

<b>Engineering manager</b>		<b>Tasmania</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 1332-11	March 2009	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Shortage	
<b>Comment:</b> Shortages are evident for engineering managers in the electrical fields.		

### **Occupational demand**

The number of engineering managers in Tasmania appears to have barely changed between the last two Censuses, with 191 recorded in 2001, and 189 in 2006. However it is the view of the professional association, Engineers Australia, that there are definitional issues which affect the accuracy of the ABS count. Expressed concerns include that there are significant numbers of people classified in these occupations who have their highest qualification in a business or commerce field. It is the view of Engineers Australia that these are often engineers who have subsequently added to their management skills by acquiring additional non-engineering qualifications.

The largest proportion of those who are classified as engineering managers work in the manufacturing industry at 35.1 per cent. The next largest groups are in business services at 18.9 per cent, electricity gas and water at 17.8 per cent, followed by government and construction at 9.2 per cent each. Demand factors depend very much on the industry in which engineering managers work, with manufacturing for example, dependant upon domestic or overseas demand for the product being manufactured. Industry sources advise that even during economic downturns, engineering or production managers are still required to oversight production, maintenance and general plant management.

### **Occupational supply**

Industry sources advise that most engineering managers are senior engineers with many years experience, who have often acquired further qualifications such as an MBA. As such there is no easily measurable pathway into the occupation. However, it is perhaps significant that according to ABS census data, approximately 19 per cent of engineering managers arrived in the State from interstate and overseas between 2001 and 2006, emphasising the national and international nature of the engineering labour market, particularly at senior levels.

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

A survey of employers who had advertised for engineering managers was conducted for this report. Positions in the mechanical engineering field were filled, with employers reporting a good range of applicants from which to choose. Advertised positions in the electrical field all remained unfilled, with contacts indicating they generally failed to attract suitable applicants. Industry sources contacted stated that it was always difficult to attract experienced, highly skilled engineers in management roles to Tasmania, and that this has not changed despite the economic downturn.

### **Labour market outlook**

Shortages of engineering managers are likely to persist for at least the next 12 months as Tasmania has always had difficulty attracting people who are sufficiently skilled and experienced to fill managerial roles, and there is no evidence this is likely to change in the short term.