Looking at the employment outcomes of tertiary education

New data on the earnings of young graduates

The Tertiary Education Occasional Papers provide short reports on research, analysis and statistics relating to tertiary education in New Zealand. These papers include short original works and summaries of published research and analysis.

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# Looking at the employment outcomes of tertiary education

|  |
| --- |
| key findings*Earnings increase with the level of qualification completed*. And for qualifications below bachelors level, the size of the premium from gaining a qualification increases with the level of the qualification. There is also a significant jump in earnings between degree and non-degree qualifications. *Employment rates increase with level of qualification gained.* For example, in the first year after study, 53 percent of young bachelors graduates who stayed in New Zealand were in employment and 40 percent were in further study. Of young people who had completed a level 1-3 certificate and stayed in New Zealand, 34 percent were in employment and 49 percent were taking more study.*Very few young people who complete a qualification at diploma level or above are on a benefit in the first five years after study*. For those who stay in New Zealand, the benefit rate is around 6 percent for diploma graduates and around 2 percent at bachelors level. But it is around 13 percent for those who graduated with certificates at levels 1-3. *Earnings vary considerably by field of study.* Young graduates with bachelors degrees in medicine earn the most of all bachelors graduates. The median income for medical graduates is over $109,300 five years after leaving study, compared to $50,700 for all young bachelors graduates. Bachelors degree graduates in creative arts have the lowest earnings among young bachelors graduates after five years and they have relatively high rates of benefit receipt.*Some qualification types and some fields are associated with high rates of further study.* Around half of all young people who complete a certificate or level 5-7 diploma move into further study the next year. Around 61 percent of young bachelors graduates in natural and physical sciences who stay in New Zealand were in further study one year after completion of a bachelors degree, and 33 percent after five years. *Graduate certificate and diploma graduates have very high employment rates.* Two years after study, 77 percent of young people who have completed a graduate certificate or diploma and who remained in New Zealand were in employment. Many of these graduates have completed this qualification as a way of improving their employment prospects or are studying while in employment. |

This note updates the data set out in the report *Moving on up*[[1]](#footnote-1), adding more recent data.

## Introduction

People choose what to study at a tertiary level for many reasons – what they enjoy, what they are good at, what they are capable of and what will get them started on a career.  Good careers are associated with better health, better well-being and more satisfying lives.  So, many young people are making their tertiary education choices to gain the skills they need for satisfying and rewarding work.  They use a range of information sources and take advice from a range of people to help them make these choices.

*Moving on up: what young people earn after their tertiary education,* published in January 2013, adds to the information available to prospective students, their families and those who advise them. It provides statistics on the outcomes of tertiary study for young New Zealanders who complete qualifications in the tertiary education system and who stay in New Zealand. It reports on employment rates and on the likelihood a graduate ends up on a benefit. And it gives data on the earnings of young graduates over the first few years after finishing study.

This information is not just important to students and to their families.  The Government makes a very large investment in tertiary education each year – funding tertiary education providers, providing subsidised student loans and granting student allowances.  One major purpose of the Government’s investment is to help raise the level of skill in the population – which helps make our society more productive, contributes to the creation of wealth and leads to better social outcomes.

Studying the earnings of graduates is one way of looking at the contribution that the tertiary education system is making to New Zealand’s society and economy.  So the information in this report contributes to an understanding of the value New Zealand receives for the investment we make in tertiary education.

## Refreshing the data

In September 2013, we did a refresh and update of the data in *Moving on up*. We added earnings and destinations data from the 2011 tax year so that the data now shows what graduates earn and do in the 2010 and 2011 tax years. And we have traced young people’s earnings and destinations for the first six years after graduation. The data for the ‘benefit’ and ‘other/unknown’ destinations is also shown separately for all levels of study whereas previously these two destinations were combined for those who had completed a postgraduate qualification.

The new data is included in the spreadsheets available for download from this page. The new data is also available through Careers New Zealand’s on-line query tool *Compare study options*, available at: <http://www.careers.govt.nz/tools/compare-study-options>. Tables showing earnings for young domestic bachelors degree graduates by broad and narrow field of study are also included in the appendices.

## What does the new data show

The most important messages that emerge from this data are:

*Earnings increase with the level of qualification completed*. And for qualifications below bachelors level, the size of the premium from gaining a qualification increases with the level of the qualification[[2]](#footnote-2). There is also a significant jump in earnings between degree and non-degree qualifications. For example, five years after finishing study, the median earnings of young people who complete a bachelors degree is 48 percent above the national median earnings for those aged 15 to 64 years and 45 percent above the median for young people who gain a certificate at levels 1-3.

*Employment rates increase with level of qualification gained.* For example, in the first year after study, 53 percent of young bachelors graduates who stayed in New Zealand were in employment and 40 percent were in further study. Of young people who had completed a level 1-3 certificate and stayed in New Zealand, 34 percent were in employment and 49 percent were taking more study.

*Very few young people who complete a qualification at diploma level or above are on a benefit in the first five years after study.* For those who stay in New Zealand, the benefit rate is around 6 percent for diploma graduates and around 2 percent at bachelors level. But it is around 13 percent for those who graduated with certificates at levels 1-3.

*Earnings vary considerably by field of study.* Young graduates with bachelors degrees in medicine earn the most of all bachelors graduates. The median income for medical graduates is over $109,300 five years after leaving study, compared to $50,700 for all young bachelors graduates. Young bachelors graduates in information technology have median earnings of $56,300 five years post study, while other fields with high earnings for young bachelors graduates are pharmacy and radiography with median earnings of over $74,300 and $71,700 five years after study respectively. Bachelors degree graduates in creative arts have the lowest earnings among young bachelors graduates after five years and they have relatively high rates of benefit receipt.

*Some qualification types and some fields are associated with high rates of further study.* Around half of all young people who complete a certificate or level 5-7 diploma move into further study the next year. Around 61 percent of young bachelors graduates in natural and physical sciences who stay in New Zealand were in further study one year after completion of a bachelors degree, and 33 percent after five years. Other fields with high rates of continuing study at bachelors level, for those who stay in New Zealand, include society and culture (52 percent in the first year after completion), and agriculture, environmental and related studies (47 percent in the first year).

*Graduate certificate and diploma graduates have very high employment rates.* Two years after study, 77 percent of those who have completed a graduate certificate or diploma and who remained in New Zealand were in employment. Many of these graduates have studied either teacher education or law and so may have completed this qualification as a way of improving their employment prospects or are studying while in employment.

The following tables give some of the important summary data drawn from the detailed tables in the spreadsheets. While these three tables give data broken down by qualification level, the interactive [Compare study options](http://www.careers.govt.nz/tools/compare-study-options) tool on the Careers NZ website, and the downloadable spreadsheets available on this page, provide results which are classified by both qualification level and field of study.

**Table 1**

Median and quartile annual earnings of young domestic graduates, one, two and five years after study by qualification level.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level of study | Measure | Years after study |
|  |  | One | Two | Five |
| Doctorate | Upper quartile | $69,983 | $75,343 | $81,953 |
| Median | $60,604 | $66,672 | $71,412 |
| Lower quartile | $34,290 | $51,178 | $52,667 |
| Masters degree | Upper quartile | $54,700 | $60,816 | $72,923 |
| Median | $43,479 | $50,880 | $59,341 |
| Lower quartile | $27,708 | $38,321 | $44,730 |
| Level 8 – bachelors honours/pg dip or cert | Upper quartile | $52,047 | $57,971 | $74,061 |
| Median | $44,600 | $50,192 | $60,327 |
| Lower quartile | $33,911 | $38,970 | $44,812 |
| Graduate certificate or diploma | Upper quartile | $49,853 | $54,511 | $69,336 |
| Median | $45,946 | $48,300 | $58,749 |
| Lower quartile | $36,976 | $41,485 | $43,077 |
| Bachelors degree | Upper quartile | $46,169 | $50,591 | $62,992 |
| Median | $38,082 | $43,720 | $50,749 |
| Lower quartile | $26,592 | $33,141 | $37,070 |
| Diploma | Upper quartile | $36,352 | $40,322 | $49,202 |
| Median | $28,553 | $32,025 | $39,046 |
| Lower quartile | $19,352 | $22,915 | $27,603 |
| Certificate at level 4 | Upper quartile | $31,854 | $35,259 | $43,425 |
| Median | $25,622 | $29,329 | $35,514 |
| Lower quartile | $17,556 | $20,724 | $25,440 |
| Certificate at levels 1-3 | Upper quartile | $31,891 | $34,776 | $44,361 |
| Median | $24,892 | $28,141 | $34,918 |
| Lower quartile | $15,954 | $19,310 | $24,278 |

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Integrated Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Education interpretation. Note that earnings are annual and in 2011 dollars. Only graduates classified in the employment destination are included in these results.

*Table 1 shows that:*

* While we often focus on the median earnings, there is a lot of variation at each level. For instance, the upper quartile of those who complete tertiary qualifications at bachelors level or below is around 25 percent more than the median. Five years after completion of their degree, a quarter of young bachelors graduates earn less than $37,070, which is 27 percent below the corresponding median, and a quarter of young level 1 to 3 certificate graduates earn less than $24,278 which is 30 percent below the corresponding median.
* These variations reflect factors such as field of study, industry of employment and occupation. Variation in earnings also reflects individual differences that are not evident in the data – such as motivation and performance on the job. They may also reflect that some graduates work part-time rather than full-time.

Table 2

Median annual earnings of young domestic graduates, one, two and five years after study, as a percentage of the national median earnings by qualification level.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Qualification level | Years after study % |
| One | Two | Five |
| Doctorate | 177% | 195% | 209% |
| Masters degree | 127% | 149% | 174% |
| Level 8 – bachelors honours, pg dip or cert | 130% | 147% | 176% |
| Graduate certificate or diploma | 134% | 141% | 172% |
| Bachelors degree | 111% | 128% | 148% |
| Diploma at levels 5-7 | 83% | 94% | 114% |
| Certificate at level 4 | 75% | 86% | 104% |
| Certificate at levels 1-3 | 73% | 82% | 102% |

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Integrated Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Education interpretation. Note that earnings are annual and in 2011 dollars. Only graduates classified in the employment destination are included in these results. Earnings are compared to the 2011 tax year median annual earnings for those aged between 15 – 64 years in New Zealand.

*Table 2 shows that:*

* More than half of young people who complete a qualification at bachelors or higher earn above the national median earnings in their first year out of study
* While the median starting earnings for lower-level qualifications is below the national median, people with those qualifications catch up over time. Five years after completing, more than half those young people who finished a level 1-3 certificate will be earning above the national median. To some extent this reflects our population of young people gaining experience in the workforce.
* People with postgraduate qualifications command high earnings – with half of young doctoral graduates earning more than twice the national median in their fifth year out of study and the median for masters and those who finish level 8 qualifications approaching twice the national median.

Table 3

Proportion of young domestic graduates who were in New Zealand who were in employment and in further study in the first and fifth years after study by qualification level.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification level | One year after study | Five years after study |
| In employment | In further study | In employment | In further study |
| Doctorate | 78% | 9% | 82% | 7% |
| Masters degree | 65% | 24% | 65% | 23% |
| Level 8 qualification – bachelors honours, pg dip or cert | 54% | 40% | 71% | 22% |
| Graduate certificate or diploma | 77% | 17% | 76% | 13% |
| Bachelors degree | 53% | 40% | 70% | 20% |
| Diploma at levels 5-7 | 43% | 49% | 61% | 24% |
| Certificate at level 4 | 36% | 52% | 55% | 30% |
| Certificate at levels 1-3 | 34% | 49% | 51% | 29% |

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Integrated Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Education interpretation.

*Table 3 shows that:*

* For qualifications at bachelors level and below, employment rates rise with the level of qualification. They also rise over time – a high proportion of young graduates who undertake further study start that in the first year after completion and then continue on to gain employment by the fifth year after completion of their first qualification.
* Around half of young people who complete certificates go on to further study – reflecting the focus of many certificates in providing preparation for people to undertake study at higher levels. Likewise a high proportion of young people who complete a level 5-7 diploma also continue on to further study.

## The effects of the recession

Like most developed countries, New Zealand’s economy went into recession over the 2008-2009 period and had not fully recovered by 2010. This time period coincides with the period that we are looking at in both this update (which covers the 2010 and 2011 tax years) and in our original publication, *Moving on up* (which covers the 2009 and 2010 tax years).

There is evidence that, as the country as a whole has pulled out of recession, the effects on young people have lingered. We can see this effect on graduate earnings and destinations by comparing the results in this update with those in *Moving on up:*

* Comparing the new data with the corresponding numbers in *Moving on up* shows that graduate median earnings have dropped in real terms[[3]](#footnote-3), for most years after study and at almost all qualification levels. The drop in earnings is greater at the lower quartile, suggesting that the recession may have had a larger effect on those with lower earnings. Although conditions have improved across the labour market as a whole, earnings have not moved to the same extent for young people and indeed have dropped in nominal terms in some cases.
* Graduates with qualifications below bachelors level are less likely to gain employment and more likely to be on a benefit or doing further study. Bachelors graduates have lower employment rates in the first year out of study. But this effect is less apparent for graduates with postgraduate qualifications, indicating that these individuals have been relatively more shielded from the effects of the recession in terms of gaining employment.
* However, five years after graduation, earnings for postgraduates have dropped more than those for graduates who studied lower qualifications.

## Technical notes

### Graduate destinations

Destinations are only determined for graduates who are in New Zealand in any particular year. A graduate is regarded as being in New Zealand if, overall, they are in NZ for longer than three months in that tax year.

The graduate destinations used in this report are:

* Further study
* Receiving a benefit
* Employment
* Unknown/Other

Within each leaving cohort, graduates are assigned to only a single destination per year after study using the below business rules. These rules take account of ‘substantiveness’ – how long a graduate is pursuing an activity – and a ‘predominance’ test – what is the ‘main’ activity. Where a graduate meets the criteria for more than one destination, the destination is determined using the order of precedence: further study, receiving a benefit, employment, unknown/other.

Destinations are defined as follows:

* *Further study* – graduates who do any tertiary study in a calendar year.
* *Receiving a benefit* – graduates who are not classified in the Further study category and who are on a benefit for at least 4 months in a tax year and who are not in employment for a longer time than this.
* *Employment* – graduates who are not classified in any of the above categories and who receive wages and salary, paid parental leave and/or ACC compensation for at least four months or more in a tax year and/or receive any self-employment income.
* *Other/Unknown* – graduates who do not meet any of the above criteria, or for whom no matching data can be found in the IDI.

Note that unlike *Moving on up*, the other/unknown and receiving a benefit destinations have not been combined for postgraduates in the updated data.

### Completions

The analyses and results in this report only relate to students who have completed a qualification. Enrolments and completions must match by qualification code and level, and provider. Graduates may be included in the results more than once if they have completed a qualification in more than one field of study, or have completed more than one qualification if the qualifications are completed at different levels and/or in different years.

The year that a qualification is completed is assumed to be the last year of enrolment in that qualification. This is because sometimes completions are not recorded in the year that a student actually completes their qualification, for example due to administrative delays or other peculiarities. Completions are excluded in cases where the recorded completion is shown as having occurred three or more years before the last year of enrolment in that qualification.

### Number of years post-study

The number of years post study are defined using tax years for earnings and all destinations except further study where calendar years are used. Table 4 below shows how the aggregated cohorts align with tax and calendar years for each post study year.

Table 4

Alignment of cohorts with tax and calendar years.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cohort | Years post study | Calendar year | Tax year |
| 08/09 | 1 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |
| 07/08 | 2 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |
| 06/07 | 3 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |
| 05/06 | 4 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |
| 04/05 | 5 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |
| 03/04 | 6 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 |

### Graduate earnings

Earnings are only presented for graduates who are classified in the ‘Employment’ destination. Earnings have also been scaled using the Labour Cost Index to normalise differences between the 2010 and 2011 tax years and are presented in 2011 dollars.

Additionally, throughout this report, we have compared graduate earnings to the national median earnings for the 2011 tax year for all workers aged between 15-64 years who have earnings recorded in the IDI, no matter what their qualifications, occupations and hours of work.

### Confidentiality of data

The results published in this report and in the tables in the corresponding spreadsheets all comply with the Statistics New Zealand’s confidentiality requirements. These include a requirement to use *graduated random rounding* for all counts including those which underlie percentages. Additionally, when publishing employment rates or earnings, the corresponding provider, enterprise and graduate counts for that qualification level x field of study combination must be higher than prescribed limits. Blanks may also be suppressed in line with Statistic New Zealand’s confidentiality rules. Results from a single provider are suppressed in all cases.

Random rounding may result in a total not agreeing with the sum of individual items shown in a table. It is also important to take this into account when comparing percentages as some variation may simply be due to this factor and not to an underlying trend. For example, if the total number of graduates in a particular year after study is higher than 100, (which is the case for 70 percent of the results), the percentage in a destination is less than 1% out for four-fifths of results, between 1-2% out for 15% of results, and between 2-5% out for 6% of results, merely due to rounding. Whereas if the total number of graduates is between 20 to 100, the percentage is less than 1% out for 26% of results, between 1-2% out for 21% of results, between 2-5% out for 35% of results, and more than 5% out for 18% of results

Please refer to Chapter 12 of *Moving on up* for more technical details about the data in these tables.

### Disclaimer

*The results in this report are not official statistics, they have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) managed by Statistics New Zealand.*

*The opinions, findings, recommendations and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors not Statistics NZ.*

*Access to the anonymised data used in this study was provided by Statistics NZ in accordance with security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Only people authorised by the Statistics Act 1975 are allowed to see data about a particular person, household, business or organisation and the results in this report have been confidentialised to protect these groups from identification.*

*Careful consideration has been given to the privacy, security and confidentiality issues associated with using administrative and survey data in the IDI. Further detail can be found in the* [*Privacy impact assessment for the Integrated Data Infrastructure*](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/integrated-data-infrastructure/privacy-impact-assessment-for-the-idi.aspx) *available from* [*www.stats.govt.nz*](http://www.stats.govt.nz/)*.*

*The results are based in part on tax data supplied by Inland Revenue to Statistics NZ under the Tax Administration Act 1994. This tax data must be used only for statistical purposes, and no individual information may be published or disclosed in any other form, or provided to Inland Revenue for administrative or regulatory purposes.*

*Any person who has had access to the unit-record data has certified that they have been shown, have read, and have understood section 81 of the Tax Administration Act 1994, which relates to secrecy. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the IDI for statistical purposes, and is not related to the data's ability to support Inland Revenue's core operational requirements.*

## Appendix 1. Median and quartile annual earnings of young domestic bachelors degree graduates, one, two and five years after study by broad field of study.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field of study | Measure | Years after study |
| One | Two | Five |
| Agriculture, environmental and related studies | Upper quartile | $46,222 | $53,429 | $62,536 |
| Median | $35,565 | $43,442 | $50,487 |
| Lower quartile | $19,080 | $34,013 | $37,145 |
| Architecture and building | Upper quartile | $44,930 | $49,550 | $60,906 |
| Median | $35,301 | $40,930 | $47,892 |
| Lower quartile | $25,782 | $31,347 | $36,089 |
| Creative arts | Upper quartile | $36,043 | $42,042 | $52,169 |
| Median | $28,265 | $34,685 | $41,546 |
| Lower quartile | $18,816 | $22,899 | $27,002 |
| Education | Upper quartile | $46,866 | $48,704 | $57,829 |
| Median | $44,791 | $46,370 | $50,829 |
| Lower quartile | $37,203 | $41,419 | $36,037 |
| Engineering and related technologies | Upper quartile | $49,182 | $51,911 | $69,269 |
| Median | $41,503 | $45,158 | $57,350 |
| Lower quartile | $27,940 | $36,736 | $44,581 |
| Health | Upper quartile | $63,041 | $66,324 | $83,593 |
| Median | $46,950 | $52,037 | $61,747 |
| Lower quartile | $36,955 | $42,098 | $41,807 |
| Information technology | Upper quartile | $47,811 | $53,083 | $69,801 |
| Median | $41,130 | $45,858 | $56,309 |
| Lower quartile | $29,637 | $34,424 | $44,898 |
| Management and commerce | Upper quartile | $45,000 | $50,416 | $66,856 |
| Median | $38,473 | $43,845 | $52,896 |
| Lower quartile | $29,467 | $36,123 | $41,025 |
| Natural and physical sciences | Upper quartile | $43,541 | $51,287 | $61,448 |
| Median | $34,054 | $43,074 | $50,483 |
| Lower quartile | $23,476 | $32,909 | $37,473 |
| Society and culture | Upper quartile | $43,514 | $49,192 | $59,598 |
| Median | $35,003 | $42,055 | $49,055 |
| Lower quartile | $23,083 | $31,059 | $36,340 |
| Total students | Upper quartile | $46,169 | $50,591 | $62,992 |
| Median | $38,082 | $43,720 | $50,749 |
| Lower quartile | $26,592 | $33,141 | $37,070 |

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Integrated Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Education interpretation. Earnings are gross, annual and in 2011 dollars. Only graduates classified in the employment destination are included in these results.

## Appendix 2. Median earnings for young domestic bachelors degree graduates, one, two and five years after study, by narrow field of study.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Annual earnings |
| Broad field of study | Narrow field of study | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 5 |
| Agriculture, environmental and related studies | Agriculture | $39,172 | $44,058 | $48,250 |
| Horticulture and Viticulture | $33,406 | $37,398 | $49,713 |
| Forestry Studies | $43,012 | $48,750 | $56,654 |
| Environmental Studies | $31,332 | $45,567 | $51,268 |
| Architecture and building | Architecture and Urban Environment | $33,502 | $40,637 | $47,197 |
| Building | $43,474 | $46,723 | $59,034 |
| Creative arts | Performing Arts | $22,368 | $27,264 | $33,801 |
| Visual Arts and Crafts | $25,099 | $31,070 | $39,266 |
| Graphic and Design Studies | $27,737 | $34,882 | $42,379 |
| Communication and Media Studies | $32,332 | $38,102 | $46,331 |
| Other Creative Arts | S | $31,893 | $30,536 |
| Education | Teacher Education | $44,798 | $46,477 | $51,139 |
| Curriculum and Education Studies | $44,412 | $46,511 | $50,317 |
| Engineering and related technologies | Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology | S | S | $61,567 |
| Process and Resources Engineering | $40,331 | $38,696 | $58,108 |
| Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Technology | $41,692 | $47,714 | $54,559 |
| Civil Engineering | $46,145 | $48,996 | $63,091 |
| Geomatic Engineering | $43,975 | $45,309 | $53,108 |
| Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Technology | $39,104 | $45,734 | $59,542 |
| Other Engineering and Related Technologies | $36,237 | S | $61,542 |
| Health | Medical Studies | $88,731 | $93,456 | $109,318 |
| Nursing | $45,737 | $50,337 | $55,575 |
| Pharmacy | $40,278 | $65,060 | $74,251 |
| Dental Studies | $67,757 | $75,131 | $65,720 |
| Veterinary Studies | S | $61,055 | $65,075 |
| Public Health | $38,982 | $46,930 | $59,821 |
| Radiography | $54,387 | $58,416 | $71,724 |
| Rehabilitation Therapies | $44,028 | $47,762 | $48,813 |
| Other Health | $30,448 | $38,190 | $46,723 |
| Information technology | Computer Science | $41,151 | $45,616 | $57,091 |
| Information Systems | $40,460 | $45,498 | $56,230 |
| Other Information Technology | $41,310 | $48,018 | $56,849 |
| Management and commerce | Accountancy | $41,987 | $45,004 | $58,722 |
| Business and Management | $38,427 | $43,687 | $51,615 |
| Sales and Marketing | $37,450 | $42,875 | $50,758 |
| Tourism | $33,342 | $38,386 | $45,365 |
| Banking, Finance and Related Fields | $40,274 | $45,638 | $57,474 |
| Other Management and Commerce | $38,039 | $44,961 | $58,850 |
| Natural and physical sciences | Mathematical Sciences | $38,522 | $45,944 | $52,471 |
| Physics and Astronomy | $40,446 | $43,714 | $55,133 |
| Chemical Sciences | $34,560 | $40,530 | $46,876 |
| Earth Sciences | $32,874 | $44,158 | $51,865 |
| Biological Sciences | $31,308 | $37,755 | $47,814 |
| Other Natural and Physical Sciences | $38,657 | $50,306 | $57,827 |
| Society and culture | Political Science and Policy Studies | $34,902 | $40,912 | $49,733 |
| Studies in Human Society | $32,214 | $40,094 | $47,764 |
| Human Welfare Studies and Services | $41,788 | $45,945 | $51,046 |
| Behavioural Science | $32,928 | $39,973 | $47,349 |
| Law | $41,706 | $47,874 | $54,771 |
| Justice and Law Enforcement | $34,095 | $39,755 | $45,542 |
| Language and Literature | $29,701 | $38,352 | $44,836 |
| Philosophy and Religious Studies | $32,569 | $38,068 | $47,323 |
| Economics and Econometrics | $39,726 | $45,683 | $57,882 |
| Sport and Recreation | $28,851 | $36,461 | $45,356 |
| Other Society and Culture | $30,903 | $38,204 | $44,338 |

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Integrated Data Infrastructure, Ministry of Education interpretation. Earnings are gross, annual and in 2011 dollars. An "S" indicates that a value is suppressed as it has not met Statistics NZ's confidentiality requirements. Only graduates classified in the employment destination are included in these results.

1. Mahoney,P., Park, Z., Smyth, R. (2013*). Moving on up: What young people earn after their tertiary education*, Wellington, Ministry of Education, New Zealand. http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/tertiary\_education/115410 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Note that the age cut-off for a “young” graduate is higher for higher qualifications though – the cut-off is 21 years for certificates and 23 years for diplomas. This will likely explain some of the increase in earnings. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The data in both this update and *Moving on up* is adjusted by the wages and salary component of the Labour Cost Index so that all values are in 2011 dollars. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)