

Surveyor	Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	
ANZSCO Code: 2322-12	January 2009	
Labour market rating	Shortage	
Comment		

Occupational demand

ABS 2006 Census data show there were approximately 100 surveyors employed in the ACT, with about two thirds employed in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry. ABS Labour Force Survey data indicate a decline in employment for this occupation in the year to February 2009.

Demand for surveyors is influenced by levels of residential, non-residential and engineering construction activity. Employer comments suggest demand for surveyors in the ACT is expected to rise with a number of new infrastructure and residential projects scheduled for commencement over the next few years.

ABS Building Approvals data for the ACT indicate a 19 per cent rise in the value of total building (residential and non-residential) approvals in the year to January 2009. ABS Engineering Construction Activity data for the ACT show infrastructure activity in the year to December 2008 has been strong with a rise of five per cent in the value of work done and a considerable rise in the value of work yet to be done for same period.

Occupational supply

Entry into this occupation is through completion of a bachelor degree or higher qualification. Employer comments highlighted the lack of university courses in this discipline in the ACT, which many suggested makes recruiting difficult as many younger potential surveyors are forced to travel interstate and are often recruited by companies in larger states who offer higher remuneration. This issue was also identified when this occupation was last surveyed in the ACT. There was also some suggestion by contacts that changes to the course title from surveying to geomatic engineering, may have been one of many factors contributing to low graduate numbers in recent years.

Supply to this occupation is reliant on interstate migration as Department of Immigration and Citizenship net migration data show supply from overseas migration to the ACT has had minimal impact.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market.

Results of this research should be treated with caution due to the limited number of vacancies on which the results are based. A survey of employers who have recently advertised for this occupation was conducted with a number of employers cold canvassed due to the small number of vacancies being identified. This occupation was assessed nationally in 2008 and ACT data are not available from that research for comparison. ACT results in 2009 show one third of the surveyed vacancies were filled, compared with the national fill rate of slightly more than 40 per cent in 2008. The current research shows employers received almost two applications per vacancy, slightly less than the three applications per vacancy recorded nationally in 2008. Those employers recruiting were seeking to replace existing staff.

Employers commented that the mining boom over recent years contributed to a shortage of surveyors nationally but they suggested the recent downturn in the mining sector might free up supply. There was some evidence to suggest some ACT employers are looking overseas to recruit surveyors. Employers also commented that surveyors in the ACT are an ageing population. ABS 2006 Census data indicate 39 per cent of surveyors in the ACT were aged 45 years or older compared with 36 per cent of all ACT workers.

Labour market outlook

Continued strong demand suggests existing shortages of surveyors in the ACT will persist.