

... diagnose and treat internal human disorders and diseases using specialist testing, diagnostic and medical techniques. Medical Registrars training as Internal Medicine Specialists are included in this unit group.

Indicative Skill Level

Occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification, two years hospital-based training, and at least five years specialist study and training (ANZSCO Skill Level 1).

Skilled Occupation Criteria

Long-lead time

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

- ▶ Employment as an Internal Medicine Specialist requires a Bachelor degree or higher qualification, two years hospital-based training, and at least five years specialist study and training.

High use

Internal Medicine Specialists 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 medicine have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as an Internal Medicine Specialist.
- ▶ Of recent graduates employed as Internal Medicine Specialists, 71% had studied in a related field, such as medical studies or public health (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*)
- ▶ As professionals, Internal Medicine Specialists are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Internal Medicine Specialists, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Internal Medicine Specialists 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.

- ▶ Internal Medicine Specialists are required to register with the Medical Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition and be licensed to practise.
- ▶ Internal Medicine Specialists are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and State level. These include addressing the increasing health needs of an ageing population, 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: 2533

Internal Medicine Specialists

Employment

5100 A high proportion of workers (87.5%) are employed full-time.

6 digit employment (2006 Census)

253311 Specialist Physician (General Medicine) 520
253312 Cardiologist 450
253313 Clinical Haematologist 60
253314 Clinical Oncologist 190
253315 Endocrinologist 80
253316 Gastroenterologist 180
253317 Intensive Care Specialist 290
253318 Neurologist 210
253321 Paediatrician 990
253322 Renal Medicine Specialist 80
253323 Rheumatologist 80
253324 Thoracic Medicine Specialist 110
253399 Internal Medicine Specialists, nec 340

Employment growth

Over the five years to August 2010, employment decreased by 1.0% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 15.4% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).

Unemployment rate

Below average (around 0.4%) compared with all occupations.

Educational profile

Around 90.9% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.

Vacancies

The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) fell by 1.6% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 127.4 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.

Gender

Around 31.1% 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 44.8 years and 45.9% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).

Earnings

Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are high (\$2500).

Graduate outcomes

Graduate Careers Australia data show 94% of Bachelor degree graduates in medicine seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 95% of whom were employed as Health Professionals.

Skill shortages

Not assessed through DEEWR research

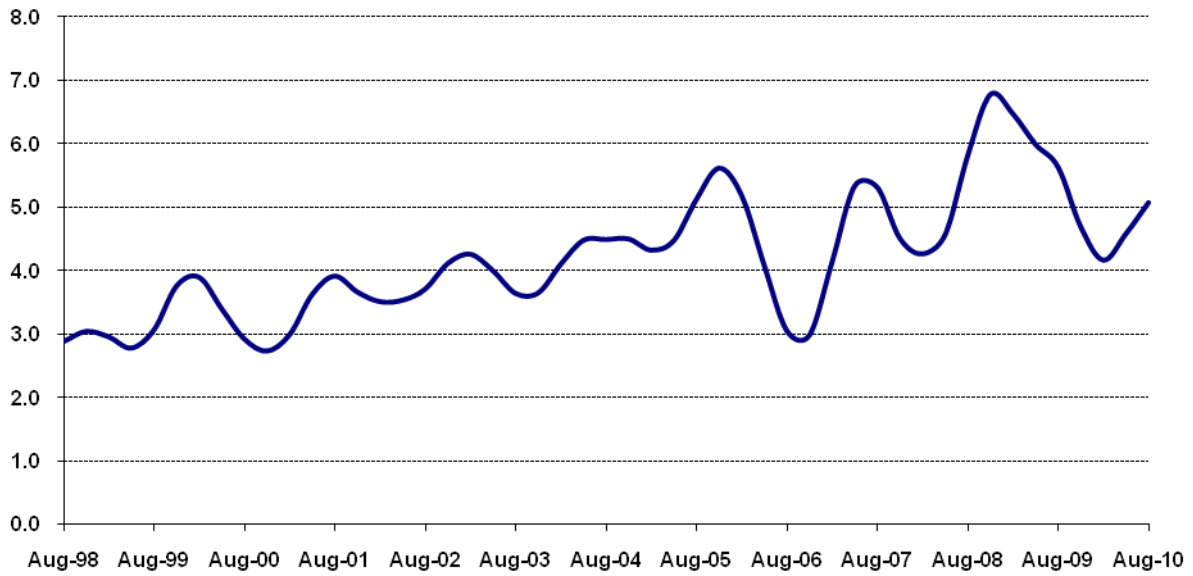
Labour market

Not assessed

Summary

Employment growth is expected to be higher than the 'all occupations' rate over the next five years and the workforce is ageing, suggesting strong ongoing demand for new positions and to replace specialists who retire.

Internal Medicine Specialists
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



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

