

... perform surgery to correct deformities, repair injuries, prevent and treat diseases, and improve human functioning and appearance. Medical Registrars training as Surgeons 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

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

- ▶ Employment as a Surgeon generally requires the completion of a university qualification of at least four years study (full-time equivalent), two years hospital-based training, and at least 5 years specialist study and training.

High use

Surgeons 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 surgery have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as a Surgeon.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Surgeons, 66% were found to have studied in a related field, such as medical studies or public health (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*)
- ▶ As professionals, Surgeons are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Surgeons, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Surgeons 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.

- ▶ Surgeons are required to register with the Medical Board of their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition and must be licensed in order to practise.
- ▶ Surgeons are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include improving the delivery of health care, reducing surgery waiting lists, responding to the 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: 2535

Surgeons

Employment level	5800 A high proportion of workers (87.3%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	253511 Surgeon (General) 290 253512 Cardiothoracic Surgeon 110 253513 Neurosurgeon 150 253514 Orthopaedic Surgeon 730 253515 Otorhinolaryngologist 160 253516 Paediatric Surgeon 40 253517 Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon 240 253518 Urologist 180 253521 Vascular Surgeon 80
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 31.0% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 18.8% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	Low (around 0.4%) compared with all occupations.
Educational profile	Around 98.2% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) fell by 9.5% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 115.2 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 14.0% 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 49 years and 59.5% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are high (\$2141).
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

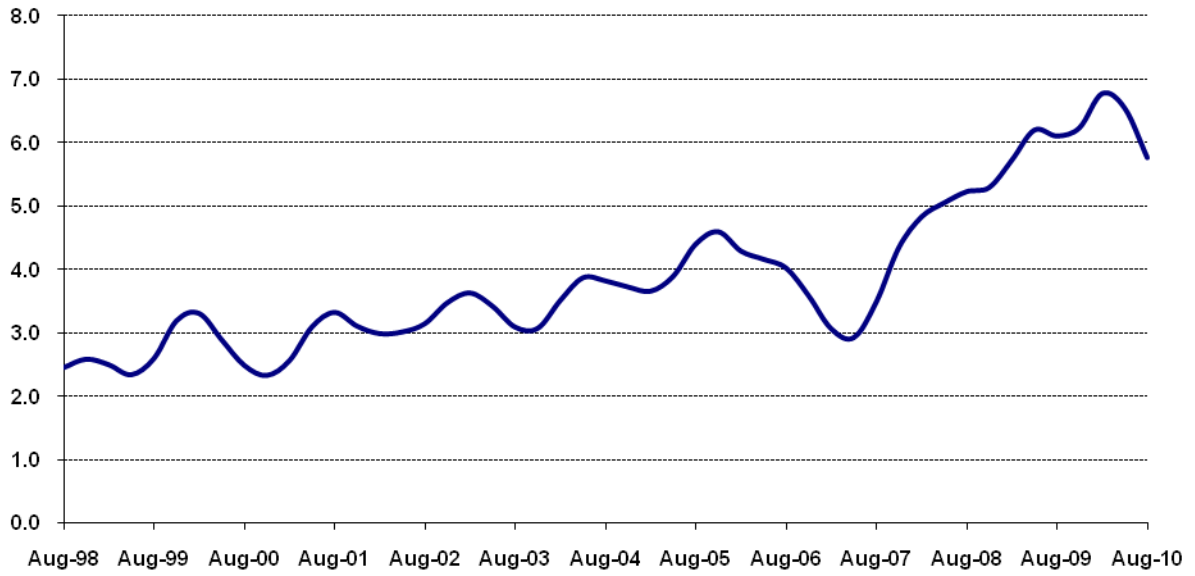
Labour market

Not assessed

Summary

This is a grouping of very small specialisations and data have a high standard error. Almost 60% of workers are aged 45 years or older suggesting there will be a very high level of replacement demand over the next decade, and employment growth is expected to be strong.

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



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

