

<b>Architectural Associate</b>		<b>Northern Territory (NT)</b>	
ASCO Code: 3121-13		November 2006	
Labour market rating		Shortage	
Comment			

### **Occupational demand**

ABS Census data show that there were 48 architectural associates employed in the NT in 2001. Since 2001, ABS Labour Force Survey data indicate that the number of building, architectural and surveying associate professionals declined over 2002 and 2003, before stabilising from 2004 onwards. The value of both residential and non-residential building work done has grown considerably since 2001. The annual average growth rate over the past five years to June 2006 has been 19 per cent and growth has been particularly strong for the past two years. In chain volume measure terms, the value of building work done is at the highest level since the previous construction boom peak in 1998, which suggests increased demand for architectural associates from the 2001 level.

### **Occupational supply**

Charles Darwin University offers Certificate IV and Diploma level courses in building drafting and design courses (Certificate IV in Building Drafting and Diploma of Building Design and Drafting). The Bachelor of Design is also available at the university and employers commented that students sometimes would take up drafting roles locally rather than continuing with further tertiary studies interstate required to become an architect. A significant proportion of the source market for this occupation tended to the local.

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

Employers tended to advertise on the internet and use agencies as well as the newspaper to attract applicants to vacancies, however typically were not able to generate a significant response. Forty four per cent of advertised vacancies were filled and there were less suitable applicants than vacancies.

Vacancies were most commonly due to a combination of increased demand and job turnover.

Some architectural firms commented that they avoid employing senior architectural associates due to concerns they will be training future competitors to their business. Building designers have taken market share from architectural firms and they typically start in associate roles for architects before leaving to start up their own building designer businesses.

### **Labour market outlook**

Employers consistently commented that they expected the construction boom to continue next year and that demand for architectural associates would remain strong. Therefore, the occupation is expected to remain in shortage.