

## Supply Chain Management on the move

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With Supply Chain Management taking on an increasingly important role within both Irish and global business, opportunities for employment within the sector have seen rapid growth with top managers now commanding salaries in excess of 100,000 a year.

According to a recent salary survey by Sigmar Recruitment, Supply Chain professionals are starting to see a steady rise in wages as a result of the increased importance companies are putting on improving services while also reducing costs.

Julie Valentine, a Supply Chain Consultant with Sigmar Recruitment claims that there has been a substantial increase in Supply Chain and Logistics roles over the last year and they are predicting even stronger growth for 2008.

"It's a great time to be working in Supply Chain industry right now, there are ample opportunities out there for the right people. A good Inventory Manager with up to two years experience can now expect to earn between 45,000 and 50,000 per year with this rising to over 55,000 for managers with over five years experience. Logistics Managers can also expect a similar wage scale with managers who have up

to two years experience receiving between 45,000 and 48,000 with this rising to over 55,000 per year for managers with over five years experience. The highest earners within the industry are Supply Chain Directors who can now command over 100,000 per year with five years experience".

Julie also offers some advice to professionals who wish to increase their career prospects, "A CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) is essential for any professional hoping to improve their career prospects in the Transport industry. Many large multinationals favour Transport Managers with this formal qualification. . . . it provides the managers with an insight into the legislation involved in this highly regulated industry, particularly important today with the recent introduction of the new working time legislation".

At a more junior level Sigmar have also noticed a substantial increase in the amount of graduates choosing a career within the Supply Chain sector. According to Niamh Manning, who is also a Supply Chain Consultant with Sigmar, "We are seeing an increasing amount of graduates who are coming into the market and considering the sector as a long term career path. DIT offers both Diploma and Degree courses, with Postgraduate studies available at Smurfit School of Business.

Graduates tend to start their careers as Logistics Coordinators, Supply Chain Coordinators and Inventory Controllers across all industries".

"Thankfully there are opportunities out there for these graduates and within two years they can be earning quiet good money. Take for example an Inventory Controller with up to two years experience can expect to be paid between 28,000 and 30,000 a year while Logistics Coordinators with the same amount of experience can expect between 25,000 and 28,000 per year.