



Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2008

Section 1: Victorian Senior Secondary Certificate Participation and Completions

Data source: 2008 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 15 January 2009 (Published).

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact the Data Analysis, Measurement and Reporting Unit on (03) 9651-4484.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority provides high quality curriculum, assessment and reporting that promotes individual life long learning.



Section 1

In 2008 there were two certificates of senior secondary education in Victoria, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Information about VCAL is included in Section 5 (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning).

Victorian Certificate of Education

VCE completion is calculated on the basis of satisfactory completion of units. Refer to the VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook for the regulations, which may be found on the VCAA website at:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/schooladmin/handbook/handbook.html>

TABLE 1.1 VCE PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETION, 2008 ¹

	2008
<i>All Students</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE	50,623
Students satisfactorily completing VCE	49,073
Percentage	96.9
<i>Females</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE	27,400
Students satisfactorily completing VCE	26,645
Percentage	97.2
<i>Males</i>	
Eligible to complete the VCE	23,223
Students satisfactorily completing VCE	22,428
Percentage	96.6

¹ These figures are derived from VCAA information in December and include overseas students. Students who have successfully achieved their VCE in previous years but undertook further studies in the current year are included.

Unit Enrolments and Completions

1. VCE Units

TABLE 1.2 VCE UNIT ENROLMENTS & COMPLETIONS BY UNIT LEVEL AND GENDER, 2008

	Units Enrolled				Units Successfully Completed				% Satisfactorily Completed			
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Male	161,305	154,876	123,590	119,588	149,083	143,774	120,222	117,194	92.4	92.8	97.3	98.0
Female	175,371	170,142	146,289	142,199	165,739	161,322	143,551	140,158	94.5	94.8	98.1	98.6
Total	336,676	325,018	269,879	261,787	314,822	305,096	263,773	257,352	93.5	93.9	97.7	98.3

Male	47.9%	47.7%	45.8%	45.7%	47.4%	47.1%	45.6%	45.5%
Female	52.1%	52.3%	54.2%	54.3%	52.6%	52.9%	54.4%	54.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note that the participation of those students who withdrew during the year without an outcome recorded against their unit enrolments were removed from the dataset. Section 2 (Satisfactory Completion of VCE Units) provides more detailed information of unit participation and completions by study and sequence.

**TABLE 1.3 VCE UNITS 1-4 TOTAL ENROLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS, 2008
(EXCLUDING VCE VET)**

	Units 1-4		
	Enrolled	Completed	% Completed
Male	559,359	530,273	94.8
Female	634,001	610,770	96.3
Total	1,193,360	1,141,043	95.6

Male	46.9%	46.5%
Female	53.1%	53.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

There were a total of 1,193,360 VCE unit enrolments in 2008 of which 95.6% were successfully completed. The female completion rate was 96.3%, while the male completion rate was 94.8%. Females comprised 53.1% of the total unit enrolments, while males comprised 46.9%. Females comprised 53.5% of the total unit completions, while males comprised 46.5%.

2. VCE VET Units

TABLE 1.4 EQUIVALENT VCE VET UNIT ENROLMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENT GAINED THROUGH VET UNITS OF COMPETENCE (UoC), 2008

	Equivalent VCE VET unit enrolments				VCE VET units achieved through credit UoC			
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Male	23,957	19,030	11,528	9,674	18,406	13,068	8,487	6,937
Female	20,183	15,351	10,759	8,760	15,728	11,103	8,323	6,682
Total	44,140	34,381	22,287	18,434	34,134	24,171	16,810	13,619

Male	54.3%	55.4%	51.7%	52.5%	53.9%	54.1%	50.5%	50.9%
Female	45.7%	44.6%	48.3%	47.5%	46.1%	45.9%	49.5%	49.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Students gain credit toward VCE VET units by successfully completing a prescribed number of hours of Units of Competence. Satisfactory completion of VCE VET units is calculated automatically as students satisfactorily complete units of competence.

Completion of Victorian Certificate Of Education

The VCE is the most popular senior secondary qualification. Table 1.5 provides information about the completion of the VCE. These figures report year 12 or equivalent completions, however completions of other qualifications such as VCAL, the International Baccalaureate and Vocational Education and Training certificates should be included for a full picture.

Table 1.5 shows that the number of successful completions peaked at 47,626 in 2002 and slowly decreased to a low of 46,023 in 2007. In 2008, the number of completions increased by 4.4% from 2007, to a high of 48,064.

**TABLE 1.5 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS^{1,2} OF VCE, 1995–2008
(BY AGE AT 30 JUNE)**

Year	Under 16	16 Years	17 Years	18 Years	19 Years	Over 19	Total
1995	14	774	33,054	6,275	845	1,381	42,343
1996	16	686	33,248	6,539	834	1,154	42,477
1997	25	667	33,340	6,953	811	1,049	42,845
1998	23	663	33,318	7,298	793	781	42,876
1999	23	621	33,433	8,200	786	733	43,796
2000	25	618	33,438	8,886	854	601	44,422
2001	23	747	34,333	9,626	1,028	665	46,422
2002	24	687	34,952	10,214	1,088	661	47,626
2003	25	705	34,342	10,608	1,216	689	47,585
2004	16	660	33,752	10,784	1,401	605	47,218
2005	17	636	32,700	11,458	1,203	535	46,549
2006	22	622	32,942	12,140	1,019	599	47,344
2007	14	622	31,742	12,161	1,018	466	46,023
2008	19	588	31,539	14,364	1,090	464	48,064

¹ Students who have already completed the VCE successfully in a previous year are excluded, as are students completing at offshore schools.

² Students who are over 19 years old are adult VCE students.

**TABLE 1.6 FIVE YEAR TREND IN SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS OF VCE, 2003-2008
(BY AGE AT 30 JUNE)**

Year	Under 16	16 Years	17 Years	18 Years	19 Years	Over 19	Total
2003	25	705	34,342	10,608	1,216	689	47,585
2008	19	588	31,539	14,364	1,090	464	48,064
Change	-6	-117	-2,803	3,756	-126	-225	479
% Change	-24.0%	-16.6%	-8.2%	35.4%	-10.4%	-32.7%	1.0%

Table 1.6 provides an insight into the trend in VCE completions by age over the past five years. The completions of 18 year olds are increasing, but the completions of the other age groups are declining.

TABLE 1.7 VCE COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2008

Year	19 Year Olds Who Have Successfully Completed VCE	Target Population ¹	VCE Completion Rate (%)
1998	41,768	62,299	67.0
1999	42,110	61,956	68.0
2000	43,039	64,106	67.1
2001	44,010	66,066	66.6
2002	44,796	67,050	66.8
2003	46,404	67,836	68.4
2004	47,733	69,640	68.5
2005	47,039	70,324	66.9
2006	46,958	71,103	66.0
2007	46,543	72,771	64.0
2008	46,845	74,424	62.9

¹ Source Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat No. 3201.0 released 15/12/2008

The number of young people aged 19 on 30 June each year who had successfully completed VCE has risen from 41,768 in 1998 to a high of 47,733 in 2004 but has decreased slightly to 46,845 in 2008.

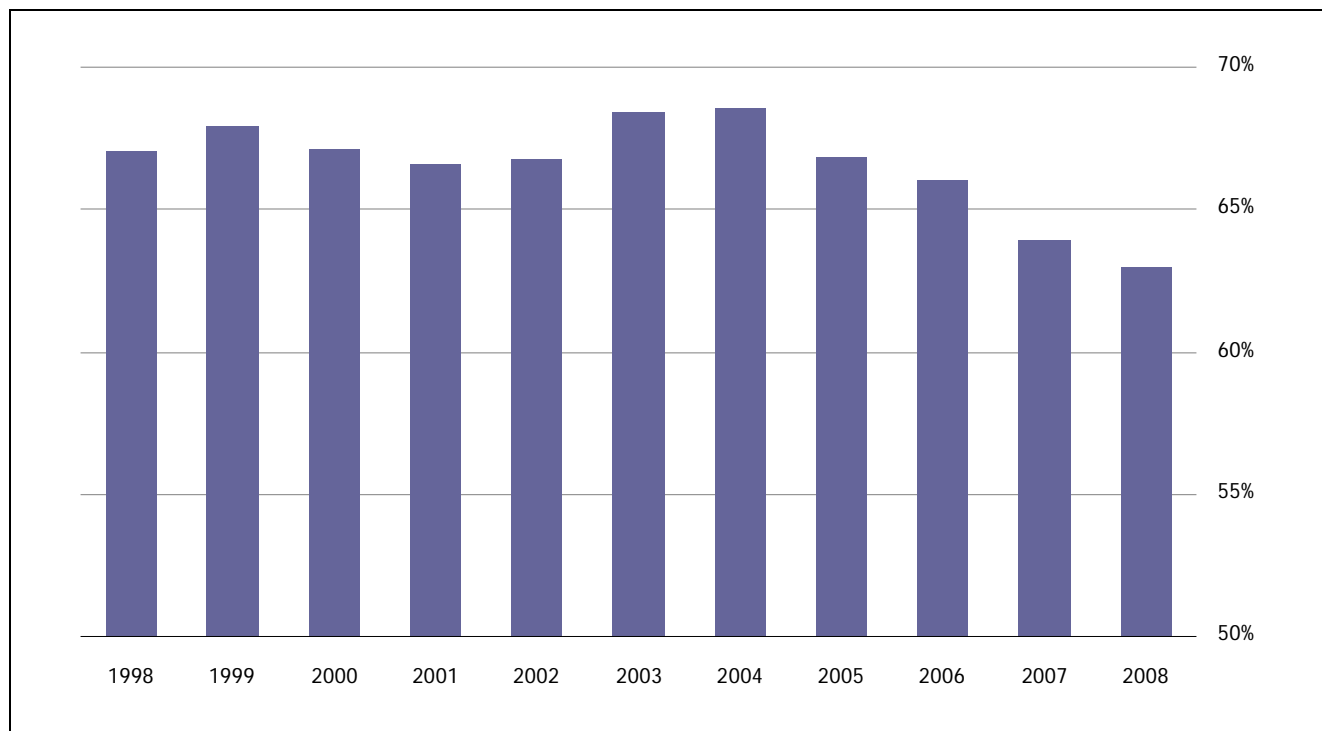
FIGURE 1.1 VCE % COMPLETION RATES FOR 19 YEAR OLDS, 1998–2008

Figure 1.1 shows the long-term trend in the VCE % completion rate. The rate has been declining marginally, from 68.5% to 62.9% completions since peaking in 2004.

Outcomes of VCE Graded Assessment 2008

Students undertaking Units 3 and 4 sequences may participate in Graded Assessment. Section 3 (Grade Distributions for Graded Assessments VCE) provides more detailed information on the outcomes for each study where Graded Assessment is available. All VCE studies have three Graded Assessments in each Unit 3/4 sequence, while the VCE VET programs with scored assessment have two Graded Assessments.

In summary, the most awarded grade in 2008 was B+. The median grade was B, with 60.7% of grades at B or higher. Table 1.8 shows the number of grades awarded (N), and the percentage awarded per grade. The table includes data for both the VCE Unit 3/4 sequences and the VCE VET Scored Stream units.

TABLE 1.8 AGGREGATE GRADE DISTRIBUTION: ALL GRADED ASSESSMENTS, 2008 (VCE Units 3/4 Sequences and VCE VET Scored Stream Units)

Grade	UG	E	E+	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	All
N	3,796	9,017	17,889	33,017	54,445	82,305	109,443	119,826	128,708	122,563	106,805	787,814
%	0.5	1.1	2.3	4.2	6.9	10.4	13.9	15.2	16.3	15.6	13.6	100.0

The grade distribution is plotted in Figure 1.2.

FIGURE 1.2 GRADE DISTRIBUTION: ALL GRADED ASSESSMENTS, 2008

