



LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 2007

This bulletin reports the results of the census of students of language background other than English in New South Wales government schools undertaken by the NSW Department of Education and Training on Tuesday, 1st May 2007. A student of language background other than English is defined as one in whose home a language other than English is spoken.

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INTRODUCTION

In May 2007, 207,031 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). This represented 27.6 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 27.4 percent in 2006.

TABLES 1 & 2

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LEVEL/YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MAY 2007

LBOTE student enrolments represented 27.9 percent of all primary enrolments and 27.2 percent of all secondary enrolments in government schools. From 1998 to 2003 enrolments were reported by District. In 2004 the reporting unit was changed to School Education Area (SEA), and to Region in 2005. In 2007 the reporting date was moved from March to May.

TABLE 3A & 3B

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MAY 2007

Chinese, with 37,716 students in 2007, has been the most common language background other than English in government schools since 1997. This year information on Cantonese and Mandarin language backgrounds has again been reported in addition to those students whose Chinese language background is not further resolved. Students from the Chinese language group background represented 18.2 percent of all LBOTE students in 2007, compared to 17.7 percentage in 2006. Arabic, with 26,626 students in 2007, was the most common language background from 1988 to 1996. The proportion of LBOTE students of Arabic background increased from 12.6 percent in 2006 to 12.9 percent in 2007.

TABLES 3C

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MAY 2007

Languages reported by 1,000 students or fewer were included in "Other". For the first time, Afrikaans, Assyrian, Bengali, Maori and Thai have been reported separately.

TABLE 4

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LANGUAGE, MAY 2007

South Western Sydney has the highest LBOTE student enrolments (80,825).

New England has the lowest LBOTE student enrolments (425).

Khmer and Lao were the languages with the highest concentration in one Region.

TABLE 5

ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MAY 2007

Government preschools enrolled the equivalent of 936.2 full-time students of Language Background Other Than English in 2007, representing 36.4 percent of all government preschool enrolments, compared with 35.4 percent in 2006.

FIGURE 1
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE
BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, MAY
2007

FIGURE 2
STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER
THAN ENGLISH, 1990-2007: SELECTED LANGUAGE
BACKGROUNDS

NOTES:

From 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in May with comparative enrolment information extracted from the School Entitlement System. In prior years, LBOTE information was collected in the midyear census, with comparative enrolment information collected at the same time.

For information on languages, refer to *Australian Standard Classification of Languages*, Australian Bureau of Statistics (catalogue 1267.0).

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Statistical publications produced by the Department of Education and Training can be obtained on the Internet at:
http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/reports_stats/stats

TABLE 1
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
REGION AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, May 2007

REGION	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	3,388	5.4%	2804	5.9%	39	6.3%	6,231	5.6%
Illawarra and South Coast	4,367	10.7%	3018	9.9%	31	8.6%	7,416	10.4%
New England	242	1.9%	179	1.7%	4	4.1%	425	1.9%
North Coast	1,365	3.6%	1114	3.5%		0.0%	2,479	3.6%
Northern Sydney	16,829	33.8%	13175	41.3%	88	16.6%	30,092	36.6%
Riverina	955	5.0%	718	4.8%	12	5.0%	1,685	4.9%
South Western Sydney	47,958	63.6%	32304	60.2%	563	45.8%	80,825	62.0%
Sydney	23,560	47.3%	17713	48.7%	154	25.4%	41,427	47.7%
Western NSW	570	2.5%	360	2.0%	1	0.5%	931	2.3%
Western Sydney	20,667	34.6%	14673	35.7%	180	21.6%	35,520	34.9%
State	119,901	27.9%	86,058	27.2%	1,072	22.1%	207,031	27.6%

TABLE 2
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
REGION AND YEAR OF SCHOOLING, May 2007

REGION	Primary								SSP	
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	518	491	451	458	459	481	495	35	3,388	39
Illawarra and South Coast	564	571	595	655	646	672	629	35	4,367	31
New England	35	28	37	41	44	23	32	2	242	4
North Coast	194	191	201	193	202	200	179	5	1,365	
Northern Sydney	2,185	2,335	2,454	2,406	2,458	2,437	2,468	86	16,829	88
Riverina	140	143	139	137	135	119	136	6	955	12
South Western Sydney	6,592	6,775	6,776	6,581	6,783	6,997	6,780	674	47,958	563
Sydney	3,164	3,420	3,547	3,267	3,330	3,377	3,249	206	23,560	154
Western NSW	83	78	76	87	92	66	86	2	570	1
Western Sydney	2,782	2,818	2,955	2,957	2,993	3,024	2,896	242	20,667	180
State	16,257	16,850	17,231	16,782	17,142	17,396	16,950	1,293	119,901	1,072
As % of Enrolment	26.7%	27.6%	28.1%	27.9%	28.3%	28.9%	28.0%	24.9%	27.9%	22.1%

REGION	Secondary								LBOTE	
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total	Region	% of
Hunter/Central Coast	477	499	487	505	449	364	23	2,804	6,231	5.6%
Illawarra and South Coast	460	469	528	542	449	458	112	3,018	7,416	10.4%
New England	24	32	31	30	37	25		179	425	1.9%
North Coast	179	177	195	197	193	166	7	1,114	2,479	3.6%
Northern Sydney	2,076	2,091	2,068	2,149	2,419	2,135	237	13,175	30,092	36.6%
Riverina	111	133	135	129	119	85	6	718	1,685	4.9%
South Western Sydney	5,171	5,200	5,431	5,529	5,052	4,348	1,573	32,304	80,825	62.0%
Sydney	2,765	2,792	2,989	2,829	3,046	2,770	522	17,713	41,427	47.7%
Western NSW	58	54	67	56	74	45	6	360	931	2.3%
Western Sydney	2,304	2,333	2,486	2,434	2,563	2,176	377	14,673	35,520	34.9%
State	13,625	13,780	14,417	14,400	14,401	12,572	2,863	86,058	207,031	27.6%
As % of Enrolment	24.9%	25.1%	25.9%	26.6%	29.2%	32.5%	32.5%	27.2%	27.6%	

TABLE 3A
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, May 2007

Language	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Primary	Students	As % of Secondary	Students	As % of SSP	Students	As % of Total
		LBOTE		LBOTE		LBOTE		LBOTE
Arabic	15,043	12.5%	11,283	13.1%	300	28.0%	26,626	12.9%
Chinese	21,004	17.5%	16,605	19.3%	107	10.0%	37,716	18.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	10,751	9.0%	9,302	10.8%	63	5.9%	20,116	9.7%
<i>Mandarin</i>	8,992	7.5%	6,067	7.0%	31	2.9%	15,090	7.3%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	1,261	1.1%	1,236	1.4%	13	1.2%	2,510	1.2%
Croatian	1,217	1.0%	797	0.9%	9	0.8%	2,023	1.0%
Dutch	821	0.7%	547	0.6%	2	0.2%	1,370	0.7%
Farsi	2,239	1.9%	2,368	2.8%	17	1.6%	4,624	2.2%
Fijian	797	0.7%	537	0.6%	7	0.7%	1,341	0.6%
French	1,606	1.3%	912	1.1%	7	0.7%	2,525	1.2%
German	1,946	1.6%	1,253	1.5%	8	0.7%	3,207	1.5%
Greek	6,272	5.2%	2,759	3.2%	54	5.0%	9,085	4.4%
Hindi	4,661	3.9%	3,090	3.6%	23	2.1%	7,774	3.8%
Indonesian	1,688	1.4%	1,129	1.3%	11	1.0%	2,828	1.4%
Italian	4,497	3.8%	2,421	2.8%	34	3.2%	6,952	3.4%
Japanese	1,379	1.2%	749	0.9%	5	0.5%	2,133	1.0%
Khmer	1,153	1.0%	1,010	1.2%	3	0.3%	2,166	1.0%
Korean	3,292	2.7%	3,073	3.6%	16	1.5%	6,381	3.1%
Lao	603	0.5%	514	0.6%	5	0.5%	1,122	0.5%
Macedonian	2,526	2.1%	1,774	2.1%	18	1.7%	4,318	2.1%
Malay	310	0.3%	278	0.3%	3	0.3%	591	0.3%
Maltese	1,061	0.9%	580	0.7%	8	0.7%	1,649	0.8%
Polish	581	0.5%	505	0.6%	5	0.5%	1,091	0.5%
Portuguese	836	0.7%	510	0.6%	12	1.1%	1,358	0.7%
Punjabi	1,230	1.0%	734	0.9%	3	0.3%	1,967	1.0%
Russian	964	0.8%	716	0.8%	5	0.5%	1,685	0.8%
Samoan	3,808	3.2%	2,573	3.0%	32	3.0%	6,413	3.1%
Serbian	2,215	1.8%	1,703	2.0%	7	0.7%	3,925	1.9%
Sinhalese	776	0.6%	546	0.6%	1	0.1%	1,323	0.6%
Slovenian	105	0.1%	78	0.1%	1	0.1%	184	0.1%
Spanish	3,784	3.2%	2,444	2.8%	37	3.5%	6,265	3.0%
Tagalog	4,123	3.4%	3,456	4.0%	66	6.2%	7,645	3.7%
Tamil	1,615	1.3%	1,288	1.5%	11	1.0%	2,914	1.4%
Tongan	2,214	1.8%	1,461	1.7%	27	2.5%	3,702	1.8%
Turkish	2,480	2.1%	1,805	2.1%	26	2.4%	4,311	2.1%
Urdu	1,495	1.2%	754	0.9%	10	0.9%	2,259	1.1%
Vietnamese	7,409	6.2%	5,771	6.7%	95	8.9%	13,275	6.4%
Others	14,151	11.8%	10,035	11.7%	97	9.0%	24,283	11.7%
Total LBOTE	119,901	100.0%	86,058	100.0%	1,072	100.0%	207,031	100.0%

TABLE 3B
CHANGING ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN
ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, 2006-2007, Standard Reporting Groups

Language	2007		2006	
	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	37,716	18.2%	36,594	17.7%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,116	9.7%	20,430	9.9%
<i>Mandarin</i>	15,090	7.3%	14,511	7.0%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2,510	1.2%	1,653	0.8%
Arabic	26,626	12.9%	25,946	12.6%
Vietnamese	13,275	6.4%	12,812	6.2%
Greek	9,085	4.4%	9,280	4.5%
Hindi	7,774	3.8%	7,419	3.6%
Tagalog	7,645	3.7%	7,574	3.7%
Italian	6,952	3.4%	7,297	3.5%
Samoan	6,413	3.1%	6,347	3.1%
Korean	6,381	3.1%	5,932	2.9%
Spanish	6,265	3.0%	6,418	3.1%
Farsi	4,624	2.2%	4,697	2.3%
Macedonian	4,318	2.1%	4,414	2.1%
Turkish	4,311	2.1%	4,434	2.1%
Serbian	3,925	1.9%	4,051	2.0%
Tongan	3,702	1.8%	3,812	1.8%
German	3,207	1.5%	3,402	1.6%
Tamil	2,914	1.4%	2,833	1.4%
Indonesian	2,828	1.4%	2,795	1.4%
French	2,525	1.2%	2,550	1.2%
Urdu	2,259	1.1%	2,123	1.0%
Khmer	2,166	1.0%	2,181	1.1%
Japanese	2,133	1.0%	2,003	1.0%
Croatian	2,023	1.0%	2,153	1.0%
Punjabi	1,967	1.0%	1,792	0.9%
Russian	1,685	0.8%	1,679	0.8%
Maltese	1,649	0.8%	1,827	0.9%
Dutch	1,370	0.7%	1,492	0.7%
Portuguese	1,358	0.7%	1,432	0.7%
Fijian	1,341	0.6%	1,347	0.7%
Sinhalese	1,323	0.6%	1,253	0.6%
Lao	1,122	0.5%	1,132	0.5%
Polish	1,091	0.5%	1,205	0.6%
Malay	591	0.3%	599	0.3%
Slovenian	184	0.1%	195	0.1%
Others	24,283	11.7%	25,276	12.3%
Total LBOTE	207,031	100.0%	206,296	100.0%

TABLE 3C
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE, 2007 - Largest Language Groups

Language	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	37,716	18.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,116	9.7%
<i>Mandarin</i>	15,090	7.3%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2,510	1.2%
Arabic	26,626	12.9%
Vietnamese	13,275	6.4%
Greek	9,085	4.4%
Hindi	7,774	3.8%
Tagalog	7,645	3.7%
Italian	6,952	3.4%
Samoan	6,413	3.1%
Korean	6,381	3.1%
Spanish	6,265	3.0%
Farsi	4,624	2.2%
Macedonian	4,318	2.1%
Turkish	4,311	2.1%
Serbian	3,925	1.9%
Tongan	3,702	1.8%
German	3,207	1.5%
Tamil	2,914	1.4%
Indonesian	2,828	1.4%
Assyrian	2,776	1.3%
French	2,525	1.2%
Maori	2,337	1.1%
Urdu	2,259	1.1%
Bengali	2,234	1.1%
Khmer	2,166	1.0%
Japanese	2,133	1.0%
Croatian	2,023	1.0%
Punjabi	1,967	1.0%
Thai	1,965	0.9%
Russian	1,685	0.8%
Maltese	1,649	0.8%
Dutch	1,370	0.7%
Portuguese	1,358	0.7%
Fijian	1,341	0.6%
Sinhalese	1,323	0.6%
Afrikaans	1,302	0.6%
Lao	1,122	0.5%
Polish	1,091	0.5%
Others	14,444	7.0%
Total LBOTE	207,031	100.0%

Languages with enrolments less than 1000 were included in OTHERS

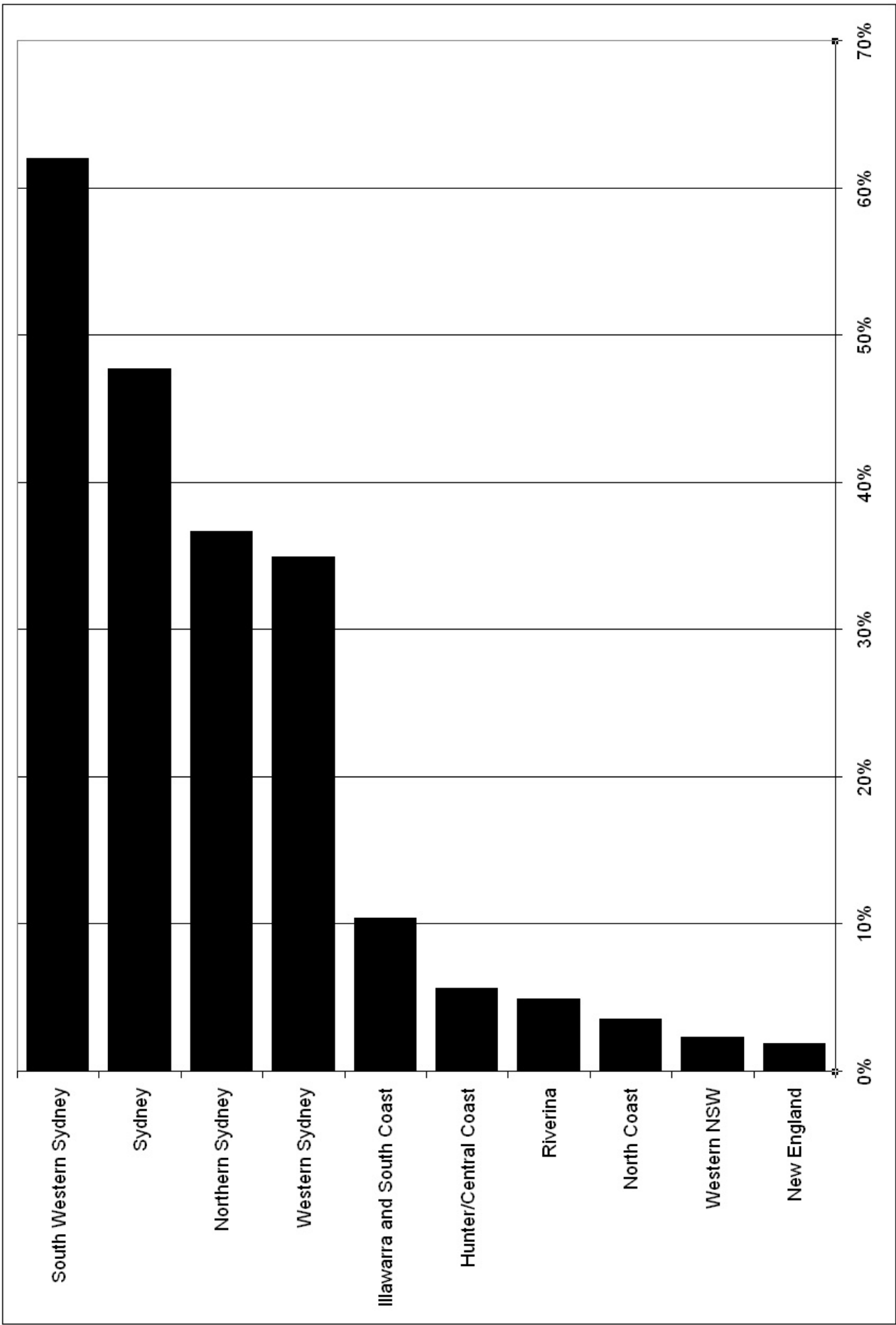
TABLE 4
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE AND REGION, May 2007

	Hunter/ Central Coast	Illawarra & South East	New England	North Coast	Northern Sydney	Riverina South Western Sydney	Sydney	Western NSW	Western Sydney	Total	As % of Total LBOTE	
Arabic	287	386	16	60	787	77	17660	4498	64	2791	26626	12.9%
Cantonese	249	174	20	69	5312	44	5890	5690	24	2644	20116	9.7%
Chinese	43	28	3	13	371	6	1244	574	8	220	2510	1.2%
Croatian	109	197	4	20	279	21	677	303	18	395	2023	1.0%
Dutch	206	159	7	111	357	30	81	168	48	203	1370	0.7%
Farsi/Dari	34	48	1	11	1005	96	1516	154	15	1744	4624	2.2%
Fijian	69	35	11	19	93	66	553	228	20	247	1341	0.6%
French	216	162	17	179	792	23	317	536	13	270	2525	1.2%
German	321	380	45	297	904	41	255	579	70	315	3207	1.5%
Greek	381	362	8	48	675	43	1879	4864	34	791	9085	4.4%
Hindi	102	65	16	30	1049	34	3094	698	22	2664	7774	3.8%
Indonesian	163	82	13	71	488	8	646	1002	5	350	2828	1.4%
Italian	408	585	11	120	1126	315	2037	1479	63	808	6952	3.4%
Japanese	93	70	9	82	1102	4	132	527	8	106	2133	1.0%
Khmer	14	15	1	1	46	1	1946	64		78	2166	1.0%
Korean	77	47	1	4	2938		1333	954	3	1024	6381	3.1%
Lao	9	11	7	11	27	17	999	23	1	17	1122	0.5%
Macedonian	301	1204		11	102	4	1150	1394	16	136	4318	2.1%
Malay	24	16	2	8	149		111	143	4	134	591	0.3%
Maltese	92	121	2	33	37	4	430	122	6	802	1649	0.8%
Mandarin	174	141	38	35	4322	26	3518	4805	11	2020	15090	7.3%
Polish	95	68	1	13	244	4	258	214	9	185	1091	0.5%
Portugese	42	178	3	24	182	5	295	506	6	117	1358	0.7%
Punjabi	18	9	2	185	231	84	329	127	9	973	1967	1.0%
Russian	72	49	13	18	326	2	253	728	25	199	1685	0.8%
Samoan	195	51	7	11	76	111	3688	307	11	1956	6413	3.1%
Serbian	126	395	1	10	417	12	1973	557	16	418	3925	1.9%
Sinhalese	36	29	4	9	452	13	130	123	11	516	1323	0.6%
Slovenian	14	9		3	43		42	46	4	23	184	0.1%
Spanish	341	427	12	107	777	60	2376	1251	31	883	6265	3.0%
Tagalog	471	354	35	195	710	79	1690	1060	84	2967	7645	3.7%
Tamil	26	20	1	5	521	12	836	249	16	1228	2914	1.4%
Tongan	127	83	4	29	253	89	1532	647	20	918	3702	1.8%
Turkish	61	277	1	14	200	42	1857	647	23	1189	4311	2.1%
Urdu	45	25	4	5	207	18	947	232	10	766	2259	1.1%
Vietnamese	91	135	6	27	347	6	10418	1746	3	496	13275	6.4%
Others	1,099	1,019	99	591	3,145	288	8,733	4,182	200	4,927	24,283	11.7%
Total	6231	7416	425	2479	30092	1685	80825	41427	931	35520	207031	100.0%

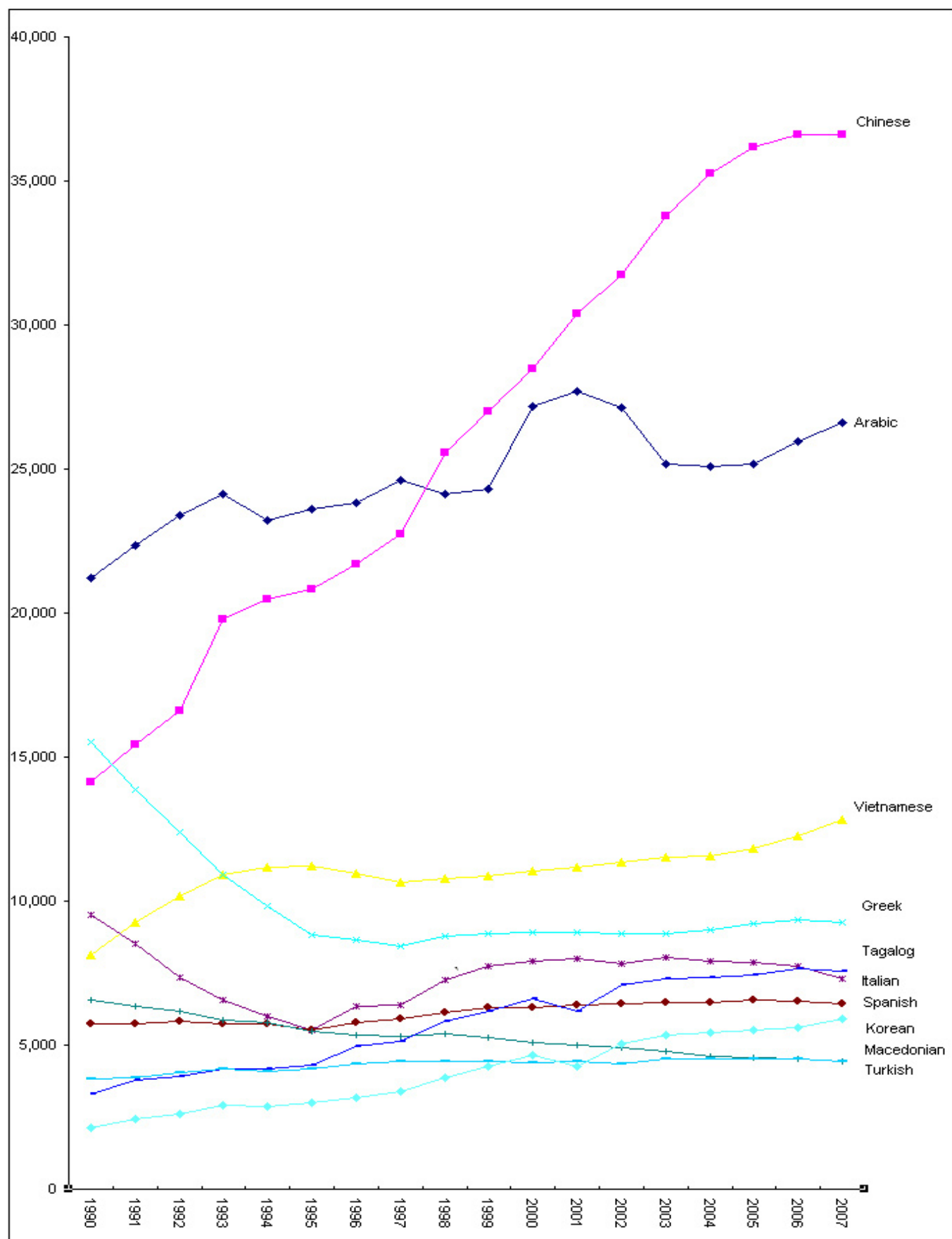
TABLE 5
ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN
ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, May 2007

Language	Preschool Students		As % of
	Students	FTE	Total LBOTE
Arabic	295	163.1	17.4%
Cantonese	124	64.7	6.9%
Chinese	29	14.7	1.6%
Croatian	7	3.8	0.4%
Dutch	6	3.9	0.4%
Farsi	13	6.7	0.7%
Fijian	9	4.8	0.5%
French	7	5.4	0.6%
German	8	4.1	0.4%
Greek	36	27.0	2.9%
Hindi	86	42.7	4.6%
Indonesian	26	15.9	1.7%
Italian	37	20.9	2.2%
Japanese	12	8.9	1.0%
Khmer	28	15.6	1.7%
Korean	21	11.1	1.2%
Lao	11	5.0	0.5%
Macedonian	20	13.3	1.4%
Malay	3	2.0	0.2%
Maltese	9	4.3	0.5%
Mandarin	57	31.5	3.4%
Polish	6	4.0	0.4%
Portuguese	5	4.6	0.5%
Punjabi	26	13.6	1.5%
Russian	3	2.2	0.2%
Samoan	102	55.2	5.9%
Serbian	20	12.2	1.3%
Singhalese	5	2.3	0.2%
Spanish	43	24.7	2.6%
Tagalog	78	41.0	4.4%
Tamil	21	10.4	1.1%
Tongan	20	10.7	1.1%
Turkish	11	6.6	0.7%
Urdu	32	17.6	1.9%
Vietnamese	335	175.2	18.7%
Others	159	86.5	9.2%
Total LBOTE	1,710	936.2	100.0%
FTE LBOTE as % of FTE Enrolment			36.4%

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, May, 2007



**FIGURE 2. STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1990-2007:
SELECTED LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS**



Notes: Farsi was included with Arabic until 1993; Chinese includes all languages of that group, including Mandarin and Cantonese