

Interior Designer	Australia
ASCO Code: 2533-17	July 2007
Labour market rating	Recruitment Difficulty
Comment <i>Recruitment difficulty relates to positions requiring a combination of 4-5 years experience, high level AutoCAD/ArchiCAD skills and creativity.</i>	

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for interior designers was undertaken for this report. The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) defines the tasks of an interior designer as planning and designing interiors for buildings, offices and homes, with consideration to layout, function, aesthetics and safety.

ASCO suggests the entry level for this occupation is a bachelor degree or higher qualification or at least five years of relevant experience. Most employers were seeking interior designers with formal qualifications and industry experience, particularly in corporate design. Employers were looking for interior designers who have creative flair, as well as technical skills, for commercial projects.

Employers nationally reported filling almost 50 per cent of vacancies surveyed. Employers in the larger states of Victoria and Queensland filled all of their surveyed vacancies. Employers in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory experienced the greatest difficulty recruiting interior designers.

On average employers received more than nine applications per advertised vacancy, with slightly less than two applicants considered by employers to be suitable per vacancy. Employers considered that unsuitable applicants lacked either qualifications or experience, or in some cases, both. Most employers were seeking applicants who had a number of years experience (commonly at least five years) working on commercial projects. Employers cited lack of local experience and inability to work with software programs such as AutoCAD or ArchiCAD as reasons they considered applicants to be unsuitable.

A number of employers wanted designers with local experience, which excluded overseas applicants. Others advertised overseas and would consider sponsorship. For some employers knowledge of software programs was as important as experience and they felt some senior designers lacked these skills. Most employers stressed there is a lack of mid level designers. Such designers appear to be highly sought.

Employers also commented that many applicants for interior designer positions were interior decorators who had undertaken TAFE courses but did not have the skills to work closely with architects on large scale projects.

Although the vacancy filled rate for this occupation was relatively low, overall there were almost two suitable applicants for each job and those positions which remained unfilled required a specific set of skills and experience.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest the labour market for interior designers will change significantly over the next six months.