

<b>Construction Project Manager</b>		<b>South Australia</b>
<b>ANZSCO Code:</b> 1311-11	January 2009	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	No Shortage	
<b>Comment</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Demand for construction project managers is influenced by prevailing levels of building and construction activity. ABS data show a 4.9 per cent rise in the total value of building work done in South Australia during the December quarter 2008. In year-on-year comparisons, building work done increased 17.6 per cent up to December. However, there was a marked decline in the value of building projects approved by local councils during the second half of last year, indicating weakness in underlying demand conditions going forward into 2009. The value of approvals for combined residential and non-residential projects decreased by over 20 per cent in the year to December 2008. Month-on-month approvals declined for six consecutive months up to year's end. DEEWR's Skilled Vacancies Index data show that the number of advertised vacancies for construction project managers declined by around 28 per cent in the twelve months to January 2009.

### **Occupational supply**

Census data indicate that a bachelor degree or trade certificate are the most common qualifications held by construction project managers. A sizeable proportion of the occupation have no post school qualifications and relevant industry experience is often regarded as sufficient to enter the occupation. Training data are not available for this occupation given the diverse backgrounds from which people may gain entry. Immigration data show that skilled migration is not a significant source of supply for construction project managers in South Australia.

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for construction project managers showed that 40 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks. The major reason for rejecting unsuitable applicants was a lack of relevant experience and/or qualifications. However, employers reported that labour market conditions appeared to ease considerably in the latter part of 2008 and early 2009. Some employers indicated they had recently received unsolicited enquiries from construction project managers seeking work due to a downturn in demand conditions in the construction industry. At least one previously unfilled vacancy was close to being filled as a result. Another unfilled vacancy had been withdrawn due to changing business requirements. Consequently, it appears that the labour market for construction project managers is changing rapidly due to falling demand and increasing levels of occupational supply. Therefore, despite the low vacancy fill rate obtained from the employer survey (based largely on vacancies advertised prior to the onset of the more recent economic turmoil) the current labour market rating is no shortage.

### **Labour market outlook**

Building approvals slowed sharply in the latter half of 2008, suggesting weaker levels of construction activity going forward into 2009. The federal government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan (announced in February 2009) includes a multi-billion dollar investment in primary school infrastructure, secondary schools maintenance, and additional defence force housing, which is intended to stimulate construction industry activity and bolster employment. Given these countervailing forces, the labour market outlook for construction project managers is uncertain.