

... diagnose and treat physiological and mechanical disorders of the locomotor system and tissue strain, stress and dysfunction that impede normal neural, vascular and biochemical mechanisms, and provide advice on preventing these disorders.

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

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

- ▶ Employment as a Chiropractor or Osteopath generally requires the completion of an undergraduate qualification of at least three years study (full-time equivalent), such as a Bachelor of Health Science (Chiropractic) or Bachelor of Applied Science (Osteopathy), followed by a further qualification, such as the two year Master of Clinical Chiropractic or Master of Osteopathy. A five year double-degree program (such as Bachelor of Applied Science (Clinical Science)/Bachelor of Osteopathic Science or Bachelor of Science (Chiropractic)/Bachelor of Chiropractic) may substitute in some cases.

High use

Chiropractors and Osteopaths 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 chiropractics and osteopathy have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as Chiropractors or Osteopaths.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Chiropractors or Osteopaths, 94% had studied in a related field, such as rehabilitation therapies (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Chiropractors and Osteopaths are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Chiropractors or Osteopaths, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Chiropractors and Osteopaths 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.

- ▶ Registration is compulsory in order to practise as a Chiropractor or Osteopath in all states and territories.
- ▶ Chiropractor and Osteopaths are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include meeting the recommendations of the

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: 2521

Chiropractors and Osteopaths

Employment level	4300 Less than half of workers (38.9%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	252111 Chiropractor 2490 252112 Osteopath 780
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 9.1% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 17.1% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	Below average (around 1.9%) compared with all occupations.
Educational profile	Around 86.8% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 15.4% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 44.1 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 57.8% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
Labour turnover	Around 6.4% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
Age profile	The median age is 36.8 years and 28.5% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are high (\$2876).
Graduate outcomes	Not available
Skill shortages	National shortages of Chiropractors have not been identified by DEEWR research.

Labour market

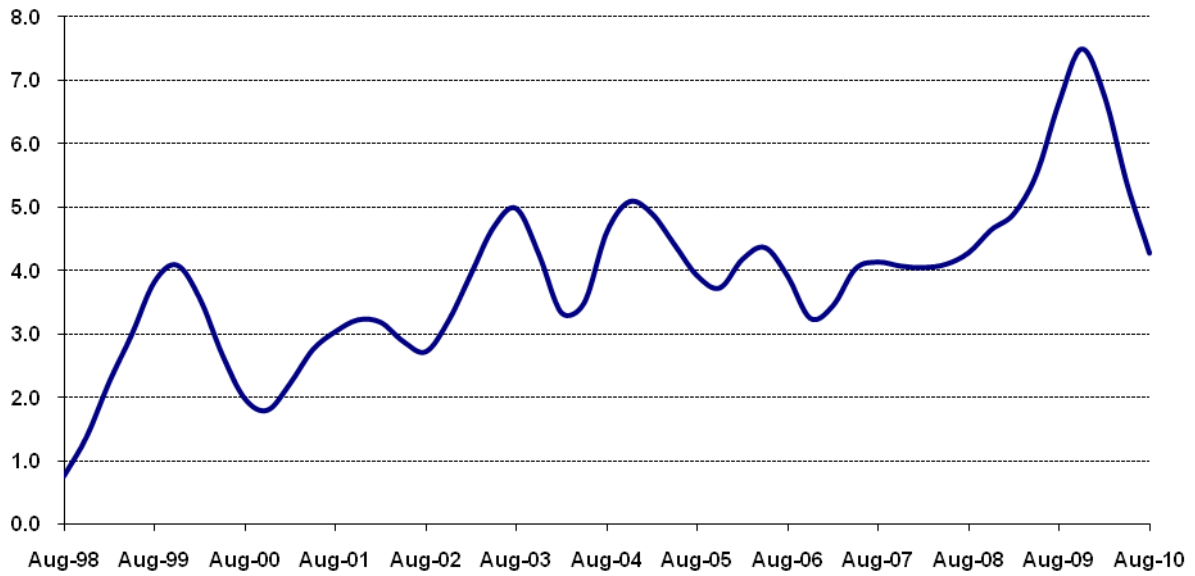
252111 Chiropractor: Overall, employers generally receive adequate numbers of good quality applications and have little difficulty filling vacancies. Many chiropractic clinics are small and only employ one or two Chiropractors so some vacancies were for associate positions or required the applicant to buy into the practice. Unsuccessful applicants generally held appropriate formal qualifications but lacked the specific experience sought by employers, such as working with children or familiarity with the specific techniques practised in the clinic.

252112 Osteopath: Not assessed

Summary

Employment growth has been slightly below the 'all occupations' average over the past five years but stronger employment growth is expected over the next five years. There is below average unemployment, but the workforce has a relatively young age profile and turnover is low suggesting there will be relatively low levels of replacement demand over the next decade.

Chiropractors and Osteopaths
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



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

