



# Student Loan

## January to December 2024

The [Student Loan Scheme](#) helps students to pay for course fees (compulsory fees charged by education providers), course-related costs (e.g. books, computer, travel) and living costs.

For this report, a student is defined as a person who received at least one payment under this scheme from [StudyLink](#) in the calendar year, up to the end of the specified reporting month. The data in this report is cumulative calendar year-to-date figures. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and all percentages are computed using randomly rounded numbers, and then rounded to one decimal point. Total percentages may not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding effects. In line with the Ministry of Social Development’s confidentiality policy, all numbers of people in this document have been randomly rounded to base three. The last three years of data and annual comparisons are presented in summary tables. Earlier figures are included in the Student Loan data file.

### 1

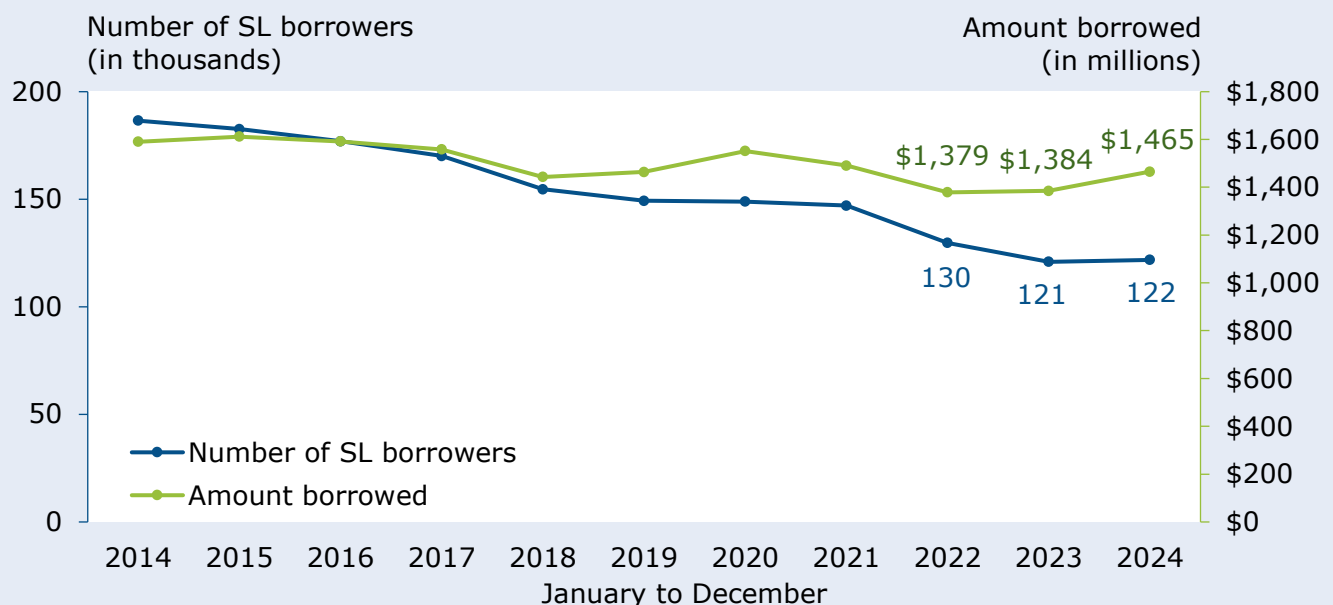
#### Number of borrowers and amount paid

**More students drew down a student loan in 2024 than in 2023.**

In 2024, 121,779 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 861 more students (up 0.7 percent) when compared with 2023.

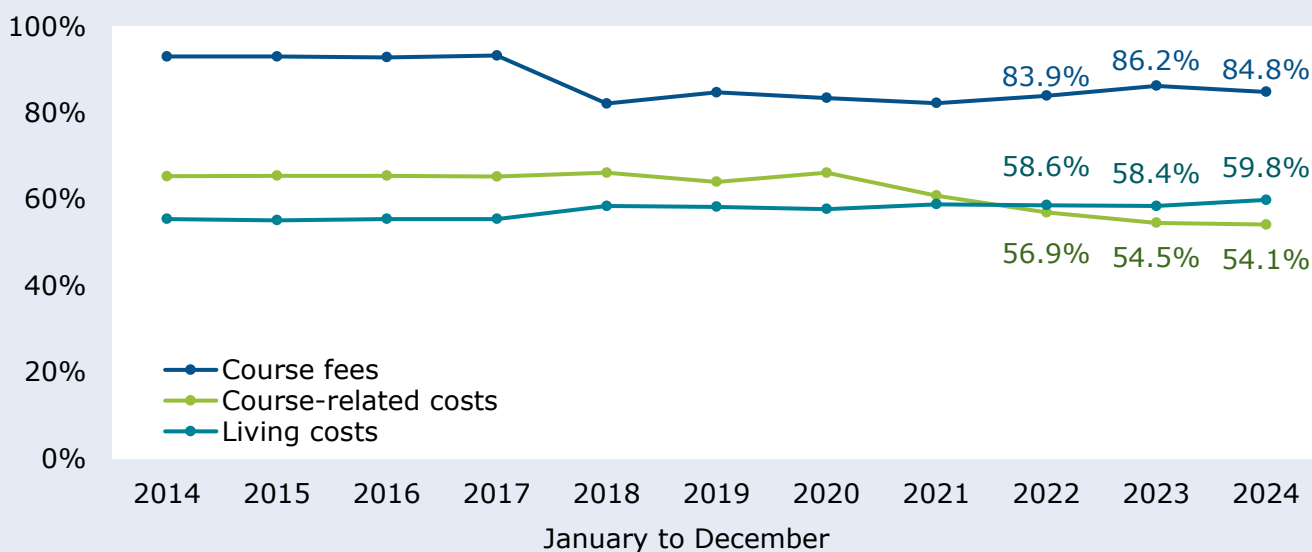
In 2024, the total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was \$1,465.2 million. This was an increase of 5.8 percent when compared with 2023.

**Figure 1.1: Number of SL borrowers and amount borrowed, January to December 2014–2024**



From January to December 2024, 84.8 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

**Figure 1.2: Proportion of SL borrowers by loan component, January to December 2014–2024**



**Note:** From April 2020, course-related costs entitlement was increased for study in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 tertiary support package.

Below is a summary table with year-on-year comparisons over the previous three years.

**Table 1.1: Number of SL borrowers, amount borrowed, and average amount borrowed, by loan component**

Loan component	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022–23	2023–24
Course fees	108,774	104,181	103,209	-4.2%	-0.9%
Course-related costs	73,749	65,871	65,844	-10.7%	0.0%
Living costs	76,044	70,671	72,771	-7.1%	3.0%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Amount borrowed for course fees	\$802,501,741	\$795,737,763	\$819,867,180	-0.8%	3.0%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	\$72,021,979	\$64,598,147	\$64,727,155	-10.3%	0.2%
Amount borrowed for living costs	\$504,397,394	\$524,051,278	\$580,620,254	3.9%	10.8%
<b>Total amount borrowed</b>	<b>\$1,378,921,114</b>	<b>\$1,384,387,189</b>	<b>\$1,465,214,589</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
Average course fees	\$7,378	\$7,638	\$7,944	3.5%	4.0%
Average course-related costs	\$977	\$981	\$983	0.4%	0.2%
Average living costs	\$6,633	\$7,415	\$7,979	11.8%	7.6%

**Note 1:** Note: Establishment fees and repayments/refunds are not included in the above summary table but are available in the downloadable Excel file.

**Note 2:** From 1 April 2022, the student loan living cost maxima increased by \$25 per week (in addition to the annual inflation adjustment).



## 2

### Education providers

In 2024, there were 83,889 students who drew down SL for study at University only. This was a decrease of 321 students (down 0.4 percent) when compared with 2023 (84,210).

The number of students who drew down SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 23,715. This was 420 more students (up 1.8 percent) when compared with 2023 (23,295).

Below is a summary table with year-on-year comparisons over the last three years.

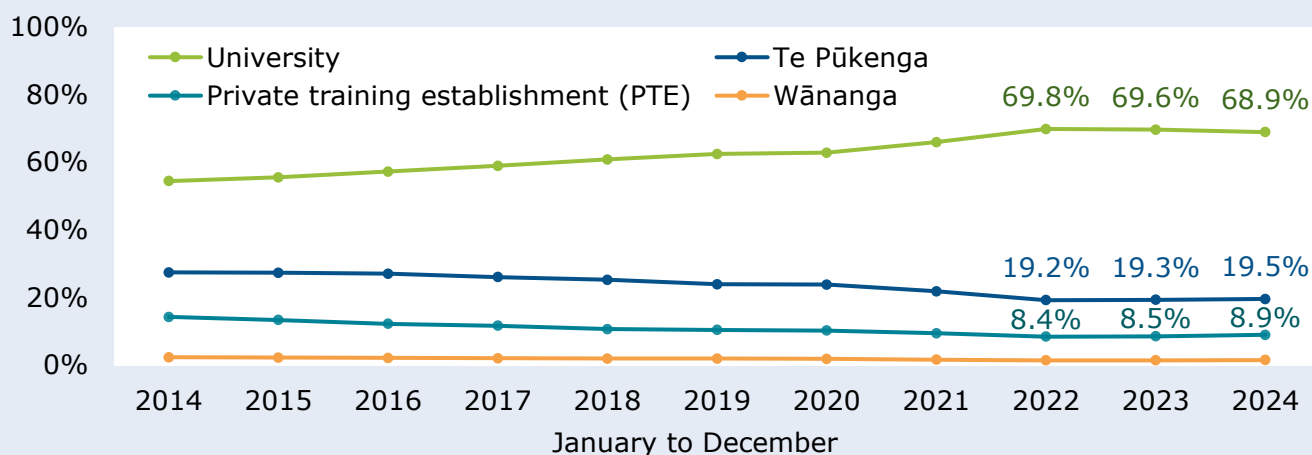
**Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider**

Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
University	90,528	84,210	83,889	-7.0%	-0.4%
Te Pūkenga	24,891	23,295	23,715	-6.4%	1.8%
Private training establishment (PTE)	10,956	10,299	10,887	-6.0%	5.7%
Wānanga	1,794	1,710	1,836	-4.7%	7.4%
Multiple and other providers	1,545	1,407	1,449	-8.9%	3.0%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

**Note:** “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of providers (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period.

Students attending only University made up 68.9 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 19.5 percent.

**Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to December 2014–2024**



**Note:** To avoid double counting, the figure above excludes a small number of students attending more than one provider type.



**Table 2.2: Amount borrowed for course fees by type of education provider**

Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
University	\$606,582,313	\$592,139,549	\$607,259,653	-2.4%	2.6%
Te Pūkenga	\$111,825,615	\$116,929,106	\$118,964,755	4.6%	1.7%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$66,454,939	\$69,927,946	\$75,820,086	5.2%	8.4%
Wānanga	\$4,478,959	\$4,100,341	\$4,707,101	-8.5%	14.8%
Multiple and other providers	\$13,159,915	\$12,640,820	\$13,115,585	-3.9%	3.8%
<b>Total amount borrowed for course fees</b>	<b>\$802,501,741</b>	<b>\$795,737,763</b>	<b>\$819,867,180</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

**Note:** “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of providers (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period.

## 3

### Demographics of Student Loan borrowers

The following tables provide a summary profile of SL borrowers from January to December, for the previous three years. Detailed data series are available in the SL data file.

**Table 3.1: SL borrowers by age group**

Age group	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
16-17 years	222	216	333	-2.7%	54.2%
18-24 years	84,423	78,438	79,620	-7.1%	1.5%
25-34 years	28,758	26,049	25,251	-9.4%	-3.1%
35-44 years	10,704	10,461	10,773	-2.3%	3.0%
45-54 years	4,554	4,581	4,662	0.6%	1.8%
55 years and older	1,050	1,176	1,140	12.0%	-3.1%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

**Note 1:** Age is calculated as at the end of the period.

**Note 2:** A breakdown of “55 and older” is available in the Student Loan data file.



**Table 3.2: SL borrowers by gender**

Gender	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Female	82,548	75,855	75,435	-8.1%	-0.6%
Male	46,200	43,866	44,844	-5.1%	2.2%
Gender Diverse	966	1,197	1,503	23.9%	25.6%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

**Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residential status**

Residential status	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Citizen by birth	96,606	89,877	90,936	-7.0%	1.2%
Citizen	20,352	19,410	19,422	-4.6%	0.1%
Permanent resident	12,402	11,310	11,031	-8.8%	-2.5%
Other	348	324	390	-6.9%	20.4%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

**Note:** “Other” includes students who have refugee status, and those classified as protected person/s. Details of “Other” are included in the downloadable data file.

It is not mandatory for students to disclose their ethnicity and students may report more than one ethnicity.

The numbers presented in this table are total responses – students who reported more than one ethnic group were counted in each group they identified with. The total number of responses therefore does not add up to the total number of SL borrowers.

**Table 3.4: SL responses by ethnic group**

Ethnic group (total response)	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
European	84,309	79,062	79,056	-6.2%	0.0%
Māori	22,497	21,066	22,215	-6.4%	5.5%
Pacific Peoples	12,897	11,994	12,591	-7.0%	5.0%
Asian	22,512	22,368	23,466	-0.6%	4.9%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	4,128	3,948	4,155	-4.4%	5.2%
Other	546	480	474	-12.1%	-1.3%
<b>Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity</b>	<b>125,739</b>	<b>118,665</b>	<b>120,333</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Not specified	3,972	2,256	1,446	-43.2%	-35.9%
<b>Total number of Student Loan borrowers</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>120,918</b>	<b>121,779</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

**Note:** A detailed breakdown of ethnic groups is included in the Student Loan data file.