

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS



JOB PROSPECTS

At a glance



The opportunities for finding work as an industrial designer are fair.

The number employed has been quite stable, but is expected to increase as demand for their services increases and the scope of industrial design broadens.

This occupation requires a degree. Job prospects can be improved further by gaining business experience and skills in engineering and computer-aided design software.

How to become an industrial designer

Industrial designers design and develop the concepts for products and services used in homes, businesses and industry. They combine art, business and engineering to design innovative products and gadgets that people use every day.

Qualifications needed

A bachelor's degree in industrial or product design is needed to become an industrial designer. You may also complete a bachelor's degree in architecture. A good portfolio of design work is also necessary.

Most people working as industrial designers have knowledge and/or experience in drawing, computer-aided design software (CAD), architecture or interior design work, industrial materials and processes, manufacturing methods, and a passion for design in general.

Useful subjects at the secondary school level include art, design technology, graphics, computer studies, English, and mathematics.

Cost of study

Bachelor of Design

\$19,500 over three years

Average course fees in 2016 for a domestic student. Costs vary between institutions. Further costs can include student levies, administration fees, materials, textbooks, field trips and accommodation.

Rents vary from place to place. Estimated market rents by region, city and suburb are available on the MBIE Tenancy Services website.

The StudyLink website provides general budget advice for students, and the Sorted website provides help with detailed budget planning.

- Tenancy Services: www.tenancy.govt.nz/rent-bond-and-bills
- StudyLink: www.studylink.govt.nz
- Sorted: www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/money-planner

Professional organisation

The Designers Institute of New Zealand (DINZ) represents the interests of industrial designers. It helps with professional development and lists job advertisements – a useful resource for new graduates.

- Designers Institute of New Zealand: www.dinz.org.nz

Where to study

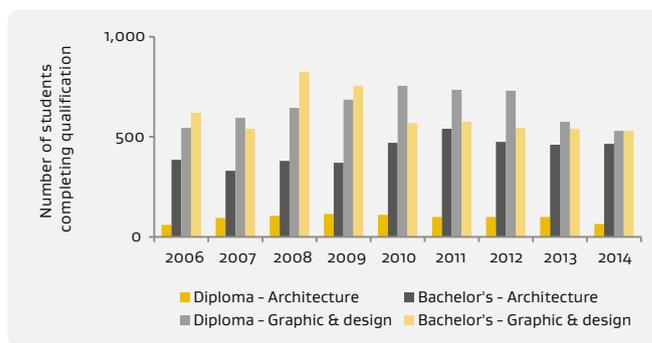
Industrial or product design can be studied at institutes of technology and polytechnics, universities and other tertiary institutions throughout New Zealand.

The Careers New Zealand website has a searchable database of NZQA-registered courses.

- Careers NZ, Education and training: www.careers.govt.nz/education-and-training

Completed qualifications

The number of students completing industrial design-related qualifications in architecture and urban environment, and graphic and design studies, rose in 2010/11, but dropped off in 2013 and 2014.



Source: Ministry of Education

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Income and employment prospects

Income

In 2015, the estimated average income for industrial designers was \$67,200. Pay for industrial designers varies depending significantly on experience.

Estimated average income

\$67,200

Average income estimated from Statistics New Zealand's Census 2013 and Labour Cost Index.

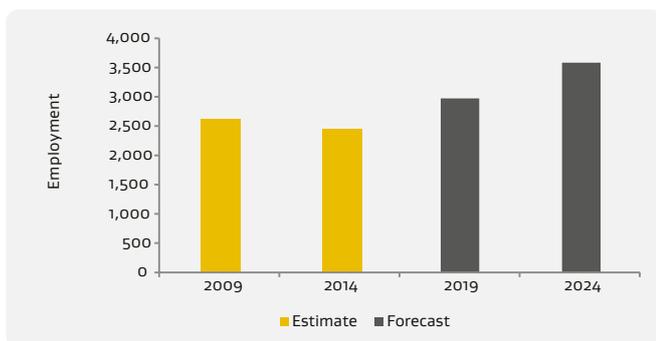
Employment and skill shortages

Industrial designers' employment

Current		Projected growth*	
2013	2014	2014-19	2019-24
2,390	2,440 up 2.4%	4.0% per year	3.8% per year

*Growth projections are for the broader category "Fashion, Industrial and Jewellery Designers".

Employment growth will improve over the next few years, coming from increasing consumer demand for new products and product design services. It is forecast that growth will be 4.0% per year to 2019, and 3.8% per year to 2024.



Source: MBIE Estimates

The government's continuing focus on innovation, research and development may also create opportunities for new industrial designers. Moreover, in a competitive environment, the business sector is always looking to strengthen its capabilities in technology innovation and new product development. New opportunities will also be created as the economy strengthens.

Where to find job vacancies

The number of online job vacancies for fashion, industrial and jewellery designers decreased by -2.8% from September 2014 to September 2015. This compares with an overall increase of 1.9% for all vacancies over the same period.

Industrial or product design vacancies are advertised through websites such as Trade Me Jobs and Seek.

→ Trade Me Jobs: www.trademe.co.nz/jobs

→ Seek: www.seek.co.nz

Career path

A career in industrial or product design is more diverse than many people think. Industrial designers work in a range of industries including advertising, manufacturing, architectural practices, industrial policy development in the public and private sectors, and engineering consultancies.

New industrial designers usually receive on-the-job training. A few years' experience at entry level is usually required before they can advance to higher positions.

Industrial designers often look to specialise. They may work as:

- Computer-aided designers
- Furniture designers
- Ergonomic medical equipment designers
- Marine or aircraft interior designers
- Textile designers
- Glass designers
- Ceramic designers
- Packaging designers
- Retail space designers
- Stage and tourism designers
- Service/experience designers
- Technology teachers (upon completion of teaching qualifications).

Industrial designers in large firms may advance to roles such as chief designer. Some experienced designers open their own design firms, operate a design studio, and consult privately.

Other information

Links

More information on industrial designers is available on the Careers New Zealand website.

→ Careers New Zealand: www.careers.govt.nz