

Use of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data in ‘total VET activity’

‘Total VET activity’ uses data and classification information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Participation rates

Participation rates are derived by calculating the number of VET students with a usual residential address in an Australian state or territory, other Australian territories, or dependencies and where the state/territory is ‘Not known’ as a percentage of the estimated Australian residential population in the corresponding age groups.

Usual residential address of VET students refers to where the student usually resides rather than a temporary address a student relocates to for training, work, or other purposes. International students are excluded from this definition.

Estimated resident population is also based on the concept of usual residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship, or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months over a 16-month period. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months over a 16-month period. The figures for all years are based on the latest release of ABS, National, State and Territory population figures as at 30 June in the collection year (previous cat.no.3101.0). Data have been extracted using the Data Explorer datasets as at May 2026.

Classification information

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is an ABS-developed product that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is one of four indexes in the SEIFA suite. Further information on SEIFA can be found at <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/seifa>>.

Student remoteness is based on the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), which was developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA). ARIA+ is now the standard ABS-endorsed measure of remoteness. Student remoteness (ARIA+) is determined from ARIA+ remoteness regions and ABS SA2 regions. For more details of ARIA+ refer to <<https://able.adelaide.edu.au/housing-research/data-gateway/aria>>. Rural/remote localities comprise the ‘outer regional’, ‘remote’ and ‘very remote’ categories of the ARIA+ classification.