Regional delivery in the ITP sector

This document provides an overview of the institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITP) sector delivery by region, and highlights key changes since 2012.

Number of full-time equivalent students (EFTS) delivered by region for ITPs in 2017

A key mission of the ITP sector is to deliver a diverse range of continuing education, including vocational training, to meet the needs of learners and regions. The map shows the total number of EFTS delivered in each region by the local regional ITP and from ITPs outside of that region.

Note that the delivery may be in locations outside the main centres indicated on the map.

1 One EFTS equates to the student workload that would normally be carried out in one year by a student enrolled full time. Data used in this infosheet is for all funding sources.

2 Note that the delivery may be in locations outside the main centres indicated on the map.
Most ITP delivery is in-region

Overall, around 90 percent of ITP delivery involves ITPs delivering in their own region. In general, ITP delivery in regional areas is more likely to be delivered by the in-region ITP. However, 20 percent of delivery in the Auckland region is from out-of-region ITPs. ITPs set up operations in Auckland to take advantage of the large full-fee paying international student market.

Around 13 percent of overall delivery across the ITP sector is extramural. The Open Polytechnic accounts for nearly two-thirds of all extramural delivery in the ITP sector (5,636 EFTS in 2017), followed by the Southern Institute of Technology (1,353 EFTS).

Overall fall in ITP delivery has been led by declines in the larger regions

Since 2012, and especially in the last two years, larger regions\(^3\) have seen declining demand (Figure 1). This is most marked in Auckland with a 14 percent decline in EFTS between 2015 and 2017. However, most other larger regions have also experienced above average declines over the past two years – Bay of Plenty (down 12 percent), Wellington (down 10 percent) and Canterbury (down 9 percent).

Over the past two years, extramural study has increased 7 percent. This growth has been across several ITPs, but largely driven by increases in delivery for the Open Polytechnic and the Southern Institute of Technology – the two largest providers of distance delivery in the sector.

Figure 1: EFTS delivery in the ITP sector for larger New Zealand regions (incl. extramural) – all learners

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\(^3\) Defined as the five largest regions in New Zealand by population size – Auckland, Canterbury, Wellington, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty.
**ITP delivery trends in smaller regions have been mixed**

Delivery in the smaller regions has varied significantly, with some showing growth and others experiencing large declines (Figure 2). Since 2012, there have been significant falls in the Taranaki region (down 33 percent), the West Coast region (down 26 percent), the Gisborne Region (down 16 percent) and the Manawatu-Wanganui Region (13 percent). Conversely, growth has occurred in the Otago Region (up 9 percent), the Hawke’s Bay region (up 8 percent) and Northland (up 2 percent).

**Figure 2: EFTS delivery in the ITP sector for smaller New Zealand regions – all learners**

**Growth in international learners has been led by the Auckland region**

Delivery to international learners in the ITP sector grew strongly over the five years to 2017, with EFTS up 60 percent across the sector.

This growth has mainly been in the Auckland region, nearly doubling from 2,798 EFTS in 2012 to 5,459 EFTS in 2017 (Figure 3). The Auckland region now accounts for 43 percent of all international learners in the ITP sector, up from 36 percent in 2012. Most other large regions experienced modest growth to 2016, followed by a slight drop in 2017 (Figure 3).
Among the smaller regions, all but one (Manawatu-Wanganui) have seen an increase in international learner EFTS over the past five years (Figure 4). The strongest growth has been in the Nelson/Marlborough region where international EFTS have increased by 128 percent over the past five years (off a small base), while the Wellington and Otago regions have seen increases of 103 percent and 97 percent respectively.

**Figure 4: EFTS delivery in the ITP sector for smaller New Zealand regions – international learners**
Further information

Further statistics on ITPs and the overall tertiary education sector can be found on the Education Counts website.

Information on funding allocations for ITPs and all other tertiary education organisations (TEOs) the TEC funds can be found on the TEC website.

TEOs can access further information through the information products in the Ngā Kete Portal.