

... advise farmers, rural industries and government on aspects of farming, develop techniques for increasing productivity, and study and develop plans and policies for the management of forest areas.

Indicative Skill Level

Most occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. In some instances relevant experience and/or on-the-job training may be required in addition to the formal qualification (ANZSCO Skill Level 1).

Skilled Occupation Criteria

Long-lead time

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists meet the criteria for long lead time, as entry to this occupation requires a substantial training commitment.

- ▶ Employment as an Agricultural and Forestry Scientist generally requires the completion of a university qualification of at least four years study (full-time equivalent), such as a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

High use

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists meet one aspect of the criteria for high use, showing that the skills which people have acquired through education and training are actually being deployed for the uses intended.

- ▶ As professionals, Agricultural and Forestry Scientists are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Agricultural and Forestry Scientists, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists also meet the criteria for high risk/high disruption. This indicates that the occupation is important for the effective operation of an enterprise and/or the broader economy.

- ▶ Agricultural and Forestry Scientists are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include measures to manage forests and Australia's environment, help industries adapt to climate change, improve export markets and identify drought management strategies. This occupation is also important for initiatives such as Australia's Farming Future, National Weeds and Productivity Research and the Australian Pest Animal Research Program.

¹ Analysis for the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) was conducted using the latest available data, including the 2010 ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Percentages may therefore differ from those cited in the 'Occupation Trends' analysis (over the page), which uses alternative sources in some instances (e.g. the 2008 ABS Survey of Education and Work). Small sample sizes for some occupations may also result in fluctuations in the SEW data between 2008 and 2010. The specific data sources used for the Occupation Trends analysis can be found on the Skills Australia website: <http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/SOLsummarysheets.shtml>.

Occupation trends

ANZSCO: 2341

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists

Employment level	5700 Almost all workers are employed full-time (90.0%).
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	234111 Agricultural Consultant 2080 234112 Agricultural Scientist 2700 234113 Forester 1570
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment decreased by 18.8% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 14.2% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	Above average (around 4.3%) compared with all occupations.
Educational profile	Around 74.1% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose markedly (well above the 'all occupations' rate) over the 12 months to September 2010 to 214.3 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 30.9% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
Labour turnover	Around 9.7% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
Age profile	The median age is 43 years and 48.5% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are average (\$1029).
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data show 94% of agriculture Bachelor degree graduates seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 33% of whom were employed as Science Professionals, 11% as Managers and Administrators and 11% as Manual Workers.
Skill shortages	Shortages of Agricultural Consultants/Scientists were evident in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Shortages of Foresters were recorded in 2007.

Labour market

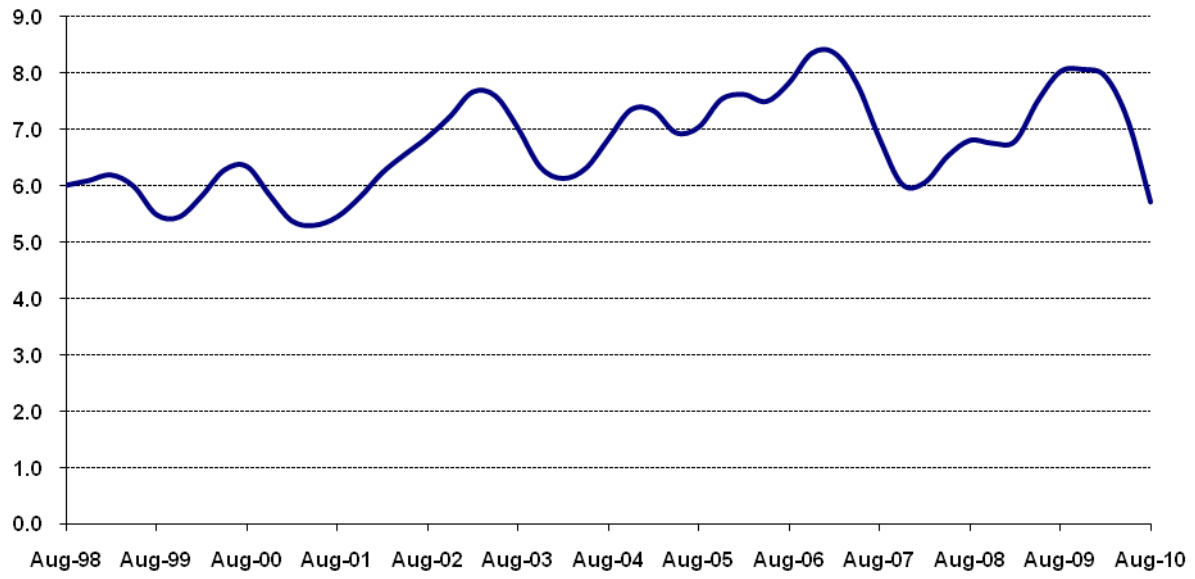
234111,12 Agricultural Consultant/Scientist: Shortages have been apparent over the past three years. In late 2009 surveyed employers received an average of 13 applications per vacancy but considered only an average of 1.4 applicants per vacancy to be suitable. Employers were generally seeking tertiary qualified applicants with three to five years experience. Some employers reported they had to advertise multiple times over an extended period to find suitable applicants. Vacancies that primarily involved laboratory research work and were based in metropolitan areas were the most easily filled. Employers in remote and regional areas had the most difficulty filling vacancies. They attributed this to their isolated location and the difficult working conditions. Unsuitable applicants generally lacked qualifications or relevant experience.

234113 Forester: DEEWR research in early 2010 shows employers were not experiencing significant difficulty recruiting qualified and experienced foresters. Employers filled 80% of vacancies and reported strong fields of local candidates.

Summary

Employment has declined substantially over the past five years, and unemployment is above average. Nonetheless, advertised vacancy levels are high, recovering strongly since late 2009, and shortages have been evident in recent years. Slightly stronger than average employment growth is expected over the next five years.

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) - 3 Monthly Average - Nov 2006 - Sept 2010
Agricultural and Forestry Scientists (March 2006 = 100)

