

... teach the basics of numeracy, literacy, music, art and literature to early childhood (pre-primary) students and promote students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

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

Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers meet the criteria for long lead time, as entry to this occupation requires a substantial training commitment.

- ▶ Employment as an Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teacher requires the completion of a three year undergraduate degree plus a teacher education course (such as a Graduate Diploma in Education); a four or five year double-degree program; or an integrated program which includes subject content studies as well as teacher education. Each of these options, such as a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, requires a minimum commitment of four years from enrolment to completion (full-time equivalent).

High use

Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers meet 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.

- ▶ Based on advice from Universities Australia, university courses in teaching have a strong degree of match with eventual employment in teaching occupations.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers, 94% were found to have studied in a related field, such as teacher education, curriculum and education studies, or other education areas (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers, 60% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers 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.

- ▶ Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers are required to be registered before they can teach. In some states and territories, a police check may also be needed prior to employment. Teachers are also required to provide proof of Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

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>.

- ▶ Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and State level. These include improving literacy and numeracy outcomes; enhancing quality teaching; the National Quality Framework and Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education, and the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Education.

Occupation trends

ANZSCO: 2411

Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers

Employment level	26,200 More than half of workers (58.1%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	2411-11 Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teacher 15,280
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 53.1% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 9.9% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	Below average (around 2.3%) compared with all occupations.
Educational profile	Around 69.7% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 11.7% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 191.2 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 98.6% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
Labour turnover	Around 8.9% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
Age profile	The median age is 41.2 years and 38.8% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are above average (\$1115).
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data show that in the field of education (not disaggregated into early childhood, primary and secondary), 89% of initial graduates were working full-time four months after graduating, 86% of whom were employed as Education Professionals.
Skill shortages	This occupation was assessed as being in national shortage in 2010, although shortages are restricted to the child care sector.

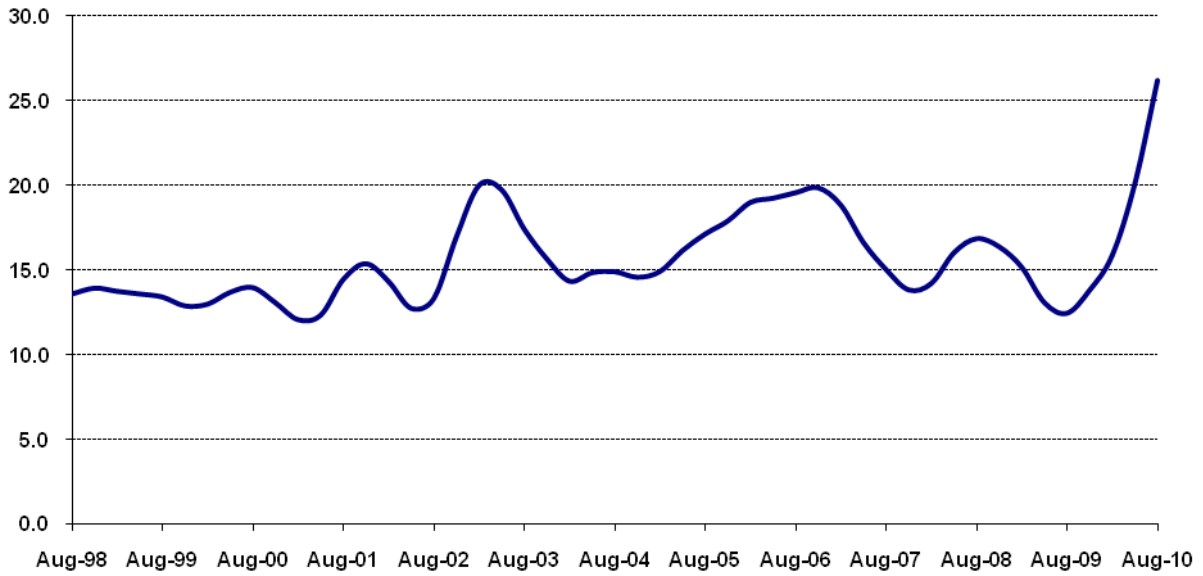
Labour market

Shortages persist in the long day care sector although in 2010 employers in the education sector continued to experience little difficulty filling their vacancies. As in 2009, employers recruiting for kindergartens and pre-schools which keep usual school hours and holidays generally filled their vacancies easily and were able to select from several qualified and suitable applicants. Most employers recruiting for long day care centres, however, continued to experience significant difficulty recruiting degree qualified staff to fill their vacancies and many vacancies remained unfilled or were filled with compromise applicants.

Summary

Employment growth has been very strong over the past five years, unemployment is below average and shortages are evident, albeit only in the child care sector. The proportion of workers aged 45 years and over is about the same as the all occupations average and labour turnover is low. Employment growth over the next five years is expected to be moderate.

Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) - 3 Monthly Average - Nov 2006 - Sept 2010
Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers (March 2006 = 100)

