

...diagnose and treat dental disease, restore normal oral function using a broad range of treatments, such as surgery and other specialist techniques, and advise on oral health.

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

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

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

High use

Dental Practitioners 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 dentistry have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as Dental Practitioners.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Dental Practitioners, 88% had studied in a related field (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Dental Practitioners are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Dental Practitioners, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Dental Practitioners 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.

- ▶ Dental Practitioners are required to register with the Dental Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition.
- ▶ Dental Practitioners are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include: improving the nation's dental health; meeting the recommendations of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission; the Clinical Training Funding Initiative; and the Clinical Supervision Support 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: 2523

Dental Practitioners

Employment level	12,300 More than half of workers (61.3%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	252311 Dental Specialist 850 252312 Dentist 8180
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 28.0% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 12.6% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	There is almost no unemployment for this occupation.
Educational profile	Almost all workers have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 26.3% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 203.9 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 37.6% 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 45 years and 52.0% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are high (\$1700).
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data show 85% of Bachelor degree graduates in dentistry seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 91% of whom were employed as Health Professionals.
Skill shortages	National shortages of Dental Specialists and Dentists were identified by DEEWR research from 2003 to 2009.

Labour market

252311 Dental Specialist and 252312 Dentist are assessed jointly. Widespread shortages were evident between 2003 and 2009. Some easing in the labour market was observed in late 2009 and research undertaken in 2010 shows shortages are restricted to regional locations. Nationally, almost three quarters of surveyed vacancies were filled and there were, on average, 1.6 suitable applicants per vacancy. There was a significant fall in the proportion of suitable applicants per vacancy compared with 2009 but the proportion of vacancies which were filled was stable.

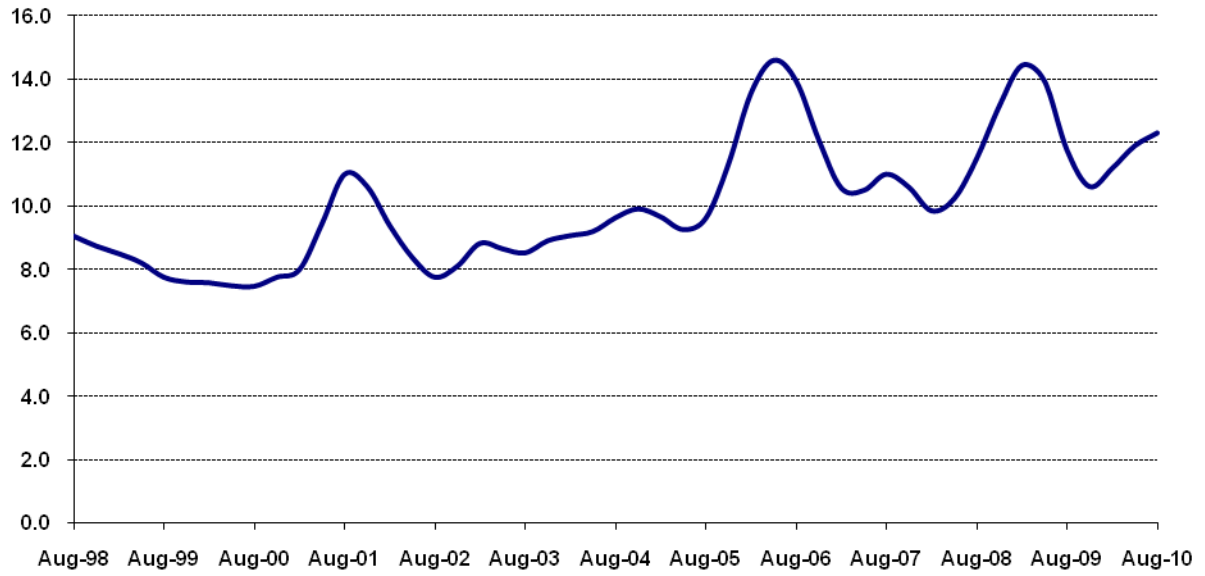
Summary

Employment has risen strongly over the past five years and shortages were relatively persistent to 2009. In 2010, though, research suggests unmet demand is mainly in regional locations.

Employment is expected to rise at about the same rate as 'all occupations' over the next five years, but about half the workforce is aged 45 years or over suggesting strong replacement demand over the next decade.

There is almost no unemployment and DEEWR Internet Vacancy Index data show the number of advertised vacancies for Dental Practitioners has increased markedly over the past 12 months.

Dental Practitioners
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



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

