

Doctorate degrees: a census analysis

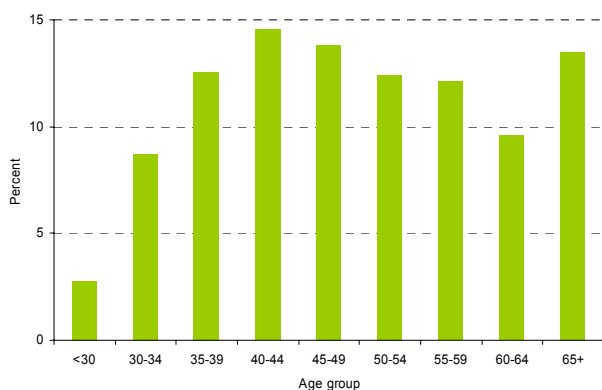
This fact sheet uses data from Census 2006 to look at the demographic breakdown of those who hold doctorate degrees and also examines labour market outcomes.

In the 2006 Census, a total of 16,767 people reported a highest qualification of a doctorate degree. This was 0.6 percent of all people aged 15 and over that reported a highest qualification.

Age group

Just over a quarter (28 percent) of all people with doctorate degrees were between 40 and 49 years of age. There was a significant proportion of doctorate degree holders in the 65 and over age group (14 percent).

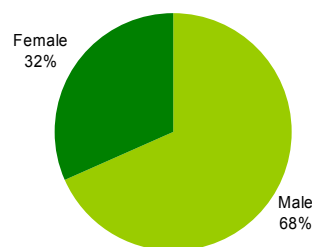
Distribution of people with doctorate degrees by age group



Gender

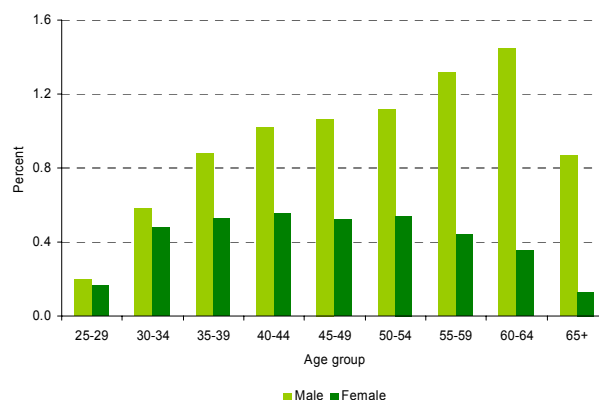
Sixty-eight percent of people with doctoral degrees were men, compared with 32 percent who were women.

Distribution of the working age population with doctorate degrees by gender



Although more men than women hold doctorate degrees, the gap in attainment is smallest in the younger age groups.

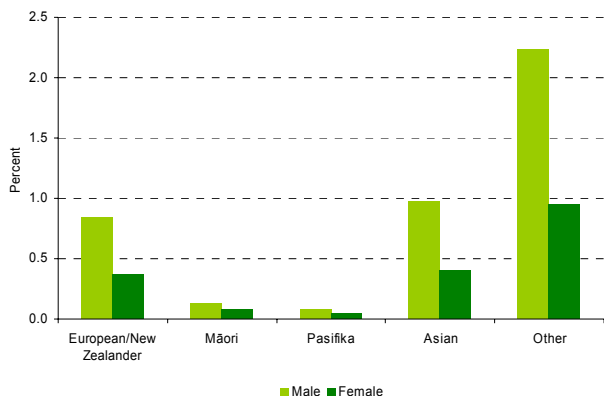
Proportion of the population with doctorate degrees by gender and age group



Ethnic group

The highest rate of attainment of doctorate degrees was achieved by the 'other' ethnic group, followed by 'Europeans'. The Māori and Pasifika rate of attainment was well below that of other ethnic groups.

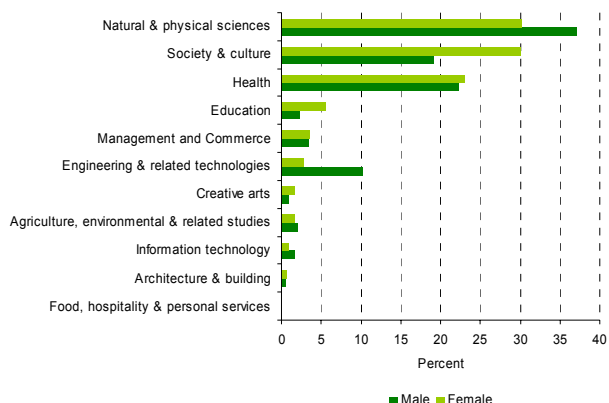
Proportion of the working age population with doctorate degrees by gender and ethnic group



Field of study

The largest proportion of doctorate degree holders studied in the fields of ‘natural and physical sciences’, ‘society and culture’ and ‘health’. A higher proportion of women studied in the area of ‘society and culture’ and ‘education’ compared with men. Similarly, a higher proportion of men studied in the areas of ‘natural and physical sciences’ and ‘engineering and related technologies’.

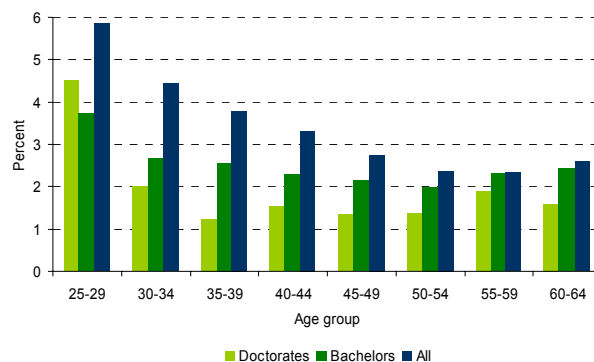
Distribution of the working age population with doctorate degrees by field of study



Unemployment

The attainment of a doctorate degree resulted in a lower chance of unemployment. The unemployment rate for people with doctorate degrees was lower than people with bachelors degrees and the population at large. Only in the 25 to 29 age group did people with a bachelors degree have a slightly lower rate of unemployment than those with doctorate degrees.

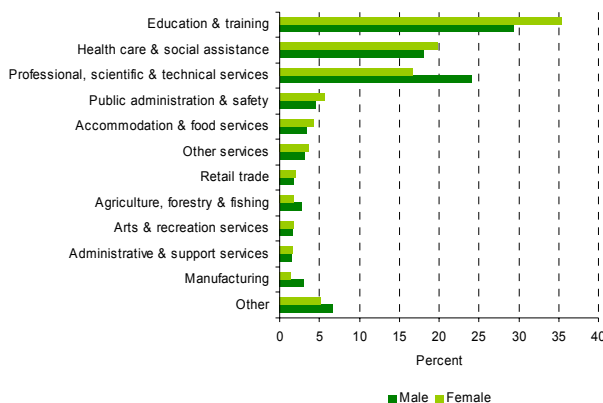
Unemployment rate by age group and highest qualification



Industry of employment

The largest industry of employment for both men and women with doctorate degrees was ‘education and training’. For men, the second highest industry of employment was ‘professional, scientific and technical services’, while for women it was ‘health care and social assistance’.

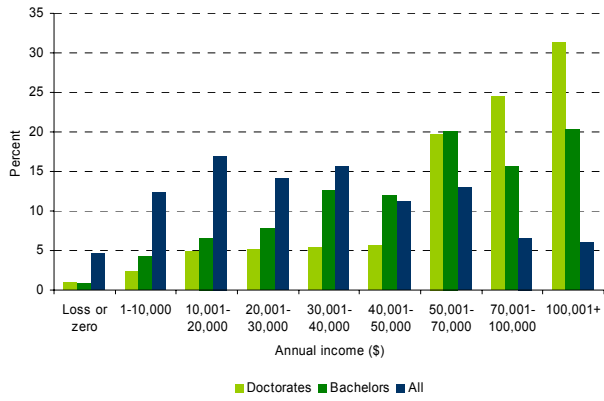
Distribution of the working age population with doctorate degrees by industry of employment



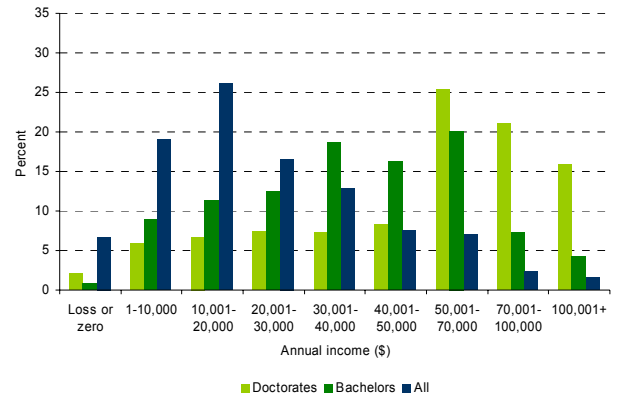
Income

The income distribution of men and women with doctorate degrees showed a high likelihood of receiving a higher income. Seventy-six percent of men and 62 percent of women with a doctorate degree received an income over \$50,000. This compares with 56 percent for men with bachelors degrees and 31 percent for women. Twenty-six percent of all men and 11 percent of all women aged over 15 received an income over \$50,000.

Distribution of male working age population by highest qualification and annual income band



Distribution of female working age population by highest qualification and annual income band



Tertiary Sector Performance Analysis & Reporting,
 Strategy and System Performance,
 Ministry of Education.

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