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## Procurement Jobs Scarce

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Singapore - Procurement job ads in Singapore fell by more than 50% in the October - December 2008 period, spelling tougher times for professionals seeking greener pastures.

Purchasing/merchandising jobs ads in Singapore fell from 859 in October to 417 in December last year, representing a 51.5% cut, said a recent Robert Walters Asia Job Index for 4Q08.

Out of the list of industries surveyed, the large drop in purchasing/merchandising job ads advertised was second only to the customer service/account servicing industry, which logged a 52.9% drop.

Job ads for procurement professionals also dropped 33% in Hong Kong during the period while the number of job ads for the business fell to zero in December from three in October in Japan.

In comparison, the China market was still seeking over 15,000 purchasing professionals at the end of last year, a slight drop of 8% from 16,765 advertised in October, representing the world's manufacturing base's relative resilience to the slowdown.

"The overall economic fundamentals of China remain sound," said Shane Sibraa, managing director for Robert Walters greater China said. "The effects of the global banking crisis and its impact on consumer confidence have inevitably been felt; but within China, there remains a healthy level of demand for talent, mainly driven by ongoing investment in infrastructure and foreign businesses seeking to take advantage of markets opening up to competition."

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