

Construction Project Manager		Northern Territory
ANZSCO Code: 1331-11		March 2009
Labour market rating	Recruitment Difficulty	
Comment: <i>Recruitment difficulties exist for senior roles with specific industry requirements (e.g. utilities experience)</i>		

Occupational demand

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data show there were 161 construction project managers employed in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2006. The value of construction (residential dwellings, commercial and industrial buildings, education and health facilities and infrastructure) work done in the NT increased by an estimated 17.6 per cent in 2008-09 to \$2.3 billion, but is forecast to decline by 33 per cent to \$1.6 billion in 2009-10 (*Source: NT Government 2009-10 Budget Northern Territory Economy Overview*). The NT Government spending on infrastructure programs has grown each year since 2001 and the 2009-10 Budget provides for a record \$1299 million investment, a 47 per cent increase over 2008-09.

Occupational supply

There are no specific degree level courses for construction project managers available in the NT and there is a strong reliance on attracting people from interstate for vacancies. Strong experience with years in the field is generally required for applicants to be considered suitable. Some employers commented a tight labour market remains for this occupation.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

Half of the employers surveyed filled their advertised construction project manager vacancies. Multiple applicants were received for each vacancy, however, few (22 per cent) were considered suitable and some vacancies, at the senior level where specific industry experience was required, remained vacant for extended periods. Employers commented that most of their applicants tended to come from interstate and a few were from overseas. Some employers filled their vacancies through internal transfers and said demand in some areas had waned as a result of the global financial crisis. A number of employers indicated they were choosing to hold off on proposed recruitment for new positions, adopting a wait and see approach for demand requirements.

Staff turnover with this occupation tended to go with the role because of its project basis. Even people employed in permanent positions often look for new opportunities as current projects draw to a close and would move to follow the work. Wage pressures were not considered an issue. Some employers commented that retired construction project managers are returning to work due to the global financial crisis effects on their superannuation.

Labour market outlook

The global financial crisis has affected demand for construction project managers across Australia in the construction sector, although civil construction remains solid in the NT. Less demand interstate for these roles creates more potential to attract suitable people to the NT. In the current economic climate construction project managers interstate are more open to relocation for work. However, recruitment difficulties for senior roles with specific industry experience are expected to remain over the coming year.