

# 8 STUDENTS IN LEVEL 4 TO 7 NON-DEGREE PROVIDER-BASED QUALIFICATIONS

8

## AN OVERVIEW

Enrolments in level 4 to 7 provider-based non-degree study declined overall in 2008. The decline was mainly in level 4 certificate enrolments. This is an effect of initiatives to improve the relevance of qualifications overall, including the phasing out of some programmes. Enrolments in level 5 to 7 certificates and diplomas were down slightly.

Enrolments were down in management and commerce courses and in architecture and building, and society and culture. Enrolments were also down for most age groups. Within this overall picture of a decline, there were some cases where level 4 to 7 non-degree enrolments increased. Enrolments made by international students increased as did those by Pasifika students. Enrolments by students aged 18 to 24 years were also up slightly. The number of students enrolled in engineering and related technologies – a field of study identified as having shortages – increased overall.

There were above average declines in enrolments at universities, for people aged 40 years and over, in management and commerce courses and in architecture and building, and for Asian students.

The number of students completing a level 4 to 7 non-degree qualification increased in 2008. This was almost entirely due to increases in the number of students completing level 5 to 7 certificates and diplomas. Level 4 certificate completions in 2008 were essentially the same as 2007.

Enrolments in Skill Enhancement programmes for young Māori and Pasifika people also fell in 2008. In terms of outcomes, the proportion of students who gained employment after completing a Skill Enhancement programme has been increasing over the past few years, and increased again in 2008 reflecting a stronger labour market in recent years.

Mid-register qualifications provide continuing pathways for students progressing from school and create entry points into the system for those seeking to gain vocational qualifications or a change in career. The level of complexity of study approximates to advanced trades, technical and business qualifications. They can also be used as prerequisite qualifications for higher-level programmes such as bachelors degrees. All qualifications at level 4 are certificates, while those at levels 5 to 7 are either certificates (advanced level) or diplomas.

## 2009 YEAR

In 2009, the primary driver of demand by domestic students is likely to be the economic recession. In times of economic downturn, demand for many forms of tertiary education increases, and so demand for places in these levels of study is expected to increase in 2009. An article covering the main findings from a Ministry of Education report on the demand for tertiary education is included in chapter 3.

The other major driver of domestic demand is the change in the demographic makeup of the domestic population. In 2009, the number of 18 to 24 year-olds in the population is expected to increase, while those under 18 years of age are expected to decrease in number. The number of people in the population aged 40 to 64 years is also expected to increase, while those aged 25 to 39 years will remain relatively static in number. The interaction between these demographic trends and the effects of the recession makes estimating the likely trends more uncertain than usual.

Early indications from the April 2009 data collections are that international enrolments in level 4 certificates and level 5 to 7 diplomas and certificates are also likely to increase.

**ENROLMENTS IN LEVEL 4 TO 7 NON-DEGREE STUDY**

The number of students (domestic and international) enrolled in level 4 to 7 non-degree study decreased from 2007 to 2008 by 2.5 percent.

The participation rate in level 4 to 7 non-degree study has remained relatively steady over the past five years, indicating that changes in the number of domestic students are driven by changes in population size.

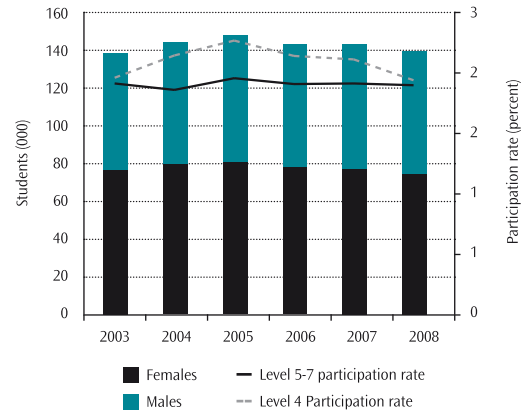
Since 2003, female enrolments at this level have decreased by 2.3 percent, while enrolments for males have increased by 4.8 percent.

**Students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by gender in 2008:**

Total	139,000	(down 2.5% on 2007)
Females	74,800	(down 2.9% on 2007)
Males	64,500	(down 2.1% on 2007)

Expressed as equivalent full-time student units, enrolments in level 4 to 7 non-degree study totalled 66,400 in 2008, down 1.2 percent from 2007.

**Figure 8.1: Participation in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by gender<sup>1</sup>**



**ENROLMENTS BY LEVEL**

The decrease from 2007 to 2008 in level 4 to 7 non-degree study was due primarily to a fall in the number of domestic enrolments in level 4 certificate courses. Over the same period, level 4 certificate enrolments by international students increased.

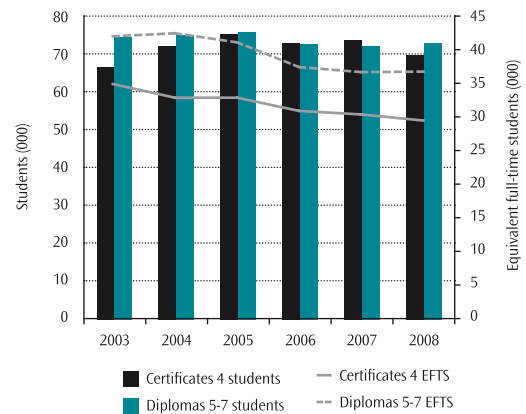
The number of level 5 to 7 diploma enrolments increased slightly overall from 2007 to 2008, up by 0.9 percent. The number of domestic enrolments remained steady at this level while those by international students increased (see Figure 8.11).

**Students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by qualification level in 2008:**

	Students	% change from 2007	Equivalent full-time student units	% change from 2007
<b>All students</b>				
Total	139,000	-2.5	66,400	-1.2
Certificates 4	70,000	-5.5	29,500	-2.9
Diplomas 5-7*	73,200	+0.9	36,800	No change
<b>Domestic students</b>				
Total	125,000	-3.5	58,100	-2.4
Certificates 4	65,200	-6.8	27,100	-4.6
Diplomas 5-7*	63,500	No change	30,900	No change

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.

**Figure 8.2: Students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study**



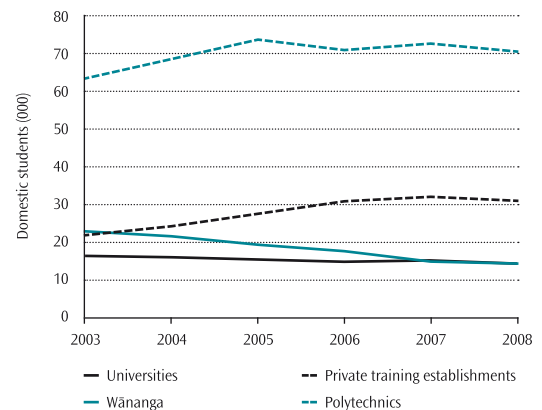
**TYPE OF PROVIDER**

The 2008 decline in domestic student numbers in level 4 to 7 non-degree study occurred in all provider types, although at universities there was a disproportionately larger decline. Over half of level 4 to 7 non-degree students were enrolled in polytechnics in 2008.

**Domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by provider type in 2008:**

Total enrolments	125,000	(down 3.5% on 2007)
Universities	13,600	(down 6.5% on 2007)
Polytechnics	69,800	(down 2.9% on 2007)
Wānanga	13,600	(down 3.9% on 2007)
Private training establishments	30,400	(down 3.5% on 2007)

**Figure 8.3: Level 4 to 7 non-degree domestic students by type of provider**



1. The participation rate is the percentage of New Zealanders aged 15 years and over enrolled at this level.

## FIELD OF STUDY

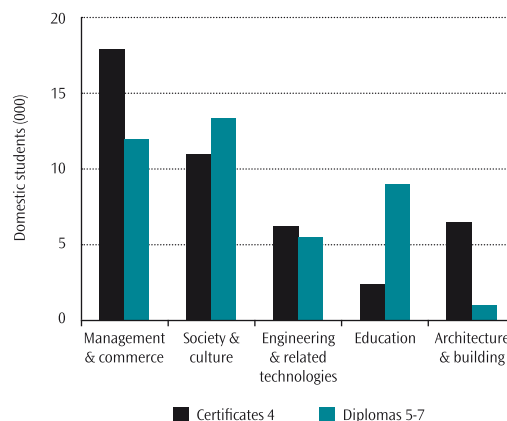
Figure 8.4: Top five fields of study in 2008 for level 4 to 7 non-degree domestic students

About 40 percent of all domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study in 2008 studied management and commerce, and society and culture.

Going against the trend, the number of domestic students enrolled in levels 4 to 7 studying engineering and related technologies increased in 2008.

## Domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by field of study in 2008:

Management & commerce	29,300	(down 12% on 2007)
Society & culture	24,000	(down 6.5% on 2007)
Engineering & related technologies	11,400	(up 1.7% on 2007)
Education	11,200	(down 2.1% on 2007)
Architecture & building	7,410	(down 11% on 2007)



## ETHNIC GROUP

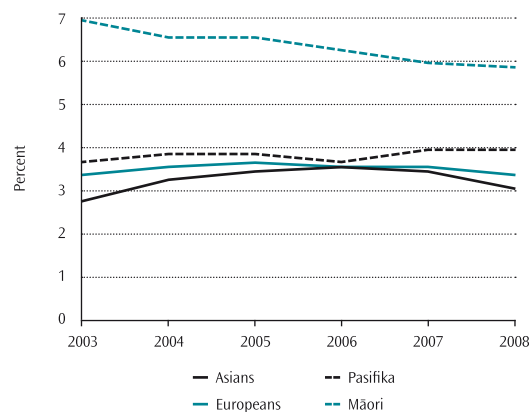
Figure 8.5: Participation rates in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by ethnic group

The number of domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree qualifications declined across all ethnic groups, except for the Pasifika group. While most of the students who studied at this level were European, Māori students participated at a higher rate than students from other ethnic groups.

## Domestic students enrolled in level 4 to 7 non-degree study in 2008:

Europeans	79,900	(down 4.2% on 2007)
Māori	27,600	(down 1.3% on 2007)
Pasifika	9,930	(up 4.9% on 2007)
Asians	12,200	(down 6.8% on 2007)
Other	5,350	(down 6.3% on 2007)

Note: Students are connected in each group they identify with.



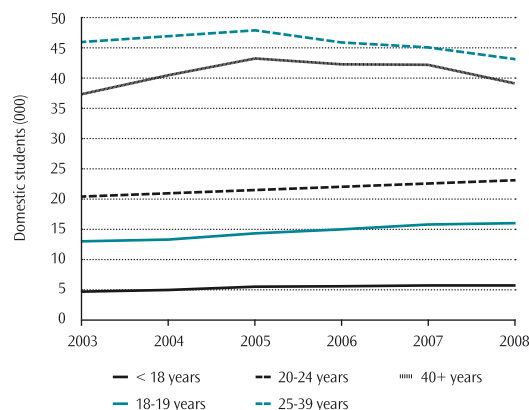
## AGE

Figure 8.6: Level 4 to 7 non-degree domestic students by age group

While there was an overall decrease in domestic students enrolled in level 4 to 7 non-degree study, those aged 18 to 24 years increased slightly in 2008. This reflects the fact that this age group is increasing in size in the New Zealand population. However, those aged 25 years and over continued to dominate this level of study, making up 65 percent of domestic students in 2008.

## Domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study by age group in 2008:

Under 18 years	5,390	(down 0.4% on 2007)
18-19 years	15,700	(up 1.4% on 2007)
20-24 years	22,800	(up 1.4% on 2007)
25-39 years	42,700	(down 4.6% on 2007)
40 years and over	38,700	(down 7.4% on 2007)



**FIRST-YEAR RETENTION<sup>2</sup>**

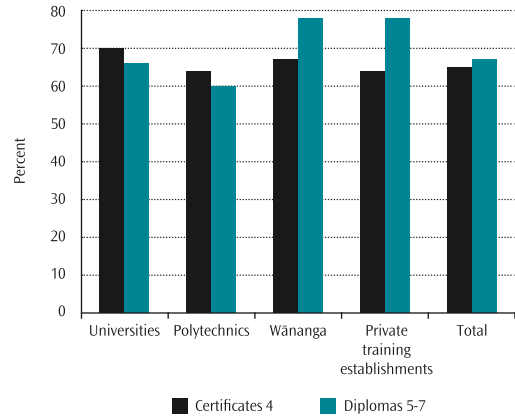
**Figure 8.7: First-year retention rates for students who started study in 2007 by sub-sector**

In recent years, the first-year retention rates for domestic students studying level 4 certificates have decreased, while level 5 to 7 diplomas and certificates have increased. Universities have above average retention rates for level 4 certificate study, and wānanga and private training establishments have above average retention rates for level 5 to 7 diploma and certificate study.

**Percentage of domestic students who either completed or continued study in the year after starting their study:**

Year starting study	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Certificates 4	68	69	63	64	65
Diplomas 5-7*	61	63	62	64	67

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.



**PROGRESSION TO HIGHER-LEVEL STUDY**

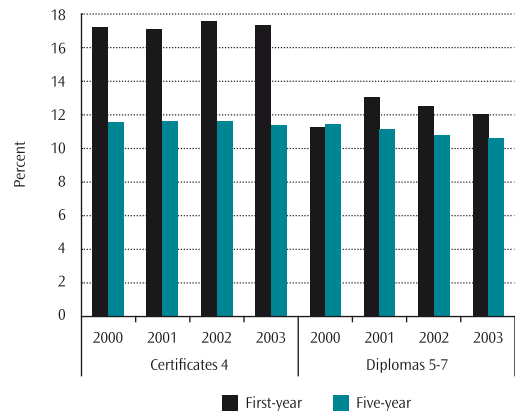
The rate at which students in level 4 certificates progress to higher levels of study has been stable in recent years. Since 2001, the first-year progression rates to higher-level study have decreased slightly for level 5 to 7 diplomas and certificates.

**Progression rates to higher-level study for domestic students in level 4 to 7 non-degree qualifications:**

First-year progression (for students starting study in 2007)		
Certificates 4	17%	(18% for the 2006 starters)
Diplomas 5-7*	12%	(12% for the 2006 starters)
Five-year progression (for students starting study in 2003)		
Certificates 4	29%	(29% for the 2002 starters)
Diplomas 5-7*	23%	(23% for the 2002 starters)

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.

**Figure 8.8: Higher-level progression rates by starting year**



**COMPLETION OF QUALIFICATIONS**

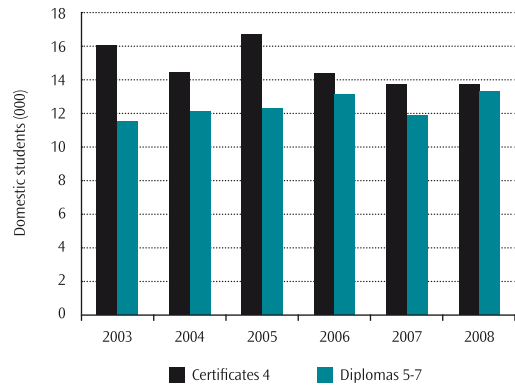
**Figure 8.9: Students who completed a level 4 to 7 non-degree qualification**

The number of students completing a level 4 to 7 non-degree qualification rose overall in 2008, driven by an increase in the number of students completing level 5 to 7 diplomas and certificates.

**Domestic students who completed a qualification in 2008:**

Total	26,700	(up 5.3% on 2007)
Certificates 4	13,700	(down 0.1% on 2007)
Diplomas 5-7*	13,300	(up 12% on 2007)

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.



2. The statistics on retention, progression and completion cover domestic provider-based students only.

## FIVE-YEAR COMPLETION RATES

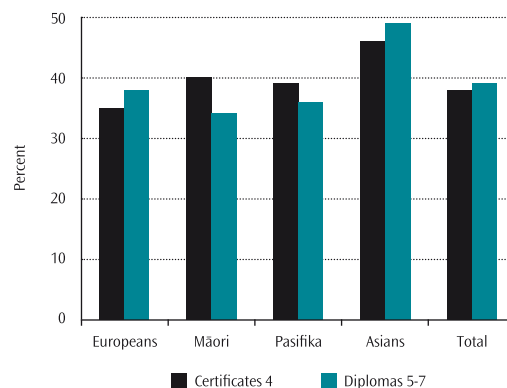
Figure 8.10: Five-year completion rates for students who started study in 2004 by ethnic group

Asian students were more likely to complete a level 4 to 7 non-degree qualification than domestic students in other ethnic groups. Māori and Pasifika domestic students were less likely to complete a level 5 to 7 diploma.

## Percentage of domestic students who completed a qualification within five years:

Year starting study	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Percentages				
Certificates 4	40	40	45	39	38
Diplomas 5-7*	37	37	37	36	39

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

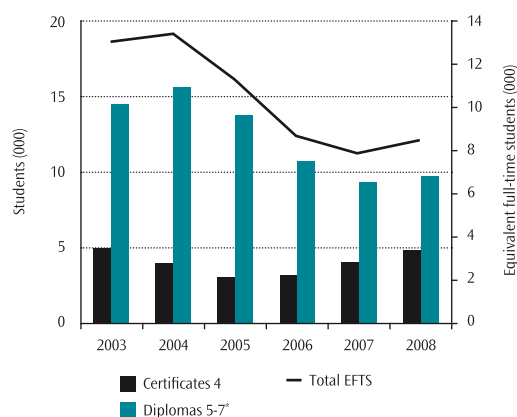
Figure 8.11: International students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study

In 2008, international students made up 10 percent of all level 4 to 7 non-degree students, up from 9 percent in 2007. Total international enrolments were higher in 2008, in terms of both student numbers and equivalent full-time students. Enrolments in level 4 certificates showed the largest percentage increase, although, overall, more international students were enrolled in level 5 to 7 certificates and diplomas.

## International students in level 4 to 7 non-degree study in 2008:

	Students	% change from 2007	Equivalent full-time student units	% change from 2007
Total	14,100	+7.6	8,830	+7.8
Certificates 4	4,780	+18	2,420	+23
Diplomas 5-7*	9,710	+4.2	5,910	+2.6

\* This category includes level 5 to 7 certificates.



## SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Figure 8.12: Distribution of Skill Enhancement learners by outcome

Skill enhancement programmes provide young Māori and Pasifika people with qualifications at level 3 and above. Of all students completing Skill Enhancement in 2008, 45 percent obtained full-time employment, with 36 percent continuing with further education and training. The proportion of students who gained employment after completing a Skill Enhancement programme has increased over the past few years.

## The outcomes of learners enrolled in Skill Enhancement programmes in 2008:

Total	374	(down 1.1% on 2007)
Employment	170	(up 1.2% on 2007)
Part-time employment	9	(down 10% on 2007)
Further education	134	(down 3.6% on 2007)
Other	60	(down 1.6% on 2007)

Note: The Skill Enhancement programme will cease from 2010.

Source: Tertiary Education Commission.

