



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Trends in Key Economic Parameters

**An Economic Context for Independent
Schools in Australia**

**ISCA Research Report
2019 mid-year update**

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Purpose

This Guide provides easy reference to trends in key indicators and relevant school-based data to provide a picture of the economic environment in Australia. The information is provided to assist Independent schools and their Boards to consider the context and outlook for their school communities as part of their decision making and planning processes.

Indicators utilised in this Guide are:

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index is the most comprehensive measure of goods and services price inflation faced by all consumer households. Information provided on CPI includes a breakdown of the CPI Education index.

Wage Price Index (WPI)

The Wage Price Index measures changes in the price of labour in the Australian labour market. Information provided includes a breakdown of the Education component of WPI.

Producer Price Index (PPI)

The Producer Price Index measures inflation of products either as they leave the place of production or as they enter the production process. The PPI Non-Residential Building Construction (which measures changes in prices of selected materials used in construction and wage costs over a 12-month period) is the metric used by the Australian Government Department of Education to determine capital funding for non-government schools.

ACARA National Report on Schooling data portal

The National Report on Schooling in Australia data portal, created by ACARA, provides public access to several national data sets for schooling relevant to the annual National Report on Schooling in Australia.

Information provided includes teaching and non-teaching staff salaries, parent fees/charges and trends in per student debt levels. All information is displayed as either 'per staff' or 'per student'.

Enrolment Growth Trends in Independent Schools

The ABS Schools Australia data provides enrolment growth by state and territory including by primary and secondary and FTE staff growth.

Further information on these indices is provided in the Appendix.

Consumer Price Index

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (CPI) PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	Average annual growth June 2014-2019
CPI (All Groups) growth						
AUSTRALIA	1.5%	1.0%	1.9%	2.1%	1.6%	1.6%
Sydney	2.2%	0.9%	2.2%	2.1%	1.7%	1.8%
Melbourne	1.1%	1.4%	2.2%	2.5%	1.3%	1.7%
Brisbane	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%
Adelaide	1.2%	0.7%	1.6%	2.7%	1.4%	1.5%
Perth	1.2%	0.5%	0.7%	1.1%	1.6%	1.0%
Hobart	0.6%	1.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%	1.8%
Darwin	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.5%
Canberra	0.8%	0.8%	2.1%	2.8%	1.7%	1.6%
CPI (Education) growth						
AUSTRALIA	5.4%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%	2.8%	3.5%
Sydney	9.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	4.2%	4.5%
Melbourne	4.2%	3.8%	3.7%	2.5%	2.4%	3.3%
Brisbane	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%	1.9%	2.9%
Adelaide	4.1%	2.9%	3.0%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Perth	4.3%	3.1%	3.0%	1.8%	2.1%	2.9%
Hobart	2.7%	2.6%	3.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%
Darwin	4.4%	3.5%	2.7%	4.7%	2.6%	3.6%
Canberra	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.9%	2.8%	3.3%
CPI (Preschool & Primary Education only) growth						
AUSTRALIA	6.3%	4.8%	2.8%	3.8%	1.0%	3.7%
Sydney	8.6%	5.3%	1.9%	4.5%	1.6%	4.3%
Melbourne	6.6%	5.4%	3.5%	4.6%	0.1%	4.0%
Brisbane	5.2%	3.8%	2.6%	2.8%	0.5%	3.0%
Adelaide	4.2%	3.8%	3.0%	3.7%	1.6%	3.2%
Perth	4.5%	4.2%	3.6%	1.5%	1.6%	3.1%
Hobart	3.2%	2.8%	2.9%	2.4%	2.6%	2.8%
Darwin	6.0%	2.3%	2.1%	3.6%	0.8%	3.0%
Canberra	5.3%	5.0%	3.3%	5.0%	-0.1%	3.7%
CPI (Secondary Education only) growth						
AUSTRALIA	4.7%	4.6%	4.1%	3.3%	4.2%	4.2%
Sydney	4.7%	4.4%	4.5%	3.7%	5.6%	4.6%
Melbourne	5.6%	5.5%	4.6%	3.4%	4.0%	4.6%
Brisbane	3.7%	4.3%	4.0%	3.4%	3.9%	3.9%
Adelaide	3.9%	4.3%	2.9%	3.3%	1.9%	3.2%
Perth	5.3%	3.8%	3.0%	2.3%	2.6%	3.4%
Hobart	2.9%	3.5%	3.7%	2.7%	2.0%	2.9%
Darwin	4.0%	3.8%	2.5%	6.9%	3.2%	4.1%
Canberra	2.5%	4.2%	3.7%	4.6%	4.6%	3.9%

Wage Price Index

WAGE PRICE INDEXES (WPI) PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	Average annual growth June 2014-2019
WPI (All Groups, Private sector) growth						
AUSTRALIA	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.3%	2.1%
New South Wales	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Victoria	2.5%	2.1%	1.9%	2.2%	2.6%	2.2%
Queensland	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
South Australia	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%
Western Australia	1.8%	1.6%	1.0%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Tasmania	2.6%	2.4%	1.9%	2.5%	3.2%	2.3%
Northern Territory	2.1%	1.6%	1.7%	1.4%	1.7%	1.9%
Australian Capital Territory	2.3%	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%
WPI (Education, Private sector) growth						
AUSTRALIA	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%
WPI (Education, Public sector) growth						
AUSTRALIA	3.1%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.3%	2.6%
WPI (Education, Public and Private sector) growth						
AUSTRALIA	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%

Producer Price Index

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES (PPI) PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	Average annual growth June 2014-2019
PPI (Non-residential building construction) growth						
AUSTRALIA	2.1%	1.5%	2.4%	1.9%	2.3%	2.0%
New South Wales	2.4%	2.9%	5.4%	2.7%	4.2%	3.5%
Victoria	0.3%	-0.3%	-1.0%	2.7%	2.4%	0.8%
Queensland	6.2%	3.6%	5.0%	0.5%	0.3%	3.1%
South Australia	0.1%	0.8%	1.3%	2.3%	1.9%	1.3%
Western Australia	-0.3%	0.0%	-0.5%	-0.6%	0.0%	-0.3%
Tasmania	0.9%	3.4%	5.6%	2.9%	3.5%	3.2%
Northern Territory	2.2%	-3.1%	0.9%	0.3%	-1.4%	-0.3%
Australian Capital Territory	1.2%	2.0%	2.3%	3.0%	2.2%	2.1%

ACARA National Report on Schooling in Australia

FIGURES FROM ACARA NATIONAL REPORT ON SCHOOLING	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average annual growth 2012-2017
Teaching staff salaries per FTE teaching staff (Non-Government schools)						
AUSTRALIA	3.2%	3.7%	2.6%	2.0%	3.0%	2.9%
New South Wales	2.9%	3.9%	1.7%	1.8%	2.1%	2.5%
Victoria	4.1%	3.6%	4.5%	2.7%	2.8%	3.5%
Queensland	1.7%	3.2%	1.4%	0.4%	5.3%	2.4%
South Australia	3.7%	4.2%	2.8%	3.2%	2.2%	3.2%
Western Australia	3.6%	4.6%	1.8%	2.2%	2.6%	3.0%
Tasmania	3.0%	3.9%	3.3%	2.4%	-0.1%	2.5%
Northern Territory	6.3%	-0.7%	10.0%	-1.1%	13.2%	5.4%
Australian Capital Territory	2.6%	1.4%	2.4%	4.1%	3.5%	2.8%
Non-teaching staff salaries per FTE non-teaching staff (Non-Government schools)						
AUSTRALIA	2.5%	1.7%	3.0%	4.6%	2.4%	2.8%
New South Wales	2.6%	0.1%	4.7%	4.2%	5.2%	3.4%
Victoria	4.3%	3.2%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%
Queensland	-1.5%	1.9%	2.3%	7.4%	-1.5%	1.7%
South Australia	4.9%	1.8%	1.6%	2.7%	3.4%	2.9%
Western Australia	5.0%	1.2%	0.8%	4.4%	0.9%	2.5%
Tasmania	8.9%	0.9%	3.0%	5.8%	6.1%	4.9%
Northern Territory	-4.2%	10.5%	-11.9%	7.6%	-10.0%	-2.0%
Australian Capital Territory	-0.2%	2.3%	12.5%	-1.6%	-4.6%	1.5%
Fees and charges per student (Independent schools)						
AUSTRALIA	3.9%	4.5%	4.2%	3.9%	2.9%	3.9%
New South Wales	3.5%	4.1%	4.1%	3.4%	3.7%	3.8%
Victoria	2.7%	4.7%	4.2%	4.2%	2.3%	3.6%
Queensland	4.2%	3.9%	3.2%	3.2%	2.4%	3.4%
South Australia	3.7%	5.0%	4.9%	5.3%	4.1%	4.6%
Western Australia	6.6%	5.1%	5.4%	2.7%	1.4%	4.2%
Tasmania	1.8%	4.8%	3.6%	3.3%	-8.5%	0.9%
Northern Territory	8.8%	2.5%	7.5%	2.8%	2.6%	4.8%
Australian Capital Territory	6.8%	5.2%	3.1%	4.8%	4.6%	4.9%
Loans at the end of the year per student (Independent schools)						
AUSTRALIA	-4.7%	-4.4%	3.2%	-0.7%	2.8%	-0.8%
New South Wales	-5.9%	-6.4%	2.0%	-2.2%	-2.4%	-3.0%
Victoria	-7.1%	-11.0%	12.5%	1.0%	9.3%	0.5%
Queensland	-3.2%	-1.3%	-2.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-1.6%
South Australia	-1.4%	-2.2%	-1.4%	-0.9%	14.3%	1.5%
Western Australia	-3.0%	0.0%	11.3%	0.3%	4.2%	2.5%
Tasmania	0.1%	-4.9%	4.7%	0.5%	26.1%	4.8%
Northern Territory	-10.0%	30.7%	-0.8%	4.8%	-15.3%	0.7%
Australian Capital Territory	-2.1%	-11.0%	-10.7%	-3.9%	22.9%	-1.7%

Independent Schools Enrolment Growth

FIGURES FROM ABS SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average annual growth 2013-2018
FTE Student growth (Independent sector)						
AUSTRALIA	1.6%	2.0%	1.3%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%
New South Wales	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	2.6%	2.4%
Victoria	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%	3.5%	2.9%	2.6%
Queensland	1.2%	1.4%	0.7%	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%
South Australia	0.7%	1.4%	0.5%	0.2%	3.2%	1.2%
Western Australia	1.0%	2.4%	-0.8%	-0.3%	1.0%	0.7%
Tasmania	1.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%	1.0%	1.2%	0.5%
Northern Territory	-0.5%	5.4%	-1.3%	-3.7%	-1.4%	-0.3%
Australian Capital Territory	1.0%	0.3%	2.6%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%
FTE Student growth (Independent sector, Pre-Year 0 to Year 6)						
AUSTRALIA	3.0%	2.0%	1.4%	1.8%	2.7%	2.2%
New South Wales	2.2%	1.9%	2.1%	2.9%	2.9%	2.4%
Victoria	3.7%	3.1%	2.7%	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%
Queensland	5.4%	1.8%	0.6%	0.8%	1.9%	2.1%
South Australia	0.4%	2.2%	0.5%	0.3%	3.8%	1.4%
Western Australia	2.5%	0.1%	-1.1%	-1.0%	1.3%	0.4%
Tasmania	1.3%	0.8%	-1.2%	2.6%	0.3%	0.8%
Northern Territory	3.2%	7.1%	4.1%	-1.3%	1.2%	2.8%
Australian Capital Territory	0.6%	2.0%	3.3%	3.8%	2.8%	2.5%
FTE Student growth (Independent sector, Year 7 to Year 12)						
AUSTRALIA	0.5%	1.9%	1.3%	1.9%	1.9%	1.5%
New South Wales	2.2%	2.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%
Victoria	1.1%	1.8%	1.7%	3.7%	2.4%	2.1%
Queensland	-1.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.7%	1.2%	0.5%
South Australia	0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	2.6%	0.9%
Western Australia	-0.1%	4.2%	-0.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Tasmania	1.0%	-1.2%	0.5%	-0.5%	1.9%	0.3%
Northern Territory	-3.1%	4.1%	-5.5%	-5.7%	-3.7%	-2.8%
Australian Capital Territory	1.4%	-1.3%	1.9%	0.7%	1.6%	0.9%
FTE Staff growth (Independent sector)						
AUSTRALIA	2.8%	3.7%	3.0%	2.4%	3.2%	3.0%
New South Wales	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%	3.1%	4.1%	3.6%
Victoria	2.8%	3.2%	3.8%	2.7%	4.0%	3.3%
Queensland	1.9%	4.5%	2.8%	2.2%	2.7%	2.8%
South Australia	1.6%	2.7%	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Western Australia	2.3%	4.4%	0.8%	1.2%	2.5%	2.2%
Tasmania	3.1%	1.7%	1.9%	2.9%	1.1%	2.2%
Northern Territory	6.6%	7.1%	5.4%	-5.7%	-6.2%	1.2%
Australian Capital Territory	4.3%	3.8%	4.4%	3.3%	1.6%	3.5%

Appendix

Summary of metrics used

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index is the most comprehensive measure of goods and services price inflation faced by all consumer households. The education (Preschool, Primary and Secondary) component of CPI is comprised of all expenditure on school services: school fees and other fees which are associated with attending the school such as book fees, payments from school excursions, fees for swimming lessons. More information on CPI and access to downloadable data is available at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6461.0>

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0>

The following CPI measures have been used:

- CPI (All Groups) by Australia, Major City
- CPI (Education) by Australia, Major City
- CPI (Preschool & Primary Education) by Australia, Major City
- CPI (Secondary Education) by Australia, Major City

Time periods used: June quarter of each year, vs same quarter prior year.

Wage Price Index (WPI)

The Wage Price Index measures changes in the price of labour in the Australian labour market. More information on WPI and access to downloadable data is available at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Wage+Price+Indexes+FAQs>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6345.0>

The following WPI measures have been used:

- WPI (All Groups, Private sector) by Australia, State
- WPI (Education, Private sector) by Australia
- WPI (Education, Public sector) by Australia
- WPI (Education, Public and Private sector) by Australia

Time periods used: June quarter of each year, vs same quarter prior year.

Producer Price Index (PPI)

The Producer Price Index measures inflation of products either as they leave the place of production or as they enter the production process. More information on PPI and access to downloadable data is available at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6427.0>

The following PPI measures have been used:

- PPI (Non-residential building construction) by Australia, State

Time periods used: June quarter of each year, vs same quarter prior year.

The PPI (Non-residential building construction) is the metric used by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, to determine Commonwealth capital funding for non-Government schools.

ACARA National Report on Schooling data portal

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for the development of a national curriculum, a national assessment program, and national data collection and reporting program that supports learning for Australian students.

The National Report on Schooling in Australia data portal provides access to several national data sets for schooling relevant to the annual National Report on Schooling in Australia and is available at the following link

<https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal>

The following measures have been used from the data portal:

- Teaching staff salaries (Non-Government sector)
- Non-teaching staff salaries (Non-Government sector)
- School parent fees and charges (Independent sector)
- Loans at the end of the year (Independent sector)

Data for these measures are publicly available at the following link

<https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/school-funding/non-government-schools-income-and-expenditure>

Note that the Schools Australia dataset assigns independent Catholic schools to the Catholic sector.

Schools Australia – Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Schools, Australia dataset is an annual release containing statistics on students and schools, and the staff involved in the provision or administration of school education. It includes the government and non-government school populations for all Australian states and territories.

Data used in the compilation of these statistics are sourced from the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC) (non-finance), which is a joint undertaking between state and territory government departments on education, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

An explanation of ABS Schools Australia and data is available publicly at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4221.0>

The following information has been used from ABS Schools Australia:

- Full time equivalent Independent students by Total Students, Primary, Secondary (data table 43a)
- Full time equivalent Independent staff (data table 51a)

Note that the Schools Australia dataset assigns independent Catholic schools to the Catholic sector.

Revisions

2019 mid-year release

- Consumer Price Index figures updated to June 2019 (released by ABS on 31 July 2019).
- Wage Price Indicator figures updated to June 2019 (released by ABS on 14 August 2019).
- Producer Price Index figures updated to June 2019 (released by ABS on 2 August 2019).