

Chemistry Technical Officer		Australia
ASCO Code: 3112-11	July 2007	
Labour market rating	No Shortage	
Comment		

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for chemistry technical officers was undertaken for this report and a small number of employers were cold canvassed as there were insufficient advertisements identified in the survey period. Vacancies for chemistry technical officers were in a variety of areas such as the food industry, mining sector and public sector.

Over 80 percent of vacancies surveyed for chemistry technical officers were filled within six weeks of advertising. There was nearly an even split between the number of vacancies for metropolitan and regional areas. Regional employers filled more than 90 percent of surveyed vacancies while the fill rate for vacancies in metropolitan areas was above 70 percent. Employers were seeking a range of skills from quality control in the food industry through to support research and development in petroleum.

On average there were 16 applicants per vacancy with 2 applicants per vacancy considered by employers to be suitable. The majority of employers considered applicants to be unsuitable because they lacked particular skills in the area required. Applicants were also considered to be unsuitable due to having, what employers perceived as, a poor attitude. A small number of employers commented on applicants being unsuitable as they were thought to be overqualified. However, the range of qualifications acceptable to employers for the advertised vacancies varied from basic Higher School Certificate chemistry through to post graduate qualifications.

Some employers felt that while there were enough technical officers applying for jobs, the numbers with backgrounds in chemistry were beginning to thin out as people moved more toward the biological sciences. Other employers noted that business and industry needed to become more flexible and take on technical officers from other disciplines and train them up.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any significant change in the level of demand or supply of chemistry technical officers over the next six months.