

SPORT PARTICIPATION RESEARCH PROJECT

SPORT PARTICIPATION TRENDS ACROSS VICTORIAN LGAS 2019-2021

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INTRODUCTION

This study examined the combined participation rates in ten sports for each of the 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Victoria in the three-year period 2019–2021.

It combines data from Victorian State Sporting Associations (SSAs) for ten major sports: Australian rules football, Basketball, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, Swimming, and Tennis.

This report has three sections: for persons, females and males.

Each section consists of three components:

- Comments pointing out some key features of the table and maps that follow.
- A table showing, for each LGA (grouped into four standard regions):
 - Participation rates and associated rankings for 2019, 2020 and 2021
 - Changes in participation rates and associated rankings for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021
- Two maps showing changes in LGA participation rates for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021



RESULTS

1. Summary of key points

- The existence of differences between the participation rates of females and males is well known, and was not examined in this study. However, the patterns of differences in participation rates between LGAs and changes in the participation rate within each LGA over the 3-year period were examined both for all persons and separately for females and males. No substantial differences between genders were observed; the following points apply equally to persons, females and males.
- In each of the years 2019, 2020 and 2021, there were considerable differences between the participation rates of LGAs across Victoria as a whole, and between LGAs within the each of the four designated regions.
- The differences between LGAs remained broadly consistent across the three years, reflected in similar rankings from year to year for the majority of LGAs. The greatest volatility generally occurred in regional LGAs with small populations.
- Between 2019 and 2020, there were decreases in participation rates for all Victorian LGAs.
- Within the regional areas, there were generally greater decreases in participation rate 2019–2020 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the decreases in participation rate were generally smaller and more uniform than for regional areas.
- Between 2020 and 2021, there were increases in participation rates for all Victorian LGAs.
- Within the regional areas, there were generally correspondingly greater increases in participation 2020–2021 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the increases in participation rate were generally smaller and more uniform than for regional areas.



2. Persons

Differences between LGA

Overall:

- Participation rates are shown for the years 2019 - 2021 (Table 1).
- In each year, there were considerable differences between the participation rates of the 79 LGAs across Victoria as a whole, and between LGAs within the each of the four designated regions.
- The differences between LGAs remained broadly consistent across the three years, reflected in similar rankings from year to year for the majority of LGAs. The difference between 2019 and 2020 rankings was less than 10 for 34 LGAs and less than 20 for 55 LGAs. The corresponding counts for 2020 and 2021 rankings were 39 LGAs less than 10 and 61 LGAs less than 20. The greatest volatility generally occurred in regional LGAs with small populations.
- The LGA with the lowest participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (5.3% in 2019, 3.7% in 2020 and 5.3% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for both 2019 (31.0% and 2021 (31.1%), and Queenscliffe in 2020 (20.2%) (Table 1).

By region:

- Metropolitan-Growth: The LGA with the lowest participation rate was Melton in all three years (7.9% in 2019, 5.4% in 2020 and 7.7% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Cardinia for all three years (13.6% in 2019, 10.1% in 2020 and 13.1% in 2021) (Table 1).
- Metropolitan-Other: The LGA with the lowest participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (5.3% in 2019, 3.7% in 2020 and 5.3% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Nillumbik for 2019 (23.3%) and Bayside for both 2020 (18.4%) and 2021 (24.6%) (Table 1).
- Regional-Growth: The LGA with the lowest rate was Moorabool for 2019 (14.4%) and 2021 (14.4%). In 2020 Ballarat had the lowest participation rate in this region (9.8%). The LGA with the highest participation rate was Surf Coast in all three years (24.1% in 2019, 17.2% in 2020 and 21.8% in 2021) (Table 1).
- Regional-Other: The LGA with the lowest rate was Hepburn in 2019 (11.8%), West Wimmera in 2020 (5.8%), and Benalla in 2020 (10.8%). The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for 2019 (31.0%) and 2021 (31.1%) and Queenscliffe in 2020 (20.2%) (Table 1).



Changes within LGAs

Overall:

- Between 2019 and 2020, there were decreases in participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate decrease was Hindmarsh in Regional – Other (20.0% decrease), while Melbourne (Metropolitan – Other) showed the lowest rate decrease (-0.6%) (Table 1).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a greater decrease in participation rate 2019–2020 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the decreases in participation rate were smaller and more uniform than for regional areas (Map 1).
- Between 2020 and 2021, there were increases in participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate increase was Buloke (Regional – Other) with a 17.7% increase. Wyndham (Metropolitan – Growth) had the lowest rate increase (1.6%) (Table 1).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a correspondingly greater increase in participation rate 2020–2021 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the greatest increases in participation rate were in inner LGAs (Map 2).

By region:

- Metropolitan-Growth:

2019 – 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in participation rate was Mitchell (-4.2%). Wyndham had the lowest rate decrease (-2.3%) (Table 1).

2020 – 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in participation rate was Cardinia (3.0%). Wyndham had the lowest rate increase (1.6%) (Table 1).

- Metropolitan-Other:

2019 – 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in participation rate was Nillumbik (-6.8%). Melbourne had the lowest rate decrease (-0.6%) (Table 1).

2020 – 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in participation rate was Boroondara (6.8%). Greater Dandenong had the lowest rate increase (1.7%) (Table 1).



- Regional-Growth:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in participation rate was Surf Coast (-6.9%). Greater Geelong had the lowest rate decrease (-3.5%) (Table 1).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in participation rate was Surf Coast (4.6%). Greater Geelong had the lowest rate increase (3.7%) (Table 1).

- Regional-Other:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in participation rate was Hindmarsh (-20.0%). Hepburn had the lowest rate decrease (-4.7%) (Table 1).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in participation rate was Buloke (17.7%). Benalla had the lowest rate increase (3.3%) (Table 1).

3. Females

Differences between LGAs

Overall:

- Female participation rates are shown for the years 2019 - 2021 (Table 2).
- In each year, there were considerable differences between the female participation rates of LGAs across Victoria as a whole, and between LGAs within the each of the four designated regions.
- The differences between LGAs remained broadly consistent across the three years, reflected in similar rankings from year to year for the majority of LGAs. The difference between 2019 and 2020 rankings was less than 10 for 30 LGAs and less than 20 for 47 LGAs. The corresponding counts for 2020 and 2021 rankings were 39 LGAs less than 10 and 55 LGAs less than 20. The greatest volatility generally occurred in regional LGAs with small populations.
- The LGA with the lowest female participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (2.9% in 2019, 2.0% in 2020 and 2.5% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for both 2019 (26.3%) and 2021 (21.8%), and Queenscliffe in 2020 (16.1%) (Table 2).



By region:

- **Metropolitan-Growth:** The LGA with the lowest female participation rate was Melton in all three years (5.1% in 2019, 3.4% in 2020 and 4.7% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Cardinia for 2019 (10.2%) and 2020 (6.6%), and Mitchell in 2021 (8.6%) (Table 2).
- **Metropolitan-Other:** The LGA with the lowest female participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (2.9% in 2019, 2.0% in 2020 and 2.5% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Bayside for all three years (17.8% in 2019, 13.7% in 2020 and 17.9% in 2021) (Table 2).
- **Regional-Growth:** The LGA with the lowest female participation rate was Moorabool for 2019 (10.6%), and Ballarat in 2020 (6.2%) and 2021 (9.7%). The LGA with the highest rate was Surf Coast in all three years (18.% in 2019, 12.6% in 2020 and 16.0% in 2021) (Table 2).
- **Regional-Other:** The LGA with the lowest female participation rate was Hepburn in 2019 (9.0%), Ararat in 2020 (4.8%), and Benalla in 2021 (7.9%). The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for 2019 (26.3%) and 2021(21.8%) and Queenscliffe in 2020 (16.1%) (Table 2).

Changes within LGAs

Overall:

- Between 2019 and 2020, there was a decrease in female participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate decrease was Hindmarsh in Regional - Other (19.7% decrease), while Melbourne (Metropolitan - Other) showed the lowest rate decrease (-0.5%) (Table 2).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a greater decrease in female participation 2019-2020 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the decreases in female participation rate were smaller and more uniform than for regional areas (Map 3).
- Between 2020 and 2021, there was an increase in female participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate increase was Buloke (Regional - Other) with a 13.7% increase. Greater Dandenong (Metropolitan - Other) had the lowest rate increase (0.5%) (Table 2).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a correspondingly greater increase in female participation rate 2020-2021 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan LGAs, the increases in female participation rate were smaller and more uniform than for regional areas (Map 4).



By region

- Metropolitan-Growth:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in female participation rate was Cardinia (-3.6%). Whittlesea had the lowest rate decrease (-1.3%) (Table 2).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in female participation rate was Mitchell (2.0%). Wyndham had the lowest rate increase (0.6%) (Table 2).

- Metropolitan-Other:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in female participation rate was Nillumbik (-5.4%). Melbourne had the lowest rate decrease (-0.5%) (Table 2).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in female participation rate was Boroondara (4.5%). Greater Dandenong had the lowest rate increase (0.5%) (Table 2).

- Regional-Growth:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in female participation rate was Surf Coast (-5.6%). Greater Geelong had the lowest rate decrease (-3.2%) (Table 2).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in female participation rate was Moorabool (3.7%). Baw Baw had the lowest rate increase (2.1%) (Table 2).

- Regional-Other:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in female participation rate was Hindmarsh (-19.7%). Hepburn had the lowest rate decrease (-4.0%) (Table 2).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in female participation rate was Buloke (13.7%). Benalla had the lowest rate increase (2.4%) (Table 2).



4. MALES

Differences between LGAs

Overall:

- Male participation rates are shown for the years 2019 - 2021 (Table 3).
- In each year, there were considerable differences between the male participation rates of LGAs across Victoria as a whole, and between LGAs within the each of the four designated regions.
- The differences between LGAs remained broadly consistent across the three years, reflected in similar rankings from year to year for the majority of LGAs. The difference between 2019 and 2020 rankings was less than 10 for 34 LGAs and less than 20 for 59 LGAs. The corresponding counts for 2020 and 2021 rankings were 44 LGAs less than 10 and 67 LGAs less than 20. The greatest volatility generally occurred in regional LGAs with small populations.
- The LGA with the lowest male participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (7.6% in 2019, 5.2% in 2020 and 8.1% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for both 2019 (35.5% and 2021 (39.7%), and Southern Grampians in 2020 (25.5%) (Table 3).

By region:

- Metropolitan-Growth: The LGA with the lowest male participation rate was Melton in 2019 (10.6%) and 2021 (10.7%). In 2020 Hume had the lowest male participation rate in this region (7.4%). The LGA with the highest rate was Cardinia for all three years (17.1% in 2019, 13.6% in 2020 and 17.8% in 2021) (Table 3).
- Metropolitan-Other: The LGA with the lowest male participation rate was Greater Dandenong in all three years (7.6% in 2019, 5.2% in 2020 and 8.1% in 2021). The LGA with the highest rate was Nillumbik for 2019 (29.9%) and Bayside for both 2020 (23.6%) and 2021 (31.9%) (Table 3).
- Regional-Growth: The LGA with the lowest male participation rate was Moorabool for 2019 (18.3%) and 2021 (18.7%). In 2020 Baw Baw had the lowest male participation rate in this region (13.2%). The LGA with the highest rate was Surf Coast in all three years (30.1% in 2019, 21.8% in 2020 and 27.8% in 2021) (Table 3).



- **Regional-Other:** The LGA with the lowest male participation rate was Hepburn in 2019 (14.7%), West Wimmera in 2020 (6.2%), and Hepburn in 2021 (14.0%).

The LGA with the highest rate was Buloke for 2019 (35.5%) and 2021(39.7%) and Southern Grampians in 2020 (25.5%) (Table 3).

Changes within LGAs

Overall:

- Between 2019 and 2020, there was a decrease in male participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate decrease was Hindmarsh in Regional - Other (20.3% decrease), while Port Phillip (Metropolitan - Other) showed the lowest rate decrease (-0.4%) (Table 3).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a greater decrease in male participation 2019-2020 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the greatest decreases in male participation rate were distributed sporadically (Map 5).
- Between 2020 and 2021, there was an increase in male participation rates for all Victorian LGAs. The LGA with the greatest rate increase was Buloke (Regional - Other) with a 21.5% increase. Wyndham (Metropolitan - Growth) had the lowest rate increase (2.5%) (Table 3).
- Within the regional areas, there was generally a correspondingly greater increase in male participation rate 2020-2021 in LGAs in the north, far west and south-west of the state and in parts of the north-east. In the metropolitan area, the greatest increases in male participation rate occurred in inner LGAs (Map 6).

By region:

- **Metropolitan-Growth:**

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in male participation rate was Hume (-5.8%). Casey had the lowest rate decrease (-3.0%) (Table 3).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in male participation rate was Cardinia



(4.3%). Wyndham had the lowest rate increase (2.5%) (Table 3).

- Metropolitan-Other:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in male participation rate was Nillumbik (-8.1%). Port Phillip had the lowest rate decrease (-0.4%) (Table 3).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in male participation rate was Boroondara (9.3%). Greater Dandenong had the lowest rate increase (2.8%) (Table 3).

- Regional-Growth:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in male participation rate was Baw Baw (-8.4%). Greater Geelong had the lowest rate decrease (-3.9%) (Table 3).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in male participation rate was Baw Baw (7.0%). Greater Bendigo had the lowest rate increase (4.1%) (Table 3).

- Regional-Other:

2019 - 2020

The LGA with the largest decrease in male participation rate was Hindmarsh (-20.3%). Southern Grampians had the lowest rate decrease (-4.9%) (Table 3).

2020 - 2021

The LGA with the largest increase in male participation rate was Buloke (21.5%). Benalla had the lowest rate increase (4.2%) (Table 3).



Table 1. Participation rates and rank, 2019–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area

Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Metropolitan - growth										
Cardinia (S)	13.6	59	10.1	38	13.1	59	-3.6	-21	3.0	21
Casey (C)	10.0	67	7.6	65	9.3	73	-2.4	-2	1.7	8
Hume (C)	9.7	69	5.7	75	8.2	75	-4.1	6	2.5	0
Melton (S)	7.9	76	5.4	76	7.7	76	-2.4	0	2.3	0
Mitchell (S)	13.0	63	8.8	55	11.1	66	-4.2	-8	2.3	11
Whittlesea (C)	9.5	72	7.0	70	9.3	72	-2.5	-2	2.3	2
Wyndham (C)	9.3	73	7.0	71	8.6	74	-2.3	-2	1.6	3
Metropolitan - other										
Banyule (C)	16.3	39	12.2	14	16.0	31	-4.1	-25	3.8	17
Bayside (C)	22.1	12	18.4	3	24.6	5	-3.7	-9	6.1	2
Boroondara (C)	18.0	25	13.8	9	20.6	11	-4.3	-16	6.8	2
Brimbank (C)	6.5	77	4.3	78	6.3	78	-2.2	1	2.0	0
Darebin (C)	10.2	66	7.7	63	12.1	64	-2.5	-3	4.4	1
Frankston (C)	14.8	48	10.8	29	13.4	57	-4.0	-19	2.6	28
Glen Eira (C)	13.9	57	12.2	15	15.8	33	-1.7	-42	3.6	18
Greater Dandenong (C)	5.3	79	3.7	79	5.3	79	-1.7	0	1.7	0
Hobsons Bay (C)	13.3	62	10.2	37	14.6	48	-3.1	-25	4.4	11
Kingston (C)	15.9	40	11.7	17	16.2	28	-4.3	-23	4.6	11
Knox (C)	14.4	52	11.2	22	14.0	53	-3.2	-30	2.8	31
Manningham (C)	13.4	61	9.9	41	12.2	63	-3.5	-20	2.2	22
Maribyrnong (C)	8.5	75	6.8	73	10.2	70	-1.8	-2	3.5	-3
Maroondah (C)	15.5	44	11.7	16	15.7	34	-3.8	-28	4.0	18
Melbourne (C)	5.7	78	5.1	77	7.3	77	-0.6	-1	2.2	0
Monash (C)	9.6	70	8.5	57	11.1	67	-1.1	-13	2.5	10
Moonee Valley (C)	13.5	60	11.1	23	15.0	45	-2.4	-37	3.9	22
Moreland (C)	9.1	74	7.5	66	10.2	71	-1.6	-8	2.7	5
Mornington Peninsula (S)	17.8	30	15.2	8	19.4	15	-2.6	-22	4.2	7
Nillumbik (S)	23.3	11	16.5	5	20.9	9	-6.8	-6	4.4	4
Port Phillip (C)	9.5	71	8.9	53	12.9	60	-0.7	-18	4.0	7
Stonnington (C)	14.2	55	10.7	30	15.0	43	-3.5	-25	4.3	13
Whitehorse (C)	12.5	64	10.9	28	14.4	51	-1.6	-36	3.5	23
Yarra (C)	10.0	68	8.4	59	12.4	62	-1.6	-9	4.1	3
Yarra Ranges (S)	16.5	38	11.3	21	15.4	37	-5.2	-17	4.1	16



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Regional – growth										
Ballarat (C)	14.8	49	9.8	42	14.4	49	-5.0	-7	4.6	7
Bass Coast (S)	15.6	43	11.1	24	15.6	35	-4.5	-19	4.5	11
Baw Baw (S)	16.8	35	10.5	32	15.0	44	-6.3	-3	4.5	12
Greater Bendigo (C)	16.8	34	12.3	13	16.0	30	-4.6	-21	3.7	17
Greater Geelong (C)	14.9	47	11.4	20	15.1	42	-3.5	-27	3.7	22
Moorabool (S)	14.4	53	10.0	40	14.4	50	-4.4	-13	4.4	10
Surf Coast (S)	24.1	9	17.2	4	21.8	8	-6.9	-5	4.6	4
Regional – other										
Alpine (S)	17.9	28	10.5	33	14.6	47	-7.4	5	4.1	14
Ararat (RC)	14.3	54	7.8	62	13.9	54	-6.6	8	6.2	-8
Benalla (RC)	13.8	58	7.5	67	10.8	69	-6.3	9	3.3	2
Buloke (S)	31.0	1	13.4	11	31.1	1	-17.7	10	17.7	-10
Campaspe (S)	19.1	20	10.0	39	16.9	27	-9.0	19	6.9	-12
Central Goldfields (S)	18.0	26	9.4	47	15.2	39	-8.6	21	5.9	-8
Colac-Otway (S)	20.1	18	13.1	12	19.2	16	-7.0	-6	6.1	4
Corangamite (S)	25.8	5	15.3	7	25.9	3	-10.6	2	10.7	-4
East Gippsland (S)	14.4	51	7.4	68	13.2	58	-7.0	17	5.7	-10
Gannawarra (S)	24.2	8	10.3	34	20.5	12	-13.8	26	10.2	-22
Glenelg (S)	19.8	19	10.2	36	20.1	14	-9.6	17	9.9	-22
Golden Plains (S)	16.6	37	11.0	26	16.9	26	-5.6	-11	5.9	0
Greater Shepparton (C)	17.6	31	9.5	45	15.2	40	-8.1	14	5.7	-5
Hepburn (S)	11.8	65	7.1	69	11.0	68	-4.7	4	3.9	-1
Hindmarsh (S)	26.9	4	6.9	72	19.0	18	-20.0	68	12.1	-54
Horsham (RC)	20.6	17	10.9	27	17.7	20	-9.7	10	6.8	-7
Indigo (S)	16.8	36	9.2	48	15.6	36	-7.6	12	6.4	-12
Latrobe (C)	15.7	42	10.2	35	13.8	56	-5.5	-7	3.5	21
Loddon (S)	23.8	10	8.9	51	18.0	19	-14.9	41	9.0	-32
Macedon Ranges (S)	18.6	23	11.4	19	17.4	22	-7.2	-4	6.0	3
Mansfield (S)	17.8	29	9.5	44	15.8	32	-8.3	15	6.4	-12
Mildura (RC)	15.9	41	8.5	58	14.8	46	-7.3	17	6.3	-12
Moira (S)	18.8	21	9.6	43	17.3	23	-9.2	22	7.8	-20
Mount Alexander (S)	14.7	50	9.0	49	14.1	52	-5.8	-1	5.2	3
Moyne (S)	24.8	7	15.4	6	24.2	6	-9.4	-1	8.9	0
Murrindindi (S)	15.2	46	7.9	61	12.8	61	-7.3	15	4.9	0
Northern Grampians (S)	18.6	22	8.1	60	15.3	38	-10.5	38	7.2	-22
Pyrenees (S)	16.8	33	9.0	50	16.2	29	-7.9	17	7.2	-21



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Queenscliffe (B)	29.6	2	20.2	1	24.6	4	-9.5	-1	4.5	3
South Gippsland (S)	21.4	14	13.4	10	20.6	10	-8.0	-4	7.2	0
Southern Grampians (S)	25.7	6	19.0	2	29.3	2	-6.8	-4	10.4	0
Strathbogie (S)	15.3	45	8.7	56	13.9	55	-6.6	11	5.2	-1
Swan Hill (RC)	21.6	13	9.4	46	20.1	13	-12.2	33	10.7	-33
Towong (S)	20.7	16	8.9	52	19.2	17	-11.8	36	10.3	-35
Wangaratta (RC)	17.9	27	8.8	54	15.2	41	-9.2	27	6.4	-13
Warrnambool (C)	17.5	32	10.6	31	17.1	24	-6.9	-1	6.5	-7
Wellington (S)	18.4	24	11.0	25	17.5	21	-7.4	1	6.5	-4
West Wimmera (S)	20.9	15	5.8	74	17.1	25	-15.1	59	11.3	-49
Wodonga (RC)	13.9	56	7.7	64	11.8	65	-6.2	8	4.1	1
Yarriambiack (S)	29.3	3	11.5	18	22.3	7	-17.8	15	10.8	-11

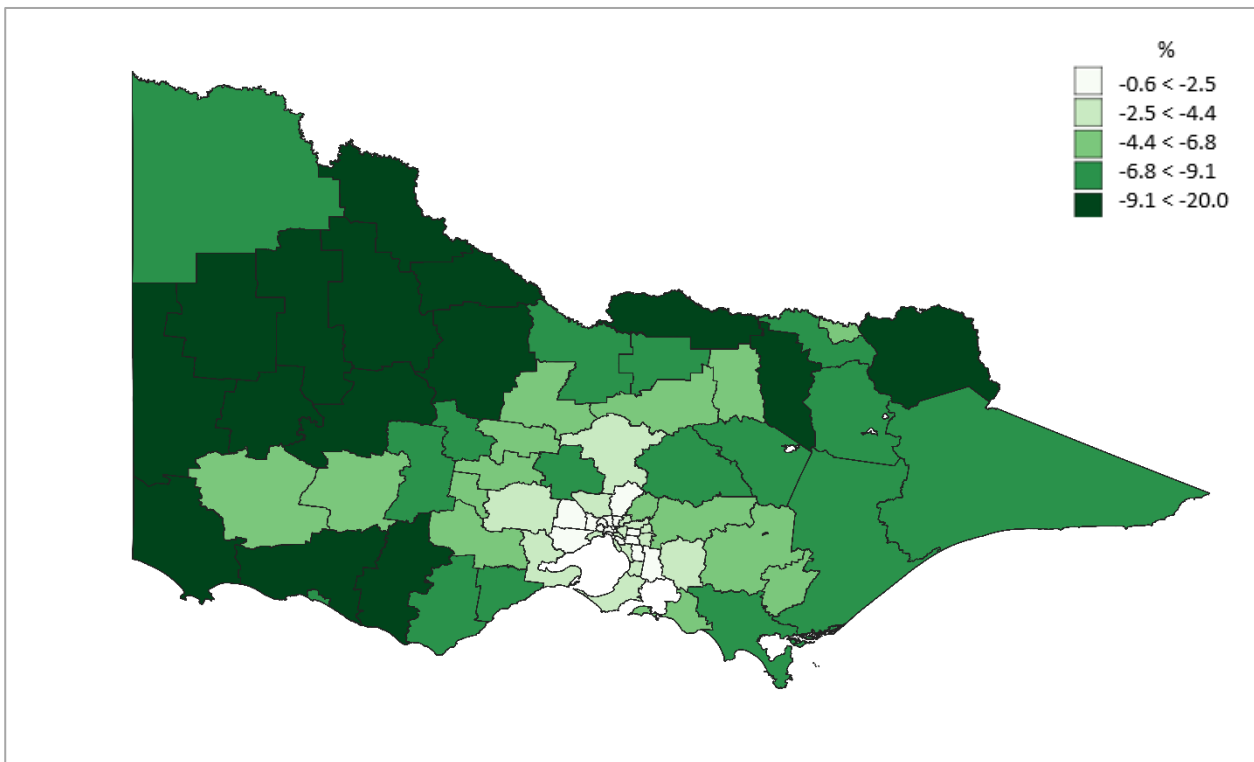
¹ Number of player registrations per 100 residents

² In descending order of participation rate (1=highest participation rate) across all 79 LGAs

³ As a consequence of the assigning of ranks in descending order of participation rates, a positive (negative) change in the ranking of an LGA indicates a relative decrease (increase) in participation rate compared to other LGAs



Map 1. Change in participation rates, 2019–2020, Victoria: by Local Government Area



Map 2. Change in participation rates, 2020–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area

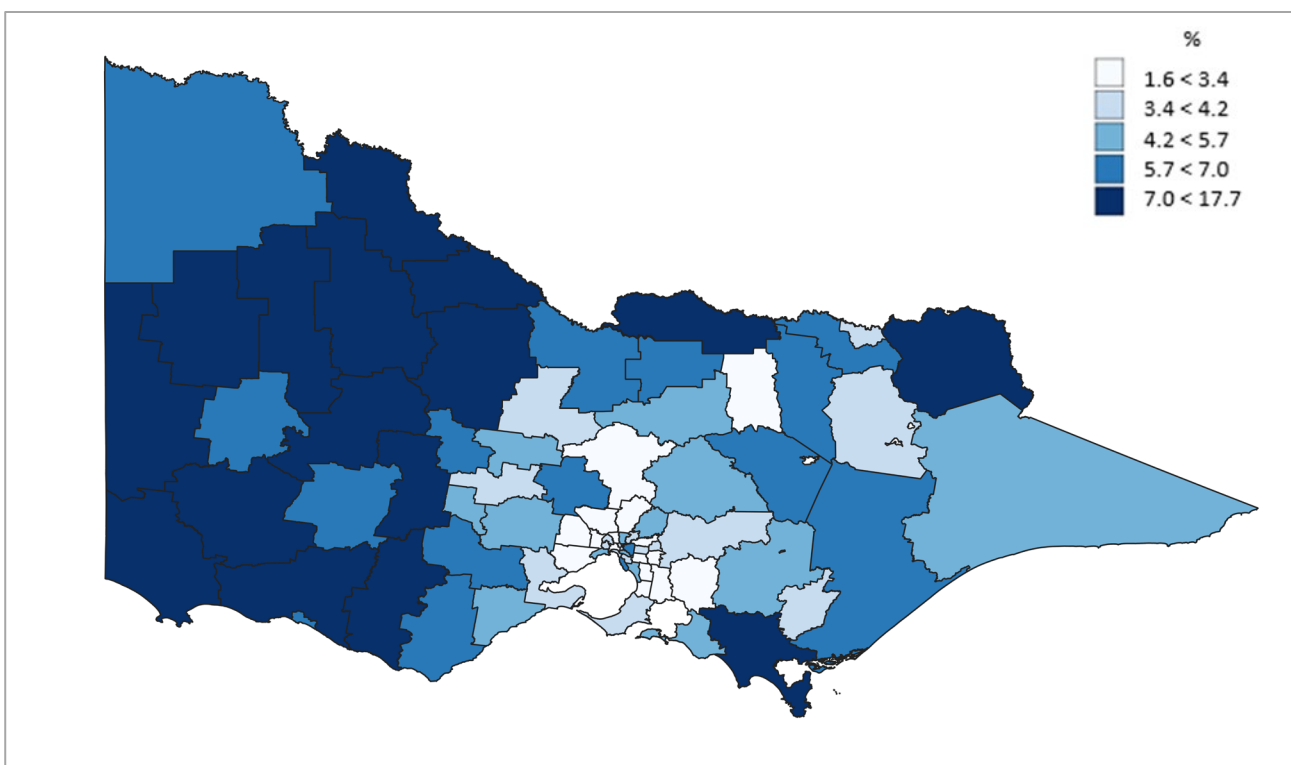




Table 2. Female participation rates and rank, 2019–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area

Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Metropolitan - growth										
Cardinia (S)	10.2	57	6.6	46	8.4	63	-3.6	-11	1.8	17
Casey (C)	6.6	70	4.9	70	5.5	72	-1.8	0	0.7	2
Hume (C)	6.2	73	3.9	75	4.9	75	-2.3	2	1.0	0
Melton (S)	5.1	76	3.4	76	4.7	76	-1.7	0	1.3	0
Mitchell (S)	9.7	62	6.6	49	8.6	62	-3.1	-13	2.0	13
Whittlesea (C)	5.9	75	4.6	74	5.5	73	-1.3	-1	0.9	-1
Wyndham (C)	6.2	74	4.7	73	5.3	74	-1.5	-1	0.6	1
Metropolitan - other										
Banyule (C)	11.2	46	8.0	23	10.4	45	-3.2	-23	2.4	22
Bayside (C)	17.8	14	13.7	2	17.9	4	-4.1	-12	4.2	2
Boroondara (C)	14.4	29	10.7	7	15.2	13	-3.7	-22	4.5	6
Brimbank (C)	4.1	77	2.7	78	3.6	78	-1.4	1	0.9	0
Darebin (C)	7.2	69	5.3	64	8.2	64	-1.9	-5	2.9	0
Frankston (C)	10.0	58	7.5	34	8.7	60	-2.5	-24	1.3	26
Glen Eira (C)	10.2	55	8.7	12	10.7	42	-1.5	-43	1.9	30
Greater Dandenong (C)	2.9	79	2.0	79	2.5	79	-0.9	0	0.5	0
Hobsons Bay (C)	9.9	59	7.0	40	9.9	51	-2.9	-19	2.9	11
Kingston (C)	11.3	45	8.5	14	11.1	34	-2.8	-31	2.7	20
Knox (C)	9.7	60	7.7	31	9.2	58	-2.0	-29	1.4	27
Manningham (C)	9.5	64	7.2	36	8.0	66	-2.4	-28	0.9	30
Maribyrnong (C)	6.3	71	4.9	69	6.9	70	-1.4	-2	2.0	1
Maroondah (C)	11.0	48	8.4	17	11.0	36	-2.6	-31	2.6	19
Melbourne (C)	3.4	78	2.9	77	4.1	77	-0.5	-1	1.2	0
Monash (C)	7.4	68	6.2	53	7.3	69	-1.1	-15	1.1	16
Moonee Valley (C)	9.6	63	7.8	30	10.0	50	-1.8	-33	2.2	20
Moreland (C)	6.3	72	5.2	66	6.6	71	-1.1	-6	1.4	5
Mornington Peninsula (S)	13.5	33	10.9	6	14.0	20	-2.6	-27	3.1	14
Nillumbik (S)	16.8	16	11.3	5	15.2	14	-5.4	-11	3.8	9
Port Phillip (C)	7.5	66	6.6	47	9.2	57	-0.9	-19	2.6	10
Stonnington (C)	11.5	42	8.4	16	11.0	37	-3.1	-26	2.5	21
Whitehorse (C)	9.7	61	8.3	18	10.3	46	-1.3	-43	2.0	28
Yarra (C)	7.4	67	6.2	54	8.6	61	-1.2	-13	2.4	7
Yarra Ranges (S)	11.8	39	8.2	20	10.8	40	-3.6	-19	2.6	20



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Regional – growth										
Ballarat (C)	10.7	52	6.2	55	9.7	54	-4.5	3	3.5	-1
Bass Coast (S)	12.6	35	8.4	15	11.4	33	-4.1	-20	3.0	18
Baw Baw (S)	12.2	38	8.0	24	10.1	49	-4.3	-14	2.1	25
Greater Bendigo (C)	13.0	34	8.1	22	11.5	31	-4.9	-12	3.4	9
Greater Geelong (C)	10.7	53	7.5	33	9.9	52	-3.2	-20	2.3	19
Moorabool (S)	10.6	54	6.4	51	10.1	48	-4.1	-3	3.7	-3
Surf Coast (S)	18.2	12	12.6	4	16.0	9	-5.6	-8	3.4	5
Regional – other										
Alpine (S)	14.0	30	8.5	13	11.0	35	-5.5	-17	2.5	22
Ararat (RC)	11.0	49	4.8	72	9.8	53	-6.2	23	5.0	-19
Benalla (RC)	11.1	47	5.2	65	7.6	68	-5.8	18	2.4	3
Buloke (S)	26.3	1	8.1	21	21.8	1	-18.2	20	13.7	-20
Campaspe (S)	14.6	28	6.7	45	11.7	29	-7.9	17	5.0	-16
Central Goldfields (S)	14.8	25	7.0	37	11.9	27	-7.7	12	4.9	-10
Colac-Otway (S)	15.9	19	9.5	11	14.5	19	-6.3	-8	5.0	8
Corangamite (S)	18.9	9	10.3	8	17.3	5	-8.6	-1	7.0	-3
East Gippsland (S)	10.9	51	5.5	61	9.3	56	-5.4	10	3.8	-5
Gannawarra (S)	18.7	10	6.8	43	14.9	17	-11.9	33	8.0	-26
Glenelg (S)	17.7	15	8.3	19	15.8	10	-9.4	4	7.5	-9
Golden Plains (S)	11.5	41	7.0	38	11.5	30	-4.6	-3	4.5	-8
Greater Shepparton (C)	13.6	32	6.1	56	10.6	43	-7.5	24	4.5	-13
Hepburn (S)	9.0	65	5.0	68	7.9	67	-4.0	3	2.9	-1
Hindmarsh (S)	24.5	2	4.8	71	15.6	11	-19.7	69	10.8	-60
Horsham (RC)	16.6	17	7.6	32	13.4	21	-9.0	15	5.8	-11
Indigo (S)	13.8	31	8.0	25	11.5	32	-5.8	-6	3.5	7
Latrobe (C)	11.4	43	6.8	44	9.3	55	-4.7	1	2.6	11
Loddon (S)	22.4	5	6.9	42	15.5	12	-15.6	37	8.7	-30
Macedon Ranges (S)	14.7	26	7.9	27	12.8	23	-6.8	1	4.9	-4
Mansfield (S)	15.4	20	7.5	35	12.0	26	-8.0	15	4.6	-9
Mildura (RC)	12.5	36	6.6	48	10.8	39	-5.9	12	4.2	-9
Moirā (S)	15.3	21	6.3	52	13.0	22	-9.0	31	6.7	-30
Mount Alexander (S)	10.9	50	6.5	50	10.3	47	-4.4	0	3.8	-3
Moyne (S)	19.5	8	10.3	9	16.6	8	-9.2	1	6.3	-1
Murrindindi (S)	12.3	37	6.1	58	10.7	41	-6.2	21	4.7	-17
Northern Grampians (S)	14.8	24	5.3	63	10.9	38	-9.5	39	5.6	-25
Pyrenees (S)	14.7	27	6.1	57	12.3	25	-8.6	30	6.2	-32



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Queenscliffe (B)	24.4	3	16.1	1	18.8	3	-8.4	-2	2.7	2
South Gippsland (S)	16.6	18	9.8	10	14.7	18	-6.8	-8	4.9	8
Southern Grampians (S)	21.2	6	12.6	3	21.4	2	-8.6	-3	8.8	-1
Strathbogie (S)	11.4	44	5.1	67	9.1	59	-6.2	23	4.0	-8
Swan Hill (RC)	17.9	13	7.0	39	14.9	16	-11.0	26	7.9	-23
Towong (S)	19.5	7	7.8	28	16.9	7	-11.7	21	9.0	-21
Wangaratta (RC)	15.2	23	5.5	60	11.8	28	-9.7	37	6.3	-32
Warrnambool (C)	11.7	40	6.9	41	10.5	44	-4.8	1	3.6	3
Wellington (S)	15.3	22	7.8	29	12.4	24	-7.5	7	4.6	-5
West Wimmera (S)	18.5	11	5.4	62	15.0	15	-13.1	51	9.6	-47
Wodonga (RC)	10.2	56	5.5	59	8.2	65	-4.6	3	2.7	6
Yarriambiack (S)	24.0	4	7.9	26	17.1	6	-16.1	22	9.2	-20

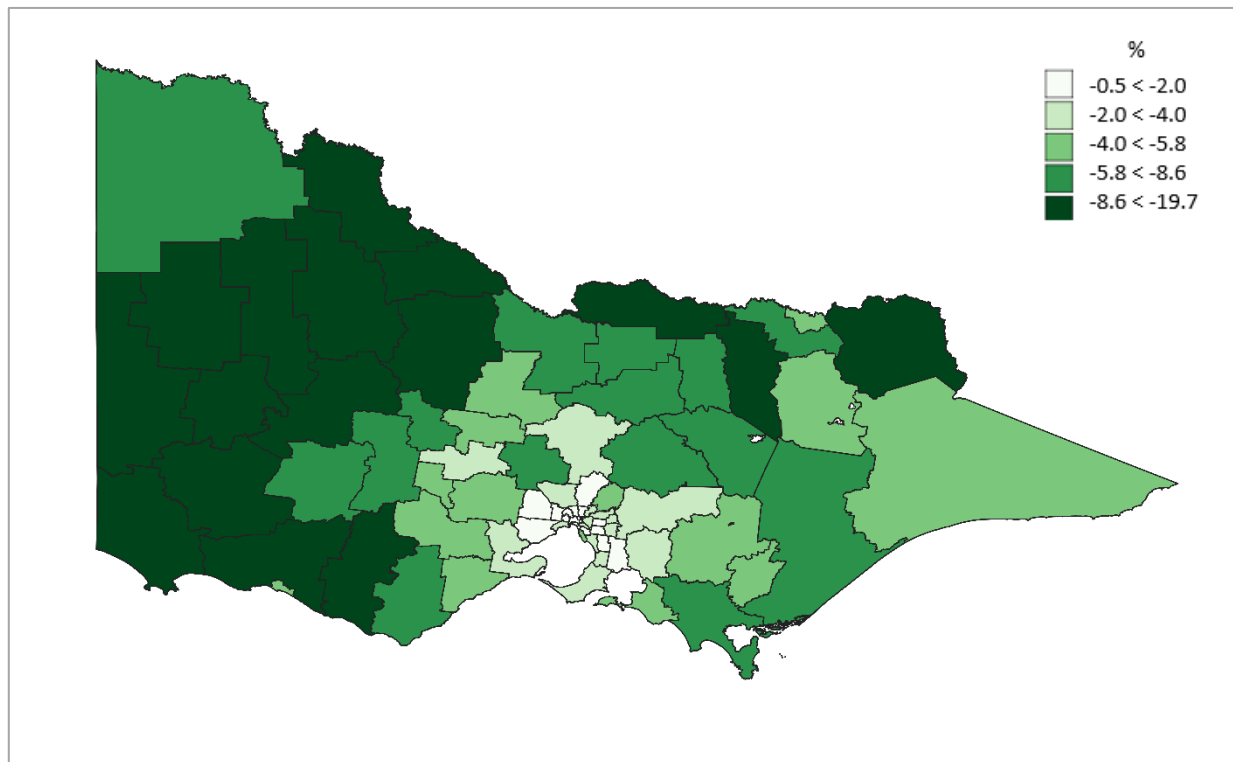
¹ Number of player registrations per 100 residents

² In descending order of participation rate (1=highest participation rate) across all 79 LGAs

³ As a consequence of the assigning of ranks in descending order of participation rates, a positive (negative) change in the ranking of an LGA indicates a relative decrease (increase) in participation rate compared to other LGAs



Map 3. Change in female participation rates, 2019–2020, Victoria: by Local Government Area



Map 4. Change in female participation rates, 2020–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area

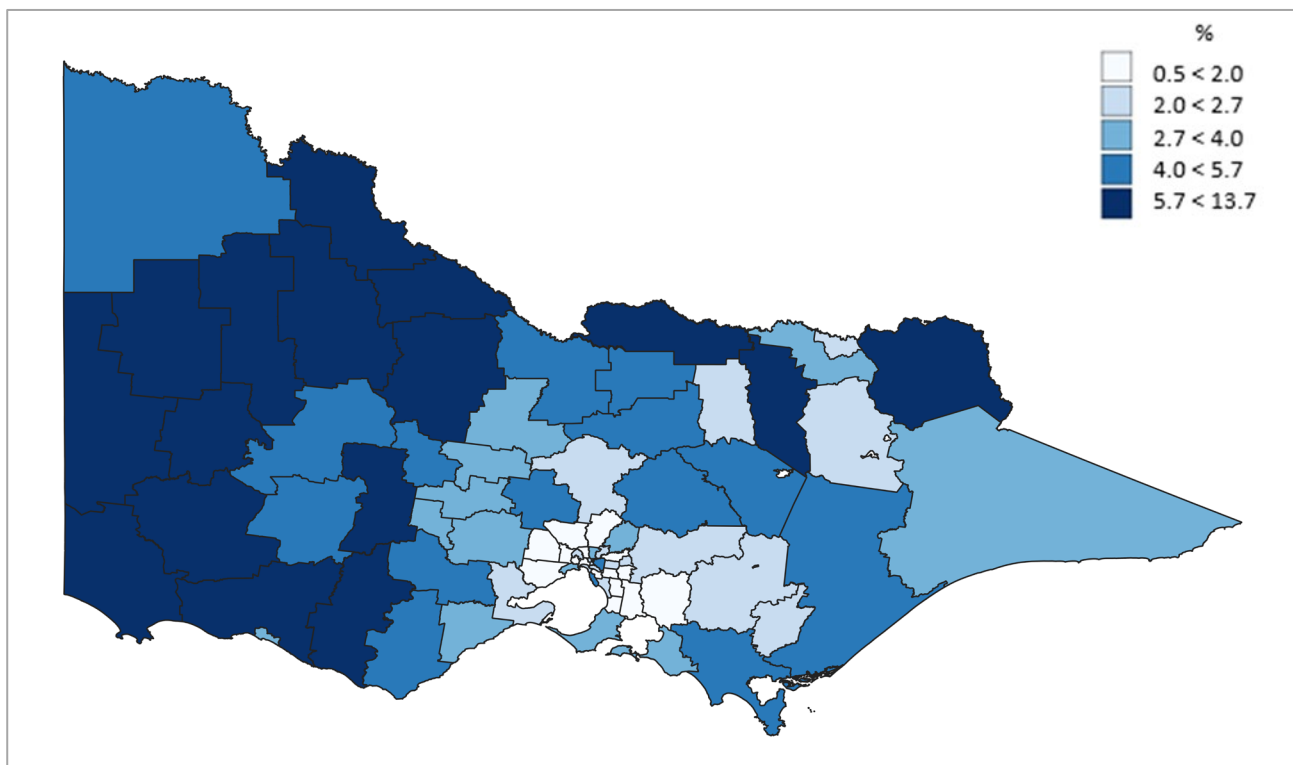




Table 3. Male participation rates and rank, 2019–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area

Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Metropolitan - growth										
Cardinia (S)	17.1	60	13.6	34	17.8	57	-3.5	-26	4.3	23
Casey (C)	13.4	66	10.3	61	13.1	73	-3.0	-5	2.7	12
Hume (C)	13.2	68	7.4	75	11.4	75	-5.8	7	4.0	0
Melton (S)	10.6	76	7.4	74	10.7	76	-3.2	-2	3.3	2
Mitchell (S)	16.2	63	10.9	54	13.5	70	-5.3	-9	2.6	16
Whittlesea (C)	13.2	69	9.5	68	13.2	72	-3.6	-1	3.7	4
Wyndham (C)	12.4	71	9.3	70	11.8	74	-3.1	-1	2.5	4
Metropolitan - other										
Banyule (C)	21.6	28	16.6	14	21.8	24	-5.0	-14	5.2	10
Bayside (C)	26.9	11	23.6	3	31.9	5	-3.3	-8	8.2	2
Boroondara (C)	21.9	24	17.1	11	26.4	11	-4.8	-13	9.3	0
Brimbank (C)	8.8	77	5.8	78	9.1	78	-2.9	1	3.2	0
Darebin (C)	13.3	67	10.3	62	16.2	63	-3.0	-5	5.9	1
Frankston (C)	19.9	41	14.3	27	18.2	55	-5.6	-14	3.9	28
Glen Eira (C)	17.7	55	15.8	15	21.2	28	-1.9	-40	5.4	13
Greater Dandenong (C)	7.6	79	5.2	79	8.1	79	-2.4	0	2.8	0
Hobsons Bay (C)	16.7	62	13.4	36	19.5	43	-3.3	-26	6.1	7
Kingston (C)	20.7	37	15.0	18	21.6	26	-5.8	-19	6.7	8
Knox (C)	19.3	44	14.9	21	19.1	45	-4.4	-23	4.2	24
Manningham (C)	17.5	57	12.9	40	16.6	61	-4.6	-17	3.7	21
Maribyrnong (C)	10.7	75	8.6	73	13.5	71	-2.1	-2	4.9	-2
Maroondah (C)	20.3	38	15.2	17	20.7	30	-5.1	-21	5.5	13
Melbourne (C)	8.0	78	7.3	76	10.6	77	-0.7	-2	3.2	1
Monash (C)	11.9	73	10.8	55	14.8	65	-1.0	-18	4.0	10
Moonee Valley (C)	17.5	56	14.6	23	20.2	34	-2.9	-33	5.6	11
Moreland (C)	12.0	72	9.9	64	14.0	69	-2.1	-8	4.1	5
Mornington Peninsula (S)	22.3	22	19.8	8	25.2	14	-2.5	-14	5.4	6
Nillumbik (S)	29.9	8	21.7	5	26.7	9	-8.1	-3	4.9	4
Port Phillip (C)	11.6	74	11.2	52	16.8	60	-0.4	-22	5.5	8
Stonnington (C)	17.1	59	13.2	38	19.5	44	-3.9	-21	6.2	6
Whitehorse (C)	15.4	64	13.6	35	18.6	51	-1.8	-29	5.1	16
Yarra (C)	12.6	70	10.6	57	16.4	62	-2.0	-13	5.8	5
Yarra Ranges (S)	21.3	34	14.5	25	20.1	35	-6.8	-9	5.6	10



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Regional – growth										
Ballarat (C)	19.2	47	13.7	31	19.5	42	-5.5	-16	5.8	11
Bass Coast (S)	18.8	48	13.8	29	20.0	36	-5.0	-19	6.1	7
Baw Baw (S)	21.6	29	13.2	39	20.2	33	-8.4	10	7.0	-6
Greater Bendigo (C)	20.8	35	16.6	13	20.7	29	-4.2	-22	4.1	16
Greater Geelong (C)	19.3	43	15.4	16	20.6	31	-3.9	-27	5.2	15
Moorabool (S)	18.3	51	13.7	33	18.7	50	-4.6	-18	5.0	17
Surf Coast (S)	30.1	7	21.8	4	27.8	7	-8.3	-3	5.9	3
Regional – other										
Alpine (S)	21.8	26	12.5	43	18.3	54	-9.3	17	5.8	11
Ararat (RC)	17.3	58	10.4	60	17.6	58	-6.9	2	7.2	-2
Benalla (RC)	16.7	61	9.8	66	14.0	68	-6.9	5	4.2	2
Buloke (S)	35.5	1	18.3	9	39.7	1	-17.2	8	21.5	-8
Campaspe (S)	23.6	17	13.4	37	22.2	20	-10.2	20	8.8	-17
Central Goldfields (S)	21.3	33	11.8	47	18.6	52	-9.6	14	6.8	5
Colac-Otway (S)	24.4	16	16.7	12	23.8	17	-7.7	-4	7.1	5
Corangamite (S)	32.6	4	20.1	7	34.4	3	-12.5	3	14.3	-4
East Gippsland (S)	18.0	53	9.5	69	17.2	59	-8.6	16	7.7	-10
Gannawarra (S)	29.5	9	13.7	32	26.1	12	-15.8	23	12.4	-20
Glennelg (S)	21.9	25	12.2	46	24.4	15	-9.8	21	12.3	-31
Golden Plains (S)	21.5	31	14.9	20	22.0	23	-6.6	-11	7.1	3
Greater Shepparton (C)	21.5	30	12.8	42	19.8	37	-8.7	12	7.0	-5
Hepburn (S)	14.7	65	9.2	71	14.1	67	-5.5	6	4.9	-4
Hindmarsh (S)	29.3	10	8.9	72	22.5	18	-20.3	62	13.5	-54
Horsham (RC)	24.8	15	14.3	26	22.1	21	-10.5	11	7.8	-5
Indigo (S)	19.8	42	10.4	59	19.7	40	-9.4	17	9.3	-19
Latrobe (C)	20.1	40	13.8	30	18.4	53	-6.2	-10	4.6	23
Loddon (S)	25.1	14	10.8	56	20.3	32	-14.2	42	9.5	-24
Macedon Ranges (S)	22.5	21	15.0	19	22.1	22	-7.5	-2	7.1	3
Mansfield (S)	20.1	39	11.5	49	19.8	38	-8.6	10	8.3	-11
Mildura (RC)	19.2	45	10.5	58	18.9	47	-8.7	13	8.4	-11
Moira (S)	22.3	23	12.8	41	21.7	25	-9.5	18	8.9	-16
Mount Alexander (S)	18.5	50	11.5	50	18.0	56	-7.1	0	6.5	6
Moyne (S)	30.1	6	20.4	6	32.0	4	-9.7	0	11.6	-2
Murrindindi (S)	18.1	52	9.6	67	14.8	66	-8.4	15	5.1	-1
Northern Grampians (S)	22.6	20	11.0	53	19.7	41	-11.6	33	8.7	-12
Pyrenees (S)	18.7	49	11.4	51	19.7	39	-7.3	2	8.3	-12



Region LGA	Participation 2019		Participation 2020		Participation 2021		Change 2019 - 2020		Change 2020 - 2021	
	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ²	Rate ¹	Rank ³	Rate ¹	Rank ³
Queenscliffe (B)	35.2	2	24.5	2	31.1	6	-10.7	0	6.6	4
South Gippsland (S)	26.4	12	17.1	10	26.6	10	-9.2	-2	9.4	0
Southern Grampians (S)	30.4	5	25.5	1	37.4	2	-4.9	-4	11.9	1
Strathbogie (S)	19.2	46	12.3	44	18.7	49	-6.9	-2	6.4	5
Swan Hill (RC)	25.2	13	11.7	48	25.3	13	-13.4	35	13.6	-35
Towong (S)	21.8	27	9.8	65	21.4	27	-11.9	38	11.5	-38
Wangaratta (RC)	20.8	36	12.2	45	18.8	48	-8.6	9	6.5	3
Warrnambool (C)	23.5	18	14.5	24	24.1	16	-9.0	6	9.6	-8
Wellington (S)	21.4	32	14.0	28	22.4	19	-7.4	-4	8.3	-9
West Wimmera (S)	23.3	19	6.2	77	19.0	46	-17.1	58	12.9	-31
Wodonga (RC)	17.8	54	10.0	63	15.6	64	-7.8	9	5.6	1
Yarriambiack (S)	34.2	3	14.8	22	27.3	8	-19.4	19	12.5	-14

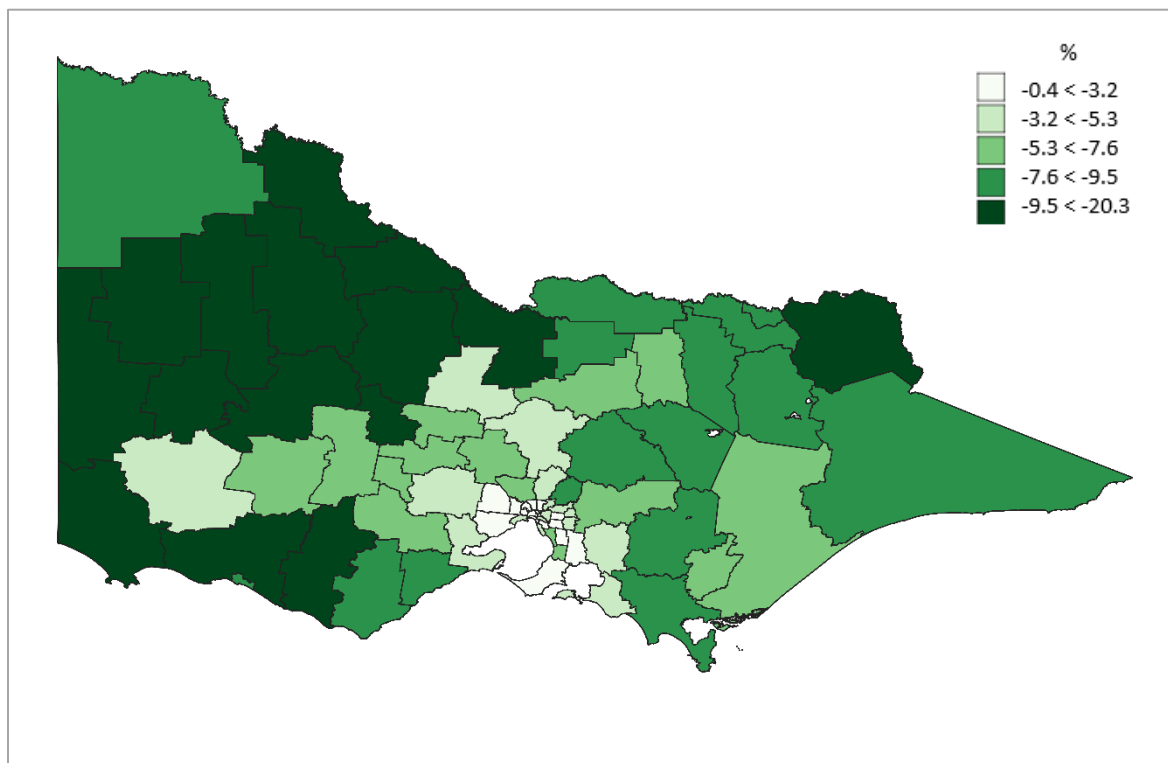
¹ Number of player registrations per 100 residents

² In descending order of participation rate (1=highest participation rate) across all 79 LGAs

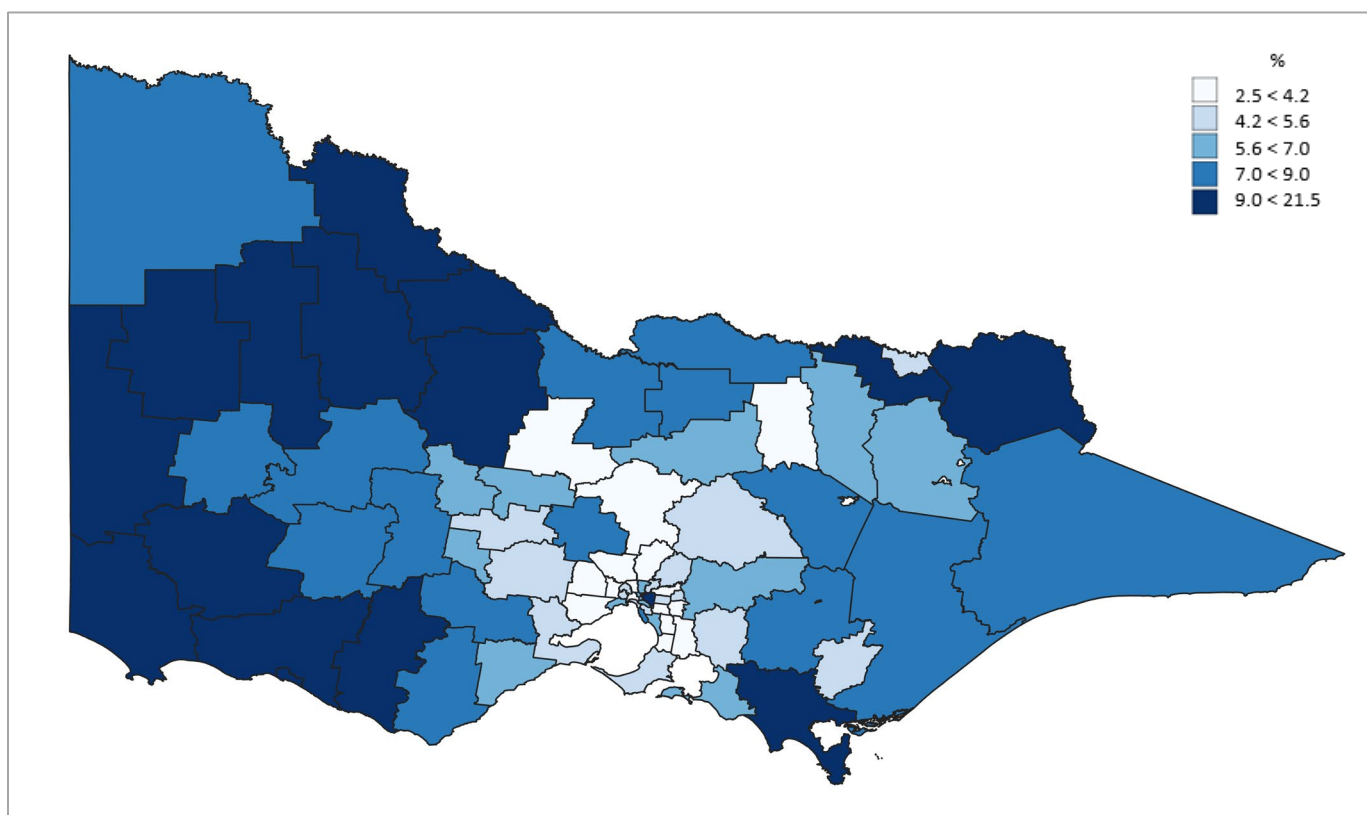
³ As a consequence of the assigning of ranks in descending order of participation rates, a positive (negative) change in the ranking of an LGA indicates a relative decrease (increase) in participation rate compared to other LGAs



Map 5. Change in male participation rates, 2019–2020, Victoria: by Local Government Area



Map 6. Change in male participation rates, 2020–2021, Victoria: by Local Government Area





Definition of the four Sport Participation Research Project (SPRP) regions

For the purpose of regional breakdowns included in standard reports prepared under the Sport Participation Research Project (SPRP), four regions have been defined by the SPRP research team in consultation with Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth. Each region consists of a group of local government areas (LGAs), listed here in alphabetical order. B =Borough, C = City, RC = Rural City, S = Shire.

There are two driving principles behind the designation of these four regions:

- The patterns of sport participation in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas are known to differ substantially.
- Within both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, projected growth in population is very uneven.

The Metropolitan – Growth region consists of the seven LGAs containing the four growth corridors designated by the Metropolitan Planning Authority. Six of the seven are within the current Melbourne Metropolitan Area designated by the State Government. The seventh, Mitchell Shire, is currently designated Non-metropolitan.

The Regional – Growth region consists of the LGAs containing the three largest regional centres, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, together with four LGAs which are expected, according to State Government population projections, to experience high population growth during the period up to 2021. Each of these four LGAs is on the outer periphery of one or more of Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat.

The Metropolitan – Other region consists of the remaining 25 LGAs within the designated Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

The Regional – Other region consists of the remaining 40 LGAs outside the designated Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

Metropolitan – Growth (7)	Regional – Other (40)
Cardinia (S)	Alpine (S)
Casey (C)	Ararat (RC)
Hume (C)	Benalla (RC)
Melton (C)	Buloke (S)
Mitchell (S)	Campaspe (S)
Whittlesea (C)	Central Goldfields (S)
Wyndham (C)	Colac-Otway (S)
	Corangamite (S)
Metropolitan – Other (25)	East Gippsland (S)
Banyule (C)	Gannawarra (S)
Bayside (C)	Glenelg (S)
Boroondara (C)	Golden Plains (S)
Brimbank (C)	Greater Shepparton (C)
Darebin (C)	Hepburn (S)
Frankston (C)	Hindmarsh (S)
Glen Eira (C)	Horsham (RC)
Greater Dandenong (C)	Indigo (S)
Hobsons Bay (C)	Latrobe (C)
Kingston (C)	Loddon (S)
Knox (C)	Macedon Ranges (S)
Manningham (C)	Mansfield (S)
Maribyrnong (C)	Mildura (RC)
Maroondah (C)	Moira (S)
Melbourne (C)	Mount Alexander (S)
Monash (C)	Moyne (S)
Moonee Valley (C)	Murrindindi (S)
Moreland (C)	Northern Grampians (S)
Mornington Peninsula (S)	Pyrenees (S)
Nillumbik (S)	Queenscliffe (B)
Port Phillip (C)	South Gippsland (S)
Stonnington (C)	Southern Grampians (S)
Whitehorse (C)	Strathbogie (S)
Yarra (C)	Swan Hill (RC)
Yarra Ranges (S)	Towong (S)
	Wangaratta (RC)
Regional – Growth (7)	Warrnambool (C)
Ballarat (C)	Wellington (S)
Bass Coast (S)	West Wimmera (S)
Baw Baw (S)	Wodonga (C)
Greater Bendigo (C)	Yarriambiack (S)
Greater Geelong (C)	
Moorabool (S)	
Surf Coast (S)	



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Data accuracy

- There are some differences in reported participation counts and rates compared to the previously prepared annual reports for individual sports and the aggregated reports. For the present report we used the most current SSA and ABS data as available at time of reporting.
- Counts of participants in local government areas (LGAs) are estimates based on the fractional allocation of residential postcodes to LGAs using correspondence tables published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and aligned to participant data year depending on availability. As such, counts in tables appear as whole numbers, rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Some postcode areas cross state borders, requiring mathematical 'border effect' adjustments. As such, counts are only reported for the 79 Victorian LGAs as described in the regions definition section above.
- For this report, participation rates are calculated using year matched LGA participation counts and ERPs.

Reference

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022). Regional population by age and sex. Available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population-age-and-sex>

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