

Factsheet: International Education in New Zealand

- In 2017 125,392 international students studied in New Zealand, contributing to a thriving and globally connected New Zealand.
- International education is New Zealand's fourth largest export earner valued at \$5.1 billion. It makes an important contribution to our national and regional economies.
- This \$5.1 billion was comprised of \$4.8 billion from international students visiting New Zealand and \$0.3 billion from education and training goods and services delivered offshore.
- A larger share of economic value was attributed regionally in 2017 than in previous years – largely due to a small decrease in the number of students studying in Auckland. Please note, however, that international education continues to be very significant for Auckland and its economic contribution remained strong at \$2.76b in 2017, and just over half (56%) of the national figure (in line with a value over volume focus and sustainable growth).

The next largest economic contributions were received in university regions, that is, by Canterbury (10%), Wellington (9%) and Waikato and Otago (both 6%). Fourteen percent of the total economic contribution in 2017 was spent outside the regions where students were based (e.g. while living in one region students are busy domestic tourists; while living in one region students also consume food grown in other regions).

- Just under 50,000 jobs are supported by the international education sector. This is made up of 47,500 jobs onshore connected to visiting students, and a further 2,141 jobs (973 in New Zealand and 1,168 offshore) from offshore activity in 2017.
- Offshore delivery is an area of significant potential for New Zealand. Australia and China accounted for 56% of the economic contribution from education exports in 2017.
- Average economic value per student is up – \$39,290 (reflecting things such as type of study, and student spending as busy tourists and active consumers).
- The strong economic results are underpinned by a deliberate shift in focus at Government level from “volume to value”, that is increasing the value to New Zealand from fewer students studying in New Zealand and increasing the value of the international education sector in all regions of the country and offering an excellent student experience.
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- The New Zealand International Education Strategy 2018-2030, released in August 2018, set out a new path for the future of New Zealand's international education sector. It outlines the importance of sustainable growth, an excellent student experience, and developing global citizens.