November 2008. The total workforce size of employers contacted for this survey increased by 11 per cent over the past 12 months. This rate of expansion is consistent with the employment growth rate recorded in the inter-census period.

### **Occupational supply**

To work as a professional landscape architect requires completion of the accredited degree course in landscape architecture offered by the University of Adelaide. The university offers a three year full-time or equivalent Bachelor of Design Studies course majoring in landscape architecture. After a minimum of two years of professional practice, graduates may qualify to obtain professional recognition by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. The university averaged around seven student commencements per annum over the period 1997 to 2003 with approximately three completions per annum. However, the average number of commencements in recent years has increased to 17 per annum and the number of completions has correspondingly increased to eight per annum. Based on current trends, it is likely there were approximately 15 completions in 2008, the highest number in at least eleven years.

### **Employer and industry comments/current labour market**

Given the small size of the workforce, very few vacancies are advertised for landscape architects. Only one employer surveyed had recently advertised for a landscape architect, and that employer was successful. None of the other employers contacted had current unfilled positions, though some had increased their staffing levels over the past year without experiencing any apparent recruitment difficulties. Consequently, the current labour market for landscape architects is rated as not being in shortage.

### **Labour market outlook**

The number of new graduates entering this occupation over the next few years will be slightly higher than the average of the previous ten years. With regards to labour demand, forward indicators of activity in the South Australian construction industry suggest a slowdown will occur. A number of employers reported that demand is already easing and they are unlikely to recruit new staff in 2009. Given expected falling demand combined with an increase in supply, a shortage of landscape architects is not anticipated to emerge over the next 12 months.