

# Average Class Size, 2019

The Class Size Reduction Program has significantly reduced average class sizes for Kindergarten to Year 2.

- In 2019, Kindergarten classes have a state-wide average of 18.8 students. This is an average reduction of 5.3 students since 1997 and 3.3 students in the fifteen years since the staged implementation of the Class Size Reduction Program commenced in 2004.
- The average class size, Kindergarten to Year 6, is 23.9 students in 2019. This is 3 students fewer than in 1997 and 2.3 students fewer than in 2004 when the Class Size Reduction Program commenced.
- The recent drought has affected some rural schools. Temporary supplementation was provided to eligible schools resulting in staffing numbers remaining consistent despite variation in enrolments. This may have contributed to the slight reduction in class sizes for all individual years between 2018 and 2019.
- In 2019, schools with fewer than 26 students have a state-wide average class size of 11.3 students. This is just under half of the state-wide average of 23.9 students in Kindergarten to Year 6 classes.
- Schools with over 700 students have an average Kindergarten class size of 20.0 in 2019.

**Table 1: Average class sizes by year: NSW government schools (1997-2019)**

Year	K	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	K-6
1997	24.1	25.5	26.2	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.9	26.9
2004	22.1	24.6	25.4	26.4	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.2
2005	19.7	23.6	25.1	26.1	26.4	26.6	26.7	25.3
2006	19.3	21.3	24.1	25.9	26.4	26.6	26.6	24.6
2011	19.2	21.2	22.6	25.7	26.1	26.4	26.3	24.0
2016	19.1	21.3	22.6	25.9	26.2	26.3	26.3	24.1
2017	19.1	21.3	22.5	25.7	26.1	26.4	26.4	24.1
2018	19.1	21.4	22.5	25.8	26.1	26.4	26.4	24.1
2019	18.8	21.1	22.3	25.7	25.9	26.1	26.1	23.9

**Table 2: Average class sizes by school size (primary enrolments), 2019**

Year	K	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	K-6
<b>Greater than 700 students</b>	20.0	22.3	23.9	28.5	28.8	28.4	28.7	25.3
<b>451 to 700 students</b>	19.8	22.1	23.5	27.5	27.8	27.7	27.9	24.7
<b>301 to 450 students</b>	19.2	22.0	23.2	27.0	27.2	27.4	27.5	24.2
<b>160 to 300 students</b>	18.6	21.4	22.5	25.4	25.6	26.1	26.1	23.2
<b>26 to 159 students</b>	16.8	18.5	19.5	21.1	21.5	21.7	21.4	20.1
<b>Less than 26 students</b>	12.0	11.6	11.8	12.2	12.8	12.6	12.4	11.3
<b>Central/Community Schools</b>	16.6	18.3	19.1	21.6	21.2	22.1	22.4	20.3

**Source:**

DoE Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation. Class size audits conducted in 1997 and 2004 to 2019.

**Notes:**

Class size audits were not conducted in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Data for other years not included in Table 1 is available through the CESE data hub.

Students attending schools for specific purposes (SSPs), students in support classes in regular schools and distance education students are excluded from average class calculations.

The average class size for each year level is calculated from regular and multi-age classes that contain a student from that year level. This can result in a lower K-6 average class size than any individual year level.

From 2017, school size is based on primary enrolment rather than school classification.

Data from earlier years is not replaced in the Class Size factsheet. Schools change size. Historical data displays the data that was correct in that year.