

# Engineer Employment Growing

Employment of engineers is expected to grow from 105,000 in 1988 to 132,000 in 1998, according to a new forecast by the Technical Service Council, an industry-sponsored placement service and personnel consulting firm.

The economic scenario on which the forecast is based anticipates a sustained growth in employment for ten years, despite below-average growth rates in 1989, 1990 and 1992. The free-trade agreement is expected to stimulate employment growth.

Despite the increase in the number of engineering jobs, the supply of both bachelors'- and masters'- level engineers is projected to run ahead of demand. University enrollments are expected to continue to be strong as high-school students see degrees as a means of preparing themselves for a fast-changing economy. Formerly, any decrease in engineering jobs resulted in a decrease in university enrollments.

The Council's ten-year forecast reveals sharp differences in engineering supply and demand among the various parts of Canada. In B.C., the demand for bachelors' graduates is expected to exceed supply in 1993 and from 1995 to 1998. An over-supply of masters'- level engineers is expected.

In the Prairie provinces, shortages of bachelors' graduates are expected from 1995 to 1998, with an excess of supply during other periods, except during 1990, when supply and demand will be in balance. Masters'-level graduates will be in over-supply in the Prairies for the entire period except briefly around 1995.

In Ontario, demand is expected to drop sharply from 1988 to 1990, only to recover partially in 1991. However, for most of the forecast period, supply is expected to exceed demand for both bachelors' and masters' graduates.

In Quebec, demand for bachelors is expected to fall sharply from 1988 to 1990, only to recover partially in 1991, and then to drop again. From 1989 to 1998 masters' graduates are expected to be in over-supply.

For the entire ten-year period, supply is expected to exceed demand for both bachelors'- and masters'-level graduates in the Atlantic provinces. Some local imbalances of excess demand may be resolved by engineers migrating to areas where jobs are available, just as out-of-work Alberta engineers found jobs in Ontario from 1984 to 1987.

The forecast anticipates supply will exceed demand for both bachelors' and masters' graduates

in chemical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering and engineering science. In the case of bachelors'-level mechanical engineers, demand is forecast to exceed supply in 1988, 1991 and after 1996. On the other hand, a shortage of masters'- level mechanical engineers is expected from 1988-1998. Some engineers will seek jobs outside their area of training, as they have during other periods of over-supply. For example, mining engineering graduates have frequently been able to migrate to civil engineering when that field offered more job opportunities.

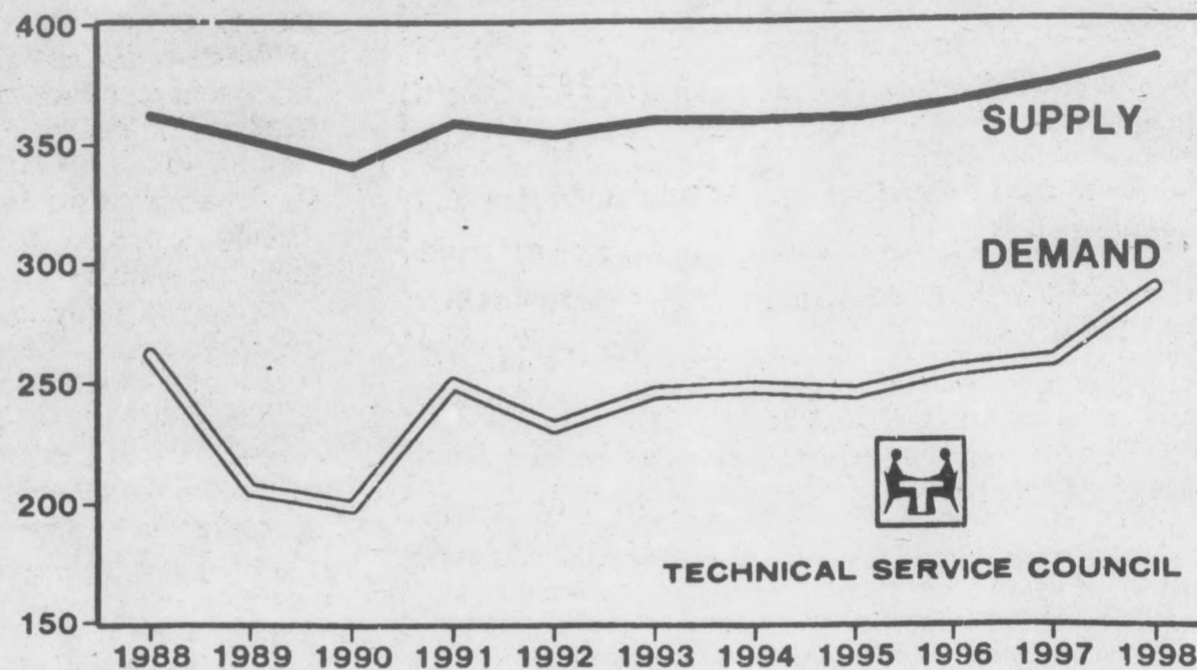
The demand forecasts in the Council's studies are based on economic projections of the Canadian and provincial economies prepared by Informetrica Limited for Employment and Immigration Canada. Data provided by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers provided the means to identify the proportion of employment in various industries. The number of engineering graduates was estimated from Statistics Canada data on engineering enrollments, taking into account visa students, persons not entering engineering employment and immigration patterns.

As a public service, the Council has spent over \$200,000 researching and publishing studies on the supply of and demand for professionals in Canada. Such studies are intended to improve understanding of the job market, candidate mobility and to help minimize "mismatch". Several of the studies have been provided without charge to Canadian universities.

The Technical Service Council/Le Conseil de Placement Professionnel is a unique personnel consulting firm and placement service run by industry. It was set up in 1927 to combat the "brain-drain" to the United States.

The Council specializes in the placement of accountants, executives, engineers, scientists, personnel, data-processing and sales staff and technologists. Over 47,000 men and women have received job offers through the Council, at no cost to them. The TSC has offices in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. The Council also conducts labour-market studies, advises governments on university and college courses, undertakes relocation counselling and sponsors seminars on personnel subjects. An affiliate, Bryce, Haultain & Associates, specializes in executive search.

Bachelors' Level Engineers  
Atlantic Provinces



Employment of engineers will rise steadily during the next 10 years, according to a new study by the Technical Service Council, an industry-sponsored placement service and personnel consulting firm headquartered in Toronto. However, supply is expected to exceed demand for much of the period, in spite of projected shortages in some experienced specialists. In general, job prospects for bachelors' graduates will be better than for masters' graduates. As a public service, the Council has spent over \$200,000 on forecasts of the supply of and the demand for university graduates.

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