

## Introduction

This chapter provides a statistical overview of education in Victoria, including primary and secondary school education, Vocational Education and Training, higher education, and adult and community education. Also included is information on the educational characteristics of the Victorian population.

The data presented in this chapter has been provided by a number of organisations including the Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA), the Victorian Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET), the National Centre for Vocational and Education Research (NCVER) and the Victorian Board of Studies.

In Victoria, school education consists of primary schooling, from a Preparatory Year to Year 6, and secondary schooling encompassing Years 7–12, with the final two years falling outside of the compulsory stage of education.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs are those training programs designed to equip students with vocational skills and knowledge that prepare them for the workplace. These programs are available through Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Institutes, and to a lesser extent, through institutes of technology, some higher education institutions, agricultural colleges, adult and community education authorities, private providers and employers.

Higher education refers to studies for bachelor degrees, postgraduate degrees and other awards provided by universities and authorised providers.

Adult and Community Education (ACE) refers to the provision of general adult education programs outside of the formal programs and qualifications pathways provided by school, VET and higher education. ACE is concerned with the provision of learning opportunities at the community level, rather than work-related training.

## School education

In 1999, there were 2,319 primary and secondary schools in Victoria, 10 fewer than in 1998 (table 7.1). The number of government schools decreased by 13, while the number of non-government schools increased by three.

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 number of teaching staff (expressed in full-time equivalent units) increased by 3.8% from 51,393 in 1998 to 53,359 in 1999. The average number of students per full-time teacher was 14.8 for non-government and 14.9 for government schools in 1999. This ratio has remained close to 15 to 1 during the last six years.

**7.1 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHING STAFF(a)**

	Government			Non-government			Total		
	Schools	Students	Teaching staff	Schools	Students	Teaching staff	Schools	Students	Teaching staff
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
1999	1 631	524 849	35 156	688	269 705	18 203	2 319	794 554	53 359

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

Source: Schools, Australia (Cat. no. 4221.0).

The total 1999 enrolment of students in all Victorian schools was 794,554 (0.9% increase over 1998), with 56% of students attending primary schools and 44% attending secondary schools (table 7.2). Males represented 51% of total students in primary schools in 1999, and 46% of Year 12 secondary school students.

Catholic schools comprised 71% of the 688 non-government schools in Victoria. Accordingly, non-government school enrolments were highest in Catholic schools with 178,751 students.

**7.2 FULL-TIME STUDENTS, By Category of School and Year of Education — 1999**

	Government schools	Non-government				All schools		
		Anglican	Catholic	Other	Total	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Primary</b>								
Preparatory	45 819	946	14 725	3 747	19 418	33 703	31 534	65 237
Year 1	45 452	900	15 146	3 622	19 668	33 240	31 880	65 120
Year 2	44 250	969	14 706	3 680	19 355	32 849	30 756	63 605
Year 3	44 808	1 017	15 039	3 633	19 689	33 022	31 475	64 497
Year 4	42 253	1 156	14 094	3 690	18 940	31 358	29 835	61 193
Year 5	43 252	1 354	14 209	4 079	19 642	32 018	30 876	62 894
Year 6	42 065	1 446	13 860	4 177	19 483	31 369	30 179	61 548
Ungraded	2 319	—	70	522	592	1 981	930	2 911
<b>Total primary</b>	<b>310 218</b>	<b>7 788</b>	<b>101 849</b>	<b>27 150</b>	<b>136 787</b>	<b>229 540</b>	<b>217 465</b>	<b>447 005</b>
<b>Secondary</b>								
Year 7	38 108	2 674	13 984	6 864	23 522	31 662	29 968	61 630
Year 8	38 237	2 695	13 886	6 547	23 128	31 359	30 006	61 365
Year 9	38 323	2 840	13 592	6 450	22 882	30 930	30 275	61 205
Year 10	36 665	3 069	13 080	6 346	22 495	29 651	29 509	59 160
Year 11	33 103	3 010	11 693	6 602	21 305	26 428	27 980	54 408
Year 12	26 924	2 875	10 567	5 799	19 241	21 110	25 055	46 165
Ungraded	3 271	—	100	245	345	2 259	1 357	3 616
<b>Total secondary</b>	<b>214 631</b>	<b>17 163</b>	<b>76 902</b>	<b>38 853</b>	<b>132 918</b>	<b>173 399</b>	<b>174 150</b>	<b>347 549</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>524 849</b>	<b>24 951</b>	<b>178 751</b>	<b>66 003</b>	<b>269 705</b>	<b>402 939</b>	<b>391 615</b>	<b>794 554</b>

Source: Schools, Australia (Cat. no. 4221.0).

### Post-compulsory secondary schooling

The senior secondary years provide a link between school education, further education and work. A study of apparent retention rates for Year 7–12 indicates that most Victorian school students continue on to the senior secondary years of school. In February 2000, the apparent retention rate from Year 7 to Year 12 was 81.7%, with the retention rate for females (90.2%) being higher than that for males (73.7%).

In Victoria, the senior years of secondary school involve study toward the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), which is based on the key learning areas for school education (table 7.3). In recent years, senior secondary students have also been provided with the opportunity to participate in the VET in Schools program. This program enables students to complete a TAFE qualification in conjunction with the VCE or receive credit for their TAFE studies if they choose to complete the TAFE qualification later.

Society and the Environment, and Mathematics were the most popular non-compulsory fields of study undertaken by Year 12 students during 2000. There is variation in the types of courses undertaken by males and females, with a greater proportion of the enrolments being undertaken by females in all of the key learning areas, apart from Mathematics and Technology.

**7.3 YEAR 12 ENROLMENTS, By Sex — 2000(a)**

Key learning area	Males		Females		Persons
	no.	%	no.	%	
Arts	10 907	42.1	15 004	57.9	25 911
English	23 938	44.1	30 295	55.9	54 233
Health and Physical Recreation	6 321	35.5	11 472	64.5	17 793
Languages other than English	3 140	35.9	5 613	64.1	8 753
Mathematics	22 230	53.1	19 609	46.9	41 839
Science	15 738	38.9	24 684	61.1	40 422
Society and the Environment	22 577	47.7	24 706	52.3	47 283
Technology	19 560	60.8	12 623	39.2	32 183

(a) Enrolments are not equal to the number of students. Students may enrol in more than one field of study.

Source: Victorian Board of Studies.

### Vocational Education and Training

VET programs are available to students in secondary schools through the VET in Schools program. Enrolments in the program have grown rapidly since its inception in 1994 (table 7.4). During 2000 there were 21,027 student enrolments, a 36% increase on the number of enrolments in 1999.

In 2000, the more popular programs undertaken by students were hospitality (4,355), information technology (4,147), and business (1,854).

**7.4 VET IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM, All Schools**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of programs	5	11	17	23	25	28
Student enrolments	2 035	4 188	10 151	12 800	15 494	21 027
Schools offering VET	108	113	326	375	405	432

Source: Victorian Department of Education, Employment and Training.

In 1999, there were 20 institutes of TAFE and other government providers, at 252 locations delivering VET in Victoria. A further 923 community education providers and 580 private providers, delivering VET, were at least partly funded by government.

In 1999, over 476,000 VET clients were undertaking training in publicly funded programs (table 7.5), an 11% increase on 1998 (429,100). A greater number of the clients for the younger age groups were male, while a greater number of clients in the older age groups (40+) were female.

#### 7.5 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CLIENTS — 1999

	Males	Females	Persons(a)
Age group (years)	'000	'000	'000
19 and under	46.8	33.1	80.0
20–24	44.6	32.0	76.9
25–29	31.3	26.2	57.7
30–39	50.6	46.6	97.4
40–49	37.1	42.5	79.8
50–59	18.0	19.7	37.8
60 and over	6.9	8.2	15.2
Not stated	13.7	15.6	31.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>249.1</b>	<b>223.9</b>	<b>476.3</b>

(a) Includes sex not stated.

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

In 1999 there were 481,400 VET course enrolments (table 7.6), an 11% decrease on 1998 enrolments (541,900). In 1999, the most popular fields of VET study were business, administration and economics; and services, hospitality and transportation. Only enrolments in the services, hospitality, transportation field showed a significant increase over 1998 (26%).

#### 7.6 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSE ENROLMENTS — 1999

	Males	Females	Persons(a)
Field of study	'000	'000	'000
Land and marine resources, animal husbandry	20.6	6.2	26.8
Architecture, building	27.2	2.8	30.0
Art, humanities and social sciences	9.8	15.5	25.4
Business, administration, economics	45.7	59.2	107.3
Education	3.5	3.0	6.6
Engineering, surveying	68.2	13.2	81.5
Health, community services	10.9	21.4	32.8
Law, legal studies	0.5	1.1	1.6
Science	6.1	5.5	11.5
Veterinary science, animal care	0.1	0.7	0.8
Services, hospitality, transportation	52.1	40.7	93.1
TAFE multi-field education	30.4	33.5	64.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>275.1</b>	<b>202.8</b>	<b>481.4</b>

(a) Includes sex not stated.

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

## Apprentices and trainees

Almost half of all apprentices and trainees in training at 31 December 1999 were trades and trades related workers, with the majority of these involved in the broad areas of construction (12.2%), automotive (7.5%), and food (6.9%) (table 7.7). A further 18.3% of apprentices and trainees were intermediate clerical and service workers.

Overall, a greater proportion of apprentices/trainees were males (67%). Hairdressing was the only trades and related group in which there was a greater proportion of females than males (90%). Higher proportions of female than male apprentices/trainees were also reported in the broad occupational groups of intermediate and elementary clerical and service workers, and professionals.

**7.7 APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES, In Training at 31 December 1999**

	Males	Females	Persons	Percentage of total
	'000	'000	'000	%
Managers and administrators	876	245	1 121	1.5
Professionals	232	816	1 048	1.4
Associate professionals	500	367	867	1.2
Tradespersons and related workers				
Mechanical and fabrication engineering	4 350	124	4 474	5.9
Automotive	5 629	71	5 700	7.5
Electrical and electronics	3 538	(a)	3 576	4.7
Construction	9 152	84	9 236	12.2
Food	3 818	1 372	5 190	6.9
Skilled agricultural and horticultural workers	1 175	137	1 312	1.7
Hairdressers	238	2 067	2 305	3.1
Other	2 741	480	3 221	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 641</b>	<b>4 373</b>	<b>35 014</b>	<b>46.3</b>
Advanced clerical and service workers	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Intermediate clerical and service workers	4 194	9 667	13 861	18.3
Intermediate production and transport workers	2 472	486	2 958	3.9
Elementary clerical sales and service workers	5 607	6 919	12 526	16.6
Labourers and related workers	6 240	2 027	8 267	10.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 767</b>	<b>24 905</b>	<b>75 672</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Represents figures in the range of 1 to 49.

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

## Higher education

There are 10 publicly funded higher education institutions operating in Victoria, including eight State Universities, Marcus Oldham College and the Australian Catholic University (which is partly privately funded). There is also one private university, Melbourne University Private, which was established in a strategic alliance with the University of Melbourne during August 1998.

At 31 March 1999 there were 183,882 students attending higher education institutions (excluding TAFE) in Victoria (table 7.8), which was a 0.9% increase over the previous year. This included 27,529 overseas students, or 15% of the total. The field of study which had the most students was business, administration and economics.

**7.8 HIGHER EDUCATION (EXCLUDING TAFE) — 1999(a)**

Field of study	Students no.
Agriculture, animal husbandry	2 022
Architecture, building	4 333
Arts, humanities, social science	45 833
Business, administration, economics	54 147
Education	14 538
Engineering, surveying	17 153
Health	19 740
Law, legal studies	6 880
Science	34 555
Veterinary science	337
Non-award	1 003
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>183 882</b>

(a) Data takes into account the coding of combined courses for two fields of study, thus the total number of students may be less than the sum of aggregated data. (b) Data excludes students attending Australian Catholic University and Melbourne University Private.

Source: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, 1999.

In 1999, there were 17,152 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in publicly funded higher education institutions, of whom 53% were non academic staff (table 7.9). Although the total numbers of male and female staff were similar, the proportion of males in academic classifications, particularly at the higher levels, was far greater; 84% of persons classified as above senior lecturer were male, and 71% of senior lecturers were male, compared to only 39% of non academic classifications being male.

**7.9 STAFF IN HIGHER EDUCATION(a) — 1999**

Classification	Males	Females	Persons
	no.	no.	no.
Above senior lecturer	1 298	250	1 548
Senior lecturer (Level C)	1 446	598	2 044
Lecturer (Level B)	1 537	1 180	2 717
Below lecturer (Level A)	773	925	1 698
Non academic classifications	3 549	5 595	9 144
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>8 602</b>	<b>8 549</b>	<b>17 152</b>

(a) Full-time equivalent staff numbers. (b) Data excludes staff employed by Australian Catholic University or Melbourne University Private.

Source: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Selected Higher Education Staff Statistics, 1999.

## Adult and Community Education

Courses in recreation, leisure and personal enrichment are provided by community-based providers or government VET providers. During 1999, the student group comprised 92,476 persons, of whom 78% were female (table 7.10).

Courses range from general interest, recreational and leisure activities, personal development, social awareness and craft through to vocational, remedial and basic education. In 1999, the field of study with the most enrolments was art, humanities and social sciences (31% of enrolments), followed by health and community studies (15%).

### 7.10 PERSONAL ENRICHMENT COURSE ENROLMENTS —1999

Field of study	Males no.	Females no.	Persons(a) no.
Land and marine resources, animal husbandry	425	179	604
Architecture, building	395	536	932
Art, humanities and social sciences	1 538	3 007	4 546
Business, administration, economics	1 015	995	2 011
Education	83	153	236
Engineering, surveying	562	149	713
Health, community services	711	1 451	2 162
Law, legal studies	—	—	—
Science	239	421	660
Veterinary science, animal care	—	—	—
Services, hospitality, transportation	684	1 121	1 805
TAFE multi-field education	462	551	1 013
<b>Total enrolments</b>	<b>6 114</b>	<b>8 563</b>	<b>14 682</b>
<i>Total students(b)</i>	<i>18 948</i>	<i>72 472</i>	<i>92 476</i>

(a) Includes sex not stated. (b) Differs from total enrolments as students may be enrolled in a module only (i.e. no course enrolment).

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

## Educational characteristics of the population

### Educational attainment

In May 1999, 43% of the population aged 15–64 had completed a recognised post-school qualification (table 7.11). Of those with post-school qualifications, 386,700 (29%) held a bachelor degree and 344,300 (26%) held a skilled vocational qualification.

**7.11 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE — May 1999**

Educational attainment	Age group (years)					Total
	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>With post-school qualifications</b>						
Higher degree	0.4	12.4	18.8	19.6	7.4	58.5
Postgraduate diploma	3.1	23.9	33.2	25.9	9.1	95.3
Bachelor degree	51.2	129.4	99.6	74.4	32.1	386.7
Undergraduate diploma	18.1	32.8	39.8	36.2	19.0	145.9
Associate diploma	15.0	33.0	26.2	19.5	7.2	100.9
Skilled vocational qualification	27.6	90.9	104.6	69.1	52.1	344.3
Basic vocational qualification	31.6	60.3	57.8	39.7	26.2	215.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>147.0</b>	<b>382.6</b>	<b>380.0</b>	<b>284.4</b>	<b>153.1</b>	<b>1 347.2</b>
<b>Without post-school qualifications</b>						
Completed highest level of secondary school						
Attending a tertiary institution in May	152.9	18.3	6.8	2.0	0.6	180.7
Not attending a tertiary institution in May(a)	81.2	122.7	74.4	78.1	45.5	401.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>234.1</b>	<b>141.0</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>582.5</b>
Did not complete highest level of secondary school						
Attending a tertiary institution in May	27.8	13.4	7.9	3.4	1.3	53.9
Not attending a tertiary institution in May(a)	75.6	189.8	246.6	247.7	207.4	967.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>203.2</b>	<b>254.5</b>	<b>251.1</b>	<b>208.7</b>	<b>1 021.0</b>
<b>Total without post-school qualifications(b)</b>	<b>337.5</b>	<b>344.2</b>	<b>336.7</b>	<b>331.6</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>1 606.6</b>
Still at school	176.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	177.1
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>661.1</b>	<b>727.4</b>	<b>716.7</b>	<b>615.9</b>	<b>409.8</b>	<b>3 130.9</b>

(a) Includes persons whose study was not intended to result in a recognised educational qualification. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Sum of components may not equal total due to rounding.

Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia* (Cat. no. 6227.0).

### Participation in education

Although individuals may participate in education at any age, many obtain qualifications in the years immediately after completing compulsory schooling. In 1999, 55% of 15–19 year olds were still at school, while a further 27% were in tertiary education (table 7.12). By the age group of 20–24 years there was a substantial decline in the proportion of people participating in education, with 35% of this age group in tertiary education. However, of those in education in this age group, a higher proportion were in full-time tertiary education rather than part-time tertiary education (22% and 13% respectively).



## 7.12 PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION, By Age — May 1999

	Age group (years)				Total(a) no.
	15–19 no.	20–24 no.	25–44 no.	45–64 no.	
Attending school(b)					
School	175 935	**	**	**	177 462
Tertiary					
Full-time	66 689	73 651	32 991	* 2 914	176 245
Part-time	19 268	43 995	85 985	15 264	164 512
Total	85 956	117 647	118 976	18 179	340 757
Total	261 891	118 267	119 556	18 505	518 220
Not attending school	60 047	220 898	1 324 559	1 007 196	2 612 699
<b>All persons</b>	<b>321 938</b>	<b>339 165</b>	<b>1 444 115</b>	<b>1 025 701</b>	<b>3 130 919</b>

(a) Sum of components may not equal total due to rounding. (b) To study for a recognised qualification.

Source: Unpublished data, Transition from Education to Work Survey.

### Education attendance and the labour force

In May 1999, 518,220 people aged 15–64 years attended an educational institution in order to obtain a recognised qualification (table 7.13). Of these, 62% were participating in the labour force, that is, they were employed or unemployed. Most people attending an educational institution full-time were either not in the labour force (52%) or were employed part-time (38%). On the other hand, most people attending an educational institution part-time were employed full-time (72%). There were 8,282 persons who combined full-time study and full-time employment.

## 7.13 EDUCATION ATTENDANCE AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS — May 1999

	Attended an educational institution(a)				All persons
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Not attending	
In the labour force					
Employed					
Full-time workers	8 282	119 336	127 618	1 435 480	1 563 098
Part-time workers	132 915	25 659	158 574	402 842	561 416
Total	141 197	144 995	286 192	1 838 322	2 124 514
Unemployed	26 657	6 327	32 985	148 362	181 347
Total	167 854	151 323	319 177	1 986 684	2 305 861
Not in the labour force	185 201	13 842	199 043	626 015	825 058
Total	<b>353 055</b>	<b>165 165</b>	<b>518 220</b>	<b>2 612 699</b>	<b>3 130 919</b>

(a) Refers to those students undertaking recognised study.

Source: Unpublished data, Transition from Education to Work Survey.

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