



Student Loan

January to September 2023

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 information in this document has 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 Allowance data file.

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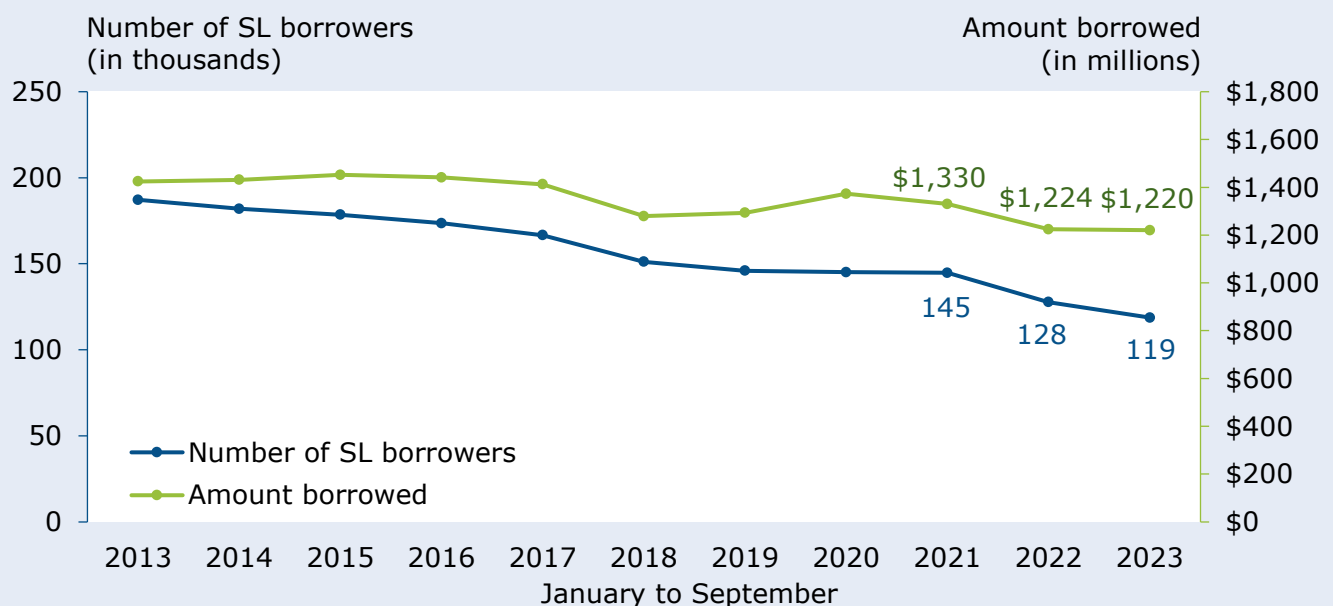
Number of borrowers and amount paid

Fewer students drew down a student loan between January and September 2023 than in the same period in 2022.

From January to September 2023, 118,695 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 9,018 fewer students (down 7.1 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022.

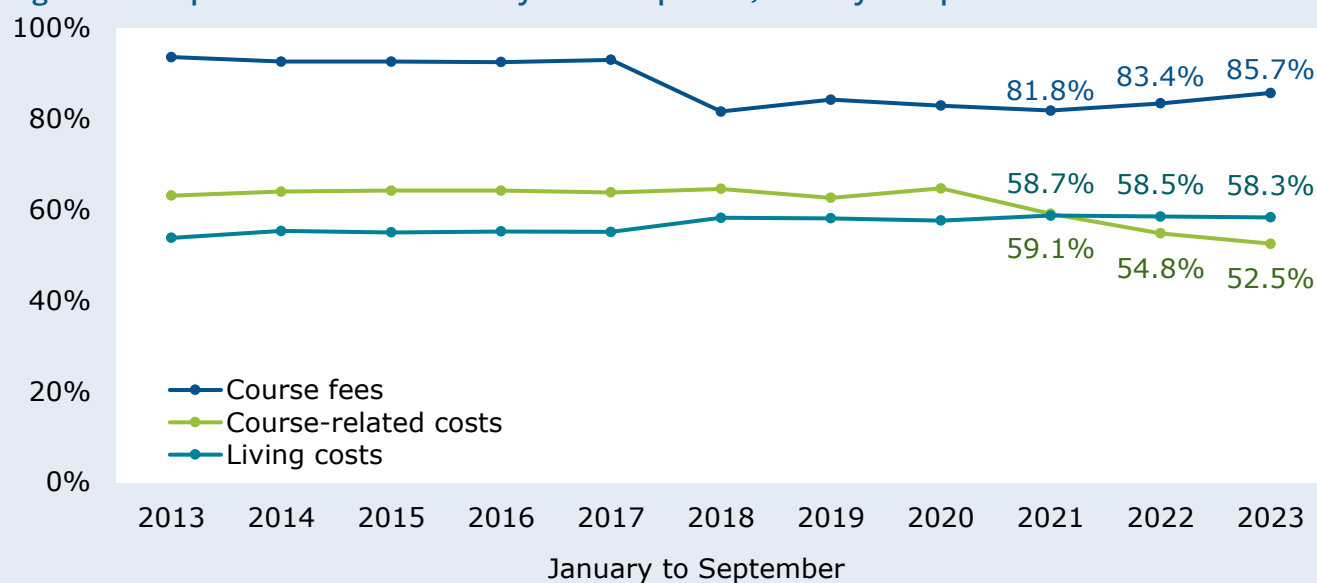
The total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was \$1.220 billion, a decrease of 0.3 percent when compared with the same period in 2022.

Figure 1.1: Number of SL borrowers and amount borrowed, January to September 2013–2023



From January to September 2023, 85.7 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

Figure 1.2: Proportion of SL borrowers by loan component, January to September 2013–2023



Note: Course-related costs entitlement was temporarily increased 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 September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
Course fees	118,365	106,515	101,697	-10.0%	-4.5%
Course-related costs	85,506	69,990	62,274	-18.1%	-11.0%
Living costs	84,900	74,652	69,201	-12.1%	-7.3%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%
Amount borrowed for course fees	\$826,937,283	\$759,252,253	\$747,359,485	-8.2%	-1.6%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	\$81,837,907	\$66,415,275	\$59,381,921	-18.8%	-10.6%
Amount borrowed for living costs	\$421,559,774	\$398,706,232	\$413,486,799	-5.4%	3.7%
Total amount borrowed	\$1,330,334,965	\$1,224,373,760	\$1,220,228,205	-8.0%	-0.3%
Average course fees	\$6,986	\$7,128	\$7,349	2.0%	3.1%
Average course-related costs	\$957	\$949	\$954	-0.8%	0.5%
Average living costs	\$4,965	\$5,341	\$5,975	7.6%	11.9%

Note 1: Loan establishment fees charged to borrowers and fees refunds from education providers are not included in the above summary, 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), which will have had an impact on the amounts borrowed in the January to September 2023 period.



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Education providers

Across all types of education providers, the number of SL borrowers decreased when compared to the same time the previous year.

Across all types of education providers, there were fewer SL borrowers enrolled between January and September 2023 than in the same period in 2022. The largest reductions in SL borrowers were in University and Te Pūkenga (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology).

From January to September 2023, the number of students who borrowed SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 22,644. This was 1,647 fewer students (down 6.8 percent) when compared to the same period in 2022 (24,291).

There were 83,469 students who borrowed SL for study at University only. This was a decrease of 6,390 students (down 7.1 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022 (89,859).

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

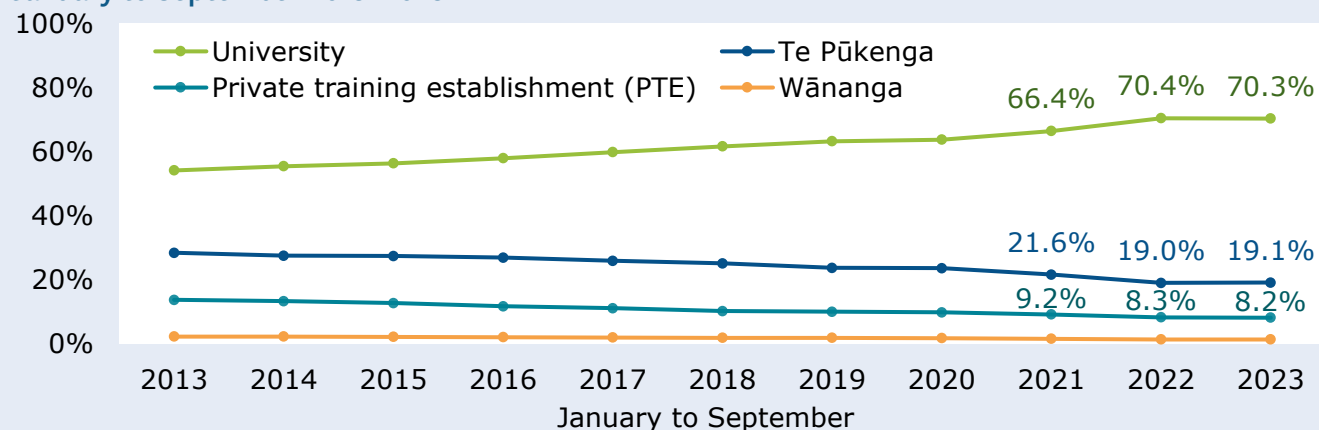
Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	96,141	89,859	83,469	-6.5%	-7.1%
Te Pūkenga	31,266	24,291	22,644	-22.3%	-6.8%
Private training establishment (PTE)	13,299	10,563	9,789	-20.6%	-7.3%
Wānanga	2,358	1,746	1,665	-26.0%	-4.6%
Multiple and other providers	1,644	1,251	1,122	-23.9%	-10.3%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%

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

Proportionately, students attending only University accounted for 70.3 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 19.1 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to September 2013-2023



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 September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	\$605,250,844	\$575,418,487	\$557,571,005	-4.9%	-3.1%
Te Pūkenga	\$129,545,269	\$107,301,184	\$111,618,452	-17.2%	4.0%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$75,251,221	\$62,166,330	\$64,864,668	-17.4%	4.3%
Wānanga	\$4,796,619	\$4,348,936	\$3,954,194	-9.3%	-9.1%
Multiple and other providers	\$12,093,330	\$10,017,316	\$9,351,165	-17.2%	-6.6%
Total amount borrowed for course fees	\$826,937,283	\$759,252,253	\$747,359,485	-8.2%	-1.6%

Note: “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of two or more provider types (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 September, 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 September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	471	315	309	-33.1%	-1.9%
18-24 years	94,800	84,900	78,684	-10.4%	-7.3%
25-34 years	31,233	27,057	24,420	-13.4%	-9.7%
35-44 years	11,775	10,137	9,942	-13.9%	-1.9%
45-54 years	5,367	4,377	4,296	-18.4%	-1.9%
55 years and older	1,059	930	1,044	-12.2%	12.3%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%

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 September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Female	91,560	81,324	74,517	-11.2%	-8.4%
Male	52,515	45,474	43,020	-13.4%	-5.4%
Gender Diverse	633	918	1,158	45.0%	26.1%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%

Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residential status

Residential status	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Citizen by birth	107,934	95,148	88,311	-11.8%	-7.2%
Citizen	22,452	20,007	18,975	-10.9%	-5.2%
Permanent resident	13,920	12,213	11,088	-12.3%	-9.2%
Other	402	345	318	-14.2%	-7.8%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%

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 September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
European	91,527	83,019	77,757	-9.3%	-6.3%
Māori	25,884	21,981	20,493	-15.1%	-6.8%
Pacific Peoples	14,589	12,630	11,670	-13.4%	-7.6%
Asian	23,583	22,128	21,927	-6.2%	-0.9%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	4,449	4,047	3,846	-9.0%	-5.0%
Other	669	531	477	-20.6%	-10.2%
Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity	138,180	123,657	116,397	-10.5%	-5.9%
Not specified	6,528	4,059	2,298	-37.8%	-43.4%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	144,705	127,713	118,695	-11.7%	-7.1%

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