

...conduct medical laboratory tests to assist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

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

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

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

High use

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

- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Medical Laboratory Scientists, 76% had studied in a related field, such as chemistry, biology or medical studies (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Medical Laboratory Scientists are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Medical Laboratory Scientists, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Medical Laboratory 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.

- ▶ Medical Laboratory Scientists are important to meet government priority policies. These include the Clinical Training Funding Initiative and investment in Commonwealth Serum Laboratories research.

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: 2346

Medical Laboratory Scientists

Employment level	20,000 A high proportion of workers (81.7%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	2346-11 Medical Laboratory Scientist 13,370
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 12.3% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 13.7% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	Low (around 0.8%) compared with all occupations.
Educational profile	Around 86.9% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 4.0% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 53.0 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 62.8% 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 37 years and 29.6% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are above average (\$1250).
Graduate outcomes	Not available
Skill shortages	National shortages have not been identified for the occupation as a whole but shortages of Medical Laboratory Scientists who have cytology experience are sometimes reported.

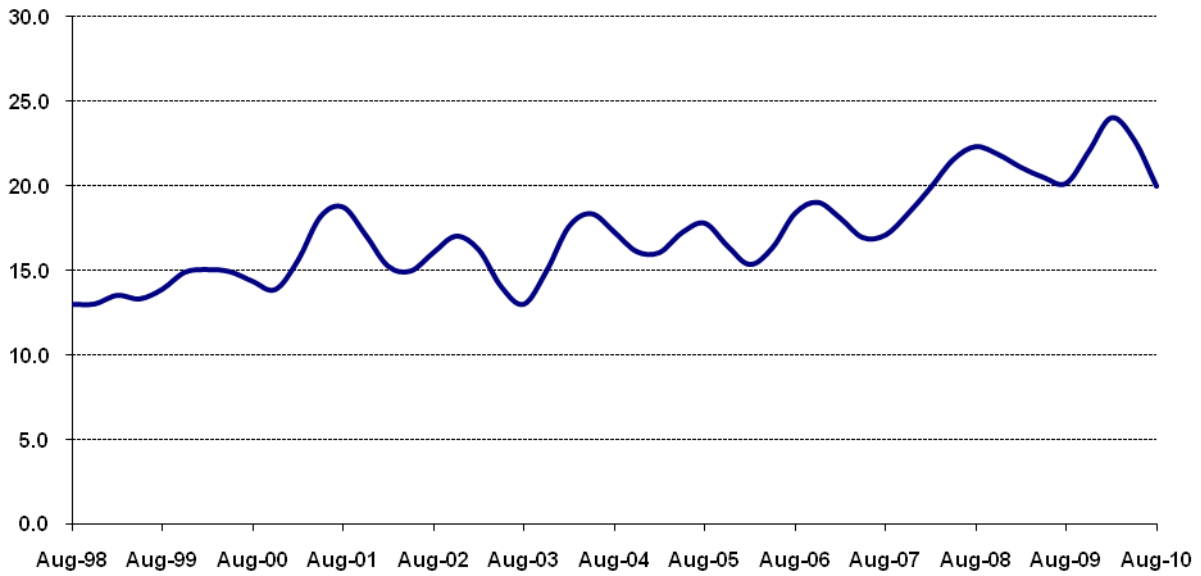
Labour market

Employers in this occupation who are recruiting for positions which require experience in cytology have at times experienced particular difficulty finding the skills they need. The labour market for other areas of medical laboratory science is more balanced.

Summary

Moderate employment growth recorded over the past five years is expected to continue. Unemployment is low and employers who require cytology skills sometimes experience difficulty recruiting. Advertised vacancy levels are relatively low and are declining.

Medical Laboratory Scientists
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) - 3 Monthly Average - Nov 2006 - Sept 2010
Medical Laboratory Scientists (March 2006 = 100)

