



QuickStats About Education and Training

2006 Census

QuickStats About Education and Training looks at the educational qualifications and study participation of adults (aged 15 years and over) who usually live in New Zealand. Information in this QuickStats is based on New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006. Some comparisons over time are also included.

A qualification is a formally recognised award for attainment resulting from a full-time (20 hours per week) learning course of at least three months, or from part-time study that, when completed, is equivalent to three months full-time, or from on-the-job training.

A number of changes have been made to New Zealand's qualification framework over time. This may affect comparisons with education and training data from previous censuses. For further information, please see the section titled 'More information'.

Percentages in the text have been rounded to whole numbers.

People with qualifications

More people with qualifications

The proportion of people aged 15 years and over who have a qualification has increased since the 1996 Census:

- In 1996 it was 62 percent
- In 2001 it was 72 percent
- In 2006 it was 75 percent.

Both men and women more qualified

Since the 1996 Census there has been a significant increase in the proportion of both men and women aged 15 years and over who hold a qualification:

- In 2006, 75 percent of men had a qualification, compared with 72 percent in 2001 and 63 percent in 1996
- In 2006, 75 percent of women had a qualification, compared with 73 percent in 2001 and 61 percent in 1996.

Age and qualifications

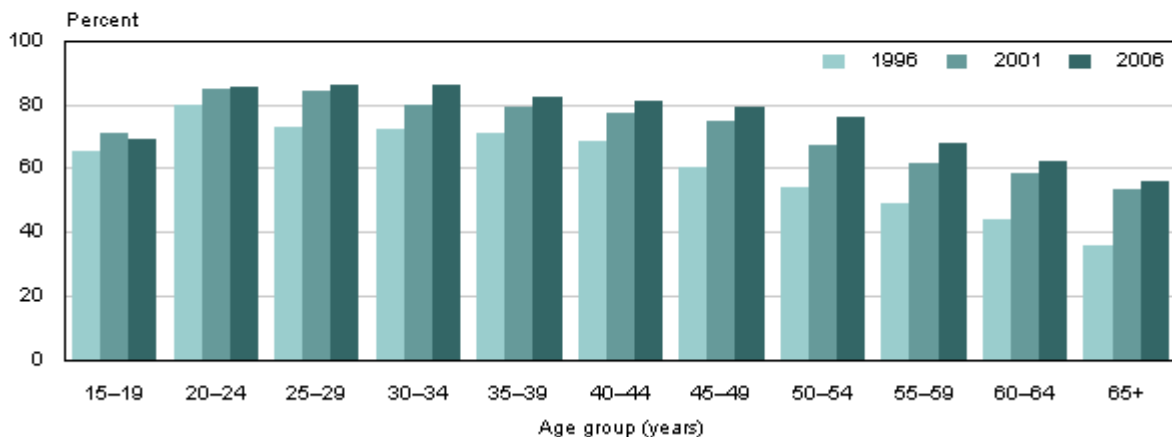
There has been a rise in the proportion of people with a qualification across all age groups since the 1996 Census.

People aged 20 to 34 years were most likely to have a qualification:

- 75 percent in 1996
- 86 percent in 2006.

Percentage with a Qualification by Age Group

For people aged 15 years and over
1996–2006 Censuses



Qualifications and ethnic groups

The ethnic groups with the highest proportion of people with a qualification in 2006 were:

- the Asian ethnic group (88 percent)
- the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic group (86 percent)
- the European ethnic group (75 percent).

Regional difference in qualifications

In 2006, the three regions with the highest proportion of people with a qualification were Auckland and Wellington (both 80 percent) and Otago (76 percent). The three regions with the lowest proportion were Southland and West Coast (both 64 percent) and Gisborne (66 percent).

Highest qualification

Highest qualification combines information from the highest secondary school qualification and post-school qualification questions to obtain an individual's single highest qualification by level of attainment.

Increase in people with a post-school qualification

The proportion of people aged 15 years and over with a post-school qualification as their highest qualification has risen since the 1996 Census:

- In 1996, it was 31 percent
- In 2001, it was 32 percent
- In 2006, it was 40 percent.



Regional variations in level of highest qualification

There was considerable variation in the distribution of highest qualification levels across New Zealand.

In 2006, 11 percent of people had a bachelor's degree as their highest qualification. Looking across the regions:

- Wellington had the highest proportion of people with a bachelor's degree (15 percent), closely followed by Auckland (14 percent)
- West Coast had the lowest proportion (5 percent).

In 2006, 25 percent of people aged 15 years and over had no qualification. The regions with the:

- highest proportions of people without a qualification were West Coast and Southland (both 36 percent)
- lowest proportion of people without a qualification were Wellington and Auckland (both 20 percent).

More people have a higher degree

A higher degree includes post-graduate diplomas and certificates, honours degrees, master's degrees and doctorate degrees.

Since 1996, the number of people whose highest qualification was a higher degree has increased by 77 percent. Between 2001 and 2006, there was a 43 percent increase.

The proportion of people aged 15 and over with a higher degree as their highest qualification was:

- 3 percent in 1996 (74,343 people)
- 4 percent in 2001 (92,154 people)
- 5 percent in 2006 (131,931 people).

Post-graduate qualifications

The 2006 Census provides more detailed information about post-graduate qualifications than previous censuses. Of people aged 15 years and over in 2006:

- 2 percent (55,461) had a post-graduate diploma or honours degree
- 2 percent (59,703) had a master's degree
- less than 1 percent (16,767) had a doctorate degree.

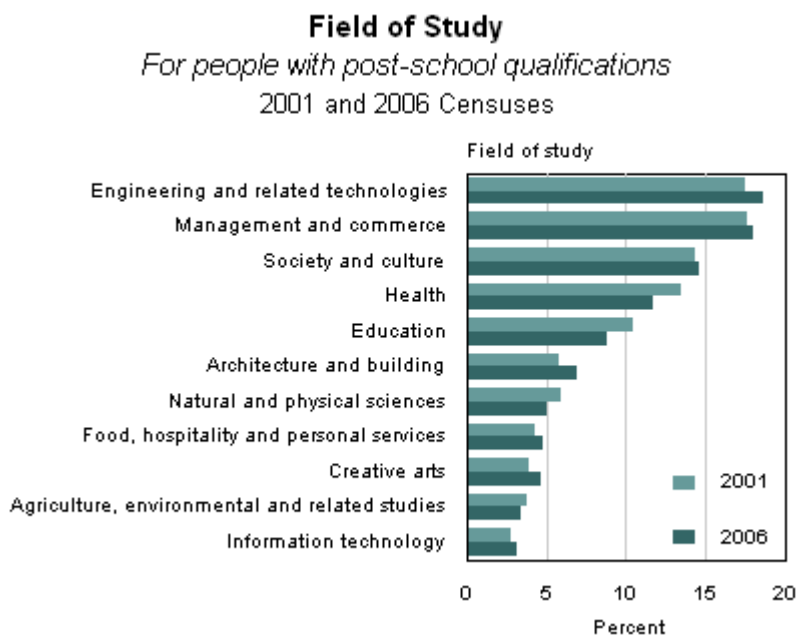
Field of study

Engineering and related technologies, management and commerce the most common fields of study

Engineering and related technologies was the most common broad field of study for post-school qualifications in 2001 (18 percent) and 2006 (19 percent). The second most common was management and commerce, reported by 18 percent of people (unchanged from 2001).

Since 2001, there have been small decreases in the proportion of people with post-school qualifications in health or education.

Information technology was the least common field of study for a post-school qualification, reported by 3 percent of people in both 2001 and 2006.



Note: Percentages for field of study are calculated as the percentage of people who stated the subject of their post-school qualification.

Women and men choose different fields of study

In 2006, women were most likely to have a post-school qualification in management and commerce (21 percent, up from 20 percent in 2001). This was the most common field of study for women working in occupations as diverse as managers, sales workers, and labourers.

The next most common fields of study of a post-school qualification for women in 2006 were health (20 percent, down from 22 percent in 2001) and society and culture (19 percent, up from 18 percent in 2001). Women were least likely to have a post-school qualification in architecture and building (1 percent in both 2001 and 2006).

One third of men (34 percent) had a post-school qualification in engineering and related technologies, up from 33 percent in 2001. This was the most common field of study for men working as technicians and trades workers, managers and professionals.

The next most common fields of study for men with a post-school qualification were management and commerce (15 percent, down from 16 percent in 2001) and architecture and building (12 percent, up from 11 percent in 2001). The least common field of study for men was education (3 percent, a decrease from 4 percent in 2001).

Top five fields of study for men and women with a post-school qualification <i>2006 Census</i>			
Men	Percent	Women	Percent
Engineering and related technologies	34	Management and commerce	21
Management and commerce	15	Health	20
Architecture and building	12	Society and culture	19
Society and culture	10	Education	15
Natural and physical sciences	5	Food, hospitality and personal services	6

Qualifications and work

At the time of the 2006 Census, 65 percent of people aged 15 years and over were employed.

Full-time employment

Of the people employed at the time of the 2006 Census, 77 percent (1,465,962) were in full-time work. Of these:

- 18 percent had no qualification
- 32 percent had a school qualification as their highest qualification
- 49 percent had a post-school qualification as their highest qualification.

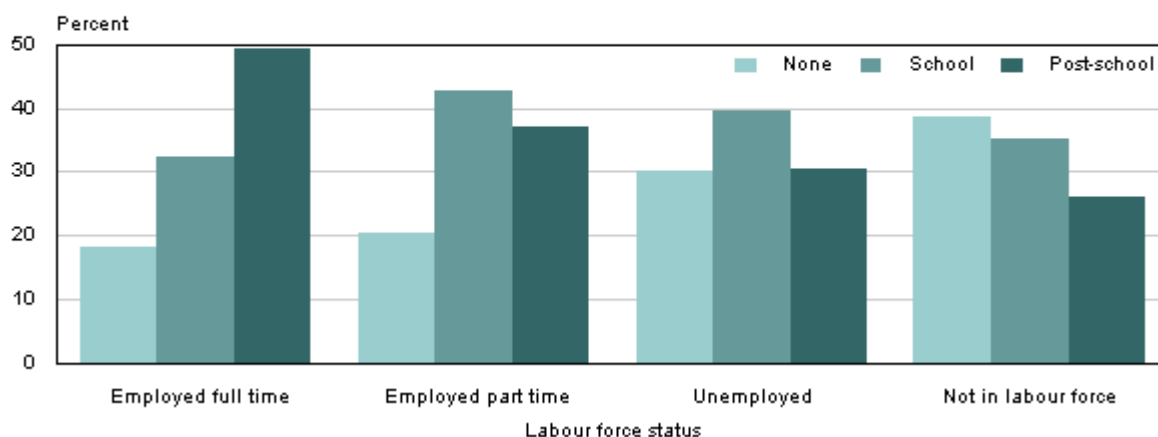
Part-time employment

Of the people employed part-time:

- 21 percent had no qualification
- 43 percent had a school qualification as their highest qualification
- 37 percent had a post-school qualification as their highest qualification.

Highest Qualification and Labour Force Status

For people aged 15 years and over
2006 Census



Note: People who are employed full-time usually work 30 hours or more per week, while people who are employed part-time work fewer than 30 hours per week. People not in the labour force include those people aged 15 years and over who are neither employed nor unemployed (for example, retired people, students, people with personal and family responsibilities, people unable to work for medical reasons, and those not actively seeking work).

Qualifications and occupation

In 2006, the level of highest qualification varied across the eight main occupational groups.

- The most common occupation for people with no qualification was labourer (25 percent). The least common occupation was professional (3 percent)
- For people with a bachelor's degree/level 7 qualification, the most common occupational group was professional (53 percent) and the least common was machinery operator and driver (1 percent)
- Those with a higher degree were most likely to be in the professional group (61 percent).

Qualifications and income

Qualifications and median annual personal income

The level of income an individual receives is closely related to their level of educational qualification. Median annual personal incomes in 2006 were:

- highest for those whose highest qualification was a doctorate degree (\$69,900 per year)
- lowest for those with no qualifications (\$16,900 per year).

The median annual personal income for people who were aged 15 years and over and living in New Zealand on census night was \$24,400.

Income differences for men and women with bachelor's degrees or higher

Of those with a bachelor's degree or higher, more men than women had an income greater than \$50,000:

- 53 percent of men received over \$50,000 a year
- 30 percent of women received over \$50,000 a year.

Median annual personal income by highest qualification and sex <i>2006 Census</i>			
	Median annual income		
	Male	Female	Total
No qualification	\$22,200	\$14,300	\$16,900
School qualification	\$27,300	\$17,400	\$21,200
Post-school qualification	\$42,500	\$28,500	\$35,600

Note: In the 2006 Census, total personal income was collected for people aged 15 years and over, who usually lived in New Zealand. It relates to the 12 months ending 31 March 2006, and includes income from all sources.

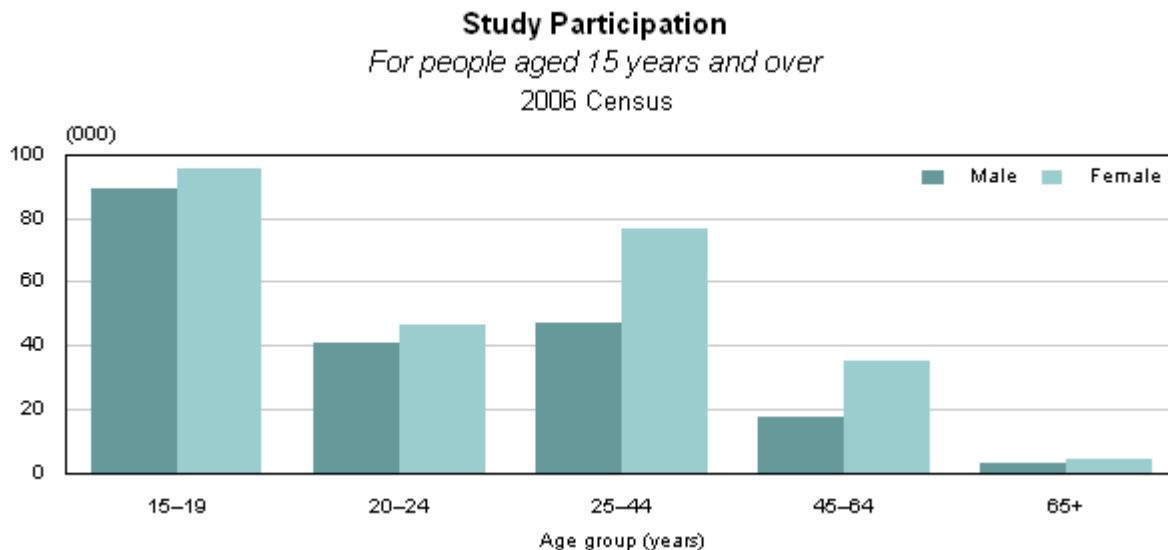
Study participation

No time series comparisons have been made due to significant changes in the study question in successive census years.

More women than men were studying in 2006

In 2006, 16 percent of people aged 15 years and over were engaged in study:

- 43 percent (197,460) were men
- 57 percent (257,850) were women.



Full-time study more common than part-time study

66 percent of people aged 15 years and over who were participating in study were studying full-time. Of these:

- 57 percent were aged 15–19 years
- 22 percent were aged 20–24 years.

Ethnic group and study participation

The highest rates of participation in study were for those who identified with the:

- Asian ethnic group (33 percent)
- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic group (32 percent).

Regional variation in study participation

The rate of study participation was higher in regions with universities. The rates of study participation were:

- highest in the Otago (20 percent), Auckland (18 percent) and Wellington (17 percent) regions
- lowest in the Tasman, Marlborough and West Coast regions (all 10 percent).

More information

The 2006 Census highest qualification classification is based on the new qualifications framework developed in 2003. The New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications is a classification for level of attainment developed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission.

When making comparisons with previous census data, the following qualification levels apply:

2006 Census	1996 and 2001 Censuses	Examples of qualifications
No qualification	No qualification	
Level 1 certificate gained at school	Fifth form qualification	School certificate, NCEA level 1
Level 2 certificate gained at school	Sixth form qualification	Sixth form certificate, NCEA level 2
Level 3 or 4 certificate gained at school	Higher school qualification	Bursary, scholarship, NCEA level
Overseas secondary school qualification	Overseas secondary school qualification	O level, A level, GCE
Level 1, 2 or 3 certificate gained post-school	Basic vocational qualification	Pre-vocational certificates, bridging certificates
Level 4 certificate gained post-school	Skilled vocational qualification	Trade certificate, national certificate
Level 5 diploma	Intermediate vocational qualification	Advanced trade certificate
Level 6 diploma	Advanced vocational qualification	Undergraduate diploma/certificate, national diploma, NZ diploma
Bachelor's degree and level 7 qualifications	Bachelor's degree	BA, BSc
Post-graduate and honours degree	Higher degree	Post-graduate diploma, post-graduate certificate
Master's degree	Higher degree	MA, MSc
Doctorate degree	Higher degree	PhD
Not elsewhere included	Not elsewhere included (includes other New Zealand secondary school qualification)	

For further information, email our Information Centre info@stats.govt.nz or phone toll free: 0508 525 525.

Tables

The following tables can be downloaded in Excel format from the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz). If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

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