

Appendix 5: Service Related Groups

Introduction

The Service Related Group (SRG) classification is based on Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) aggregations and categorises admitted patient episodes into groups representing clinical divisions of hospital activity. SRGs are used to assist the planning of services, in analysing and comparing hospital activity, examining patterns of service needs and access, and projecting potential trends in services. For this purpose the AR-DRG system was not considered appropriate as it contains too many classes. Both the Major Diagnostic Categories (MDC) and the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification* (ICD-10-AM) were also considered unsuitable as they generally relate to body systems rather than services.

An example illustrating the assignment of selected procedures to SRGs is shown below. These examples illustrate the differences between categorising procedures on the basis of ICD chapters, MDCs and SRGs.

Procedure	ICD chapter	MDC	SRG
Extraction of wisdom teeth	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 3 ENT	Dentistry
Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 6 Digestive System	Gastroenterology
Excision of haemorrhoids	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 6 Digestive System	Colorectal surgery

Based on methodology originally developed by the New South Wales Department of Health, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DHA) developed the Specialist Service Related Group (SSRG) classification. These are largely aggregations of version 4.2 AR-DRG information. However, assignment of some separations to SSRGs is based on other information, such as procedures, diagnoses and care types. Separations with non-acute care are allocated to separate SSRG categories according to the type of care because the main service type of these separations cannot be ascertained from their diagnoses or procedures. Error DRGs become unallocated SRGs. The classification also incorporates non-specialist SRGs (NSSRGs), which are an aggregation of the SSRGs (into categories such as other non-specialty surgery) and are used for smaller hospitals that do not have the specialist services or specialist equipment.

There are 50 SRGs, 127 SSRGs and 122 NSSRGs. These are detailed in Table A5.1 in *Australian Hospital Statistics 2001-02* (AIHW 2003).

More information relating to SRGs, including the algorithm for assigning SRGs can be obtained from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

For this Appendix, separations were assigned to the SSRG or NSSRG classification depending on whether or not the hospital they had a specialist *Neurosurgery, Perinatology* or

Cardiothoracic unit, as appropriate, as reported to the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (see Chapter 3). SSRGs and NSSRGs were allocated using the data in the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

State and territory overview

Tables A5.1 and A5.2 in the internet version of this publication contain the number of separations in each SRG category by state and territory for all public and private hospitals respectively. *Dialysis* (SRG 23) had the largest number of separations in public hospitals, with 620,649, followed by *Obstetrics* (SRG 72), with 278,819. In the private sector, *Diagnostic gastrointestinal endoscopy* (SRG 16) recorded the highest number of separations, with 350,261, followed by *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49), with 243,363.

Tables A5.3 and A5.4 in the internet version of this publication summarise the number of patient days in each sector by SRG and state and territory. In the public sector, *Rehabilitation* (SRG 84) recorded the highest number of patient days, with 1,280,002, and *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49) recorded the highest in the private sector, with 729,193 patient days.

Table A5.5 contains the number of establishments with more than 50 separations and the number of establishments with more than 360 patient days in each SRG by state and territory and by *Remoteness Area* for public hospitals only. This has been included as an indicative measure of the number of specialty units. The best indicative measure of the number of units varies between SRGs and between uses of the measure so, for example, *Maintenance* (SRG 87) shows 112 hospitals providing more than 50 separations a year and 363 providing more than 360 patient days while *Ophthalmology* (SRG 50) shows 169 hospitals providing more than 50 separations a year and 65 providing more than 360 patient days a year. *Cardiothoracic surgery* (SRG 42) and *Neurosurgery* (SRG 46) showed no difference between the two different measures with 23 and 24 units respectively under both measures.

Non-subspecialty medicine (SRG 27) and *Non-subspecialty surgery* (SRG 54) had the greatest number of establishments with more than 50 separations at 418 and 403 respectively. Using the 360 patient day boundary changed the picture only slightly, with *Non-subspecialty medicine* (SRG 27) moving into second place and *Maintenance* (SRG 87) becoming the most common with 349 and 363 establishments respectively.

For confidentiality, the statistics for some blocks in the private sector particularly for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have been suppressed.

Table A5.5: Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2003-04

Service Related Group	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360
	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days
11 Cardiology	131	107	74	58	74	47	32	22	41	23	6	4	2	2	5	3	365	266
Major City	40	40	21	20	13	11	8	8	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	93	90
Regional	86	66	53	38	49	33	16	10	27	13	6	4	..	..	1	1	238	165
Remote	5	1	0	0	12	3	8	4	5	1	0	0	..	..	4	2	34	11
12 Interventional cardiology	27	28	13	13	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	56	56
Major City	26	27	11	11	3	3	4	3	3	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	48	48
Regional	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	..	..	1	1	8	8
13 Dermatology	30	9	18	8	17	4	5	4	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	80	32
Major City	26	9	15	8	10	3	4	4	6	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	62	29
Regional	4	0	3	0	7	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	..	..	1	1	18	3
14 Endocrinology	62	55	36	33	25	20	12	9	12	12	3	4	2	2	2	2	154	137
Major City	37	38	21	20	12	11	7	8	8	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	87	88
Regional	25	17	15	13	12	8	4	1	4	3	3	4	..	..	1	1	64	47
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	3	2
15 Gastroenterology	117	73	72	42	60	30	30	13	34	13	5	3	2	2	5	3	325	179
Major City	40	38	25	22	13	11	10	8	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	99	90
Regional	74	35	47	20	40	18	11	4	22	4	5	3	..	..	1	1	200	85
Remote	3	0	0	0	7	1	9	1	3	0	0	0	..	..	4	2	26	4
Diagnostic gastrointestinal																		
16 endoscopy	83	56	65	39	34	22	30	15	27	12	3	3	2	2	4	2	248	151
Major City	37	33	21	20	12	11	10	9	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	91	83
Regional	46	23	44	19	21	11	14	6	15	4	3	3	..	..	1	1	144	67
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	..	..	3	1	13	1
17 Haematology	73	42	48	31	32	17	15	5	17	9	3	3	2	2	2	1	192	110
Major City	35	32	22	19	12	11	9	5	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	89	77
Regional	38	10	26	12	19	6	5	0	7	1	3	3	..	..	1	1	99	33
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	1	0	4	0
18 Immunology and infections	91	69	45	41	50	31	24	17	16	10	3	3	2	2	5	5	236	178
Major City	39	38	22	23	13	12	8	8	9	7	..	..	2	2	..	..	93	90
Regional	49	30	23	18	30	17	6	4	7	3	3	3	..	..	1	1	119	76
Remote	3	1	0	0	7	2	10	5	0	0	0	0	..	..	4	4	24	12
19 Medical oncology	63	56	44	38	25	23	10	7	11	10	3	3	2	2	2	1	160	140
Major City	35	36	22	20	12	11	6	6	8	8	2	2	85	83
Regional	28	20	22	18	13	12	4	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	73	57
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

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Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2003-04

Service Related Group	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360	50	360
	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days	Seps	Days
20 Chemotherapy	14	1	37	29	21	14	8	6	19	8	1	1	2	2	2	2	104	63
Major City	12	1	16	15	8	7	4	4	8	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	50	37
Regional	2	0	21	14	12	7	4	2	10	0	1	1	..	..	1	1	51	25
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	3	1
21 Neurology	108	90	58	46	56	37	28	15	38	20	5	7	2	2	3	3	298	220
Major City	41	43	24	20	13	13	9	9	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	98	96
Regional	65	47	34	26	39	23	12	6	25	10	5	6	..	..	1	1	181	119
Remote	2	0	0	0	4	1	7	0	4	1	0	1	..	..	2	2	19	5
22 Renal medicine	49	38	31	22	20	14	10	4	9	6	2	2	2	1	2	2	125	89
Major City	33	29	20	16	11	8	7	4	7	6	..	..	2	1	..	..	80	64
Regional	16	9	11	6	8	6	2	0	2	0	2	2	..	..	1	1	42	24
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	3	1
23 Dialysis	39	31	53	41	14	13	9	9	12	10	2	2	1	1	4	4	134	111
Major City	16	16	15	15	5	5	5	5	7	7	..	..	1	1	..	..	49	49
Regional	20	15	38	26	8	8	3	3	3	2	2	2	..	..	1	1	75	57
Remote	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	..	..	3	3	10	5
24 Respiratory medicine	136	124	84	77	81	57	41	30	45	34	6	7	2	2	5	5	400	336
Major City	41	41	25	26	14	14	9	9	10	10	..	..	2	2	..	..	101	102
Regional	86	80	59	51	52	37	17	13	28	21	6	7	..	..	1	1	249	210
Remote	9	3	0	0	15	6	15	8	7	3	0	0	..	..	4	4	50	24
25 Rheumatology	20	15	19	11	11	3	4	4	8	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	66	41
Major City	19	15	14	9	7	3	4	4	7	5	..	..	1	1	..	..	52	37
Regional	1	0	5	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	..	..	1	1	14	4
26 Pain management	26	8	25	8	11	3	7	5	8	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	82	28
Major City	23	8	15	8	8	3	5	5	6	3	..	..	2	0	..	..	59	27
Regional	3	0	10	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	1	..	..	0	0	23	1
27 Non-specialty medicine	140	119	92	86	85	58	41	31	47	41	6	7	2	2	5	5	418	349
Major City	51	51	30	29	14	14	11	14	12	12	..	..	2	2	..	..	120	122
Regional	85	66	62	57	52	38	16	10	27	23	6	7	..	..	1	1	249	202
Remote	4	2	0	0	19	6	14	7	8	6	0	0	..	..	4	4	49	25
41 Breast surgery	34	9	27	11	15	4	4	3	5	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	90	29
Major City	23	8	18	10	6	4	3	3	5	2	..	..	1	0	..	..	56	27
Regional	11	1	9	1	9	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	..	..	1	0	34	2
42 Cardiothoracic surgery	10	10	2	2	3	3	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	23	23
Major City	10	10	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	1	1	21	21
Regional	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2

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Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2003-04

Service Related Group	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days
43 Colorectal surgery	62	50	39	31	21	18	15	10	14	9	3	3	2	2	2	2	158	125
Major City	35	32	21	18	11	9	10	8	9	7	..	..	2	2	..	..	88	76
Regional	27	18	18	13	10	9	5	2	4	1	3	3	..	..	1	1	68	47
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	..	..	1	1	2	2
44 Upper gastrointestinal surgery	69	53	44	32	30	21	18	10	17	7	3	3	2	2	3	2	186	130
Major City	37	33	21	19	11	10	9	6	9	7	..	..	2	2	..	..	89	77
Regional	32	20	23	13	18	11	6	4	7	0	3	3	..	..	1	1	90	52
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	2	1	7	1
45 Head and neck surgery	19	10	18	5	9	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	56	24
Major City	16	10	15	5	5	2	3	3	3	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	43	23
Regional	3	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	..	..	1	0	13	1
46 Neurosurgery	9	9	1	1	5	5	3	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	24	24
Major City	9	9	1	1	4	4	3	3	4	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	22	22
Regional	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	..	..	0	0	2	2
47 Dentistry	29	1	26	7	26	4	9	1	8	2	3	0	2	0	2	0	105	15
Major City	14	1	8	4	11	4	5	1	3	2	..	..	2	0	..	..	43	12
Regional	14	0	18	3	14	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	..	..	1	0	58	3
Remote	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	1	0	4	0
48 Ear, nose and throat	62	29	58	26	25	12	21	10	21	6	3	2	2	1	4	1	196	87
Major City	37	22	23	18	10	7	9	8	8	5	..	..	2	1	..	..	89	61
Regional	25	7	35	8	13	5	7	2	11	1	3	2	..	..	1	1	95	26
Remote	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	..	..	3	0	12	0
49 Orthopaedics	113	96	73	60	66	43	35	26	41	21	4	5	2	2	5	3	339	256
Major City	42	45	25	23	12	12	11	11	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	101	102
Regional	68	50	48	37	45	28	15	9	28	11	4	5	..	..	1	1	209	141
Remote	3	1	0	0	9	3	9	6	4	1	0	0	..	..	4	2	29	13
50 Ophthalmology	55	23	44	13	24	9	22	10	16	6	3	1	2	2	3	1	169	65
Major City	29	14	20	10	10	6	10	9	7	6	..	..	2	2	..	..	78	47
Regional	26	9	24	3	9	3	6	1	8	0	3	1	..	..	1	1	77	18
Remote	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	2	0	14	0
51 Plastic surgery	82	41	60	33	39	21	25	9	25	10	3	3	2	2	4	2	240	121
Major City	39	29	27	19	12	11	10	6	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	99	75
Regional	43	12	33	14	25	9	7	3	15	2	3	3	..	..	1	1	127	44
Remote	0	0	0	0	2	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	3	1	14	2
52 Urology	84	47	57	35	35	17	25	12	26	9	3	2	2	2	2	2	234	126
Major City	40	33	23	21	12	10	12	8	9	8	2	2	98	82
Regional	44	14	34	14	22	7	9	4	16	1	3	2	1	1	129	43
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	7	1

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Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2003-04

Service Related Group	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days
53 Vascular surgery	46	44	37	32	20	17	8	6	8	7	2	2	2	1	2	2	125	111
Major City	32	30	21	17	10	8	5	6	7	6	..	..	2	1	..	..	77	68
Regional	14	14	16	15	9	7	3	0	1	1	2	2	..	..	1	1	46	40
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	2	3
54 Non-specialty surgery	133	91	79	57	88	47	42	27	48	22	6	3	2	2	5	3	403	252
Major City	43	42	28	26	14	12	12	12	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	108	103
Regional	83	48	51	31	55	33	16	8	31	12	6	3	..	..	1	1	243	136
Remote	7	1	0	0	19	2	14	7	8	1	0	0	..	..	4	2	52	13
61 Transplant	3	5	1	4	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	14
Major City	3	5	1	4	1	2	0	2	1	1	..	..	0	0	..	..	6	14
62 Extensive burns	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	12	13
Major City	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	..	..	0	0	..	..	10	11
Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	..	..	1	1	2	2
63 Tracheostomy	19	30	13	18	9	17	3	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	51	79
Major City	19	21	13	14	6	11	3	4	3	4	..	..	1	2	..	..	45	56
Regional	0	9	0	4	3	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	..	..	1	1	6	22
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	1	0	1
71 Gynaecology	78	51	68	39	39	22	28	14	26	14	3	3	2	2	4	2	248	147
Major City	36	31	25	17	10	10	11	9	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	93	78
Regional	42	20	43	22	26	11	10	5	16	5	3	3	..	..	1	1	141	67
Remote	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	0	1	0	0	0	..	..	3	1	14	2
72 Obstetrics	86	75	60	52	47	37	29	26	29	23	4	2	2	2	5	4	262	221
Major City	31	31	18	18	9	8	10	9	7	7	..	..	2	2	..	..	77	75
Regional	54	44	42	34	33	26	12	10	20	15	4	2	..	..	1	1	166	132
Remote	1	0	0	0	5	3	7	7	2	1	0	0	..	..	4	3	19	14
73 Qualified neonates	43	40	29	24	21	21	10	4	9	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	118	101
Major City	26	26	14	13	10	10	6	2	6	4	..	..	2	2	..	..	64	57
Regional	17	14	15	11	10	10	2	1	3	2	2	2	..	..	1	1	50	41
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	4	3
75 Perinatology	4	9	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	14
Major City	4	9	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	..	..	0	1	..	..	7	13
Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	1	0	1
81 Drug and alcohol	82	49	33	23	40	16	23	11	19	10	4	5	2	2	2	2	205	118
Major City	41	34	19	16	12	8	10	8	11	10	2	2	95	78
Regional	40	15	14	7	25	8	8	3	7	0	4	5	1	1	99	39
Remote	1	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	11	1

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Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2003-04

Service Related Group	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days	50 Seps	360 Days
82 Psychiatry	88	55	49	40	30	18	24	20	34	22	4	6	2	2	3	2	234	165
Major City	39	34	30	27	10	9	8	10	12	11	..	..	2	2	..	..	101	93
Regional	48	21	19	13	19	9	11	8	20	10	4	6	..	..	1	1	122	68
Remote	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	2	2	1	0	0	..	..	2	1	11	4
83 Non-acute psychiatry	7	14	15	20	4	10	4	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	55
Major City	6	9	10	12	3	4	4	8	2	2	..	..	0	0	..	..	25	35
Regional	1	4	5	8	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	7	19
Remote	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	0	1
84 Rehabilitation	67	85	29	38	24	32	10	16	10	13	3	4	2	2	2	2	147	192
Major City	39	43	17	20	12	13	9	10	6	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	85	96
Regional	28	42	12	18	11	18	1	6	4	5	3	4	..	..	1	1	60	94
Remote	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	2	2
85 Geriatric	3	8	30	35	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	38	49
Major City	2	3	18	18	1	1	1	1	0	0	..	..	0	0	..	..	22	23
Regional	1	5	12	17	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	1	1	16	26
86 Palliation	29	41	15	21	16	17	0	3	4	6	2	2	1	2	0	1	67	93
Major City	17	19	9	9	8	7	0	1	3	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	38	41
Regional	12	22	6	12	8	10	0	2	1	2	2	2	..	..	0	1	29	51
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	..	..	0	0	0	1
87 Maintenance	43	127	15	63	28	77	11	32	9	52	4	6	1	2	1	4	112	363
Major City	21	31	13	20	11	11	6	11	7	9	..	..	1	2	..	..	59	84
Regional	21	88	2	43	17	48	5	17	2	29	4	6	..	..	1	1	52	232
Remote	1	8	0	0	0	18	0	4	0	14	0	0	..	..	0	3	1	47
88 Psychogeriatric	1	10	5	12	1	1	5	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	31
Major City	1	7	4	9	1	1	5	7	0	0	..	..	0	0	..	..	11	24
Regional	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	1	6
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	..	..	0	0	0	1
99 Error	16	27	10	13	4	5	4	4	3	5	1	2	0	1	1	1	39	58
Major City	12	19	9	12	4	4	4	4	3	5	..	..	0	1	..	..	32	45
Regional	3	7	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	..	..	1	1	6	12
Remote	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	1	1

.. Not applicable

Note: Rows for regions with no apparent units are not shown