



“How many apprentices do we have?”

There are two ways we count the number of apprentices – and both are correct.

The number usually reported in public and quoted by the Government is the total number of apprentices. The other number is lower and counts learners funded as Modern and New Zealand Apprentices.

Why two different counts?

We must be able to report accurately on total funding, types of funding, and numbers of learners funded. To do this, the number of learners who are funded as Modern and New Zealand apprentices make up one count.

We must also be able to report on the total number of apprentices. This is based on a wider definition and looks at common characteristics such as substantial employment-based learning at higher New Zealand Qualification Framework levels and learning supported by theory. This definition includes Modern Apprentices, New Zealand Apprentices and industry trainees (whose programme meets or exceeds the New Zealand Apprenticeship level and credits threshold), as well as unfunded apprentices.

How do we count apprentices?

Modern and New Zealand Apprentices	All apprentices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Zealand Apprentices that were funded for at least one month during the relevant reporting year › Modern Apprentices that were funded for at least one month during the relevant reporting year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Zealand Apprentices enrolled at any time during the relevant reporting year › Modern Apprentices enrolled at any time during the relevant reporting year › Industry trainees enrolled in qualifications that meet or exceed the New Zealand Apprenticeship requirements (ie, levels 4 to 7 qualifications of at least 120 credits) › There is no minimum enrolment period or funding requirement in order to be counted

Both counts include each learner only once in a year, even if that learner is enrolled in more than one programme that meets the definitions.

What impact do operational changes have on the counts?

In 2014, New Zealand Apprenticeships were introduced and around 9,000 existing industry trainees were transferred into new apprenticeships.

This meant a significant increase in funded (Modern and New Zealand) apprenticeship numbers reported in 2014 compared with 2013. However, these industry trainees were already in the total count of apprentices with no obvious jump in the total apprenticeship count between 2013 and 2014.

What is planned for New Zealand Apprenticeships?

We are reviewing New Zealand Apprenticeships in 2017

New Zealand Apprenticeships were introduced in 2014 and require a level 4 qualification of at least 120 credits. There are also interim arrangements where an apprentice can be enrolled in multiple qualifications at levels 3 and 4, provided the qualifications total at least 120 credits and there are at least 60 credits at level 4.

Interim arrangements have been extended once in 2016, and in 2017 the Ministry of Education will review the existing requirements for New Zealand Apprenticeships, including whether interim arrangements will continue.

We have a target of 50,000 apprentices by 2020

Late in 2016, the Government set a target of 50,000 apprentices by 2020. Measuring this target will be determined by the total count of apprentices.

We are working with industry training organisations and will develop an action plan to support achieving the target of 50,000 apprentices by 2020.



We ensure New Zealand's future success.