



Student Loan

January to March 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.

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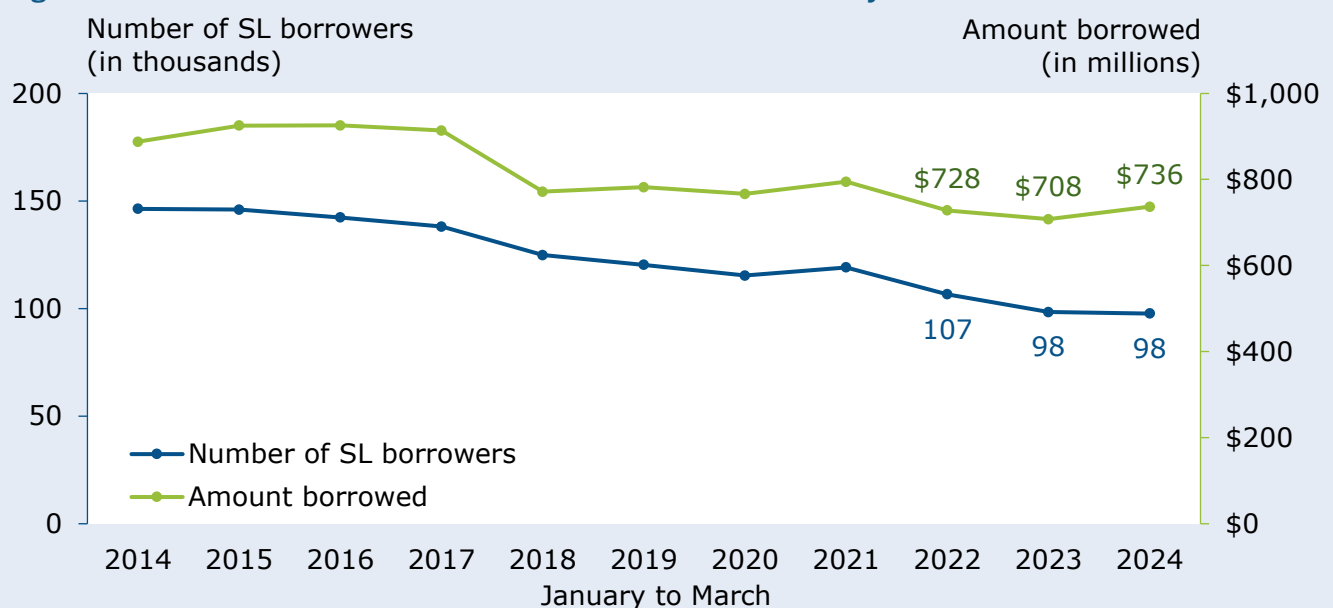
Number of borrowers and amount paid

Fewer students drew down a student loan from January to March 2024 than in the same period in 2023.

From January to March 2024, 97,674 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 678 fewer students (down 0.7 percent) when compared with the same period in 2023.

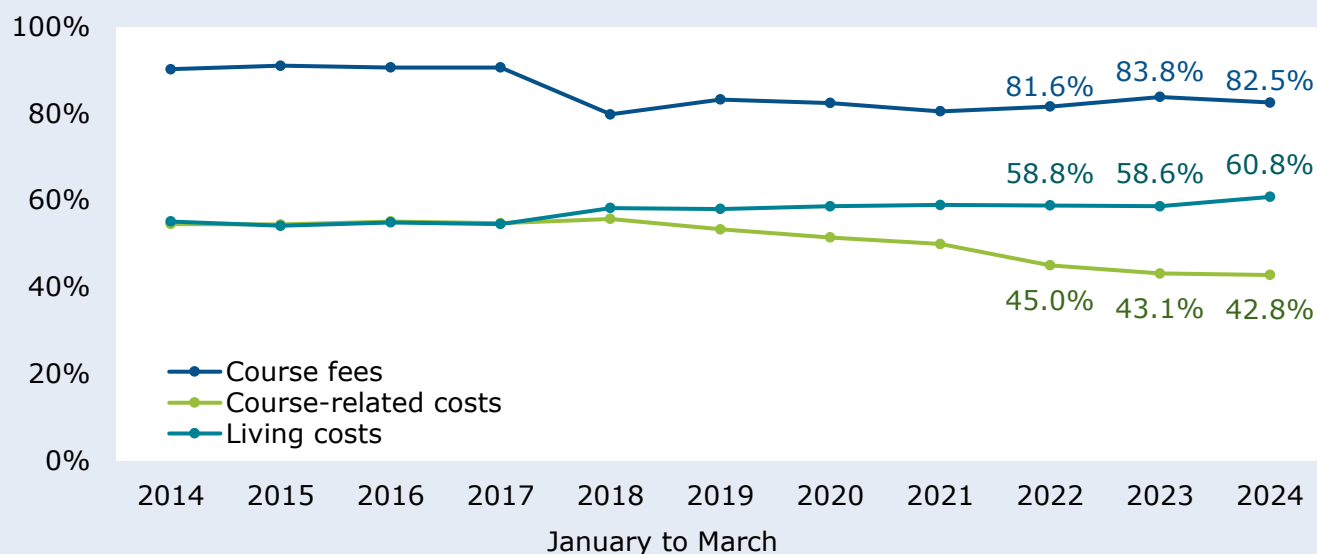
From January to March 2024, the total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was \$736.4 million. This was an increase of 4.1 percent when compared with the same period in 2023.

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



From January to March 2024, 82.5 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

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



Note: Course-related costs entitlement was temporarily increased in April 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 March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022–23	2023–24
Course fees	86,955	82,404	80,541	-5.2%	-2.3%
Course-related costs	47,988	42,426	41,838	-11.6%	-1.4%
Living costs	62,667	57,648	59,361	-8.0%	3.0%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%
Amount borrowed for course fees	\$613,734,742	\$596,216,314	\$612,106,349	-2.9%	2.7%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	\$42,309,902	\$37,640,652	\$37,589,137	-11.0%	-0.1%
Amount borrowed for living costs	\$71,850,941	\$73,783,919	\$86,741,074	2.7%	17.6%
Total amount borrowed	\$727,895,585	\$707,640,885	\$736,436,560	-2.8%	4.1%
Average course fees	\$7,058	\$7,235	\$7,600	2.5%	5.0%
Average course-related costs	\$882	\$887	\$898	0.6%	1.2%
Average living costs	\$1,147	\$1,280	\$1,461	11.6%	14.1%

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

From January to March 2024, there were 72,648 students who drew down SL for study at University only. This was a decrease of 1,104 students (down 1.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2023 (73,752).

The number of students who drew down SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 16,566. This was 60 fewer students (down 0.4 percent) when compared with the same period in 2023 (16,626).

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

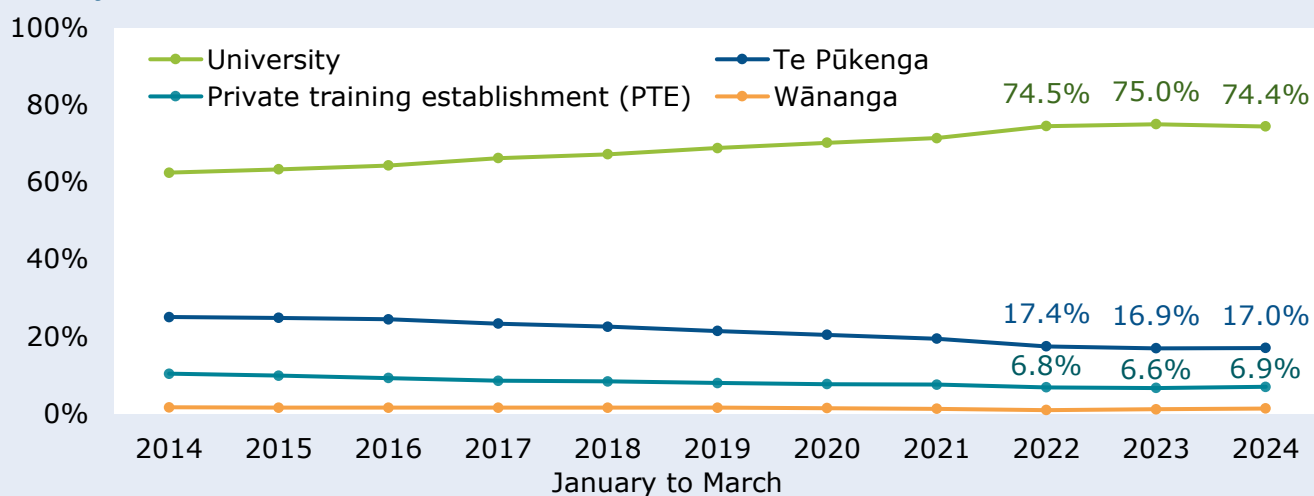
Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022–23	2023–24
University	79,395	73,752	72,648	-7.1%	-1.5%
Te Pūkenga	18,519	16,626	16,566	-10.2%	-0.4%
Private training establishment (PTE)	7,266	6,495	6,777	-10.6%	4.3%
Wānanga	960	1,068	1,278	11.3%	19.7%
Multiple and other providers	486	411	402	-15.4%	-2.2%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%

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, as well as ‘other’ types of education providers such as high schools.

Students attending only University made up 74.4 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 17.0 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to March 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 March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
University	\$485,817,632	\$466,708,206	\$477,963,484	-3.9%	2.4%
Te Pūkenga	\$83,751,074	\$84,056,166	\$84,855,279	0.4%	1.0%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$38,697,482	\$39,826,070	\$43,091,285	2.9%	8.2%
Wānanga	\$2,099,877	\$2,540,113	\$3,269,444	21.0%	28.7%
Multiple and other providers	\$3,368,677	\$3,085,758	\$2,926,857	-8.4%	-5.1%
Total amount borrowed for course fees	\$613,734,742	\$596,216,314	\$612,106,349	-2.9%	2.7%

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, as well as ‘other’ types of education providers such as high schools.

3

Demographics of Student Loan borrowers

The following tables provide a summary profile of SL borrowers from January to March, 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 March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
16-17 years	924	780	882	-15.6%	13.1%
18-24 years	75,435	69,639	69,321	-7.7%	-0.5%
25-34 years	19,512	17,412	16,803	-10.8%	-3.5%
35-44 years	7,170	6,993	7,038	-2.5%	0.6%
45-54 years	3,024	2,922	3,024	-3.4%	3.5%
55 years and older	561	600	606	7.0%	1.0%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%

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 March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Female	67,923	61,923	60,834	-8.8%	-1.8%
Male	37,995	35,529	35,676	-6.5%	0.4%
Gender Diverse	702	897	1,164	27.8%	29.8%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%

Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residential status

Residential status	January to March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Citizen by birth	79,782	73,542	73,446	-7.8%	-0.1%
Citizen	16,794	15,762	15,510	-6.1%	-1.6%
Permanent resident	9,795	8,826	8,466	-9.9%	-4.1%
Other	255	225	255	-11.8%	13.3%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%

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 March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
European	70,788	66,003	65,298	-6.8%	-1.1%
Māori	17,088	15,864	16,698	-7.2%	5.3%
Pacific Peoples	9,678	8,898	9,054	-8.1%	1.8%
Asian	18,537	18,219	18,930	-1.7%	3.9%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	3,258	3,129	3,171	-4.0%	1.3%
Other	429	384	366	-10.5%	-4.7%
Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity	102,843	96,249	96,429	-6.4%	0.2%
Not specified	3,780	2,100	1,245	-44.4%	-40.7%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	106,626	98,352	97,674	-7.8%	-0.7%

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