

## Overview

This chapter provides a statistical overview of education in Victoria, including details of the numbers of schools, teachers and students. Information relating to higher education, and Training and Further Education (TAFE) is also included. A feature article on Developments in Education, prepared by the Department of Education, Employment and Training, discusses both recent and future educational initiatives and directions. The feature article is located at the front of this publication, commencing on page 1.

In economic terms, the education industry sector contributed 5% to total factor income (formerly referred to as GSP at factor cost) in 1997–98, and Victoria held a 27% share of national education Gross Domestic Product.

## Schools and teachers

Preliminary data indicates that there were 2,319 primary and secondary schools in Victoria in 1999, 10 fewer than in 1998 (table 5.1). Government schools decreased by 13 while non-government schools increased by three. The total 1999 enrolment of students in all Victorian schools was 794,554 (0.9% increase over 1998), with 56% in primary and 44% in secondary schools (table 5.2).

Government schools constituted 70% of all schools in 1999, and had a student enrolment of 524,849 (an increase of 0.7% over the previous year), while non-government school enrolments increased 1.4% over the same period to 269,705 students. The proportion of students enrolled in non-government schools was higher at secondary level, with Year 12 (42%) the highest.

Catholic schools comprised 72% of the 688 non-government schools in Victoria. Accordingly, non-government school enrolments were highest in Catholic schools with 178,768 students (66%), followed by Anglican (25,568 or 9%) and other non-government (65,369 or 24%) schools.

Apparent retention rates are measures of the tendencies of students to remain in education from Year 7 to the senior years of secondary schooling. The apparent retention rate to Year 12 increased slowly to an average of 34% in 1982 then increased rapidly to 81% in 1992 and has since declined to 76% in 1999.

The number of teaching staff (expressed in full-time equivalent units) increased by 3.8% from 51,393 in 1998 to 53,365 in 1999. The average number of students per full-time teacher was 14.8 for non-government and 14.9 for government schools.

## 5.1 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHING STAFF(a)

Year	Government			Non-government			Total		
	Schools	Students	Teaching staff	Schools	Students	Teaching staff	Schools	Students	Teaching staff
1993	1 934	526 636	37 551	683	250 961	16 227	2 617	777 597	53 778
1994	1 731	520 328	34 635	679	252 866	16 661	2 410	773 194	51 295
1995	1 711	514 805	34 106	675	255 472	16 959	2 386	770 277	51 065
1996	1 700	517 062	34 045	679	259 393	17 295	2 379	776 455	51 340
1997	1 661	518 476	34 154	684	262 948	17 428	2 345	781 424	51 582
1998	1 644	521 413	33 762	685	265 987	17 631	2 329	787 400	51 393
1999p	1 631	524 849	35 156	688	269 705	18 209	2 319	794 554	53 365

(a) Number of full-time teaching staff plus full-time equivalents of part-time teaching staff.

Source: Schools, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 4220.0); Schools, Australia (Cat. no. 4221.0).

## 5.2 FULL-TIME STUDENTS, By Category of School and Year of Education—1999p

Year of education	Government schools	Non-government				All schools		
		Anglican	Catholic	Other	Total	Males	Females	Persons
Primary								
Preparatory	45 819	967	14 727	3 709	19 403	33 694	31 528	65 222
Year 1	45 452	913	15 149	3 609	19 671	33 242	31 881	65 123
Year 2	44 250	995	14 710	3 654	19 359	32 853	30 756	63 609
Year 3	44 808	1 038	15 040	3 612	19 690	33 023	31 475	64 498
Year 4	42 253	1 195	14 095	3 651	18 941	31 359	29 835	61 194
Year 5	43 252	1 374	14 211	4 059	19 644	32 019	30 877	62 896
Year 6	42 065	1 482	13 863	4 141	19 486	31 371	30 180	61 551
Ungraded	2 319	—	70	522	592	1 981	930	2 911
Total primary	310 218	7 964	101 865	26 957	136 786	229 542	217 462	447 004
Secondary								
Year 7	38 108	2 749	13 984	6 789	23 522	31 662	29 968	61 630
Year 8	38 237	2 767	13 886	6 475	23 128	31 359	30 006	61 365
Year 9	38 323	2 906	13 594	6 384	22 884	30 930	30 277	61 207
Year 10	36 665	3 134	13 079	6 281	22 494	29 651	29 508	59 159
Year 11	33 103	3 107	11 693	6 505	21 305	26 428	27 980	54 408
Year 12	26 924	2 941	10 567	5 733	19 241	21 110	25 055	46 165
Ungraded	3 271	—	100	245	345	2 259	1 357	3 616
Total secondary	214 631	17 604	76 903	38 412	132 919	173 399	174 151	347 550
<b>Total</b>	<b>524 849</b>	<b>25 568</b>	<b>178 768</b>	<b>65 369</b>	<b>269 705</b>	<b>402 941</b>	<b>391 613</b>	<b>794 554</b>

Source: Schools, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 4220.0).

## Higher education

There were 182,154 students attending a higher education institution (excluding TAFE) in 1998, a 2% increase over the previous year (table 5.3). This included 23,921 overseas students, or 13% of the total. The most popular fields of study were business administration and economics (28%); arts, humanities and social science (25%); and science (18%).

## 5.3 HIGHER EDUCATION (EXCLUDING TAFE)—1998

Field of study	Students no.
Agriculture, animal husbandry	2 138
Architecture, building	4 096
Arts, humanities, social science	45 895
Business administration, economics	51 804
Education	14 831
Engineering, surveying	17 089
Health	20 161
Law, legal studies	6 656
Science	34 061
Veterinary science	305
Non-award	1 079
<b>Total(a)(b)</b>	<b>182 154</b>

(a) Data take into account the coding of combined courses for two fields of study, meaning that the total number of students may be less than the sum of aggregated data. (b) Data do not include students attending Australian Catholic University in Victoria.

Source: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, 1998*.

In 1998, there were 17,335 FTE staff in Victorian universities, of which 53% were non-academic staff (table 5.4). Although the number of male and female staff were similar, the proportion of males in academic classifications, particularly at the higher level, was far greater—85% of persons classified as above senior lecturer were male, and 72% of senior lecturers were male.

## 5.4 STAFF IN HIGHER EDUCATION, Academic Classification—1998

Classification	Males	Females	Persons
	FTE	FTE	FTE
Above senior lecturer	1 288	227	1 516
Senior lecturer (Level C)	1 510	582	2 092
Lecturer (Level B)	1 659	1 201	2 860
Below lecturer (Level A)	750	946	1 695
Non academic classifications	3 604	5 568	9 172
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>8 811</b>	<b>8 524</b>	<b>17 335</b>

(a) Data do not include staff employed by Australian Catholic University in Victoria.

Source: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Selected Higher Education Staff Statistics, 1998*.

## TAFE

In 1998, a total of 429,100 students enrolled in a TAFE vocational course, resulting in a total of 541,900 enrolments. The total number of enrolments declined 0.4% from the previous year's figure of 544,100 (table 5.5).

Business administration, economics courses comprised the greatest proportion of enrolments (22%), followed by TAFE multi-field education (20%) and engineering, surveying (15%).

## 5.5 TAFE ENROLMENTS IN VOCATIONAL COURSES—1998

Field of study	Enrolments		Students(a)	
	'000	%	'000	%
Land & marine resources, animal husbandry	25.6	4.7	22.6	5.3
Architecture, building	30.2	5.6	27.3	6.4
Arts, humanities & social sciences	33.7	6.2	29.4	6.9
Business administration, economics	116.5	21.5	99.4	23.2
Education	7.0	1.3	6.5	1.5
Engineering, surveying	81.2	15.0	71.9	16.8
Health, community services	37.8	7.0	35.5	8.3
Law, legal studies	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3
Science	23.0	4.2	20.0	4.7
Veterinary science, animal care	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.2
Services, hospitality, transportation	73.8	13.6	65.7	15.3
TAFE multi-field education	110.8	20.4	87.0	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>541.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>429.1</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Students may enrol in more than one field and stream of study. As a result, the number of enrolments may exceed the number of students, and the total number of students may be less than the sum of aggregated data. Because of this, the proportion of students enrolled by field of study may also exceed 100%.

### Participation in education

Although Victorians must attend school until the age of 15, table 5.6 shows that a large number of people participate in education beyond this age. In September 1998, a total of 182,700 persons were attending school, and 178,000 persons were attending a tertiary institution in the 15–24 years age group. This represented a participation rate of 27.8% and 27.1% respectively.

Between September 1997 and September 1998, there was a 2% increase in the number of 15–24 years not attending an educational institution, from 290,300 to 296,200 persons.

## 5.6 PERSONS AGED 15–24 IN EDUCATION

Age	September 1997			September 1998		
	School	Tertiary	Not attending	School	Tertiary	Not attending
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
15	59.7	*1.3	*1.2	58.9	*0.6	*3.1
16	57.1	*1.3	*4.7	52.6	*2.0	8.1
17	47.6	6.7	8.2	47.6	4.8	11.4
18	18.0	24.4	20.8	21.5	21.6	20.5
19	*1.6	35.1	28.0	*1.5	38.5	25.0
20	*0.3	33.0	32.3	*0.6	32.1	33.4
21	*0.0	26.5	39.6	*0.0	26.0	40.6
22	*0.3	18.5	48.3	*0.0	19.8	47.7
23	*0.0	18.1	52.0	*0.0	17.2	51.4
24	*0.0	16.5	55.4	*0.0	15.5	54.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>184.7</b>	<b>181.4</b>	<b>290.3</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>178.0</b>	<b>296.2</b>

Source: *Participation in Education* (Cat. no. 6272.0).

The data presented in table 5.7 shows the number of persons aged 15–24 years in tertiary education by the type of school they last attended. Persons who were studying at a TAFE college were far more likely to have last attended a government school (74%) than a non-government school. However, persons who last attended a government school were currently attending higher education institutions in greater numbers than TAFE colleges (48,500 compared to 36,200).

**5.7 PERSONS AGED 15–24 IN TERTIARY EDUCATION(a), Level of Course and Type of School Last Attended—September 1998**

	Government	Catholic	Other non-government	Total
Level	'000	'000	'000	'000
Higher education(b)	48.5	30.9	33.7	113.0
TAFE(b)	36.2	7.7	5.3	49.2
Other(c)	5.4	*0.8	*1.1	7.3
<b>Total all institutions</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>169.5</b>

(a) Persons attending a tertiary institution to gain a recognised educational qualification. Excludes persons attending courses of the equivalent of less than one semester's full-time study, and persons whose course of study would not lead to an educational qualification. (b) Includes a small number of persons who were attending a level of course not separately shown for that type of institution. (c) Includes business colleges, industry skills centres and other educational institutions.

Source: *Participation in Education* (Cat. no. 6272.0).

## References

### ABS sources

*Schools, Australia* (Cat. no. 4221.0)

*Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat no. 5220.0)

*Participation in Education, Australia* (Cat. no. 6272.0)

### Non-ABS sources

Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Selected Higher Education Staff Statistics, 1998*.

Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, 1998*.

National Centre for Vocational Educational Research Ltd for the Australian National Training Authority, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 1998*.

