



Demographic trends in Australia's VET skills supply

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This paper analyses some demographic trends in Australia's VET skills supply, particularly as they are reflected in the NCVET and ABS surveys. Among factors influencing the supply of VET skills, demographic elements are especially significant. The study quantifies the demographic impacts on the supply of VET skills in Australia over a 15-year period to 2020. This is achieved by measuring the number of VET full time equivalent students who are enrolled in major courses and looking at their highest completed qualifications. Australia's VET skills supply is characterised by two distinct demographic features: a concentration in younger ages, and gender imbalance. These, together with rising VET participation rates, will greatly shift the size and age-sex structure of the potential supply of VET skills in the future. Some implications for the VET sector are then discussed.