

Hospital Pharmacist, Retail Pharmacist		ACT
ANZSCO Code: 2515-11,13		June 2009
Labour market rating	No Shortage	
Comment		

Occupational demand

In the ACT in 2006, the ABS Census recorded total retail and hospital pharmacist employment of 204 and 30 respectively, representing growth of approximately seven per cent in the five years from 2001. The Australian government's funding of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) ensures a continuing demand for the services of pharmacists. In the year to 30 June 2007 PBS expenditure grew 4.3 per cent from the previous year, having grown by 2.7 per cent in the 12 months to June 2006. Australia's ageing and growing population is likely to support continuing increases in demand for all types of pharmacists.

Occupational supply

To become a pharmacist, a person needs to complete a higher education course recognised by the Australian Pharmacy Council, and complete 12 months of supervised practice with a registered pharmacist. Since 2004, the University of Canberra has offered a Master of Pharmacy program. This is the only recognised course for pharmacists in the ACT. It produced 12 graduates in 2006 and 13 in 2007. If these graduates remain in Canberra, this represents a considerable increase in the available supply of Pharmacists in the ACT. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data show a net total of 19 self identifying pharmacists migrating to the ACT over the five years until June 2008.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market.

A DEEWR survey of employers who recently advertised for retail and hospital pharmacists in the ACT showed all the positions were filled within six weeks after the close of applications. There were a total of 7.6 applicants per vacancy and average of 3.0 suitable candidates for each vacancy, an increase over that recorded when the occupation was assessed nationally in June 2008. Most employers indicated no difficulty in attracting pharmacists, whereas previously a number of them have had difficulty attracting suitably qualified applicants.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest that the labour market for retail and hospital pharmacists will change significantly in the next six months.