

# Average Class Size 2020

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

- In 2020, 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 sixteen years since the staged implementation of the Class Size Reduction Program commenced in 2004.
- The average class size, Kindergarten to Year 6, is 23.8 students in 2020. This is 3.1 students fewer than in 1997 and 2.4 students fewer than in 2004 when the Class Size Reduction Program commenced.

**Table 1: Average class sizes by year: NSW government schools (1997-2020)**

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
2007	19.2	21.1	22.6	25.7	26.2	26.5	26.5	24.3
2008	19.2	21.2	22.5	25.7	26.1	26.5	26.5	24.2
2009	19.3	21.3	22.6	25.8	26.2	26.5	26.5	24.3
2010	19.2	21.2	22.7	25.6	26.2	26.4	26.4	24.2
2011	19.2	21.2	22.6	25.7	26.1	26.4	26.3	24.0
2012	19.3	21.2	22.7	25.5	25.9	26.2	26.2	24.0
2013	19.4	21.3	22.7	25.6	25.9	26.3	26.1	24.0
2014	19.3	21.4	22.7	25.6	25.9	26.2	26.2	24.0
2015	19.2	21.3	22.7	25.9	26.2	26.5	26.4	24.1
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
2020	18.8	21.0	22.2	25.4	25.6	25.9	25.9	23.8

- The recent drought has affected some rural schools. Temporary supplementation was provided to eligible schools in 2019 and 2020, resulting in staffing numbers remaining consistent despite variation in enrolments. In 2020, similar provisions were put in place for schools affected by bushfire. These provisions may have contributed to the slight reduction in average class size over the last two years.
- Data for 2020 should be treated with caution. The collection took place in March when schools were impacted by COVID-19, so fewer data checks were carried out.
- In 2020, schools with fewer than 26 students have a state-wide average class size of 10.9 students. This is under half of the state-wide average of 23.8 students in Kindergarten to Year 6 classes.
- Schools with over 700 students have an average Kindergarten class size of 25.2 in 2020.

**Table 2: Average class sizes by school size (primary enrolments), 2020**

Year	K	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	K-6
<b>Greater than 700 students</b>	20.4	22.2	23.9	28.2	28.1	28.0	28.4	25.2
<b>451 to 700 students</b>	19.7	22.0	23.4	27.2	27.6	27.6	27.8	24.6
<b>301 to 450 students</b>	19.1	22.0	23.1	26.6	26.9	27.4	27.4	24.1
<b>160 to 300 students</b>	18.7	21.4	22.4	25.2	25.5	25.8	25.9	23.2
<b>26 to 159 students</b>	16.7	18.2	19.2	21.1	21.8	21.7	21.3	19.9
<b>Less than 26 students</b>	11.7	11.9	11.6	11.8	11.7	12.1	11.9	10.9
<b>Central/Community Schools</b>	15.6	17.3	18.7	20.2	20.8	20.6	20.8	19.5

**Source:**

DoE Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation. Class size audits conducted in 1997 and 2004 to 2020.

**Notes:**

Class size audits were not conducted in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Data for 2002 and 2003 are available on request.

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.

