

Surveyor	Tasmania
ANZSCO Code: 2123-13	March 2009
Labour market rating	Regional difficulty
Comment <i>Most Tasmanian surveying firms are very small and do not directly employ any other surveyors. Those who do employ surveyors indicated they only had difficulty recruiting outside of Hobart.</i>	

Occupational demand

ABS census data indicate the number of surveyors in Tasmania had increased from 147 to 174 in the 5 years to 2006. As of March 2009, however, there were 110 surveyors listed with the Register of Tasmanian Surveyors, whose primary address is in Tasmania. Registration is mandatory for all people engaged in land (cadastral) surveying in Tasmania. Subdivision of land and other property or boundary related issues create demand for cadastral surveyors. ABS data from 2007 show there were 84 companies engaged in providing surveying services in Tasmania, with 29 per cent of them not employing any staff, and a further 68 per cent employing between one and 19 people. The building and development boom that Tasmania has experienced over the last seven years or so has created additional demand for land surveyors.

Occupational supply

Surveyors are usually required to have completed a four year degree course, and locally the University of Tasmania offers a Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences over 4 years. This was a new degree in 2007, replacing a four year Bachelor of Geomatics offered previously. Over the last 10 years there has been an average of around 12 Geomatics/Surveying graduates from the University of Tasmania, within a range of nine to 18. Census data indicate that migration from other States or from overseas was minimal.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

No employers advertised for surveyors in the lead up to this report, and industry sources indicated there were only two or three employers in Tasmania who employed surveyors in any significant numbers. Many Tasmanian graduates leave the State in order to complete the professional development program which is required before they can become a registered land surveyor. The small size of most employers in the State limits opportunities for local graduates to complete the requirements for registration locally. The larger employers indicated that they did not have too many difficulties attracting employees in Hobart, but that it was more difficult in the north and north-west of the State. The east coast was also mentioned as a particularly difficult area in which to attract surveyors. The employers contacted indicated that they had sufficient work to sustain them for at least the next 12 months, and most of them indicated that they had not yet been affected by the economic downturn, although some noted there had been a decline in property development work over the last three to six months.

Labour market outlook

Difficulties recruiting surveyors appear to have eased in Hobart over the last six months or so, but employers indicate they still remain in regional areas outside of Hobart. There is some evidence of a slowing of demand in the property development area, but demand in other areas remains steady.