

SUMMARY STATISTICS for Victorian Schools JULY 2021

Next edition April 2022



This brochure provides a ready reference for the latest statistics on school education. It is reissued when a later set of information becomes available.

Size of the Victorian school education system

1. Numbers of schools, students and teachers

	Government	Catholic Independent	All Schools
Number of schools by school type, February 2021			
Primary	1,140	394	1,534
Primary-Secondary	79	13	92
Secondary	248	85	333
Special	82	5	87
Language	4	0	4
Total	1,553	497	2,050

Number (FTE) of students by year level, February 2021

	Government	Catholic Independent	All Schools
Primary total			
Preparatory	55,651.8	8,801.6	64,453.4
Year 1	55,904.1	8,782.4	64,686.5
Year 2	55,411.0	8,746.0	64,157.0
Year 3	56,260.0	8,873.4	65,133.4
Year 4	54,124.8	8,835.6	62,960.4
Year 5	52,819.4	9,851.6	62,671.0
Year 6	52,423.8	10,305.6	62,729.4
Ungraded	80.0	1.0	81.0
Primary total	382,674.9	111,362.3	494,037.2
Secondary total			
Year 7	43,960.6	15,628.7	59,589.3
Year 8	44,661.3	15,737.6	60,398.9
Year 9	44,153.5	15,042.9	59,196.4
Year 10	42,721.5	14,476.6	57,198.1
Year 11	40,098.5	14,113.7	54,212.2
Year 12	34,645.1	13,278.6	47,923.7
Ungraded	220.0	0.0	220.0
Secondary total	250,460.5	99,576.4	350,036.9
Special	13,473.0	2,032.3	15,505.3
Language	1,436.0	0.0	1,436.0
Total	648,044.4	211,694.6	859,739.0

Source: DET February School Census

NB: Figures on student FTE include all changes from the 2021 enrolment verification process.

Number (FTE) of teaching staff (including principals) in government schools on pay by school type, as at end of quarter

	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020	March 2021
Primary	23,229.9	23,173.5	23,093.7	23,033.8	24,113.7
Secondary	16,775.0	16,756.1	16,745.0	16,690.4	17,613.4
Special/P-12/ Lang/Other	7,517.1	7,536.8	7,575.8	7,535.4	7,860.1
Total	47,522.0	47,466.3	47,414.5	47,259.6	49,587.2

Source: DET Monthly Staffing Report

2. Historical trend in numbers of government schools & students, February

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Students (FTE)				
		Primary	Secondary	Special	Language	Total
2017	1,528	361,721.7	227,377.0	12,778.3	1,918.0	603,795.0
2018	1,531	371,932.1	231,868.8	13,112.9	1,933.0	618,846.8
2019	1,539	378,385.7	237,705.8	13,455.7	1,906.0	631,453.2
2020	1,543	384,337.0	246,491.6	13,435.8	2,093.0	646,357.4
2021	1,553	382,674.9	250,460.5	13,473.0	1,436.0	648,044.4

Source: DET February School Census

Profile of Victorian government school students

3. Number (FTE) of students by sex in government schools, February

Year	Male	Female	Percentage of male students			
			Primary	Yr 7-10	Yr 11-12	All Students
2017	313,411.2	290,383.8	51.6	52.0	50.0	51.9
2018	321,516.5	297,330.3	51.7	52.0	49.8	52.0
2019	328,012.9	303,440.3	51.7	52.1	49.5	51.9
2020	335,702.1	310,655.3	51.6	52.2	49.7	51.9
2021	336,584.2	311,460.2	51.6	52.2	49.8	51.9

Source: DET February School Census

NB: Yr 7-10 includes secondary ungraded students.

4. Number (FTE) of students with disabilities in government schools, February

Year	In regular schools	In special schools	Total	% of total student cohort	
				Number	%
2017	13,783	11,743	25,526	4.23	
2018	14,859	12,089	26,948	4.35	
2019	15,650	12,416	28,066	4.44	
2020	16,163	12,647	28,810	4.46	
2021	16,429	12,735	29,164	4.49	

Source: DET Program for Students with Disabilities, Wellbeing Health and Engagement Division

5. Number (FTE) of Indigenous students in government schools and per cent of student cohort, August

Year	Primary		Years 7-10		Years 11-12		Special		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2016	7,283.3	2.1	3,324.9	2.2	1,157.1	1.7	548.0	4.4	12,313.3	2.1
2017	7,622.7	2.1	3,467.4	2.2	1,109.9	1.6	591.2	4.6	12,791.2	2.1
2018	8,099.8	2.2	3,706.9	2.3	1,093.7	1.6	650.5	4.9	13,551.9	2.2
2019	8,548.7	2.2	3,969.4	2.4	1,167.9	1.7	713.3	5.3	14,400.4	2.3
2020	8,926.5	2.3	4,261.0	2.5	1,246.9	1.8	739.3	5.5	15,173.7	2.4

Source: DET August School Census

NB: Years 7-10 includes secondary ungraded students.

6. Number of students in government schools with a language background other than English, August

Year	Speak mainly English at home			Most common non-English languages spoken at home	
	Yes	No	Total		
2016	56,409	115,927	172,336	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chinese nfd	
2017	60,663	124,769	185,432	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chinese nfd	
2018	64,107	133,635	197,742	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chinese nfd	
2019	67,108	142,131	209,239	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi	
2020	70,753	147,988	218,741	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi	

Source: DET August School Census

nfd indicates 'not further defined'

7. Provision of languages (other than English) in government schools, August

Year	Primary Languages*		Secondary Languages*		Languages with highest Enrolments in VCE**
	Students	%	Students	%	
2016	285,660	81.5	92,225	41.3	Chinese, French, Japanese, German
2017	301,715	83.4	93,024	40.9	Chinese, French, Japanese, German
2018	316,020	85.0	97,955	42.3	Chinese, French, Japanese, German
2019	329,218	87.0	102,826	43.3	Chinese, French, Japanese, Vietnamese
2020	339,124	88.3	103,824	42.7	Chinese, French, Japanese, Vietnamese

Source: DET August Languages Survey*, and the VCAA**

NB: **Languages with highest enrolments are based on VCE Languages Units 1 and 3.

8. International students (fee paying) in government schools

Year	At June 30th	Main countries of origin
2016	4,337	China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, India, Korea
2017	5,202	China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, India
2018	5,811	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, India
2019	5,670	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Saudi Arabia
2020	5,494	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Korea
2021	3,860	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia

Source: DET International Education Division OSP database, July 2021

NB: Enrolment figures include all primary and secondary visa subclass 010, 020, 030, 040, 500, 570, 571, 572, 573, 575, 600, 601, 651, 676 holders defined as fee paying international students under Ministerial Orders 819 (as amended by Ministerial Order 859). Secondary visa subclass holders refer to the dependent children of temporary residents or international students studying in Victorian vocational education, training and tertiary institutions.

9. VET in schools programs - certificate enrolments

Year	Government schools	Non-government schools	Total certificate enrolments
2016	36,348	21,557	57,905
2017	35,906	23,267	59,173
2018	36,477	24,904	61,381
2019	36,440	26,028	62,468
2020	36,647	26,257	62,904

Source: VCAA

NB: Excludes students whose home enrolment is a non-school setting. Students may enrol in more than one VET certificate.

Retention and transition rates

10. Apparent retention rates by sex and sector, February (per cent)

Year	Apparent retention Year 10-12			Apparent retention Year 7-12		
	Gov	Non-Gov	All Schools	Gov	Non-Gov	All Schools
2017	87.1	93.1	89.7	93.3	91.4	92.4
2018	86.6	92.4	89.1	94.3	90.4	92.5
2019	84.3	91.5	87.4	91.7	89.7	90.8
2020	84.3	91.9	87.5	91.3	90.5	91.0
2021	84.9	91.9	87.9	91.5	90.7	91.1
Male	79.5	89.1	83.5	85.2	87.8	86.3
Female	90.8	94.6	92.4	98.4	93.4	96.1

Source: DET February School Census.

NB: Please refer to the footnote under Table 16 for the definition of apparent retention rate and an explanation of differences between February and August figures.

11. Transition rates for government schools, February (per cent)

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	Year 9-10	104.1	103.3	103.2	102.5
Year 10-11	100.2	98.8	97.2	97.9	97.3
Year 11-12	87.5	86.4	85.4	86.7	86.7

Source: DET February School Census

Size of classes

12. Class sizes in government schools, February

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Primary classes					
Average class size - All classes	22.3	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.0
Average class size - Prep	19.5	19.4	19.3	19.4	19.2
Average class size - Prep-2	20.9	20.7	20.7	20.8	20.4
Average class size - Years 3-6	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.2
Secondary English classes					
Average class size - All classes	21.1	21.2	21.3	21.3	21.3
Average class size - Year 12	19.0	19.0	18.9	19.2	19.2

Source: DET February School Census

NB: Comparable interstate data is not readily available as class size is not part of the National Schools Statistics Collection.

Regional summary - government schools

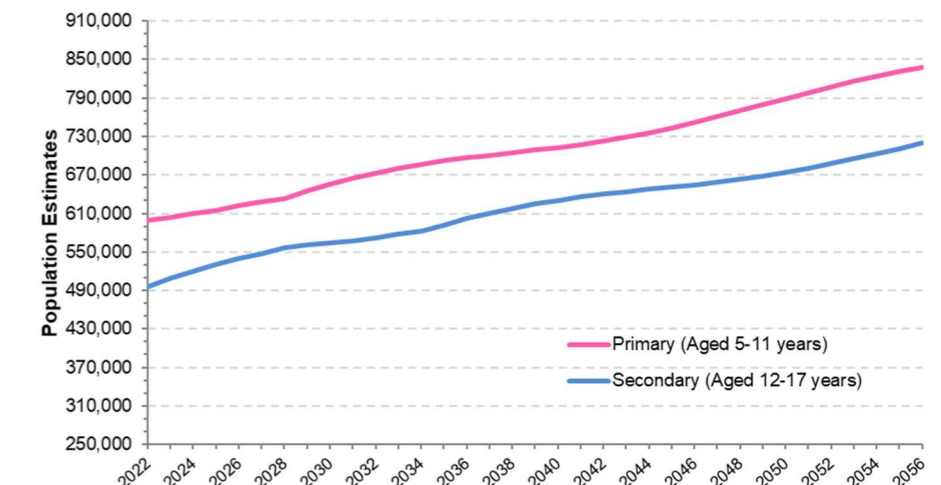
13. Schools, students, apparent retention rates (ARR) and class sizes by region, February

Region	February 2021		Feb 2020		Feb 2021	
	Schools	Students (FTE)	ARR		Average class size	
			10-12	7-12	P-2	All Prim
North-Eastern Victoria	379	144,992.7	87.4%	92.7%	20.7	22.2
North-Western Victoria	344	142,773.9	90.1%	95.3%	20.6	22.0
South-Eastern Victoria	408	184,221.5	82.0%	92.4%	20.9	22.4
South-Western Victoria	422	176,056.3	81.6%	86.5%	20.8	22.1
Total	1,553	648,044.4	84.9%	91.5%	20.8	22.2

Source: DET February School Census

Projected growth in school-aged population

14. Projected growth in Victorian school-aged population



Source: Victoria In Future 2019

Interstate comparisons including some key indicators

Apparent retention rates

15. Year 10–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2016	72.0	81.7	82.7	95.3	78.3	73.4	65.1	100.0	79.5
2017	73.0	80.4	82.9	91.2	81.7	74.1	73.6	100.0	79.8
2018	71.4	79.9	83.7	88.4	83.9	76.5	66.9	100.0	79.2
2019	70.6	77.8	83.4	85.3	84.0	80.4	61.8	100.0	78.0
2020	73.3	78.1	78.5	85.1	84.2	79.5	73.5	100.0	78.2
Male	68.7	73.1	75.6	79.8	80.3	73.1	67.4	95.9	73.9
Female	78.0	83.4	81.6	90.8	88.3	86.5	79.9	100.0	82.8
All sectors									
2016	77.2	85.0	87.3	94.5	80.5	70.8	64.2	92.2	82.9
2017	77.5	85.3	87.8	91.7	83.1	71.5	70.2	92.1	83.3
2018	76.3	84.7	87.8	90.8	85.0	73.2	65.1	90.0	82.8
2019	75.8	83.3	88.1	89.1	85.5	74.3	64.1	89.8	82.0
2020	77.5	83.9	83.7	88.6	85.8	73.9	70.4	90.1	82.1
Male	73.3	79.6	81.3	84.3	82.2	68.4	66.7	86.5	78.3
Female	81.8	88.3	86.2	93.0	89.5	79.7	74.0	93.8	86.0

16. Year 7–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2016	74.3	87.4	85.3	99.7	80.0	74.1	57.9	100.0	82.5
2017	75.6	86.8	85.8	96.0	82.7	75.1	61.1	100.0	83.1
2018	74.4	87.9	86.4	94.8	83.8	78.9	57.7	100.0	83.1
2019	73.5	85.8	87.9	91.7	83.4	82.1	57.1	100.0	82.2
2020	75.7	85.1	80.4	90.8	82.8	82.5	65.4	100.0	81.4
Male	71.1	79.3	75.4	84.7	79.3	76.3	58.6	100.0	76.4
Female	80.4	91.4	85.7	97.5	86.5	89.0	73.0	100.0	86.7
All sectors									
2016	78.4	87.9	88.6	97.5	80.3	70.4	56.7	94.0	84.3
2017	78.9	88.5	89.1	94.7	82.3	71.5	58.6	94.8	84.8
2018	77.8	88.7	89.2	94.6	83.3	74.0	52.5	92.8	84.5
2019	77.1	87.4	91.3	93.4	83.5	75.5	54.3	94.0	84.0
2020	78.4	87.6	85.3	92.7	83.9	74.9	57.8	91.9	83.6
Male	74.0	82.6	81.9	87.5	80.4	69.5	54.1	89.3	79.3
Female	83.0	92.8	88.9	98.1	87.6	80.5	61.6	94.7	88.0

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/2020>

NB: ABS Years 10–12 and 7–12 apparent retention rates refer to Year 12 enrolment of students in full-time school education expressed as a proportion of Year 10/7 enrolments two/five years earlier. DET calculates its retention rate on an FTE basis. Note that apparent retention rates calculated for February are generally higher than for August as a number of Year 12 students leave during the year. The above tables reference the ABS published rates capped to 100 per cent. Capped rates were first published in 2015.

Apparent retention rates by single year (grade) range

17. All sectors, August (per cent) full-time students

Range	Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust.
7-8	2016	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.4	100.0	100.0
	2017	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.4	100.0	100.0
	2018	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.7	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.7	100.0	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.7	96.1	99.9	100.0
8-9	2016	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	100.0	91.7	100.0	100.0
	2017	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	95.7	100.0	100.0
	2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	92.3	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	95.7	100.0	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	100.0	95.1	100.0	100.0
9-10	2016	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.6	100.0	92.6	100.0	100.0
	2017	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	100.0	95.9	100.0	100.0
	2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	100.0	89.9	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.6	100.0	95.6	99.5	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0
10-11	2016	89.7	95.2	96.5	100.0	95.4	85.9	85.6	100.0	94.3
	2017	88.6	95.8	96.8	100.0	97.7	86.1	89.3	100.0	94.4
	2018	87.8	94.5	97.3	100.0	97.2	87.8	83.5	100.0	93.7
	2019	88.0	94.4	93.7	100.0	97.2	85.3	91.4	100.0	93.2
	2020	89.4	94.4	92.9	100.0	97.9	88.2	90.2	100.0	93.5
11-12	2016	85.7	89.2	90.6	89.7	85.0	82.9	77.3	87.0	87.8
	2017	86.4	89.6	90.9	87.7	87.1	83.2	82.0	87.2	88.3
	2018	86.1	88.4	90.7	86.9	87.0	85.0	72.9	86.5	87.7
	2019	86.3	88.1	90.6	85.3	87.9	84.6	76.8	87.7	87.5
	2020	88.1	88.8	89.3	84.0	88.3	86.6	77.0	89.4	88.1

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/2020>

NB: Apparent retention rates by single year (grade) are based on full time students only. Rates are expressed as a percentage of a school education year level that progresses to the next year level. That is, the number of students in a particular year level expressed as a percentage of the cohort of students in the previous year level one year earlier. These rates are akin to transition rates. The above tables reference the ABS published rates capped to 100 per cent. Capped rates were first published in 2015.

Number of schools

18. Number of schools by sector, August 2020

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	2,157	1,537	1,241	510	799	191	152	88	6,675
Primary	1,608	1,130	913	352	540	125	65	57	4,790
Secondary	369	244	190	66	112	37	15	19	1,052
Combined	67	83	93	74	82	25	67	8	499
Special	113	80	45	18	65	4	5	4	334
Non-government	950	717	529	205	309	71	38	48	2,867
Primary	494	434	222	96	145	30	10	28	1,459
Secondary	140	96	77	20	30	5	7	6	381
Combined	254	160	186	81	119	31	20	13	864
Special	62	27	44	8	15	5	1	1	163
All sectors	3,107	2,254	1,770	715	1,108	262	190	136	9,542
Primary	2,102	1,564	1,135	448	685	155	75	85	6,249
Secondary	509	340	267	86	142	42	22	25	1,433
Combined	321	243	279	155	201	56	87	21	1,363
Special	175	107	89	26	80	9	6	5	497

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/2020>

Number of students

19. Government and non-government full-time students, August

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2016									
Govt	779,257	588,729	531,590	169,911	270,571	56,071	29,312	40,187	2,465,628
N-govt	413,402	342,315	263,225	93,926	136,991	24,199	11,632	27,338	1,313,028
All sectors	1,192,659	931,044	794,815	263,837	407,562	80,270	40,944	67,525	3,778,656
2017									
Govt	789,833	603,389	541,171	171,748	275,910	56,174	30,235	41,722	2,510,182
N-govt	417,232	347,815	265,384	92,989	136,695	24,283	11,171	27,494	1,323,063
All sectors	1,207,065	951,204	806,555	264,737	412,605	80,457	41,406	69,216	3,833,245
2018									
Govt	796,769	617,926	550,829	173,467	280,469	56,483	29,528	43,068	2,548,539
N-govt	420,443	351,893	267,734	94,130	137,159	24,239	10,917	27,723	1,334,238
All sectors	1,217,212	969,819	818,563	267,597	417,628	80,722	40,445	70,791	3,882,777
2019									
Govt	804,563	631,055	559,157	175,694	284,718	56,486	29,789	44,075	2,585,537
N-govt	425,849	356,353	273,552	95,076	138,378	24,608	10,705	28,134	1,352,655
All sectors	1,230,412	987,408	832,709	270,770	423,096	81,094	40,494	72,209	3,938,192
2020									
Govt	808,949	641,462	572,115	175,580	289,775	56,480	30,218	45,371	2,619,950
N-govt	431,012	361,682	283,741	96,465	139,675	24,979	10,384	28,573	1,376,511
All sectors	1,239,961	1,003,144	855,856	272,045	429,450	81,459	40,602	73,944	3,996,461

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/2020>

20. Full-time students in government sector, August (per cent)

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2016	65.3	63.2	66.9	64.4	66.4	69.9	71.6		