

<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>New South Wales (NSW)</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 2322-12	April 2009
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	No shortage
<b>Comment:</b> <i>Employers were generally able to fill vacancies for surveyors in cadastral surveying, mine surveying, engineering surveying and for project work in a range of sectors such as rail and road infrastructure.</i>	

### **Occupational demand**

ABS Census data indicate that employment of surveyors grew by 1.7 per cent per annum from 2001 to 2006. Demand for the occupation has been mixed over the past year with the value of residential building in NSW falling by 4.6 per cent in 2008, non-residential building falling by 3.8 per cent and engineering construction rising by 25.8 per cent. Engineering construction has been boosted by the NSW Government's State Capital Program, involving \$56.8 billion in capital expenditure over the four years to 2011-12: a 57 per cent increase on the previous four years. As would be expected, the consensus of employers was that demand was currently strong for engineering and project surveyors with experience in infrastructure but subdued for those specialising in the building sector.

### **Occupational supply**

DEEWR estimates show that completions of relevant NSW university courses have been stable at about 30 per annum since 2004, while supply from net overseas immigration has also been steady at about 18 per annum over the same period. The annual training rate (course completions as a percentage of employed surveyors) is 1.1 per cent, based on estimated employment of 2800. DEEWR estimates the wastage rate for surveyors, based on Census data, was 1.6 per cent per annum from 2001 to 2006, which implies that supply from local training is not sufficient to offset annual losses from the profession. However, employers reported a recent increase in surveyors returning to NSW from overseas and interstate which would reduce net wastage.

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

A DEEWR survey of employers and recruitment agencies who had recently advertised for surveyors found that 86 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising. This was an increase on the 60 per cent success rate in 2006. Employers were generally able to fill vacancies for surveyors in cadastral surveying, mine surveying, engineering surveying and for project work in a range of sectors such as rail and road infrastructure. The consensus of those surveyed was that the supply of surveyors seeking employment had increased appreciably in the previous few months. A number of vacancies were filled by surveyors who had recently returned from overseas or interstate while others were filled by surveyors canvassing for work without the employer needing to advertise. In other cases, advertising attracted a suitable applicant but the employer and the applicant were unable to agree on remuneration. Employers also commented that advertisements often attracted qualified surveyors who had poor communications skills and were therefore unsuitable for positions requiring extensive liaison with clients and the writing of technical reports. The small number of unfilled and hard-to-fill vacancies were mostly in specialised areas such as hydrographic surveying or in inland towns. There was insufficient evidence, however, to establish a definite shortage in any particular specialisations or geographic area.

### **Labour market outlook**

The Construction Forecasting Council expects total construction activity to grow by 14.5 per cent (in current prices) in 2009-10, with residential building and non-residential building contributing most of the increase. If these forecasts are realised, demand for the occupation is likely to improve over the next 12 months. DEEWR projections do not indicate any major increase in supply to the occupation from university completions over the short term and recruitment difficulties may emerge in some specialisations by 2010.