

<b>Construction Project Manager</b>		<b>Queensland</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code: 1331-11</b>	April 2009	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No shortage	
<b>Comment:</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Construction project managers (CPM) plan, organise and coordinate the physical and human resources involved in the construction of major building and civil engineering projects such as hotels, factories, offices, schools and housing developments. The majority of CPMs in Queensland work within the construction industry, with smaller numbers employed in property and business services or the public sector. Demand for this occupation is directly related to the levels of building activity in the State. High levels of population growth, combined with government infrastructure spending and building policies, contributed to significant building activity in Queensland over the past twelve months. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data show that the value of total building work done in Queensland over the year to December 2008 was \$19.65 billion, an increase of 9.9 per cent.

### **Occupational supply**

Entry to this occupation requires the completion of an Advanced Diploma of Building and Construction Management or tertiary studies in construction management, architecture, engineering or quantity surveying. Mandatory licensing with the Building Services Authority requires a minimum four years relevant experience. Relevant courses vary in length and delivery mode, while some universities offer a generic program prior to students choosing a discipline. Therefore specific commencement and completion figures for CPMs are difficult to ascertain. However, as one indicator, data from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations show that an annual average of 93 students commenced the Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management) between 2002 and 2005. Upon the introduction of a generic urban development degree in 2006, commencement numbers decreased to 10. The number of students leaving this course before completion has averaged around 42 per cent and, if completions stay commensurate with enrolments, it is anticipated that around 55 newly qualified CPMs will graduate from this course at the end of 2009. Department of Immigration and Citizenship figures show that 64 self-identified building and construction managers entered the State in 2007-08, possibly a moderate source of supply.

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

While 37 per cent of vacancies for CPMs remained unfilled within six weeks of advertising, these vacancies were for extremely experienced and specialised professionals, and were unrepresentative of the majority of those in this year's survey. Overall, 57 per cent of applicants were considered unsuitable due to insufficient experience, no qualifications or a lack of stable work history. Recruitment agencies noted that the CPM labour market has eased considerably over the past six months and employers are now insisting that suitable applicants have specific skill sets and experience. They also advised that, as increasing numbers of commercial and residential projects are postponed, vacancies for CPMs are declining and existing vacancies are being withdrawn by employers in greater volumes. While respondents reported strong interest from overseas, the strength of the domestic labour market meant that these applicants were not seriously considered.

### **Labour market outlook**

Worsening economic conditions have led to a slowdown in the construction industry, with ABS data indicating a drop of 16.9 per cent in the trend value of building approvals in Queensland over the year to March 2009. Industry contacts affirm this slowdown, so shortages of construction project managers are not likely within the next six months.