

...assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease.

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

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

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

High use

Physiotherapists 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 physiotherapy have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as a Physiotherapist.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Physiotherapists, 90% had studied in a related field, such as rehabilitation therapies or other health areas (*Australian Graduate Survey*, 2009).
- ▶ As professionals, Physiotherapists are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Physiotherapists, 90% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work*, 2010).¹

High risk

Physiotherapists 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.

- ▶ Physiotherapists are required to register with the Physiotherapy Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition.
- ▶ Physiotherapists are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include 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: 2525

Physiotherapists

Employment level	23,700 A high proportion of workers (73.6%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	252511 Physiotherapist 12,280
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 58.5% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 20.5% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations). Below average (around 1.4%) compared with all occupations.
Unemployment rate	
Educational profile	Around 90.6% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 23.8% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 220.2 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 62.5% 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 37.2 years and 32.7% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are above average (\$1239).
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data is provided at the aggregated level for 'health', but it shows 97% of Bachelor degree graduates across the health field of study seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 46% of whom were employed as Health Professionals, 15% as Personal and Community Service Workers and 9% as Science Professionals.
Skill shortages	National shortages of Physiotherapists have been evident since 2001.

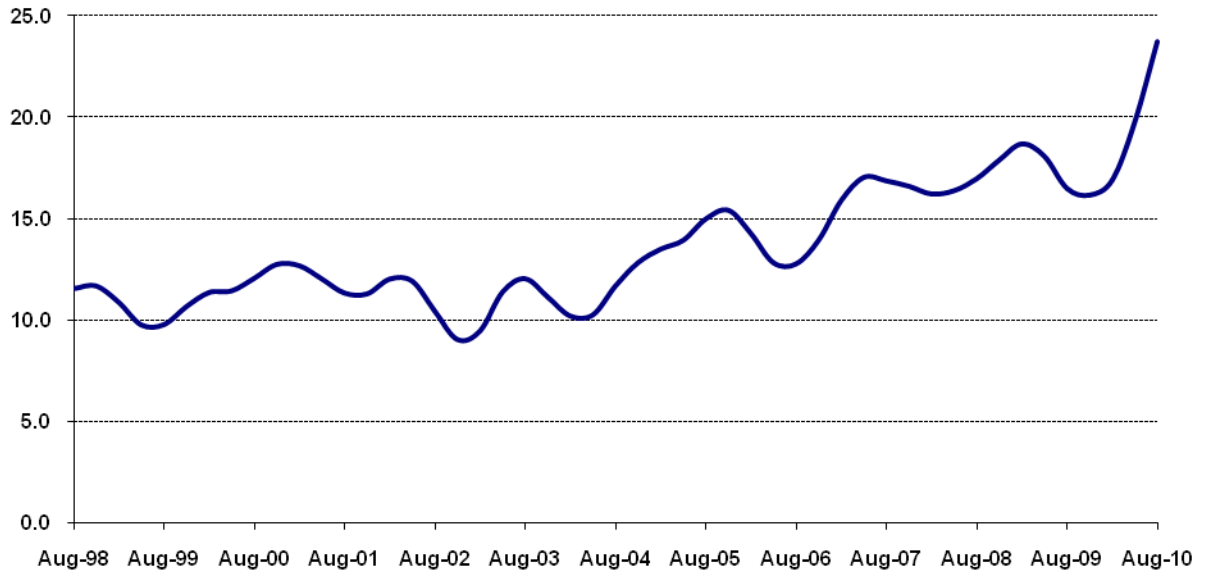
Labour market

Shortages of Physiotherapists have been persistent over the past decade. Research undertaken in 2010 though shows the proportion of vacancies filled has doubled since 2007 (from 30% to 60%) and the number of suitable applicants per vacancy has almost doubled in that time (up from 0.7 to 1.3). Shortages persist, but these appear to be primarily for experienced Physiotherapists, for positions in the not-for-profit sector, in states and territories where training is not available and in regional locations. Many metropolitan-based employers attracted good fields of local applicants.

Summary

Shortages are persistent, unemployment is low, employment growth has been, and is expected to be, strong and vacancy levels are increasing. This indicates relatively strong demand for Physiotherapists is likely over the next five years. This workforce has a relatively young age profile and turnover is low so most employment in the next few years is likely to be from increased demand rather than replacement.

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



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

