

<b>Quantity Surveyor</b>	<b>Western Australia</b>
ANZSCO Code: 2332-13	March 2009
<b>Labour market rating:</b>	No shortage
<b>Comment</b> <i>No shortage of quantity surveyors in the metro area Recruitment difficulty of quantity surveyors in remote areas</i>	

### **Occupational demand**

The 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data regarding quantity surveyors show that in Western Australia, the majority work in the industry divisions of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (60 per cent) and Construction (27 per cent). The main specific industry of quantity surveyor employment is Engineering Design and Engineering Consultancy Services. Quantity surveyors work with architects, building contractors, developers, engineers and project managers. According to the ABS, WA had experienced a prolonged period of growth in the value of all construction activity, being particularly rapid since December 2005. Since that time, the dollar value of all WA construction, including engineering costs, has doubled to be about \$8 billion (seasonally adjusted) for the December 2008 quarter. ABS data show the number of quantity surveyors in WA increased by 55 per cent between 2001 and 2006 to 229. Because of this relatively low total employment number, the ABS Labour Force Survey may not be an effective method to determine recent employment levels.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry in to the quantity surveyor profession usually involves study in construction management or construction economics at university. In WA, this is by way of a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management and Economics) degree which is available at Curtin University. Domestic graduate numbers from Curtin University have been 2007 (13), 2006 (32) and 2005 (16). The net gain in overseas migration of quantity surveyors to Western Australia was recorded as 91 persons in 2007-08 which was less than the net gain of 104 in 2006-07.

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

A DEEWR survey of employers who had recently advertised for quantity surveyors found that around half of vacancies were filled within six weeks following advertising. Those positions in the metropolitan area were successfully filled, however employers could not fill vacancies in remote areas. Those employers reported that although a number of suitably qualified people applied for the positions there was no uptake because the jobs were in a remote location. Overall there were approximately 15 applicants per vacancy of whom four per vacancy were considered by employers to be suitable. Most employers indicated the main reason applicants were unsuitable was lack of specific experience. Employers explained that they needed quantity surveyors who had experience in industrial and commercial construction and some of the applicants only had experience in residential construction. Some employers mentioned that overall they were receiving more responses to advertised vacancies than they did 12 months ago.

A spokesperson for the Industry Body for Quantity Surveyors in WA said there had been a shortage of quantity surveyors in WA in recent years due to the large amount of industrial, commercial and residential construction. He added that there is presently high demand for quantity surveyors because of the recent proposed upgrades to Government Schools and infrastructure, but that this is expected to ease over the next three months as large construction projects come to an end.

### **Labour market outlook**

Recruitment difficulties persist in remote locations but there is no shortage overall. Advice from Industry sources suggesting demand may decline in the near future indicates this situation is likely to continue into the immediate future.