

Chemical Plant Operator		Tasmania
ASCO Code: 4987-11	September 2006	
Labour market rating	Balance	
Comment		

Occupational demand

Census data indicates that in 2001 there were a total of 28 chemical plant operators employed in Tasmania, with the vast majority employed in the medicinal and pharmaceutical product manufacturing industry. There is only one employer in Tasmania of any significance in this particular industry, and that employer estimates that they employ around 55 operators throughout the factory at present. Not all of these people would have been classified as chemical plant operators by the Australian Bureau of Statistics at the 2001 Census, however.

Occupational supply

There is no formal supply to the occupation, and new recruits are put through a period of on the job training which, if successful, culminates in the award of a Certificate II level qualification. Potential leading hands are selected from existing employees generally, who then are put through a Certificate III level qualification.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

The only employer of chemical plant operators in Tasmania of any size, advised that they recruit on the basis of personal qualities and potential to complete the Certificate II course, rather than any pre-existing skills or qualifications. Literacy and numeracy skills, along with a demonstrated mechanical aptitude are some of the qualities they look for. The employer advised that they have no trouble attracting suitable applicants for these jobs. They also advised they have a good relationship with the local high school which also enables them to attract suitable applicants.

Labour market outlook

Given that the majority of chemical plant operators in Tasmania are employed by one employer, and they are primarily entry level positions with subsequent on the job training, recruitment difficulties or shortages are not expected for at least the next 12 months.