



SUMMARY STATISTICS for Victorian Schools 2023  
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 2023				
Primary	1,146	396	34	1,576
Primary–Secondary	79	13	153	245
Secondary	254	85	14	353
Special	83	5	24	112
Language	4	0	0	4
Total	1,566	499	225	2,290
Number (FTE) of students by year level, February 2023				
Preparatory	53,960.0	15,565.9	9,250.7	78,776.6
Year 1	54,803.5	15,827.2	9,343.5	79,974.2
Year 2	55,271.8	16,031.3	9,220.0	80,523.1
Year 3	55,367.1	15,876.0	9,598.9	80,842.0
Year 4	54,785.8	16,060.0	9,672.0	80,517.8
Year 5	54,883.4	16,028.1	10,758.4	81,669.9
Year 6	52,875.9	15,575.0	10,679.7	79,130.6
Ungraded	78.0	0.0	0.0	78.0
Primary total	382,025.5	110,963.5	68,523.2	561,512.2
Year 7	43,573.3	18,059.0	16,831.6	78,463.9
Year 8	44,195.7	18,110.4	16,370.3	78,676.4
Year 9	44,698.3	17,544.4	15,802.5	78,045.2
Year 10	45,527.2	17,261.2	15,917.6	78,706.0
Year 11	43,361.7	16,059.6	15,115.1	74,536.4
Year 12	34,700.2	14,281.7	13,656.2	62,638.1
Ungraded	82.0	0.0	0.0	82.0
Secondary total	256,138.4	101,316.3	93,693.3	451,148.0
Special	13,942.6	898.0	2,809.2	17,649.8
Language	1,870.0	0.0	0.0	1,870.0
Total	653,976.5	213,177.8	165,025.7	1,032,180.0

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Figures on student FTE include all changes from the 2023 enrolment data verification process.

Number (FTE) of teaching staff (including principals) in government schools on pay by school type, as at end of quarter					
	December 2022	March 2023	June 2023	September 2023	December 2023
Primary	23,776.8	24,563.7	24,463.8	24,538.9	24,419.5
Secondary	17,548.5	18,237.9	18,145.3	18,167.1	18,138.1
Special/P–12/ Lang/Other	7,917.4	8,075.4	8,079.8	8,075.5	8,095.0
Total	49,242.7	50,877.0	50,688.9	50,781.5	50,652.6

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
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
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

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
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%
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%

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

Source: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with disabilities, 2022

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 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	%
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
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

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				
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			
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			

Source: DE August School Census

nfd indicates ‘not further defined’

7. International students (fee paying) in government schools

Year	At June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Main countries of origin
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
2022	2,928	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia
2023	4,060	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Hong Kong

Source: DE International Education Division VISIT database, July 2023

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
2019	36,440	26,028	62,468
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

Source: VCAA

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

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
2019	68.5	31.5	56.8	43.2	63.9	36.1
2020	68.7	31.3	57.1	42.9	64.0	36.0
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

Source: DE February School Census.

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

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
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
2022	82.3	90.1	85.6	88.0	88.8	88.3
2023	81.2	89.9	84.9	84.2	88.1	85.9
Male	76.5	86.8	80.7	79.1	84.3	81.3
Female	85.9	92.8	88.9	89.2	91.6	90.2

Source: DE February School Census.

NB: Years 10–12 and 7–12 apparent retention rates refer to Year 12 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments expressed as a proportion of the Year 10 (2 years earlier) and Year 7 (5 years earlier) FTE enrolments.

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

	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Year 9–10	103.2	102.5	99.6	99.5	101.8
Year 10–11	97.2	97.9	97.3	96.3	98.7
Year 11–12	85.4	86.7	86.7	84.6	84.3

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.

Size of classes

12. Class sizes in government schools, February

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary classes					
Average class size – All classes	22.2	22.2	22.0	21.8	22.0
Average class size – Prep	19.3	19.4	19.2	18.9	18.9
Average class size – Prep–2	20.7	20.8	20.4	20.3	20.4
Average class size – Years 3–6	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.1	23.2
Secondary English classes					
Average class size – All classes	21.3	21.3	21.4	21.2	21.4
Average class size – Year 12	18.9	19.2	19.2	18.9	18.8

Source: DE 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 2023				Feb 2022		Feb 2023	
	Schools	Students (FTE)	ARR		Average class size			
			10–12	7–12	P–2	All Prim	P–2	All Prim
North-Eastern Victoria	378	142,750.4	82.8%	83.4%	20.3	21.9	20.3	22.0
North-Western Victoria	350	143,827.6	86.8%	89.0%	20.2	21.6	20.2	21.7
South-Eastern Victoria	412	185,557.4	79.3%	85.6%	20.2	21.8	20.4	21.9
South-Western Victoria	426	181,841.1	77.5%	79.6%	20.2	21.8	20.5	22.1
Total	1,566	653,976.5	81.2%	84.2%	20.3	21.8	20.4	22.0

Source: DE February School Census

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									
2019	70.6	77.8	83.4	85.3	84.0	80.4	61.8	104.1	78.0
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
Male	62.0	71.7	70.3	72.8	74.1	65.8	56.4	88.7	68.7
Female	70.9	80.4	77.8	83.8	82.2	78.5	63.7	107.5	77.5
All sectors									
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
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
Male	68.9	77.8	77.7	80.2	78.8	64.5	57.3	83.8	74.9
Female	77.2	86.1	83.8	90.1	85.2	73.7	66.5	91.7	82.7

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

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
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
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	71.0	55.3	100.0	73.6
Male	65.1	73.4	68.7	73.4	71.4	65.1	52.4	93.0	69.5
Female	71.6	82.9	77.7	83.9	79.2	77.6	58.3	100.0	78.0
All sectors									
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
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
Male	70.4	78.2	77.3	81.4	76.7	64.0	47.8	86.6	75.2
Female	78.0	87.3	84.7	91.5	83.3	73.7	55.8	91.9	83.2

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 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

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

Range	Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust.
Year 7-8	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
	2021	99.5	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	97.4	99.8	99.9
	2022	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.1	95.0	99.1	99.9
	2023	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.5	99.7	100.0
Year 8-9	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	99.8	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
	2021	99.6	99.9	100.0	100.0	98.8	99.3	95.8	100.0	99.7
	2022	99.8	100.0	99.8	100.0	99.0	99.3	93.5	100.0	99.7
	2023	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.6	93.9	100.0	100.0
Year 9-10	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	99.0	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2021	99.1	99.4	99.0	100.0	98.4	99.3	94.9	100.0	99.2
	2022	99.3	100.0	98.8	100.0	98.5	99.4	93.6	100.0	99.5
	2023	99.8	100.0	99.1	100.0	98.8	99.2	93.6	100.0	100.0
Year 10-11	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
	2021	85.6	94.4	91.4	100.0	94.8	85.9	86.8	98.6	91.4
	2022	84.5	93.5	90.9	100.0	92.7	84.8	82.9	98.6	90.4
	2023	84.2	94.8	90.5	100.0	93.8	83.9	85.7	99.3	90.7
Year 11-12	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
	2021	85.4	88.9	89.6	84.4	87.4	84.5	74.8	88.6	87.3
	2022	85.5	87.0	88.6	83.8	86.5	83.5	72.1	89.0	86.4
	2023	86.4	87.6	88.8	83.6	88.4	81.3	74.6	88.9	87.1

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 2023

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	2,154	1,560	1,250	508	810	189	151	90	6,712
Primary	1,604	1,140	916	348	548	124	63	58	4,801
Secondary	371	252	194	68	113	36	15	19	1,068
Combined	65	86	94	74	84	25	68	9	505
Special	114	82	46	18	65	4	5	4	338
Non-government	971	723	547	204	310	72	43	47	2,917
Primary	485	431	229	86	138	29	11	27	1,436
Secondary	140	93	85	17	30	5	9	6	385
Combined	278	165	189	91	125	34	22	13	917
Special	68	34	44	10	17	4	1	1	179
All sectors	3,125	2,283	1,797	712	1,120	261	194	137	9,629
Primary	2,089	1,571	1,145	434	686	153	74	85	6,237
Secondary	511	345	279	85	143	41	24	25	1,453
Combined	343	251	283	165	209	59	90	22	1,422
Special	182	116	90	28	82	8	6	5	517

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
2019									
Govt	804,563	631,055	559,157	175,694	284,718	56,486	29,789	44,075	2,585,537
Non-govt	425,849	356,353	273,552	95,076	138,378	24,608	10,705	28,134	1,352,655
All	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
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

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

\* Difference reflects the percentage point difference between the 2023 and 2022 rate.

Number of teachers

20. Number (FTE) of teachers in government sector, August

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2019	51,808.1	46,840.1	41,945.8	12,791.7	19,572.1	4,153.5	2,520.2	3,327.6	182,959.1
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

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.

In 2020, the Victorian Department of Education and Training provided revised 2019 teaching staff FTE data.

The ABS also 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	2019	16.8	14.4	14.3	14.5	15.8	14.4	11.8	14.0	15.2
	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
Secondary	2019	13.9	12.3	12.1	12.7	12.8	12.7	11.9	12.3	12.8
	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