



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 2025				
Primary	1,147	390	33	1,570
Primary–Secondary	80	14	155	249
Secondary	258	84	18	360
Special	85	5	27	117
Language	5	0	0	5
Total	1,575	493	233	2,301
Number (FTE) of students by year level, February 2025				
Preparatory	51,723.7	16,058.8	9,870.2	77,652.7
Year 1	53,102.6	15,828.0	9,757.9	78,688.5
Year 2	54,810.4	16,004.3	9,882.3	80,697.0
Year 3	55,769.5	16,205.6	10,145.0	82,120.1
Year 4	55,994.7	16,338.8	10,337.7	82,671.2
Year 5	55,381.3	16,022.6	11,656.2	83,060.1
Year 6	54,957.0	15,965.0	11,599.0	82,521.0
Ungraded	67.4	0.0	0.0	67.4
Primary total	381,806.6	112,423.1	73,248.3	567,478.0
Year 7	45,711.3	19,461.0	18,307.8	83,480.1
Year 8	44,508.5	18,691.7	17,565.4	80,765.6
Year 9	45,542.6	17,774.3	17,026.7	80,343.6
Year 10	46,105.6	17,346.1	16,738.6	80,190.3
Year 11	45,653.0	16,158.8	15,965.3	77,777.1
Year 12	39,180.8	15,135.8	15,363.7	69,680.3
Ungraded	63.0	0.0	77.0	140.0
Secondary total	266,764.8	104,567.7	101,044.5	472,377.0
Special	14,891.3	1,705.0	3,999.1	20,595.4
Language	2,450.0	0.0	0.0	2,450.0
Total	665,912.7	218,695.8	178,291.9	1,062,900.4

Source: DE *February School Census*

Please note that published school counts (i.e. Census schools) include schools that only deliver full-time day primary or secondary education as their main activity. Entities such as camps, hospital schools and alternative education settings are not included in published school counts as they mainly cater for transient students who have a base (or “home”) school.

NB: Figures on student FTE include all changes from the 2025 enrolment data verification process.

Number (FTE) of teaching staff (including principals) in government schools on pay by school type, as at end of the March quarter					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Primary	24,113.7	24,170.3	24,563.7	25,319.8	25,740.5
Secondary	17,613.4	17,630.0	18,237.9	18,709.5	19,182.8
Special/P–12/ Lang/Other	7,860.1	7,974.5	8,075.4	8,310.6	8,649.8
Total	49,587.2	49,907.8	50,877.0	52,339.9	53,573.1

Source: DE *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
2021	1,553	382,674.9	250,460.5	13,473.0	1,436.0	648,044.4
2022	1,557	378,809.6	251,299.9	13,670.1	1,644.0	645,423.6
2023	1,566	382,025.5	256,138.4	13,942.6	1,870.0	653,976.5
2024	1,570	383,950.2	260,861.7	14,362.8	2,152.0	661,326.7
2025	1,575	381,806.6	266,764.8	14,891.3	2,450.0	665,912.7

Source: DE *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	Year 7–10	Year 11–12	All Students
2021	336,584.2	311,460.2	51.6%	52.2%	49.8%	51.9%
2022	335,339.2	309,994.7	51.6%	52.2%	49.7%	52.0%
2023	340,211.1	312,941.9	51.6%	52.3%	49.9%	52.0%
2024	344,360.6	315,757.3	51.6%	52.3%	50.4%	52.1%
2025	346,843.3	317,938.2	51.6%	52.2%	50.6%	52.1%

Source: DE *February School Census*

NB: Year 7–10 includes secondary ungraded students.

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

Year	Total in schools	% of total student cohort
2022	162,023	25.1
2023	177,125	27.0
2024	182,866	27.6

Source: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with disabilities

As of 2022, the department has adopted the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with disability as the measure for students with disability in this brochure, replacing students receiving funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities. This new measure includes all students receiving a reasonable adjustment in response to a disability, as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

5. Number (FTE) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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	%
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
2021	9,353.1	2.4	4,611.4	2.6	1,264.9	1.8	769.1	5.6	15,998.5	2.5
2022	9,614.9	2.5	4,843.7	2.7	1,322.2	1.8	783.0	5.7	16,563.8	2.6
2023	10,138.4	2.6	5,064.8	2.8	1,490.7	2.0	819.1	5.8	17,513.0	2.7
2024	10,716.8	2.8	5,256.9	2.9	1,614.1	2.1	887.0	6.1	18,474.8	2.8

Source: DE *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	
2020	70,753	147,988	218,741	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi
2021	72,179	149,958	222,137	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi
2022	74,017	155,973	229,990	Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Punjabi
2023	77,136	167,208	244,344	Mandarin, Punjabi, Arabic, Vietnamese
2024	78,194	178,318	256,512	Mandarin, Punjabi, Arabic, Vietnamese

Source: DE *August School Census*

nfd indicates ‘not further defined’

7. International students (fee paying) in government schools

Year	At June 30 th	Main countries of origin
2021	3,860	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia
2022	2,928	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia
2023	4,060	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Hong Kong
2024	5,858	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka
2025	6,473	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka

Source: DE International Education Division VISIT database

NB: Enrolment figures include all primary and secondary visa holders defined as fee paying international students under *Ministerial Order 819 - Fees for Overseas Students in Government Schools*. Secondary visa holders include dependent children of temporary residents or international students studying in Victorian vocational education, training, and tertiary institutions.

8. VET in schools programs – certificate enrolments

Year	Government schools	Non-government schools	Total certificate enrolments
2020	36,647	26,257	62,904
2021	39,051	27,454	66,505
2022	38,990	28,863	67,853
2023	40,124	30,569	70,693
2024	49,169	31,339	80,508

Source: VCAA

NB: Excludes students whose home enrolment is a non-school setting. Students may enrol in more than one VET certificate. The introduction of the VCE Vocational Major (VM) in 2024 has led to a significant increase from 2023 to 2024. VET is a critical component of VCE VM.

9. Enrolment (FTE) share by enrolment type and sector, February (per cent)

Year	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	Gov	Non-Gov	Gov	Non-Gov	Gov	Non-Gov
2021	68.6	31.4	57.1	42.9	63.9	36.1
2022	68.2	31.8	56.9	43.1	63.6	36.4
2023	68.0	32.0	56.8	43.2	63.4	36.6
2024	67.7	32.3	56.5	43.5	63.0	37.0
2025	67.3	32.7	56.5	43.5	62.7	37.3

Source: DE *February School Census*.

NB: Special and Language enrolments are included in the “Total” column but excluded for “Primary” and “Secondary”.

Transition rates

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

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Year 9–10	99.6	99.5	101.8	102.4	102.3
Year 10–11	97.3	96.3	98.7	98.7	99.7
Year 11–12	86.7	84.6	84.3	85.3	87.2

Source: DE *February School Census*

NB: Transition rates are expressed as a percentage of a school education year level that progresses to the next year level. That is, the number (FTE) of students in a particular year level expressed as a percentage of the cohort of students in the previous year level one year earlier.

Transition rates that are greater than 100% generally occur when there has been a surge in enrolments for a particular year level in a calendar year that supersedes the year level numbers of the previous year level in the previous calendar year.

Size of classes

11. Class sizes in government schools, February

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Primary classes					
Average class size – All classes	22.0	21.8	22.0	21.8	21.6
Average class size – Prep	19.2	18.9	18.9	18.5	18.4
Average class size – Prep–2	20.4	20.3	20.4	20.2	19.9
Average class size – Years 3–6	23.2	23.1	23.2	23.1	22.9

Secondary English classes

Average class size – All classes	21.4	21.2	21.4	21.3	21.5
Average class size – Year 12	19.2	18.9	18.8	19.3	19.7

Source: DE *February School Census*

A class is a group of students timetabled together. Classes are often staffed by multiple teachers or education support staff - data should be read in conjunction with Student-to-teacher ratio data (Table 21). Students are counted in the class group in which they spend most of the school week. In the case of composite classes, all the students that are in a composite class (regardless of which year level) are included in the calculation of the average class size for the respective year levels. Secondary classes are typically based on the size of English classes where applicable. Special and language schools are excluded from class size calculations.

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

Regional summary – government schools

12. Schools, students and class sizes by region, February

Region	2025 February		2024 Feb		2025 Feb	
	Schools	Students (FTE)	Average Primary Class Size			
			P-2	All Prim	P-2	All Prim
North-Eastern Victoria	371	142,106.0	20.2	21.9	19.8	21.7
North-Western Victoria	352	144,862.9	19.8	21.4	19.8	21.4
South-Eastern Victoria	416	189,692.0	20.3	21.9	20.0	21.7
South-Western Victoria	436	189,251.8	20.3	22.0	19.9	21.6
Total	1,575	665,912.7	20.2	21.8	19.9	21.6

Source: DE *February School Census*

Home schooling

13. Children and households registered, as at June 30th

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Children	6,405	6,836	11,332	10,481	11,240
Households	4,044	4,384	7,291	6,998	7,716

Source: VRQA Annual Reports and <https://www2.vrqa.vic.gov.au/home-schooling-trends-and-statistics>

Interstate comparisons including some key indicators

Apparent retention rates

14. Year 10–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students									
Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2020	73.3	78.1	78.5	85.1	84.2	79.5	73.5	103.4	78.2
2021	71.5	78.2	77.5	82.6	83.6	79.9	68.9	101.5	77.2
2022	66.5	76.2	74.4	80.8	78.4	76.1	59.9	98.0	73.5
2023	66.3	75.9	74.0	78.1	78.0	71.8	59.9	97.6	73.0
2024	67.3	78.1	74.0	78.4	81.5	72.2	61.6	95.5	74.3
Male	63.2	74.4	71.0	74.7	77.6	66.6	55.0	88.4	70.4
Female	71.8	82.1	77.3	82.4	85.8	78.2	68.0	100.0	78.4
All sectors									
2020	77.5	83.9	83.7	88.6	85.8	73.9	70.4	90.1	82.1
2021	76.3	83.9	83.2	87.1	85.6	74.5	67.5	89.7	81.6
2022	73.2	82.1	81.0	86.0	82.0	71.7	62.6	87.8	79.0
2023	73.0	81.9	80.7	85.0	82.0	69.0	61.8	87.7	78.7
2024	73.8	84.0	81.2	85.3	83.7	69.7	63.9	87.6	79.9
Male	70.0	80.3	78.7	81.5	80.6	64.5	58.0	84.5	76.4
Female	77.8	87.7	83.9	89.2	87.0	75.2	69.8	91.1	83.5

15. Year 7–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students									
Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2020	75.7	85.1	80.4	90.8	82.8	82.5	65.4	100.0	81.4
2021	73.5	84.7	79.3	87.6	81.7	82.0	65.1	100.0	80.0
2022	70.5	80.9	74.8	83.7	76.7	77.2	56.2	100.0	76.0
2023	68.3	78.0	73.0	78.4	75.2	71.1	55.3	100.0	73.6
2024	68.4	79.5	72.3	80.0	77.1	70.8	55.6	99.1	74.1
Male	65.8	75.5	68.6	75.8	74.8	65.7	48.4	91.7	70.7
Female	71.1	83.9	76.3	84.5	79.6	76.3	63.0	100.0	77.8
All sectors									
2020	78.4	87.6	85.3	92.7	83.9	74.9	57.8	91.9	83.6
2021	77.1	87.5	85.3	91.1	83.6	75.7	56.8	90.9	83.1
2022	75.5	84.5	82.2	88.3	80.5	72.3	54.2	87.9	80.5
2023	74.2	82.6	80.9	86.3	80.0	68.7	51.7	89.2	79.1
2024	74.5	84.4	80.8	87.5	82.0	68.7	55.1	87.8	79.9
Male	71.2	80.6	77.8	83.2	79.0	63.5	49.4	85.2	76.5
Female	77.8	88.4	83.9	91.7	85.1	74.2	60.9	90.7	83.5

Source: ABS *Schools Australia*
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>
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. DE calculates its retention rate on an FTE basis. Note that apparent retention rates calculated for February are generally higher than for August as some 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

16. Government, August (per cent) full-time students										
Range	Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust.
Year 7-8	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.5	99.9	96.8	100.0	100.0
	2021	98.7	99.7	99.8	97.9	98.5	99.4	96.0	100.0	99.1
	2022	99.3	100.0	99.7	98.2	98.3	99.2	95.6	99.3	99.4
	2023	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	94.3	100.0	100.0
	2024	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	97.2	98.7	100.0
Year 8-9	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.7	99.9	96.4	100.0	100.0
	2021	98.9	100.0	99.2	99.5	98.7	98.2	97.5	100.0	99.4
	2022	99.6	100.0	98.9	100.0	98.8	98.6	94.7	100.0	99.6
	2023	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	98.1	94.3	100.0	100.0
	2024	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	97.4	97.1	100.0	100.0
Year 9-10	2020	100.0	100.0	99.4	100.0	98.5	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2021	98.4	99.2	97.8	99.8	97.5	98.6	99.7	100.0	98.5
	2022	98.9	100.0	97.8	100.0	96.3	100.0	95.8	100.0	99.0
	2023	99.6	100.0	97.6	100.0	98.0	98.4	96.5	100.0	99.8
	2024	100.0	100.0	98.0	100.0	98.6	98.8	98.0	100.0	100.0
Year 10-11	2020	89.1	91.7	89.2	100.0	99.7	99.6	96.1	100.0	92.8
	2021	82.9	92.1	87.0	100.0	93.2	95.7	91.5	100.0	89.4
	2022	81.4	90.8	86.8	100.0	91.2	93.5	84.6	100.0	88.2
	2023	81.0	92.3	85.3	100.0	93.7	91.4	87.8	100.0	88.3
	2024	82.3	92.5	86.7	100.0	96.0	90.4	95.7	100.0	89.6
Year 11-12	2020	84.6	85.1	86.5	77.7	85.6	84.1	73.5	86.2	84.5
	2021	80.3	85.2	86.9	78.8	83.8	80.2	71.7	85.0	83.2
	2022	80.2	82.8	85.5	77.7	84.1	79.6	65.5	86.1	82.2
	2023	81.5	83.5	85.2	76.3	85.6	76.8	70.8	86.1	82.7
	2024	83.1	84.7	86.8	77.8	87.0	79.0	70.1	83.9	84.1

Source: ABS *Schools Australia*
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

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

17. Number of schools by sector, August 2024									
Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	2,156	1,568	1,252	508	813	189	150	91	6,727
Primary	1,604	1,142	918	348	549	124	61	58	4,804
Secondary	373	255	193	68	113	36	16	20	1,074
Combined	65	87	92	74	86	25	68	9	506
Special	114	84	49	18	65	4	5	4	343
Non-government	976	724	546	206	312	72	43	47	2,926
Primary	487	425	228	88	137	29	10	26	1,430
Secondary	140	94	83	17	30	5	8	6	383
Combined	277	168	189	91	128	34	24	14	925
Special	72	37	46	10	17	4	1	1	188
All sectors	3,132	2,292	1,798	714	1,125	261	193	138	9,653
Primary	2,091	1,567	1,146	436	686	153	71	84	6,234
Secondary	513	349	276	85	143	41	24	26	1,457
Combined	342	255	281	165	214	59	92	23	1,431
Special	186	121	95	28	82	8	6	5	531

Source: ABS *Schools Australia*
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

Number of students

18. Government and Non-government full-time students, August									
Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2020									
Govt	808,949	641,462	572,115	175,580	289,775	56,480	30,218	45,371	2,619,950
Non-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
2021									
Govt	800,986	642,488	573,031	172,883	292,335	55,468	29,918	45,939	2,613,048
N-govt	440,849	365,167	291,915	99,843	143,667	25,640	10,453	29,157	1,406,691
All sectors	1,241,835	1,007,655	864,946	272,726	436,002	81,108	40,371	75,096	4,019,739
2022									
Govt	789,664	642,777	569,353	171,514	292,710	54,892	29,246	46,074	2,596,230
N-govt	450,615	369,495	299,027	102,902	146,996	26,080	10,649	29,634	1,435,398
All sectors	1,240,279	1,012,272	868,380	274,416	439,706	80,972	39,895	75,708	4,031,628
2023									
Govt	784,690	653,791	568,050	171,027	298,147	53,842	28,876	45,987	2,604,410
N-govt	462,491	378,357	307,182	104,817	151,052	26,660	10,710	30,452	1,471,721
All sectors	1,247,181	1,032,148	875,232	275,844	449,199	80,502	39,586	76,439	4,076,131
2024									
Govt	779,228	660,261	565,818	174,017	303,050	52,749	28,600	45,713	2,609,436
N-govt	474,744	388,263	315,130	107,928	155,978	27,182	11,125	31,011	1,511,361
All sectors	1,253,97	1,048,524	880,948	281,945	459,028	79,931	39,725	76,724	4,120,797

Source: ABS *Schools Australia*
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

* Difference reflects the percentage point difference between the 2024 and 2023 rate.

Number of teachers

20. Number (FTE) of teachers in government sector, August									
Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2020	54,501.7	48,411.6	42,895.5	12,876.6	20,114.8	4,266.5	2,572.1	3,430.6	189,069.4
2021	56,005.1	50,340.1	42,990.3	12,826.1	20,718.4	4,314.5	2,535.3	3,456.6	193,186.4
2022	55,877.1	50,960.9	43,134.5	12,844.0	20,699.7	4,337.3	2,576.1	3,502.0	193,931.6
2023	55,605.7	52,143.4	43,133.2	12,863.5	20,939.4	4,279.0	2,489.6	3,495.5	194,949.3
2024	57,737.5	53,564.6	43,504.5	13,052.5	21,286.0	4,387.9	2,547.1	3,543.3	199,623.4

Source: ABS *Schools Australia*
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

NB: The ABS has specific definitions for counting teachers. This excludes teachers not in schools or ancillary education establishments, those on more than four weeks leave and casual relief teachers. The above data is used in the calculation of student–teacher ratios.

The ABS reissued 2022 Victorian government school staff FTE data due to an undercount of 401.1 FTE.

Student - teacher ratios

21. Student–teacher ratios in government schools, August										
<i>School Level</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Primary	2020	16.0	14.1	14.3	14.5	15.6	13.9	11.8	13.9	14.8
	2021	15.2	13.5	14.4	14.5	15.3	13.7	11.8	13.4	14.4
	2022	15.0	13.5	14.2	13.8	15.3	13.4	11.4	13.6	14.3
	2023	14.9	13.4	14.2	13.7	15.4	13.3	11.8	13.5	14.2
	2024	14.1	13.0	14.1	13.6	15.4	12.7	11.3	13.0	13.8
Secondary	2020	13.4	12.2	12.1	12.5	12.8	12.5	11.8	12.4	12.6
	2021	13.2	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.6	12.0	11.9	13.3	12.4
	2022	13.0	11.6	12.1	12.9	12.6	12.0	11.4	12.7	12.3
	2023	13.2	11.5	12.0	12.9	12.7	11.8	11.4	12.8	12.3
	2024	12.7	11.5	11.8	13.0	12.8	11.4	11.3	12.9	12.2