

# Candidates are Competing for 60 Percent Fewer Jobs

**N**ew figures suggest there are 60 percent fewer jobs available in the accounting and finance industries since this time last year. However, the same number of people are applying for them.

The job applicant figures have been released today by Sydney-based accounting and finance recruitment practice Aequalis Consulting. During December-January 2007-8, Aequalis posted 75 new jobs, which drew 1052 new applicants, while the December-January 2008-9 period saw 1017 people applying for just 32 jobs.

Aequalis Consulting Director Simon Boulton says these figures come as no surprise. "It's a tough market out there. There's less than half the amount of jobs available and many companies are laying off staff.

"We are expecting this trend to continue in 2009. The number of candidates will get larger, while the number of job opportunities will decrease. In times like this, job-seekers need to be extra savvy."

Simon says the solution is for job applicants to manage their careers wisely. "Candidates should be relying on recruitment agencies to teach them how to manage their own careers and polish their job-seeking skills, rather than depending solely on an agency to find them a job.

"In the current market, many of our candidates are attending our seminars to learn interview techniques and good resumé-writing practices. They're taking our advice by getting to know how to market their transferrable skills to different industries and by joining social networking sites.

"This is ultimately giving our candidates more job options and the skills to be able to land that new job."

Matt Clark, 28, says Aequalis's advice gave him confidence in interview situations, an edge over his competitors, and helped him take control of his own career.

"After my previous employer went into receivership in November last year, I went to around 15 different recruitment agencies, including Aequalis Consulting. Most agencies just took my details, but Aequalis actually gave me the feedback I really needed. They gave me advice on interviewing techniques and also helped me write a top-notch resumé.

"Since then, I've resent my resumé, and I've had an overwhelming response from a range of organisations. I now also feel much more confident about job interviews. More recruitment agencies should be teaching these skills."

For career advice, contact  
Aequalis Consulting on (02) 8916  
7600 or visit  
[www.aequalisconsulting.com.au](http://www.aequalisconsulting.com.au).

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## About Aequalis

Aequalis Consulting is a highly respected Sydney-based accounting and finance recruitment practice. It provides tailored strategies for small-to-medium and top-tier enterprises across a diverse range of industries to attract and retain the most talented professionals in the market, from chief financial officers to operational accounting roles.