



# GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

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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**396**

workforce  
2022

**9**

businesses  
2022

**35**

learners  
2023

**8%**

workforce  
aged under 25

**28%**

workforce  
<1 year in industry

# TEC INVESTMENT ADVICE

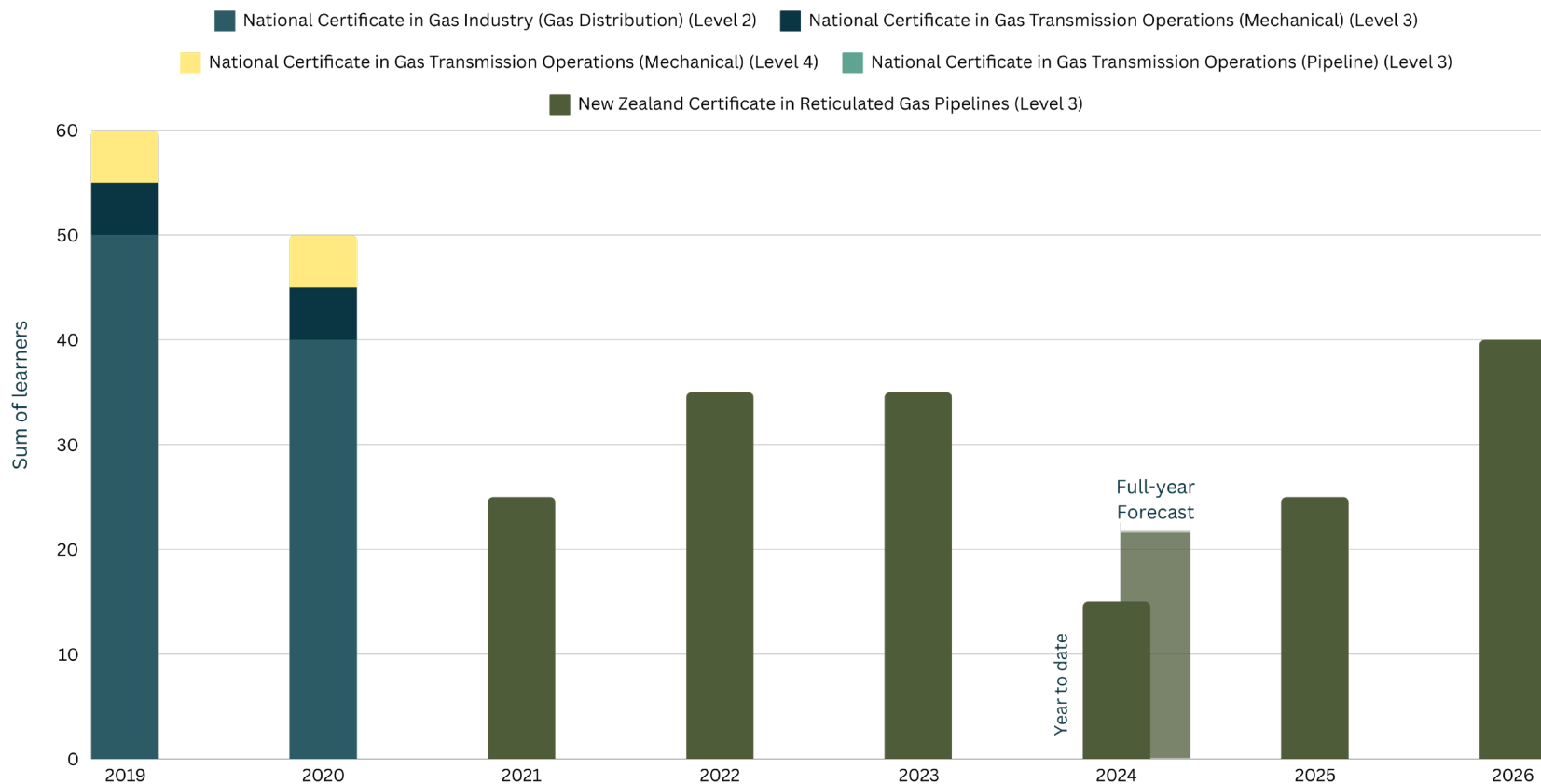
## What are the five-year trend and three-year forecast for learner numbers?

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

While training interventions such as apprentice 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.

2026 projected learners numbers reflect the 12% infrastructure project pipeline increase between 2023-26; this may not be sufficient to cater for learner growth driven by the Gas COC Micro-Credentials currently under development (noted in section D1).

**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
3591	New Zealand Certificate in Reticulated Gas Pipelines (Level 3)	Mixed mode	National <i>(Key regions noted by SRG: Auckland Wellington Waikato Manawatū)</i>	35	40
3593 <sup>1</sup>	New Zealand Certificate in Reticulated Gas Pipelines (Level 4) with strands in Metering and Pressure Control, and Polyethylene Pipeline Construction			New	10
5063 <sup>2</sup>	Gas CoC Protocol: Foundation Skills for Working on Gas Infrastructure (Micro-Credential)			New	100
5134 <sup>2</sup>	Gas CoC Protocol: Excavation for Work on Gas Infrastructure (Micro-credential)			New	10
5135 <sup>2</sup>	Gas CoC Protocol: Low-capacity Gas Measurement Systems for Gas Infrastructure (Micro-credential)			New	10
5136 <sup>2</sup>	Gas CoC Protocol: Safe Practice for Working on Gas Infrastructure (Micro-credential)			New	10
<b>Total</b>				<b>35</b>	<b>180</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> **Ref:3593** 2026 provision is based on input from industry and key providers, who anticipate a transition rate of at least 25% from the Level 3 (3591) to the Level 4 qualification. In 2023 there were 40 learners in Level 3, leading to the scale of change being 10. Numbers not reflected in page 4 chart.

<sup>2</sup> **Ref:5063, Ref 5134, Ref:5135 and Ref:5136** These four micro-credentials were developed to align with the components of the Gas Certificate of Compliance (CoC). The 2026 provision is based on the current number of individuals holding CoC for the relevant components. Numbers not reflected in page 4 chart.

# NEW QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS

Area of provision and/or qualification/ credential name (if known)	Level	Mode	Qualification or micro-credential	Estimated date it will be available	Description
1. 4 x Gas COC MC's <i>(Safety Induction, Safe Working, Low-Capacity Gas Measurement)</i>	3	TBC	Micro-credentials	2025/26	In development as part of a suite of Gas Micro-credentials being developed related to the reticulated Gas - Competency Protocol.
2. 14 x Gas COC MC's <i>PE Pipelaying, Construct PE Mains, Construct PE Services, Safety Induction, Construct Steel Maina &amp; Services, Standard Pressure Control, Complex Pressure Control, Network Leakage Response, Replace GMS, Leakage Response GMS, Disconnect or Reconnect a GMS)</i>	3	TBC	Micro-credentials	2025/26	Approved for development as part of a suite of Gas Micro-credentials being developed related to the reticulated Gas - Competency Protocol.

# FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS

Area of need or project	Expected occupations or skills that may be impacted	Timeframe	Who is involved (from tertiary education) e.g., WDC, providers etc
<p>Opportunity to expand gas distribution: Increasing momentum around the generation of renewable natural gas by converting waste into biomethane.</p> <p>The need for skills grows as plants upgrade to be able to leverage bio-methane alongside current gas sources.</p> <p>There are a significant number of hydrogen projects either complete or under development requiring workforce.</p>	<p>Gas network technicians</p> <p>Specialist gas network technicians</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Industry, Government, Tertiary Providers and Waihangā Ara Rau.</p> <p>Skills needs are increasingly relevant with plants already in operation in <a href="#">Reporoa</a>. However, workforce needs become increasingly more relevant from 2025 onwards with upgrades to natural gas plants in <a href="#">Manawatū</a>.</p>