

Engineering Manager	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSCO Code: 1332-11	March 2009
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment Vacancies required very specific skill sets and industry experience	

Occupational demand

Engineering managers plan, administer and review engineering and technical operations. ABS 2006 Census data show that 210 engineering managers were employed in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), an increase of 11 per cent from 2001. The largest employers in the ACT of engineering managers are the defence sector and engineering design and consulting services sector, each accounting for around one quarter of employment. Government administration other than defence accounts for a further ten per cent of employment.

Increased demand for engineering managers in the ACT in recent years has most likely been driven by an increase in defence related activities and the significant number of infrastructure and construction projects taking place in the ACT. Between 2003 and 2007, the Construction Forecasting Council recorded an annual average increase of nearly 40 per cent in the value of non-residential and engineering construction in the ACT. However, this activity was expected to plateau from 2008, and ABS buildings approval data indicate there was a substantial decrease in building activity in the ACT during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Occupational supply

There is no specific educational qualification for this occupation with a number of apparent entry paths. ABS Education and Work Survey data show that nationally nearly 60 per cent of engineering managers hold degrees or postgraduate qualifications but given the diverse mechanisms for entry to this occupation, estimates of supply are difficult to quantify.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship net migration data show there was a minimal inflow of self identified engineering managers to the ACT between 2005-06 and 2008-09.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market.

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for engineering managers in the ACT was undertaken for this report. Around one fifth of surveyed vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising, lower than the fill rate of around one third recorded in June 2008. On average, there were slightly more than four applicants per vacancy, with less than one applicant per vacancy considered by employers to be suitable.

Employer comments suggest there is a very small pool of candidates meeting the requirements of engineering manager positions in the ACT, especially for the infrastructure, building services and construction industries. All of the positions surveyed required specific skills and engineering qualifications, technical skills and experience in particular industry sectors, as well as several years experience in senior engineering or management roles. Applicants were considered to be unsuitable mainly due to inadequate relevant experience.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest there will be substantial changes in the labour market for engineering managers in the ACT in the next six months.