

# ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Advice to the Tertiary Education Commission  
for training investment in 2026

November 2024



**WAIHANGA ARA RAU**

**Construction and  
Infrastructure**

Workforce Development Council

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# KEY INFORMATION – 2026 TEC INVESTMENT ADVICE

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This information is part of a suite of documents relating to the Waihanga Ara Rau advice to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) for investment in training for 2026 it should be read in conjunction with the following:

- ▶ **Introduction to the Waihanga Ara Rau advice to TEC for investment in training for 2026.**

*This document includes the methodology behind the learner forecasts and industry narrative, including context and themes related to the advice.*

- ▶ **The sector-specific advice summaries for the other 11 strategic industry sectors.**

*These documents include sector data snapshot, industry-specific context information, learner number profiles, and 2024 Learner and Provider snapshot.*

- ▶ **The complete Waihanga Ara Rau advice to TEC for investment in training for 2026**

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## INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

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**12,278**

workforce

2022

**189**

businesses

2022

**2,945**

learners

2023

**29%**

workforce  
aged under 25

**19%**

workforce  
<1 year in industry

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# ELECTRICITY SUPPLY NARRATIVE

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## **Workforce Data**

Work is being undertaken to better model and forecast the Electricity Supply Industry workforce, including the development of common role titles and descriptions and how to align roles with the significant forecasting work the sector does, including work related to asset development and management. While this work will continue to enhance our forecasting ability, we are confident the current level of investment will be in line with wider infrastructure investment and may well exceed it. Waihanga Ara Rau will provide out-of-cycle advice updates to the TEC as the modelling work develops.

## **Qualification Reviews and Impacts**

We are about to begin a review of the New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Traction Line) (Level 4) [Ref: 3988]. At this stage, it is too early to determine what changes may occur or if any new credentials will be introduced as a result. Additionally, the EWRB is implementing changes to registration classes, which will likely impact the relevant qualifications and have implications in areas such as Fault Response and Switching within the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI).

# TEC INVESTMENT ADVICE

## What are the five-year trend and three-year forecast for learner numbers?

We are using **2023 learner numbers as our baseline**, as this is the latest full-year training data.

While training interventions such as apprenticeship boost and fees free were still influencing learner numbers and the five-year pipeline of work was only just coming off its all-time high of approx. \$300B total in December 2022 and Infrastructure peak of \$64B in February 2023 learner numbers were starting to fall during 2023. Learner numbers in most industry sectors have continued to fall in 2024, but we anticipate government investment indicators, and a falling Official Cash Rate (OCR) will see 2024 as the bottom of the training volume trough in both the civil infrastructure and construction sectors with enrolments building in 2025.

The 2026 projected learners numbers reflect the 12% infrastructure project pipeline increase between 2023-26, as highlighted on page 3. Please note that the Qualification codes and corresponding qualifications are shown in the *Section B1 TEC Investment Advice table*.

**Actual and forecast learner numbers to September 2024 year to date** and three-year forecast training numbers based on workforce indicators.



## Investment Advice Table

Code	Qualification or credential name	Mode	Region	2023 Learners	2026 Advice Provision
2136	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Introductory) (Level 2) with strands in Electrical Works, Telecommunications, and Wind Farm	Mixed mode	National	1,020	<b>1,143</b>
2197	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Line Mechanic Distribution) (Level 4) with optional strand in Live Low Voltage Lines			685	<b>768</b>
2227	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Cable Jointing High Voltage) (Level 4) with optional strand in 33kV			275	<b>308</b>
2705	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Transmission Line Maintenance) (Level 4) with strands in Line Mechanics, and Structure Maintenance			30	34
3535	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Power Technician) (Level 5) with optional strands in Communications Systems, Generation, Metering, Transmission, and Distribution			60	68
3586	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Fault Response and Switching) (Level 4) with strands in Fault Response, and Network Switching			245	<b>275</b>
3687	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Operation) (Level 4) with optional strand in Hydro Operation			40	45
3721	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Network Control) (Level 4)			60	68
3793 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Wind Farm Maintenance (Level 4)			0	0
3988	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Traction Line) (Level 4)			70	79
4182	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Substation Maintenance) (Level 4)				
4204 <sup>2</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Trade (Level 4) with strands in General Electrical and Electricity Supply			165	<b>185</b>
4243	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Utility Arboriculture) (Level 3)			265	<b>297</b>
4261 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Wind Farm Maintenance (Level 3)			0	0
4281	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Distribution Live Line Stick) (Level 4)			5	6
4282	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Distribution Live Line Glove and Barrier) (Level 5)			15	17
4283 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Transmission Live Line) (Level 5)			0	0
4747 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Transmission Operational Switching) (Level 4)			0	0
4748 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Electricity Supply (Transmission Operating Sequence Control) (Level 5)			0	0
-	SCP - Plant and Equipment (L3)				
<b>Total</b>				<b>2,940</b>	<b>3,299</b>

*Shaded cells in 2026 column represent changes to qualification provision which we reflected in our formal advice to TEC (see "Advice to TEC for construction and infrastructure training investment 2025").*

<sup>1</sup> No registered learners on Nga Kete (TEC) for 2023

<sup>2</sup> **Ref:4204** is included in two advice sections (here and B1.2 Electrotechnology) the General Electrical strand is replacing **Ref:2388 over time** with a significant number of learners but no forecast growth. The scale of change in this table is based on growth in the Electricity Supply strand which had a 2023 baseline of 165 learners, the +20 scale of change is in addition to this.

## 2024 Learner Snapshot

Age		Region		Gender	
Under 25	<b>29%</b>	Otago	<b>10%</b>	Female	<b>9%</b>
25 – 39	<b>52%</b>	Auckland	<b>18%</b>	Male	<b>91%</b>
40 plus	<b>19%</b>	Canterbury	<b>13%</b>		