

<b>Boat Builder and Repairer</b>		<b>Tasmania</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 4881-13	October 2006	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No shortage	
<b>Comment</b> <i>Boat building in Tasmania ranges between small one-person operations to large firms building sea-going vessels and employing a wide variety of tradesmen. In this context the term “boat-builder” really only has meaning for the very small operations, and will often refer to people who are actually metal fabricators by trade.</i>		

### **Occupational demand**

There were 122 people classified as boat builders and repairers at the 2001 Census, and unfortunately the occupation is too small for it to be picked up in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' monthly labour force survey, so there are no more recent figures available. In addition, larger boat building companies employ metal fabricators, mechanics, electricians, carpenters, cabinetmakers, and fitters and turners, who are likely to have been classified under those trades, rather than as “boat builders and repairers”. Demand is linked to orders for boats of various sizes, which tend to increase in a more buoyant economy.

### **Occupational supply**

People who work for boat building and repair companies come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Information gathered at the 2001 Census shows that just over 30 per cent of people classified as boat builders and repairers were qualified in the metal/engineering trades, just over 20 per cent were not qualified, 14 per cent were qualified in maritime engineering, while around 17 per cent were qualified in the building and automotive trades.

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

No employers advertised for boat builders in the lead up to this report, although a large ship building company did advertise for electricians, aluminium welders, and other trades. Some small to medium sized companies indicated that they recruited people from different trades backgrounds and trained on-the-job, with a couple expressing a preference for carpenters who they would then train in cutting, welding and other required skills. Medium sized firms tended to have a core work force, most of whom were involved in metal fabrication, with other skills such as electricians, marine mechanics, cabinet makers and floor covering trades hired on a sub-contract basis as required. Most employers indicated they did not have too many problems recruiting staff, and indicated they expected to provide extensive training to new staff, irrespective of their particular qualifications or backgrounds. The market does tend to be influenced by large employers in that when they are recruiting it can be difficult for smaller employers to find suitable staff.

### **Labour market outlook**

The market for boat builders is expected to remain in balance for at least the next 12 months.