

<b>Surveyor</b>		<b>Queensland</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 2322-12	March 2009	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Surveyors plan, direct or conduct survey work to determine, delineate and precisely position tracts of land, natural and constructed features, coastlines, marine floors and underground works and manage related information systems. Most surveyors in Queensland are employed in surveying and technical services, construction, engineering and mining firms or in the public sector. Much of the demand for surveyors is generated by activity in construction and mining. Both the mining and construction industries in Queensland have experienced high levels of activity over the last several years. For instance, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that the volume of construction work done in Queensland has increased for the last 22 quarters, while \$256.2 million was spent on mineral exploration in 2007-08, an increase of almost 62 per cent from the previous year.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry to this profession is generally via the completion of a four year bachelor degree in spatial science or urban development. Registration with the Surveyors Board of Queensland is mandatory. Specific commencement figures for surveyors are difficult to ascertain as some universities offer a year of generic development subjects prior to students choosing a discipline. However, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations data indicate the average number of students commencing specialist surveying courses in 2006 and 2007 was 66 and approximately 360 students commenced the generalist urban development degree over this same period. Historically, the number of students leaving specialist courses before completion averaged around 30 per cent and, if completions stay commensurate with enrolments, it is anticipated that around 137 newly qualified surveyors will graduate and enter the labour market at the end of 2009. The Surveyors Board reports that 262 graduate surveyors were registered during 2007-08, representing an increase of 26 per cent when compared with 2006-07. Arrivals and departures data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship show that overseas migration may be a moderate source of supply to this profession as 64 self-identified surveyors migrated to Queensland in 2007-08.

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

This year's study showed that only 60 per cent of advertised vacancies for surveyors in Queensland were filled within six weeks of advertising. Generally, most employers reported an increase in the number of responses to their advertising compared with the last few years, with a number noting a strong response from surveyors in Western Australia. Despite this, only 26 per cent of the applicants were considered suitable. Employers deemed applicants as unsuitable in most cases because they lacked experience with local conditions, had insufficient experience, or they lacked knowledge of specific industries such as mining. Employers outside the mineral resources sector reported difficulties attracting Australian applicants due to their inability to match the remuneration offered by that sector. Recruitment specialists advised that employers are taking advantage of the changing labour market conditions by limiting their vacancies to include specific skill sets and industry experience.

### **Labour market outlook**

Australian Bureau of Statistics data show that the value of construction work still in the pipeline for Queensland in the December quarter was 20.6 per cent higher in 2008 than it was in 2007. This, combined with the high level of investment and planned infrastructure development across the State, indicates that demand for surveyors looks set to continue. At the present time, supply to this profession from immigration or tertiary education is failing to meet demand. It is therefore anticipated that the labour market for surveyors in Queensland will continue to be in shortage throughout 2009.