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| Electrical Engineering Associate Professionals | | Queensland |
| ASCO Code: 3123-11, 3123-13 | March 2007 | |
| Labour market rating | Shortage | |
| Comment: | | |

Occupational demand

Electrical engineering associate professionals are involved in the planning, design, selection, installation, commissioning and maintenance of electrical equipment and systems. People employed in these occupations frequently work in a team with engineers, technologists, other engineering associates and tradespeople. Demand for electrical engineering associate professionals mainly depends on activity levels in the electricity generation and supply, construction and manufacturing sectors. With continuing advances in technology, work in this area increasingly requires higher-level qualifications or experience, with the ability to continuously upgrade workforce skills to remain competitive. Queensland is currently experiencing elevated levels of demand for electrical engineering associate professionals as infrastructure development advances at a pace to meet the State's population growth and business continues to invest in new capacity.

Occupational supply

Electrical engineering associate professionals include the two specific occupations of electrical engineering associate and electrical engineering technician. Formal training for technicians is available through a two year full time Diploma or Advanced Diploma course in Electrical Engineering or Electrical and Electronic Engineering delivered through Queensland's vocational education system. Training provider contacts reported that these courses are intended for school leavers and non-electrical tradespersons. Education options for electrical engineering associates include Associate Degree in Engineering courses offered by Central Queensland University and the University of Southern Queensland, with students undertaking a major or specialisation in an electrical engineering-related stream. Labour Force Survey data for electrical engineering associate professionals indicate overall growth in these occupations over the last two years. Direct international migration to Queensland may be a significant supply factor for these occupations, given their overall size, with immigration data showing a net permanent and long term gain to the State of 33 self-identified electrical engineering associate professionals in 2005-06.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

Less than 20 per cent of the vacancies for electrical engineering associates in this year's survey were filled within six weeks of advertising. Two thirds of the applicants were considered unsuitable because they did not possess all of the skills required for the position, did not have any or enough experience, or lacked a required qualification. Some employers were seeking workers with specific skills and experience in addition to a formal qualification to meet their particular needs. Industry and employer contacts said that graduates who have completed the Advanced Diploma in recent years either gained employment in their field of interest quickly or continued their studies, with some combining both work and further study. Contacts reported that recruitment difficulties are more severe in regional areas and that repeated advertising is needed to recruit to these locations. Some employers remarked that ongoing developments in the mining sector have been a major driver of recent growth in demand for these occupations.

Labour market outlook

High levels of activity in infrastructure development, commercial building and the mineral resources sector have lifted demand for electrical engineering associate professionals in Queensland. The supply of new associate professionals from education and training, and from interstate and overseas migration, presently falls well short of meeting demand. The present State-wide shortage is therefore expected to continue through 2007.