

... diagnose, treat and prevent animal diseases, ailments and injuries.

### Indicative Skill Level

Most occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification (ANZSCO Skill Level 1).

### Skilled Occupation Criteria

#### **Long-lead time**

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

- ▶ Employment as a Veterinarian generally requires the completion of a university qualification of at least five years study (full-time equivalent), such as a Bachelor of Veterinary Science.

#### **High use**

Veterinarians meet the criteria for high use, showing that the skills which people have acquired through education and training are being deployed for the uses intended.

- ▶ Based on advice from Universities Australia, university courses in veterinary science have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as a Veterinarian.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Veterinarians, 87% were found to have studied in a related field, such as veterinary studies or biology (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Veterinarians are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Veterinarians, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).<sup>1</sup>

#### **High risk**

Veterinarians were also found to 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.

- ▶ Veterinarians are required to register with the Veterinary Practitioners Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition and be legally entitled to practice as a Veterinarian.

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<sup>1</sup> 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: 2347**

### **Veterinarians**

<b>Employment level</b>	9400 A high proportion of workers (87.1%) are employed full-time.
<b>6 digit employment (2006 Census)</b>	234711 Veterinarian 5830
<b>Employment growth</b>	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 73.2% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 8.8% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	Below average (around 1.2%) compared with all occupations.
<b>Educational profile</b>	Almost all workers have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
<b>Vacancies</b>	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) fell by 57.9% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 76.2 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
<b>Gender</b>	Around 44.6% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
<b>Labour turnover</b>	Around 9.7% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
<b>Age profile</b>	The median age is 36.5 years and 29.3% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
<b>Earnings</b>	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are above average (\$1192).
<b>Graduate outcomes</b>	Graduate Careers Australia data show that 84% of Bachelor degree graduates in veterinary science seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 93% of whom were employed as Science Professionals.
<b>Skill shortages</b>	Veterinarian was assessed as being in national shortage in 2009 and 2010. Prior to that, shortages were restricted to Veterinarians for large animal practices in regional locations.

### **Labour market**

Historically, general shortages of Veterinarians have not been evident, although shortages have been apparent in regional areas for Veterinarians for large animal practices.

DEEWR research in 2009 and 2010 show shortages of Veterinarians have become more widespread with employers reporting a low proportion of vacancies filled (38% and 47% respectively). In 2010, employers received, on average, three applications per vacancy with half the applicants considered by employers to be suitable. Most employers were looking for experienced Veterinarians with a minimum of two years experience.

Metropolitan employers continued to have more success filling vacancies and most unfilled positions were for Veterinarians in mixed practices or specialising in large animal or equine practice. Regional employers commented that the expectation of longer working hours and the remote locations contributed to the difficulty attracting Veterinarians to rural positions. Employers in some states suggested new veterinary courses will enhance the new supply of veterinarians over coming years.

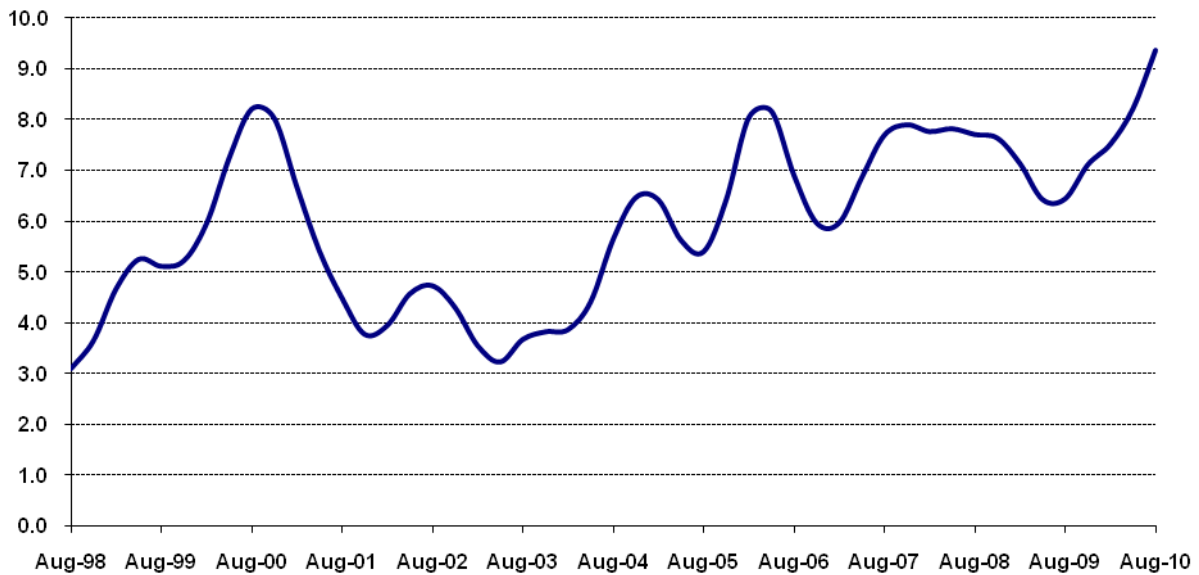
### **Summary**

There has been strong employment growth over the past five years, although this growth is expected to moderate over the next five years. The unemployment rate is relatively low and

graduate outcomes are good. However, the workforce is relatively young and there appears likely to be additional domestic supply from new courses over the next few years.

The level of advertised vacancies is low and falling.

Veterinarians  
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



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

