

Architectural Associate	Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
ASCO Code: 3121-13	October 2006
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment	

Occupational demand

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey data indicates building, architectural and surveying associates work mainly in the construction industry in Australia, with a reasonable portion also working in the property and business services industry.

ABS figures on Construction Work Done show the total value of construction work in the ACT in the June quarter 2006 was a record high. This was largely the result of the value of non-residential construction, which has increased significantly over the past five years. The value of residential building has remained fairly steady over the past three years.

Occupational supply

A high portion of architectural associates nationally, together with building and surveying associates, have hold Certificate III or Certificate IV qualifications. Formal training for this occupation in the ACT is available through the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), which offers a Diploma of Architectural Drafting.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for architectural associates in the ACT was undertaken for this report. This occupational classification includes architectural draftspersons and building drafting officers.

The survey indicated the vacancy fill rate for architectural associates was about 40 per cent, and employers received an average of around three applications per vacancy. A very small number of these applicants were considered by employers to be suitable for the advertised vacancies. Approximately one third of the vacancies surveyed did not attract any suitable applicants.

Employers noted most applicants were unsuitable as they did not possess the experience sought and many lacked relevant qualifications. A small number of employers noted they operated in specific sectors of the construction industry and received applications from architectural associates with experience in other sectors. In these instances, the applicants were usually considered by employers to be unsuitable for their advertised positions. Demand for AutoCAD skills was reportedly high, with some employers commenting on applicants' inability to support their claims about this skill.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest there will be significant change in the level of supply or demand for skills in this occupation over the next six months.