



Jobs supported by international students studying in Australia

Australian international education, as well as being one of Australia's largest export industries and contributing nearly \$35 billion to the Australian economy in 2018, is also a significant creator of jobs in Australia. Those jobs are not just in the education sector, but also across a wide range of primary and service industries. The nearly 700,000 international students studying in Australia in 2018 purchased visas, compulsory private health insurance and paid full tuition fees, on top of purchasing routine consumer goods and services while in Australia.

As well as directly benefitting the local economies where they live and study, international students are consumers of goods and services delivered through supply chains, which distribute economic benefit to a range of sectors across the economy. Thus, there are jobs supported by international students across Australia in both metropolitan and regional areas, notwithstanding the current concentration of students in metropolitan areas.

The Department of Education and Training's estimation of jobs-created by international education employs macroeconomic regression modelling¹ and draws on the latest available international student data. The estimate is indicative of the current underlying economic conditions and growth in the international education sector. The regression method also allows these figures to be updated annually as economic conditions change.

The modelling is based on an annual national count of student enrolments, with the number of jobs distributed across the states and territories assumed to closely match the share of national enrolments in each. This assumes that students in all states and territories have an equivalent consumption of good and services and that each state and territory has equivalent production capacity for those goods and services. The trends seen in jobs supported over time show that growth in international student numbers does create new jobs, though not generally at the same rate that international student numbers grow, due to other factors that impact on the economy and the jobs market.

Table 1: Full-time equivalent jobs supported by international education in Australia, 2013-2018

| | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia | % change per year (Australia) |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 2013 | 84,491 | 65,519 | 37,886 | 11,931 | 18,483 | 1,938 | 718 | 4,853 | 225,820 | 0.6% |
| 2014 | 85,747 | 67,938 | 37,992 | 11,784 | 18,086 | 1,771 | 798 | 5,009 | 229,124 | 1.5% |
| 2015 | 87,882 | 69,513 | 37,273 | 11,313 | 18,341 | 1,914 | 837 | 4,756 | 231,830 | 1.2% |
| 2016 | 88,392 | 72,292 | 37,067 | 11,030 | 18,078 | 2,113 | 821 | 4,895 | 234,688 | 1.2% |
| 2017 | 92,965 | 75,997 | 37,327 | 10,568 | 16,261 | 2,614 | 808 | 5,242 | 241,783 | 3.0% |
| 2018 | 95,692 | 78,914 | 38,220 | 10,514 | 14,626 | 3,162 | 797 | 5,529 | 247,454 | 2.3% |

¹ The analysis focuses on the relationship between international students and the marginal changes in employment. By using a linear regression, the model estimates the marginal effect on employment, while controlling for other factors, such as population growth, unemployment and participation rates, and the composition of part and full-time employees in the labour market.