

<b>Earth Science Technical Officer</b>		<b>Tasmania</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 3112-13	February 2007	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No Shortage	
<b>Comment</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

The term earth science technical officer is not widely used in Tasmania, if at all, and as such it is difficult to establish a rating when employers do not recognise the term. The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) identifies the fields of geology, hydrology and water resources generally and meteorology as some of the fields earth science technical officers might work in.

There were only 88 earth science technical offices counted at the 2001 Census in Tasmania. The number of people in an occupation generally reflects the level of demand for that occupation, and the small number recorded at the Census suggests that demand for the occupation is low. However, due to the difficulty defining the occupation, it is likely that at least some people who were classified as “science technical officers” or “science technical officers not elsewhere classified” may work in some of the fields identified above.

### **Occupational supply**

Given the diverse nature of activities covered by this occupation it is difficult to identify clear sources of supply, or pathways into the occupation. The University of Tasmania offers a range of science degrees, including specialisations in geology and environmental science which are both areas that earth science technical officers may work in. In the field of geology, it seems to be the case that degree qualified geologists may start out providing assistance to more experienced geologists, and as such may be classified or described as technical officers. In addition TAFE in Tasmania offer a diploma course in laboratory technology which provides people with a background in which scientific analysis and reporting are important.

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

No positions for earth science technicians were advertised in the lead up to this report. Other industry sources generally struggled to understand the term “earth science technical officer”, but many indicated that for technical officer/associate professional positions generally, they often used new graduates who they hoped would progress to more senior positions as their skills developed.

### **Labour market outlook**

The combination of low demand, indicated by low numbers in the occupation, and the apparent ability to recruit people from a range of scientific backgrounds at either diploma or degree level, suggests that there are no shortages in this occupation in Tasmania at present.