

Engineering Manager		Victoria
ANZSCO Code: 1332-11	April 2009	
Labour market rating:	No Shortage	
Comment:		

Occupational demand

Engineering managers plan and control the engineering and technical operations of an enterprise or project. ABS census data show there were over 2100 qualified engineering managers in Victoria with 40 per cent of these employed directly in manufacturing and 22 per cent working in engineering consultancy services. Because many engineering managers are directly employed in manufacturing, occupational demand is largely determined by the general level of economic activity. However, that part of the sector dealing with non-discretionary goods manufactures, such as food and other essential consumer items, will be less affected by general economic conditions than will manufacturing activities associated with discretionary spending. Victorian state government data show food production is the state's largest manufacturing sector with 21 per cent of manufacturing industry turnover and represents 30 per cent of total product exports. Dairy is by far the largest food export from Victoria and represents 84 per cent of Australia's dairy exports and 13 per cent of world dairy trade.

A demand source of growing importance in the outlook period is large scale public infrastructure projects; such projects may offer significant additional sources of demand, particularly at a time when the general level of economic activity is subdued, by providing counter-cyclical demand for engineering managers.

Occupational supply

Engineering managers typically have considerable experience in a niche part of their relevant engineering discipline and often have specialised postgraduate education in engineering management and finance. Whilst there are many postgraduate qualifications that may lead to engineering management work, data that is indicative of the flow of engineering managers may be seen with the numbers of postgraduate qualifications specifically in some field of engineering management. These data show that relatively few people completed such studies with an average of 44 persons over each of the seven years to 2007. The number peaked in 2004 with 67 but declined to 33 in 2007.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for engineering managers was conducted for this report. Almost 90 per cent of advertised positions were filled, with 3 suitable candidates per vacancy, suggesting the shortage identified in the 2007 survey (when 55 per cent of positions were filled) appears to have eased. A small number of employers suggested food industry positions were typically difficult to fill. More generally, and despite the high number of successfully filled positions, anecdotal evidence indicated some difficulty in filling positions for infrastructure projects in areas such as rail and other civil engineering disciplines.

Labour market outlook

Based on the survey data, there is no evidence to suggest a current or foreseeable shortage of engineering managers in Victoria.