

Production Manager (Mining)		Western Australia
ANZSCO Code: 1335-13	January 2009	
Labour market rating:	Recruitment Difficulty	
Comment: Employers reported difficulty recruiting people with specialisation in gold and iron ore mining.		

Occupational demand

Demand for this occupation is directly linked to the state of the Mining Industry in Western Australia (WA). The WA Department of Industry and Resources reports that in the 2007-08 financial year the total value of minerals and petroleum sectors sales reached A\$58.6 billion, a nine per cent increase on the previous financial year. However, the WA Government mid-year Financial Projections statement of December 2008 predicts a slowing in growth in China which is the largest export market for WA. This is expected to have a significant impact on the mining and resources sector and several mines have already closed which has impacted on the demand for production managers (mining). The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey (LFS) data indicate that from November 2007 to November 2008 there was a six per cent reduction in the employment of production managers which included mining managers.

Occupational supply

Surveyed employers indicated that supply for this occupation is mainly sourced from experienced mining engineers. Entry requirements can include a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining Engineering) and/or a Graduate Diploma in Mining. Employers also expect applicants to have a Certificate of Competency in Mine Management, an unrestricted Quarry Managers license and a minimum of three years experience. Kalgoorlie School of Mines of Curtin University, the primary source of graduates to the mining industry, reported 18 mining engineering graduates in 2006, 18 in 2007 and 65 in 2008. On completion of their studies, graduates will still need to obtain several years experience on a mining site before being suitable to fill positions. The net gain of production managers to WA from overseas migration which included mining was 91 persons in 2007-08, more than the net gain of 73 in 2006-07.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A DEEWR survey of employers who had recently advertised for production manager (mining) found that around a third of vacancies were filled within six weeks following advertising. There were approximately four applicants per vacancy of whom two per vacancy were considered by employers to be suitable. DEEWR also surveyed recruitment agencies and mining companies that had not advertised. Most surveyed employers said there was no shortage of production managers (mining) due to the closure of several nickel mines, however others pointed out that different knowledge is required to mine different metals and minerals and that skill sets and experience do not necessarily translate between different forms of mining. As such, employers reported that while most applicants had suitable qualifications, they generally lacked expertise in specialist areas such as narrow vein production, sub level caving and block caving which were important elements of some of the advertised positions.

Employers indicated that production managers (mining) are not required during exploration, mining shutdowns or care and maintenance situations and that recent mine closures have therefore resulted in an increase in availability. Those who had recently advertised also reported that 18 months ago they would have advertised internationally for production managers (mining) but that they were now confident they could source employees locally.

Labour market outlook

WA's key commodity exports have fallen sharply as a result of the global economic crisis and this will continue to impact on the resources sector. No shortages of production managers (mining) are expected in the medium term.