

engineering employment report

Q1, 2013



“ Although employee confidence declined slightly in the first quarter, engineering professionals still had the highest confidence levels among all industries tracked by Randstad. ”

Richard Zambacca
President of Randstad Engineering



experts
powering
engineering

The engineering field continues to boast a promising job outlook for professionals, especially in the energy, engineering services and manufacturing disciplines.

We continue to see positive signs in the hiring market for engineers. According to Wanted Analytics, a huge amount of jobs were posted in January, with more than 280,000 openings. The majority (82 percent) of these jobs were advertised by employers directly, while staffing firms and other recruiting agencies comprised about 18 percent of postings, according to the report. Wanted Analytics also noted sectors with the highest demand for engineers, including Engineering Services, Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing, and Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences.

In fact, the engineering field is looking so positive that a recent U.S. News and World Report article heralded engineering as the new “it” degree. According to the report, while the unemployment rate for people with bachelor’s degrees was 3.9 percent in December 2012, the rate for engineers was 2.0 percent.

One promising sector is Civil Engineering, which is buoyed by a boom in new construction and the need to update the nation’s aging infrastructure. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the current population of about 263,000 Civil Engineers across the nation will grow 19 percent by 2020.

Within our own research, The Randstad Engineering Employee Confidence Index edged down in the first quarter of 2013, decreasing 2.9 percentage points to 54.9. Specifically, this quarter’s report finds diminished sentiments about the overall economy and in workers’ confidence in their ability to find a new job. Also, we saw a significant drop in the percentage of engineering workers who are willing to job hunt in the next 12 months. A persistent area of concern for engineers continues to be the availability of jobs—which declined further this quarter.

This decline in employee confidence reflected in the first quarter of 2013 could reflect overall economic uncertainty around sequestration, federal spending cuts, rising gas prices and payroll taxes, as well as never-ending budget talks on Capitol Hill. In fact, we are seeing decreased employee confidence across all industries tracked by Randstad. Still, engineers had the highest confidence levels across all industries.

engineering industry insights

Wind energy generating job growth for engineers

With wind energy becoming a growing sector in the United States, there's a growing need for engineers, especially in the mechanical and electrical disciplines. With 70 percent of turbines manufactured in the United States, mechanical engineers are in high demand in research and development centers to create stronger, taller structures with longer blades.

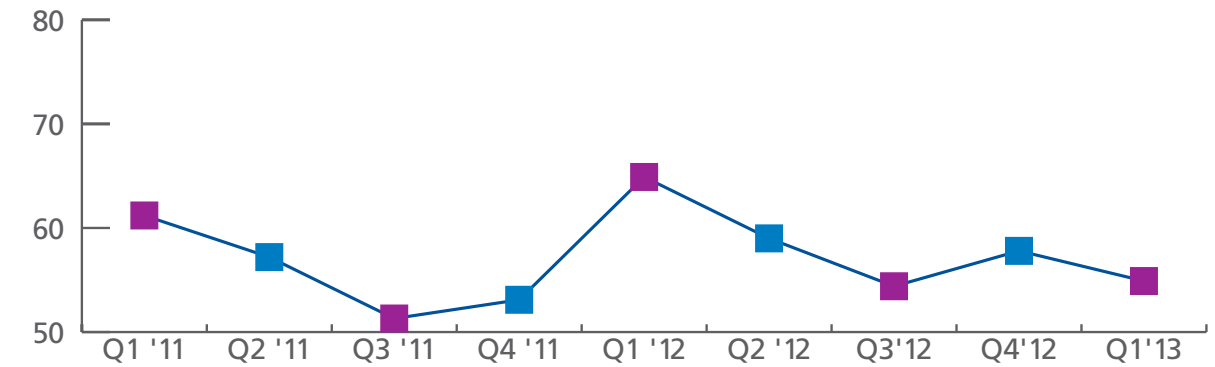
Here's a list of the top five states in the U.S. with wind power capacity installed:

1. Texas
2. California
3. Iowa
4. Illinois
5. Oregon



engineering employment report index

Randstad Engineering employee confidence index
Q1 2013



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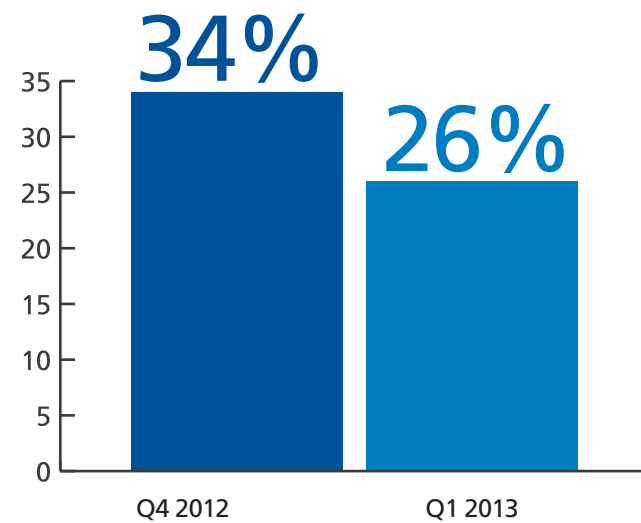
current quarter:	54.9
previous quarter:	57.8
change:	-2.9
12-month high:	64.9
12-month low:	54.4
*Total Survey Respondents: 112	

macroeconomic confidence

personal confidence

Strength of economy

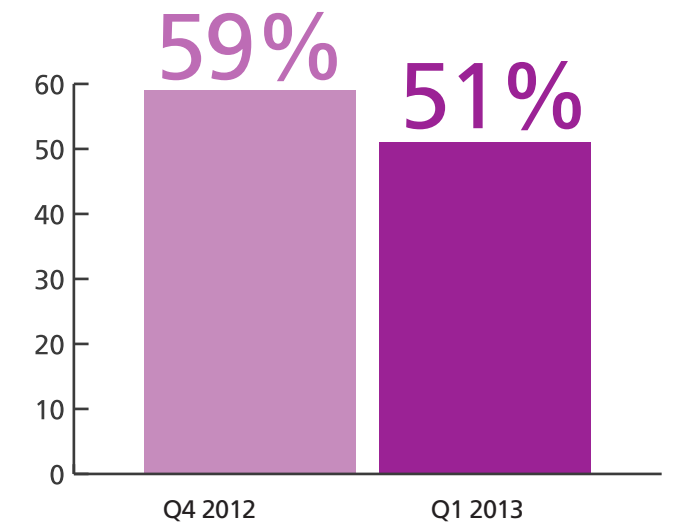
Engineering workers' confidence in the economy declines in the first quarter of 2013



More than one-in-four (26 percent) engineering professionals believe the economy is getting stronger, a significant drop from 34 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Ability to find a new job

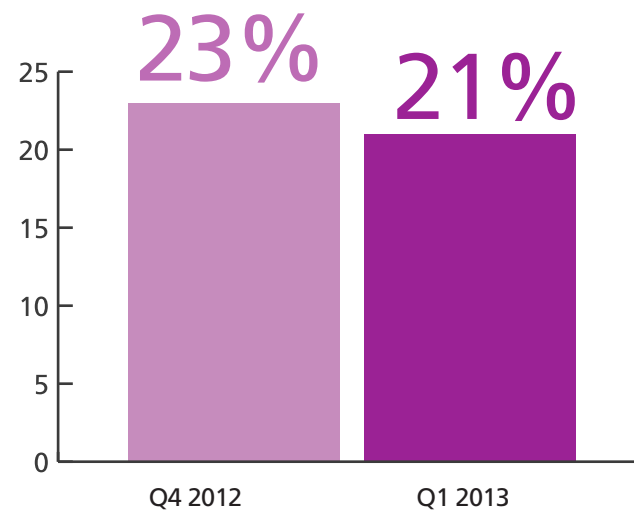
Majority of Engineering professionals remain confident in their ability to find new jobs



Just over half (51 percent) of engineers feel confident in their ability to find a new job, representing a decline from 59 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Job availability

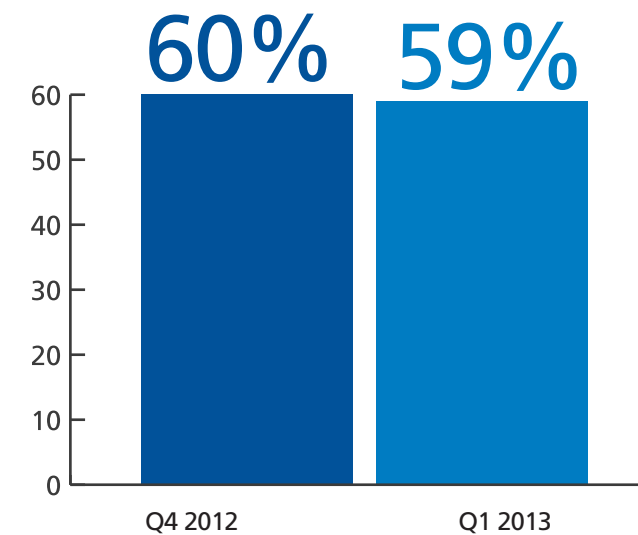
Confidence in job availability slips in the first quarter



Less than one-quarter (21 percent) of engineering workers believe that more jobs are available, representing a decline of two percentage points from the fourth quarter 2012.

Future of current employer

Confidence among engineering workers in the future of their employers holds steady in first quarter



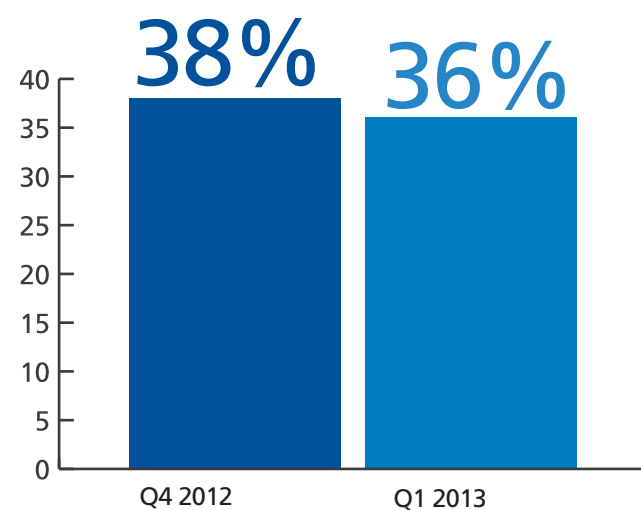
Engineering workers remain confident in the future health of their employers this quarter, declining just one percentage point from Q4 2012.

U.S. job security & transition index

about the report

Job transition

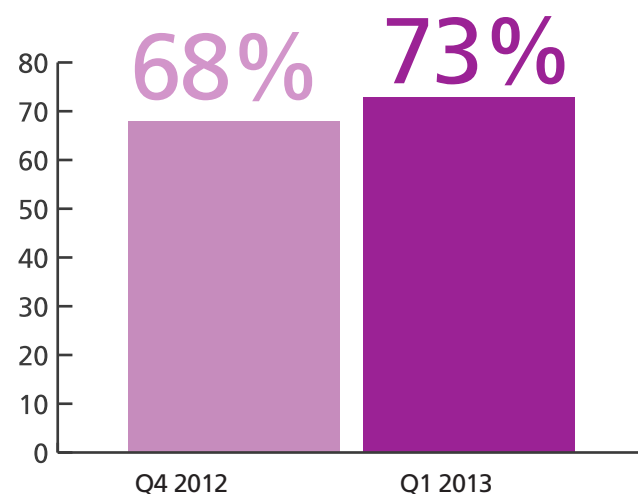
Fewer engineering workers likely to job search



Nearly four-in-ten (36 percent) of engineers say they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, a slight decrease of two percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2012.

Job security

Growing confidence in job security among engineers in first quarter of 2013



Confidence in job security rose this quarter, increasing five percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2012.



Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of Randstad Engineering from January 14-16, February 11-13 and March 5-7, 2013, among 3,631 adults ages 18 and older, of which 112 are employed in engineering. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

About The Randstad Engineering Employment Report

This quarterly Randstad Engineering Employment Report provides a snapshot of the latest workforce trends among engineering professionals across the country. Three key indices are measured: the Engineering Job Security Index, which captures how likely respondents think it is that they will lose their job or that their job

will be eliminated in the next 12 months; the Engineering Job Transition Index, which captures how likely respondents are to look for a new job in the next 12 months; and the Employee Confidence Index that measures employees' overall confidence in the economy, their employer and their ability to find other employment.

The Employee Confidence Index is calculated from the results of four components that reflect these aspects of employee confidence. For each component item a 'score' is calculated by taking the difference of the percentage of positive responses and the percentage of negative responses. These four scores are then averaged to indicate an overall level of employee confidence and is then scaled from 0 (no confidence) to 100 (complete confidence). A reading above 50 indicates a positive confidence level.

about Randstad Engineering



Randstad Engineering has been matching our clients with the expert engineering and technical staff they need to help their companies succeed since 1988. With degreed engineers and expert technical recruiters on staff who understand the unique challenges of your industry, we work closely with you to realize your specific business goals by quickly connecting you with the expert professionals who will help you achieve them.

Our extensive network of candidates—3 million engineers and other technical experts—means that no matter the skill, no matter the goal, we can quickly find the right person to get your job done. As experts powering business, we enable you not only to reach your immediate hiring goals but also to expand your business' potential for long-term success.

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