VitalStats: Public and Private Higher Education **2024**



COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

VitalStats

PublicandPrivateHigherEducation**2024**

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is an independent statutory body established by the Higher Education Act, No. 101 of 1997, as amended. It advises the minister responsible for higher education and training, and is the national authority for external quality assurance and promotion in higher education. In terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act No.67 of 2008, as amended, the CHE is the Quality Council for higher education responsible for, amongst others, the development, further development and management of the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF).

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Foreword

VitalStats, first published by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) in 2012, has become an important source of evidence-based information, especially for researchers, on South Africa's higher education system. This issue presents data up to and including 2024. The previous issues concentrated mainly on the public higher education sector and provided accessible and audited datasets intended to support both broad public use and rigorous analysis. These datasets were derived primarily from the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), while demographic information was supplemented by datasets from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Building on fourteen previous issues or volumes, ***VitalStats*** 2024 presents selected datasets of public higher education in South Africa for the period 2019 to 2024. This volume continues to include availa- ble data on private higher education institutions sourced from the Higher Education Quality Committee Information System (HEQCIS). As in the 2023 issue, this broader coverage strengthens ***VitalStats*** as a source of research for the South African higher education sector. However, the private higher education data currently does not include all the variables typically reported in this publication. As the HEQCIS continues to be refined, future issues are expected to present more comprehensive coverage of the indicators in the higher education sector.

VitalStats 2024 adheres to the established structure and user-friendly format of prior issues, ensuring continuity for users. Consistent with past issues, each section visually represents sector size and composition through graphs and data tables. The initial section presents data and graphs on student enrolment and completion, followed by a section on qualification levels. Subsequent sections show headcount data for students, categorised by both field of study (Section 3) and institutional type (Section 4). Staffing data, further disaggregated by category, is presented in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 offers a cohort analysis tracking student throughput for specific qualification types (360-credit diplomas, 3/4-year degrees, and postgraduate studies) who entered in 2019. Owing to distinct regulatory timelines for distance and part-time modes, the University of South Africa's (UNISA) cohort analysis is presented separately within this section.

VitalStats 2024, building on the framework established in ***VitalStats*** 2021, does not include information on state funding for public higher education, postgraduate enrolments, and research outputs. These datasets will be reported separately in an accompanying supplementary publication, titled ***Supplement to VitalStats 2024***. Staff members in the Research and Monitoring Programme of the CHE and the external experts who worked on processing and analysing the relevant datasets, as well as plotting the graphs presented in this publication, are acknowledged with sincere appreciation. The CHE also expresses gratitude to the HEMIS team at the DHET for providing the relevant datasets for public higher education; to the HEQCIS team for supplying data on private higher education; to Stats SA for the population data, and to the reviewers for their constructive feedback, and insightful suggestions, which strengthened the quality and rigour of the report.

The CHE welcomes any feedback on this publication, which can be sent to research@che.ac.za. The publication can also be downloaded from the CHE's website: https://www.che.ac.za/publications/vi- talstats.

Dr Whitfield J. Green
Chief Executive Officer
October 2026

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Acronyms

CESM: Classification of Educational Subject Matter

CU: **Comprehensive University**

FTE: **Full-time equivalent**

TU: **Traditional University**

UoT: **University of Technology**

Definitions

ClassificationofEducational Subject Matter or CESM categories:

A set of classifications aiming to provide a single coherent system for categorising subject matter irrespective of the level of instruction or type of institution. For a list of first order CESM categories, see Appendix 2.

Cohort:

The first-time entry students in a given year who have enrolled for a particular higher education programme For postgraduate studies this refers to students who enter a specific postgraduate qualification level for the first time in a given year and may be tracked over time to assess their progression, completion and graduation outcomes.

Comprehensive Universities (CU):

This refers to institutions that offer the full spectrum of programmes, including vocational, pro- fessional, and general formative programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Contact mode of delivery:

This refers to courses involving personal interaction with institutional teachers or institutional supervisors, through lectures, tutorials, seminars, practicals, supervision, or other forms of required work, which occurs at the institution's premises or at a site of delivery of the institution.

Course Module success rate:

The success rate refers to the total number of courses passed by students in a given academic year relative to course enrolments. It is calculated by dividing the total number of FTE degree credits (courses completed) by FTE enrolments. These calculations, for a programme or for an institution as a whole, produce weighted average success rates. T.hese are not student level course success measures

Distance mode of delivery:

This refers to courses where the interaction with institutional teachers or institutional supervisors is undertaken remotely through the use of correspondence, telematics, or the internet.

Fields of study:

Enrolments are divided into four broad fields or areas of study, calculated by aggregating enrolments by CESM category as below. For a description of each CESM category, see Appendix 2:

- Science, Engineering and Technology (SET): CESM 01, 02, 06, 08, 09, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 16
- Business & Commerce (B&C): CESM 04
- Humanities (Hum): CESM 03, 05, 11, 12 ,17, 18, 19 & 20
- Education (Ed): CESM 07

Full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrolment:

FTE student enrolments are calculated (a) by assigning to each course a fraction representing the weighting it has in the curriculum of a qualification, and (b) by multiplying the headcount enrolment of that course by this fraction. FTE staff numbers are calculated in a similar way.

Headcount:

The total number of students enrolled at each institution whether as full-time, part-time, or occasional students.

Occasional student:

This refers to a student who satisfies the statutory requirements for entry into a formally approved qualification offered by the institution and who is effectively registered for an approved course, but who is not registered for an approved qualification. It includes persons enrolled for non-degree purposes.

Participation rate or Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER):

This refers to a total headcount enrolment over the national population of 20-24 years old, calculated as a percentage. The term used by the Department of Higher Education and Training is participation rate. The National Plan for Higher Education (Department of Education: 2001) explains that: "The participation rate is calculated using the UNESCO standard, as the percentage of 20 – 24-year-olds of the general popula- tion enrolled in higher education".

Percentage accumulative (for Cohort Study):

This indicates (in the relevant graphs) the total number of students of a particular first-time entering cohort who have graduated or dropped out up to that point. It includes all the students of that cohort who have graduated or dropped out in previous years.

Percentage non-accumulative (for Cohort Study):

This indicates (in the relevant graphs) the total number of students of a particular first-time entering cohort who have graduated or dropped out in that particular year. It does not include the students of that cohort who have graduated or dropped out in previous years.

Permanent employee:

A person is classified as a permanent staff member if he/she contributes to an approved retirement fund of the institution.

Personnel category:

A personnel category indicates the type of duties to be undertaken in a position which a staff member occupies in the institution, and the qualifications and experience normally required by the incumbent of that position. The duties, qualifications and experience referred to relate to those of the position. The personnel categories are:

Instruction/research professional (Academic): A position in which (a) at least 50% of time is spent on instruction and/or research activities, and (b) the position requires a higher education qualification equivalent to at least 4 years of higher education study.

Executive/administrative/managerial professional (Senior Management): A position in which (a) the primary function is the management of the institution or one of its major divisions or sections, and (b) the position requires an educational attainment equivalent to at least 4 years of higher education study.

Non-professional administration (Administrative): A position in which (a) the primary function is cler- ical, secretarial or administrative duties, and (b) an educational attainment equivalent to 4 years of higher education study is not required.

Service staff: A group of staff for whom the primary function comprises unskilled activities.

Postgraduate qualifications:

Postgraduate qualifications include Postgraduate Diplomas and Honours, Masters and Doctoral degrees.

Qualification:

Qualification is a formal designation that a higher education institution confers on a person who has completed a prescribed learning programme and attained a specified level of achievement in relation to the learning outcomes of the learning programme. The formal designation is certified by a document to represent the human qualities of knowledge, skills or competence and attributes that the person has acquired after successfully completing the prescribed learning programme.

Qualification types:

Qualification types are broad categories of qualifications, defined in terms of the level descriptors and other distinct features. The HEQSF has nine broad qualification types mapped into the six levels of the NQF from level 5 to 10. Five of these are at undergraduate level, while the remaining four are at postgraduate level.

Staff member:

A staff member is a person who is either compensated by the institution by pay or other means for services rendered, or who, while not being paid or compensated by the institution, performs services which relate to the institution's normal activities and those activities which would otherwise have been performed by staff receiving compensation from the institution.

Student: staff ratio:

This refers to the average number of students per academic staff member and gives an indication of the average teaching load carried by each academic staff member. It is calculated by dividing the number of FTE students by the number of FTE academic staff.

Temporary employees:

All staff members who do not contribute to an approved retirement fund of the institution are classified as having temporary employment status.

Throughput rate:

A throughput rate calculates the number of first-time entry undergraduate students of a specific cohort of a specific year who have graduated either within the minimum time, or up to 2 years beyond the minimum time, to the number of students in the baseline enrolments of that cohort. Throughput rates are reflected in the section on cohort studies.

Traditional Universities (TU):

This refers to institutions that offer a broad range of general formative and professional programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Undergraduate:

A student engaged in an undergraduate qualification at a university, namely a first or entry qualification, including certain certificate programmes, diplomas and bachelor's degrees.

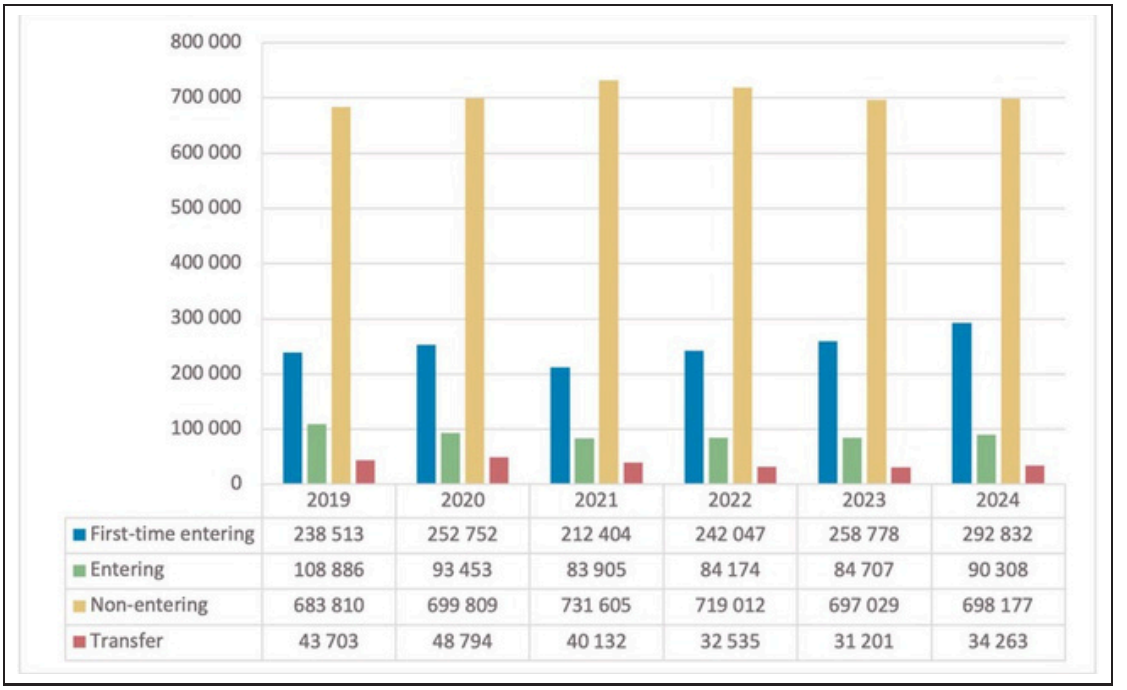
Universities of Technology (UoT):

This refers to institutions (previously called Technikons) that offer a range of programmes that are vocationally and/ or professionally orientated, primarily at the undergraduate level.

FIRST-TIME ENTERING STUDENTS, ENROLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS

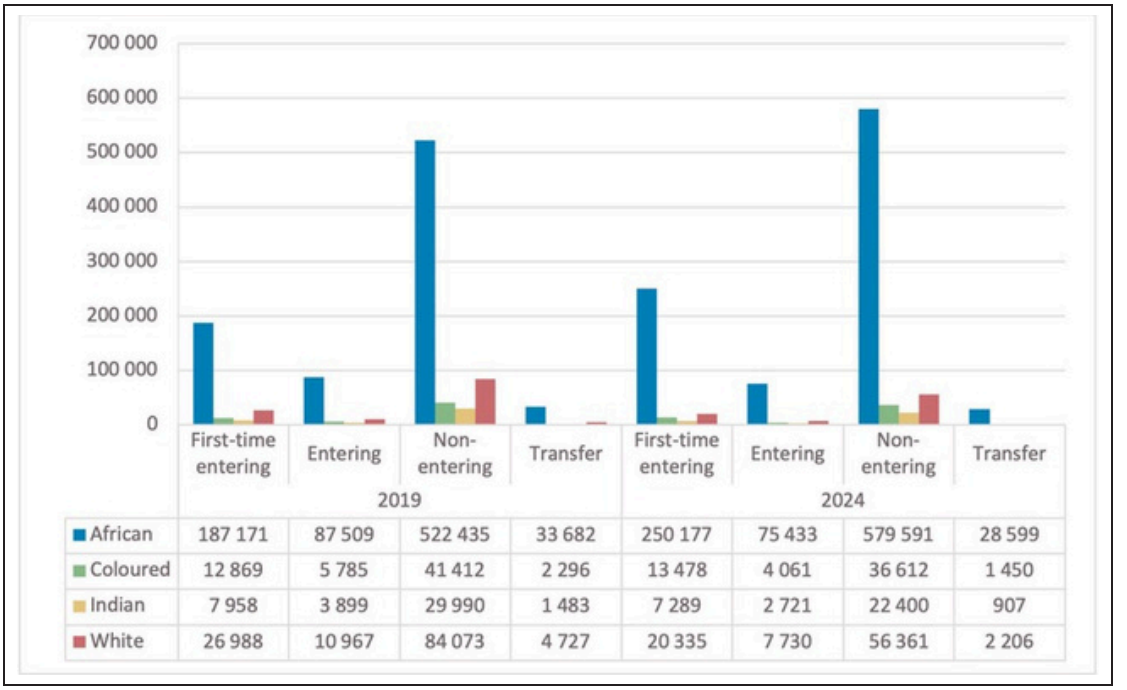
FIRST-TIME ENTERING STUDENTS, ENROLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS

Figure 1: Public universities headcount enrolments by entrance category



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
First-time entering	238 513	252 752	212 404	242 047	258 778	292 832
Entering	108 886	93 453	83 905	84 174	84 707	90 308
Non-entering	683 810	699 809	731 605	719 012	697 029	698 177
Transfer	43 703	48 794	40 132	32 535	31 201	34 263

Figure 2: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by race

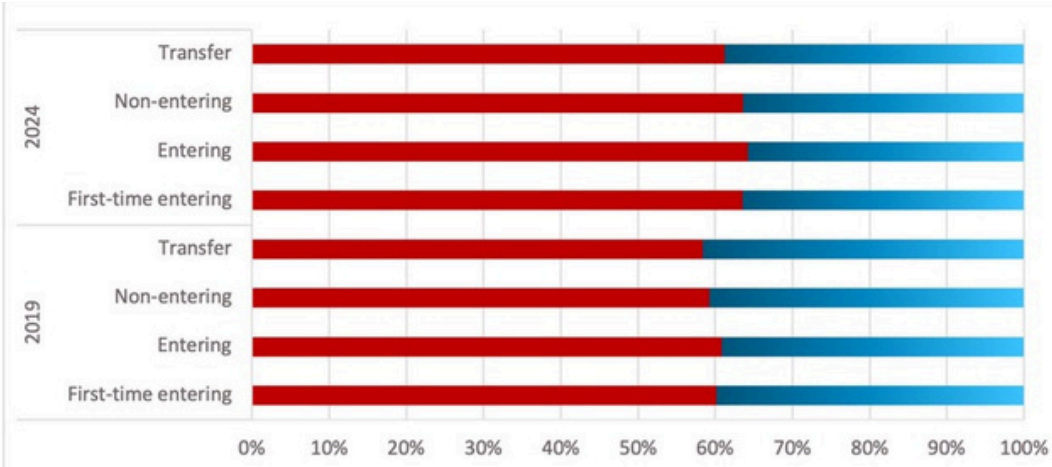


	2019				2024			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
African	187 171	87 509	522 435	33 682	250 177	75 433	579 591	28 599
Coloured	12 869	5 785	41 412	2 296	13 478	4 061	36 612	1 450
Indian	7 958	3 899	29 990	1 483	7 289	2 721	22 400	907
White	26 988	10 967	84 073	4 727	20 335	7 730	56 361	2 206

First time entering students are students enrolled for the first time and who have not previously enrolled at a similar institution. Entering students are newly registered students including those who may have previously studied at another higher education institution.

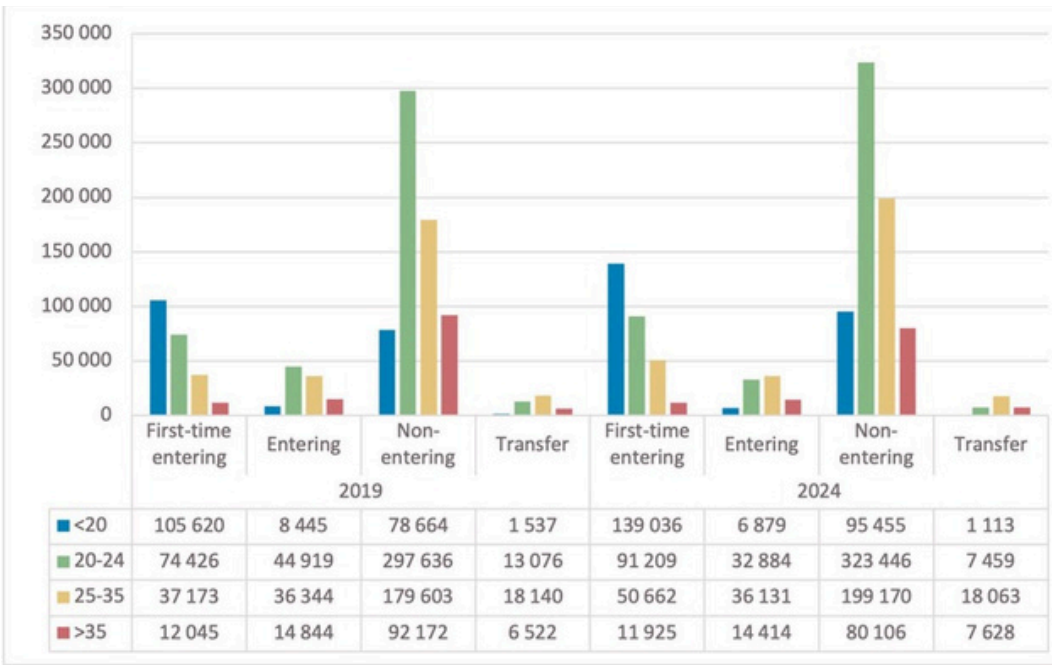
The most recent HEMIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2025. The most recent HEQCIS data is used for the private higher education graphs.

Figure 3: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by gender



	2019				2024			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
Women	143 535	66 251	405 036	25 511	186 067	57 991	444 000	20 957
Men	94 957	42 626	278 746	18 185	106 635	32 285	253 899	13 278

Figure 4: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by age group



	2019				2024			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
<20	105 620	8 445	78 664	1 537	139 036	6 879	95 455	1 113
20-24	74 426	44 919	297 636	13 076	91 209	32 884	323 446	7 459
25-35	37 173	36 344	179 603	18 140	50 662	36 131	199 170	18 063
>35	12 045	14 844	92 172	6 522	11 925	14 414	80 106	7 628

**** The categories for race and gender are as applied in HEMIS. The Unknown category is not displayed, but not omitted.***

Figure 5: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by mode of delivery

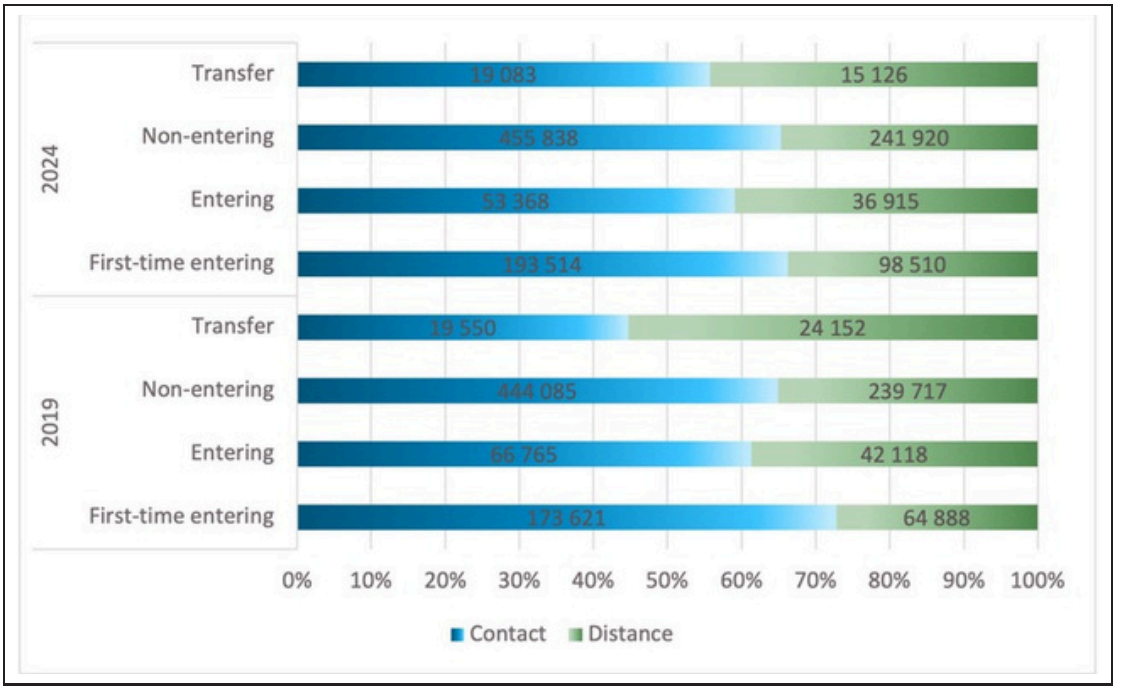
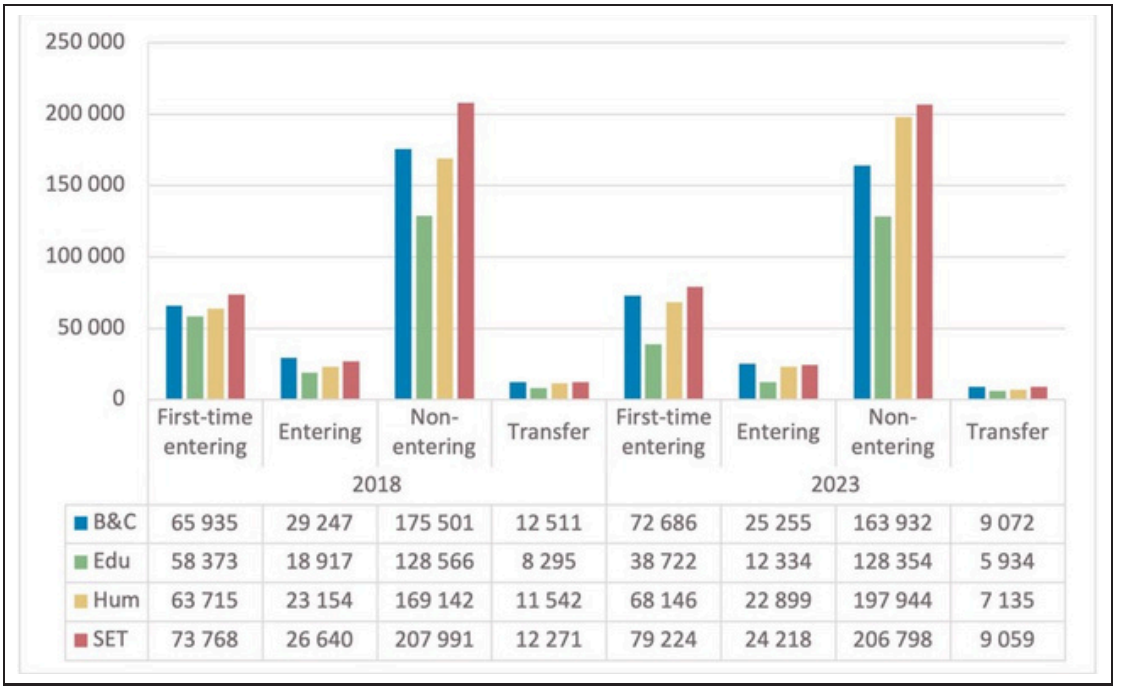


Figure 6: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by CESM



	2018				2023			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
B&C	65 935	29 247	175 501	12 511	72 686	25 255	163 932	9 072
Edu	58 373	18 917	128 566	8 295	38 722	12 334	128 354	5 934
Hum	63 715	23 154	169 142	11 542	68 146	22 899	197 944	7 135
SET	73 768	26 640	207 991	12 271	79 224	24 218	206 798	9 059

Figure 7: Public universities headcount enrolment entrance categories by field of study

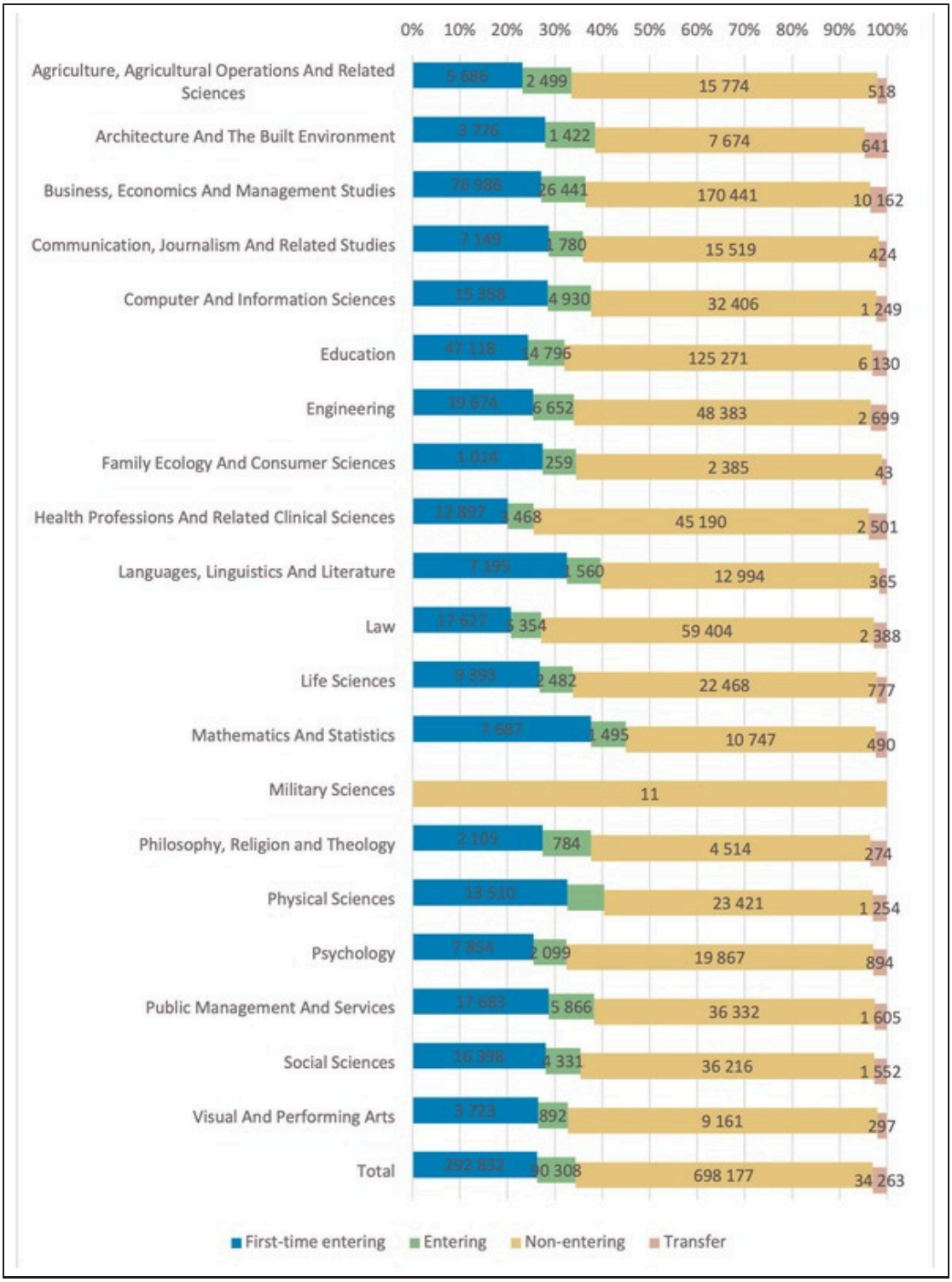
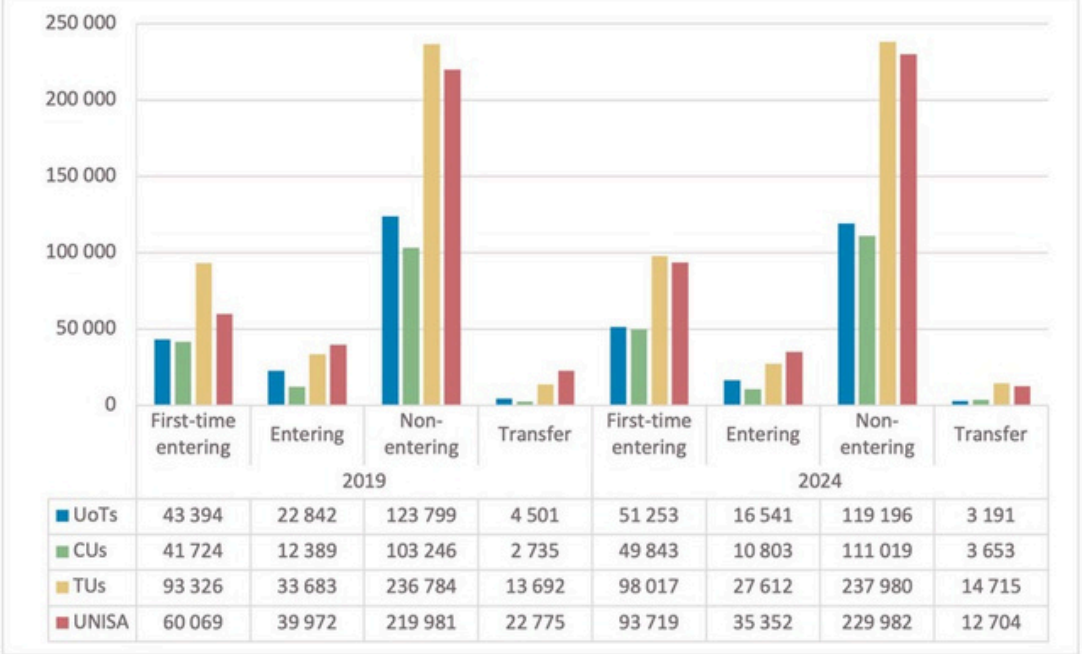
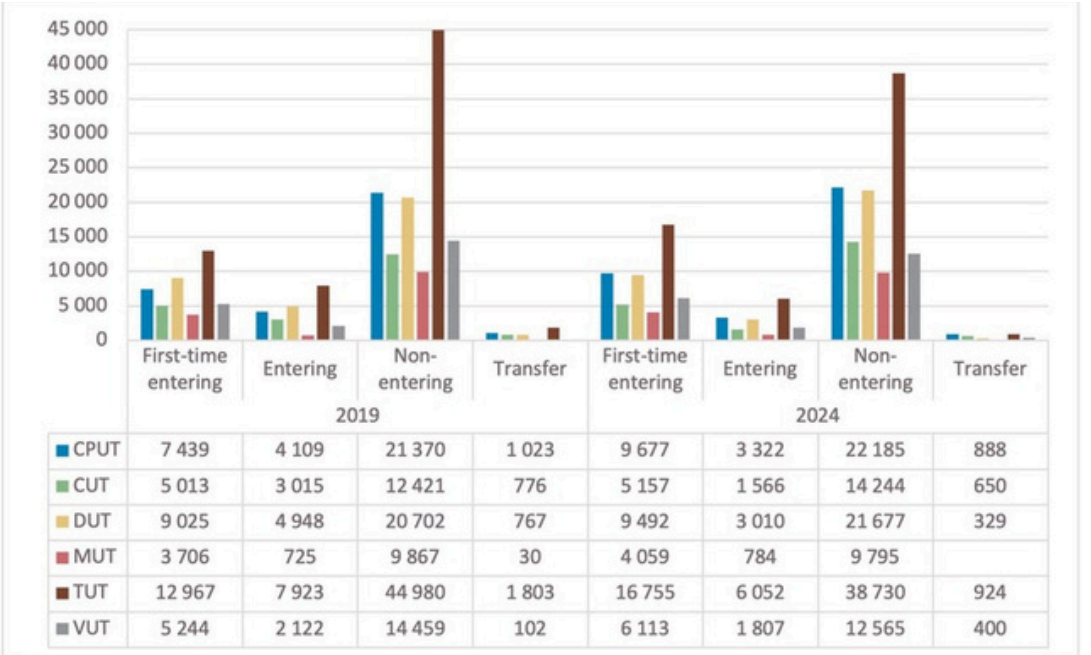


Figure 8: Public universities headcount enrolment by entrance categories and institutional type



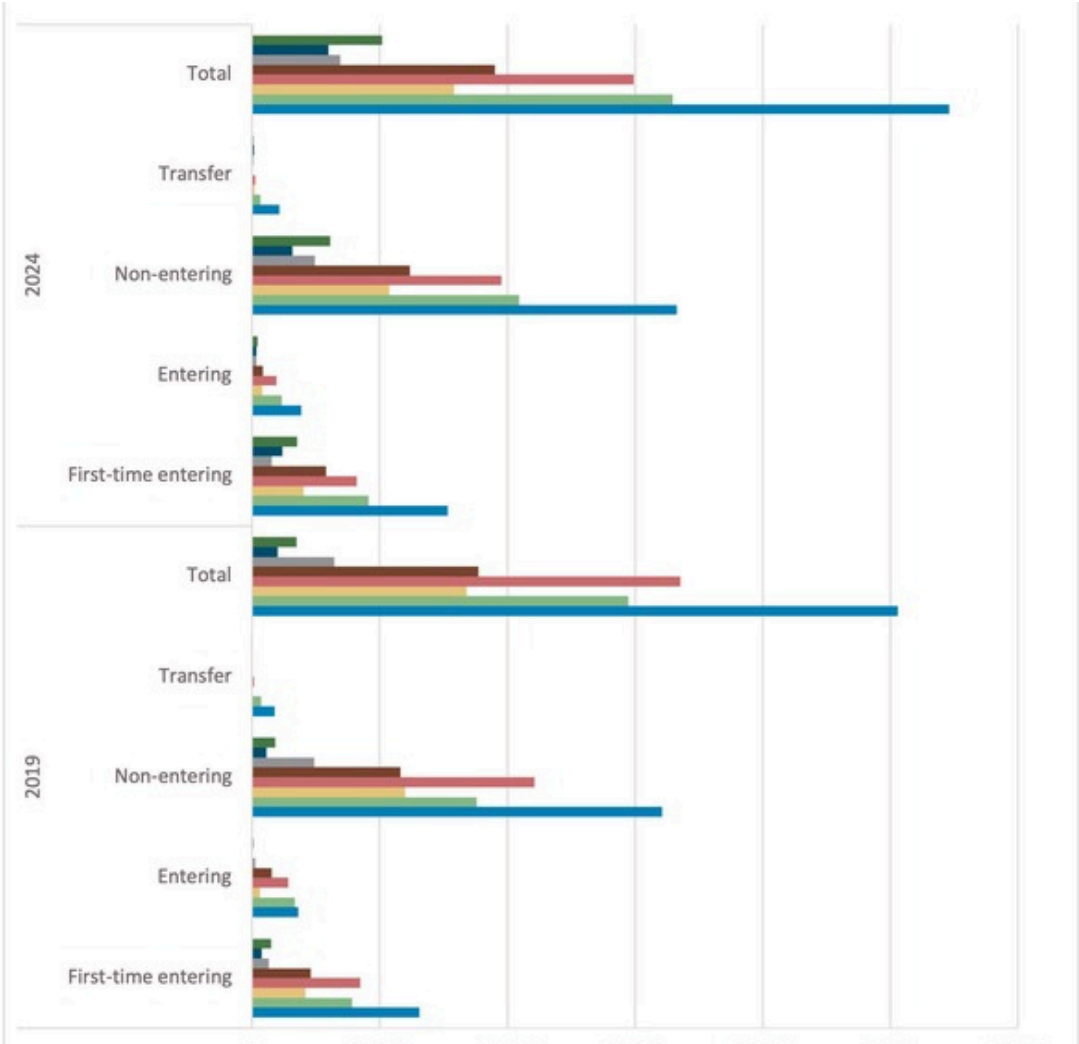
	2019				2024			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
UoTs	43 394	22 842	123 799	4 501	51 253	16 541	119 196	3 191
CUs	41 724	12 389	103 246	2 735	49 843	10 803	111 019	3 653
TUs	93 326	33 683	236 784	13 692	98 017	27 612	237 980	14 715
UNISA	60 069	39 972	219 981	22 775	93 719	35 352	229 982	12 704

Figure 9: Headcount enrolment by University of Technology and entrance category, 2019 versus 2024



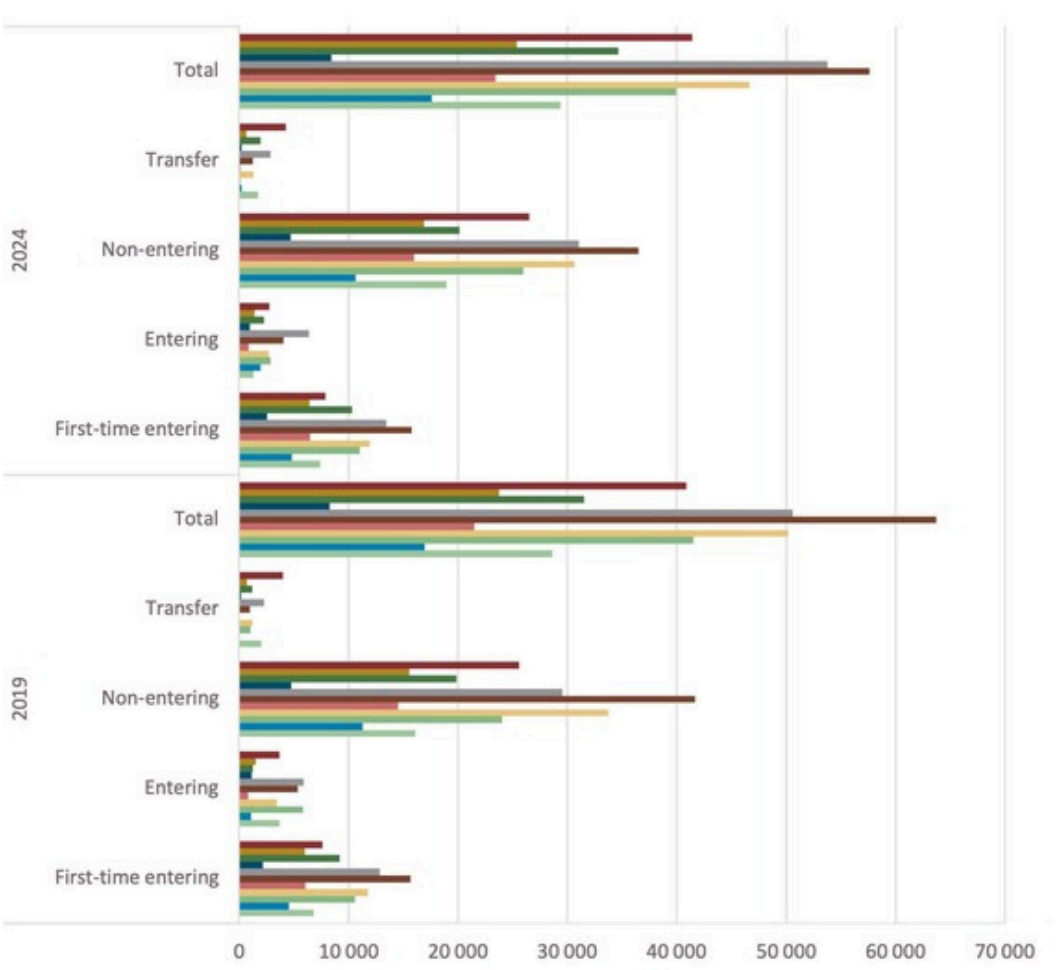
	2019				2024			
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer
CPUT	7 439	4 109	21 370	1 023	9 677	3 322	22 185	888
CUT	5 013	3 015	12 421	776	5 157	1 566	14 244	650
DUT	9 025	4 948	20 702	767	9 492	3 010	21 677	329
MUT	3 706	725	9 867	30	4 059	784	9 795	
TUT	12 967	7 923	44 980	1 803	16 755	6 052	38 730	924
VUT	5 244	2 122	14 459	102	6 113	1 807	12 565	400

Figure 10: Headcount enrolment by Comprehensive Universities and entrance category, 2019 versus 2024



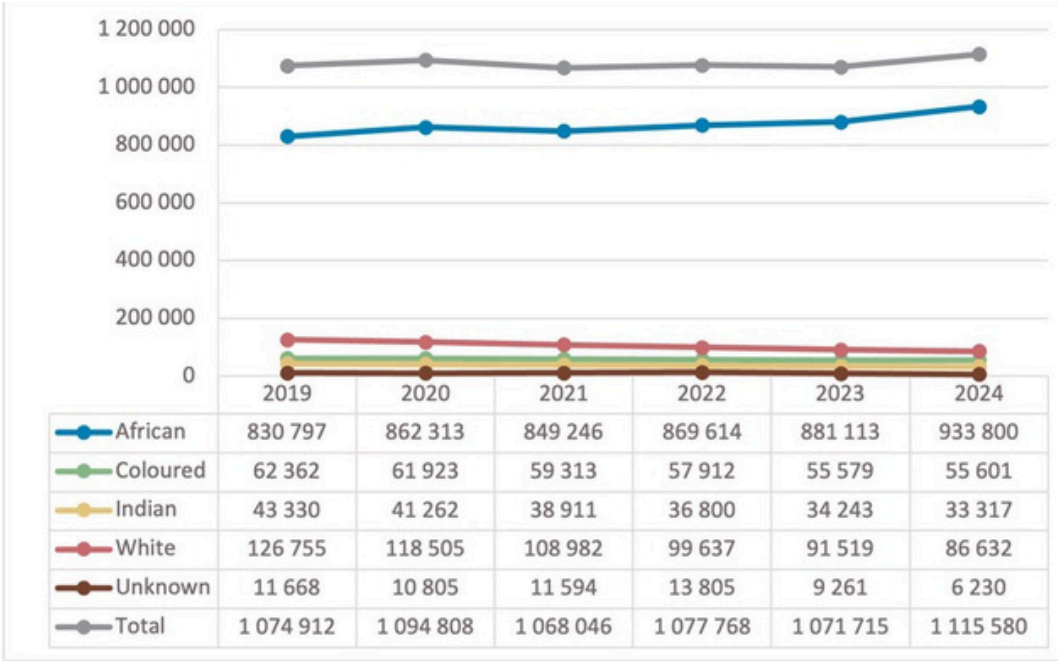
	2019					2024				
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	Total	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	Total
UMP	1 506	89	1 837	39	3 471	3 511	406	6 126	125	10 168
SPU	740	63	1 141	50	1 994	2 349	315	3 147	161	5 972
SMU	1 307	259	4 877	13	6 456	1 545	335	4 915	123	6 918
UniZulu	4 577	1 542	11 619		17 738	5 776	866	12 371	1	19 014
WSU	8 469	2 837	22 125	141	33 572	8 203	1 928	19 518	250	29 899
UniVen	4 182	619	11 970	12	16 783	4 041	799	10 759	217	15 816
NMU	7 832	3 346	17 585	727	29 490	9 103	2 306	20 900	645	32 954
UJ	13 111	3 634	32 092	1 753	50 590	15 315	3 848	33 283	2 131	54 577

Figure 11: Headcount enrolment by Traditional Universities and entrance category, 2019 versus 2024



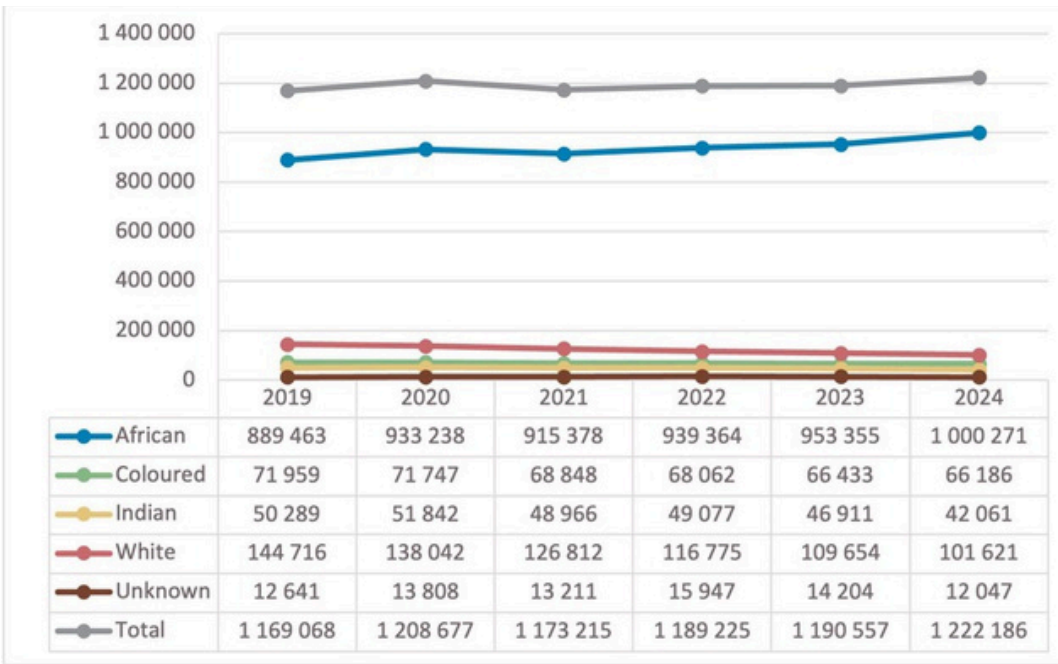
	2019					2024				
	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	Total	First-time entering	Entering	Non-entering	Transfer	Total
Wits	7 634	3 659	25 585	4 012	40 890	7 895	2 790	26 488	4 259	41 432
UWC	5 992	1 511	15 582	699	23 784	6 414	1 406	16 900	650	25 370
SUN	9 211	1 242	19 881	1 189	31 523	10 296	2 300	20 121	1 959	34 676
Rhodes	2 168	1 152	4 766	161	8 247	2 528	982	4 722	213	8 445
UP	12 862	5 906	29 542	2 284	50 594	13 450	6 363	31 063	2 872	53 748
NWU	15 675	5 338	41 684	974	63 671	15 781	4 082	36 487	1 260	57 610
UL	6 056	837	14 525	72	21 490	6 463	851	16 012	129	23 455
UKZN	11 763	3 446	33 739	1 210	50 158	11 948	2 720	30 673	1 283	46 624
UFS	10 586	5 823	24 038	1 058	41 505	11 016	2 873	25 949	126	39 964
UFH	4 552	1 072	11 319	39	16 982	4 830	1 940	10 625	209	17 604
UCT	6 827	3 697	16 123	1 994	28 641	7 396	1 305	18 940	1 755	29 396

Figure 12: Public university headcount enrolment by race, 2019-2024



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	830 797	862 313	849 246	869 614	881 113	933 800
Coloured	62 362	61 923	59 313	57 912	55 579	55 601
Indian	43 330	41 262	38 911	36 800	34 243	33 317
White	126 755	118 505	108 982	99 637	91 519	86 632
Unknown	11 668	10 805	11 594	13 805	9 261	6 230
Total	1 074 912	1 094 808	1 068 046	1 077 768	1 071 715	1 115 580

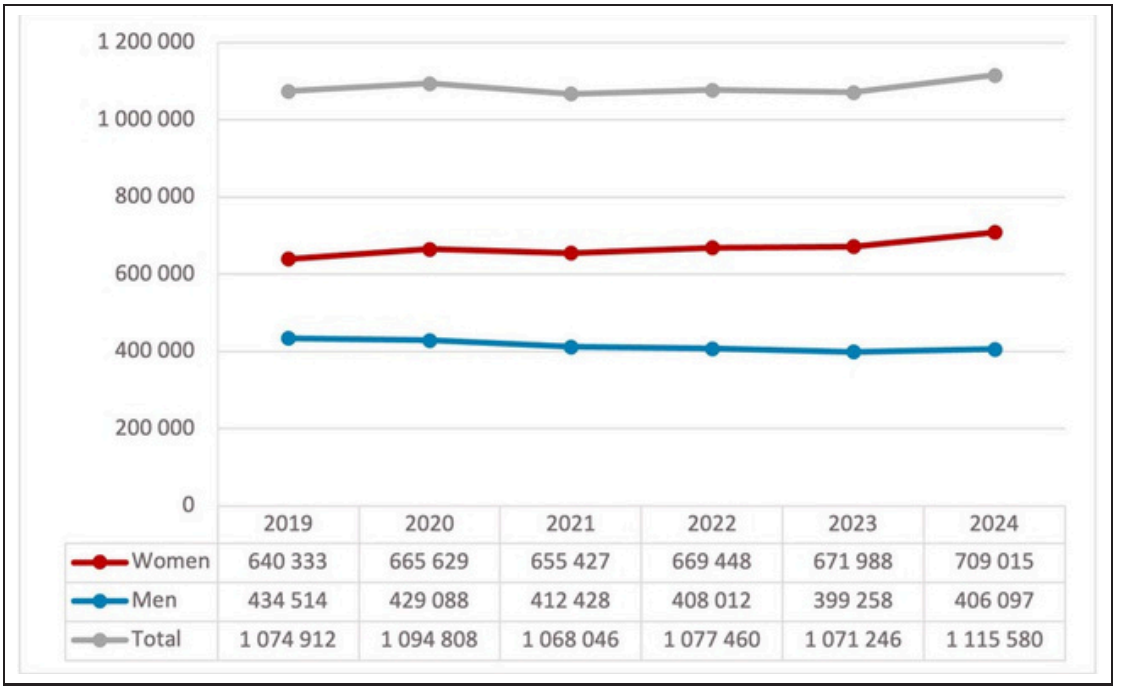
Figure 13: Headcount enrolments in the higher education sector* by race



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	889 463	933 238	915 378	939 364	953 355	1 000 271
Coloured	71 959	71 747	68 848	68 062	66 433	66 186
Indian	50 289	51 842	48 966	49 077	46 911	42 061
White	144 716	138 042	126 812	116 775	109 654	101 621
Unknown	12 641	13 808	13 211	15 947	14 204	12 047
Total	1 169 068	1 208 677	1 173 215	1 189 225	1 190 557	1 222 186

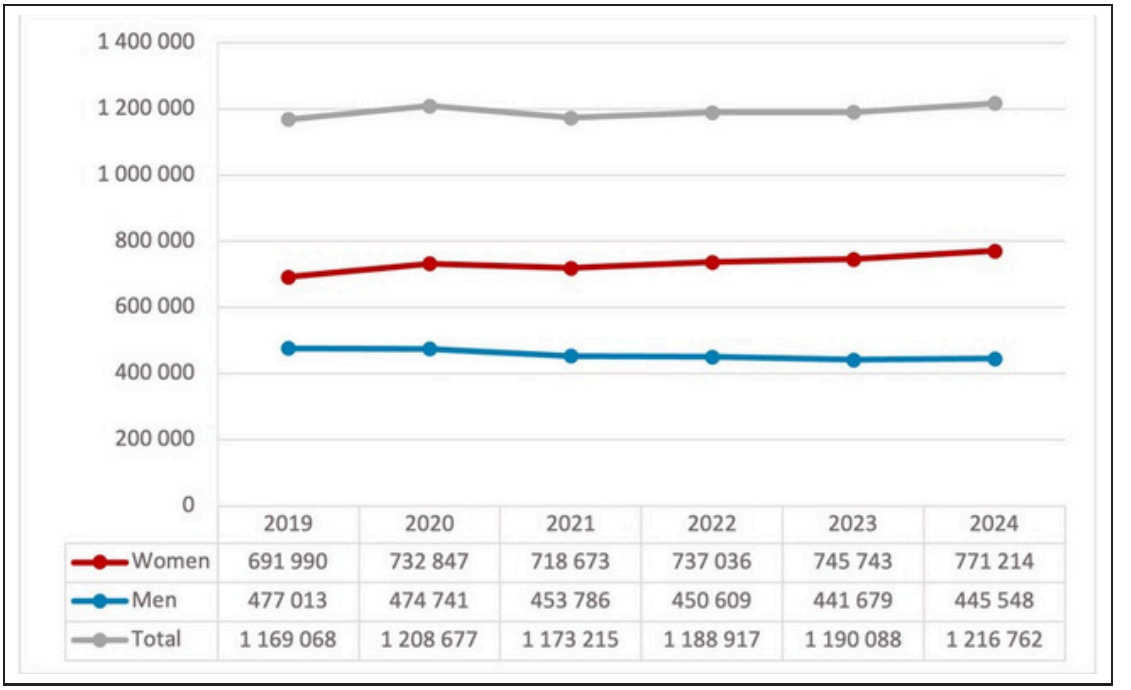
Enrolment includes Private Higher Education institutions

Figure 14: Headcount enrolments at public universities by gender



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	640 333	665 629	655 427	669 448	671 988	709 015
Men	434 514	429 088	412 428	408 012	399 258	406 097
Total	1 074 912	1 094 808	1 068 046	1 077 460	1 071 246	1 115 580

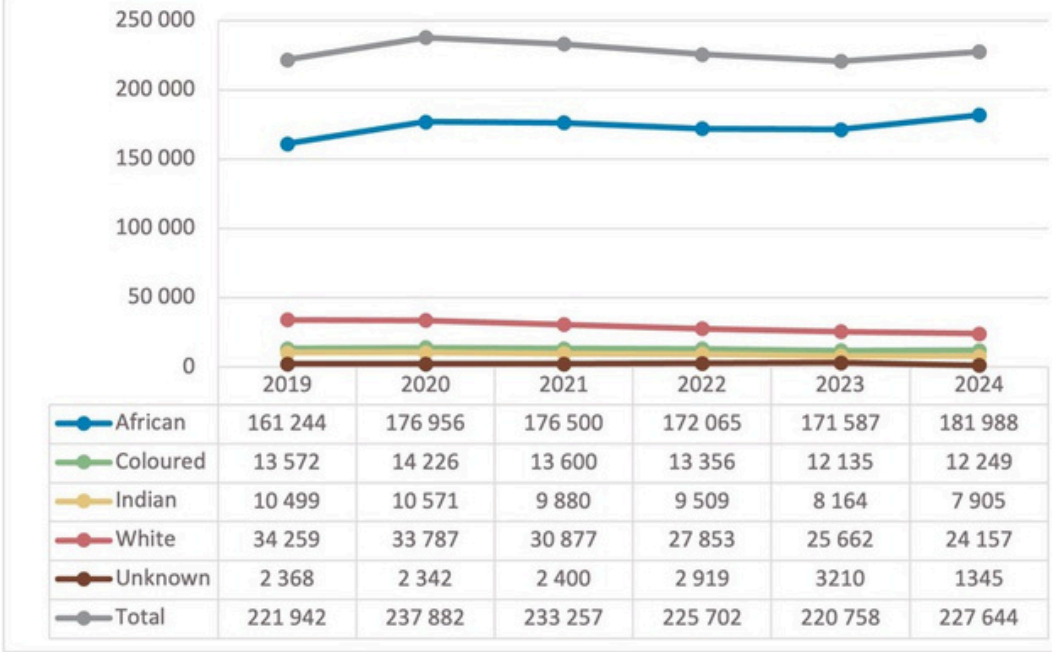
Figure 15: Headcount enrolments in the higher education* sector by gender



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	691 990	732 847	718 673	737 036	745 743	771 214
Men	477 013	474 741	453 786	450 609	441 679	445 548
Total	1 169 068	1 208 677	1 173 215	1 188 917	1 190 088	1 216 762

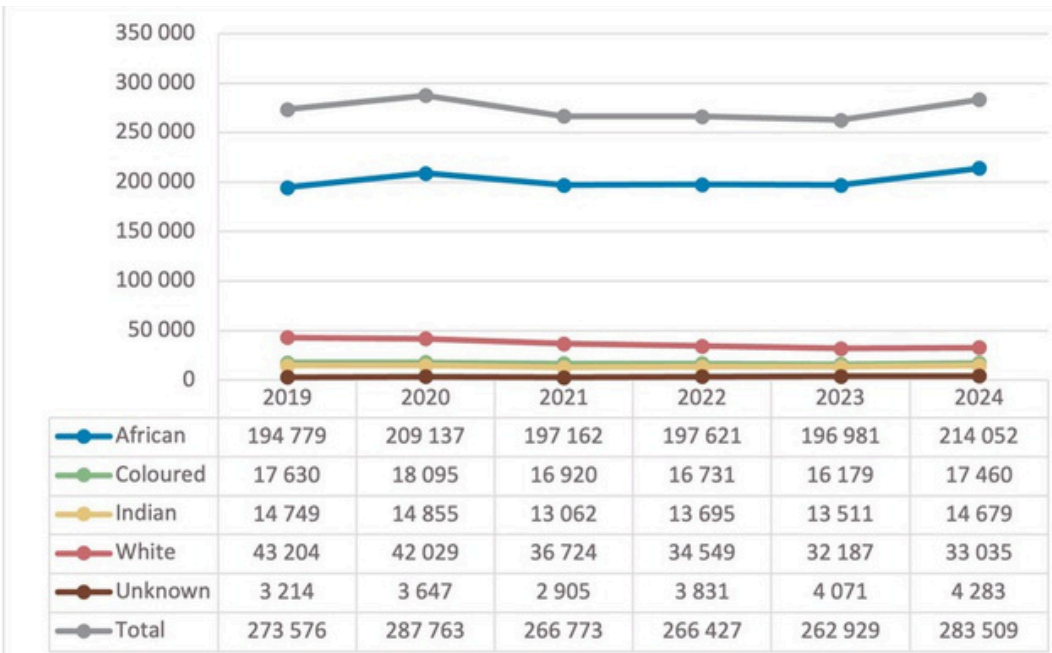
**** Enrolment includes Private Higher Education institutions***

Figure 16: Headcount graduates at public universities by race



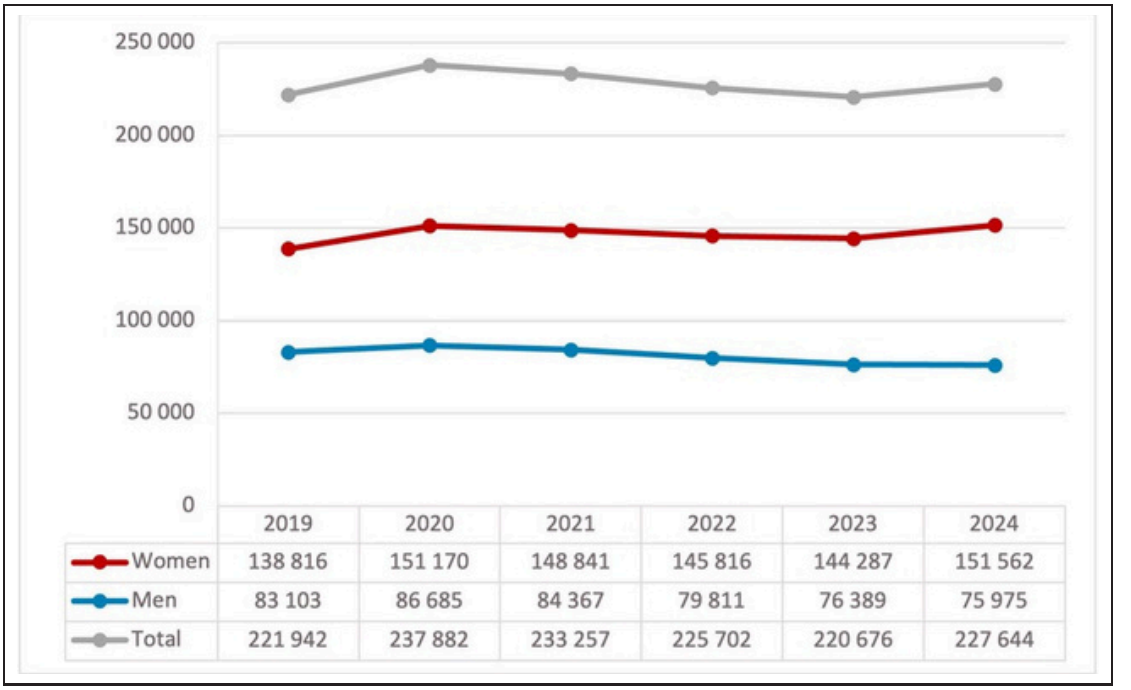
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	161 244	176 956	176 500	172 065	171 587	181 988
Coloured	13 572	14 226	13 600	13 356	12 135	12 249
Indian	10 499	10 571	9 880	9 509	8 164	7 905
White	34 259	33 787	30 877	27 853	25 662	24 157
Unknown	2 368	2 342	2 400	2 919	3210	1345
Total	221 942	237 882	233 257	225 702	220 758	227 644

Figure 17: Headcount graduates in the higher education sector by race



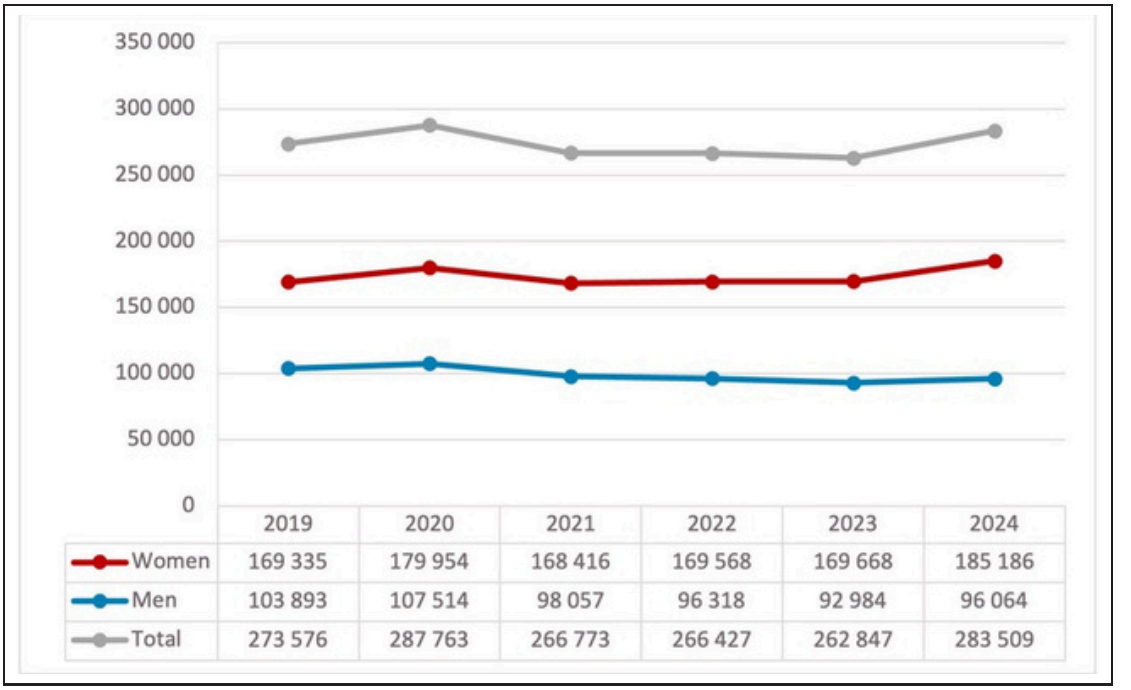
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	194 779	209 137	197 162	197 621	196 981	214 052
Coloured	17 630	18 095	16 920	16 731	16 179	17 460
Indian	14 749	14 855	13 062	13 695	13 511	14 679
White	43 204	42 029	36 724	34 549	32 187	33 035
Unknown	3 214	3 647	2 905	3 831	4 071	4 283
Total	273 576	287 763	266 773	266 427	262 929	283 509

Figure 18: Headcount graduates at public universities by gender



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	138 816	151 170	148 841	145 816	144 287	151 562
Men	83 103	86 685	84 367	79 811	76 389	75 975
Total	221 942	237 882	233 257	225 702	220 676	227 644

Figure 19: Headcount graduates in the higher education sector by gender

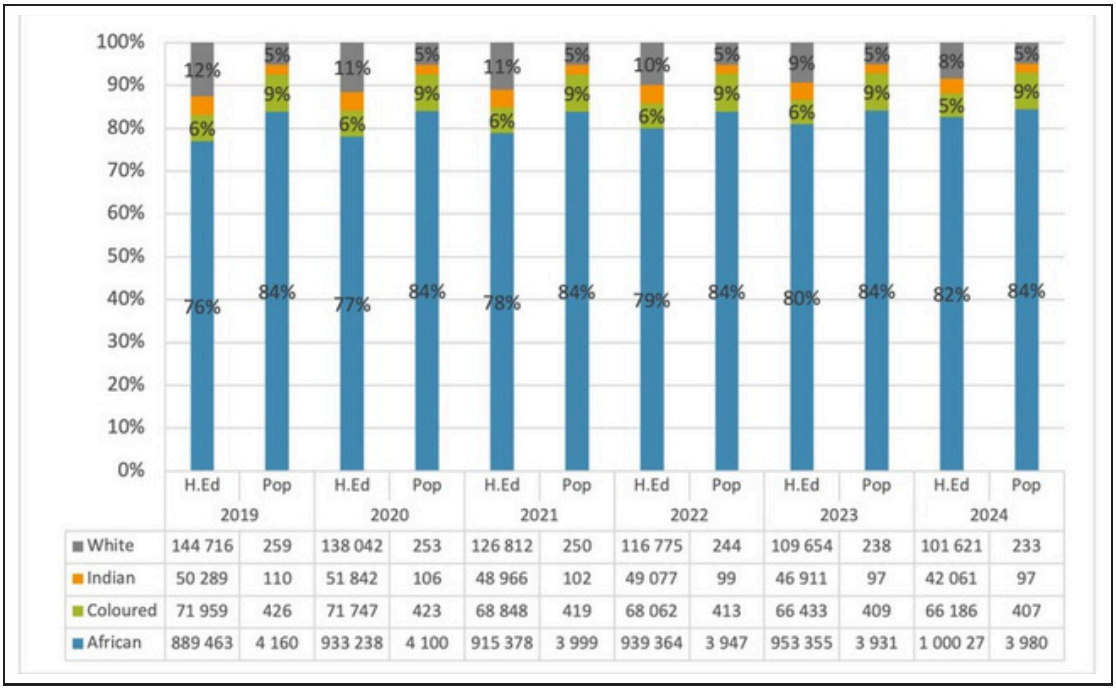


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	169 335	179 954	168 416	169 568	169 668	185 186
Men	103 893	107 514	98 057	96 318	92 984	96 064
Total	273 576	287 763	266 773	266 427	262 847	283 509

Figure 20: Public universities demographics compared to population demographics.



Figure 21: Higher education* demographics compared to population demographics



Includes both public and private higher education institutions

Figure 22: Gender distribution, public HE versus population

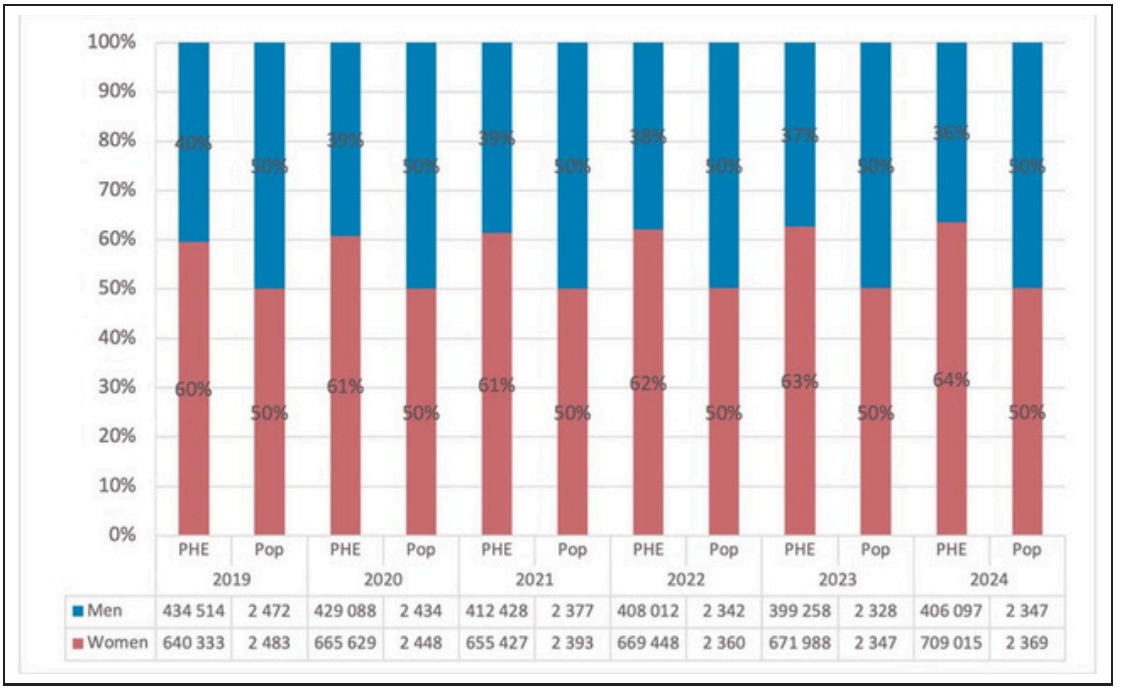
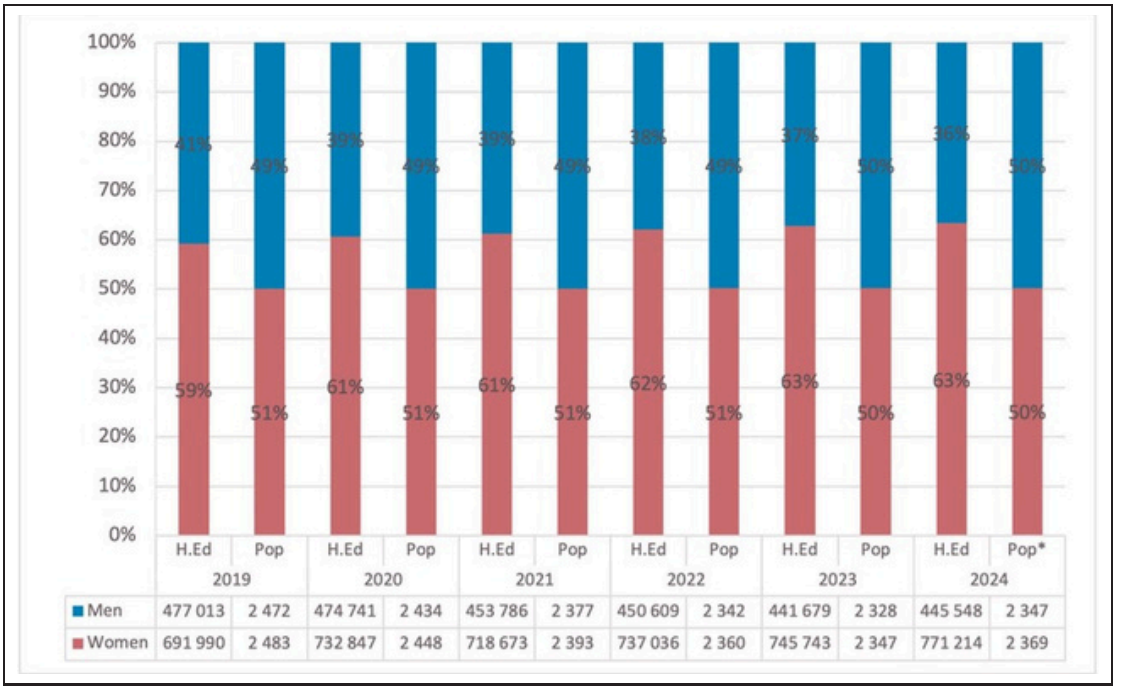


Figure 23: Gender distribution, Higher Education* versus population



Includes both public and private higher education institutions

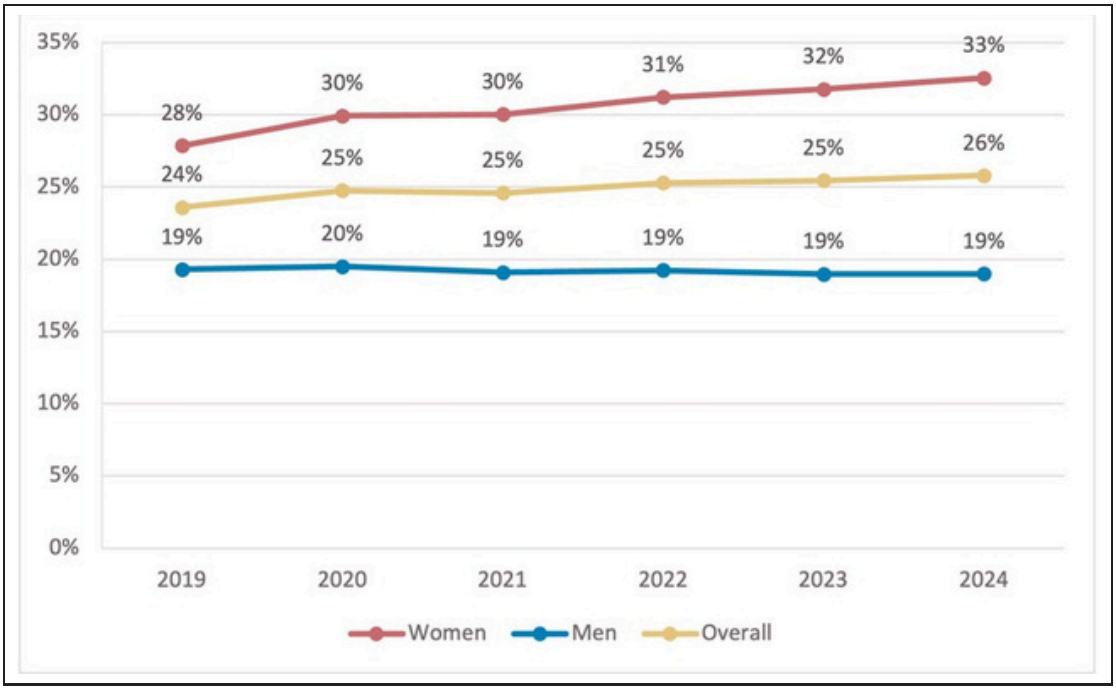
Figure 24: Higher education* participation rates (GER) by race



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	21%	23%	23%	24%	24%	25%
Coloured	17%	17%	16%	16%	16%	16%
Indian	46%	49%	48%	50%	48%	43%
White	56%	55%	51%	48%	46%	44%
Overall	24%	25%	25%	25%	25%	26%

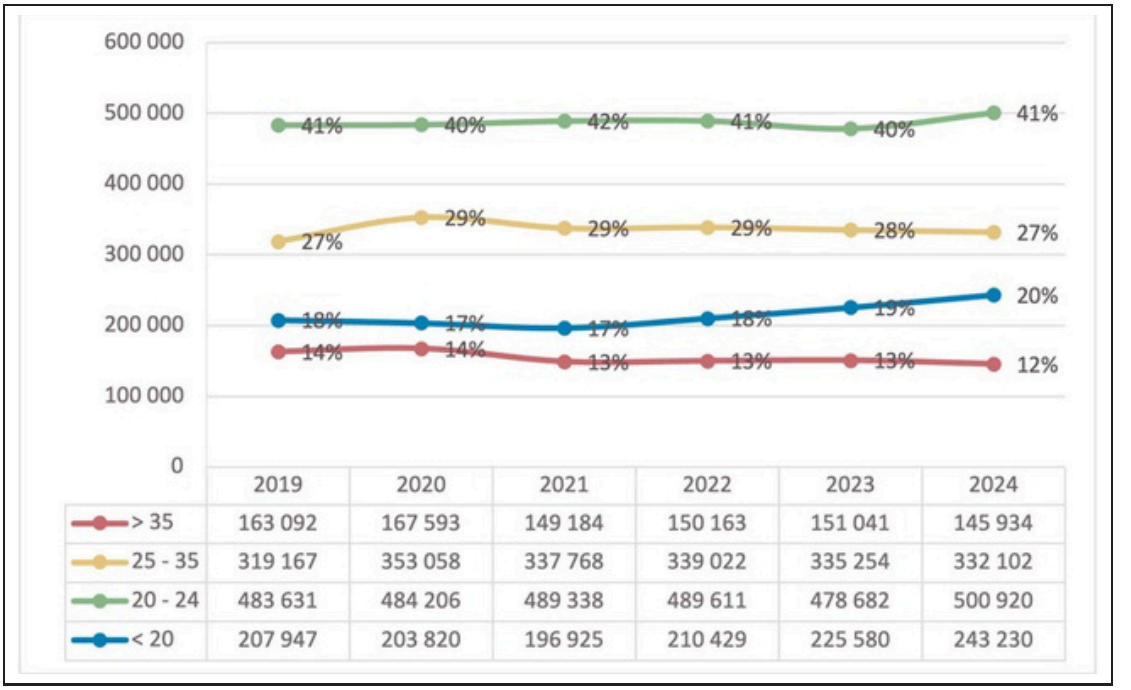
Includes both public and private higher education institutions.

Figure 25: Higher education* participation rates (GER) by gender



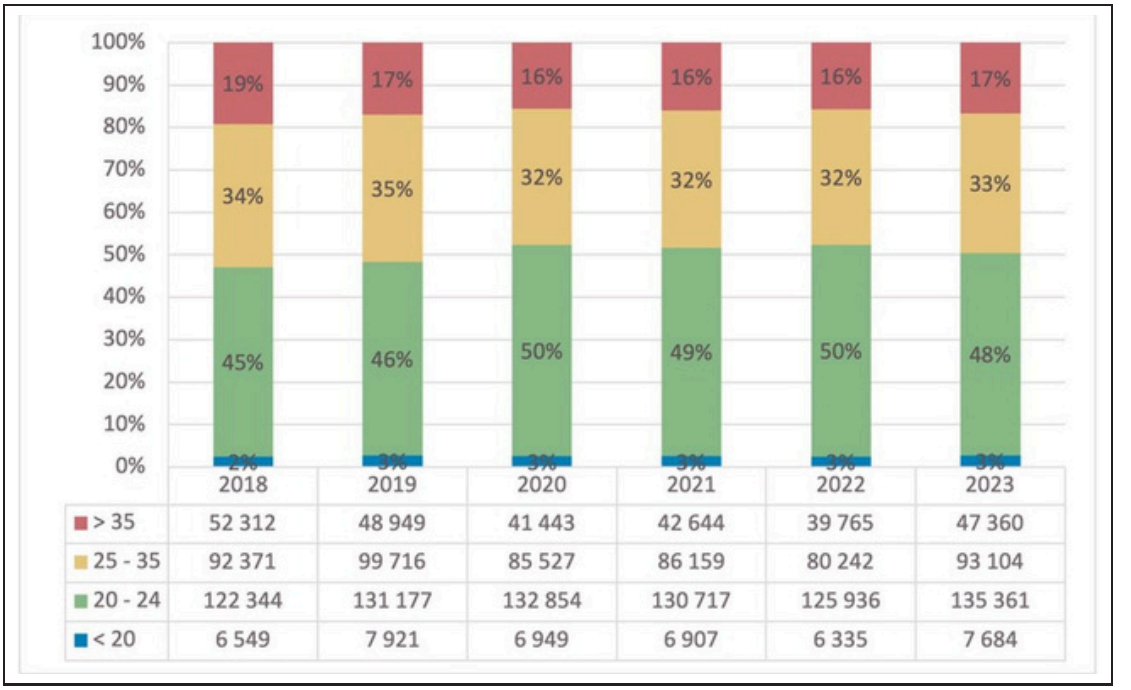
Includes both public and private higher education institutions

Figure 26: Public universities headcount enrolments by age group



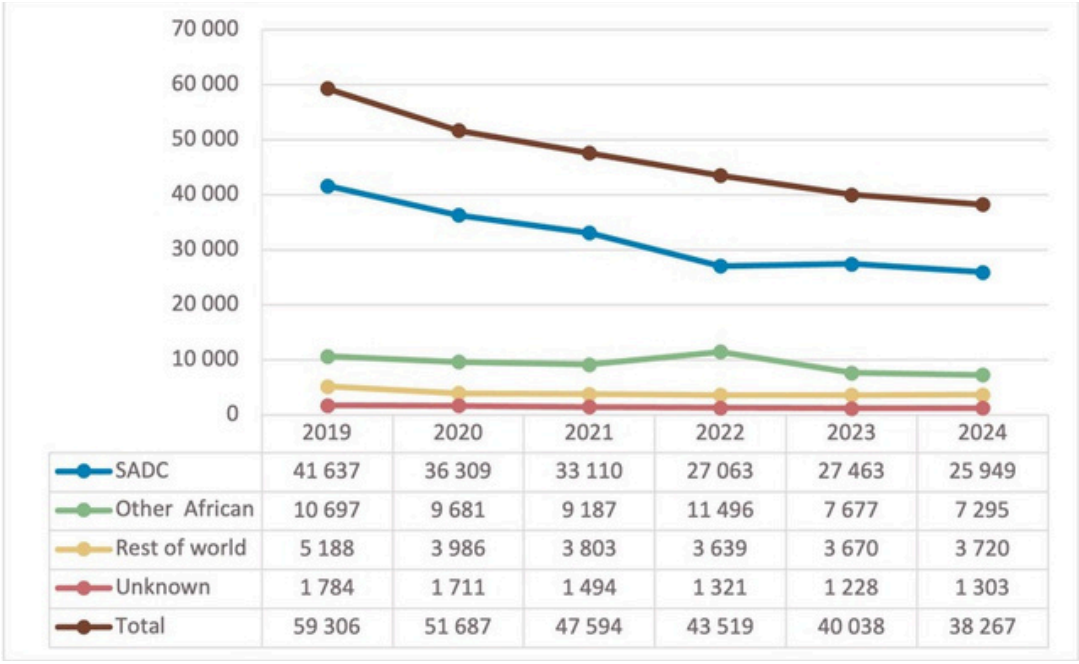
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
> 35	163 092	167 593	149 184	150 163	151 041	145 934
25 - 35	319 167	353 058	337 768	339 022	335 254	332 102
20 - 24	483 631	484 206	489 338	489 611	478 682	500 920
< 20	207 947	203 820	196 925	210 429	225 580	243 230

Figure 27: Public universities headcount graduates by age group



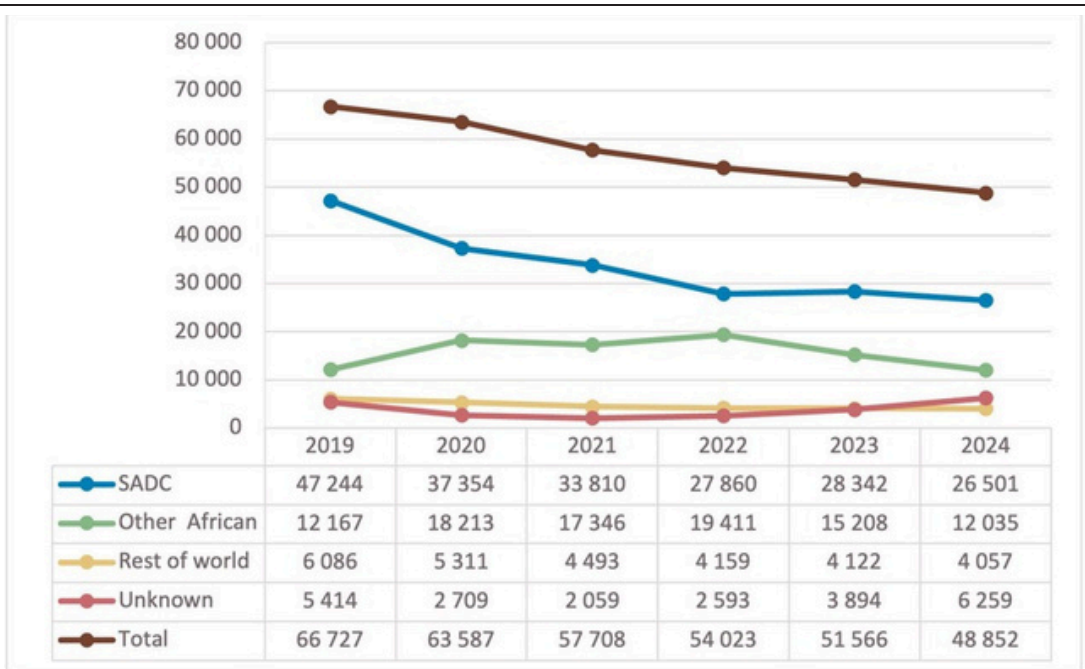
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
> 35	52 312	48 949	41 443	42 644	39 765	47 360
25 - 35	92 371	99 716	85 527	86 159	80 242	93 104
20 - 24	122 344	131 177	132 854	130 717	125 936	135 361
< 20	6 549	7 921	6 949	6 907	6 335	7 684

Figure 28: Public universities headcount enrolments of all non-South African students



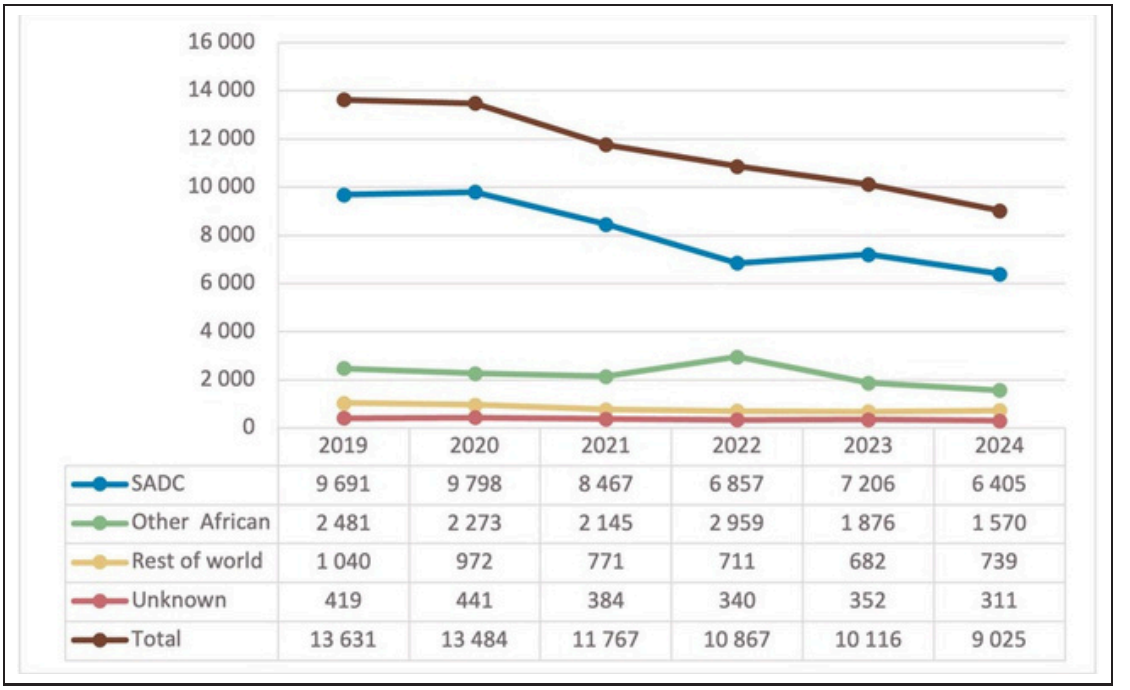
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SADC	41 637	36 309	33 110	27 063	27 463	25 949
Other African	10 697	9 681	9 187	11 496	7 677	7 295
Rest of world	5 188	3 986	3 803	3 639	3 670	3 720
Unknown	1 784	1 711	1 494	1 321	1 228	1 303
Total	59 306	51 687	47 594	43 519	40 038	38 267

Figure 29: Higher education enrolments of all non-South African students



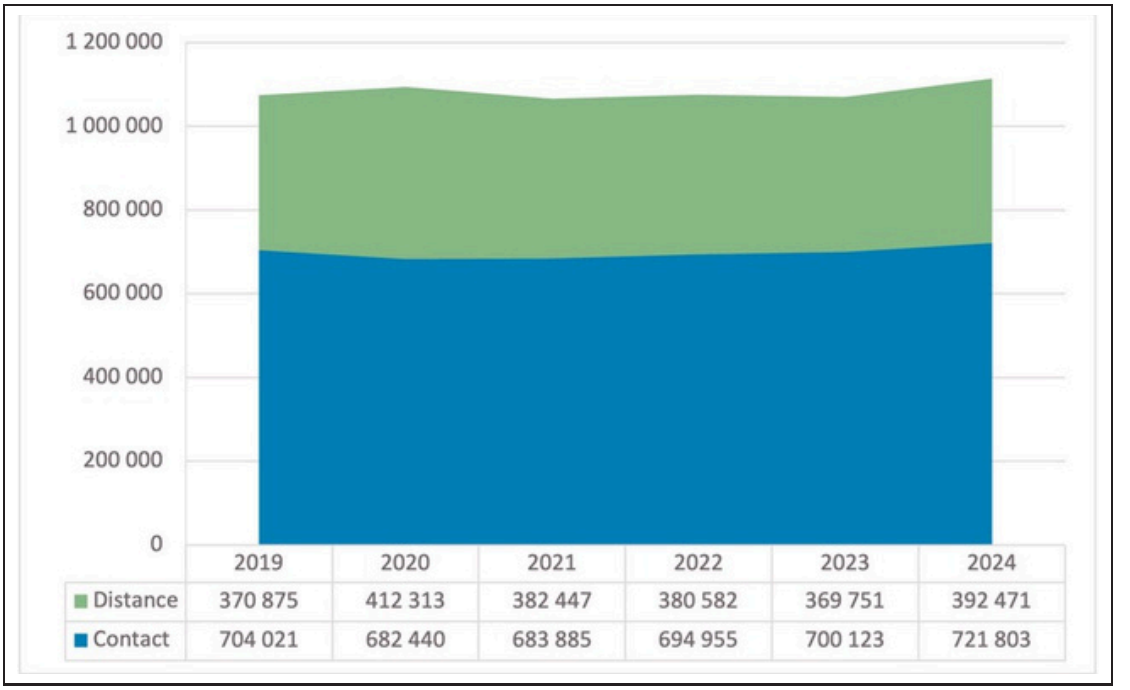
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SADC	47 244	37 354	33 810	27 860	28 342	26 501
Other African	12 167	18 213	17 346	19 411	15 208	12 035
Rest of world	6 086	5 311	4 493	4 159	4 122	4 057
Unknown	5 414	2 709	2 059	2 593	3 894	6 259
Total	66 727	63 587	57 708	54 023	51 566	48 852

Figure 30: Public universities headcount graduates of all non-South African students



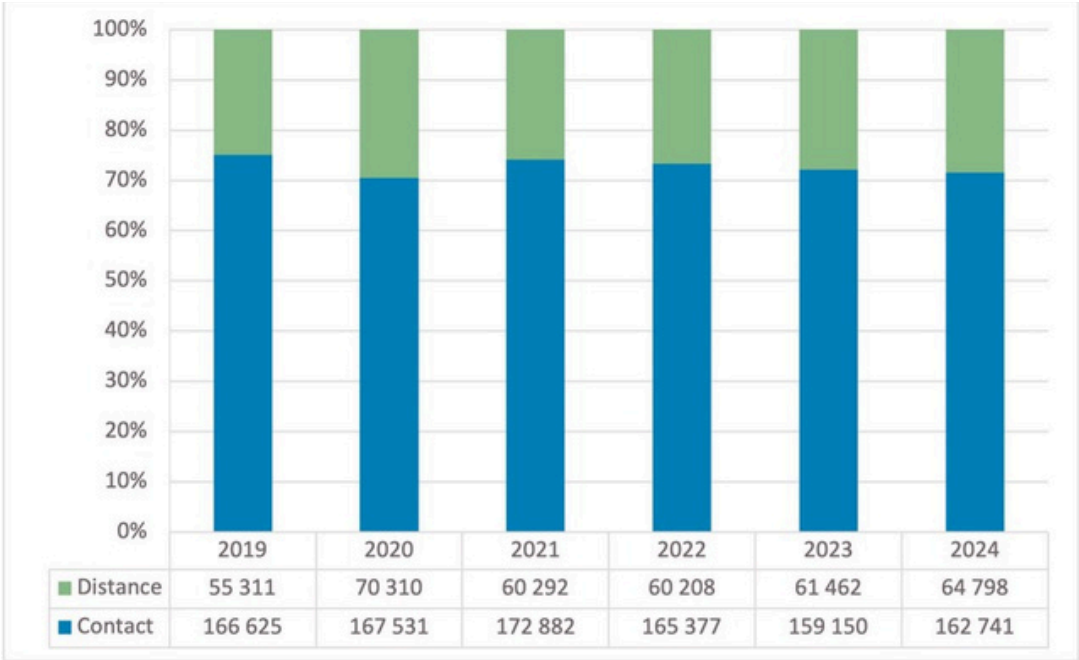
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SADC	9 691	9 798	8 467	6 857	7 206	6 405
Other African	2 481	2 273	2 145	2 959	1 876	1 570
Rest of world	1 040	972	771	711	682	739
Unknown	419	441	384	340	352	311
Total	13 631	13 484	11 767	10 867	10 116	9 025

Figure 31: Public universities headcount enrolments by mode of delivery



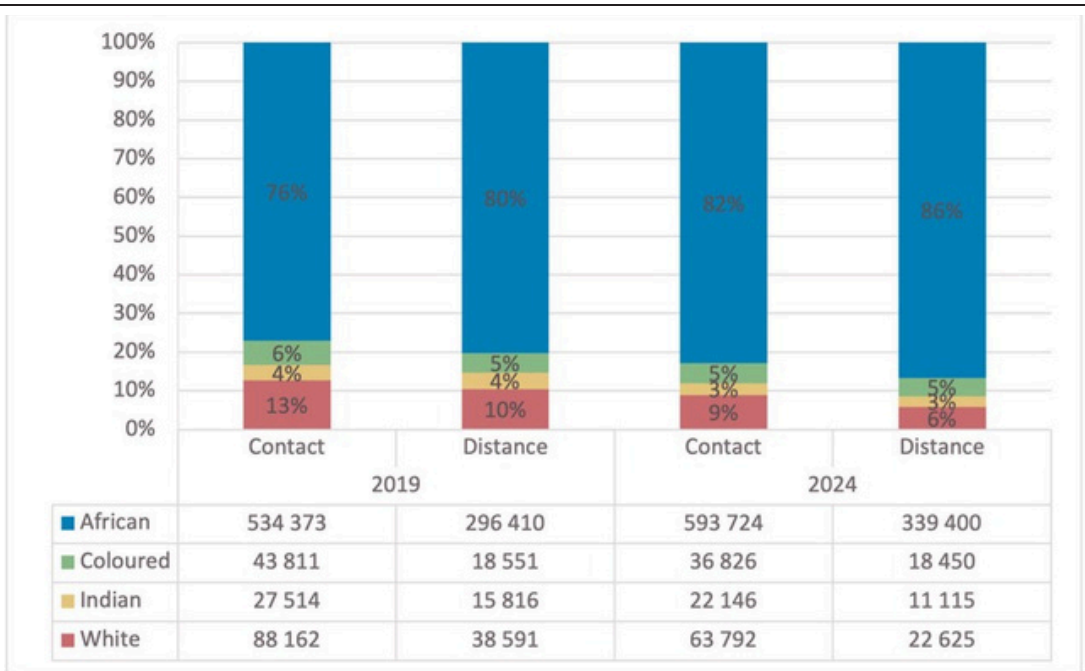
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Distance	370 875	412 313	382 447	380 582	369 751	392 471
Contact	704 021	682 440	683 885	694 955	700 123	721 803

Figure 32: Public universities headcount graduates by mode of delivery



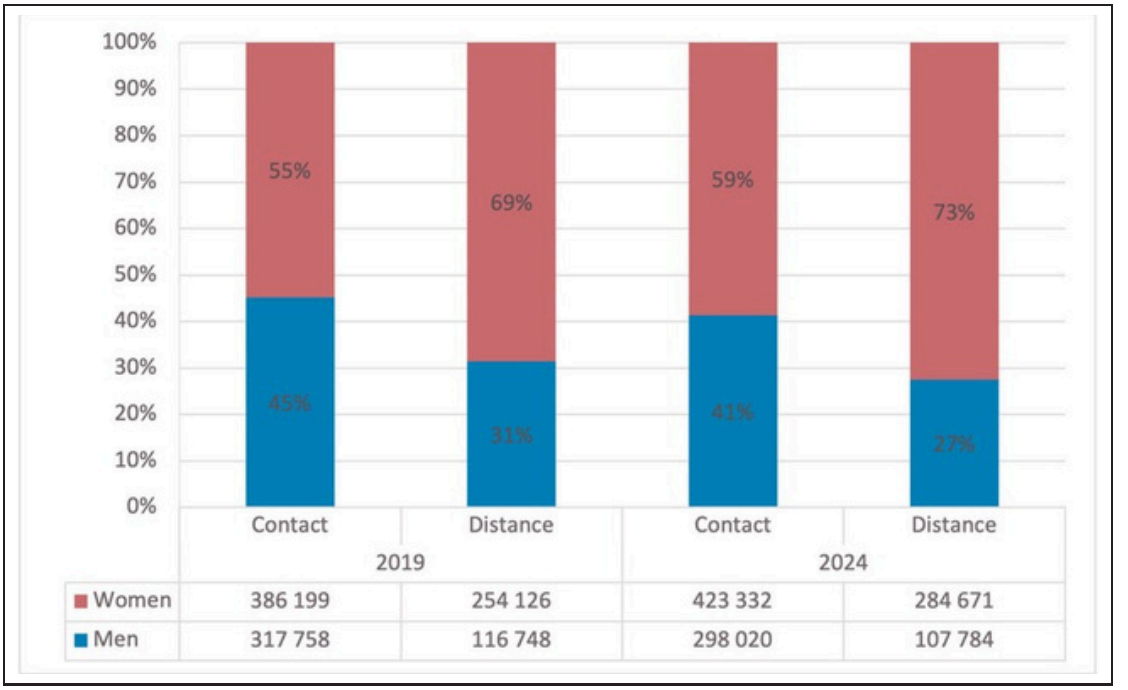
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Distance	55 311	70 310	60 292	60 208	61 462	64 798
Contact	166 625	167 531	172 882	165 377	159 150	162 741

Figure 33: Public universities headcount enrolments by mode of delivery and race



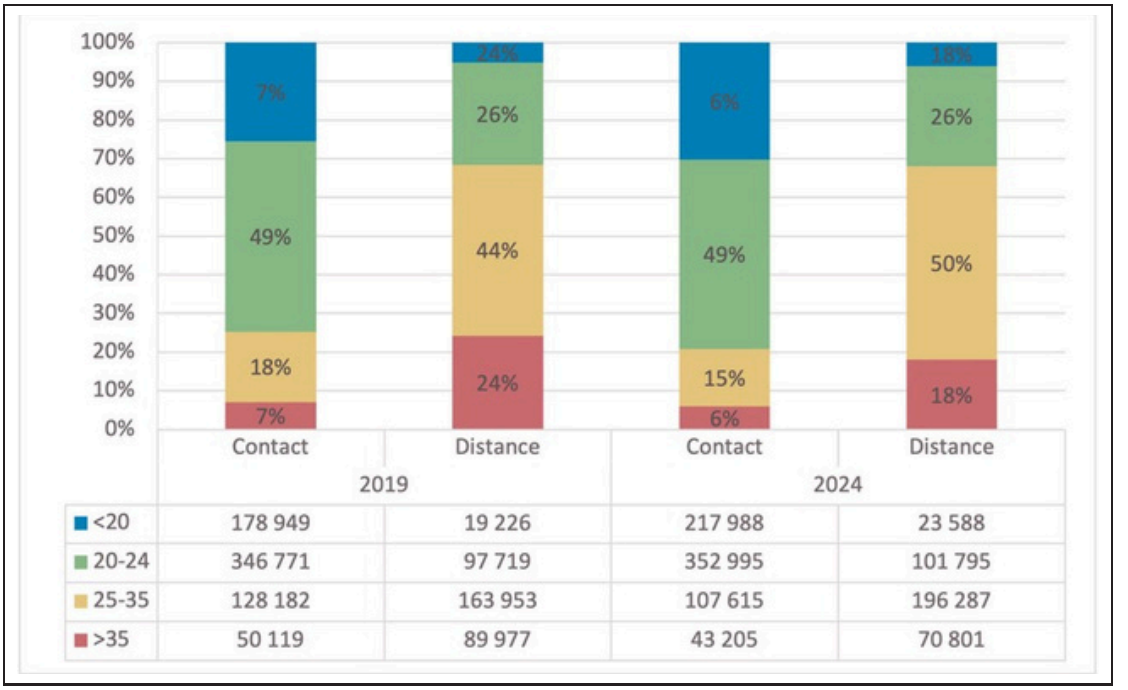
	2019		2024	
	Contact	Distance	Contact	Distance
African	534 373	296 410	593 724	339 400
Coloured	43 811	18 551	36 826	18 450
Indian	27 514	15 816	22 146	11 115
White	88 162	38 591	63 792	22 625

Figure 34: Public universities headcount enrolments by mode of delivery and gender



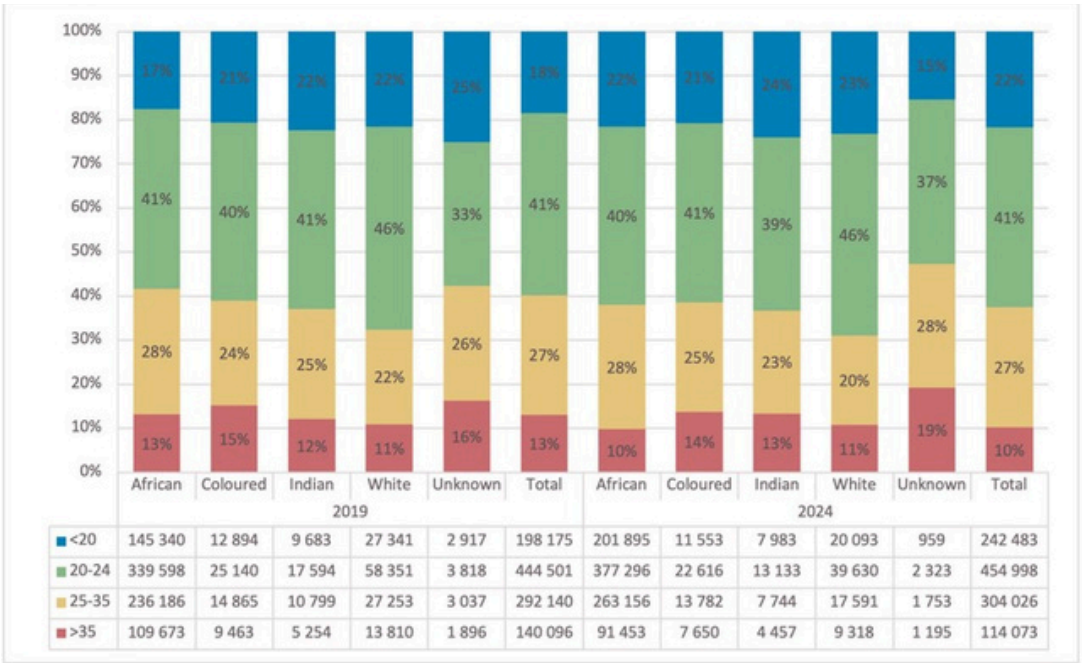
	2019 Contact	2019 Distance	2024 Contact	2024 Distance
Women	386 199	254 126	423 332	284 671
Men	317 758	116 748	298 020	107 784

Figure 35: Public universities headcount enrolments by mode of delivery and age group



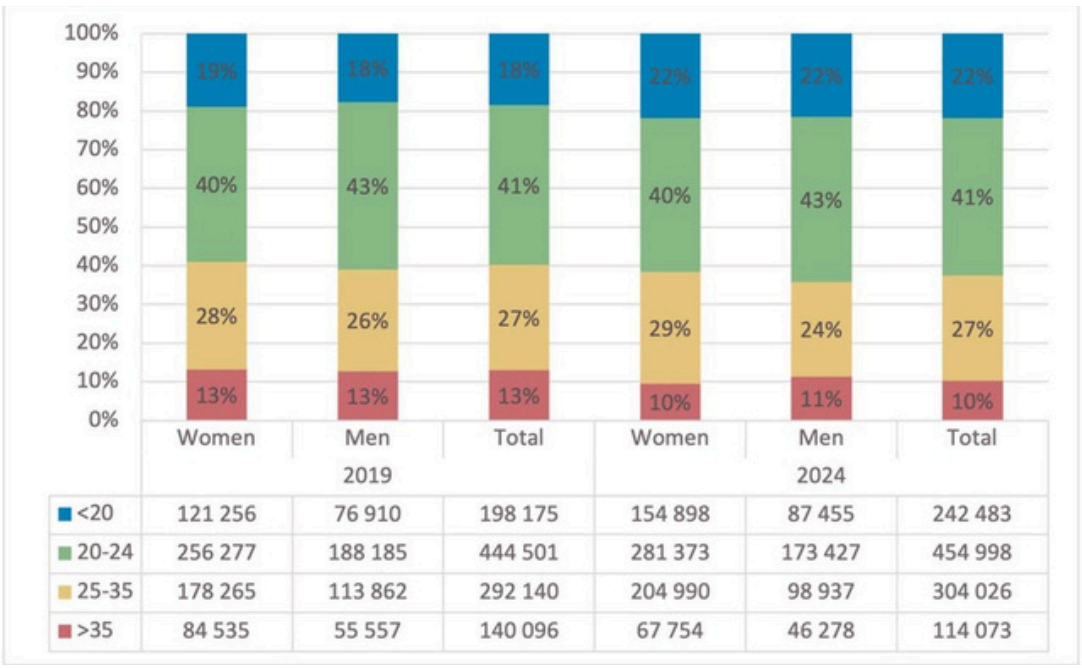
	2019 Contact	2019 Distance	2024 Contact	2024 Distance
<20	178 949	19 226	217 988	23 588
20-24	346 771	97 719	352 995	101 795
25-35	128 182	163 953	107 615	196 287
>35	50 119	89 977	43 205	70 801

Figure 36: Public university headcount enrolments by age group and race



	2019						2024					
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Unknown	Total	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Unknown	Total
<20	145 340	12 894	9 683	27 341	2 917	198 175	201 895	11 553	7 983	20 093	959	242 483
20-24	339 598	25 140	17 594	58 351	3 818	444 501	377 296	22 616	13 133	39 630	2 323	454 998
25-35	236 186	14 865	10 799	27 253	3 037	292 140	263 156	13 782	7 744	17 591	1 753	304 026
>35	109 673	9 463	5 254	13 810	1 896	140 096	91 453	7 650	4 457	9 318	1 195	114 073

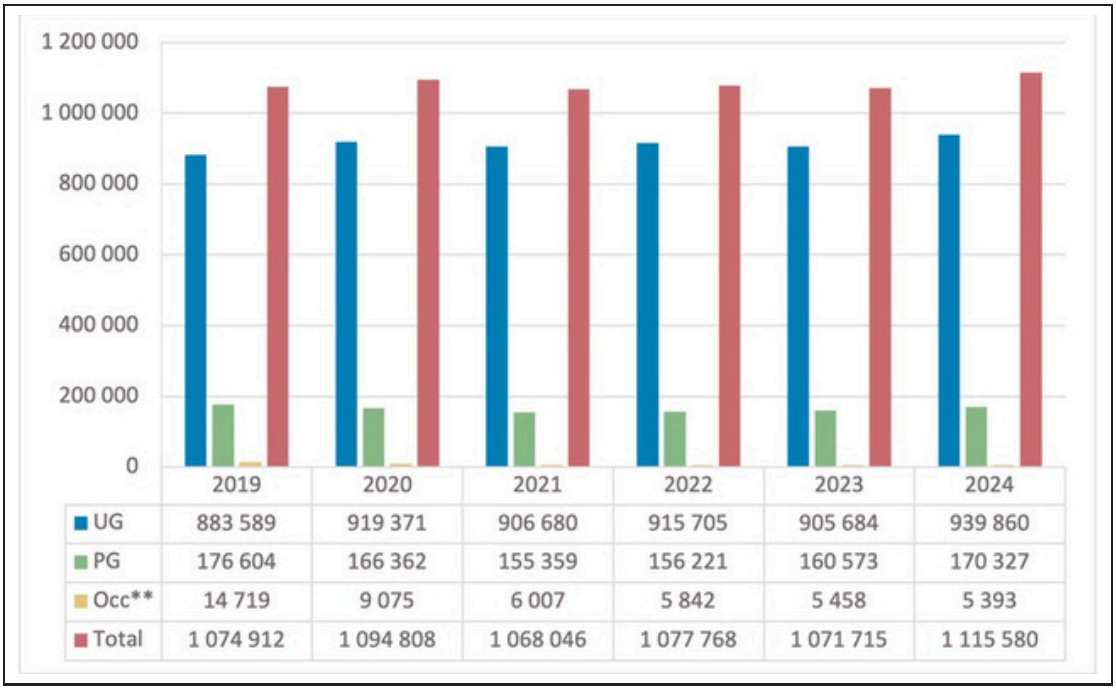
Figure 37: Public university headcount enrolments by age group and gender



	2019			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<20	121 256	76 910	198 175	154 898	87 455	242 483
20-24	256 277	188 185	444 501	281 373	173 427	454 998
25-35	178 265	113 862	292 140	204 990	98 937	304 026
>35	84 535	55 557	140 096	67 754	46 278	114 073

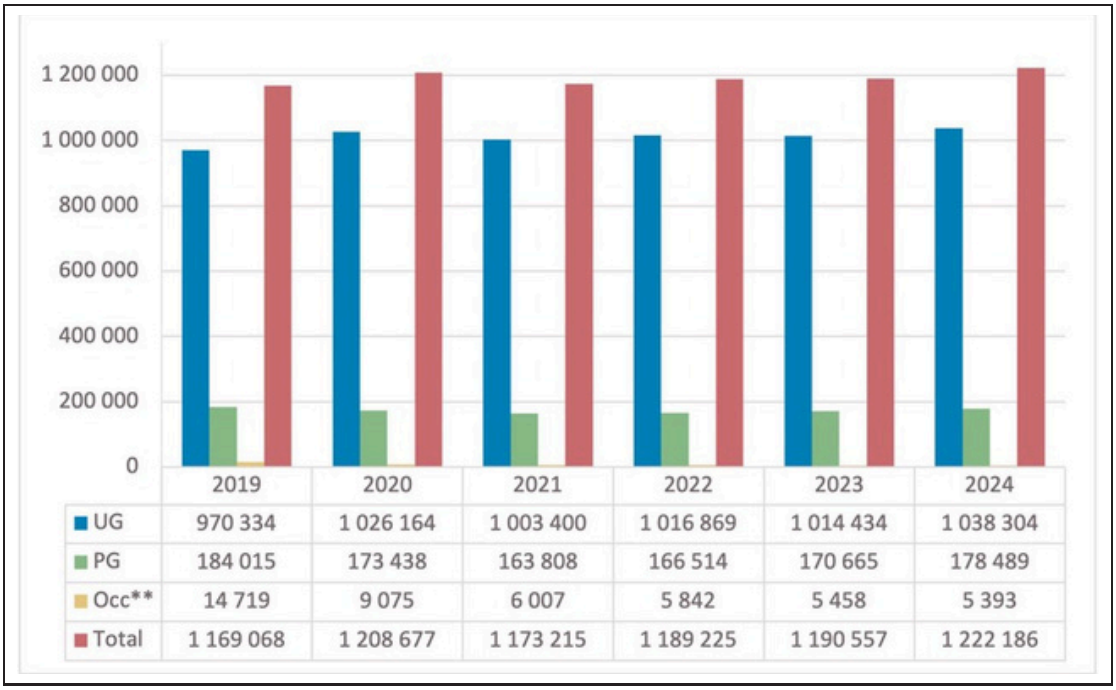
STUDENT QUALIFICATION TYPES

Figure 38: Public universities headcount enrolments by qualification level*



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UG	883 589	919 371	906 680	915 705	905 684	939 860
PG	176 604	166 362	155 359	156 221	160 573	170 327
Occ**	14 719	9 075	6 007	5 842	5 458	5 393
Total	1 074 912	1 094 808	1 068 046	1 077 768	1 071 715	1 115 580

Figure 39: Higher education enrolments by qualification level



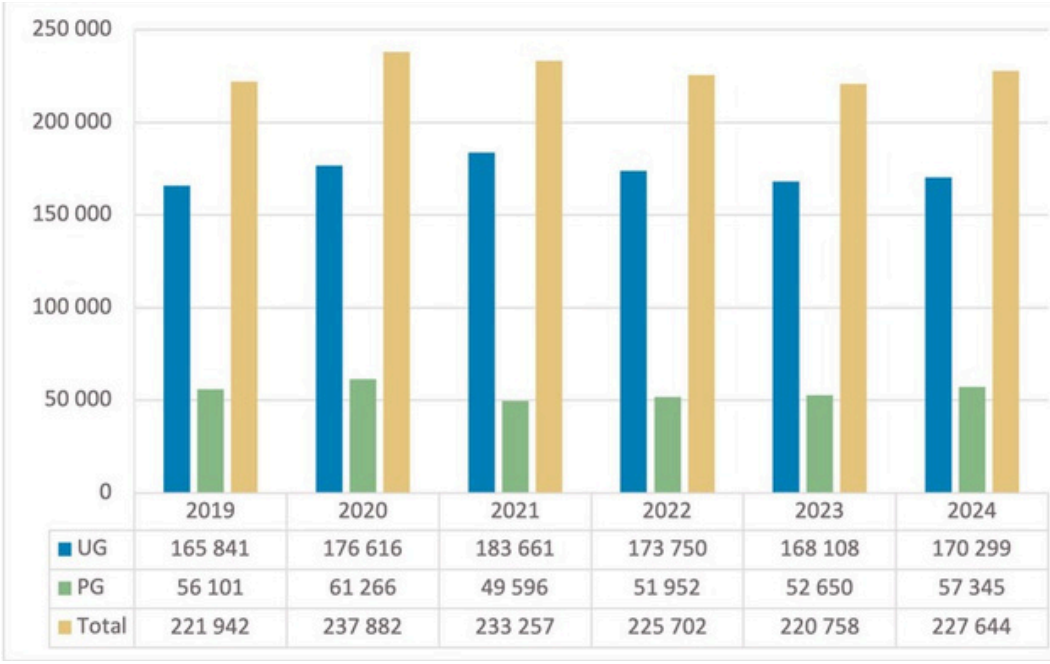
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UG	970 334	1 026 164	1 003 400	1 016 869	1 014 434	1 038 304
PG	184 015	173 438	163 808	166 514	170 665	178 489
Occ**	14 719	9 075	6 007	5 842	5 458	5 393
Total	1 169 068	1 208 677	1 173 215	1 189 225	1 190 557	1 222 186

**** The unknown category is not always displayed, but not omitted. Rounded off percentages may not always add up to 100%.***

**** The most recent HEMIS & HEQCIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2025.***

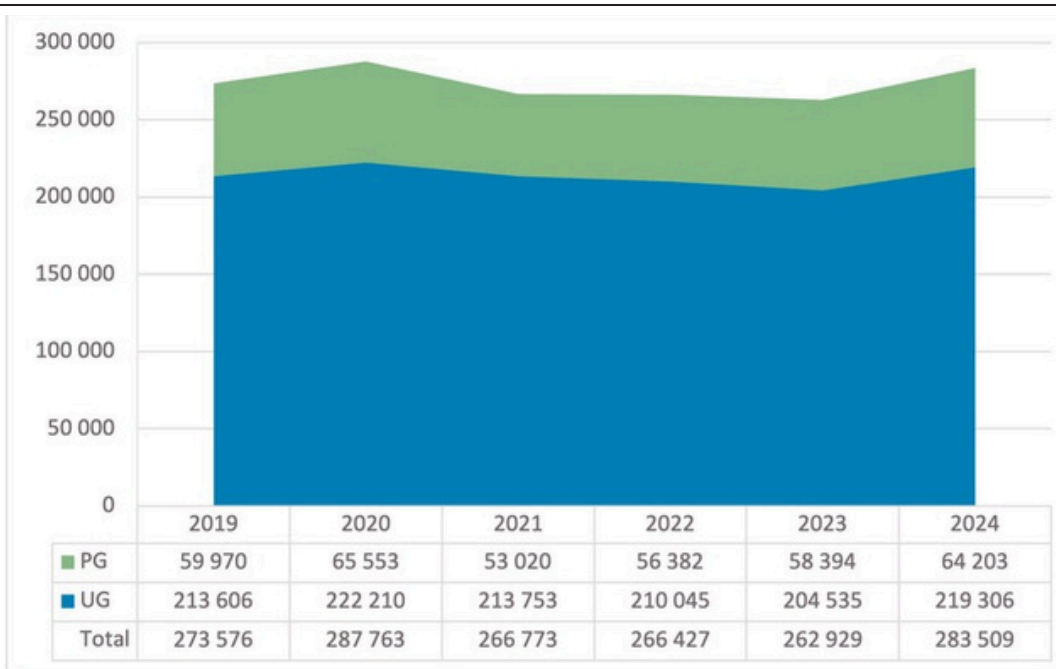
***** Occasional students.***

Figure 40: Public universities headcount graduates by qualification level.



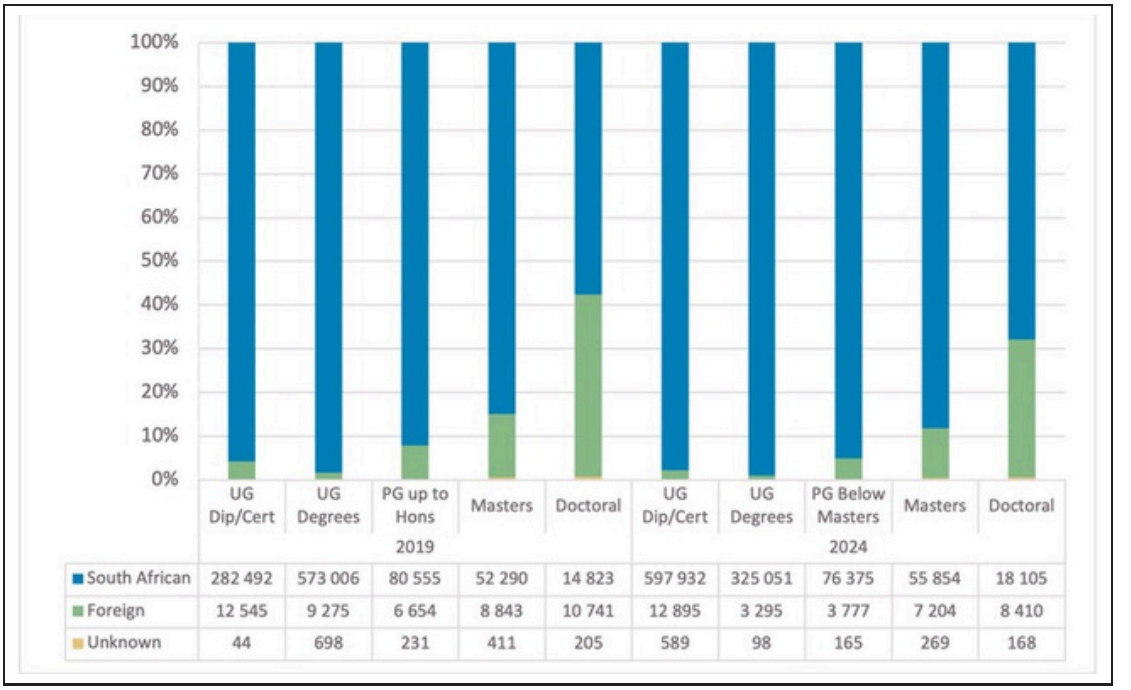
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UG	165 841	176 616	183 661	173 750	168 108	170 299
PG	56 101	61 266	49 596	51 952	52 650	57 345
Total	221 942	237 882	233 257	225 702	220 758	227 644

Figure 41: Headcount graduates by qualification level



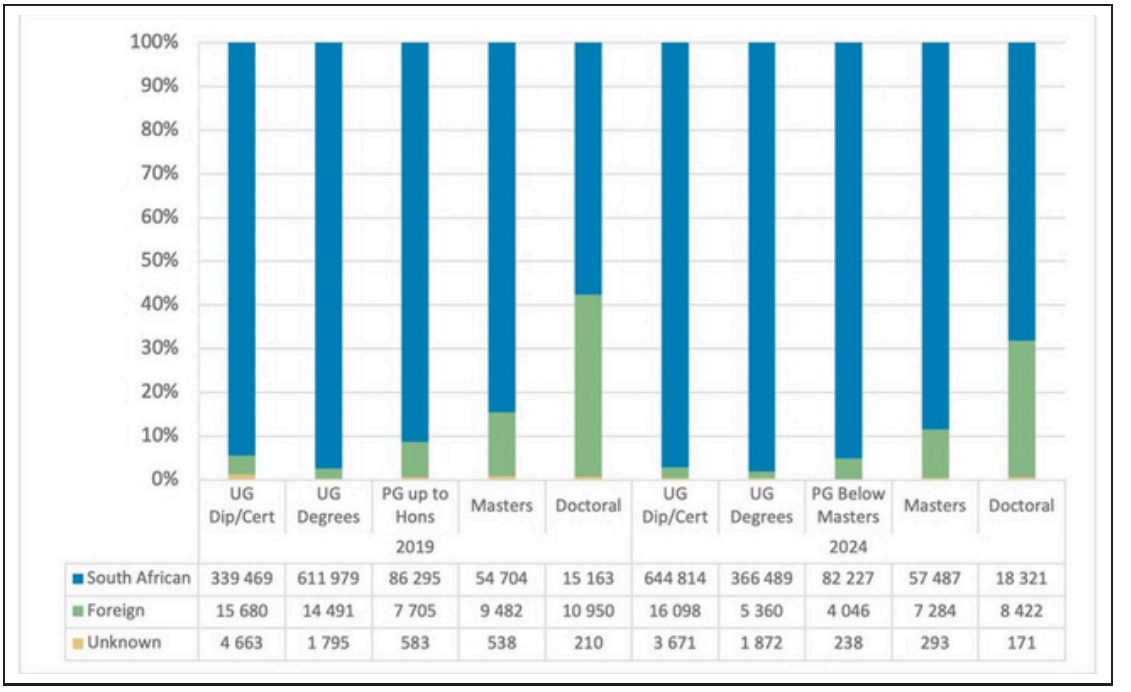
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
PG	59 970	65 553	53 020	56 382	58 394	64 203
UG	213 606	222 210	213 753	210 045	204 535	219 306
Total	273 576	287 763	266 773	266 427	262 929	283 509

Figure 42: Public universities headcount enrolments by qualification type and nationality



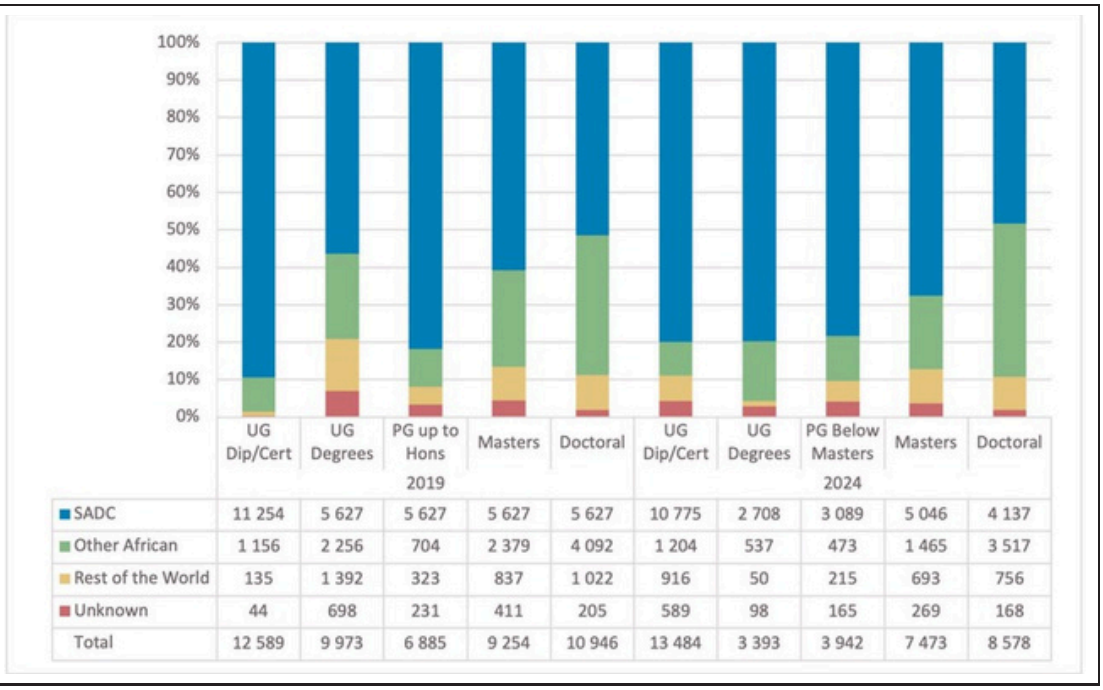
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters	Masters	Doctoral
	2019					2024				
South African	282 492	573 006	80 555	52 290	14 823	597 932	325 051	76 375	55 854	18 105
Foreign	12 545	9 275	6 654	8 843	10 741	12 895	3 295	3 777	7 204	8 410
Unknown	44	698	231	411	205	589	98	165	269	168

Figure 43: Headcount enrolments by qualification type and nationality



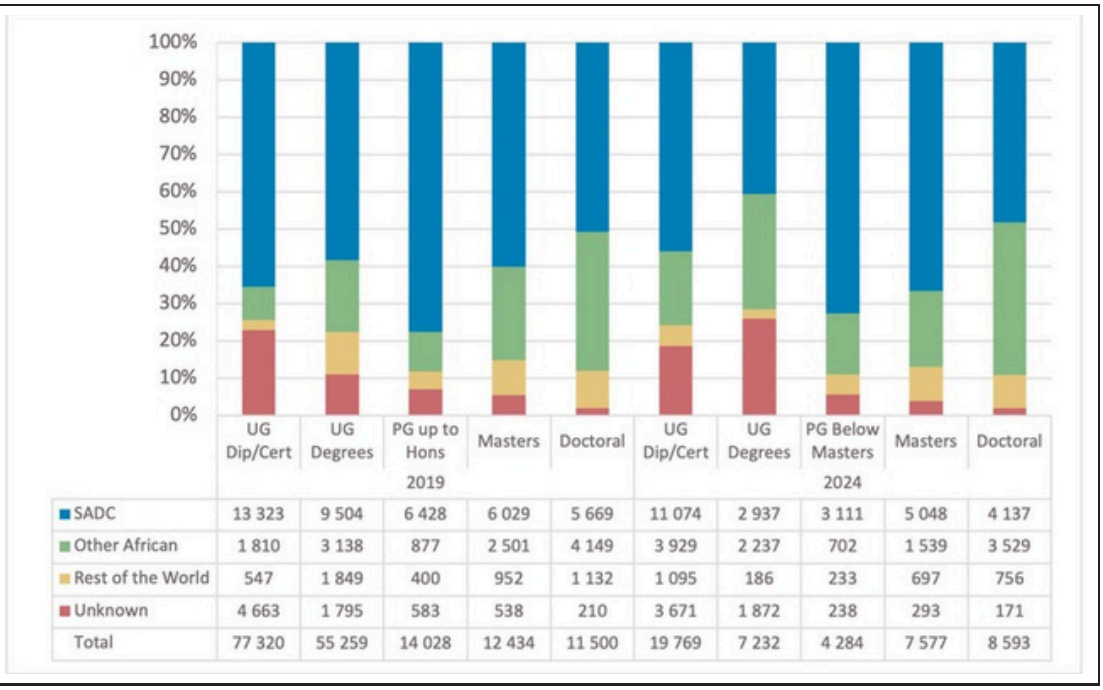
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters	Masters	Doctoral
	2019					2024				
South African	339 469	611 979	86 295	54 704	15 163	644 814	366 489	82 227	57 487	18 321
Foreign	15 680	14 491	7 705	9 482	10 950	16 098	5 360	4 046	7 284	8 422
Unknown	4 663	1 795	583	538	210	3 671	1 872	238	293	171

Figure 44: Public university International headcount enrolments by qualification type



	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters	Masters	Doctoral
			2019					2024		
SADC	11 254	5 627	5 627	5 627	5 627	10 775	2 708	3 089	5 046	4 137
Other African	1 156	2 256	704	2 379	4 092	1 204	537	473	1 465	3 517
Rest of the World	135	1 392	323	837	1 022	916	50	215	693	756
Unknown	44	698	231	411	205	589	98	165	269	168
Total	12 589	9 973	6 885	9 254	10 946	13 484	3 393	3 942	7 473	8 578

Figure 45: Public university international headcount enrolments by qualification type and nationality



	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters	Masters	Doctoral
			2019					2024		
SADC	13 323	9 504	6 428	6 029	5 669	11 074	2 937	3 111	5 048	4 137
Other African	1 810	3 138	877	2 501	4 149	3 929	2 237	702	1 539	3 529
Rest of the World	547	1 849	400	952	1 132	1 095	186	233	697	756
Unknown	4 663	1 795	583	538	210	3 671	1 872	238	293	171
Total	77 320	55 259	14 028	12 434	11 500	19 769	7 232	4 284	7 577	8 593

Figure 46: Public universities headcount International graduates by qualification type



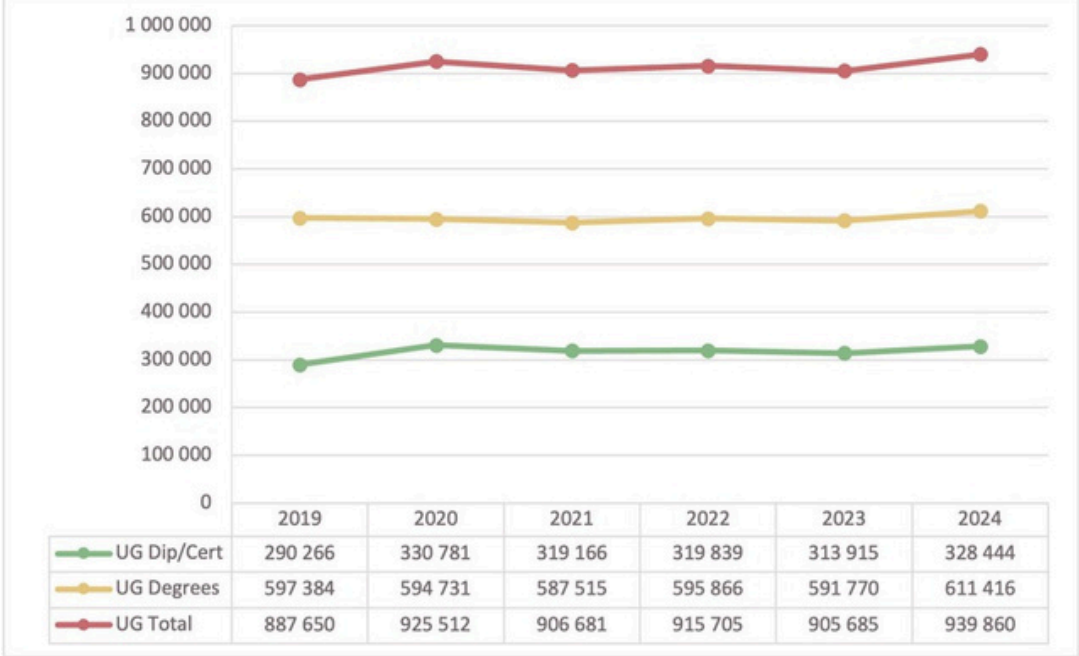
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons 2019	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters 2024	Masters	Doctoral
SADC	1 410	4 117	2 040	1 539	586	2 166	810	1 561	1 258	610
Other African	234	477	361	671	746	212	153	239	404	562
Rest of the World	39	306	205	306	185	211	16	141	241	130
Unknown	11	124	133	102	39	116	17	97	56	25

Figure 47: Headcount International graduates by qualification type and nationality



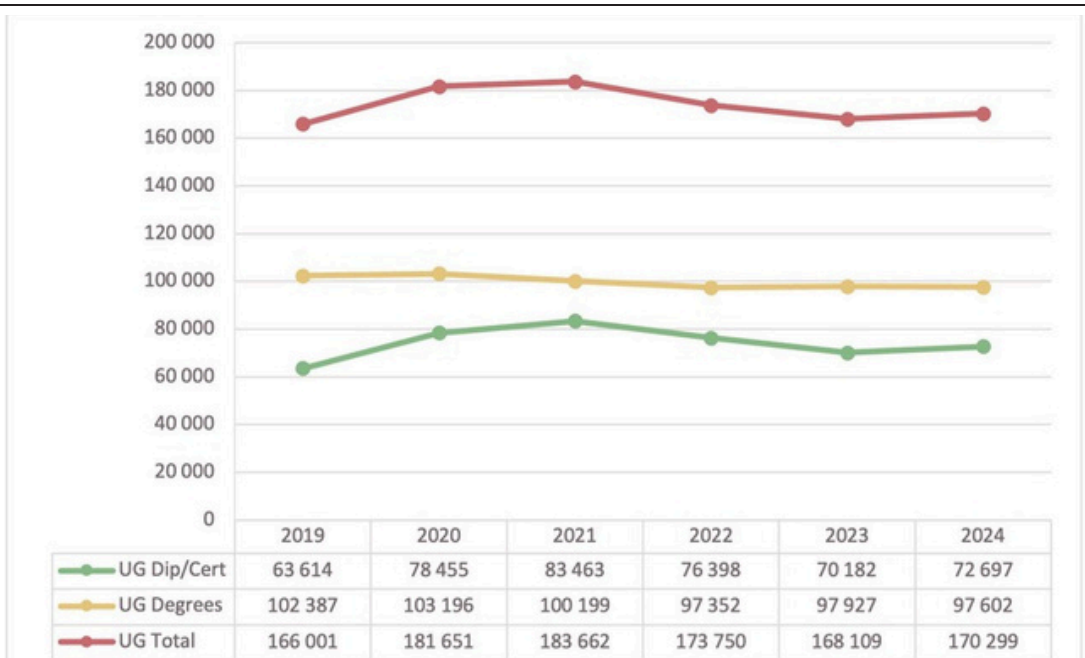
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons 2019	Masters	Doctoral	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG Below Masters 2024	Masters	Doctoral
SADC	1 826	4 800	2 298	1 637	586	2 371	942	1 590	1 267	610
Other African	328	646	412	707	749	2 185	1 188	678	470	568
Rest of the World	145	386	218	335	196	321	129	157	245	131
Unknown	1 961	483	284	138	39	1 743	152	246	66	27

Figure 48: Public universities headcount undergraduate enrolments by qualification type grouping



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UG Dip/Cert	290 266	330 781	319 166	319 839	313 915	328 444
UG Degrees	597 384	594 731	587 515	595 866	591 770	611 416
UG Total	887 650	925 512	906 681	915 705	905 685	939 860

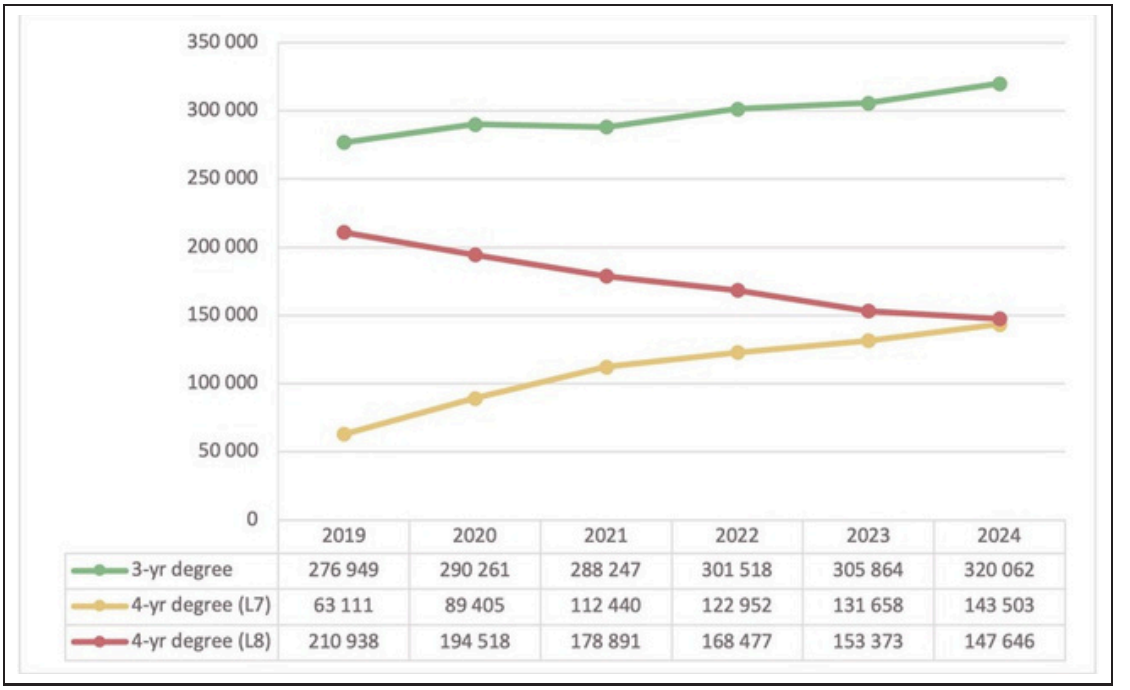
Figure 49: Public universities headcount undergraduate graduates by qualification type grouping



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UG Dip/Cert	63 614	78 455	83 463	76 398	70 182	72 697
UG Degrees	102 387	103 196	100 199	97 352	97 927	97 602
UG Total	166 001	181 651	183 662	173 750	168 109	170 299

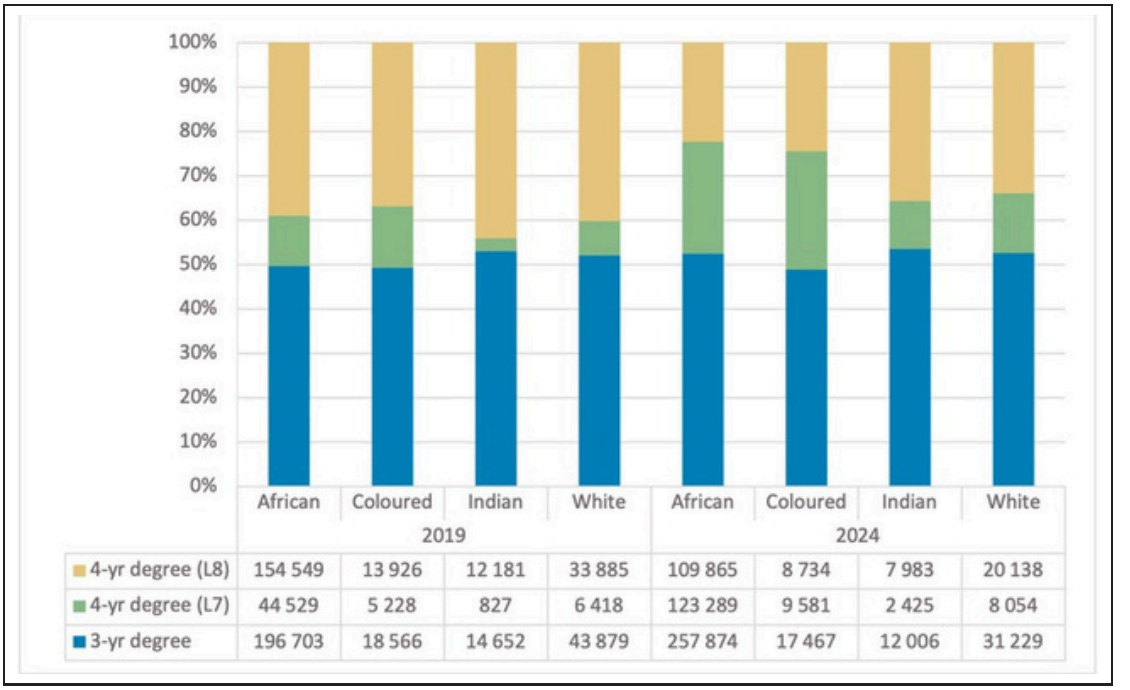
**** The most recent HEMIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2024.***

Figure 50: Public universities headcount enrolments by degree type grouping*



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3-yr degree	276 949	290 261	288 247	301 518	305 864	320 062
4-yr degree (L7)	63 111	89 405	112 440	122 952	131 658	143 503
4-yr degree (L8)	210 938	194 518	178 891	168 477	153 373	147 646

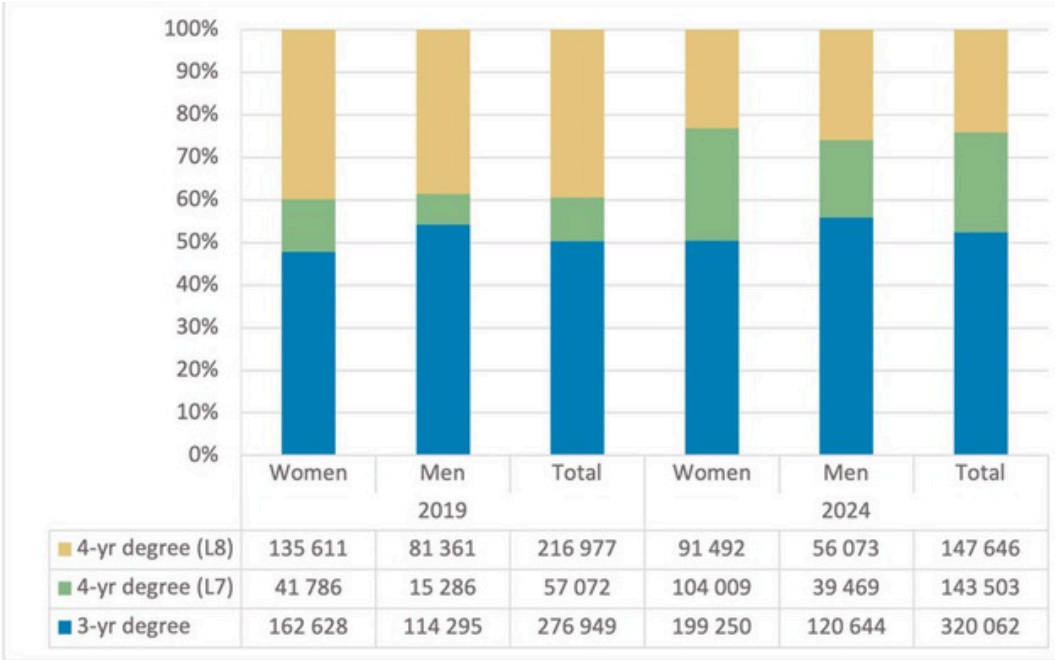
Figure 51: Public universities headcount undergraduate degree enrolments by race



	2019				2024			
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
4-yr degree (L8)	154 549	13 926	12 181	33 885	109 865	8 734	7 983	20 138
4-yr degree (L7)	44 529	5 228	827	6 418	123 289	9 581	2 425	8 054
3-yr degree	196 703	18 566	14 652	43 879	257 874	17 467	12 006	31 229

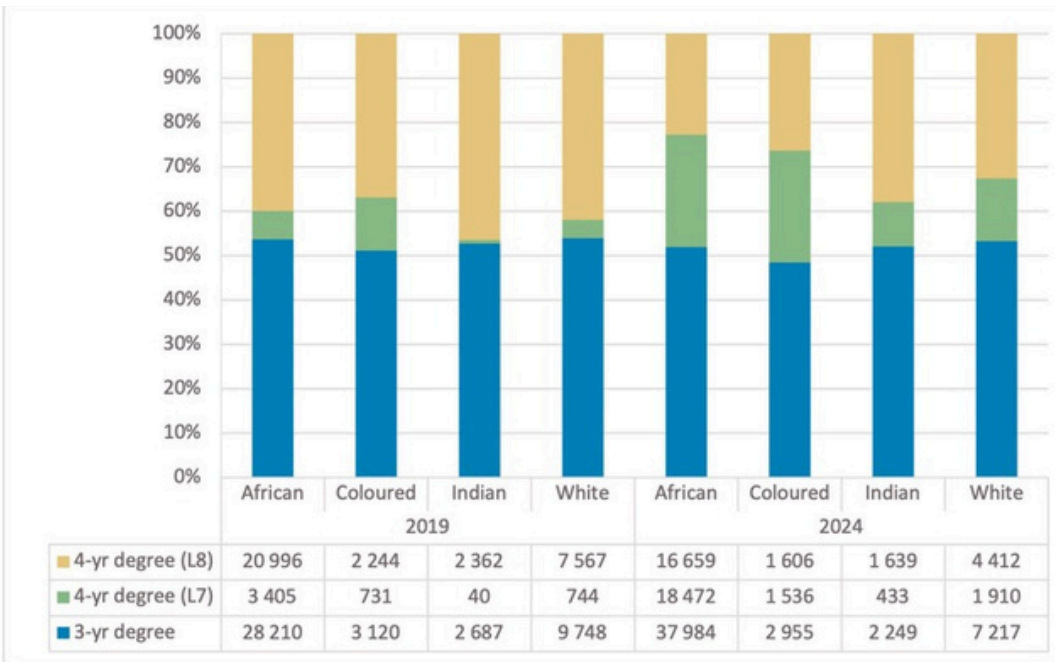
BTechs included, but not shown.

Figure 52: Public universities headcount undergraduate degree enrolments by gender



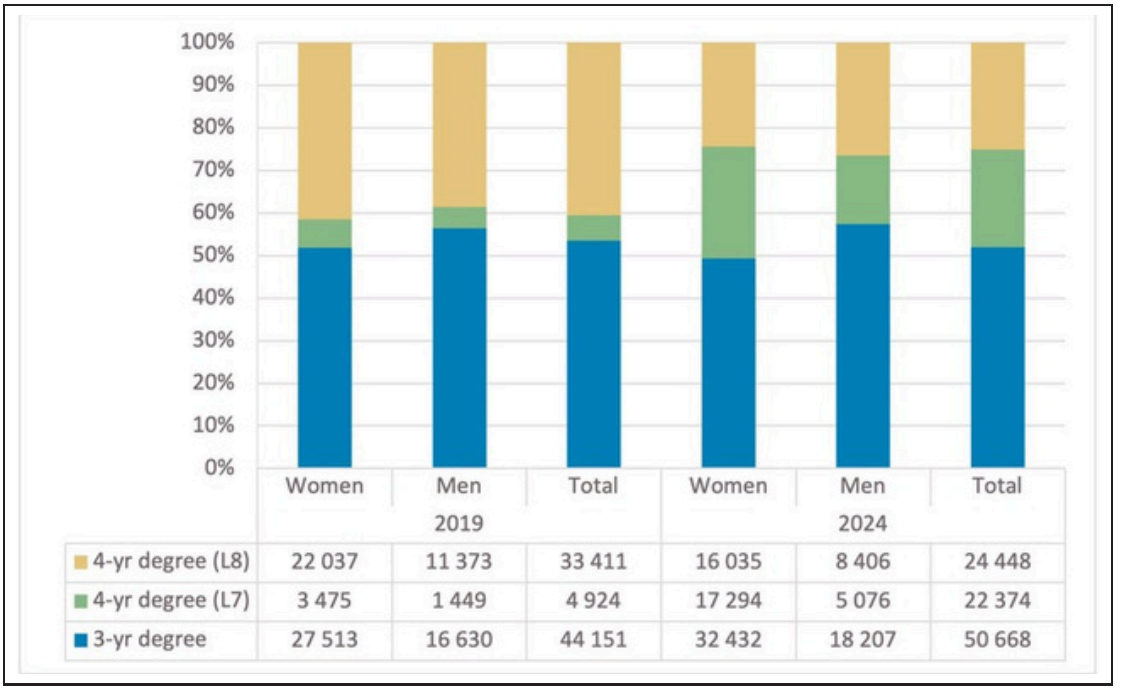
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	2019			2024		
4-yr degree (L8)	135 611	81 361	216 977	91 492	56 073	147 646
4-yr degree (L7)	41 786	15 286	57 072	104 009	39 469	143 503
3-yr degree	162 628	114 295	276 949	199 250	120 644	320 062

Figure 53: Public universities headcount undergraduate degree qualifications awarded by race



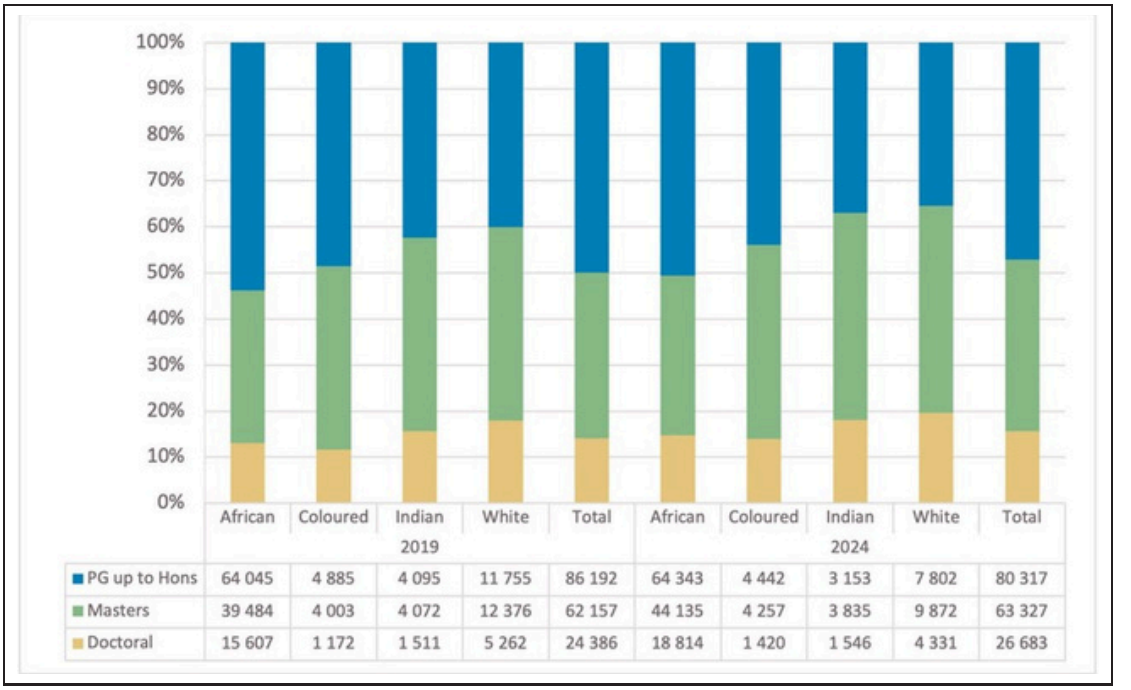
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
	2019				2024			
4-yr degree (L8)	20 996	2 244	2 362	7 567	16 659	1 606	1 639	4 412
4-yr degree (L7)	3 405	731	40	744	18 472	1 536	433	1 910
3-yr degree	28 210	3 120	2 687	9 748	37 984	2 955	2 249	7 217

Figure 54: Public universities headcount undergraduate degree qualifications awarded by gender



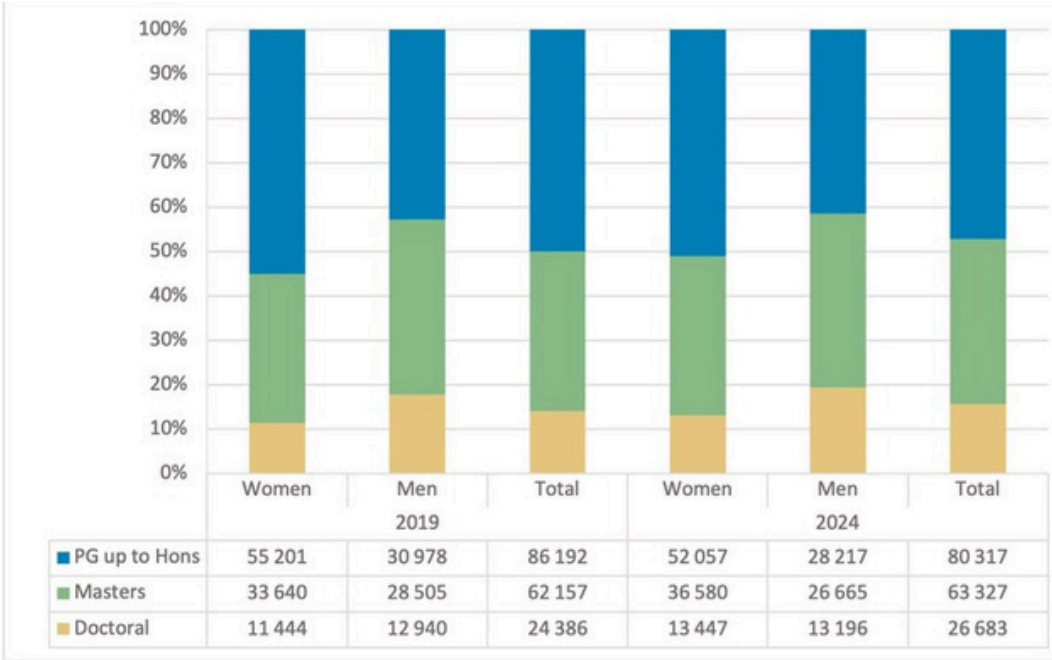
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	2019			2024		
4-yr degree (L8)	22 037	11 373	33 411	16 035	8 406	24 448
4-yr degree (L7)	3 475	1 449	4 924	17 294	5 076	22 374
3-yr degree	27 513	16 630	44 151	32 432	18 207	50 668

Figure 55: Public universities headcount postgraduate enrolments by race



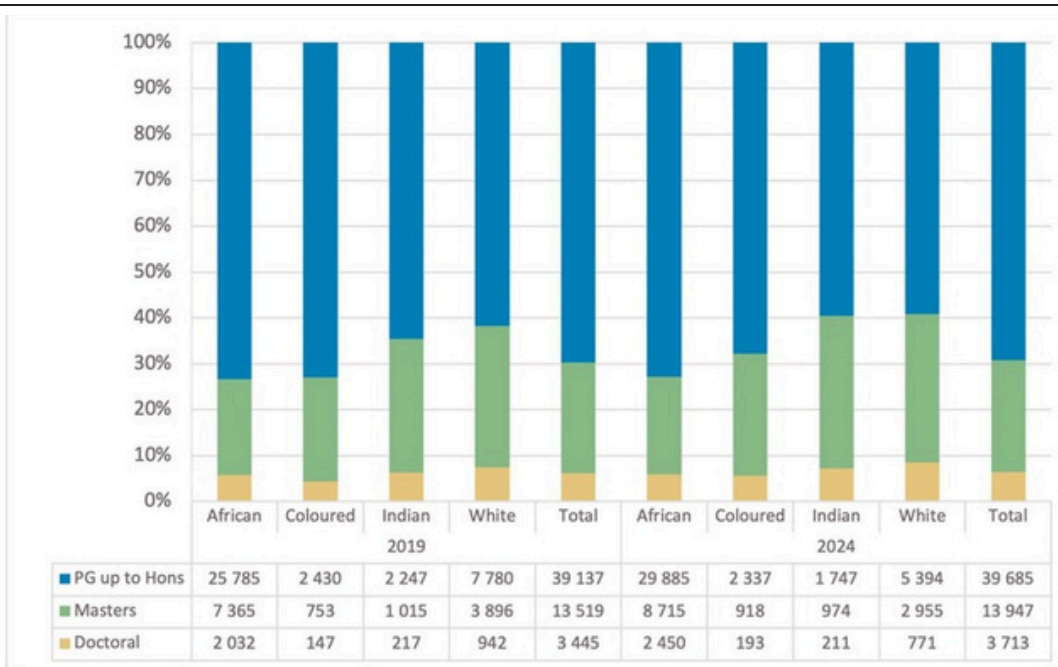
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
	2019					2024				
PG up to Hons	64 045	4 885	4 095	11 755	86 192	64 343	4 442	3 153	7 802	80 317
Masters	39 484	4 003	4 072	12 376	62 157	44 135	4 257	3 835	9 872	63 327
Doctoral	15 607	1 172	1 511	5 262	24 386	18 814	1 420	1 546	4 331	26 683

Figure 56: Public universities headcount postgraduate enrolments by gender



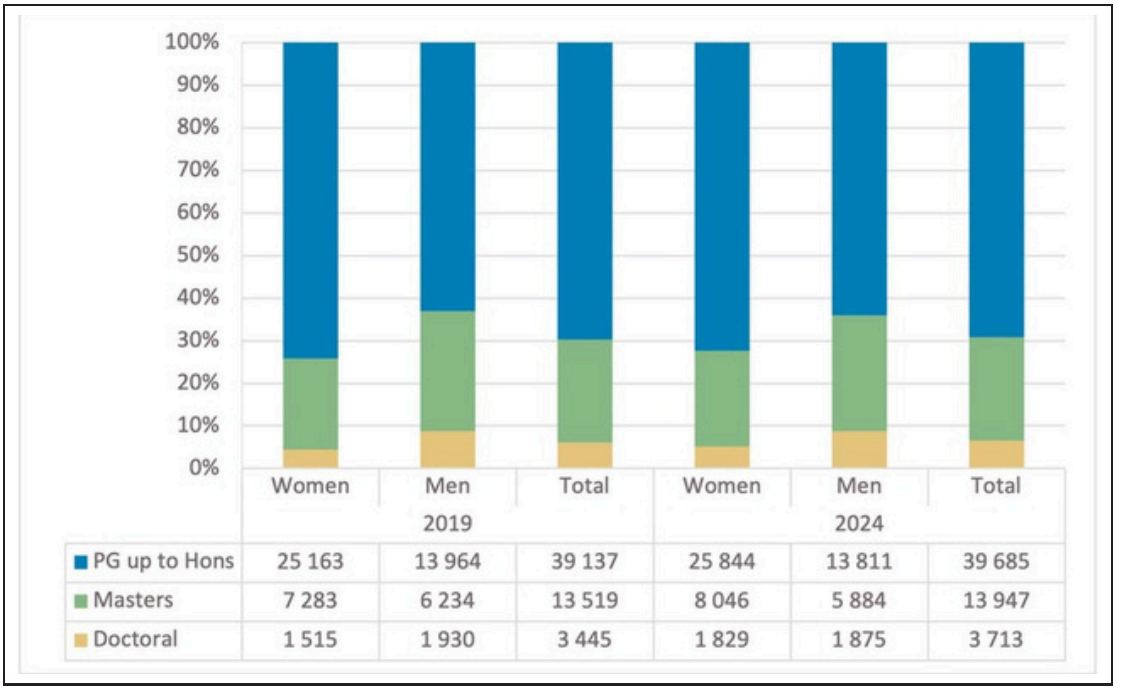
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	2019			2024		
PG up to Hons	55 201	30 978	86 192	52 057	28 217	80 317
Masters	33 640	28 505	62 157	36 580	26 665	63 327
Doctoral	11 444	12 940	24 386	13 447	13 196	26 683

Figure 57: Public universities headcount postgraduate qualifications awarded by race



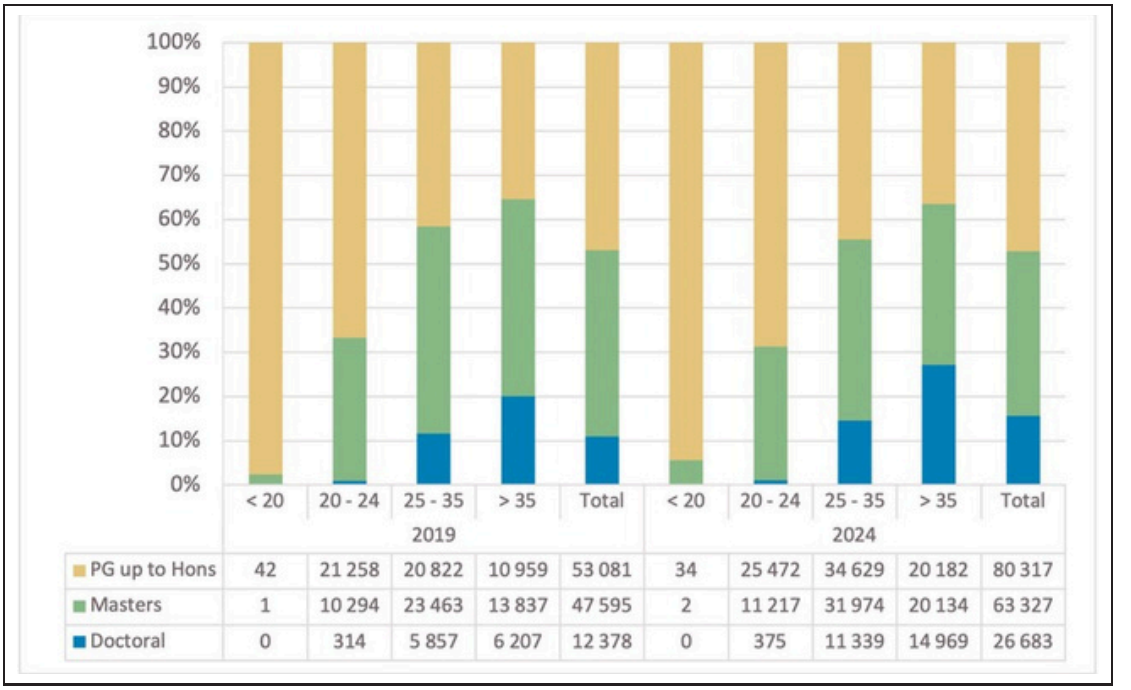
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
	2019					2024				
PG up to Hons	25 785	2 430	2 247	7 780	39 137	29 885	2 337	1 747	5 394	39 685
Masters	7 365	753	1 015	3 896	13 519	8 715	918	974	2 955	13 947
Doctoral	2 032	147	217	942	3 445	2 450	193	211	771	3 713

Figure 58: Public universities headcount postgraduate qualifications awarded by gender



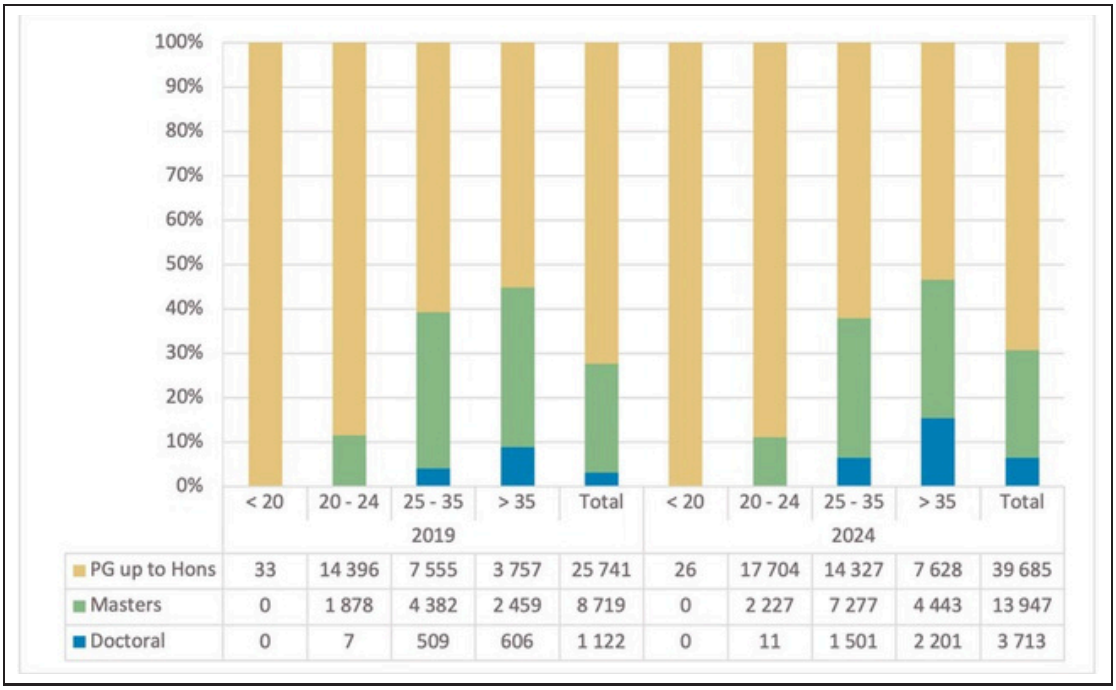
	2019			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
PG up to Hons	25 163	13 964	39 137	25 844	13 811	39 685
Masters	7 283	6 234	13 519	8 046	5 884	13 947
Doctoral	1 515	1 930	3 445	1 829	1 875	3 713

Figure 59: Public universities headcount postgraduate enrolments by age group



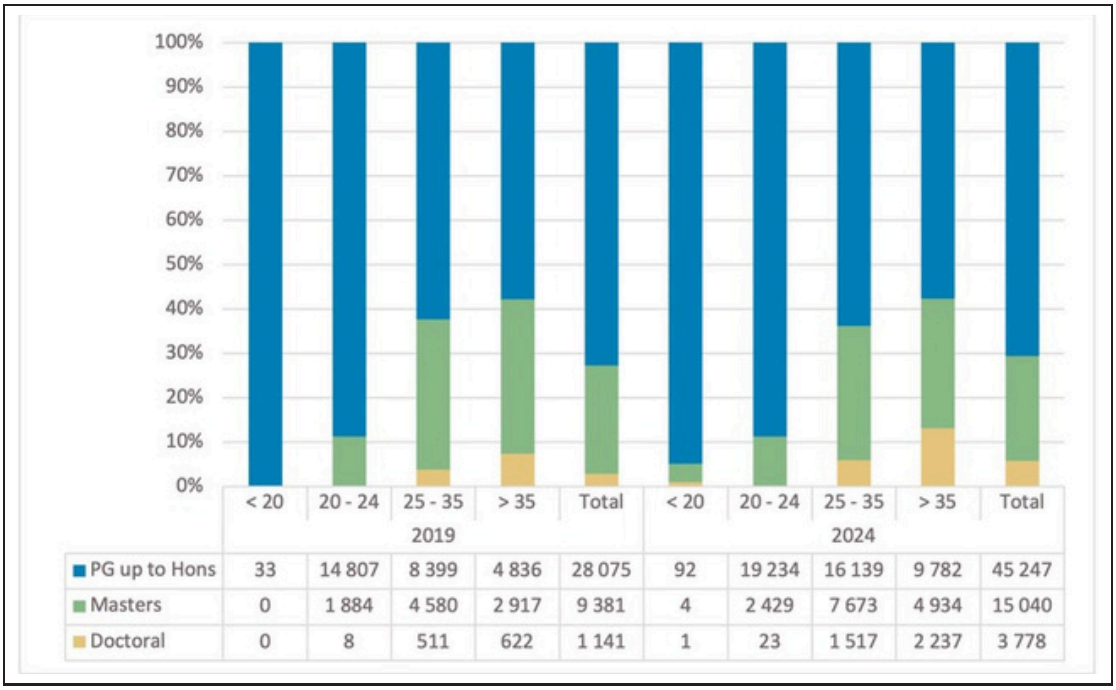
	2019					2024				
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total
PG up to Hons	42	21 258	20 822	10 959	53 081	34	25 472	34 629	20 182	80 317
Masters	1	10 294	23 463	13 837	47 595	2	11 217	31 974	20 134	63 327
Doctoral	0	314	5 857	6 207	12 378	0	375	11 339	14 969	26 683

Figure 60: Public universities headcount postgraduate qualification awarded by age group



	2019					2024				
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total
PG up to Hons	33	14 396	7 555	3 757	25 741	26	17 704	14 327	7 628	39 685
Masters	0	1 878	4 382	2 459	8 719	0	2 227	7 277	4 443	13 947
Doctoral	0	7	509	606	1 122	0	11	1 501	2 201	3 713

Figure 61: Headcount higher education postgraduate qualification awarded by age group



	2019					2024				
	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total	< 20	20 - 24	25 - 35	> 35	Total
PG up to Hons	33	14 807	8 399	4 836	28 075	92	19 234	16 139	9 782	45 247
Masters	0	1 884	4 580	2 917	9 381	4	2 429	7 673	4 934	15 040
Doctoral	0	8	511	622	1 141	1	23	1 517	2 237	3 778

There are no Private HE data in this section.

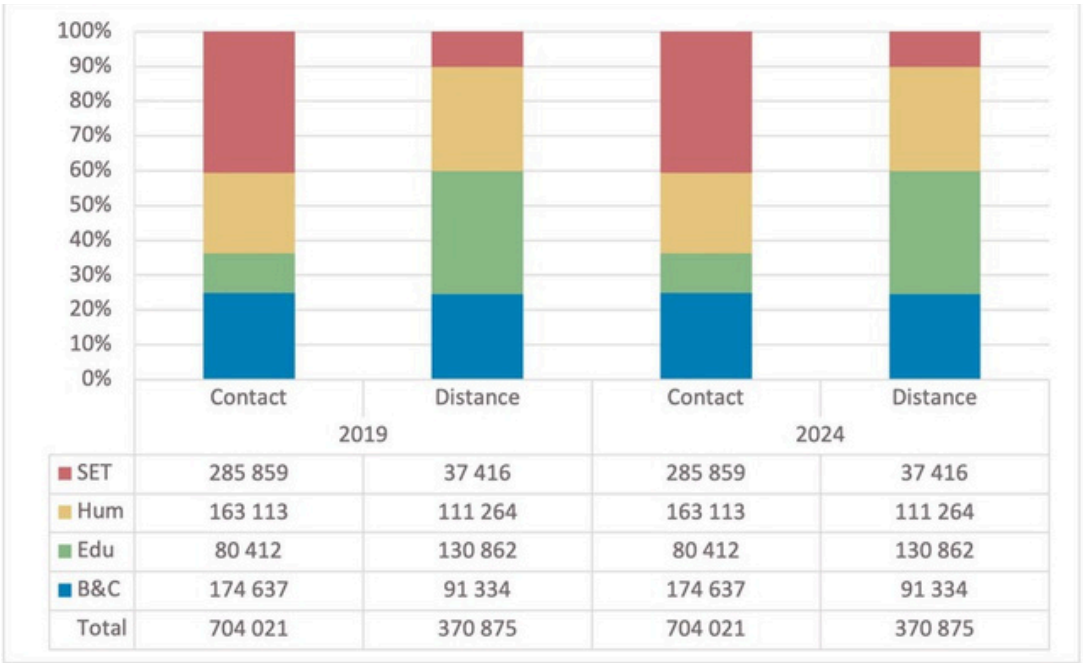
STUDENT DATA BY FIELD OF STUDY AND SUCCESS RATES

Figure 62: Public universities headcount enrolments by field of study*



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SET	323 287	319 901	313 788	319 065	317 504	334 031
Hum	274 377	294 986	295 747	300 225	294 027	304 203
Edu	211 274	199 432	192 714	192 831	185 181	193 315
B&C	265 973	280 489	265 797	265 647	269 545	284 030

Figure 63: Public universities headcount enrolments by field of study and mode of delivery

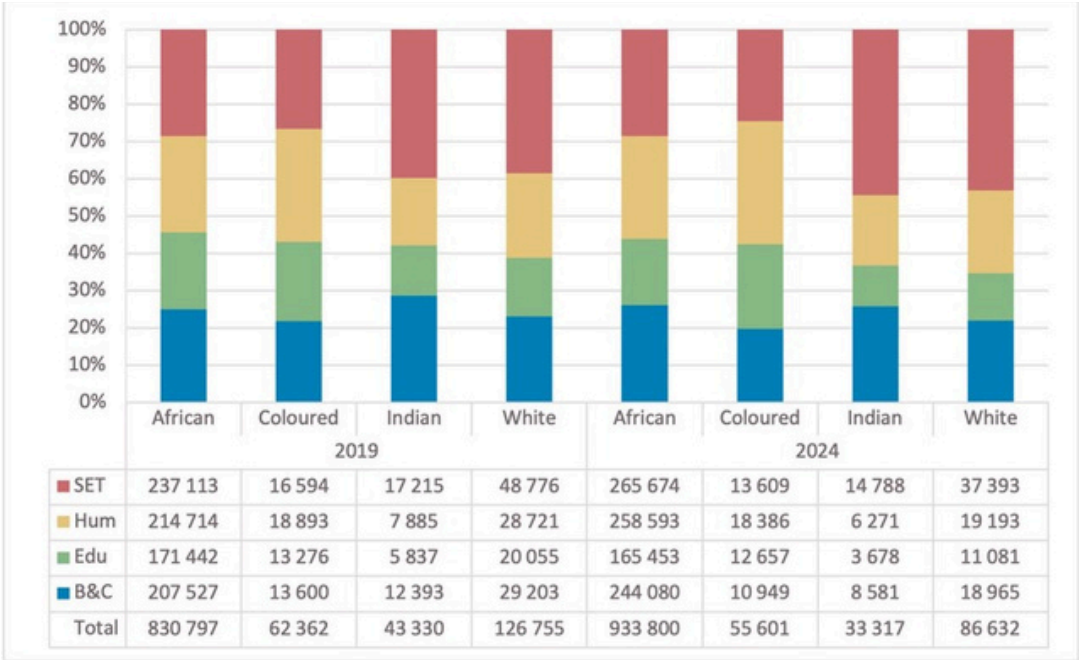


	2019		2024	
	Contact	Distance	Contact	Distance
SET	285 859	37 416	285 859	37 416
Hum	163 113	111 264	163 113	111 264
Edu	80 412	130 862	80 412	130 862
B&C	174 637	91 334	174 637	91 334
Total	704 021	370 875	704 021	370 875

**** The Unknown category is not displayed, but not omitted. Rounded off percentages may not always add up to 100%. The most recent HEMIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2025.***

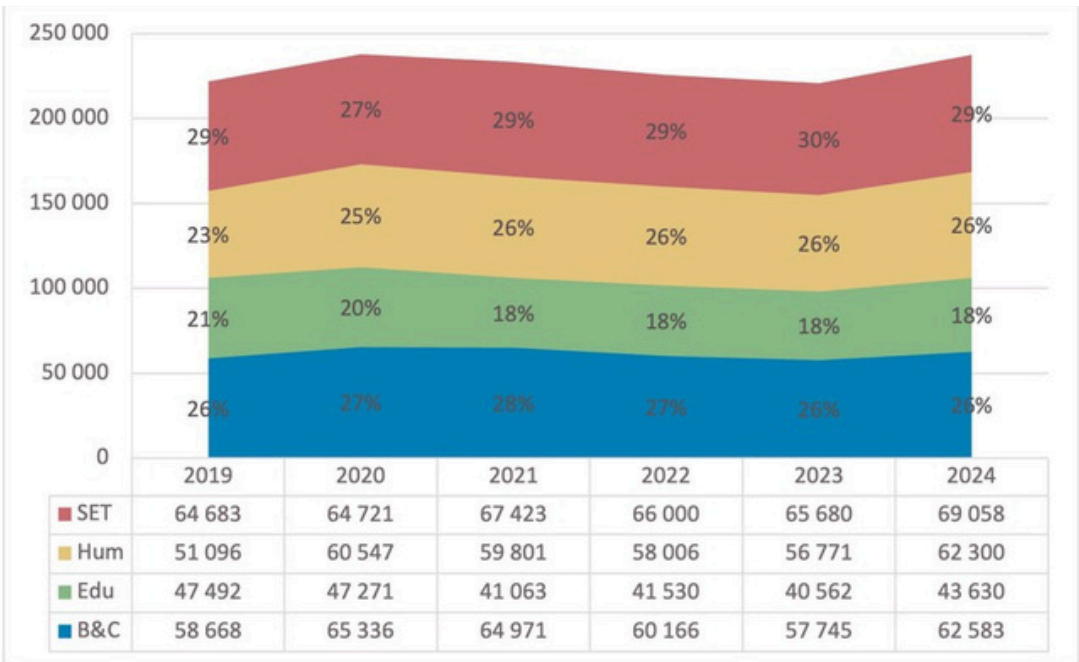
***** B&C: Business and Commerce; SET: Science, Engineering and Technology.***

Figure 64: Public universities headcount enrolments by field of study and race



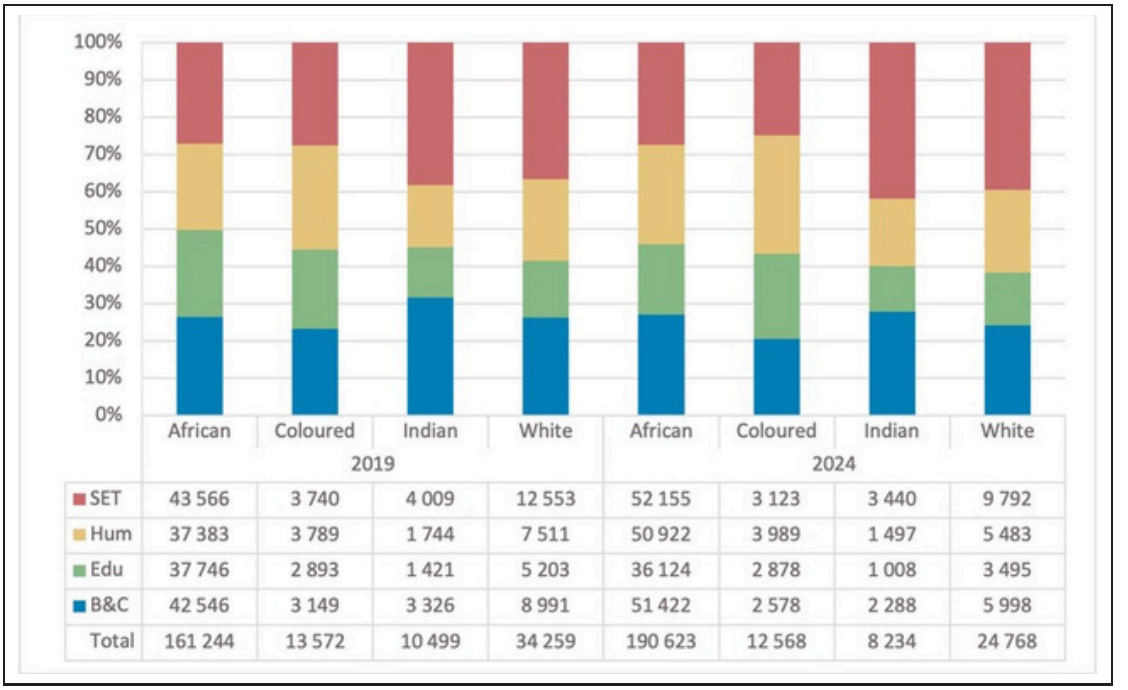
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
	2019				2024			
SET	237 113	16 594	17 215	48 776	265 674	13 609	14 788	37 393
Hum	214 714	18 893	7 885	28 721	258 593	18 386	6 271	19 193
Edu	171 442	13 276	5 837	20 055	165 453	12 657	3 678	11 081
B&C	207 527	13 600	12 393	29 203	244 080	10 949	8 581	18 965
Total	830 797	62 362	43 330	126 755	933 800	55 601	33 317	86 632

Figure 65: Public universities headcount graduates by field of study.



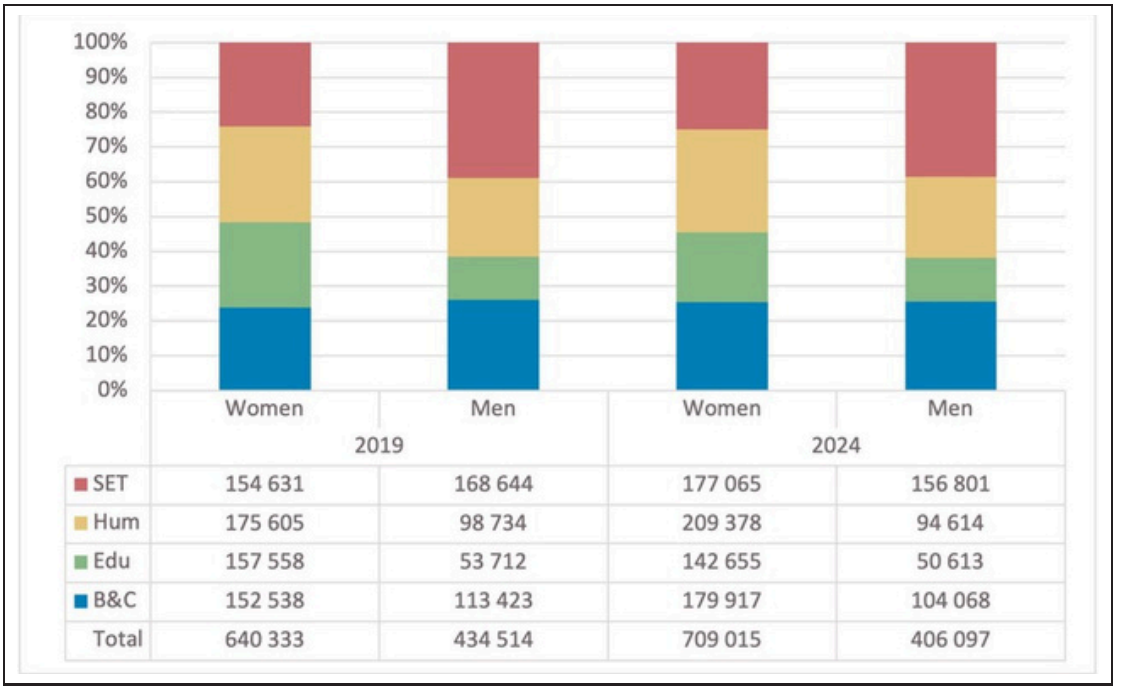
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SET	64 683	64 721	67 423	66 000	65 680	69 058
Hum	51 096	60 547	59 801	58 006	56 771	62 300
Edu	47 492	47 271	41 063	41 530	40 562	43 630
B&C	58 668	65 336	64 971	60 166	57 745	62 583

Figure 66: Public universities headcount graduates by field of study and race



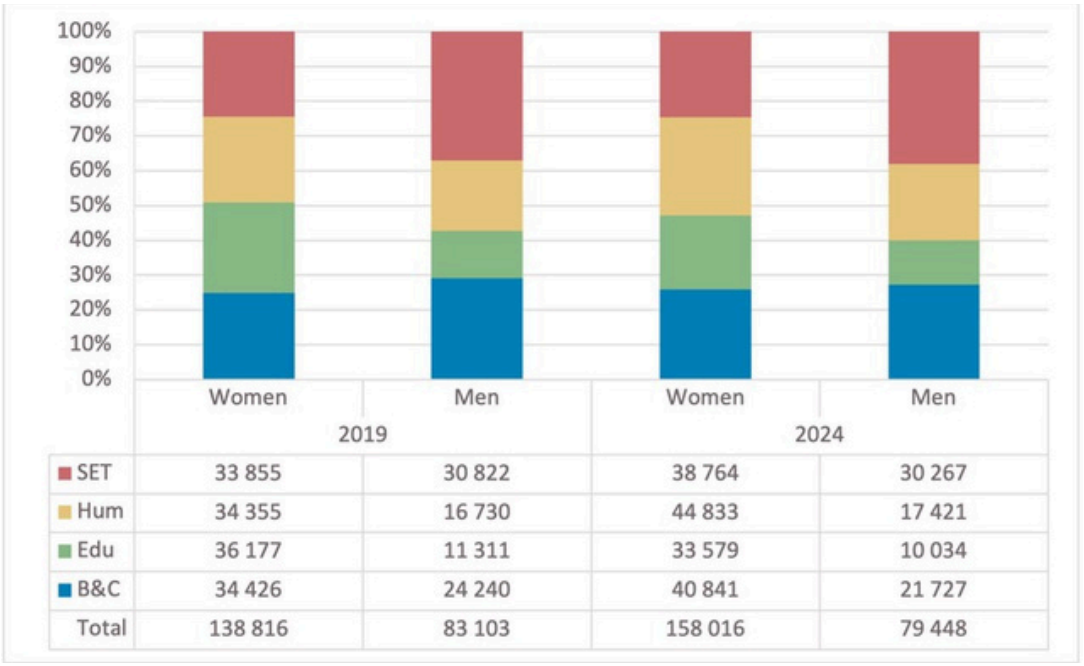
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
	2019				2024			
SET	43 566	3 740	4 009	12 553	52 155	3 123	3 440	9 792
Hum	37 383	3 789	1 744	7 511	50 922	3 989	1 497	5 483
Edu	37 746	2 893	1 421	5 203	36 124	2 878	1 008	3 495
B&C	42 546	3 149	3 326	8 991	51 422	2 578	2 288	5 998
Total	161 244	13 572	10 499	34 259	190 623	12 568	8 234	24 768

Figure 67: Public universities headcount enrolments by field of study and gender



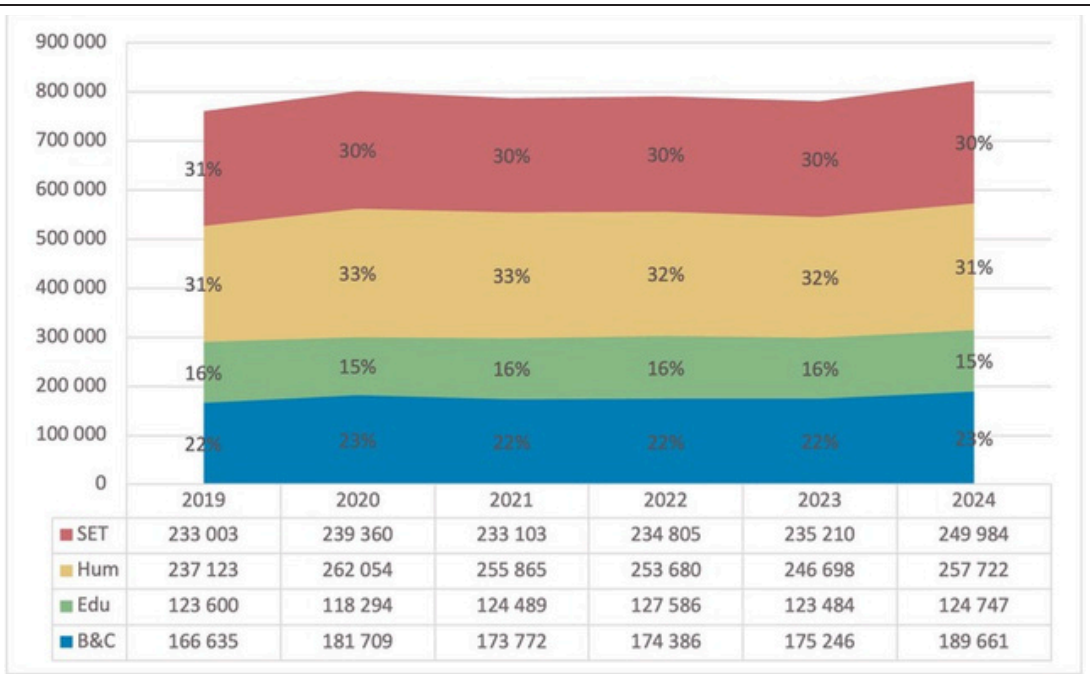
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	2019		2024	
SET	154 631	168 644	177 065	156 801
Hum	175 605	98 734	209 378	94 614
Edu	157 558	53 712	142 655	50 613
B&C	152 538	113 423	179 917	104 068
Total	640 333	434 514	709 015	406 097

Figure 68: Public universities headcount graduates by field of study and gender



	2019		2024	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
SET	33 855	30 822	38 764	30 267
Hum	34 355	16 730	44 833	17 421
Edu	36 177	11 311	33 579	10 034
B&C	34 426	24 240	40 841	21 727
Total	138 816	83 103	158 016	79 448

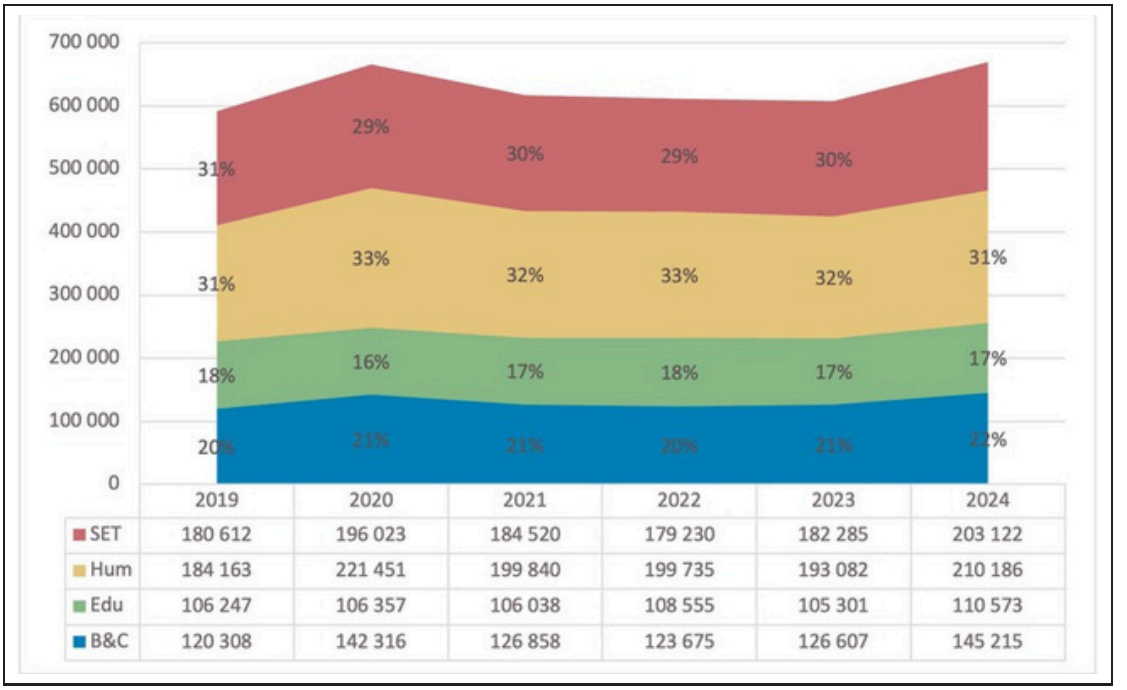
Figure 69: Public universities FTE enrolled by field of study



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SET	233 003	239 360	233 103	234 805	235 210	249 984
Hum	237 123	262 054	255 865	253 680	246 698	257 722
Edu	123 600	118 294	124 489	127 586	123 484	124 747
B&C	166 635	181 709	173 772	174 386	175 246	189 661

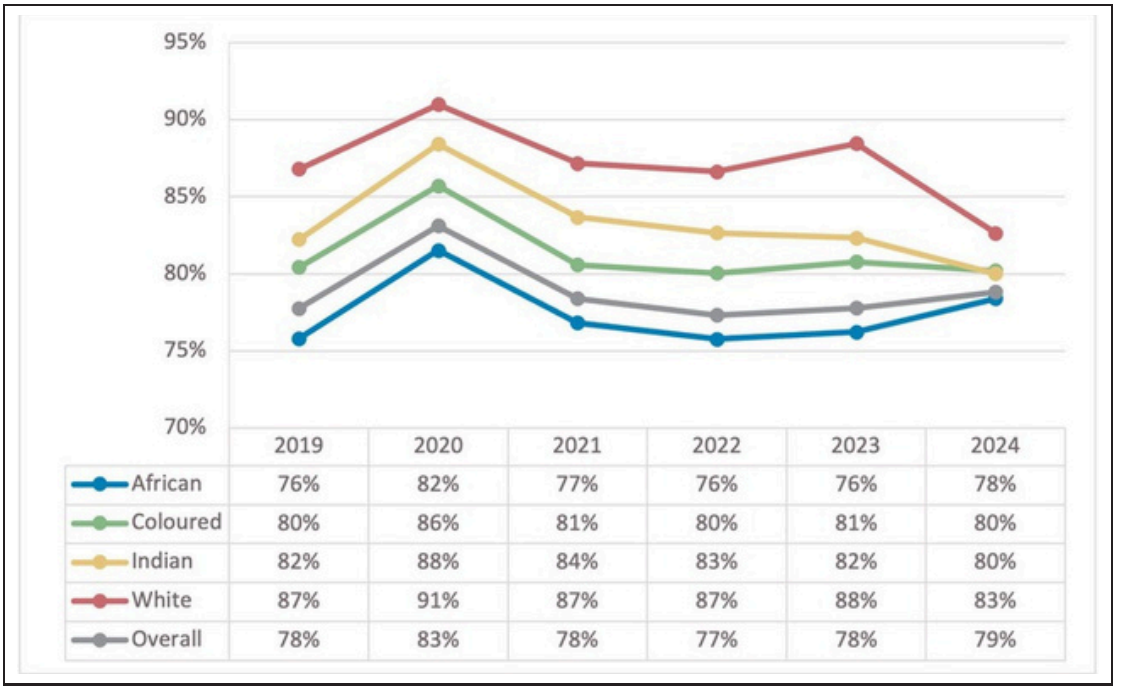
**** The CESM categories are listed in Appendix 2.***

Figure 70: Public universities FTE completed by field of study



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SET	180 612	196 023	184 520	179 230	182 285	203 122
Hum	184 163	221 451	199 840	199 735	193 082	210 186
Edu	106 247	106 357	106 038	108 555	105 301	110 573
B&C	120 308	142 316	126 858	123 675	126 607	145 215

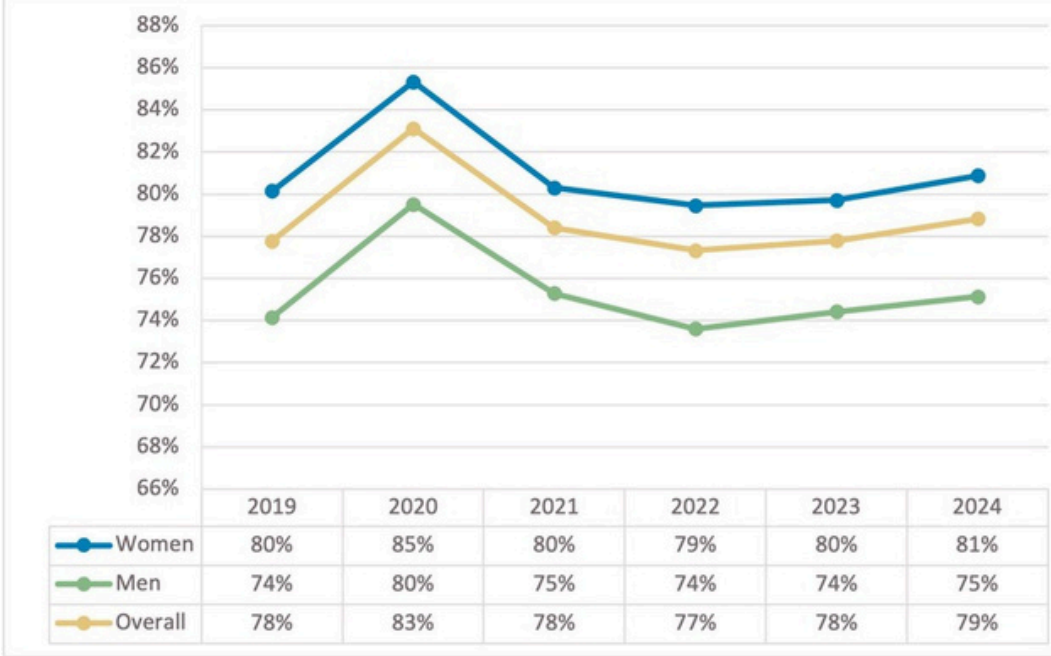
Figure 71: Course success rates by race



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	76%	82%	77%	76%	76%	78%
Coloured	80%	86%	81%	80%	81%	80%
Indian	82%	88%	84%	83%	82%	80%
White	87%	91%	87%	87%	88%	83%
Overall	78%	83%	78%	77%	78%	79%

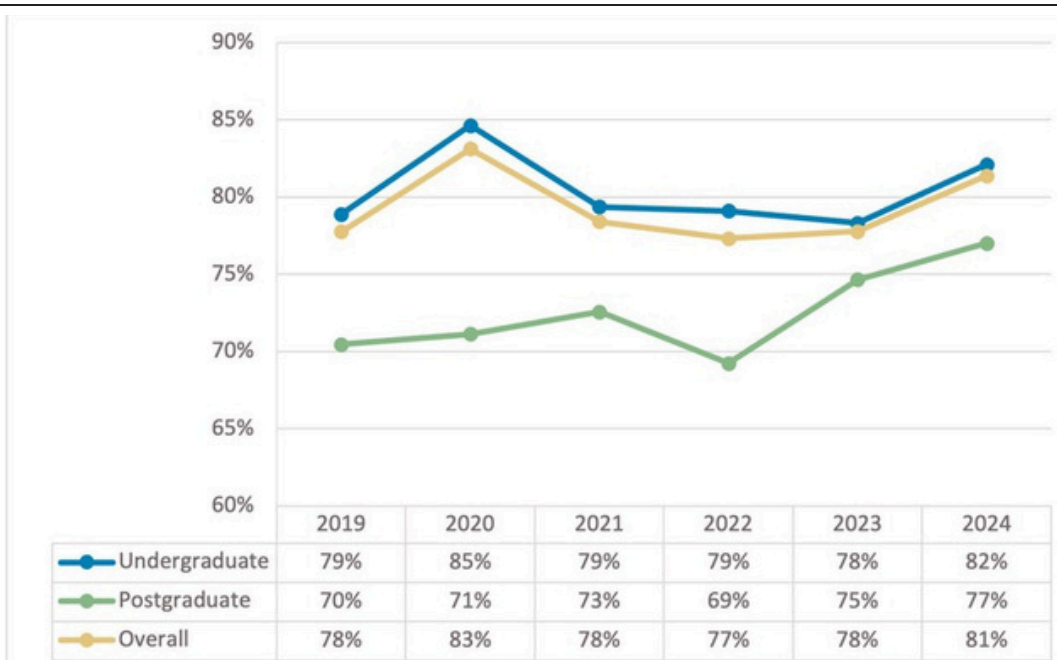
**** The CESM categories are listed in Appendix 2.***

Figure 72: Course success rates by gender



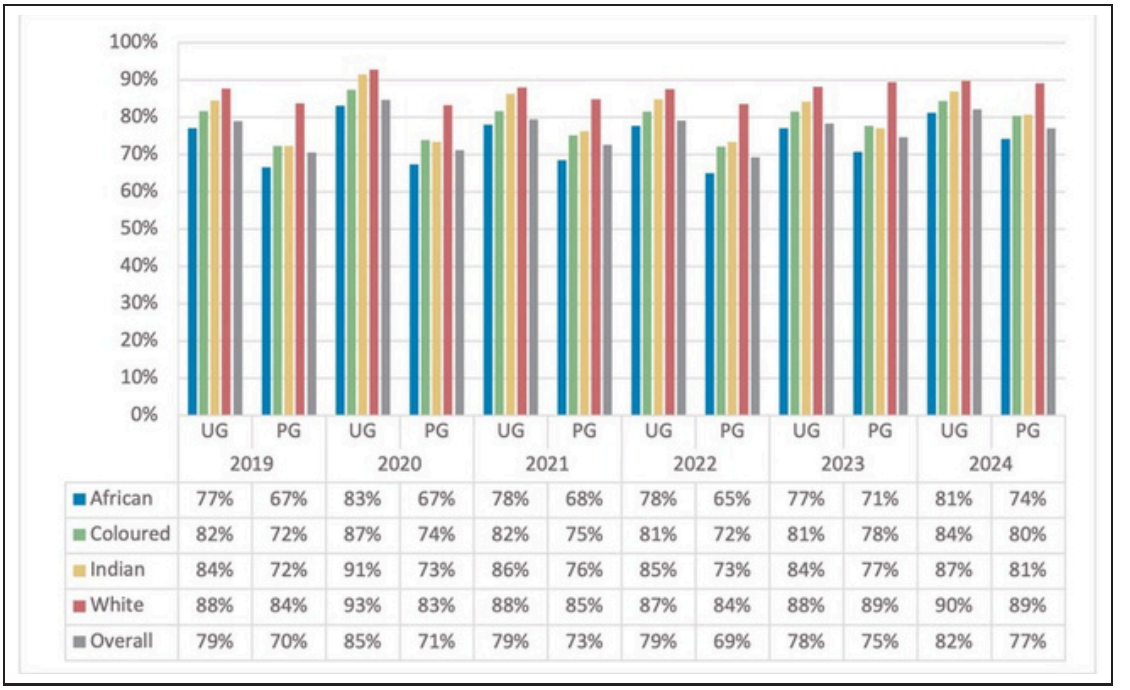
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	80%	85%	80%	79%	80%	81%
Men	74%	80%	75%	74%	74%	75%
Overall	78%	83%	78%	77%	78%	79%

Figure 73: Undergraduate and postgraduate course success rate



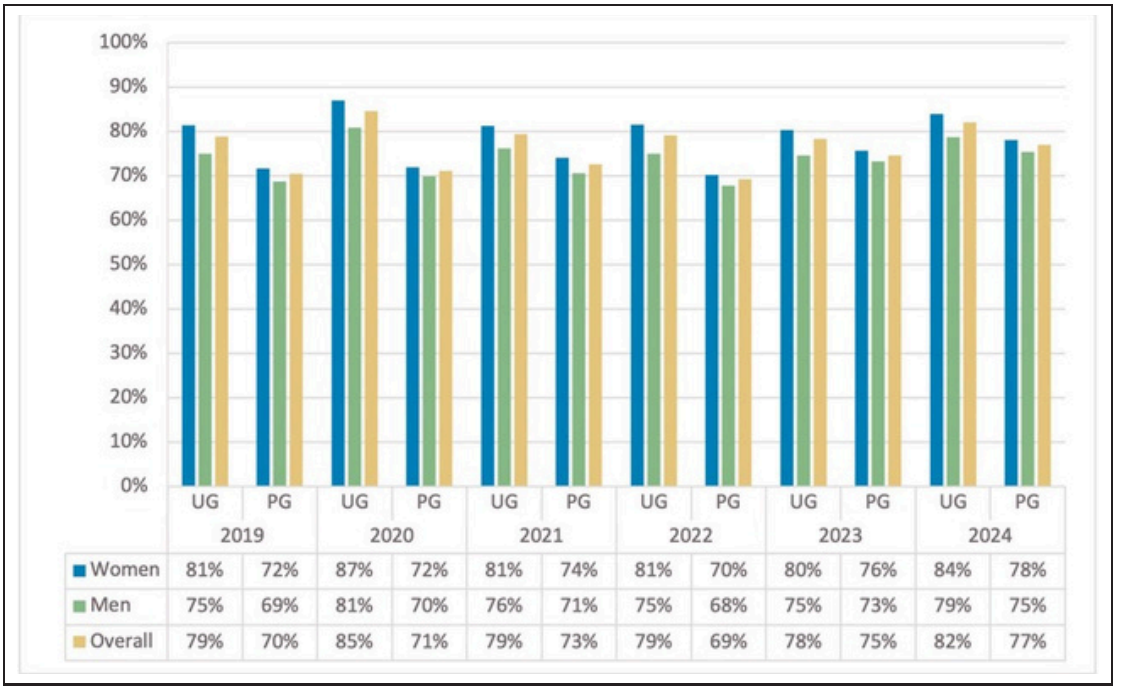
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Undergraduate	79%	85%	79%	79%	78%	82%
Postgraduate	70%	71%	73%	69%	75%	77%
Overall	78%	83%	78%	77%	78%	81%

Figure 74: Undergraduate and postgraduate course success rate by race



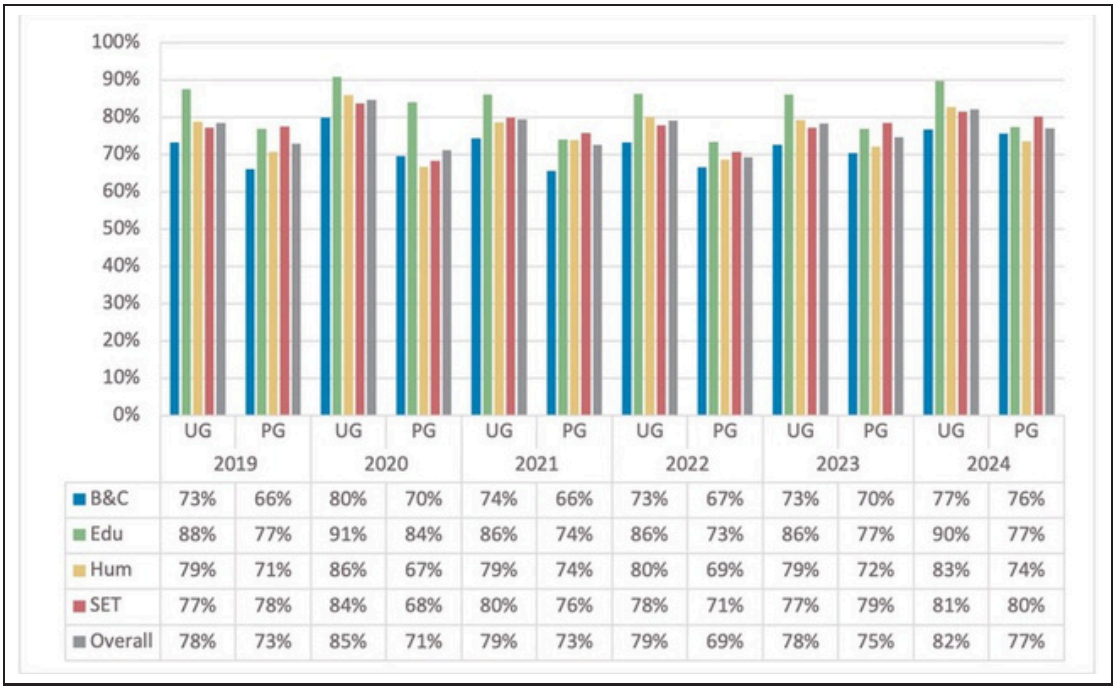
	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG
African	77%	67%	83%	67%	78%	68%	78%	65%	77%	71%	81%	74%
Coloured	82%	72%	87%	74%	82%	75%	81%	72%	81%	78%	84%	80%
Indian	84%	72%	91%	73%	86%	76%	85%	73%	84%	77%	87%	81%
White	88%	84%	93%	83%	88%	85%	87%	84%	88%	89%	90%	89%
Overall	79%	70%	85%	71%	79%	73%	79%	69%	78%	75%	82%	77%

Figure 75: Undergraduate and postgraduate course success rate by gender



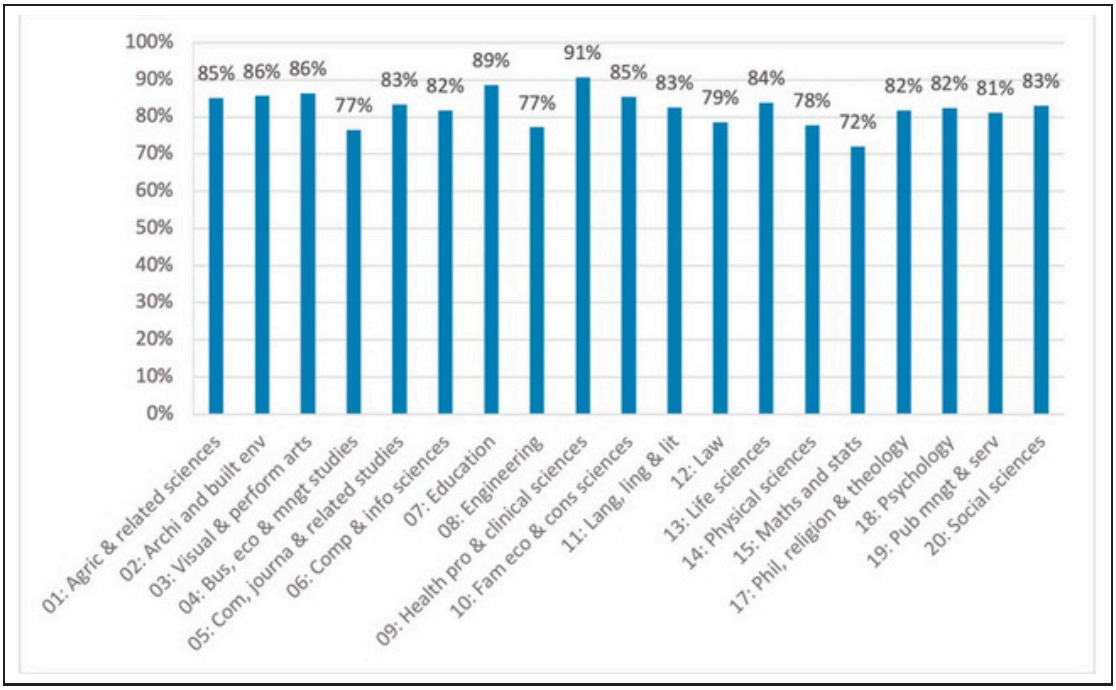
	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG
Women	81%	72%	87%	72%	81%	74%	81%	70%	80%	76%	84%	78%
Men	75%	69%	81%	70%	76%	71%	75%	68%	75%	73%	79%	75%
Overall	79%	70%	85%	71%	79%	73%	79%	69%	78%	75%	82%	77%

Figure 76: Undergraduate and postgraduate course success rate by CESM



	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG	UG	PG
B&C	73%	66%	80%	70%	74%	66%	73%	67%	73%	70%	77%	76%
Edu	88%	77%	91%	84%	86%	74%	86%	73%	86%	77%	90%	77%
Hum	79%	71%	86%	67%	79%	74%	80%	69%	79%	72%	83%	74%
SET	77%	78%	84%	68%	80%	76%	78%	71%	77%	79%	81%	80%
Overall	78%	73%	85%	71%	79%	73%	79%	69%	78%	75%	82%	77%

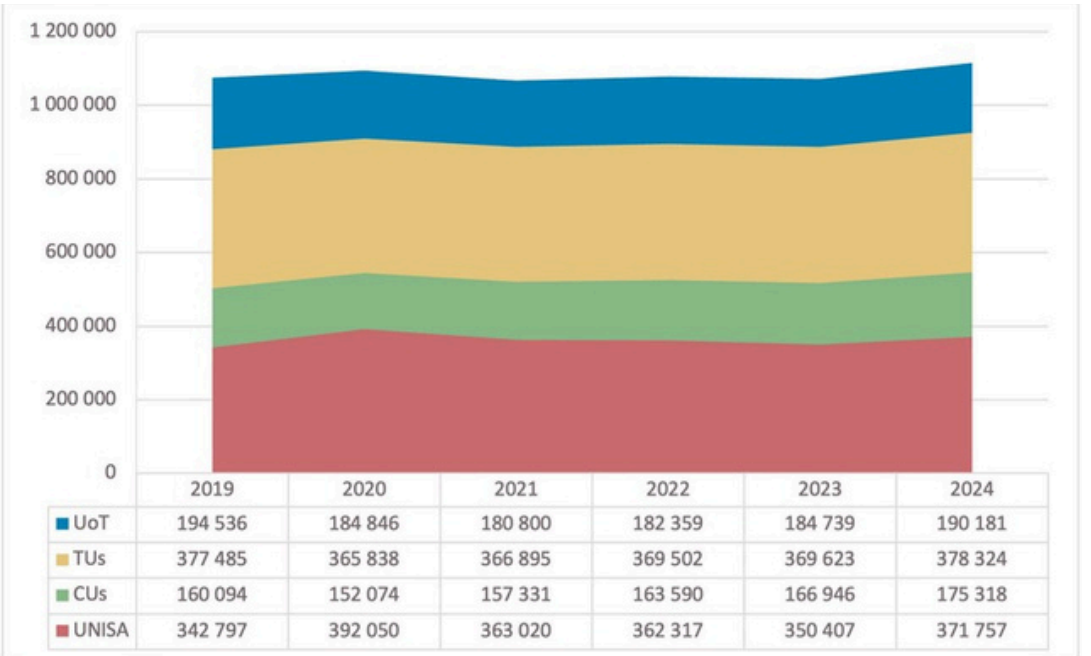
Figure 77: Course Success rates by field of study



**** The CESM categories are listed in Appendix 2.***

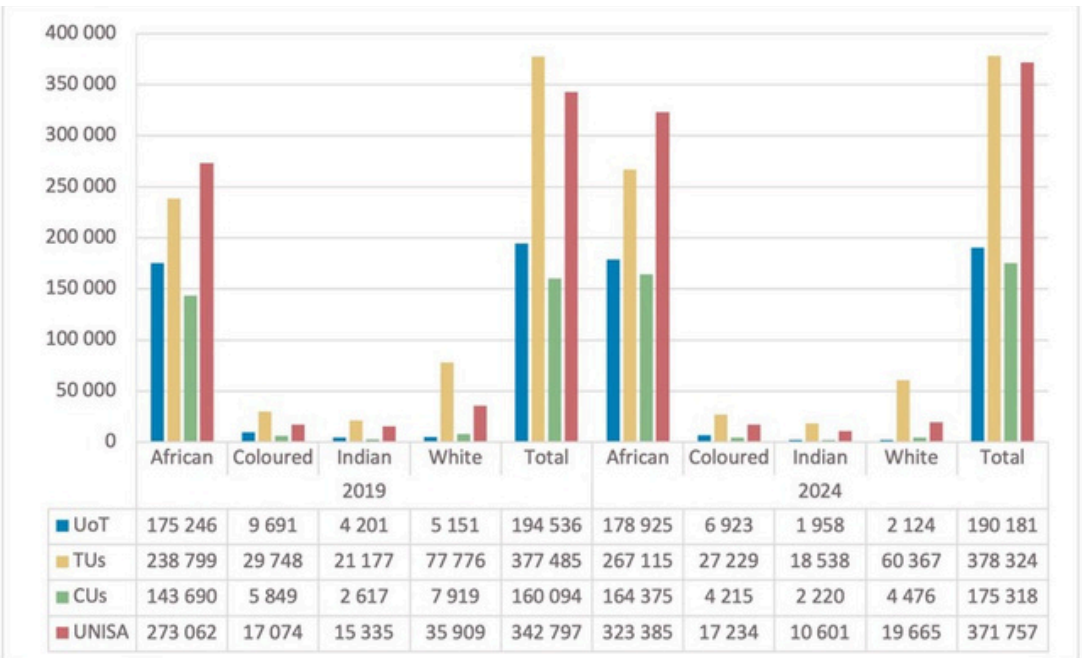
STUDENT DATA BY INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

Figure 78: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UoT	194 536	184 846	180 800	182 359	184 739	190 181
TUs	377 485	365 838	366 895	369 502	369 623	378 324
CUs	160 094	152 074	157 331	163 590	166 946	175 318
UNISA	342 797	392 050	363 020	362 317	350 407	371 757

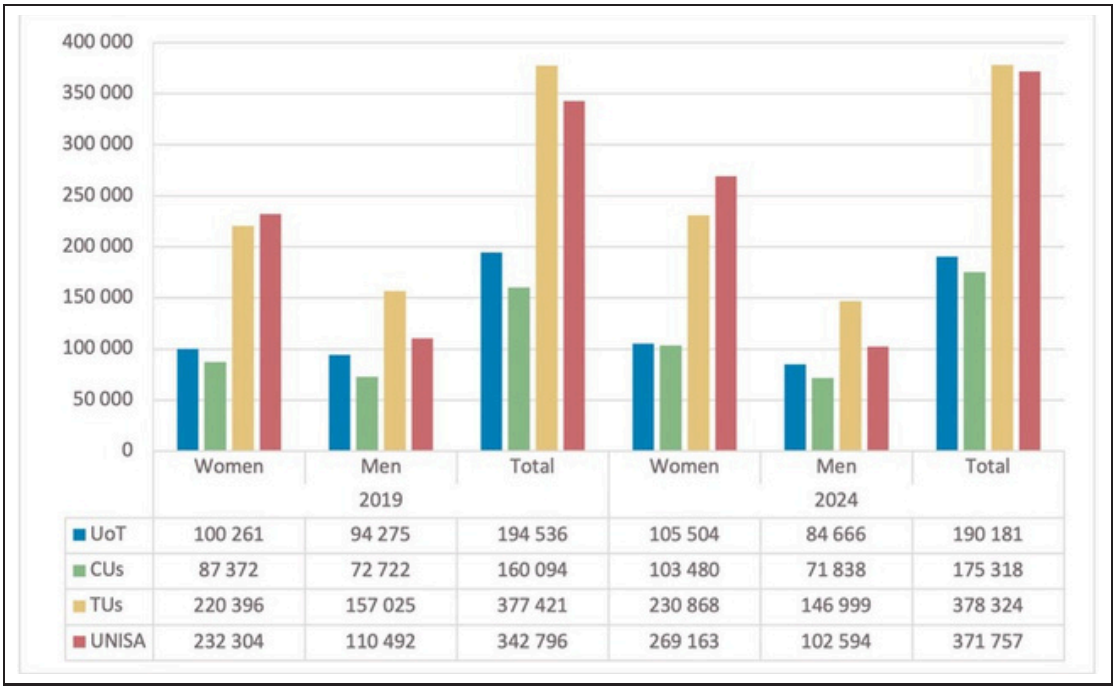
Figure 79: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type and race



	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
	2019					2024				
UoT	175 246	9 691	4 201	5 151	194 536	178 925	6 923	1 958	2 124	190 181
TUs	238 799	29 748	21 177	77 776	377 485	267 115	27 229	18 538	60 367	378 324
CUs	143 690	5 849	2 617	7 919	160 094	164 375	4 215	2 220	4 476	175 318
UNISA	273 062	17 074	15 335	35 909	342 797	323 385	17 234	10 601	19 665	371 757

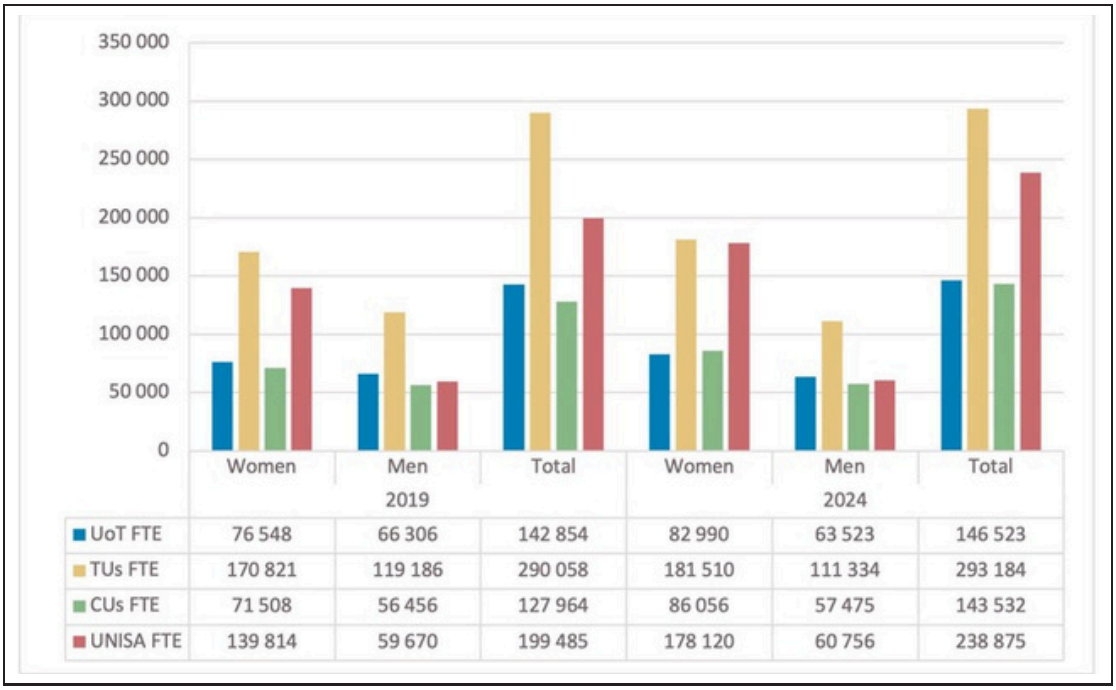
**** The Unknown category is not displayed, but not omitted. Rounded off percentages may not always add up to 100%. The most recent HEMIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2025.***

Figure 80: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type and gender



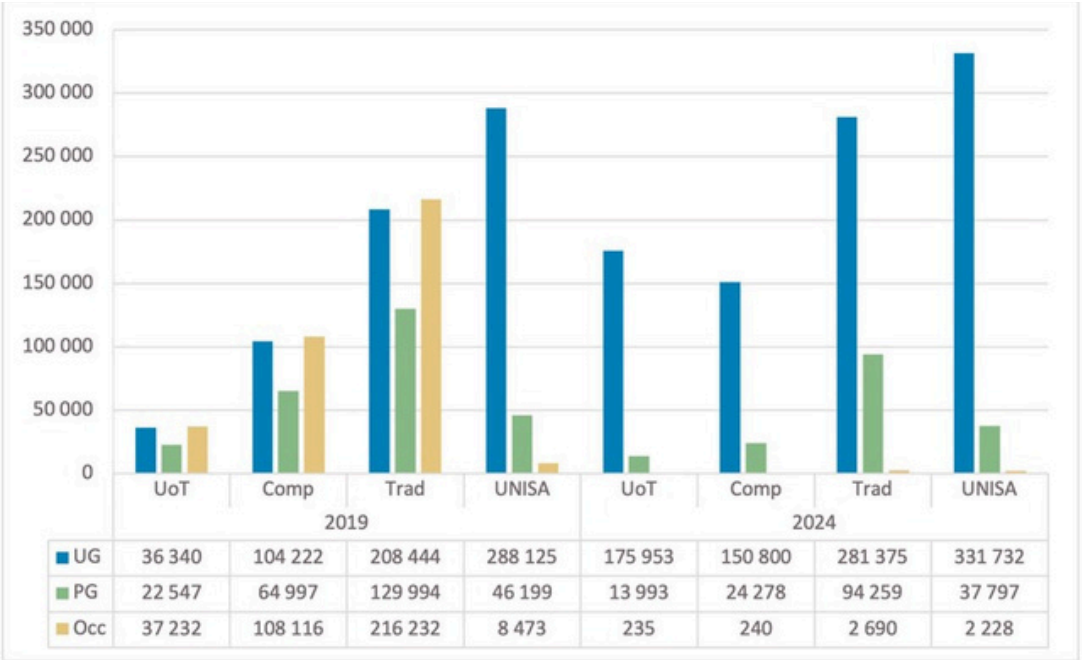
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
		2019			2024	
UoT	100 261	94 275	194 536	105 504	84 666	190 181
CUs	87 372	72 722	160 094	103 480	71 838	175 318
TUs	220 396	157 025	377 421	230 868	146 999	378 324
UNISA	232 304	110 492	342 796	269 163	102 594	371 757

Figure 81: Public universities FTE Enrolled by institutional type and gender



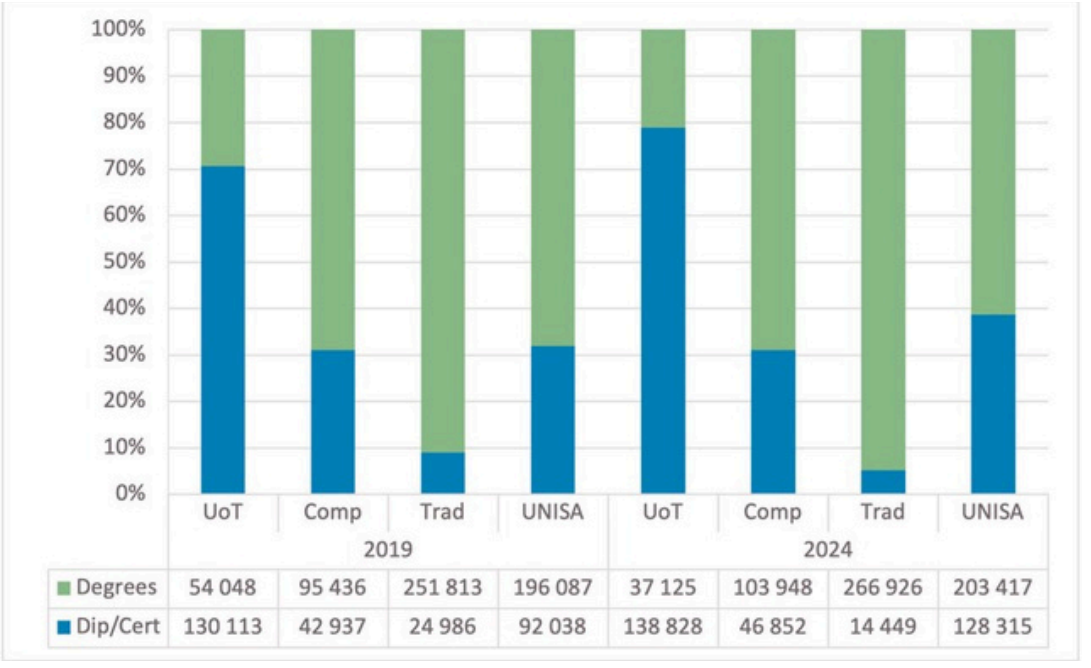
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
		2019			2024	
UoT FTE	76 548	66 306	142 854	82 990	63 523	146 523
TUs FTE	170 821	119 186	290 058	181 510	111 334	293 184
CUs FTE	71 508	56 456	127 964	86 056	57 475	143 532
UNISA FTE	139 814	59 670	199 485	178 120	60 756	238 875

Figure 82: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type and qualification level



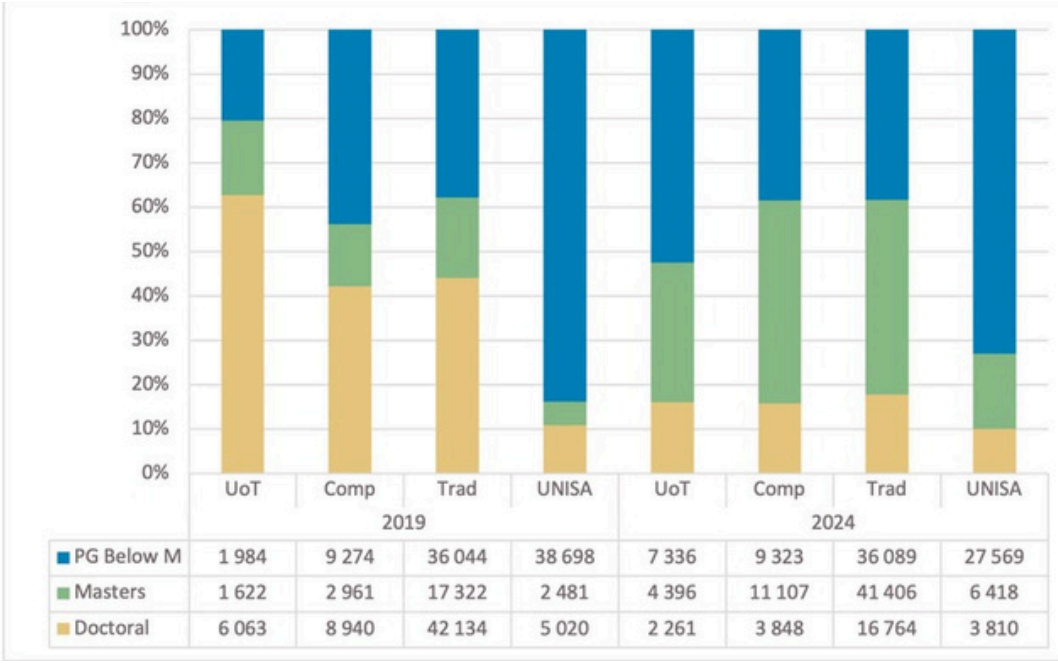
	2019				2024			
	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA
UG	36 340	104 222	208 444	288 125	175 953	150 800	281 375	331 732
PG	22 547	64 997	129 994	46 199	13 993	24 278	94 259	37 797
Occ	37 232	108 116	216 232	8 473	235	240	2 690	2 228

Figure 83: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type and undergraduate qualification type



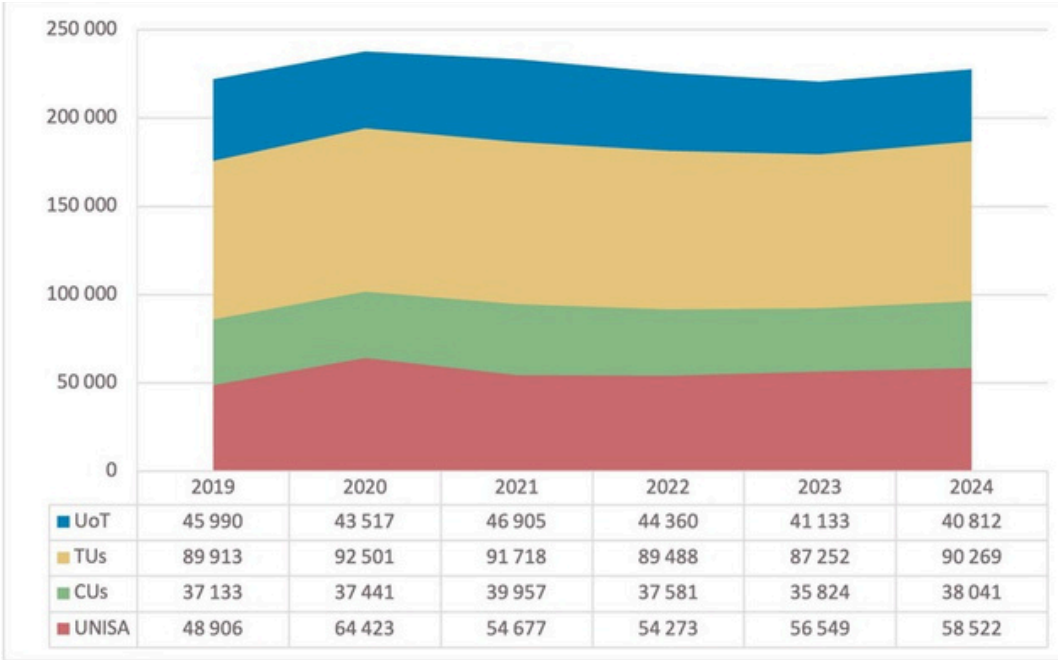
	2019				2024			
	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA
Degrees	54 048	95 436	251 813	196 087	37 125	103 948	266 926	203 417
Dip/Cert	130 113	42 937	24 986	92 038	138 828	46 852	14 449	128 315

Figure 84: Public universities headcount enrolments by institutional type and postgraduate qualification type



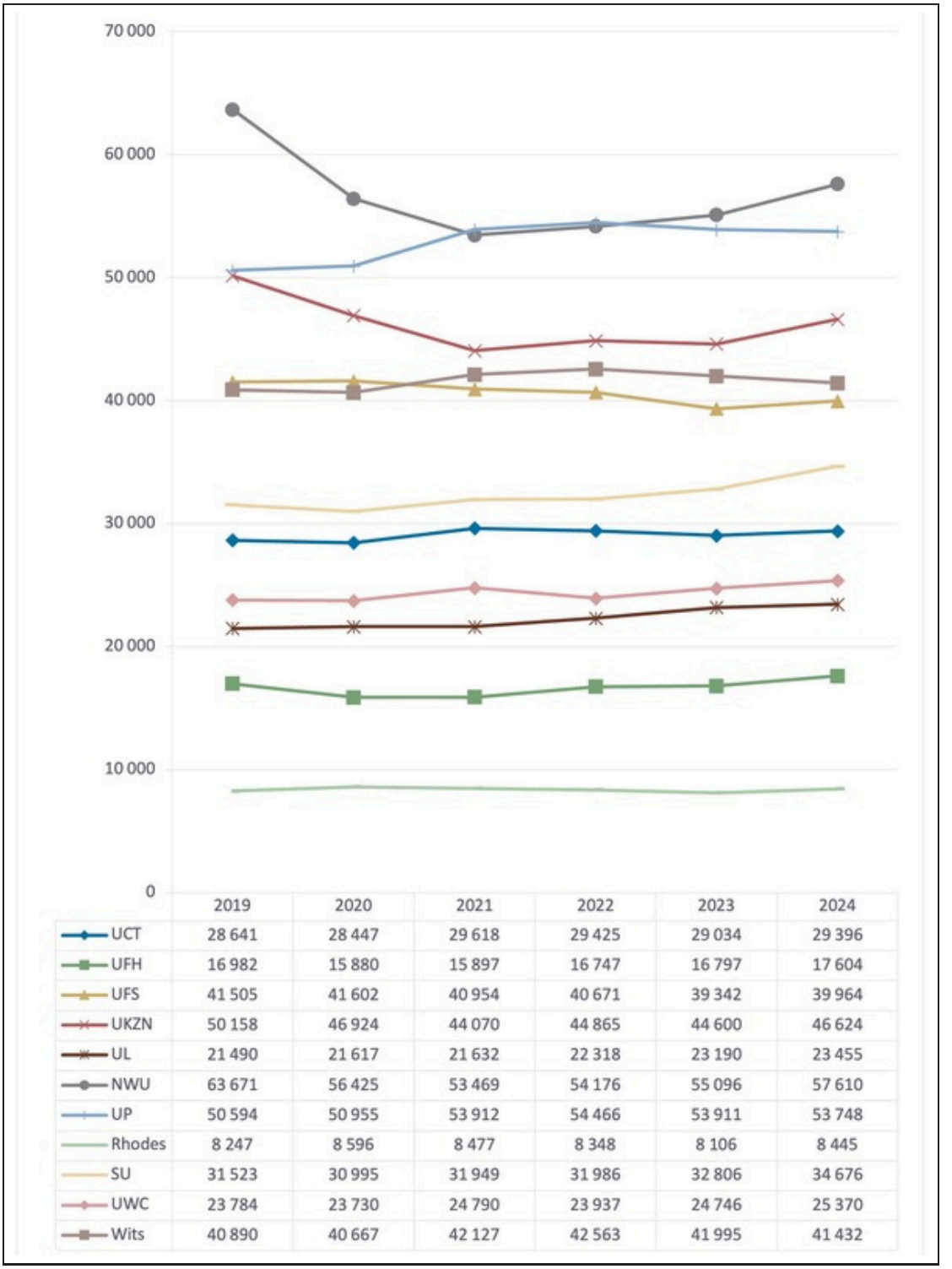
	2019				2024			
	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA	UoT	Comp	Trad	UNISA
PG Below M	1 984	9 274	36 044	38 698	7 336	9 323	36 089	27 569
Masters	1 622	2 961	17 322	2 481	4 396	11 107	41 406	6 418
Doctoral	6 063	8 940	42 134	5 020	2 261	3 848	16 764	3 810

Figure 85: Public universities headcount graduates by institutional type



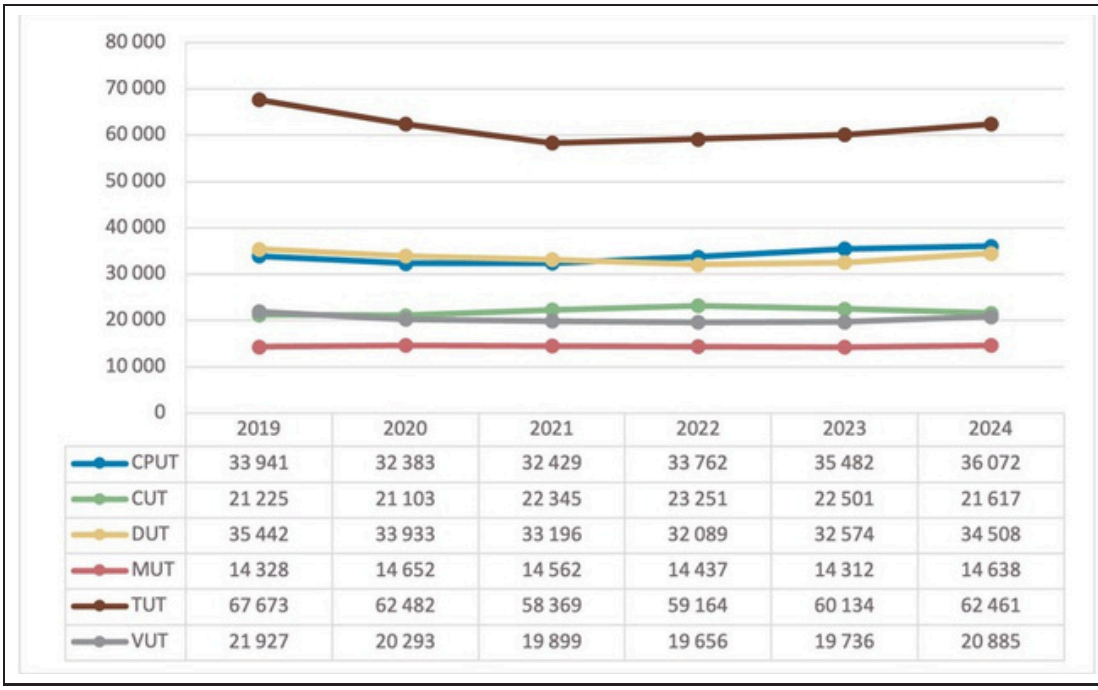
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UoT	45 990	43 517	46 905	44 360	41 133	40 812
TUs	89 913	92 501	91 718	89 488	87 252	90 269
CUs	37 133	37 441	39 957	37 581	35 824	38 041
UNISA	48 906	64 423	54 677	54 273	56 549	58 522

Figure 86: Public universities headcount enrolments by institution, Traditional Universities



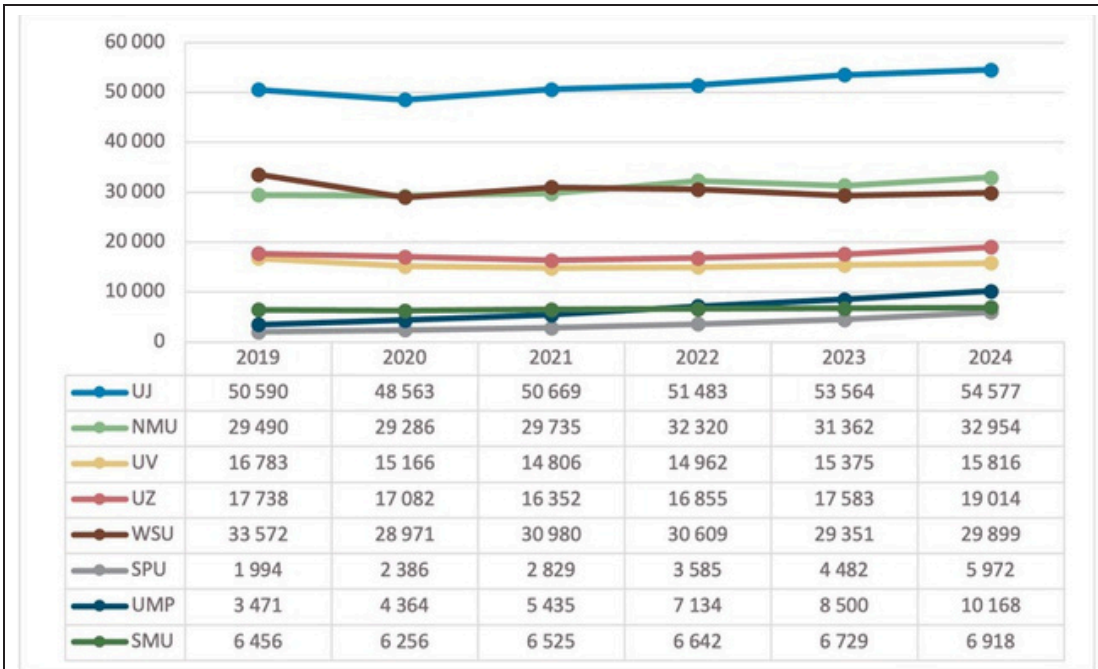
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UCT	28 641	28 447	29 618	29 425	29 034	29 396
UFH	16 982	15 880	15 897	16 747	16 797	17 604
UFS	41 505	41 602	40 954	40 671	39 342	39 964
UKZN	50 158	46 924	44 070	44 865	44 600	46 624
UL	21 490	21 617	21 632	22 318	23 190	23 455
NWU	63 671	56 425	53 469	54 176	55 096	57 610
UP	50 594	50 955	53 912	54 466	53 911	53 748
Rhodes	8 247	8 596	8 477	8 348	8 106	8 445
SU	31 523	30 995	31 949	31 986	32 806	34 676
UWC	23 784	23 730	24 790	23 937	24 746	25 370
Wits	40 890	40 667	42 127	42 563	41 995	41 432

Figure 87: Public universities headcount enrolments by institution, Universities of Technology



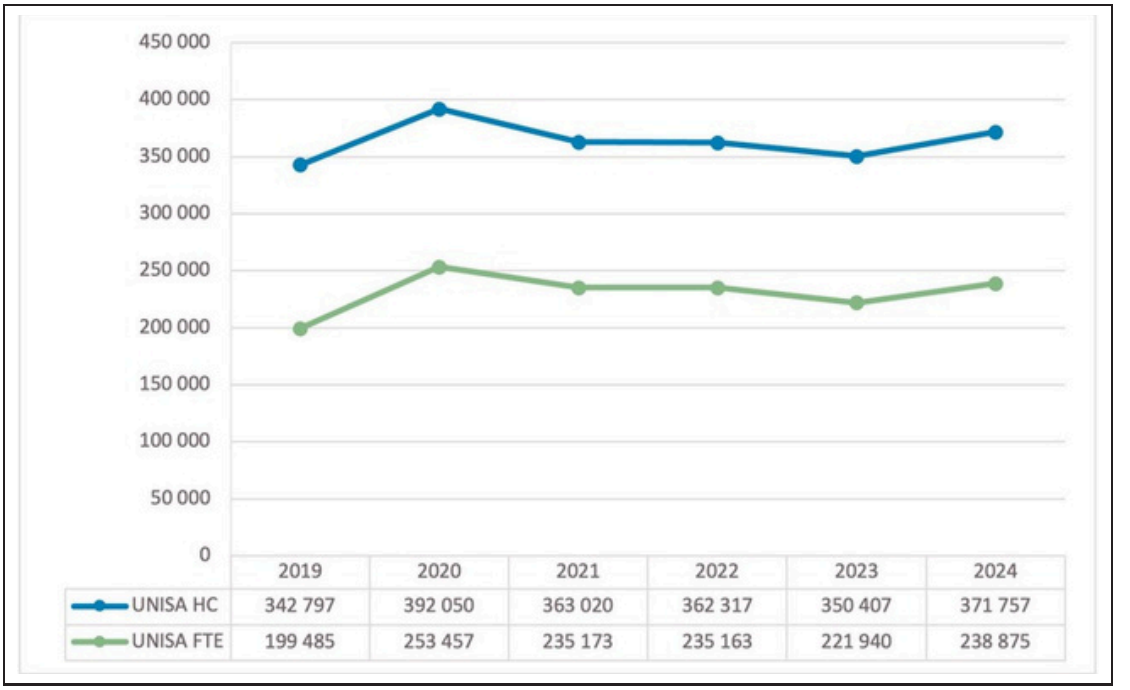
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CPUT	33 941	32 383	32 429	33 762	35 482	36 072
CUT	21 225	21 103	22 345	23 251	22 501	21 617
DUT	35 442	33 933	33 196	32 089	32 574	34 508
MUT	14 328	14 652	14 562	14 437	14 312	14 638
TUT	67 673	62 482	58 369	59 164	60 134	62 461
VUT	21 927	20 293	19 899	19 656	19 736	20 885

Figure 88: Public universities headcount enrolments by institution, Comprehensive Universities



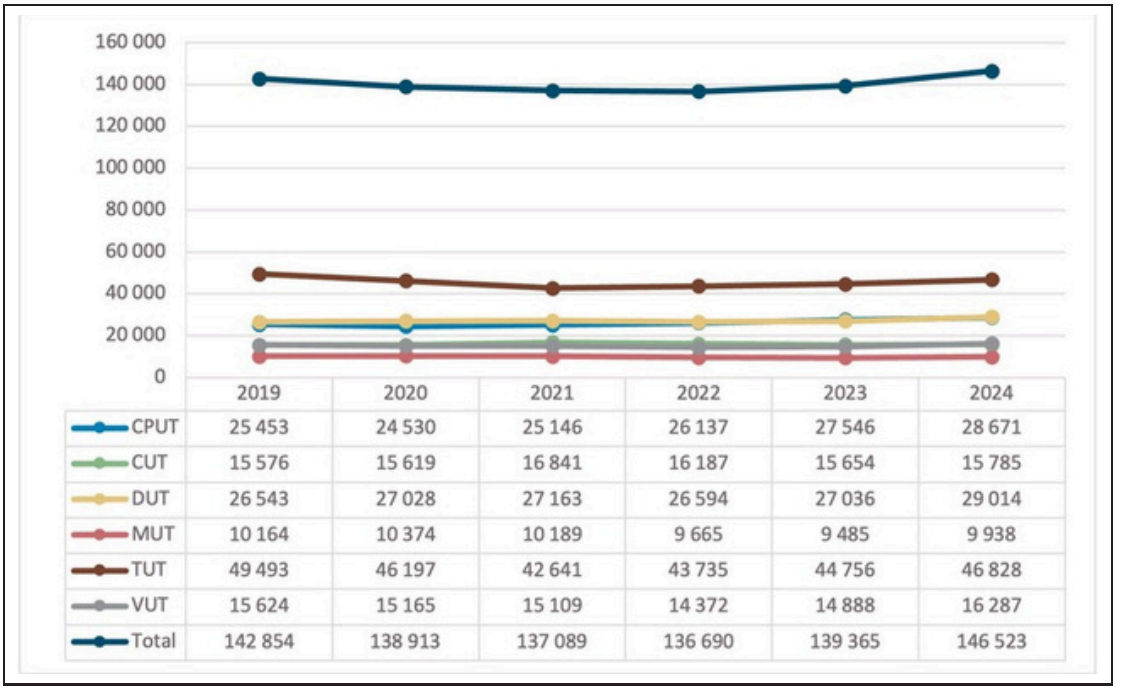
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UJ	50 590	48 563	50 669	51 483	53 564	54 577
NMU	29 490	29 286	29 735	32 320	31 362	32 954
UV	16 783	15 166	14 806	14 962	15 375	15 816
UZ	17 738	17 082	16 352	16 855	17 583	19 014
WSU	33 572	28 971	30 980	30 609	29 351	29 899
SPU	1 994	2 386	2 829	3 585	4 482	5 972
UMP	3 471	4 364	5 435	7 134	8 500	10 168
SMU	6 456	6 256	6 525	6 642	6 729	6 918

Figure 89: Public universities headcount vs FTE enrolments at UNISA



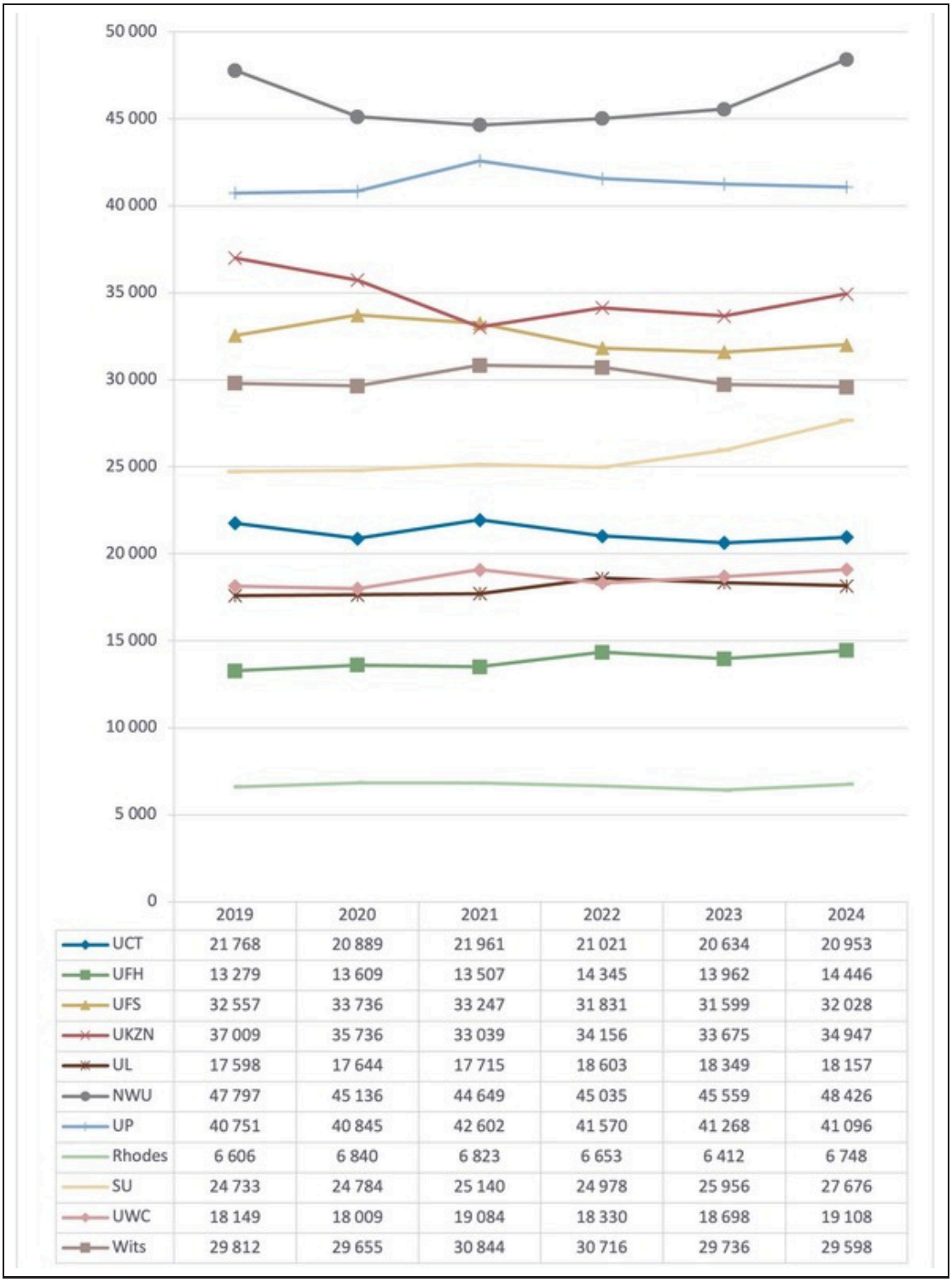
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UNISA HC	342 797	392 050	363 020	362 317	350 407	371 757
UNISA FTE	199 485	253 457	235 173	235 163	221 940	238 875

Figure 90: FTE enrolments by institution, Universities of Technology



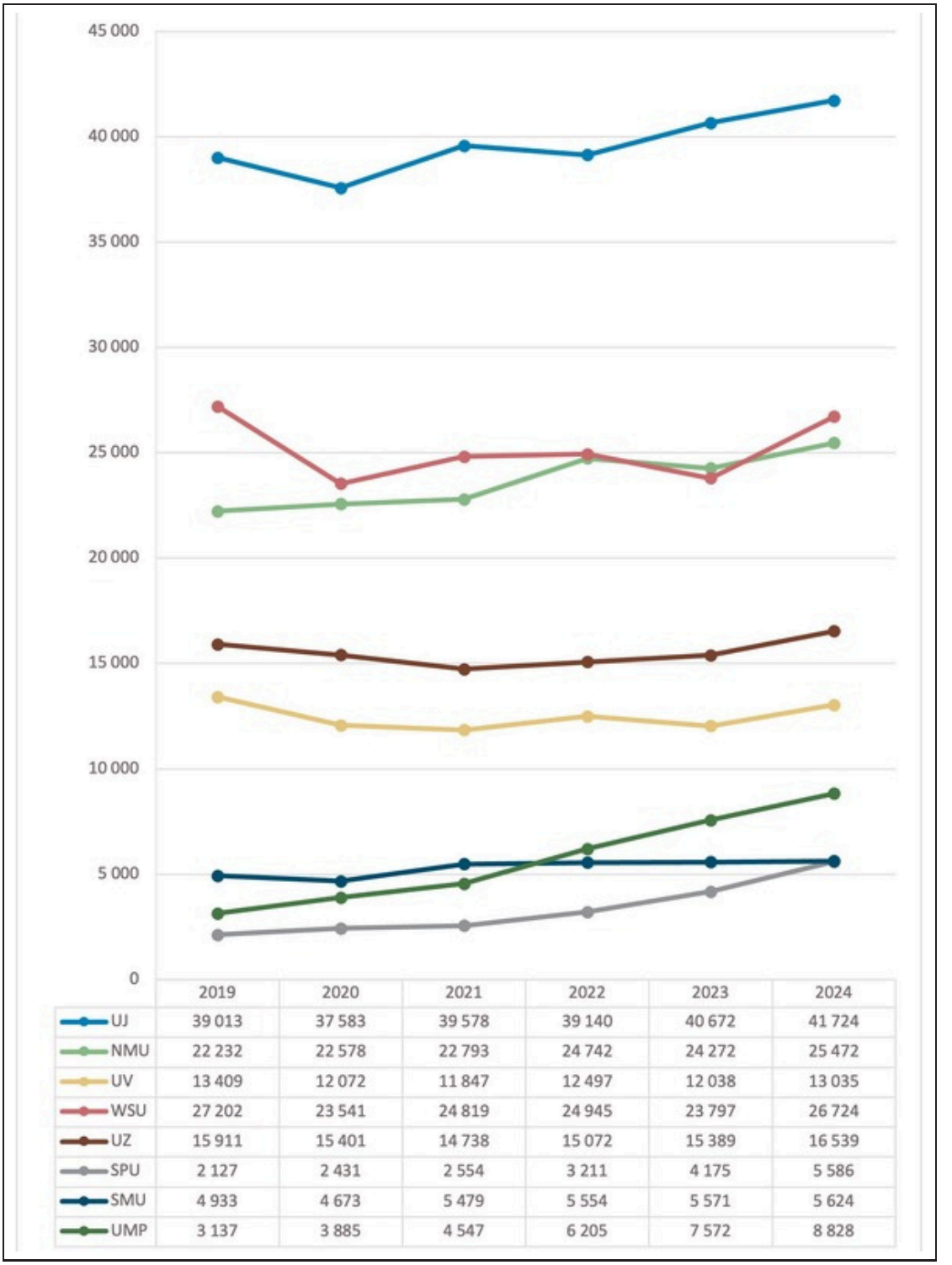
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CPUT	25 453	24 530	25 146	26 137	27 546	28 671
CUT	15 576	15 619	16 841	16 187	15 654	15 785
DUT	26 543	27 028	27 163	26 594	27 036	29 014
MUT	10 164	10 374	10 189	9 665	9 485	9 938
TUT	49 493	46 197	42 641	43 735	44 756	46 828
VUT	15 624	15 165	15 109	14 372	14 888	16 287
Total	142 854	138 913	137 089	136 690	139 365	146 523

Figure 91: FTE enrolments by institution, Traditional Universities



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UCT	21 768	20 889	21 961	21 021	20 634	20 953
UFH	13 279	13 609	13 507	14 345	13 962	14 446
UFS	32 557	33 736	33 247	31 831	31 599	32 028
UKZN	37 009	35 736	33 039	34 156	33 675	34 947
UL	17 598	17 644	17 715	18 603	18 349	18 157
NWU	47 797	45 136	44 649	45 035	45 559	48 426
UP	40 751	40 845	42 602	41 570	41 268	41 096
Rhodes	6 606	6 840	6 823	6 653	6 412	6 748
SU	24 733	24 784	25 140	24 978	25 956	27 676
UWC	18 149	18 009	19 084	18 330	18 698	19 108
Wits	29 812	29 655	30 844	30 716	29 736	29 598

Figure 92: FTE enrolments by institution, Comprehensive Universities

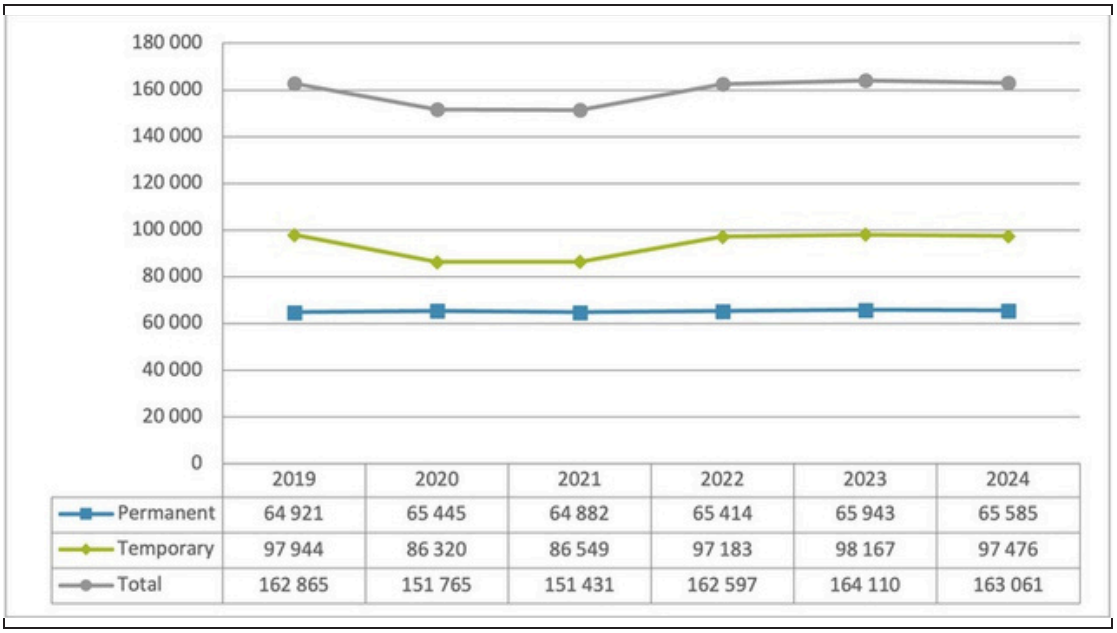


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UJ	39 013	37 583	39 578	39 140	40 672	41 724
NMU	22 232	22 578	22 793	24 742	24 272	25 472
UV	13 409	12 072	11 847	12 497	12 038	13 035
WSU	27 202	23 541	24 819	24 945	23 797	26 724
UZ	15 911	15 401	14 738	15 072	15 389	16 539
SPU	2 127	2 431	2 554	3 211	4 175	5 586
SMU	4 933	4 673	5 479	5 554	5 571	5 624
UMP	3 137	3 885	4 547	6 205	7 572	8 828

STAFF COMPLEMENT

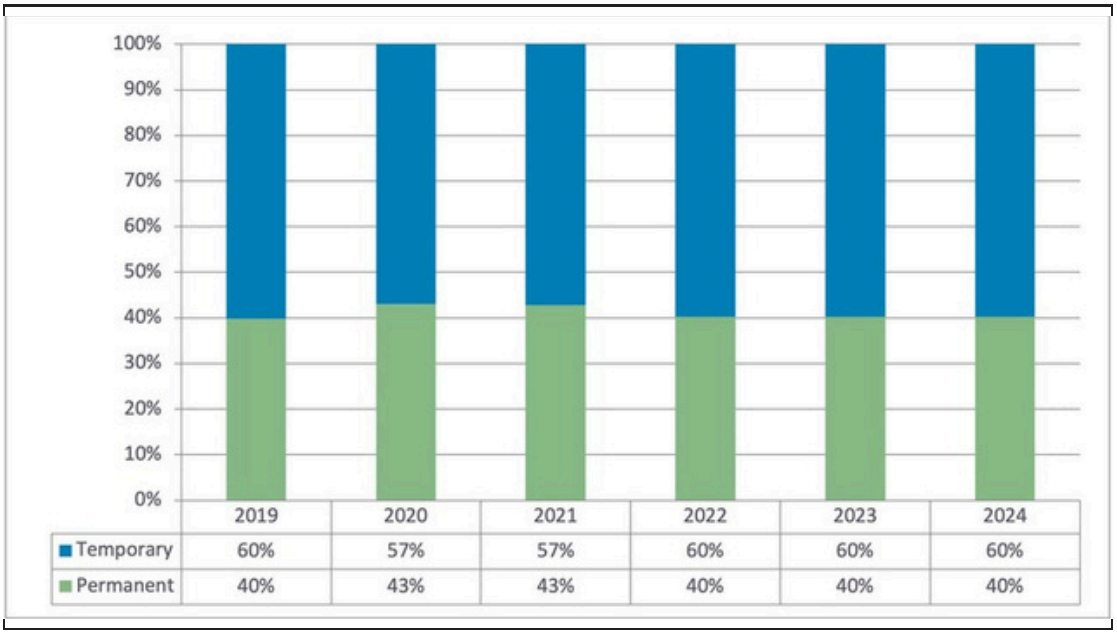
Overall Staffing*

Figure 93: Headcountpermanent vs. temporary staff members



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	64 921	65 445	64 882	65 414	65 943	65 585
Temporary	97 944	86 320	86 549	97 183	98 167	97 476
Total	162 865	151 765	151 431	162 597	164 110	163 061

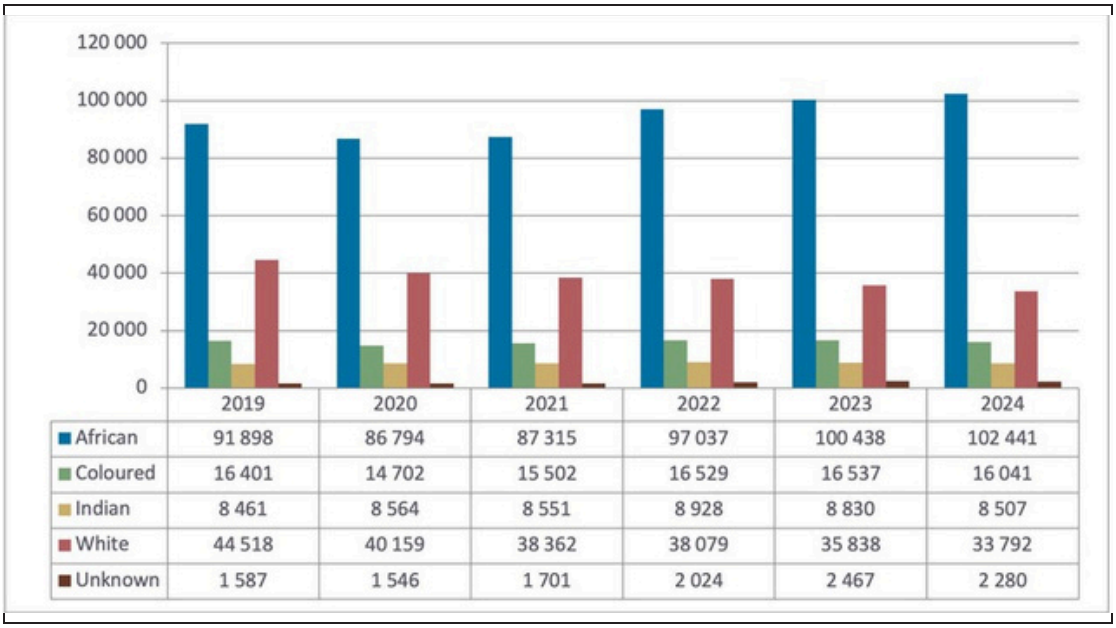
Figure 94: Proportion of permanent vs. temporary staff members



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Temporary	60%	57%	57%	60%	60%	60%
Permanent	40%	43%	43%	40%	40%	40%

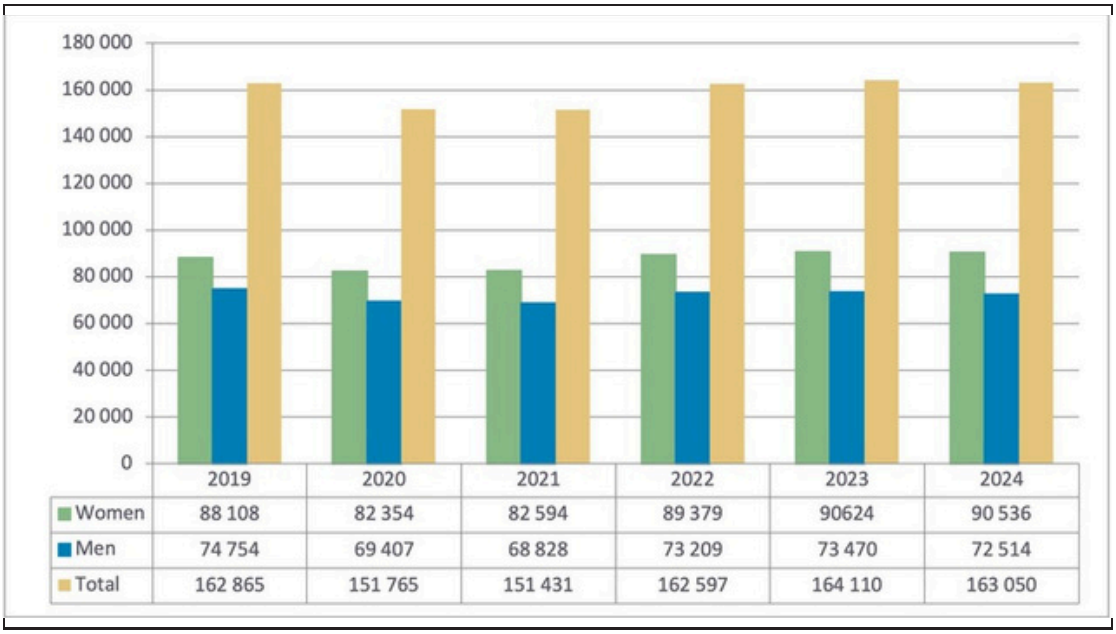
**** The Unknown category is not displayed, but not omitted. Rounded off percentages may not always add up to 100%. The most recent HEMIS data in this section were extracted by DHET in December 2024.***

Figure 95: Headcount overall staff members by race



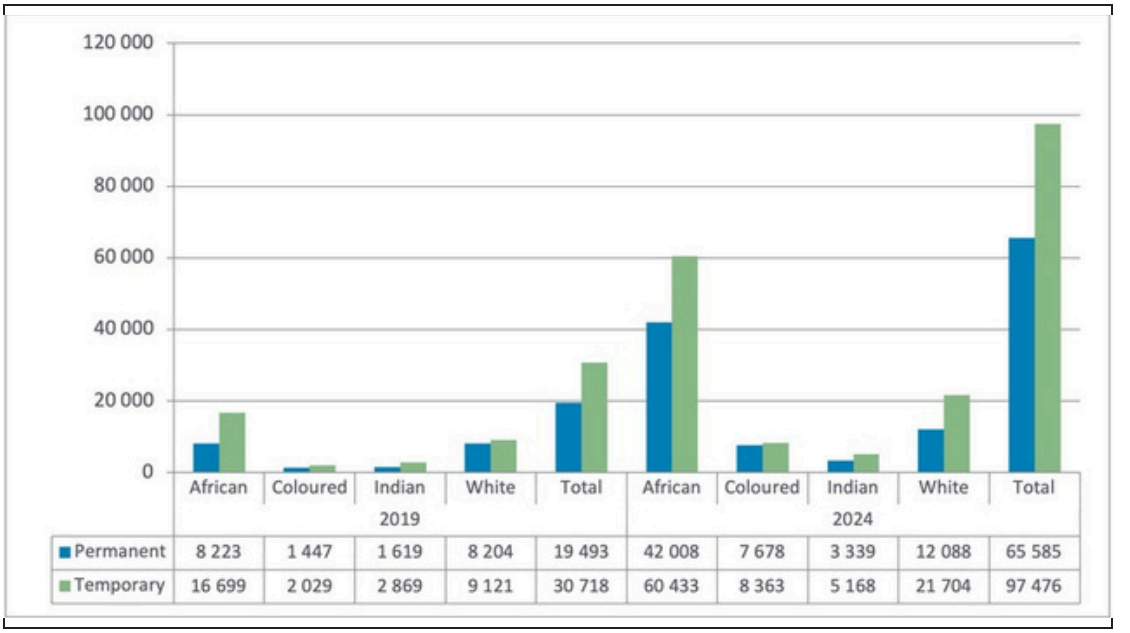
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	91 898	86 794	87 315	97 037	100 438	102 441
Coloured	16 401	14 702	15 502	16 529	16 537	16 041
Indian	8 461	8 564	8 551	8 928	8 830	8 507
White	44 518	40 159	38 362	38 079	35 838	33 792
Unknown	1 587	1 546	1 701	2 024	2 467	2 280

Figure 96: Headcount overall staff by gender



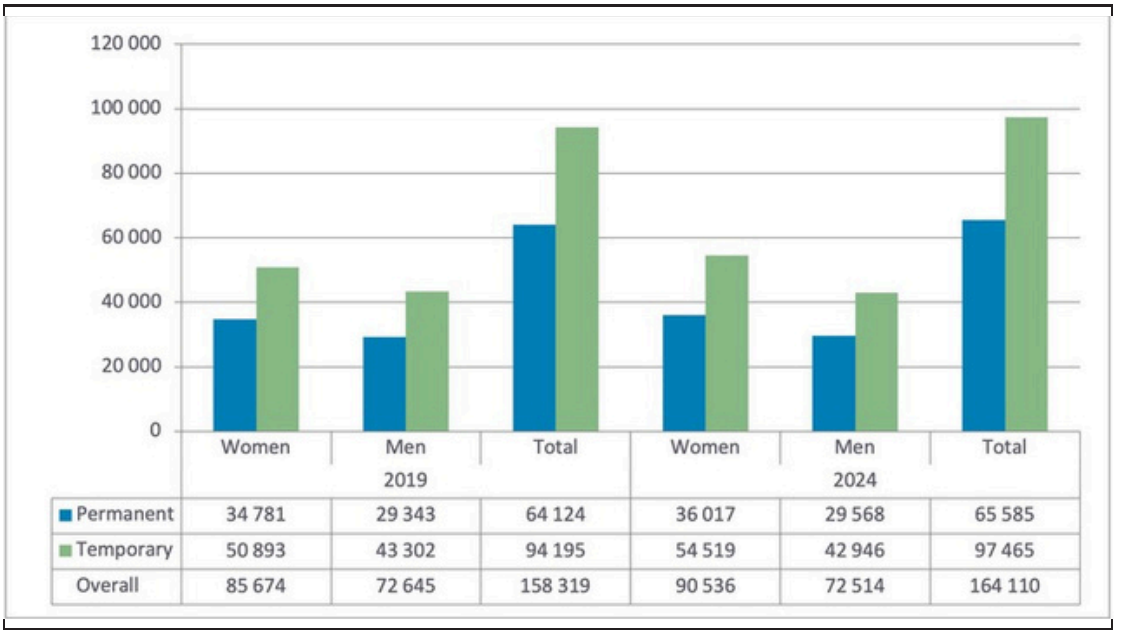
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	88 108	82 354	82 594	89 379	90624	90 536
Men	74 754	69 407	68 828	73 209	73 470	72 514
Total	162 865	151 765	151 431	162 597	164 110	163 050

Figure 97: Headcount overall staff members by race and employment type



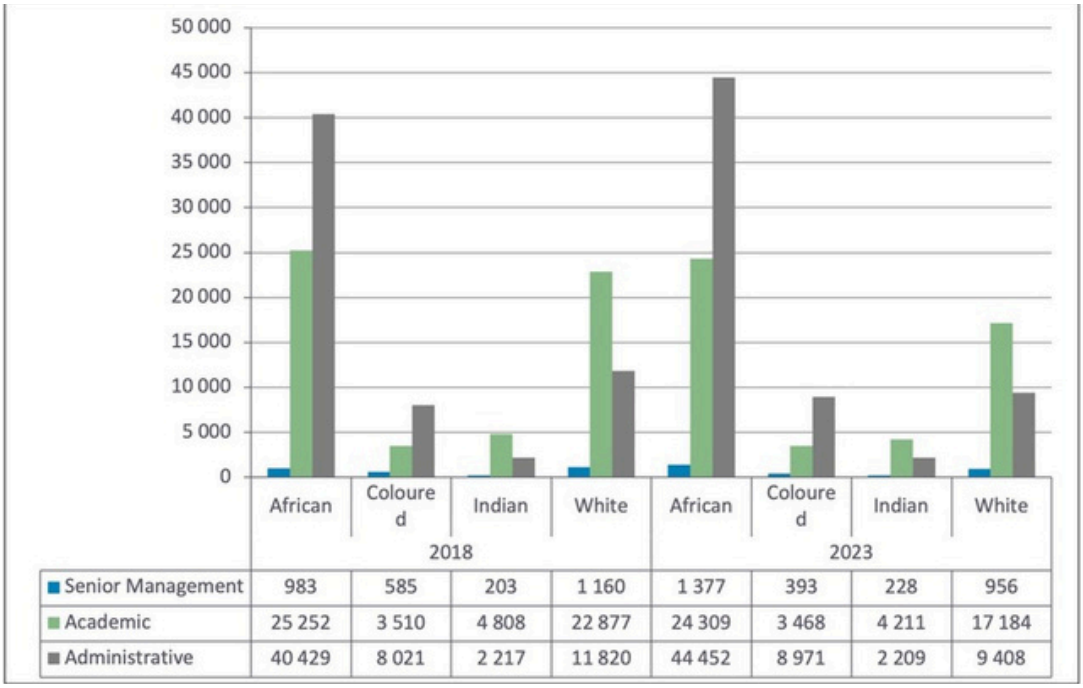
	2019					2024				
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Permanent	8 223	1 447	1 619	8 204	19 493	42 008	7 678	3 339	12 088	65 585
Temporary	16 699	2 029	2 869	9 121	30 718	60 433	8 363	5 168	21 704	97 476

Figure 98: Headcount overall staff members by gender and employment type



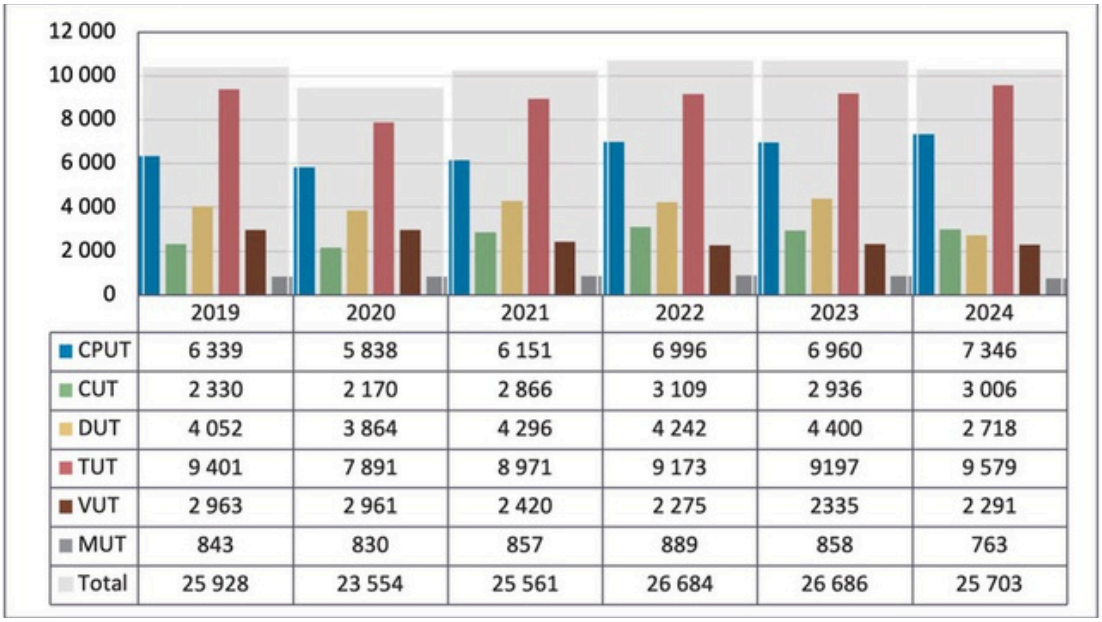
	2019			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Permanent	34 781	29 343	64 124	36 017	29 568	65 585
Temporary	50 893	43 302	94 195	54 519	42 946	97 465
Overall	85 674	72 645	158 319	90 536	72 514	164 110

Figure 99: Headcount staff in selected personnel categories by race



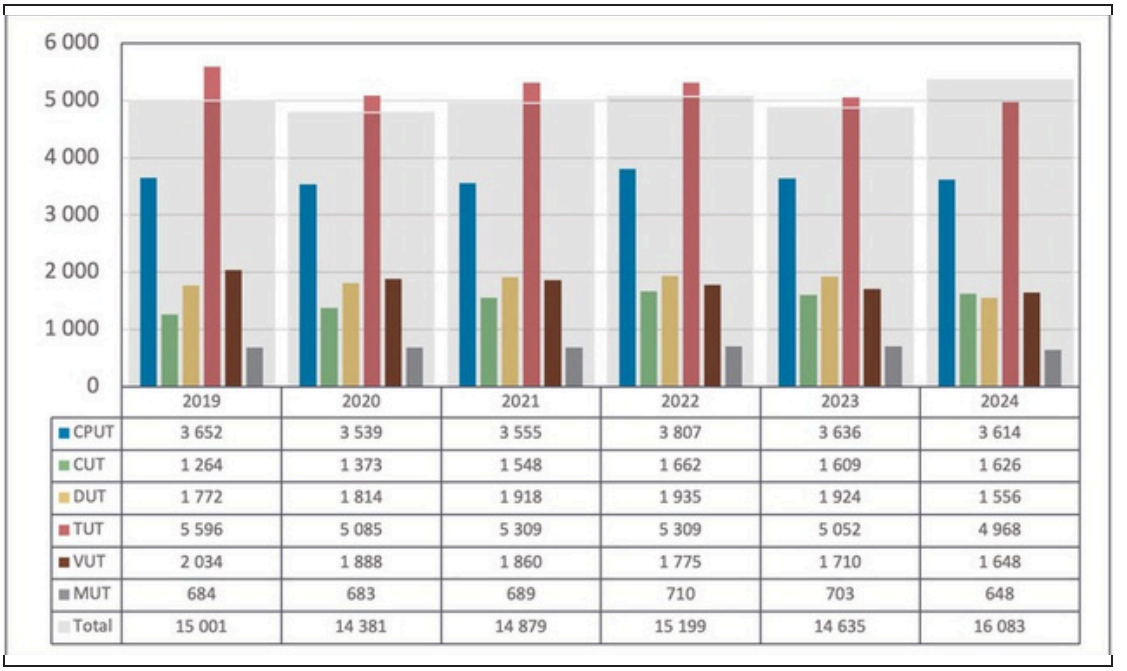
	2018				2023			
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
Senior Management	983	585	203	1 160	1 377	393	228	956
Academic	25 252	3 510	4 808	22 877	24 309	3 468	4 211	17 184
Administrative	40 429	8 021	2 217	11 820	44 452	8 971	2 209	9 408

Figure 100: Headcount Staff at Universities of Technology



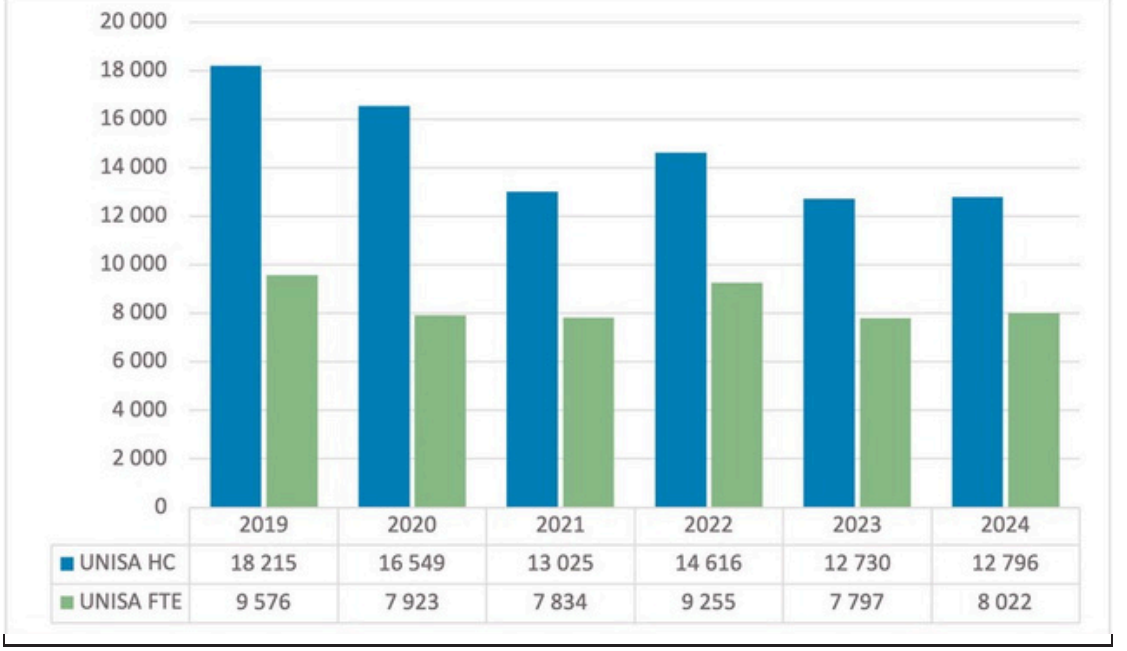
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CPUT	6 339	5 838	6 151	6 996	6 960	7 346
CUT	2 330	2 170	2 866	3 109	2 936	3 006
DUT	4 052	3 864	4 296	4 242	4 400	2 718
TUT	9 401	7 891	8 971	9 173	9197	9 579
VUT	2 963	2 961	2 420	2 275	2335	2 291
MUT	843	830	857	889	858	763
Total	25 928	23 554	25 561	26 684	26 686	25 703

Figure 101: FTE Staff at Universities of Technology



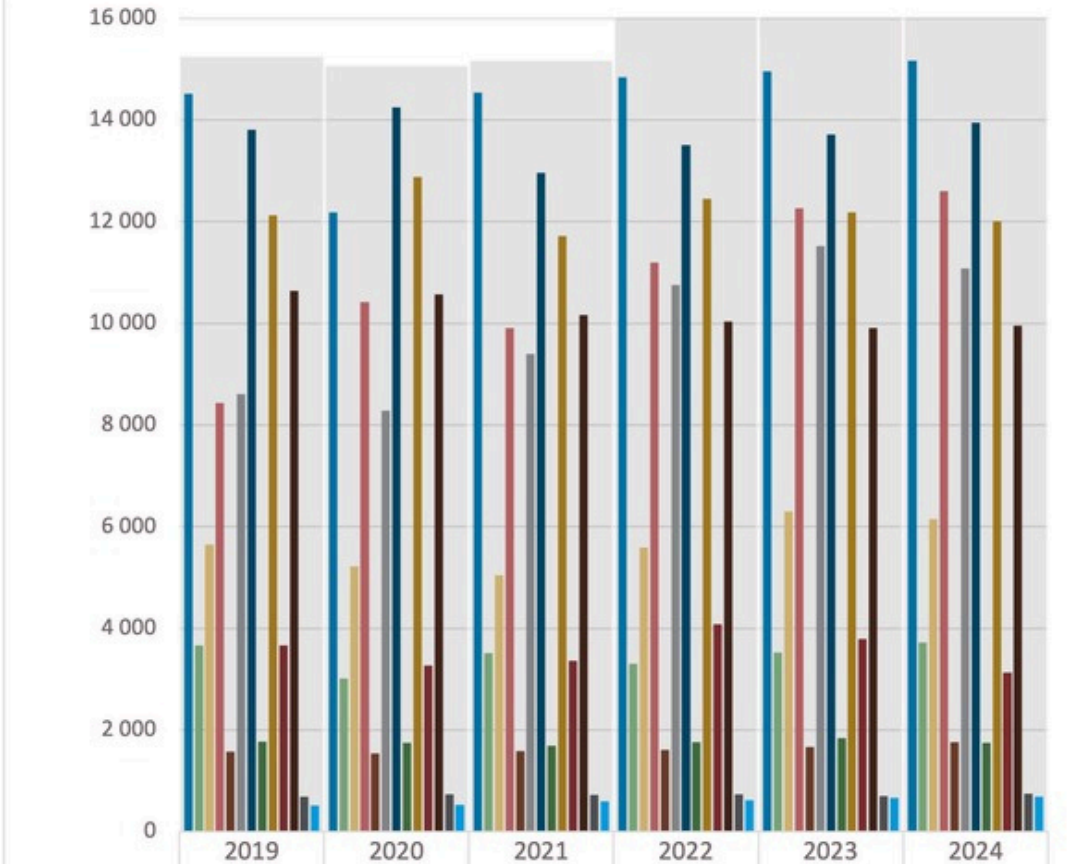
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CPUT	3 652	3 539	3 555	3 807	3 636	3 614
CUT	1 264	1 373	1 548	1 662	1 609	1 626
DUT	1 772	1 814	1 918	1 935	1 924	1 556
TUT	5 596	5 085	5 309	5 309	5 052	4 968
VUT	2 034	1 888	1 860	1 775	1 710	1 648
MUT	684	683	689	710	703	648
Total	15 001	14 381	14 879	15 199	14 635	16 083

Figure 102: Headcount vs FTE staff at UNISA



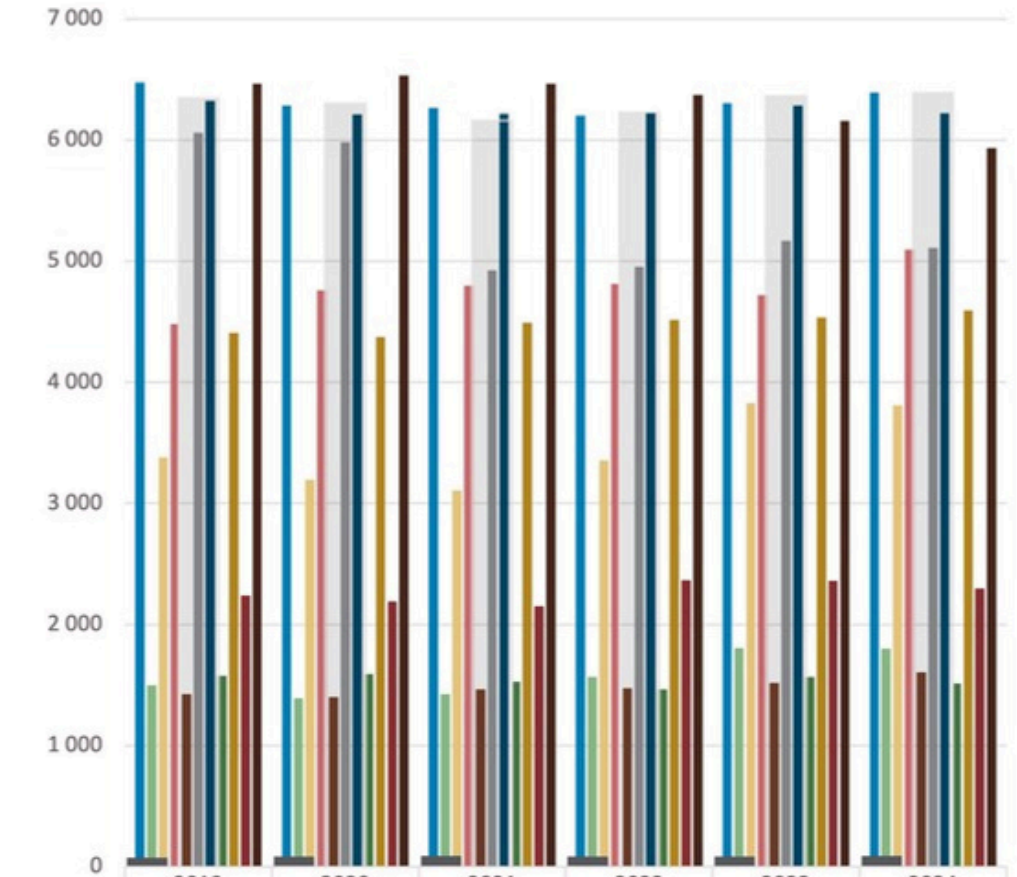
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UNISA HC	18 215	16 549	13 025	14 616	12 730	12 796
UNISA FTE	9 576	7 923	7 834	9 255	7 797	8 022

Figure 103: Headcount staff at traditional Universities



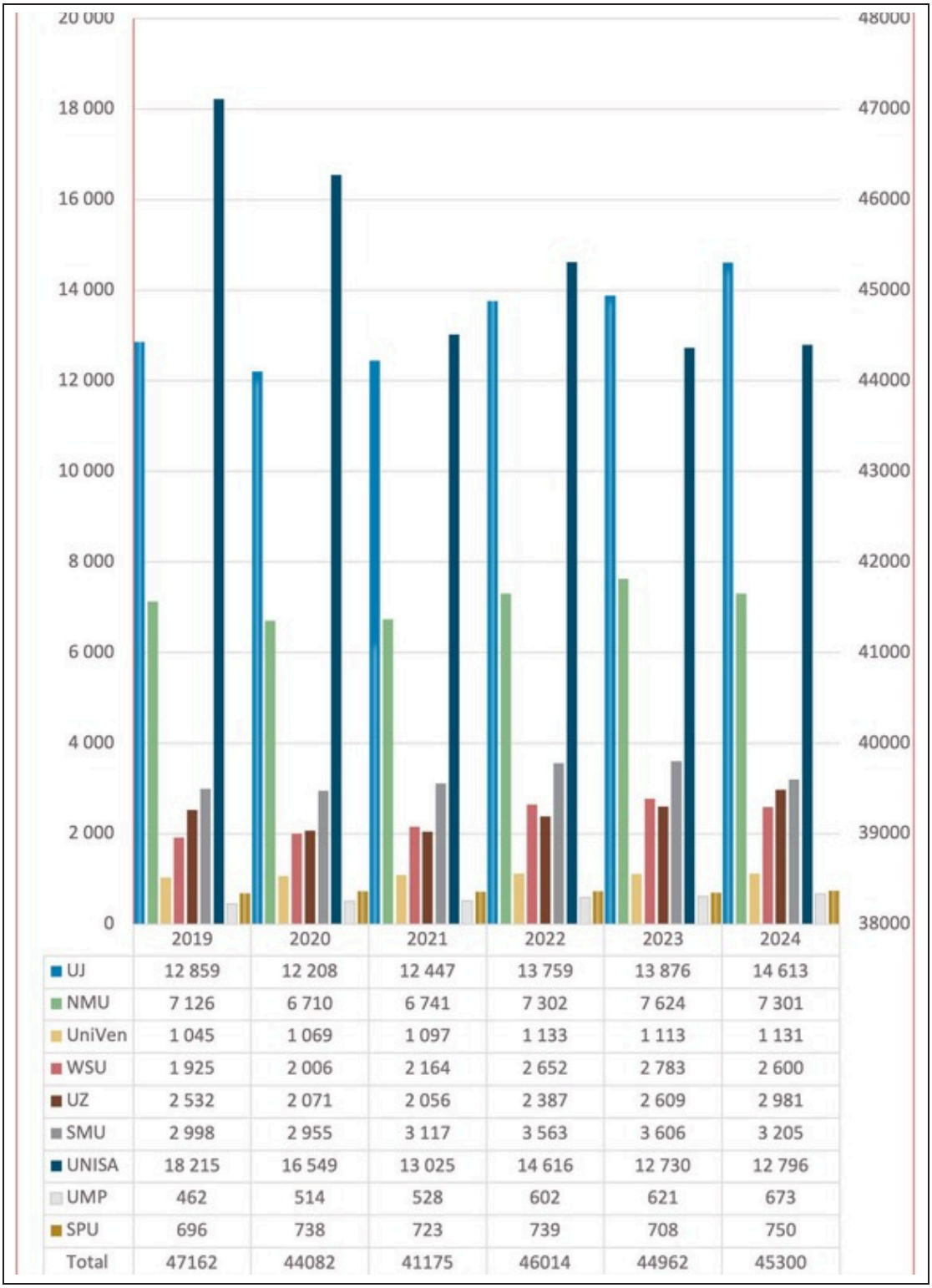
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UCT	14 523	12 185	14 542	14 840	14 960	15 173
UFH	3 659	3 009	3 517	3 300	3 531	3 722
UFS	5 651	5 217	5 046	5 596	6 295	6 147
UKZN	8 441	10 424	9 909	11 197	12 261	12 599
UL	1 574	1 535	1 591	1 606	1 670	1 756
NWU	8 606	8 282	9 399	10 762	11 523	11 083
UP	13 814	14 248	12 968	13 505	13 719	13 948
RHODES	1 777	1 753	1 686	1 765	1 843	1 749
SUN	12 128	12 885	11 723	12 454	12 188	12 016
UWC	3 666	3 272	3 357	4 077	3 798	3 133
WITS	10 645	10 567	10 160	10 039	9 914	9 962
SPU	696	738	723	739	708	750
UMP	514	528	602	621	673	693
Total	85 694	84 643	85 223	90 501	95106	92 731

Figure 104: FTE staff at traditional Universities



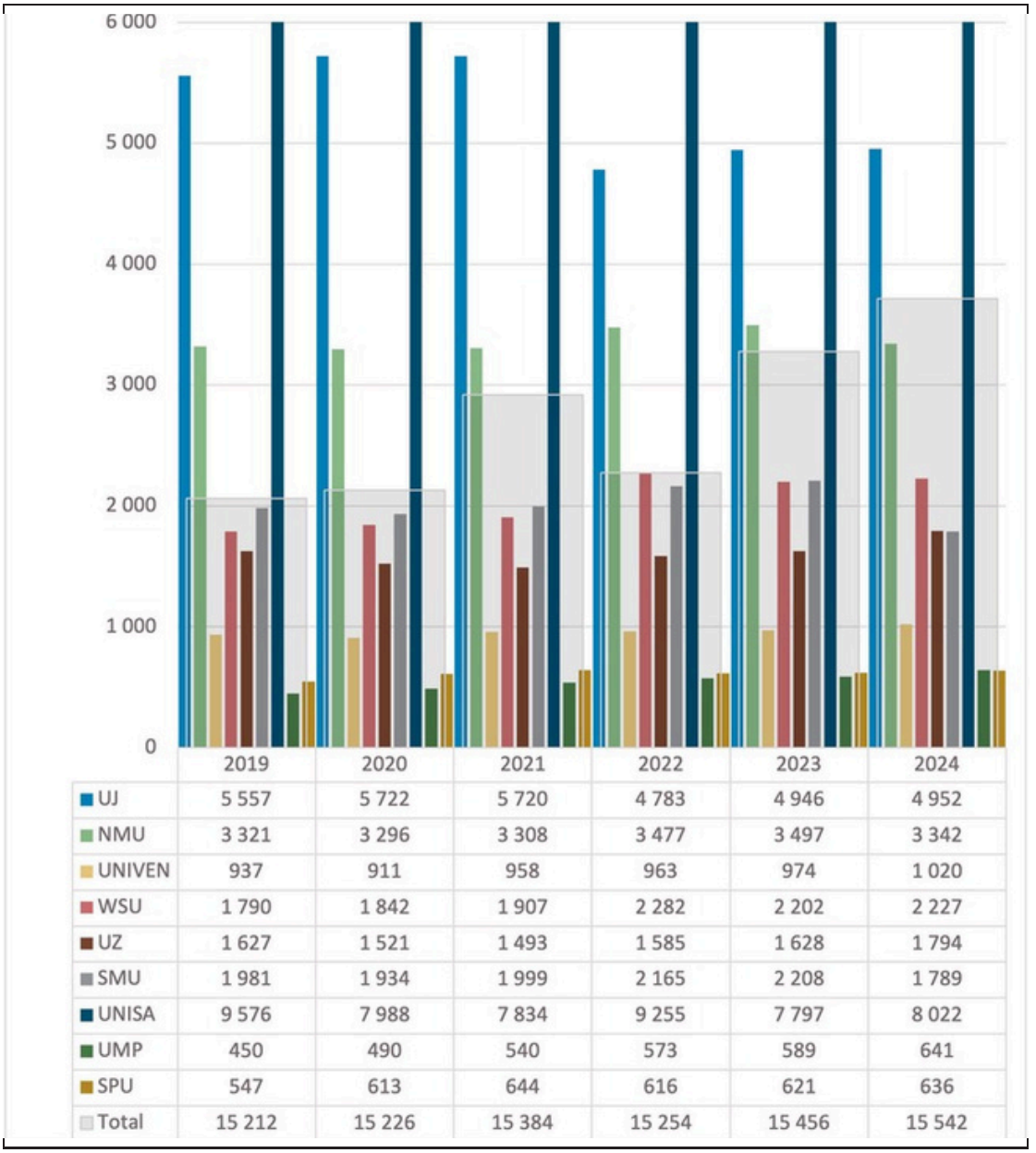
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UCT	6 473	6 285	6 265	6 201	6 303	6 391
UFH	1 501	1 391	1 427	1 569	1 804	1 800
UFS	3 379	3 195	3 106	3 358	3 831	3 810
UKZN	4 484	4 762	4 798	4 815	4 720	5 097
UL	1 424	1 401	1 465	1 473	1 518	1 607
NWU	6 060	5 983	4 926	4 955	5 171	5 113
UP	6 326	6 210	6 216	6 224	6 288	6 223
RHODES	1 576	1 593	1 528	1 464	1 567	1 513
SUN	4 407	4 377	4 494	4 517	4 535	4 596
UWC	2 239	2 192	2 153	2 369	2 359	2 296
WITS	6 466	6 535	6 465	6 373	6 159	5 935
SPU	547	612	644	616	621	636
Total	45 332	45 026	44 026	44 508	45 466	45 659

Figure 105: Headcount staff at Comprehensive Universities



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UJ	12 859	12 208	12 447	13 759	13 876	14 613
NMU	7 126	6 710	6 741	7 302	7 624	7 301
UniVen	1 045	1 069	1 097	1 133	1 113	1 131
WSU	1 925	2 006	2 164	2 652	2 783	2 600
UZ	2 532	2 071	2 056	2 387	2 609	2 981
SMU	2 998	2 955	3 117	3 563	3 606	3 205
UNISA	18 215	16 549	13 025	14 616	12 730	12 796
UMP	462	514	528	602	621	673
SPU	696	738	723	739	708	750
Total	47162	44082	41175	46014	44962	45300

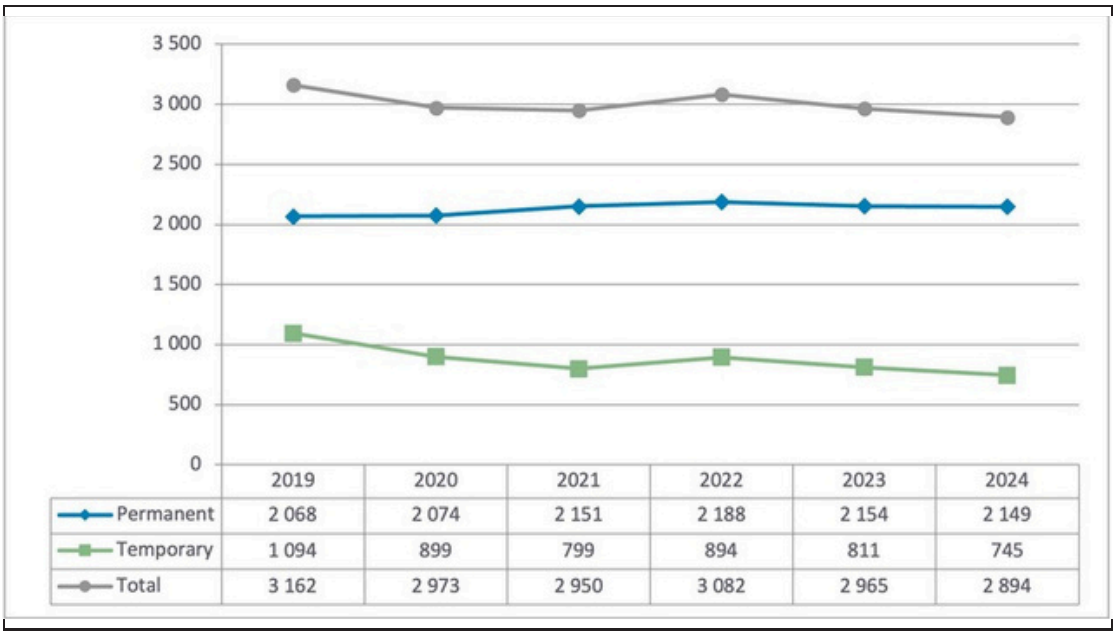
Figure 106: FTE staff at Comprehensive Universities



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UJ	5 557	5 722	5 720	4 783	4 946	4 952
NMU	3 321	3 296	3 308	3 477	3 497	3 342
UNIVEN	937	911	958	963	974	1 020
WSU	1 790	1 842	1 907	2 282	2 202	2 227
UZ	1 627	1 521	1 493	1 585	1 628	1 794
SMU	1 981	1 934	1 999	2 165	2 208	1 789
UNISA	9 576	7 988	7 834	9 255	7 797	8 022
UMP	450	490	540	573	589	641
SPU	547	613	644	616	621	636
Total	15 212	15 226	15 384	15 254	15 456	15 542

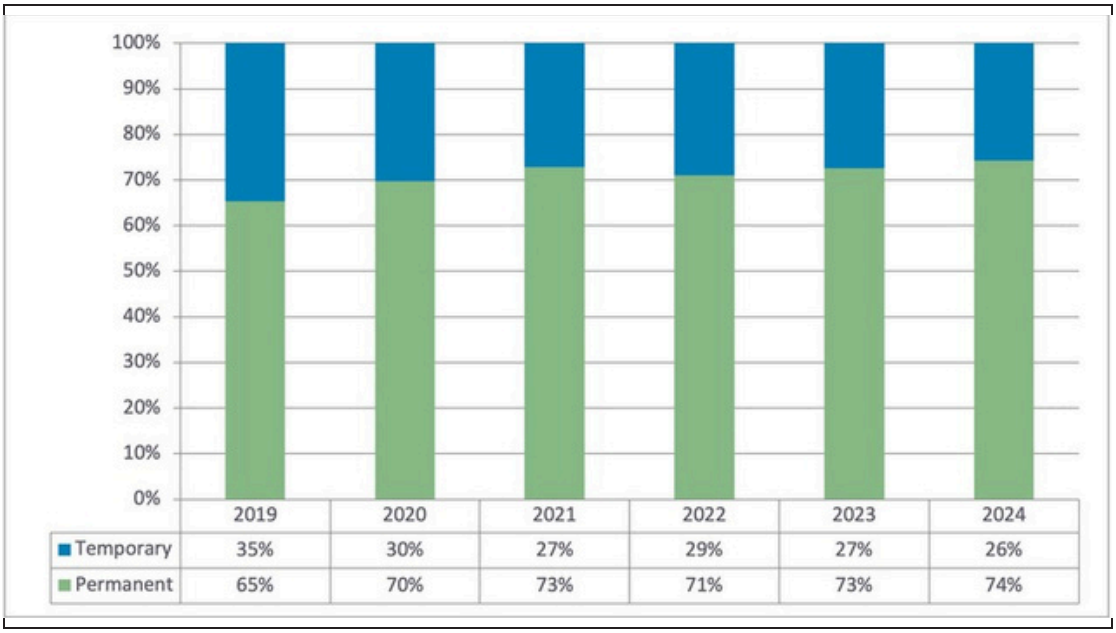
Senior Management Staff

Figure 107: Headcount senior management staff by employment status



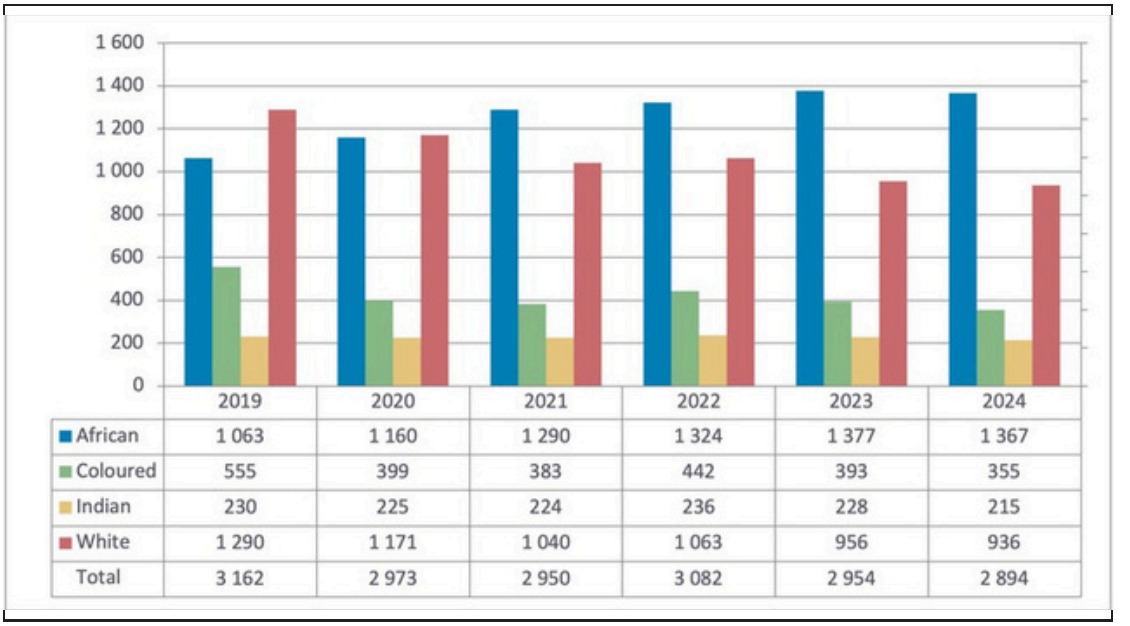
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	2 068	2 074	2 151	2 188	2 154	2 149
Temporary	1 094	899	799	894	811	745
Total	3 162	2 973	2 950	3 082	2 965	2 894

Figure 108: Proportion of permanent vs. temporary senior management staff



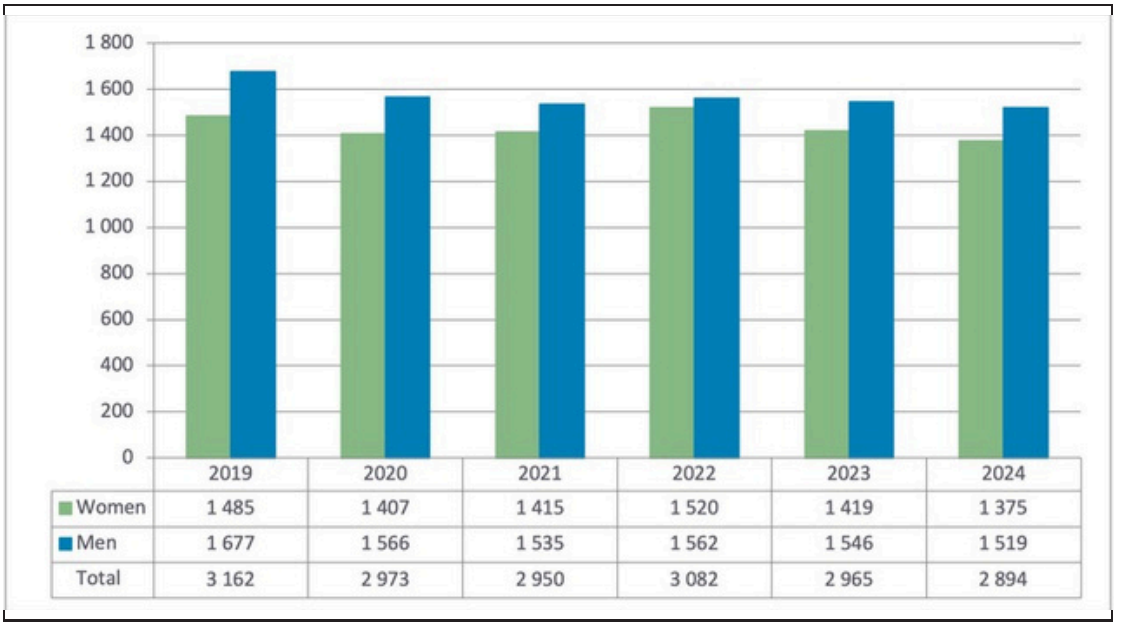
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Temporary	35%	30%	27%	29%	27%	26%
Permanent	65%	70%	73%	71%	73%	74%

Figure 109: Headcount senior management staff members by race



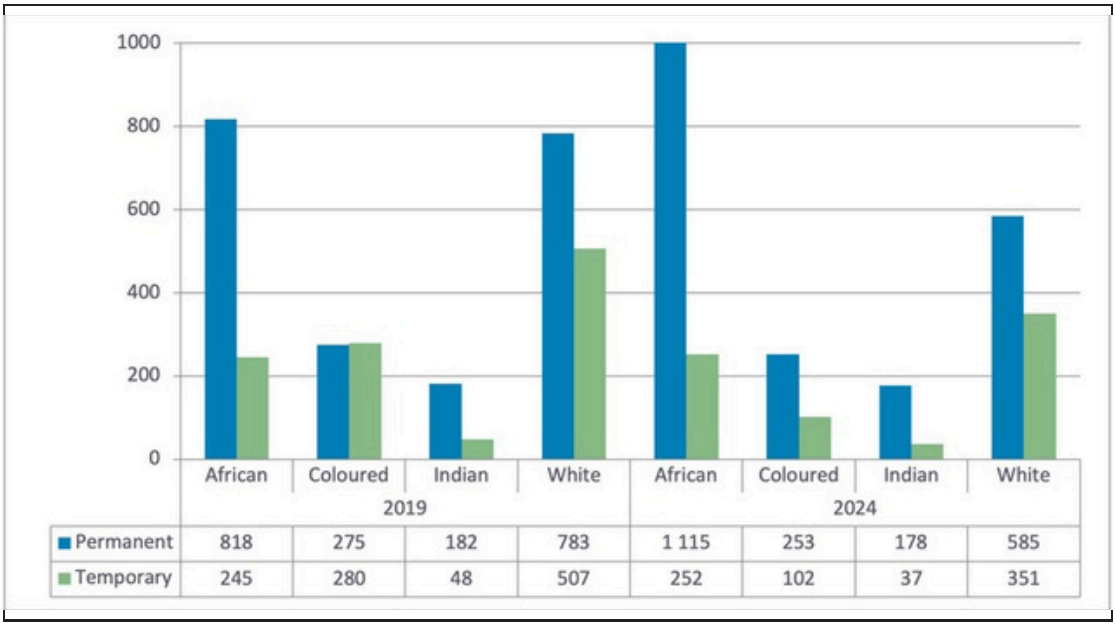
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	1 063	1 160	1 290	1 324	1 377	1 367
Coloured	555	399	383	442	393	355
Indian	230	225	224	236	228	215
White	1 290	1 171	1 040	1 063	956	936
Total	3 162	2 973	2 950	3 082	2 954	2 894

Figure 110: Headcount senior management staff members by gender



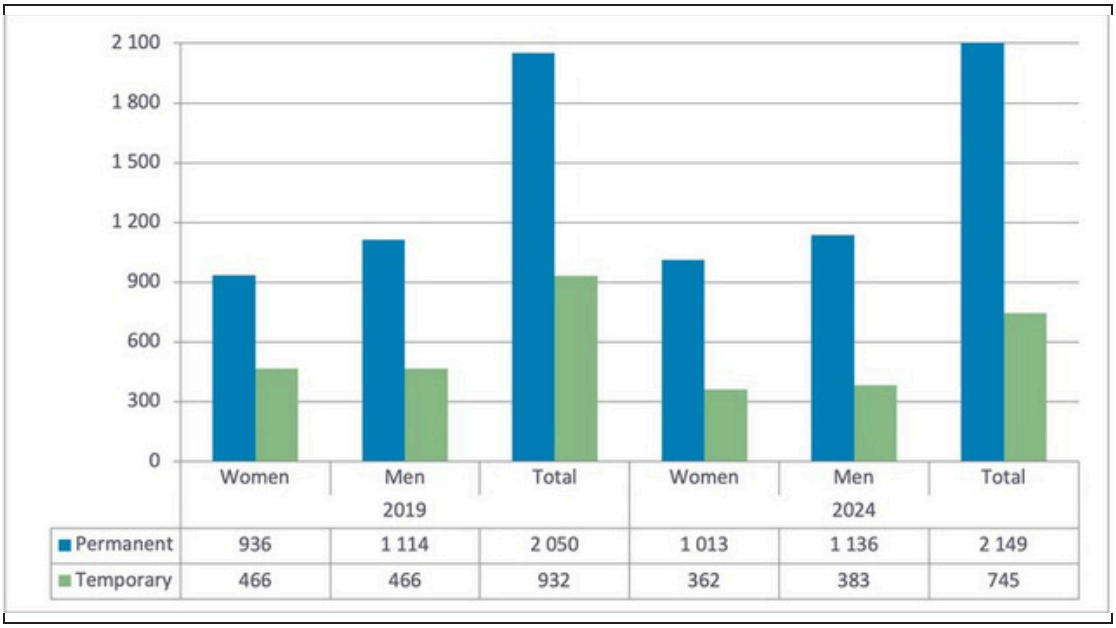
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	1 485	1 407	1 415	1 520	1 419	1 375
Men	1 677	1 566	1 535	1 562	1 546	1 519
Total	3 162	2 973	2 950	3 082	2 965	2 894

Figure 111: Headcount senior management staff members by race and employment status



	2019				2024			
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
Permanent	818	275	182	783	1 115	253	178	585
Temporary	245	280	48	507	252	102	37	351

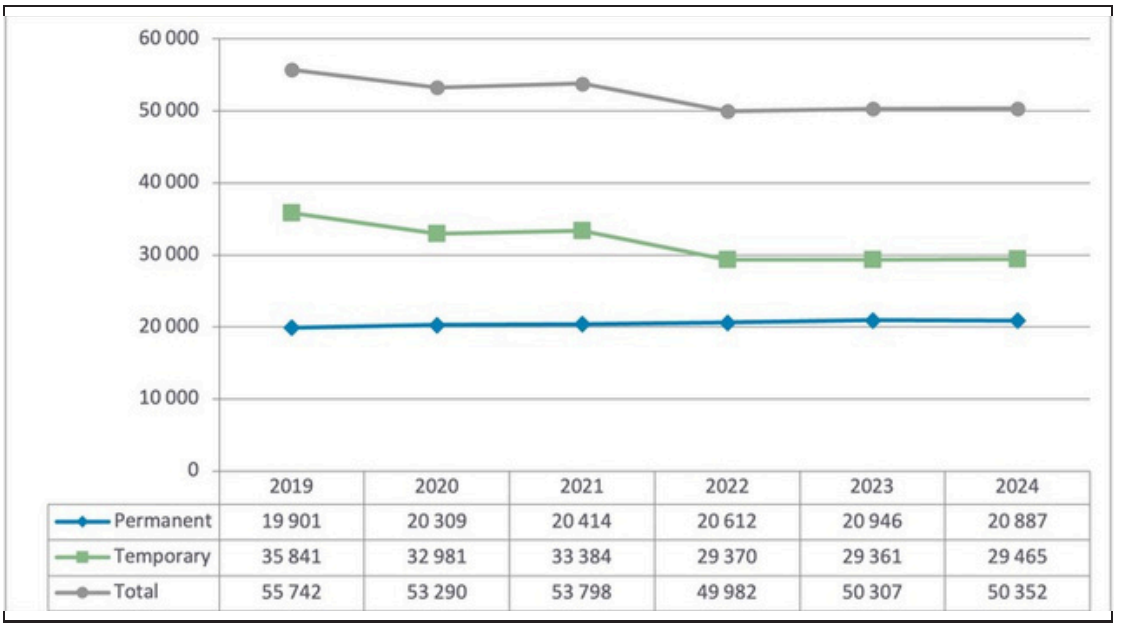
Figure 112: Headcount senior management staff members by gender and employment status



	2019			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Permanent	936	1 114	2 050	1 013	1 136	2 149
Temporary	466	466	932	362	383	745

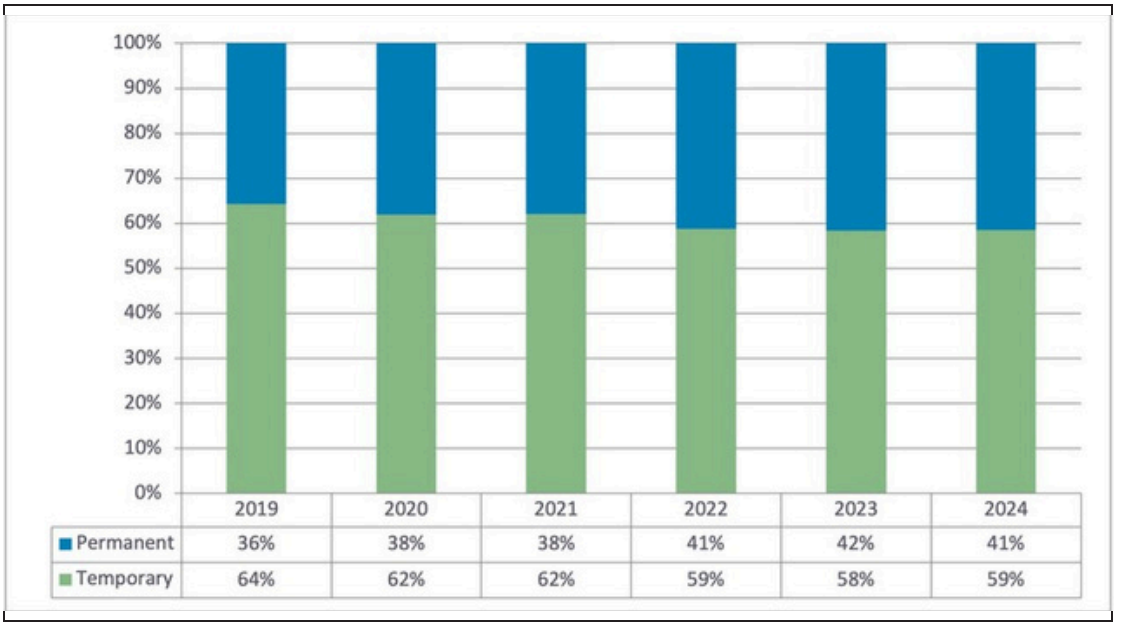
Academic Staff

Figure113: Headcountacademic staff members by employment status



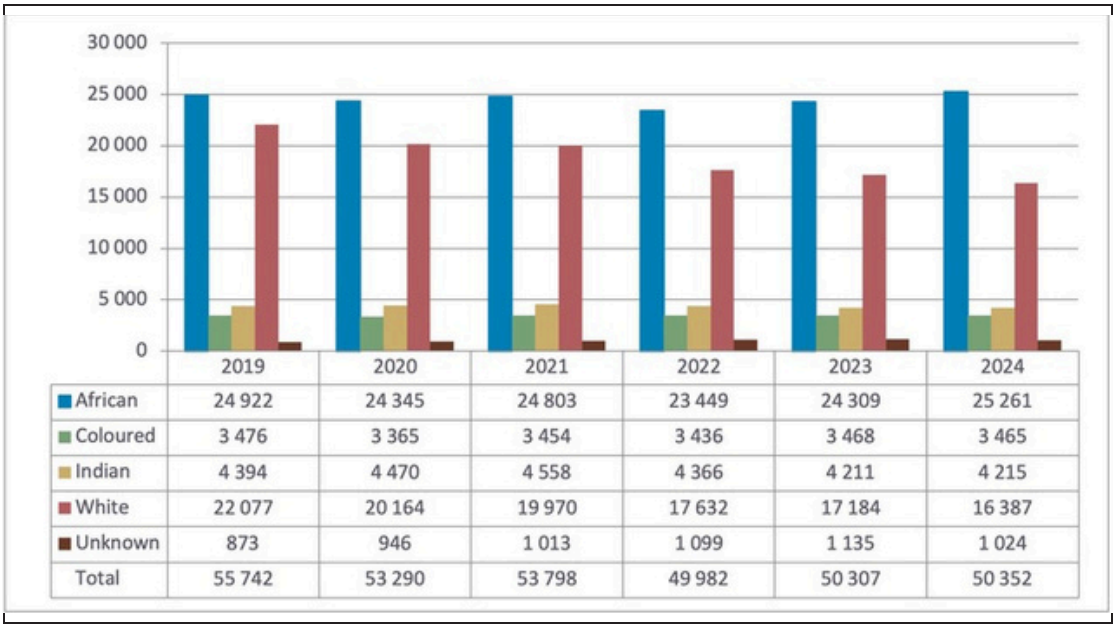
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	19 901	20 309	20 414	20 612	20 946	20 887
Temporary	35 841	32 981	33 384	29 370	29 361	29 465
Total	55 742	53 290	53 798	49 982	50 307	50 352

Figure 114: Proportion of permanent vs. temporary academic staff members



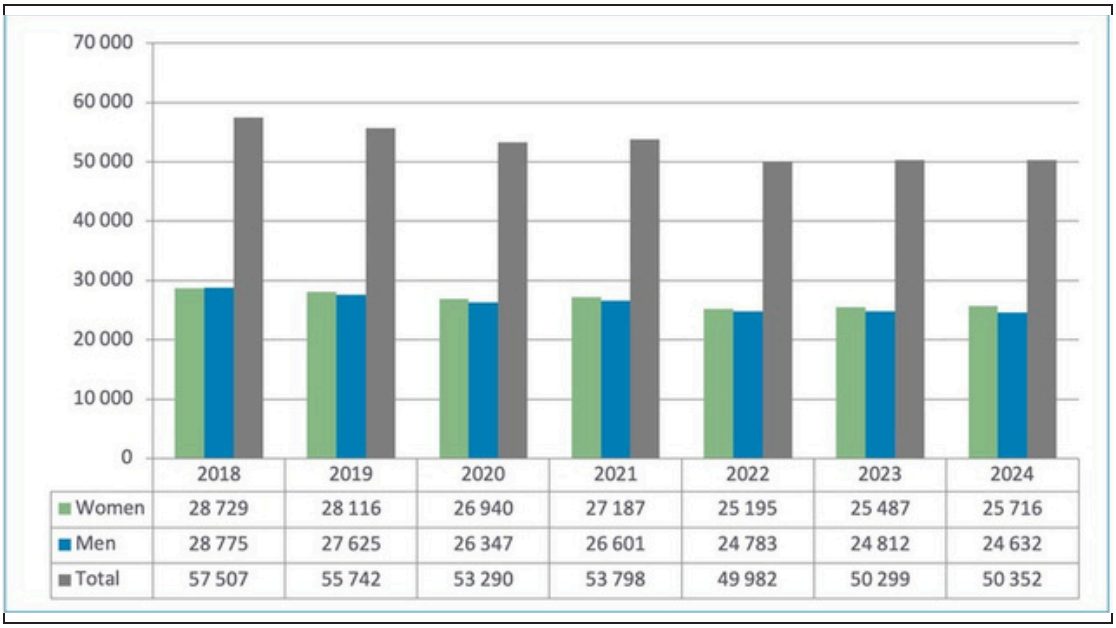
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	36%	38%	38%	41%	42%	41%
Temporary	64%	62%	62%	59%	58%	59%

Figure 115: Headcount academic staff members by race



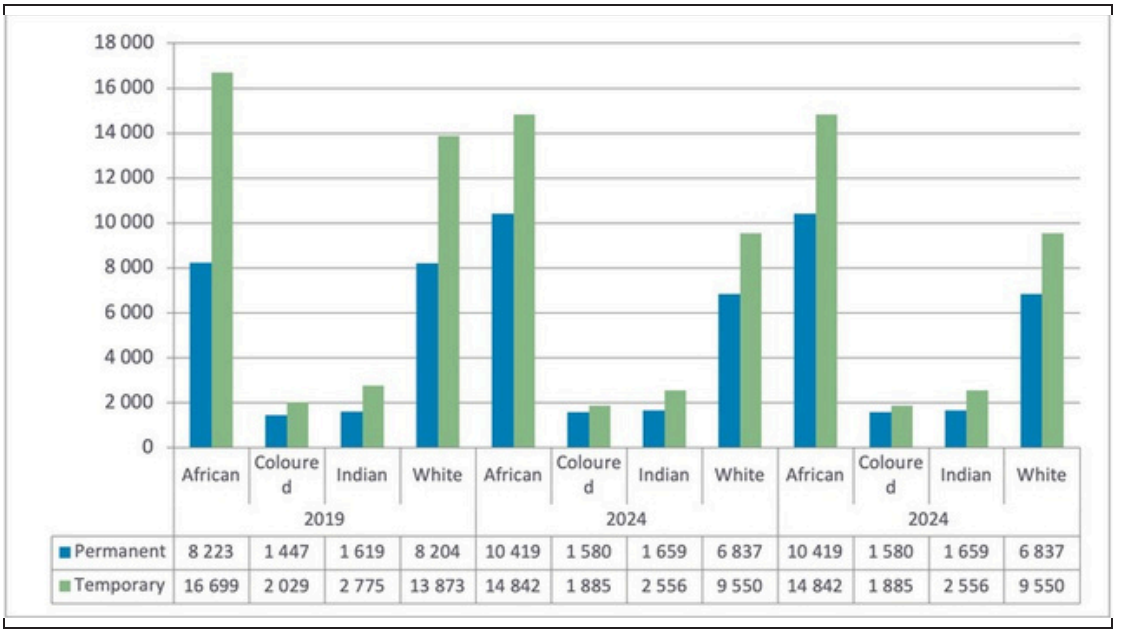
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	24 922	24 345	24 803	23 449	24 309	25 261
Coloured	3 476	3 365	3 454	3 436	3 468	3 465
Indian	4 394	4 470	4 558	4 366	4 211	4 215
White	22 077	20 164	19 970	17 632	17 184	16 387
Unknown	873	946	1 013	1 099	1 135	1 024
Total	55 742	53 290	53 798	49 982	50 307	50 352

Figure 116: Headcount academic staff members by gender



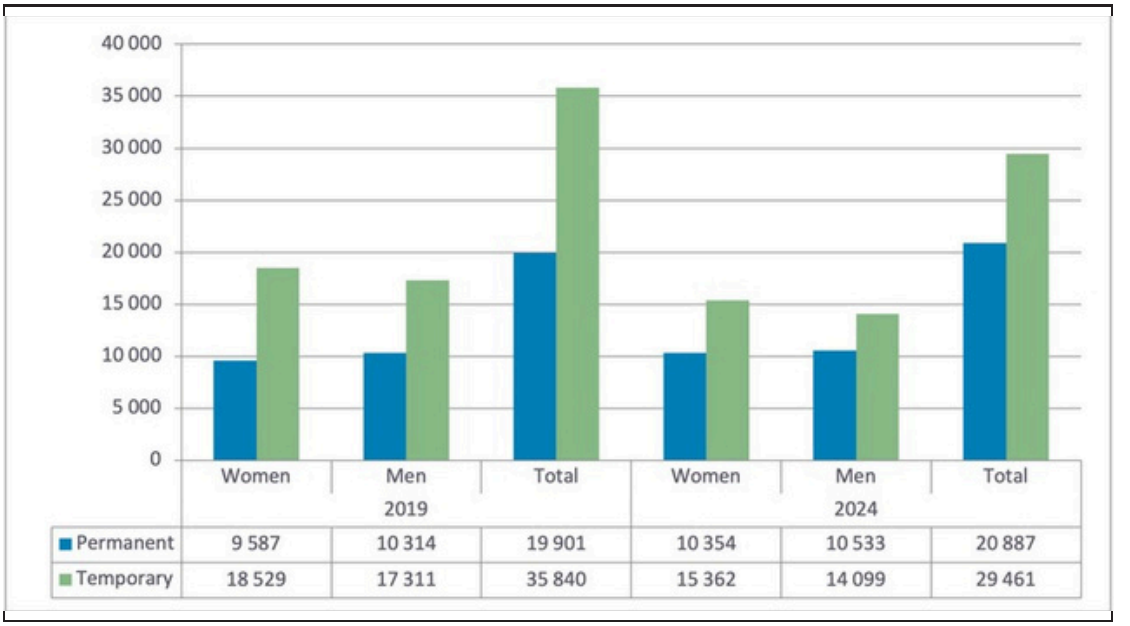
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	28 729	28 116	26 940	27 187	25 195	25 487	25 716
Men	28 775	27 625	26 347	26 601	24 783	24 812	24 632
Total	57 507	55 742	53 290	53 798	49 982	50 299	50 352

Figure 117: Headcount academic staff members by race and employment status



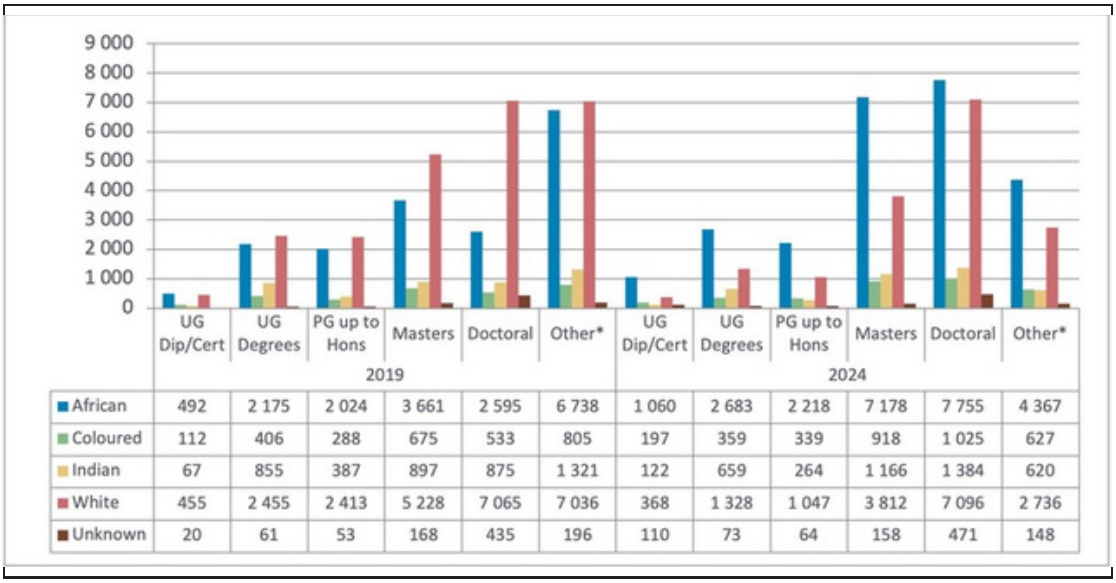
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
	2019				2024				2024			
Permanent	8 223	1 447	1 619	8 204	10 419	1 580	1 659	6 837	10 419	1 580	1 659	6 837
Temporary	16 699	2 029	2 775	13 873	14 842	1 885	2 556	9 550	14 842	1 885	2 556	9 550

Figure 118: Headcount academic staff members by gender and employment status



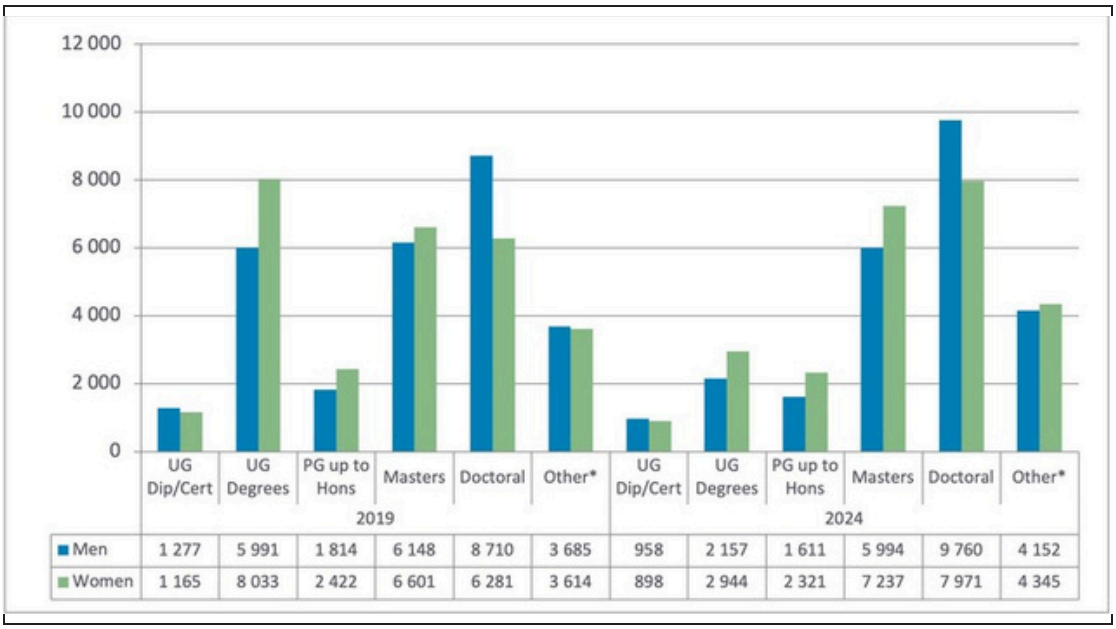
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	2019			2024		
Permanent	9 587	10 314	19 901	10 354	10 533	20 887
Temporary	18 529	17 311	35 840	15 362	14 099	29 461

Figure 119: Headcount academic staff by race and qualification level



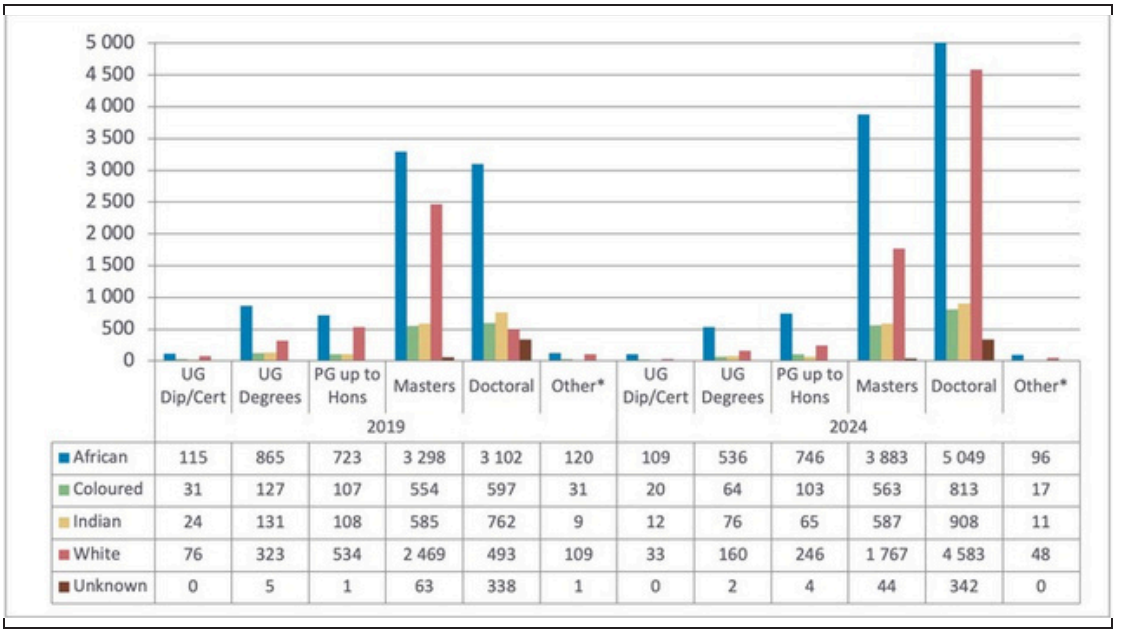
	2019						2024					
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*
African	492	2 175	2 024	3 661	2 595	6 738	1 060	2 683	2 218	7 178	7 755	4 367
Coloured	112	406	288	675	533	805	197	359	339	918	1 025	627
Indian	67	855	387	897	875	1 321	122	659	264	1 166	1 384	620
White	455	2 455	2 413	5 228	7 065	7 036	368	1 328	1 047	3 812	7 096	2 736
Unknown	20	61	53	168	435	196	110	73	64	158	471	148

Figure 120: Headcount academic staff by gender and qualification level



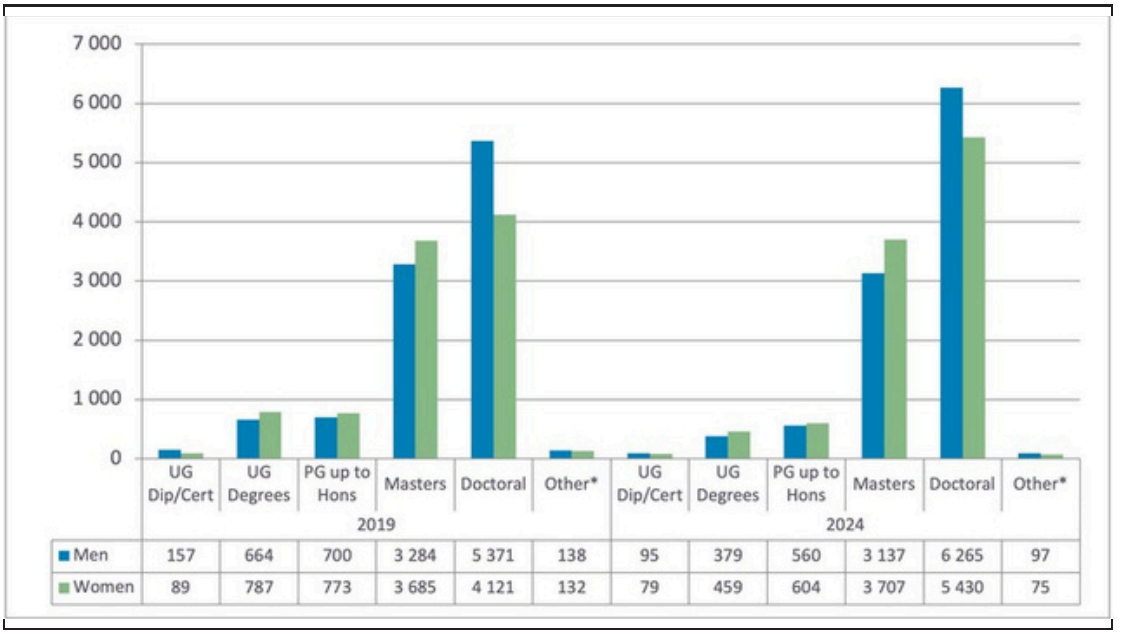
	2019						2024					
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*
Men	1 277	5 991	1 814	6 148	8 710	3 685	958	2 157	1 611	5 994	9 760	4 152
Women	1 165	8 033	2 422	6 601	6 281	3 614	898	2 944	2 321	7 237	7 971	4 345

Figure 121: Headcount permanent academic staff by race and qualification level



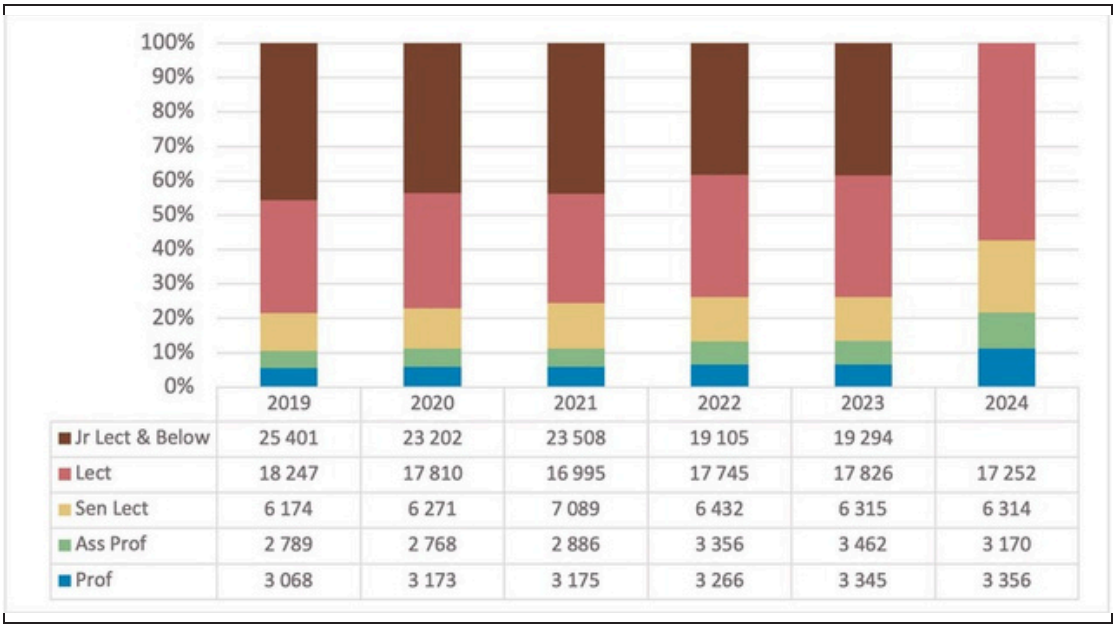
	2019						2024					
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*
African	115	865	723	3 298	3 102	120	109	536	746	3 883	5 049	96
Coloured	31	127	107	554	597	31	20	64	103	563	813	17
Indian	24	131	108	585	762	9	12	76	65	587	908	11
White	76	323	534	2 469	493	109	33	160	246	1 767	4 583	48
Unknown	0	5	1	63	338	1	0	2	4	44	342	0

Figure 122: Headcount permanent academic staff by gender and qualification level



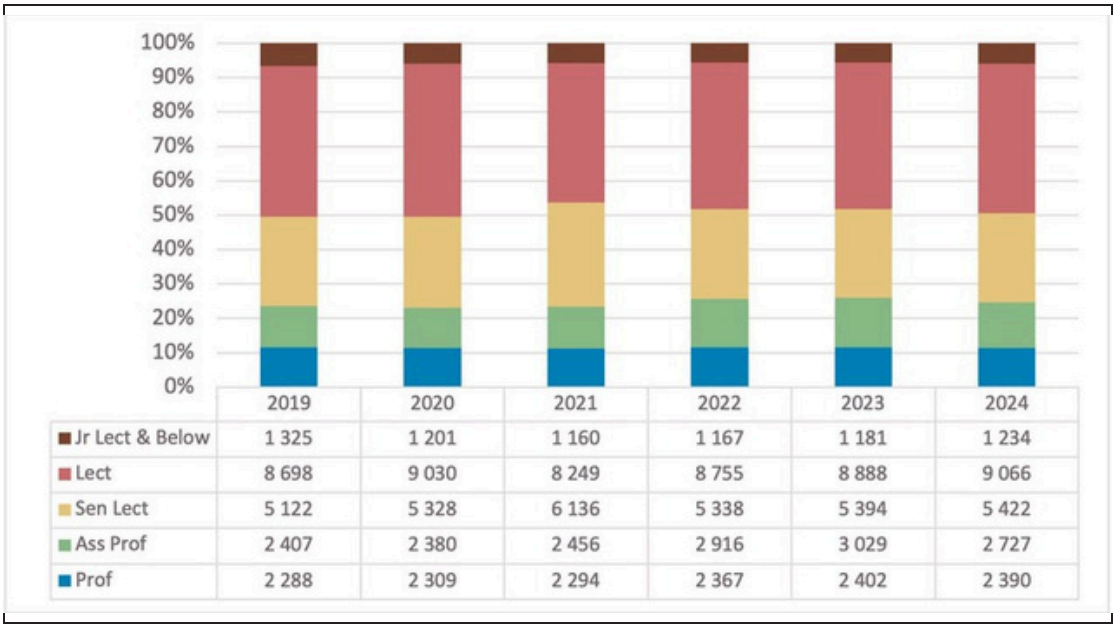
	2019						2024					
	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*	UG Dip/Cert	UG Degrees	PG up to Hons	Masters	Doctoral	Other*
Men	157	664	700	3 284	5 371	138	95	379	560	3 137	6 265	97
Women	89	787	773	3 685	4 121	132	79	459	604	3 707	5 430	75

Figure 123: Headcount academic staff rank



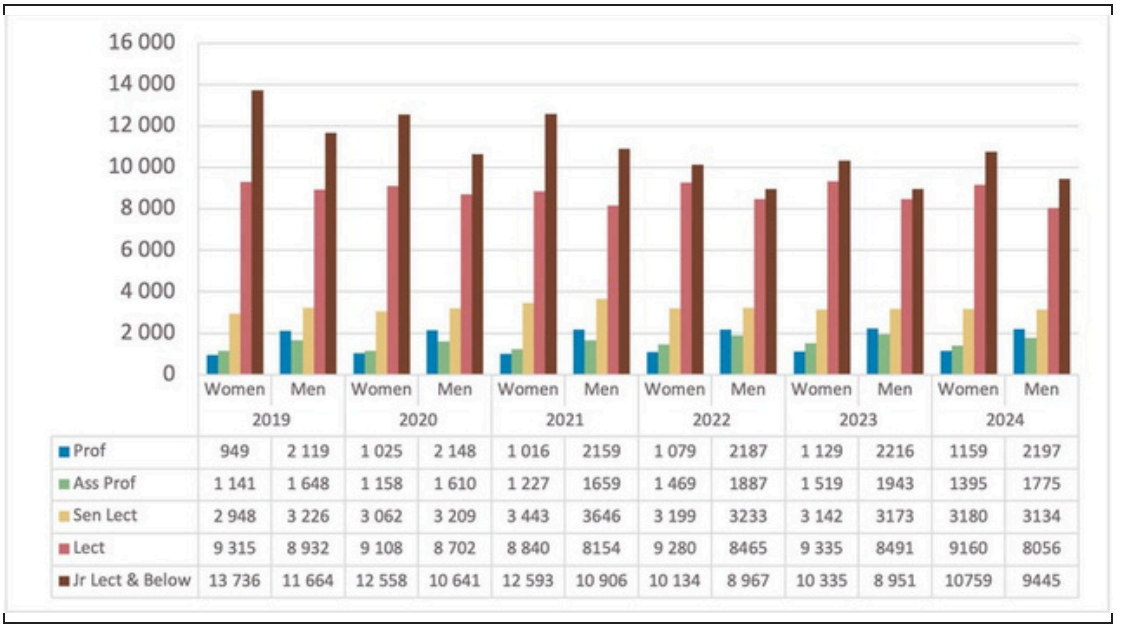
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jr Lect & Below	25 401	23 202	23 508	19 105	19 294	
Lect	18 247	17 810	16 995	17 745	17 826	17 252
Sen Lect	6 174	6 271	7 089	6 432	6 315	6 314
Ass Prof	2 789	2 768	2 886	3 356	3 462	3 170
Prof	3 068	3 173	3 175	3 266	3 345	3 356

Figure 124: Headcount permanent academic staff rank



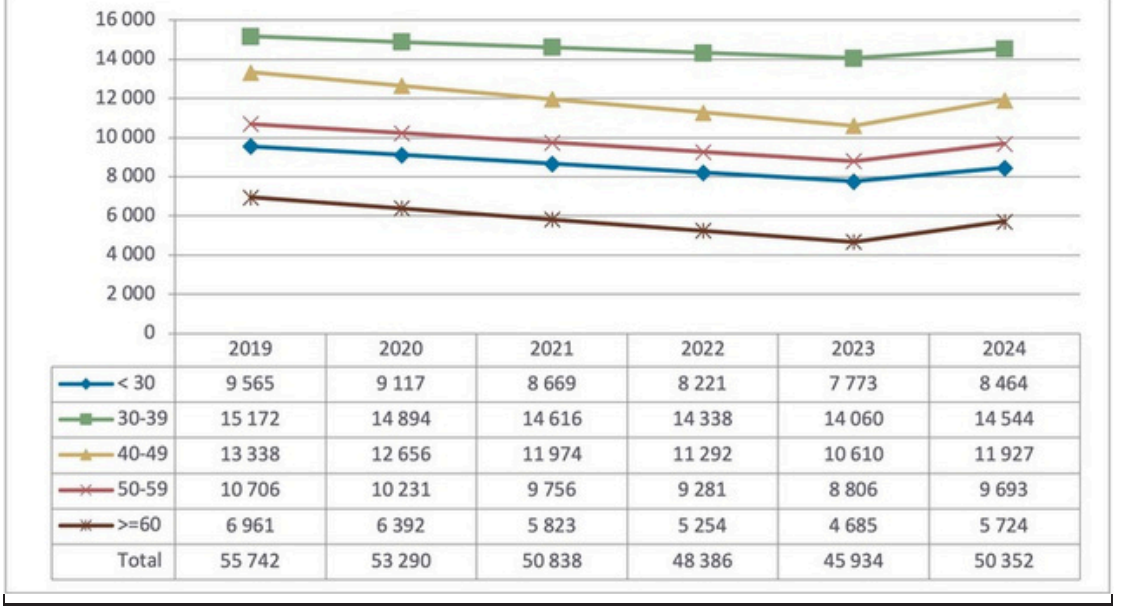
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jr Lect & Below	1 325	1 201	1 160	1 167	1 181	1 234
Lect	8 698	9 030	8 249	8 755	8 888	9 066
Sen Lect	5 122	5 328	6 136	5 338	5 394	5 422
Ass Prof	2 407	2 380	2 456	2 916	3 029	2 727
Prof	2 288	2 309	2 294	2 367	2 402	2 390

Figure 125: Headcount academic staff rank by gender



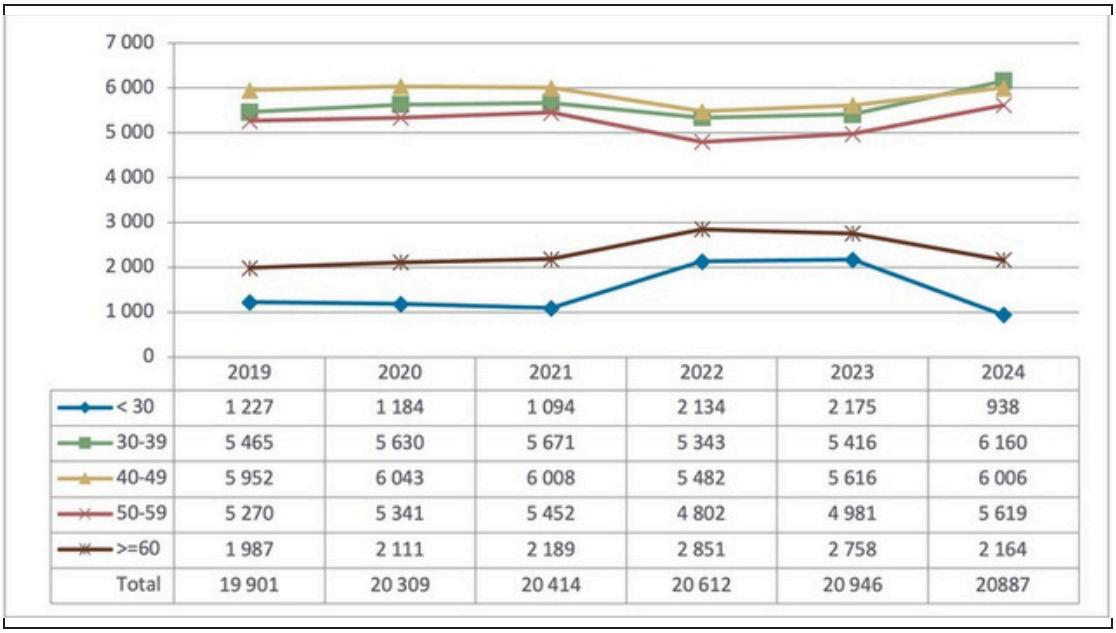
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Prof	949	2 119	1 025	2 148	1 016	2159	1 079	2187	1 129	2216	1159	2197
Ass Prof	1 141	1 648	1 158	1 610	1 227	1659	1 469	1887	1 519	1943	1395	1775
Sen Lect	2 948	3 226	3 062	3 209	3 443	3646	3 199	3233	3 142	3173	3180	3134
Lect	9 315	8 932	9 108	8 702	8 840	8154	9 280	8465	9 335	8491	9160	8056
Jr Lect & Below	13 736	11 664	12 558	10 641	12 593	10 906	10 134	8 967	10 335	8 951	10759	9445

Figure 126: Headcount academic staff members by age grouping



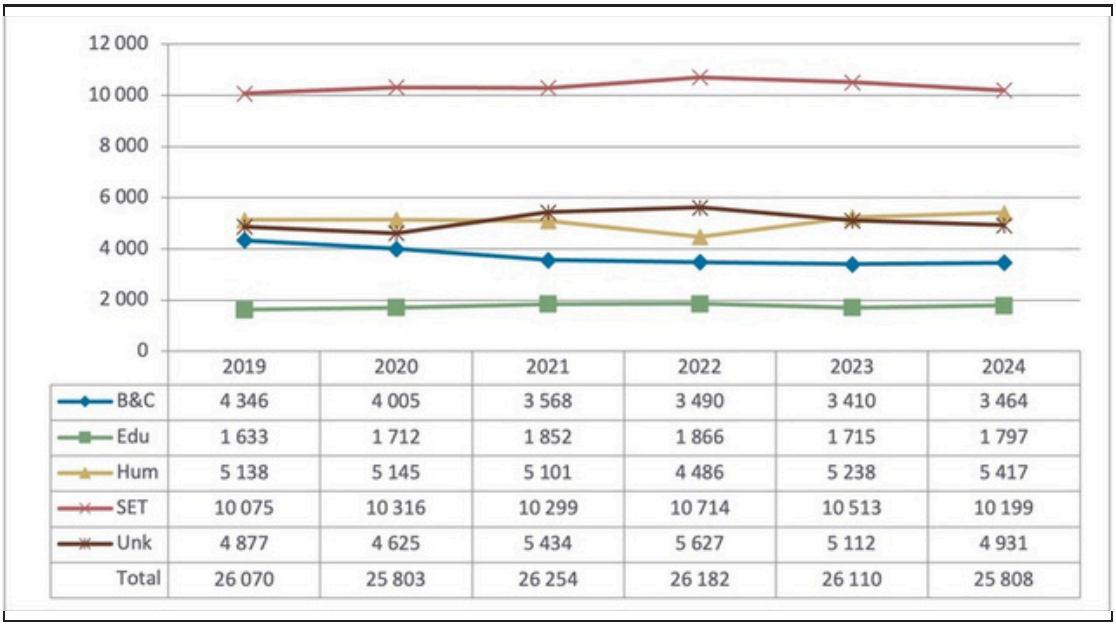
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
< 30	9 565	9 117	8 669	8 221	7 773	8 464
30-39	15 172	14 894	14 616	14 338	14 060	14 544
40-49	13 338	12 656	11 974	11 292	10 610	11 927
50-59	10 706	10 231	9 756	9 281	8 806	9 693
>=60	6 961	6 392	5 823	5 254	4 685	5 724
Total	55 742	53 290	50 838	48 386	45 934	50 352

Figure 127: Headcount permanent academic staff members by age grouping



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
< 30	1 227	1 184	1 094	2 134	2 175	938
30-39	5 465	5 630	5 671	5 343	5 416	6 160
40-49	5 952	6 043	6 008	5 482	5 616	6 006
50-59	5 270	5 341	5 452	4 802	4 981	5 619
>=60	1 987	2 111	2 189	2 851	2 758	2 164
Total	19 901	20 309	20 414	20 612	20 946	20887

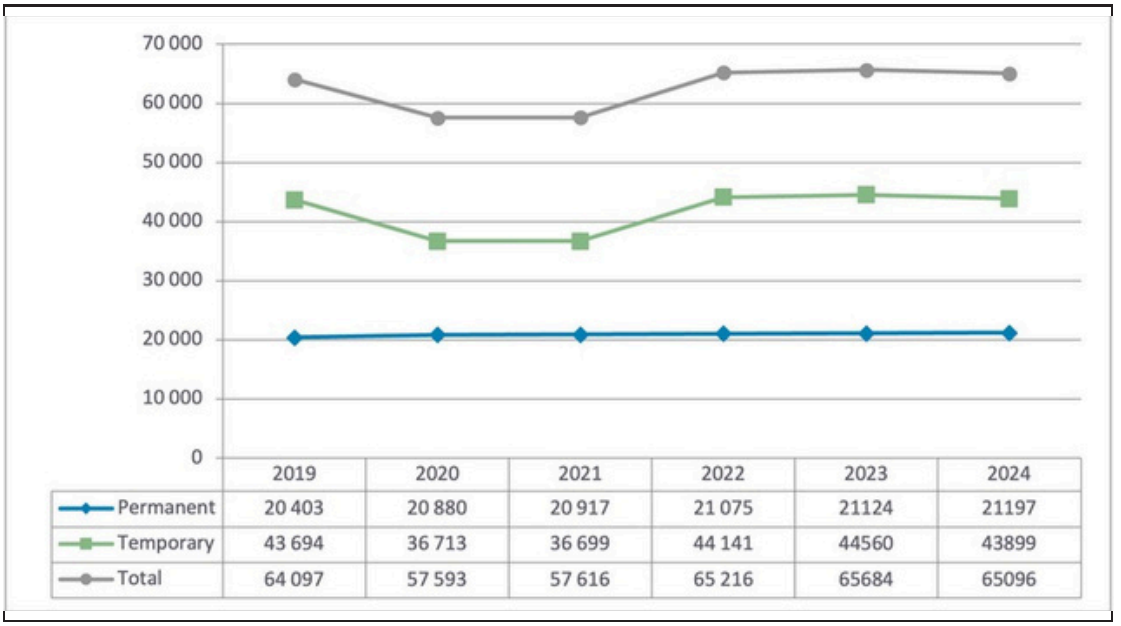
Figure 128: FTE academic staff members by allocated teaching field of study



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
B&C	4 346	4 005	3 568	3 490	3 410	3 464
Edu	1 633	1 712	1 852	1 866	1 715	1 797
Hum	5 138	5 145	5 101	4 486	5 238	5 417
SET	10 075	10 316	10 299	10 714	10 513	10 199
Unk	4 877	4 625	5 434	5 627	5 112	4 931
Total	26 070	25 803	26 254	26 182	26 110	25 808

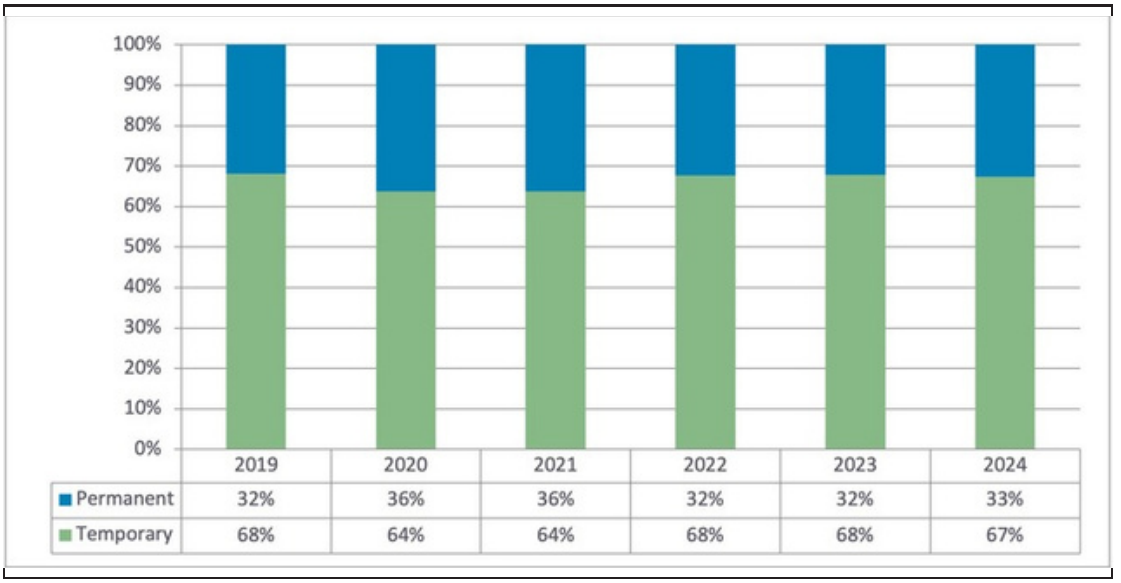
Administrative Staff

Figure 129: Headcount administrative staff members by employment status



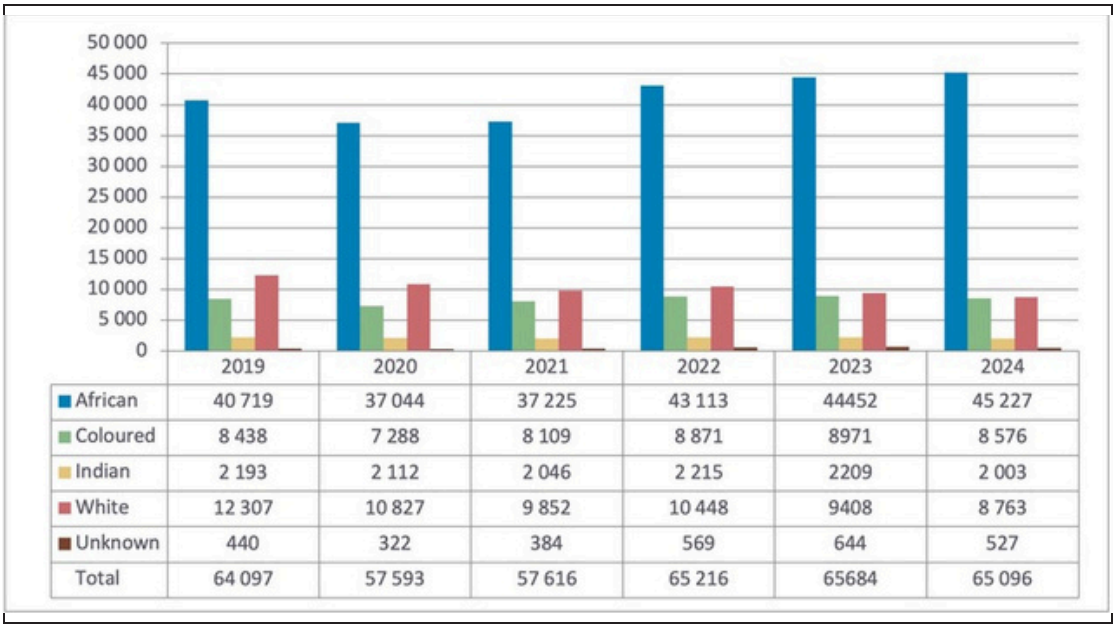
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	20 403	20 880	20 917	21 075	21124	21197
Temporary	43 694	36 713	36 699	44 141	44560	43899
Total	64 097	57 593	57 616	65 216	65684	65096

Figure 130: Proportion of permanent vs. temporary administrative staff members



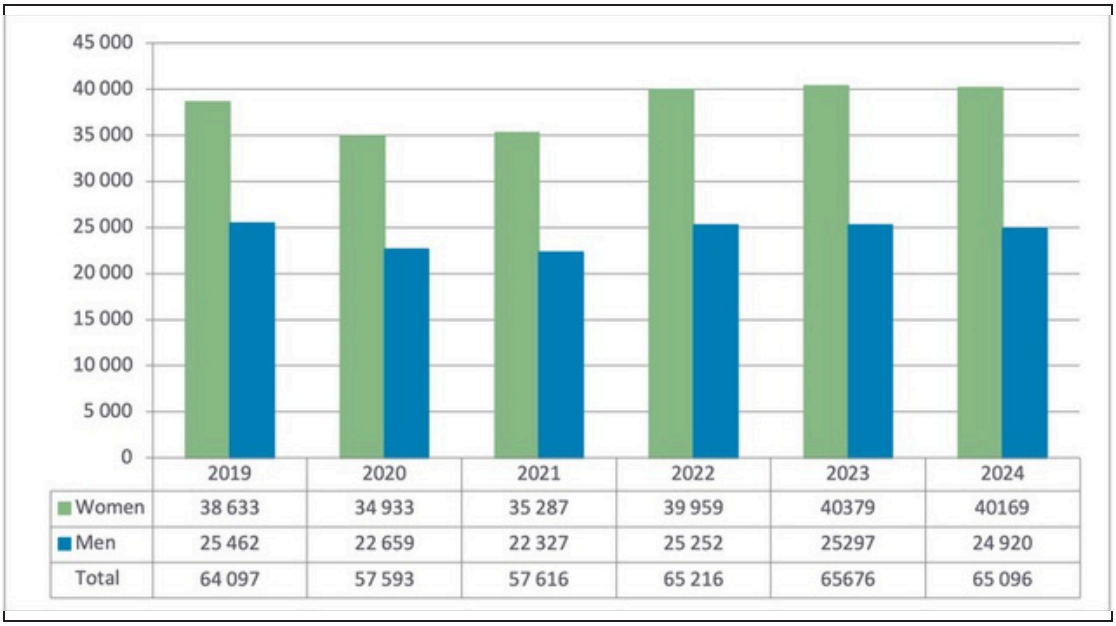
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	32%	36%	36%	32%	32%	33%
Temporary	68%	64%	64%	68%	68%	67%

Figure 131: Headcount administrative staff members by race



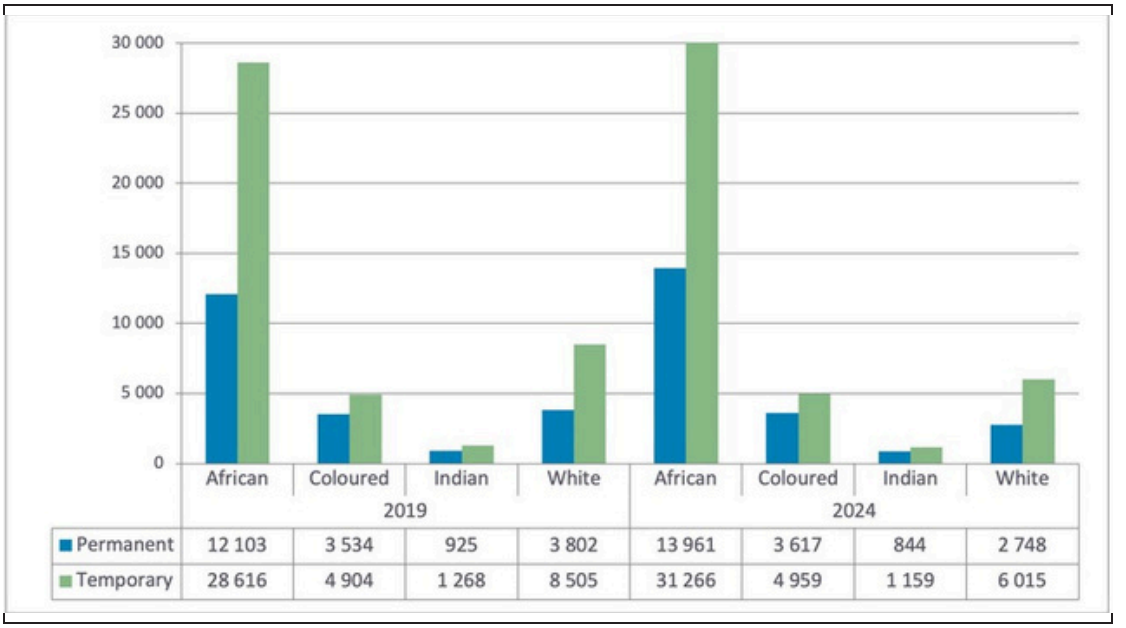
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	40 719	37 044	37 225	43 113	44452	45 227
Coloured	8 438	7 288	8 109	8 871	8971	8 576
Indian	2 193	2 112	2 046	2 215	2209	2 003
White	12 307	10 827	9 852	10 448	9408	8 763
Unknown	440	322	384	569	644	527
Total	64 097	57 593	57 616	65 216	65684	65 096

Figure 132: Headcount administrative staff members by gender



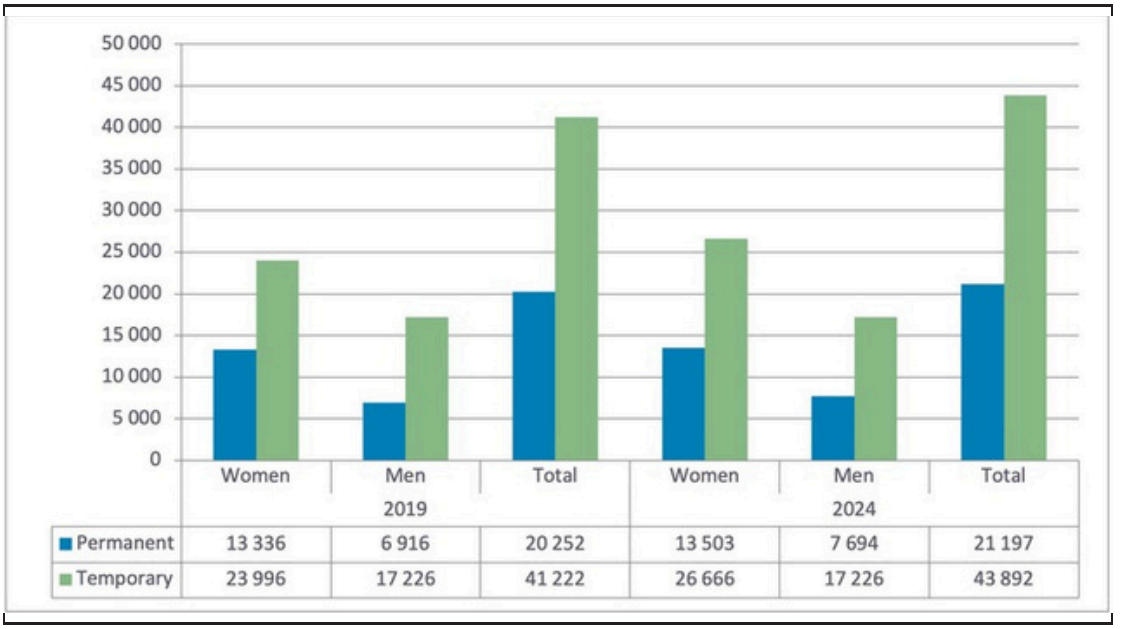
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	38 633	34 933	35 287	39 959	40379	40169
Men	25 462	22 659	22 327	25 252	25297	24 920
Total	64 097	57 593	57 616	65 216	65676	65 096

Figure 133: Headcount administrative staff members by race and employment status



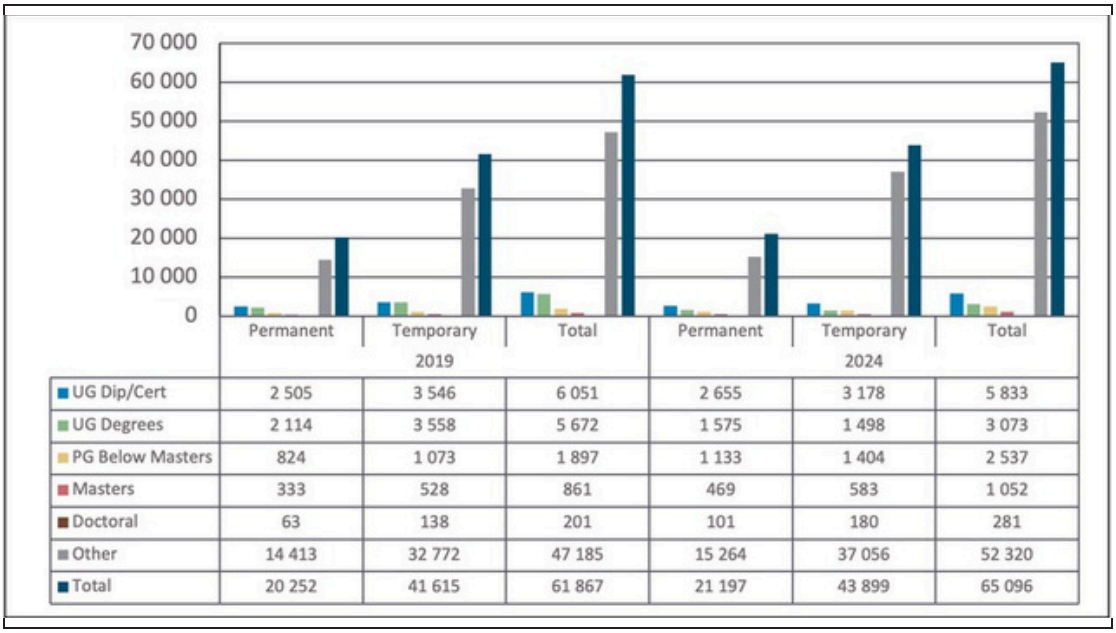
	2019				2024			
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
Permanent	12 103	3 534	925	3 802	13 961	3 617	844	2 748
Temporary	28 616	4 904	1 268	8 505	31 266	4 959	1 159	6 015

Figure 134: Headcount administrative staff members by gender and employment status



	2019			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Permanent	13 336	6 916	20 252	13 503	7 694	21 197
Temporary	23 996	17 226	41 222	26 666	17 226	43 892

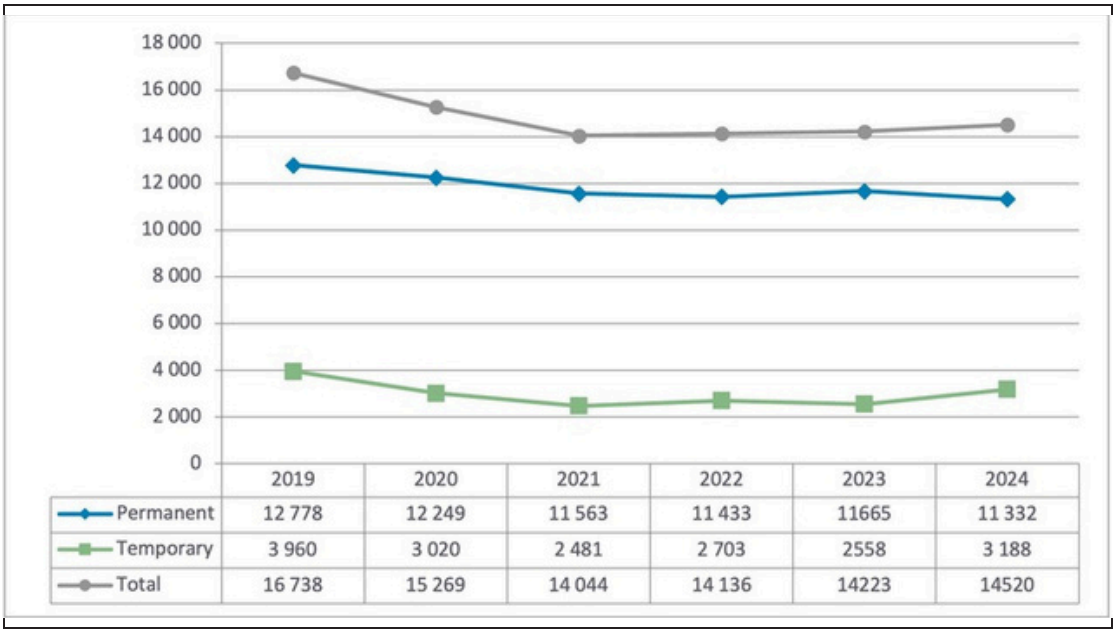
Figure 135: Headcount administrative staff members by qualification type and employment status



	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total
	2019			2024		
UG Dip/Cert	2 505	3 546	6 051	2 655	3 178	5 833
UG Degrees	2 114	3 558	5 672	1 575	1 498	3 073
PG Below Masters	824	1 073	1 897	1 133	1 404	2 537
Masters	333	528	861	469	583	1 052
Doctoral	63	138	201	101	180	281
Other	14 413	32 772	47 185	15 264	37 056	52 320
Total	20 252	41 615	61 867	21 197	43 899	65 096

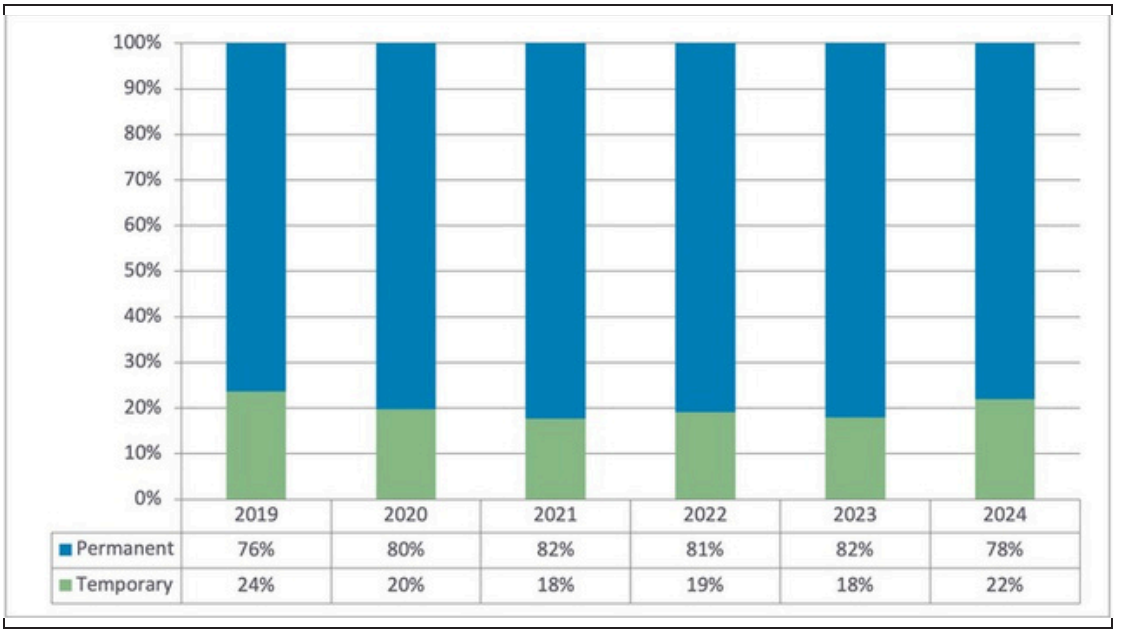
Service Staff

Figure 136: Headcount service staff members by employment status



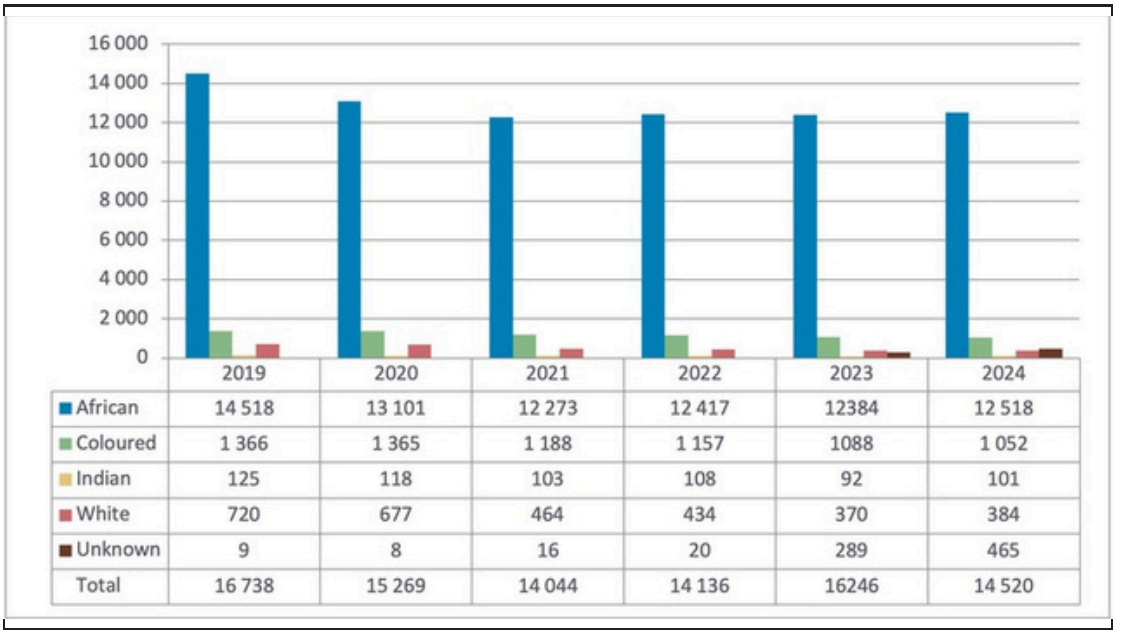
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	12 778	12 249	11 563	11 433	11665	11 332
Temporary	3 960	3 020	2 481	2 703	2558	3 188
Total	16 738	15 269	14 044	14 136	14223	14520

Figure 137: Proportion of permanent vs. temporary service staff members



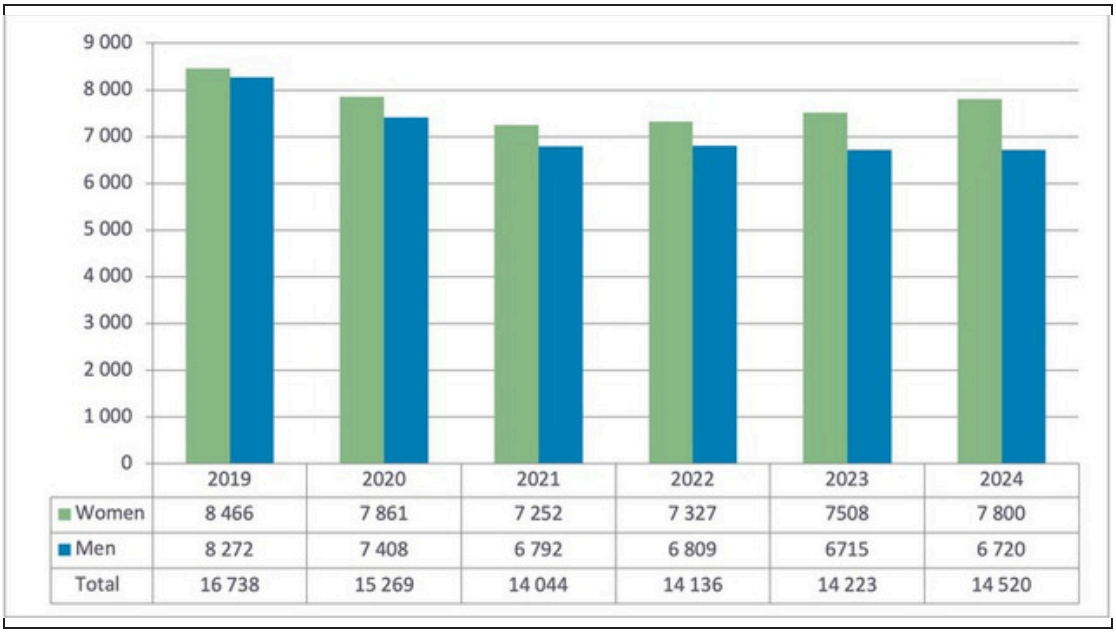
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	76%	80%	82%	81%	82%	78%
Temporary	24%	20%	18%	19%	18%	22%

Figure 138: Headcount service staff members by race



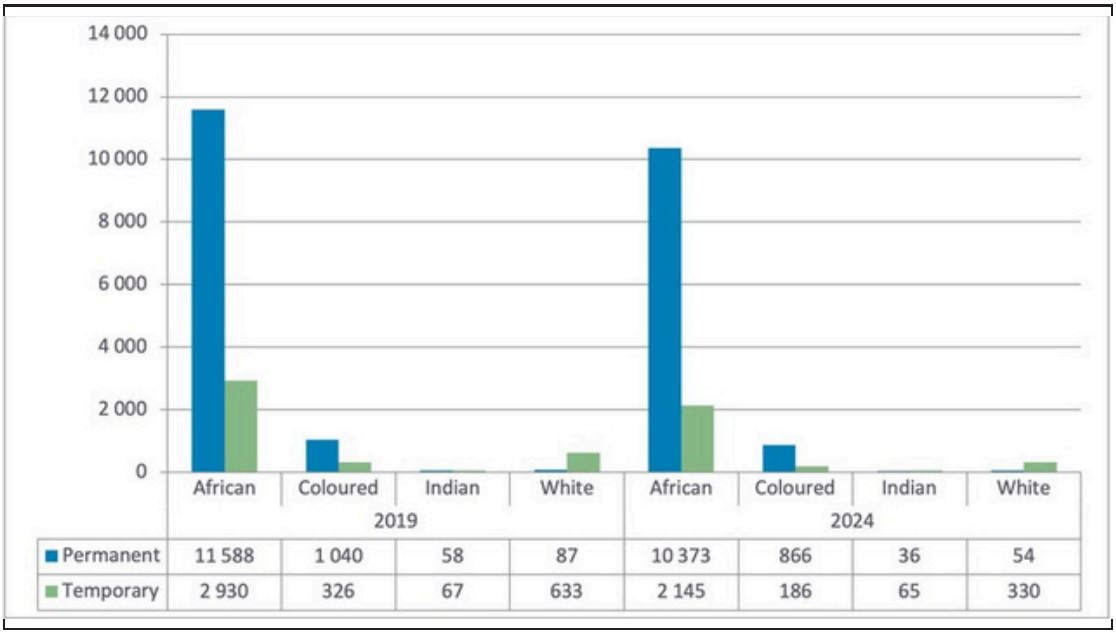
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African	14 518	13 101	12 273	12 417	12384	12 518
Coloured	1 366	1 365	1 188	1 157	1088	1 052
Indian	125	118	103	108	92	101
White	720	677	464	434	370	384
Unknown	9	8	16	20	289	465
Total	16 738	15 269	14 044	14 136	16246	14 520

Figure 139: Headcount service staff members by gender



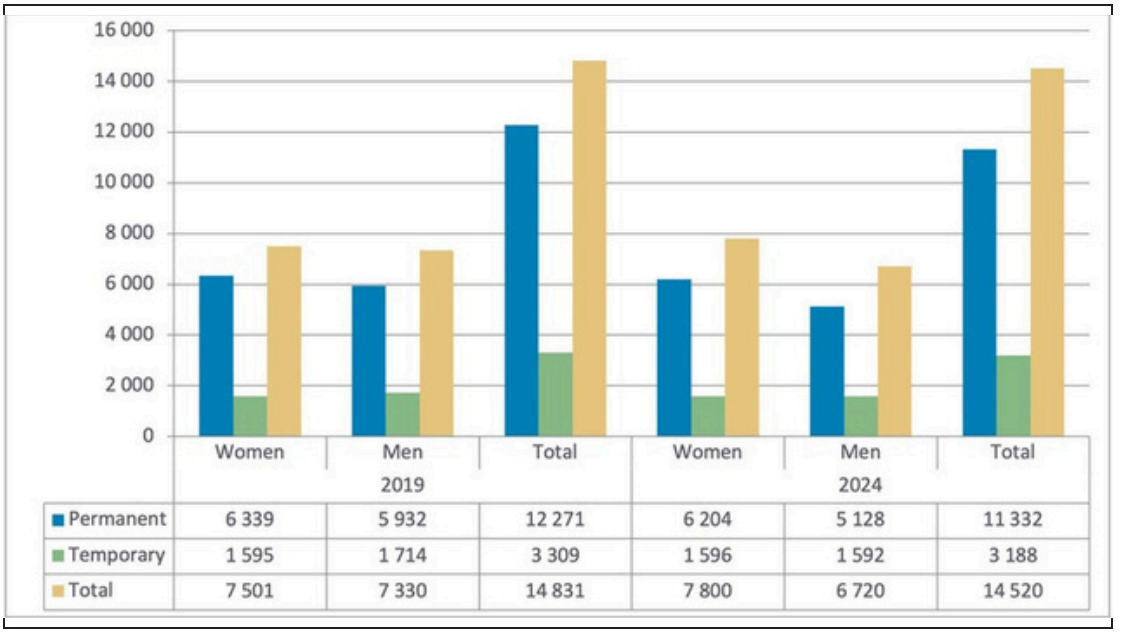
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Women	8 466	7 861	7 252	7 327	7508	7 800
Men	8 272	7 408	6 792	6 809	6715	6 720
Total	16 738	15 269	14 044	14 136	14 223	14 520

Figure 140: Headcount service staff members by race and employment status



	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White
	2019				2024			
Permanent	11 588	1 040	58	87	10 373	866	36	54
Temporary	2 930	326	67	633	2 145	186	65	330

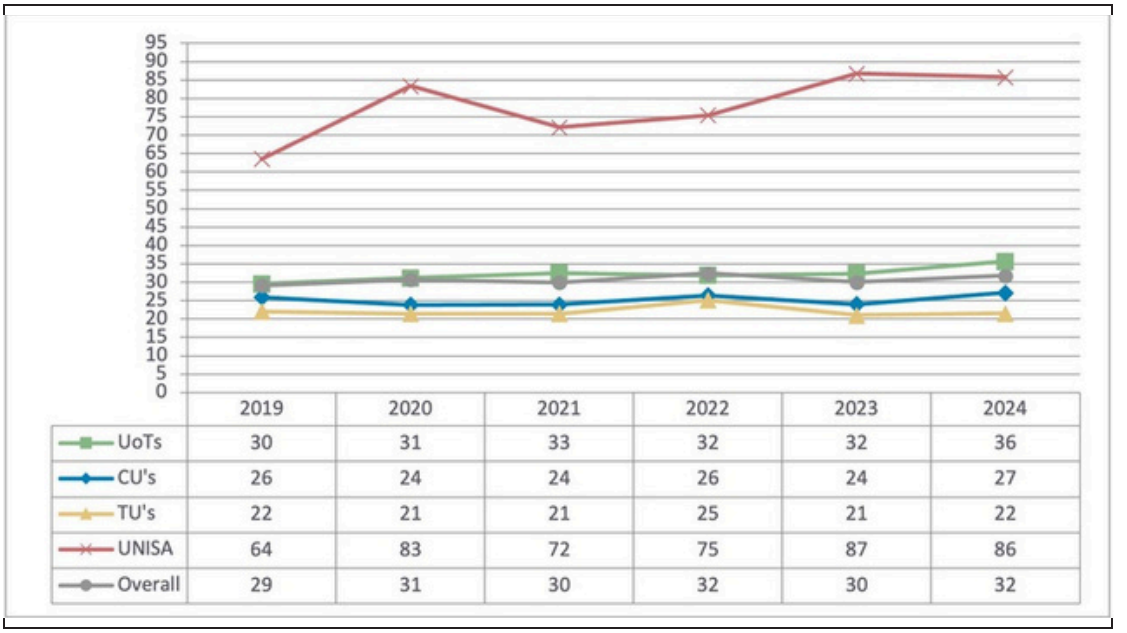
Figure 141: Headcount service staff members by gender and employment status



	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	2019			2024		
Permanent	6 339	5 932	12 271	6 204	5 128	11 332
Temporary	1 595	1 714	3 309	1 596	1 592	3 188
Total	7 501	7 330	14 831	7 800	6 720	14 520

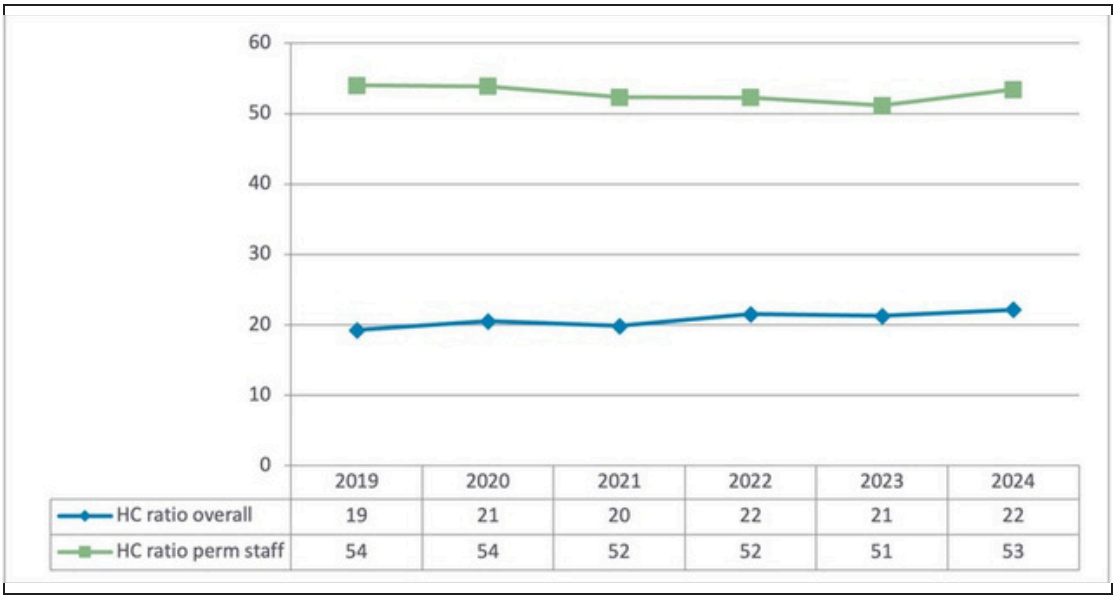
Student: Staff ratios

Figure 142: FTE Student: Staff ratio



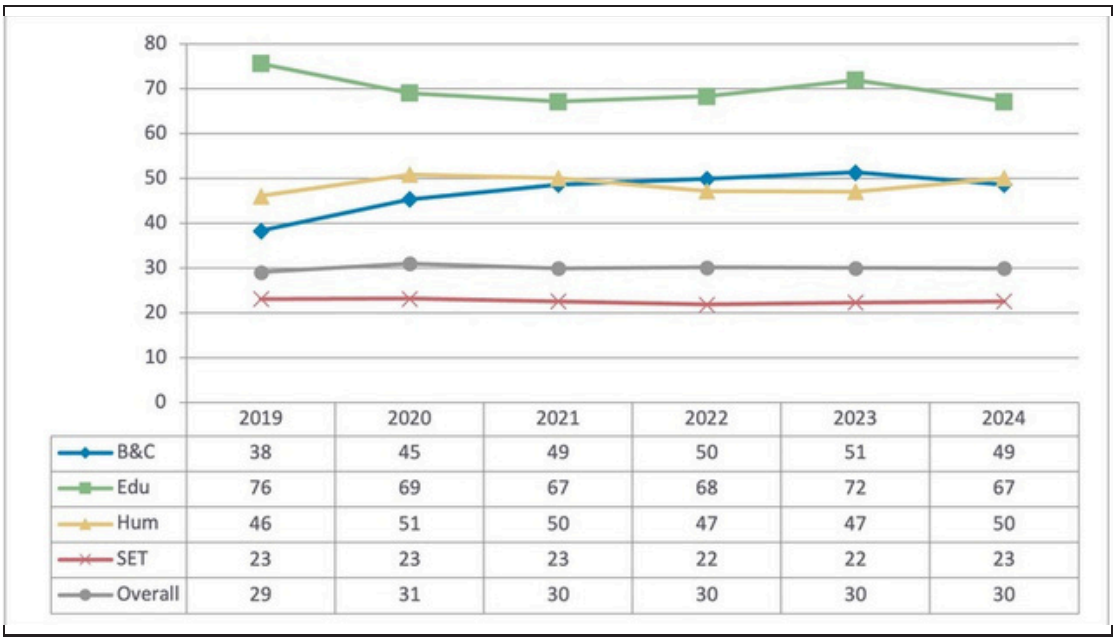
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UoTs	30	31	33	32	32	36
CU's	26	24	24	26	24	27
TU's	22	21	21	25	21	22
UNISA	64	83	72	75	87	86
Overall	29	31	30	32	30	32

Figure 143: Headcount Student: Staff ratio - overall (permanent and temporary) academic staff, and permanent academic staff only



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
HC ratio overall	19	21	20	22	21	22
HC ratio perm staff	54	54	52	52	51	53

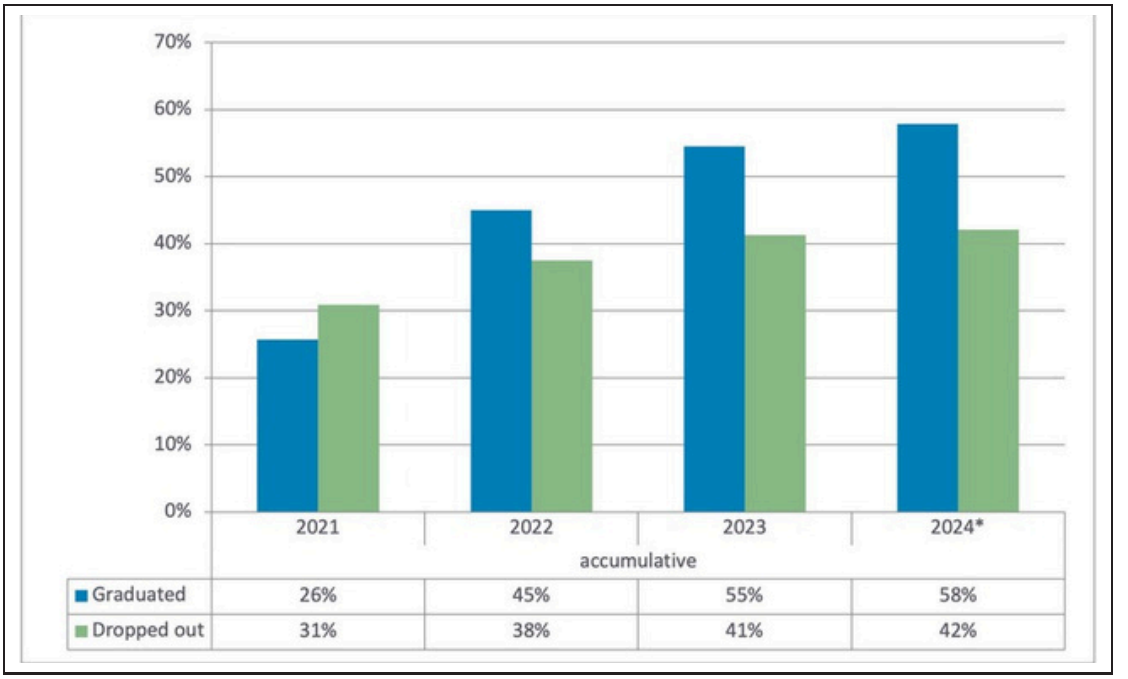
Figure 144: FTE Student: Staff ratio by student field of study



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
B&C	38	45	49	50	51	49
Edu	76	69	67	68	72	67
Hum	46	51	50	47	47	50
SET	23	23	23	22	22	23
Overall	29	31	30	30	30	30

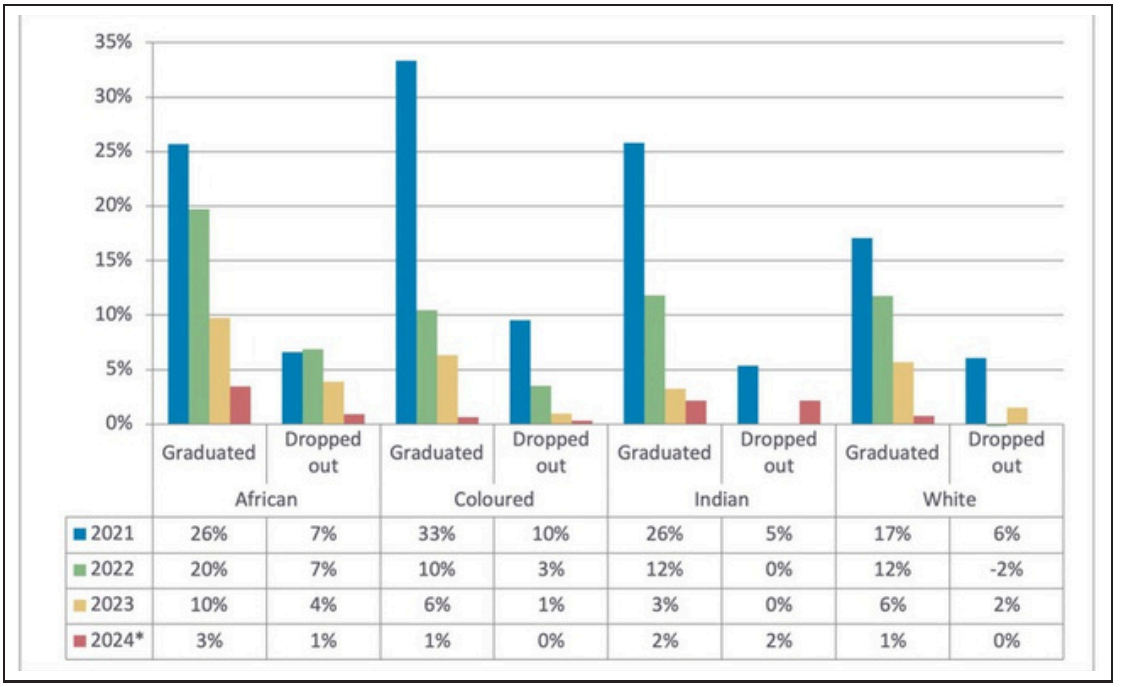
COHORT ANALYSIS

Figure 145: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) - accumulative



	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Graduated	26%	45%	55%	58%
Dropped out	31%	38%	41%	42%

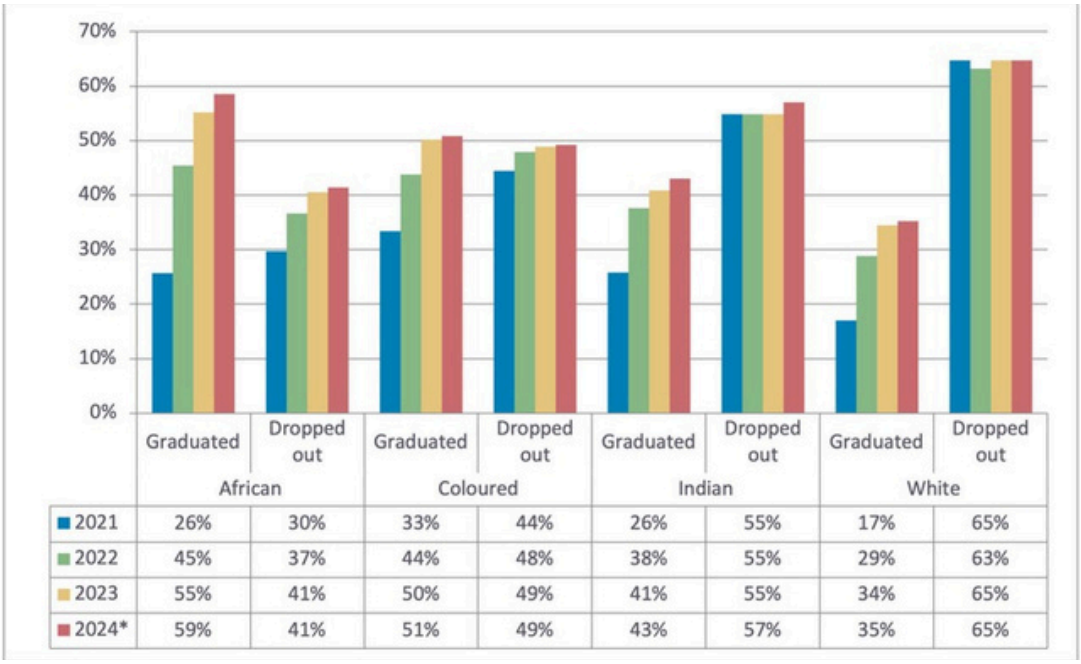
Figure 146: Throughput rates by race for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) - non-accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	26%	7%	33%	10%	26%	5%	17%	6%
2022	20%	7%	10%	3%	12%	0%	12%	-2%
2023	10%	4%	6%	1%	3%	0%	6%	2%
2024*	3%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%

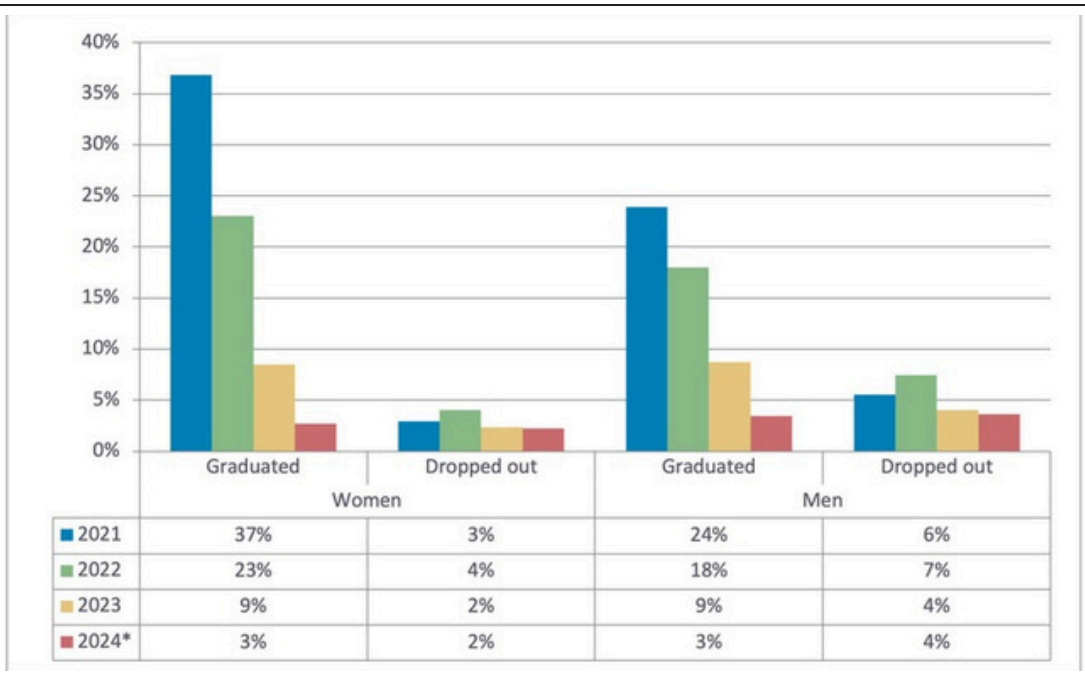
**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 147: Throughput rates by race for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	26%	30%	33%	44%	26%	55%	17%	65%
2022	45%	37%	44%	48%	38%	55%	29%	63%
2023	55%	41%	50%	49%	41%	55%	34%	65%
2024*	59%	41%	51%	49%	43%	57%	35%	65%

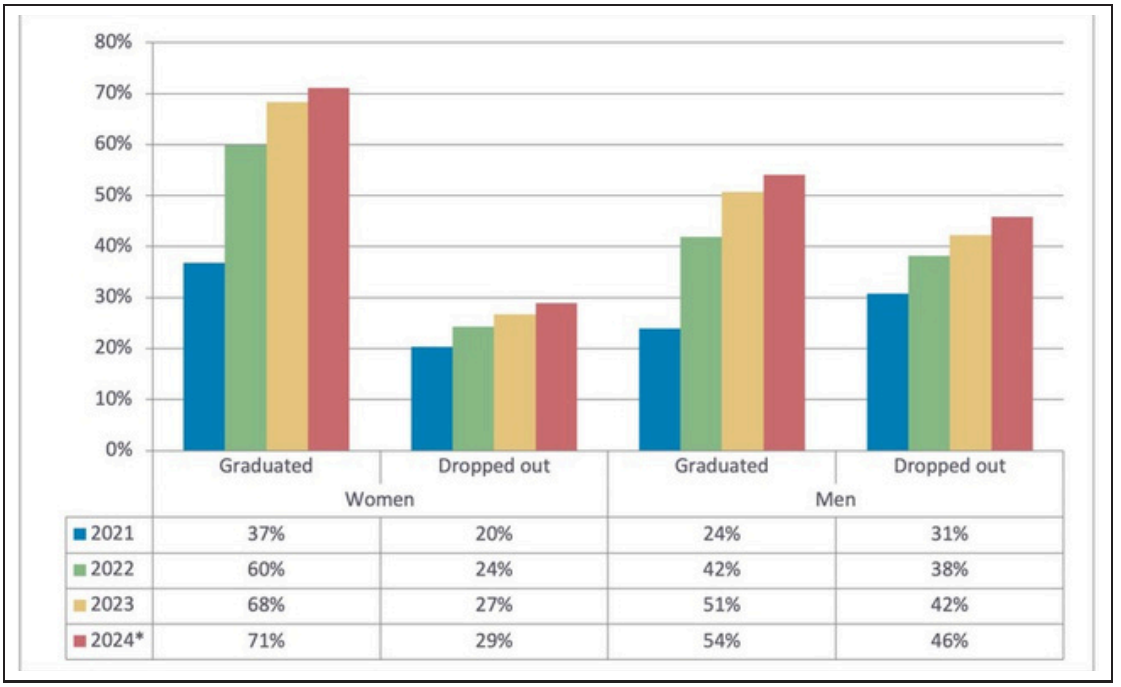
Figure 148: Throughput rates by gender for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – non-accumulative



	Women		Men	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	37%	3%	24%	6%
2022	23%	4%	18%	7%
2023	9%	2%	9%	4%
2024*	3%	2%	3%	4%

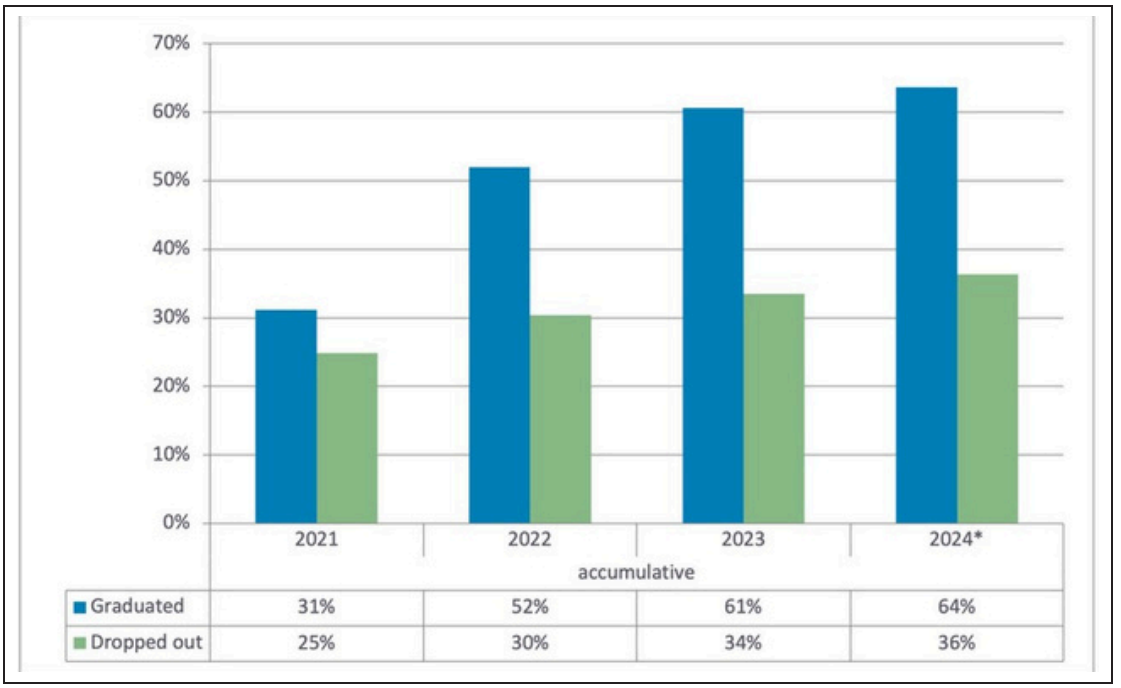
**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 149: Throughput rates by gender for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



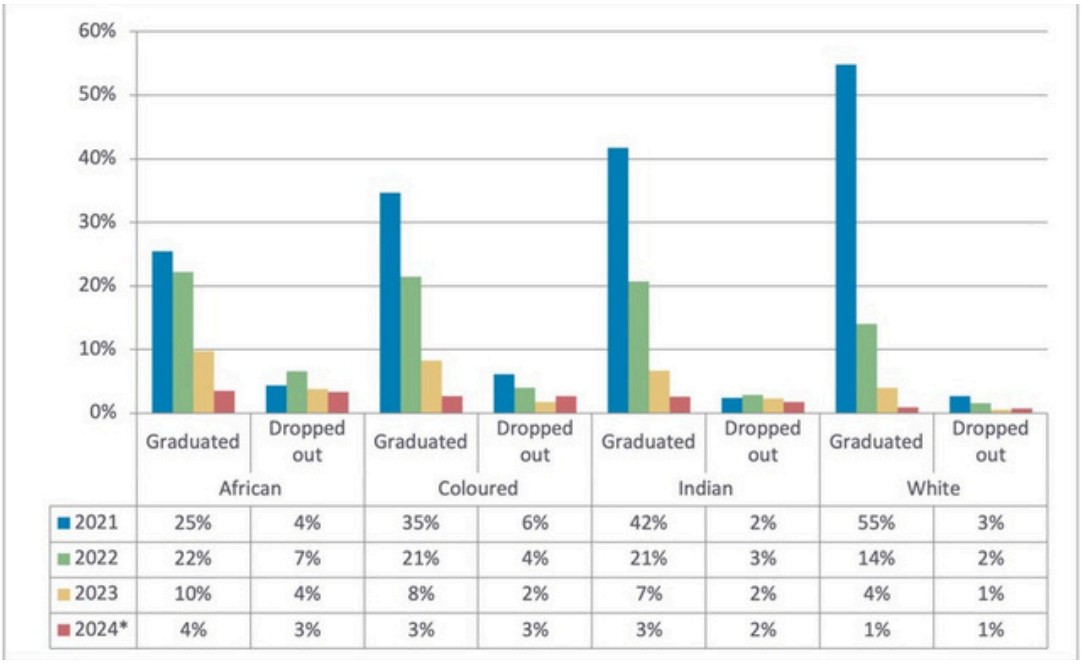
	Women		Men	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	37%	20%	24%	31%
2022	60%	24%	42%	38%
2023	68%	27%	51%	42%
2024*	71%	29%	54%	46%

Figure 150: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) - accumulative



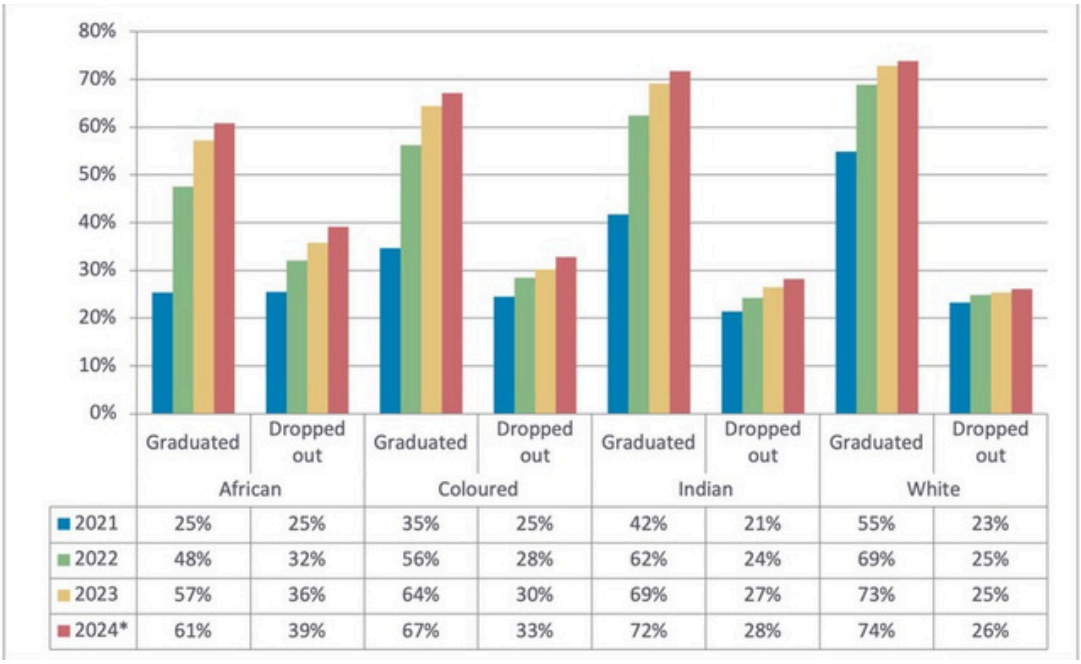
	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Graduated	31%	52%	61%	64%
Dropped out	25%	30%	34%	36%

Figure 151: Throughput rates by race for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – non-accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	25%	4%	35%	6%	42%	2%	55%	3%
2022	22%	7%	21%	4%	21%	3%	14%	2%
2023	10%	4%	8%	2%	7%	2%	4%	1%
2024*	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%

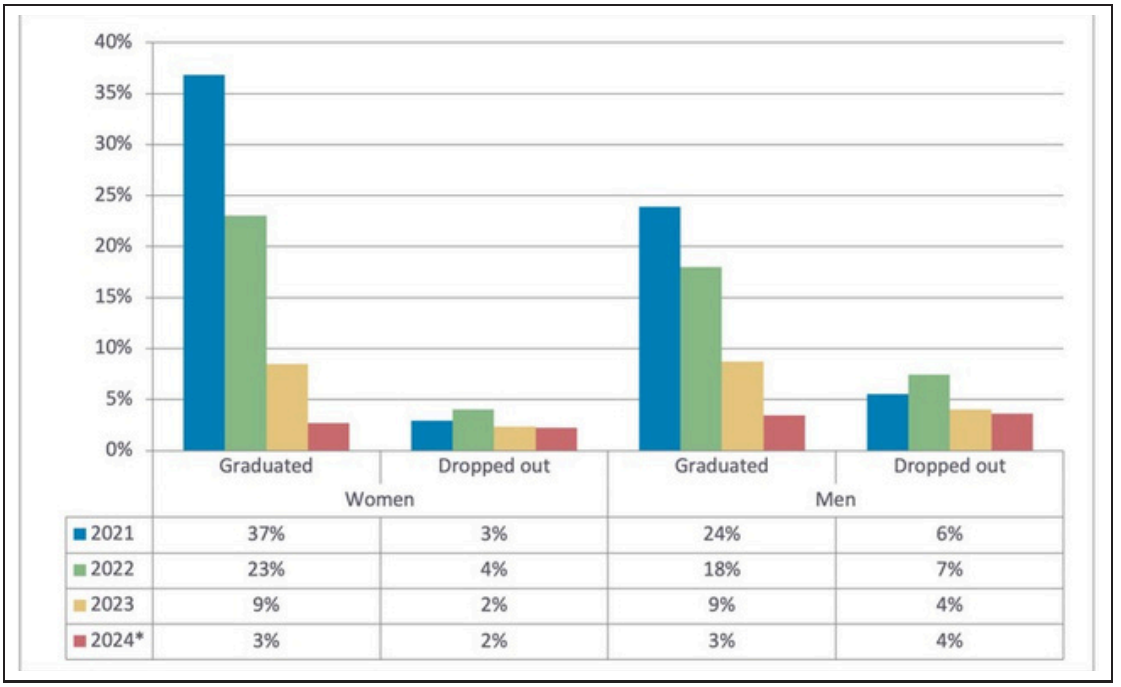
Figure 152: Throughput rates by race for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	25%	25%	35%	25%	42%	21%	55%	23%
2022	48%	32%	56%	28%	62%	24%	69%	25%
2023	57%	36%	64%	30%	69%	27%	73%	25%
2024*	61%	39%	67%	33%	72%	28%	74%	26%

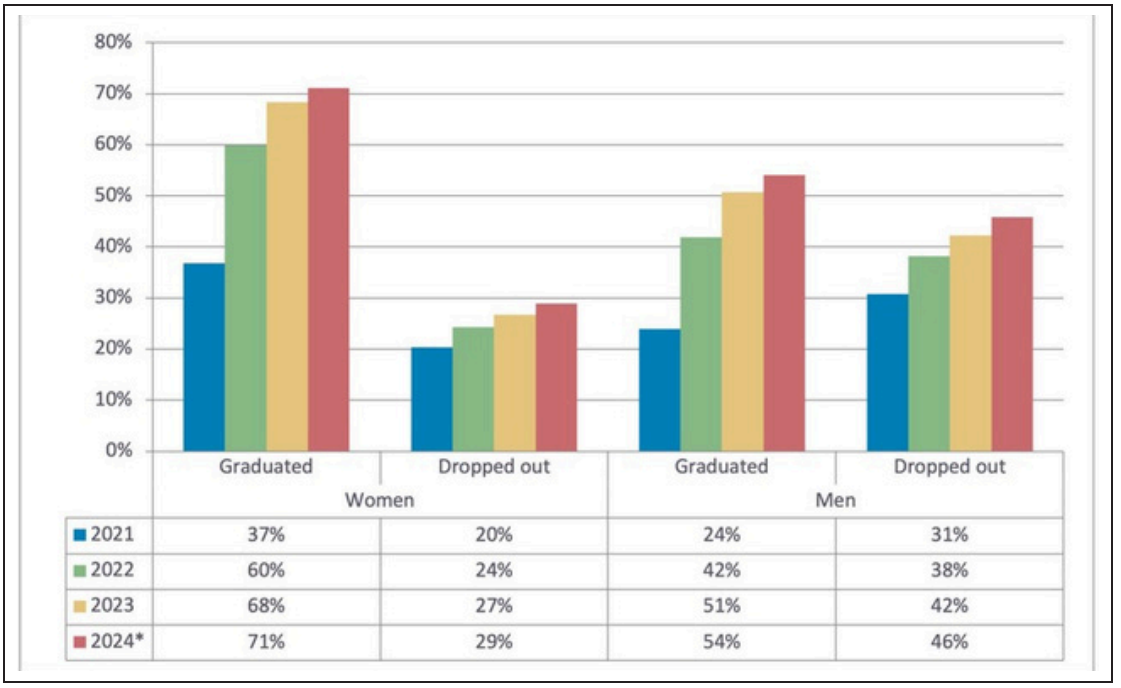
**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 153: Throughput rates by gender for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – non-accumulative



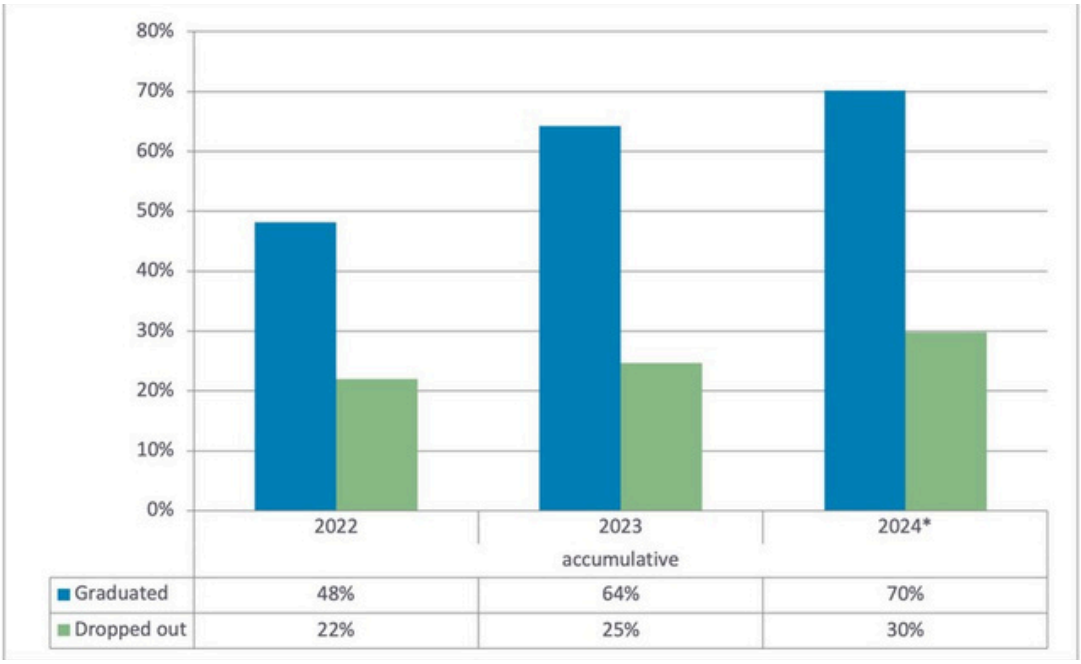
	Women		Men	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	37%	3%	24%	6%
2022	23%	4%	18%	7%
2023	9%	2%	9%	4%
2024*	3%	2%	3%	4%

Figure 154: Throughput rates by gender for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



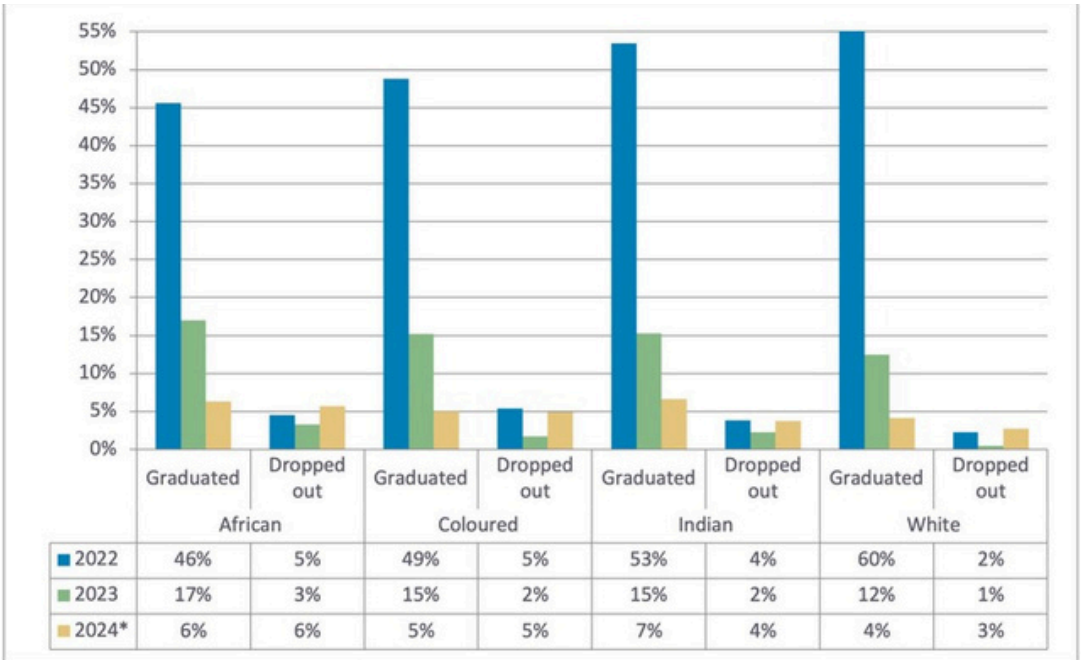
	Women		Men	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2021	37%	20%	24%	31%
2022	60%	24%	42%	38%
2023	68%	27%	51%	42%
2024*	71%	29%	54%	46%

Figure 155: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



	2022	2023	2024*
Graduated	48%	64%	70%
Dropped out	22%	25%	30%

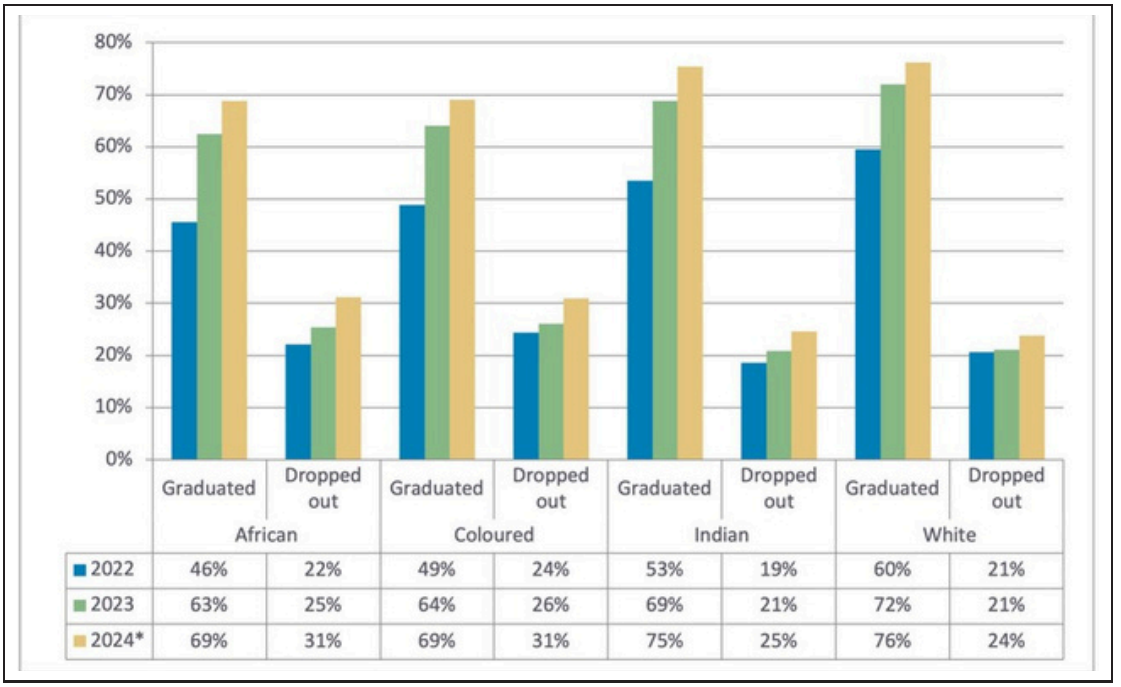
Figure 156: Throughput rates by race for 4-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) - non-accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2022	46%	5%	49%	5%	53%	4%	60%	2%
2023	17%	3%	15%	2%	15%	2%	12%	1%
2024*	6%	6%	5%	5%	7%	4%	4%	3%

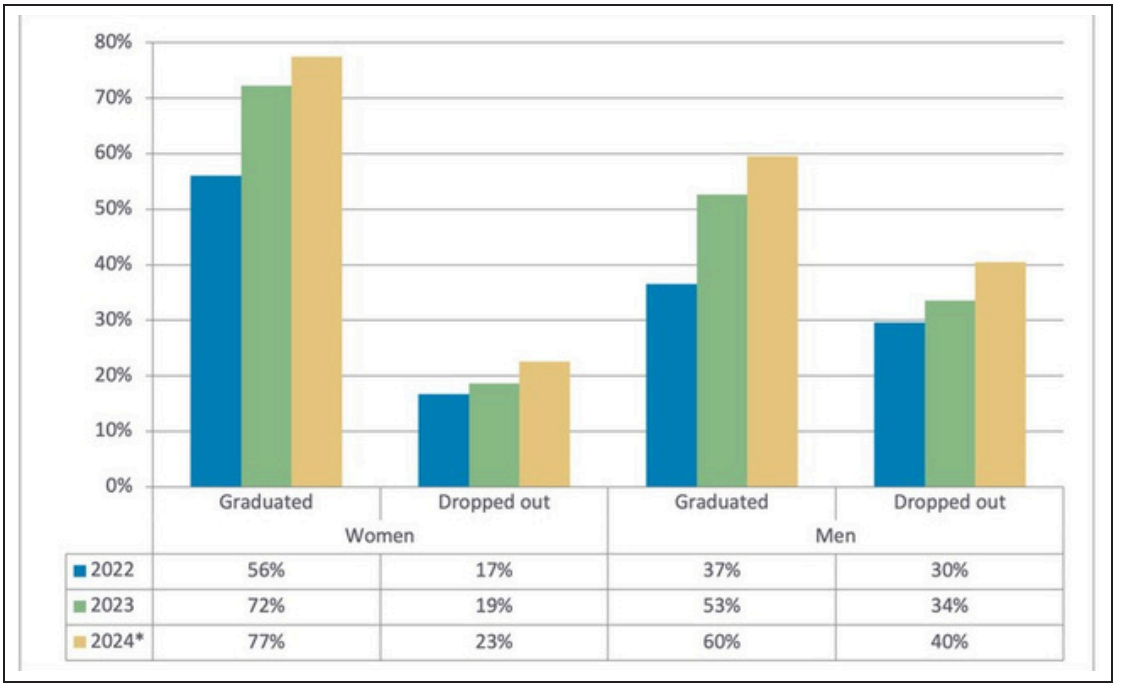
**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024***

Figure 157: Throughput rates by race for 4-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2022	46%	22%	49%	24%	53%	19%	60%	21%
2023	63%	25%	64%	26%	69%	21%	72%	21%
2024*	69%	31%	69%	31%	75%	25%	76%	24%

Figure 158: Throughput rates by gender for 4-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA) – accumulative



	Women		Men	
	Graduated	Dropped out	Graduated	Dropped out
2022	56%	17%	37%	30%
2023	72%	19%	53%	34%
2024*	77%	23%	60%	40%

360-credit diplomas by broad field

Figure 159: Percentageofthe2019cohortdoing360-creditdiplomas that graduated in 6 years or by 2024**

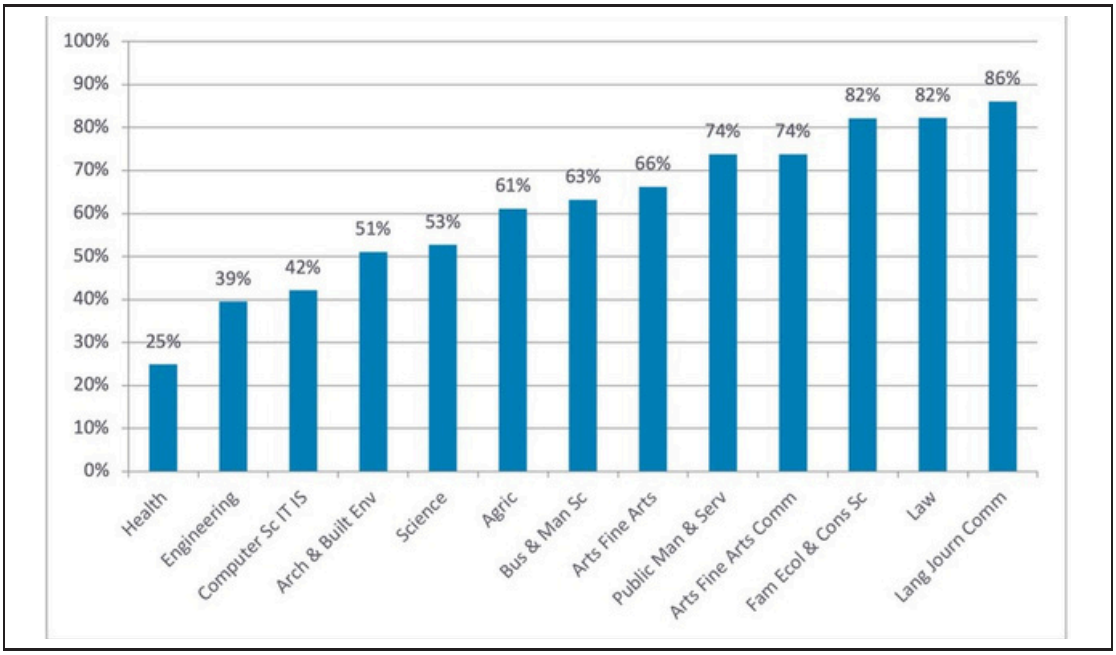
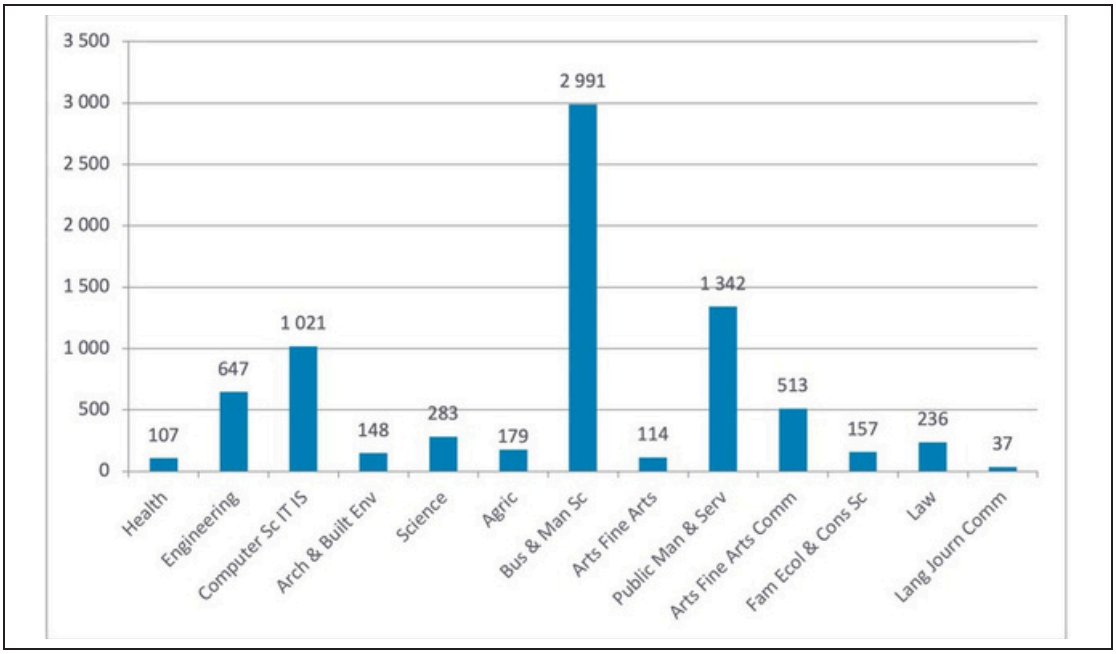


Figure 160: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing 360-credit diplomas that graduated in 6 years or by 2024



**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

***** A detailed list of the specific knowledge areas included for each broad field can be found in Appendix 3. Only the fields with the highest numbers are shown in the graphs for 360-credit diplomas below.***

Figure 161: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Business & Management Sciences) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

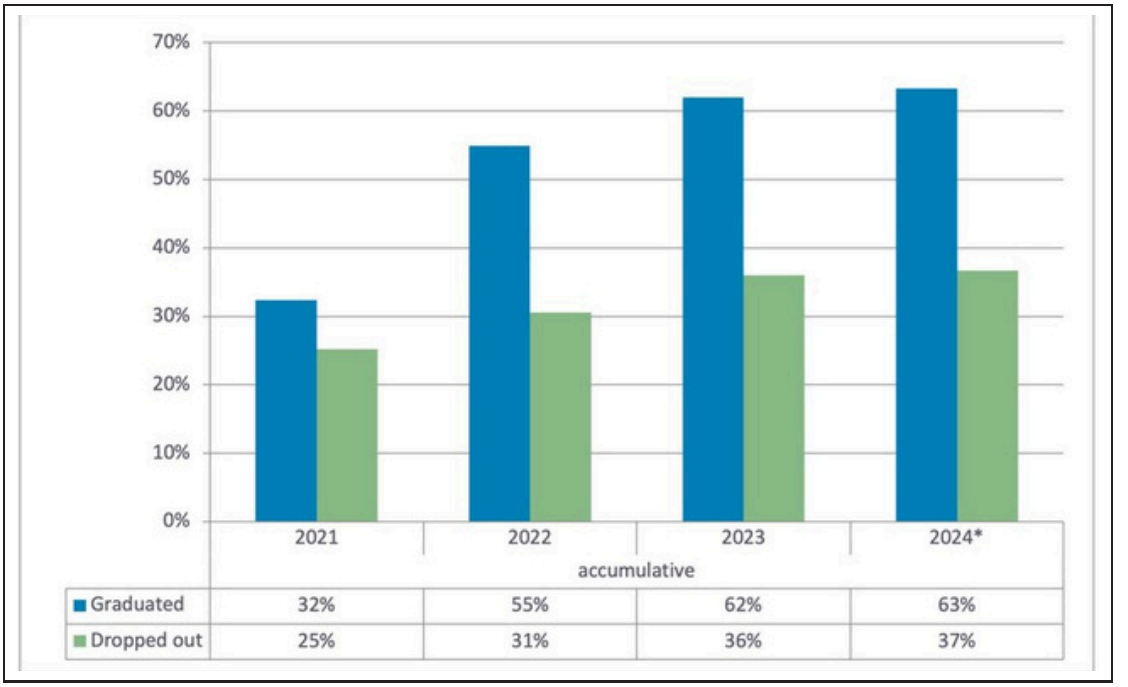
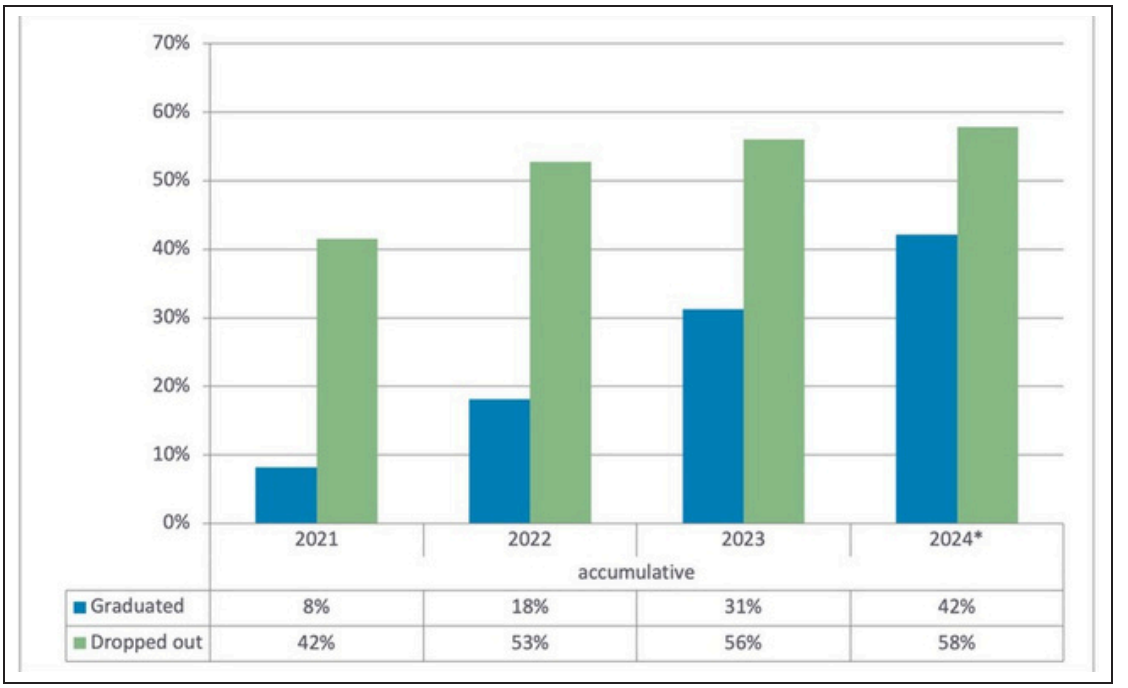


Figure 162: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Computer Science, Information Technology & Information Systems) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 163: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Public Management & Services) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

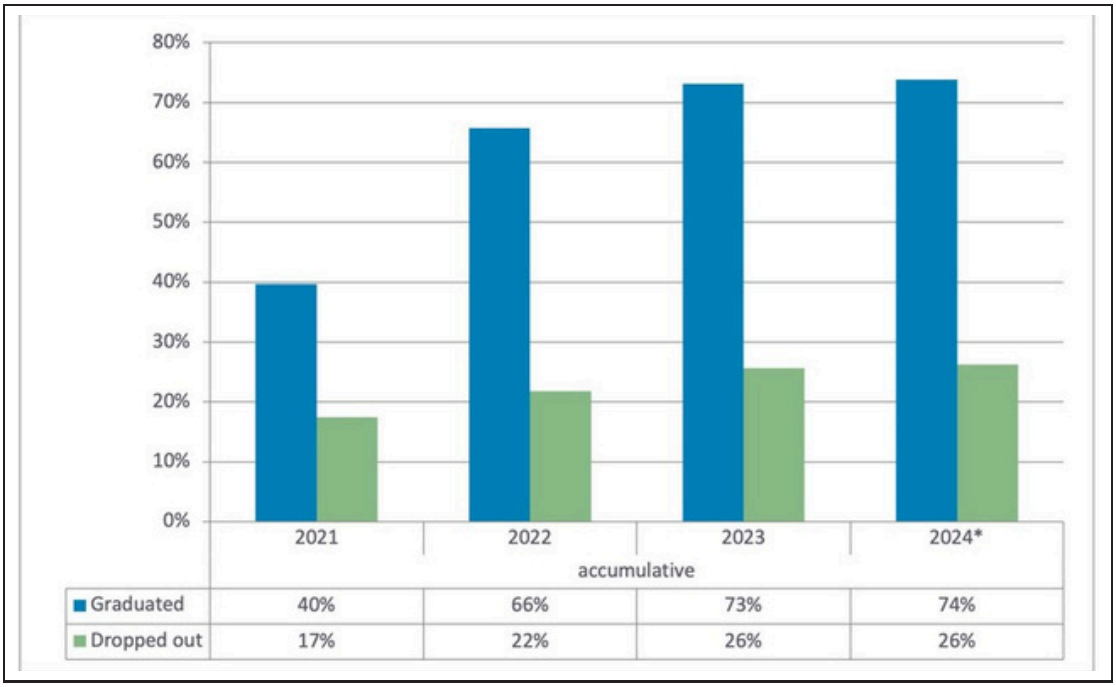


Figure 164: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Engineering) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

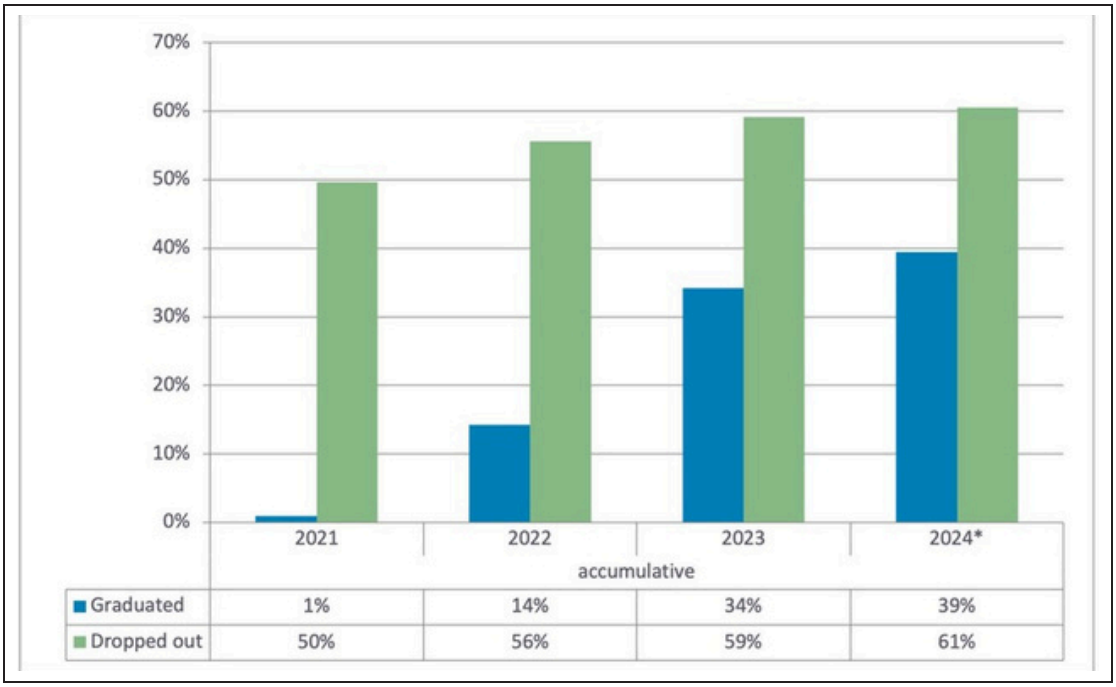


Figure 165: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Arts Fine Arts and Communication) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

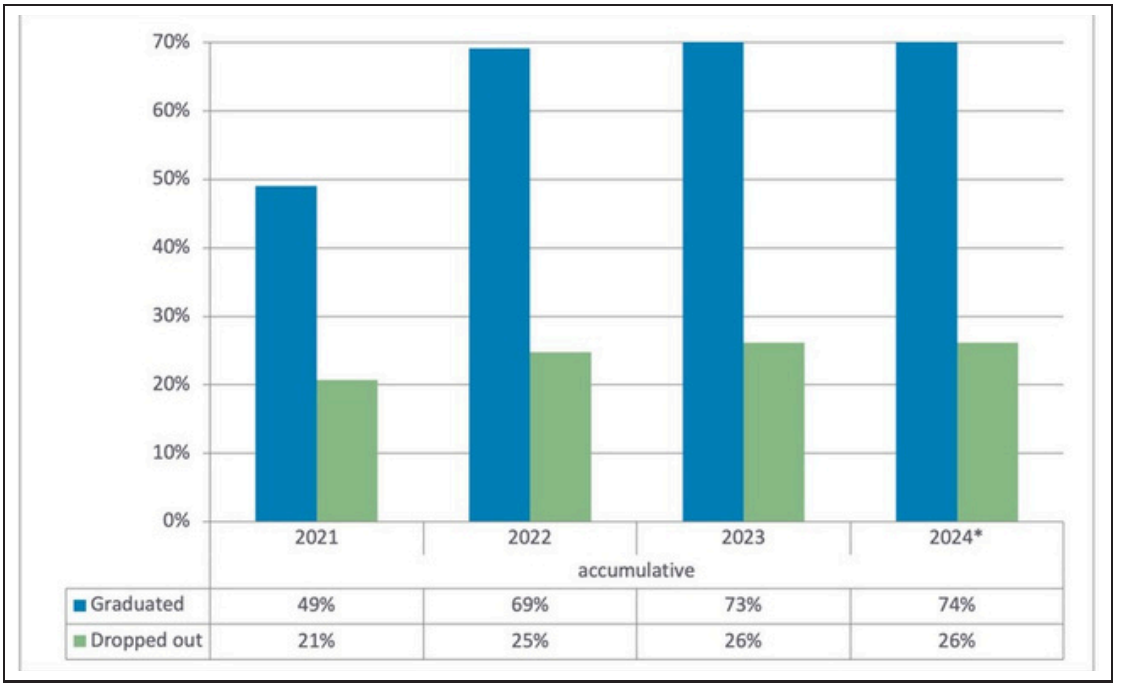
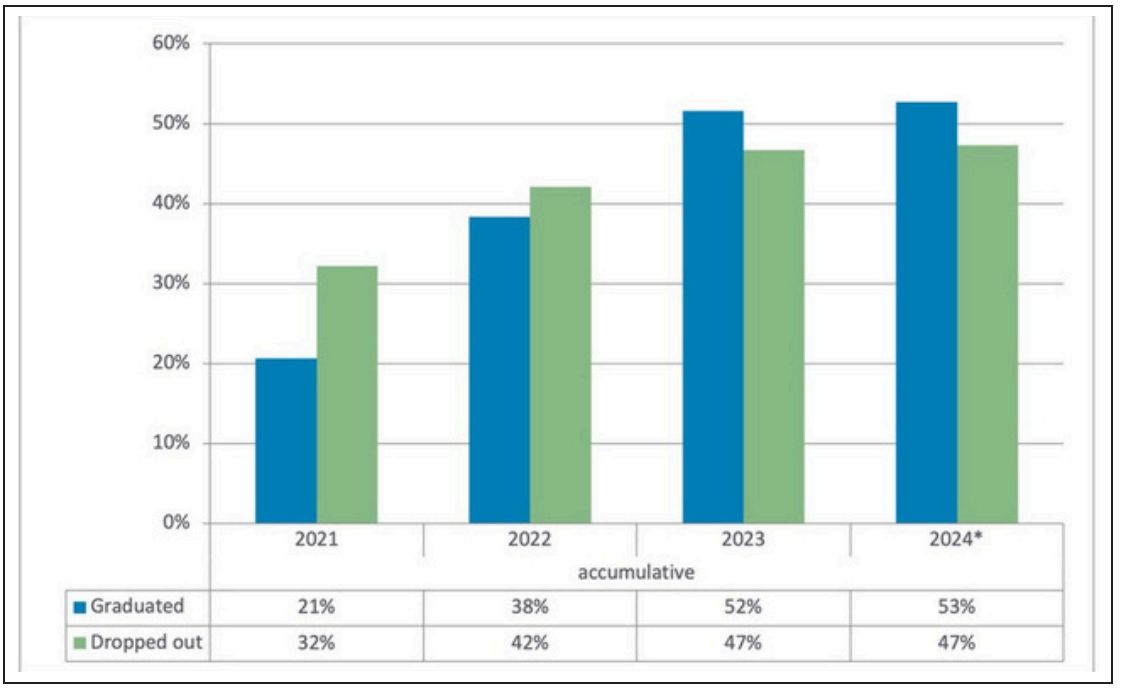


Figure 166: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas (Science) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

3-year degrees by broad field**

Figure 167: Percentageofthe2019cohortdoinga3-yeardegree that graduated in 6 years or by 2024

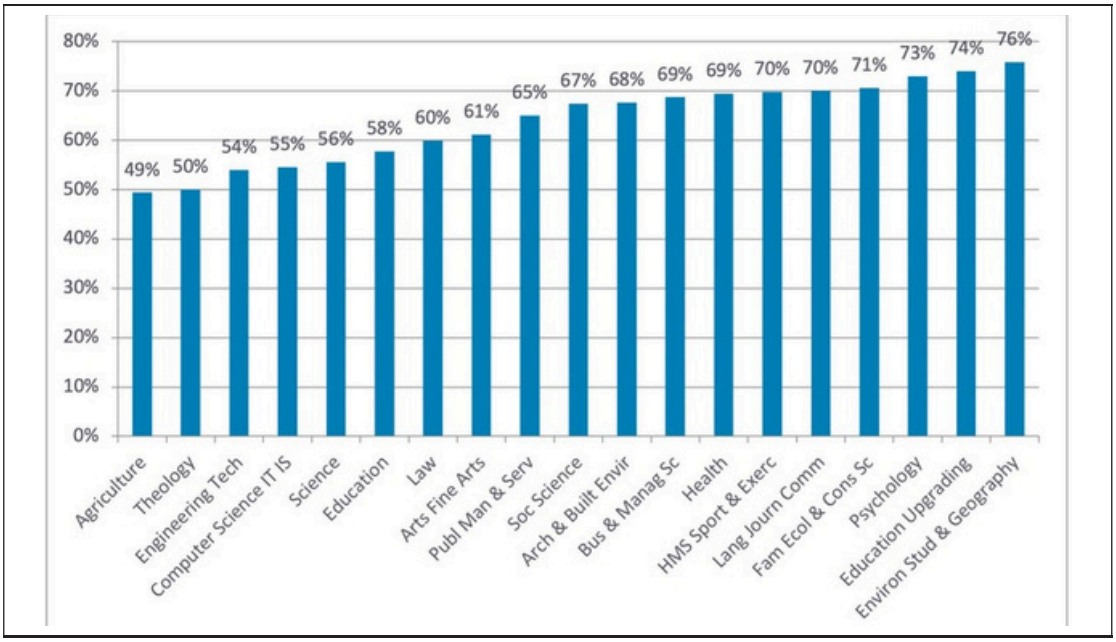
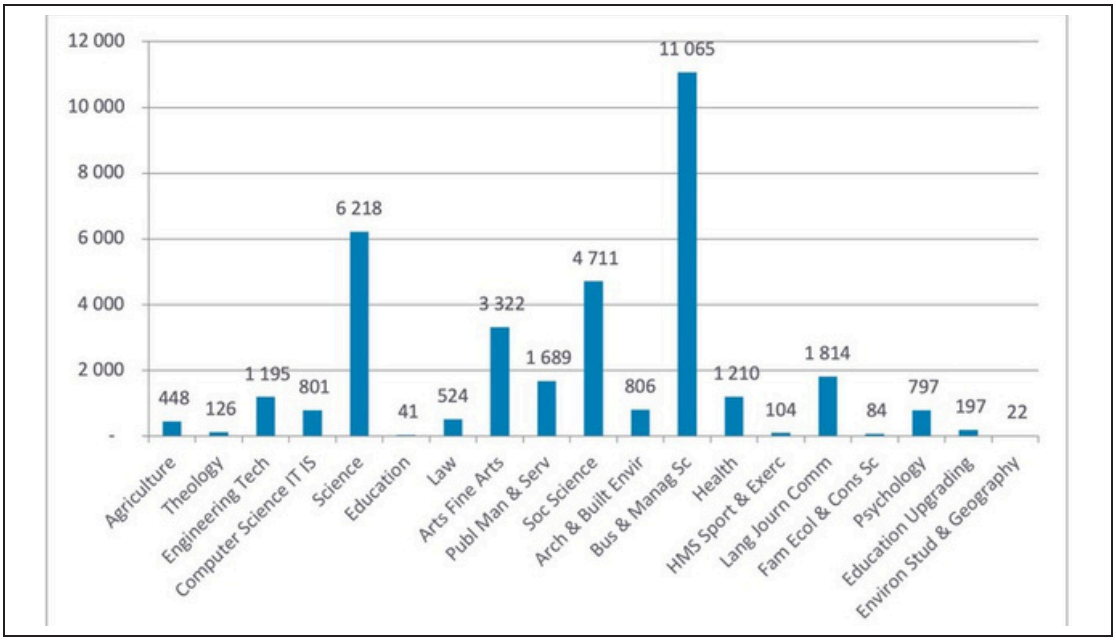


Figure 168: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing a 3-year degree that graduated in 6 years or by 2024



**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

***** A detailed list of the specific knowledge areas included for each broad field can be found in Appendix 3. Only the fields with the highest numbers are shown in the graphs for 3-year degrees below.***

Figure 169: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees (Business & Management Sciences) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

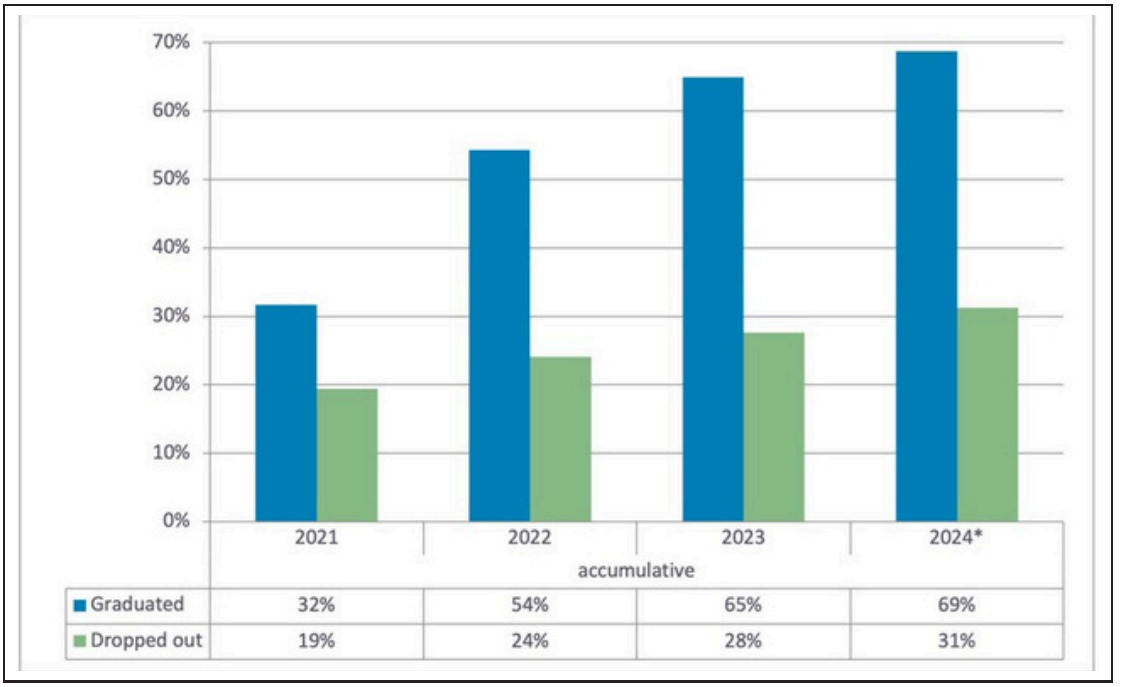


Figure 170: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees (Science) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

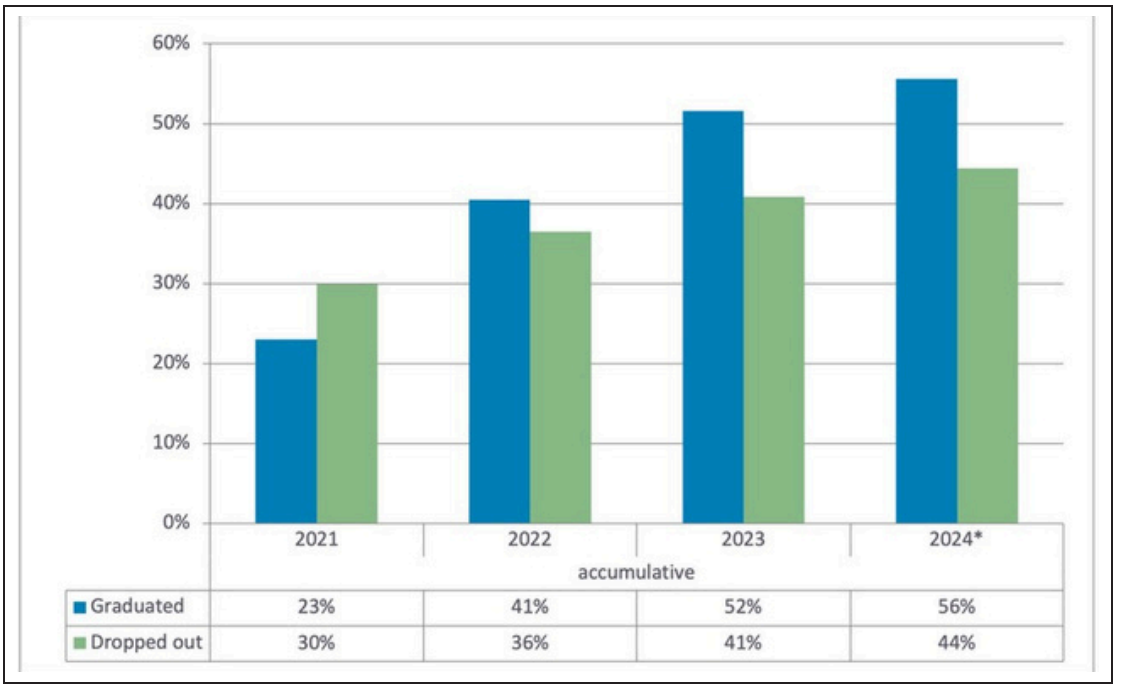


Figure 171: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees (Social Science) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

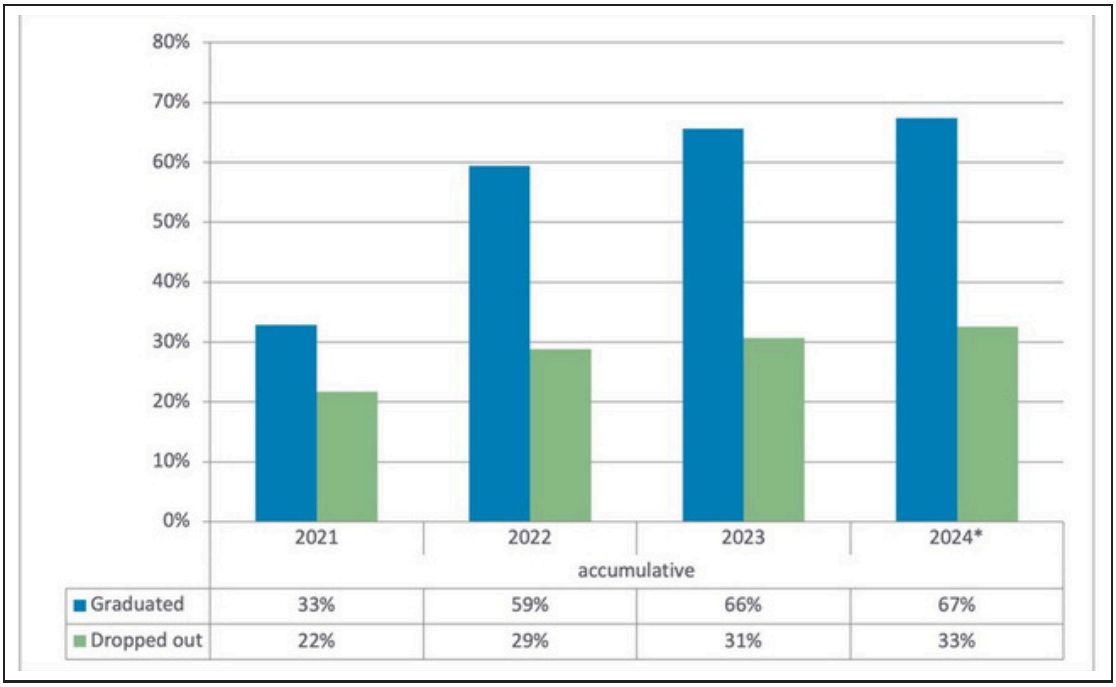


Figure 172: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees (Arts and Fine Arts) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

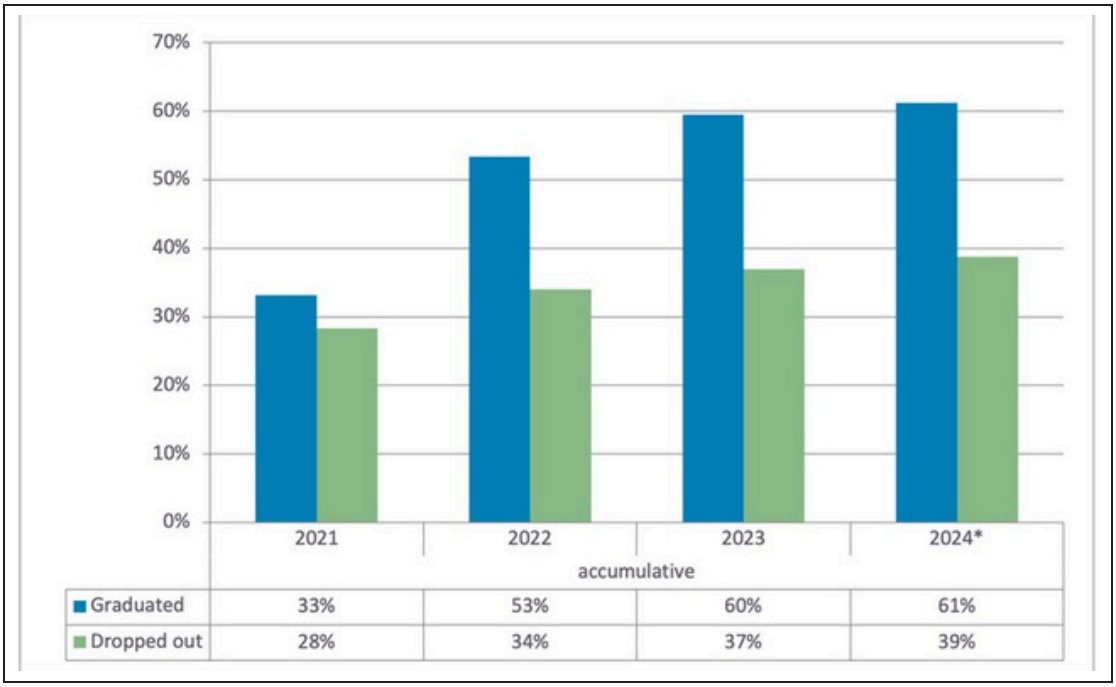
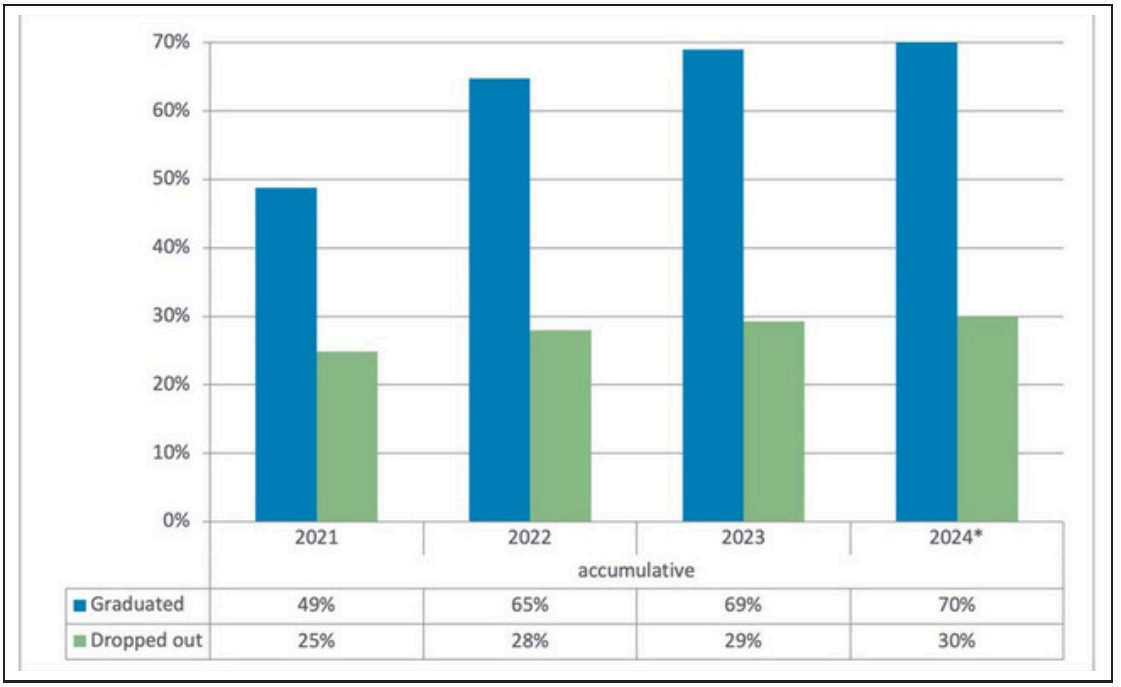


Figure 173: Throughput rates for 3-year degrees (Language, Journalism & Communication) with first year of enrolment in 2018 (excluding UNISA)



4-year degrees by broad field*

Figure 174: Percentage of the 2019 cohort doing 4-year degrees that graduated in 6 years or by 2024

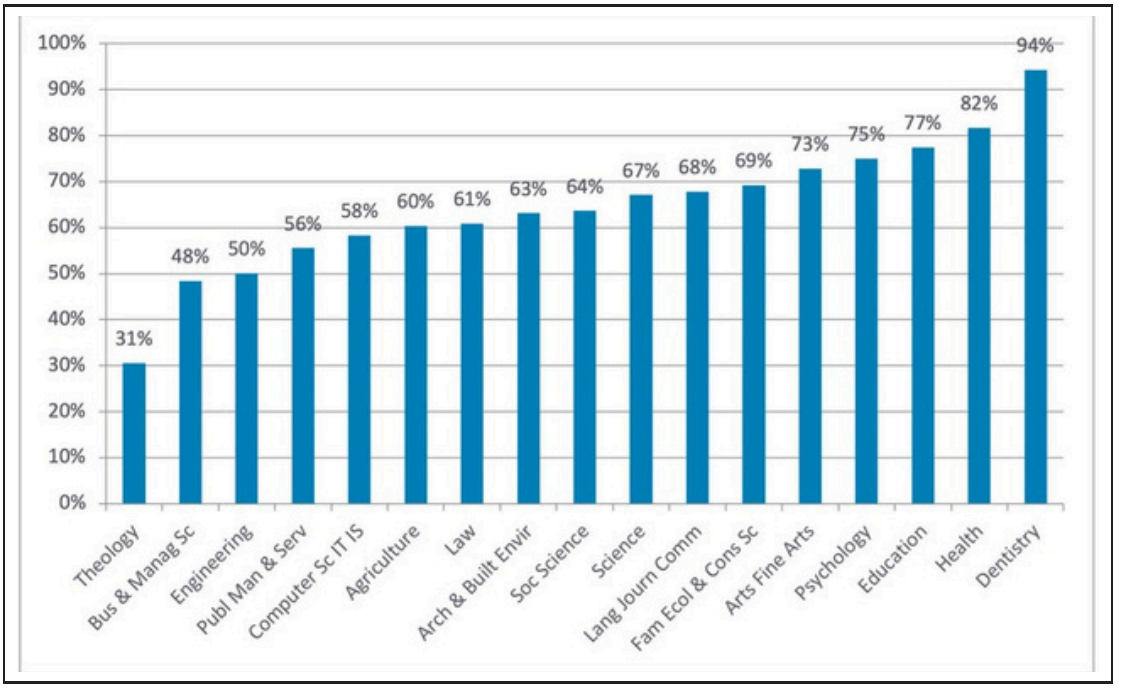


Figure 175: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing 4-year degrees that graduated in 6 years or by 2024

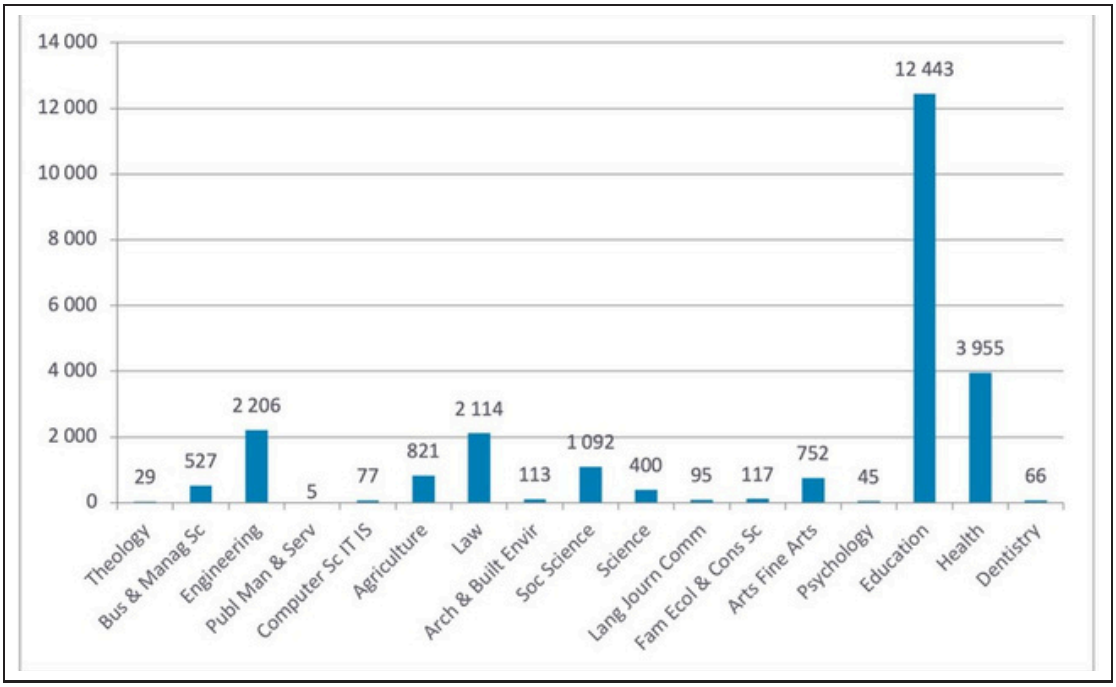
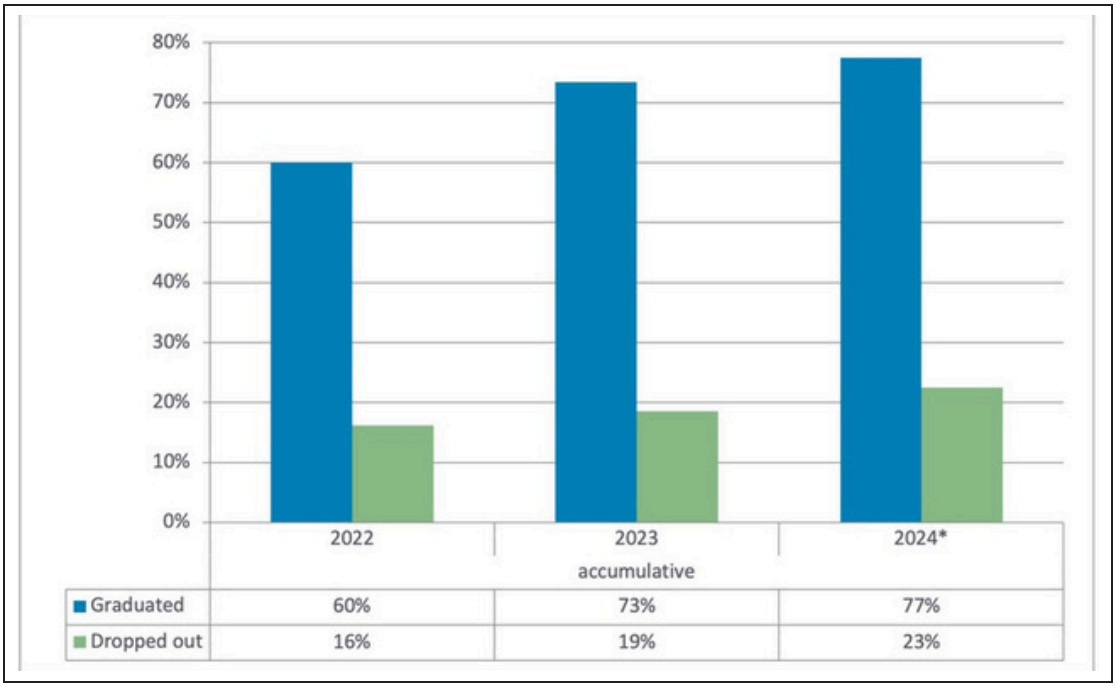


Figure 176: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Education) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



**** A detailed list of the specific knowledge areas included for each broad field can be found in Appendix 3. Only the fields with the highest numbers are shown in the graphs for 4-year degrees.***

Figure 177: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Health) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

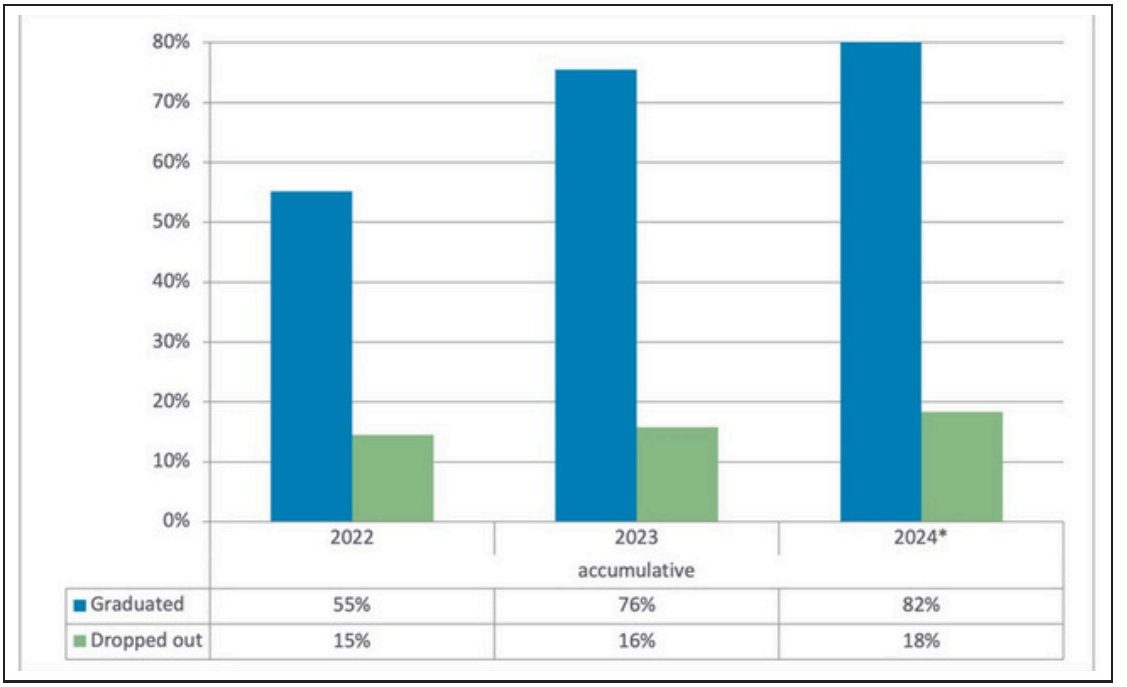


Figure 178: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Engineering) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

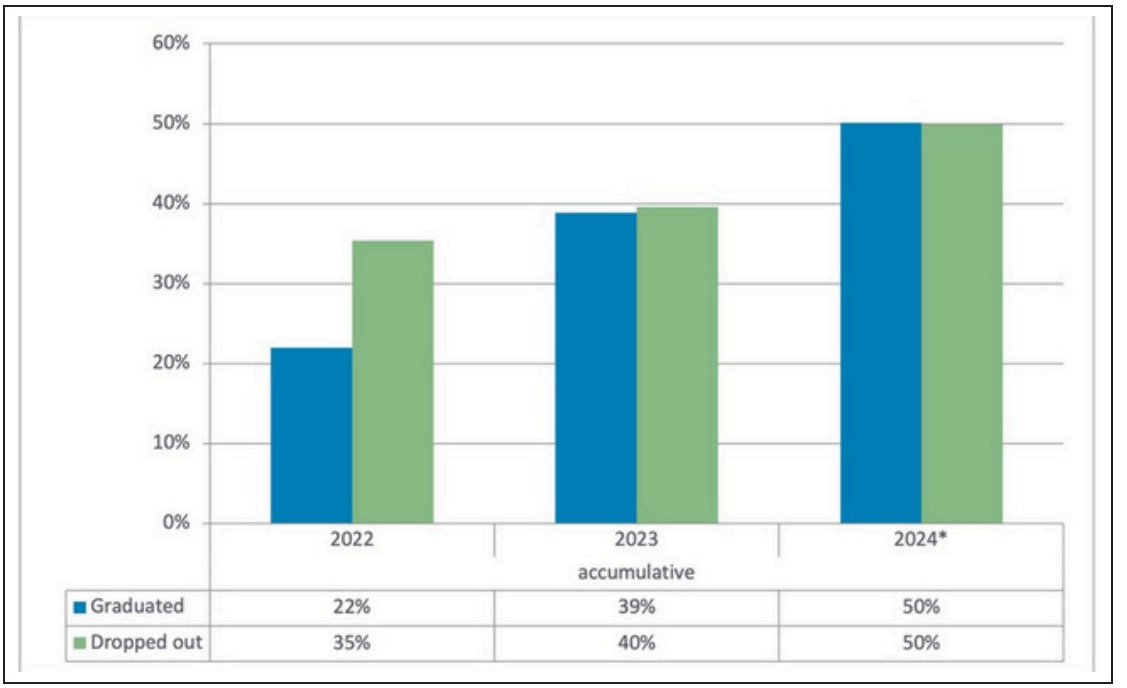


Figure 179: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Law) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

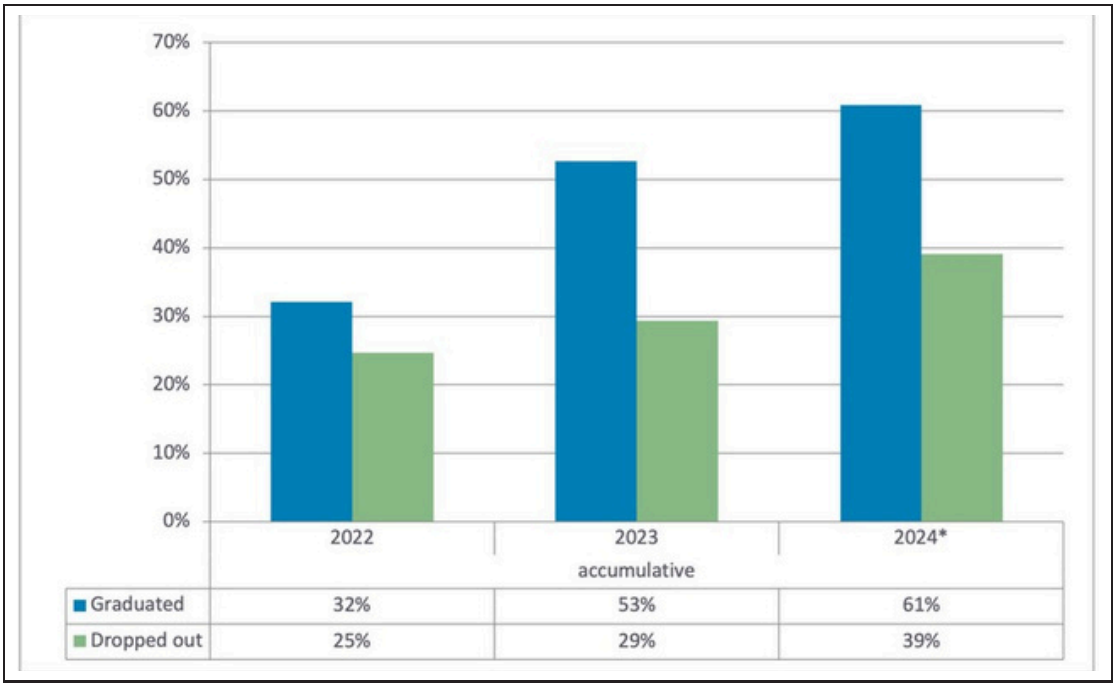


Figure 180: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Social Science) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

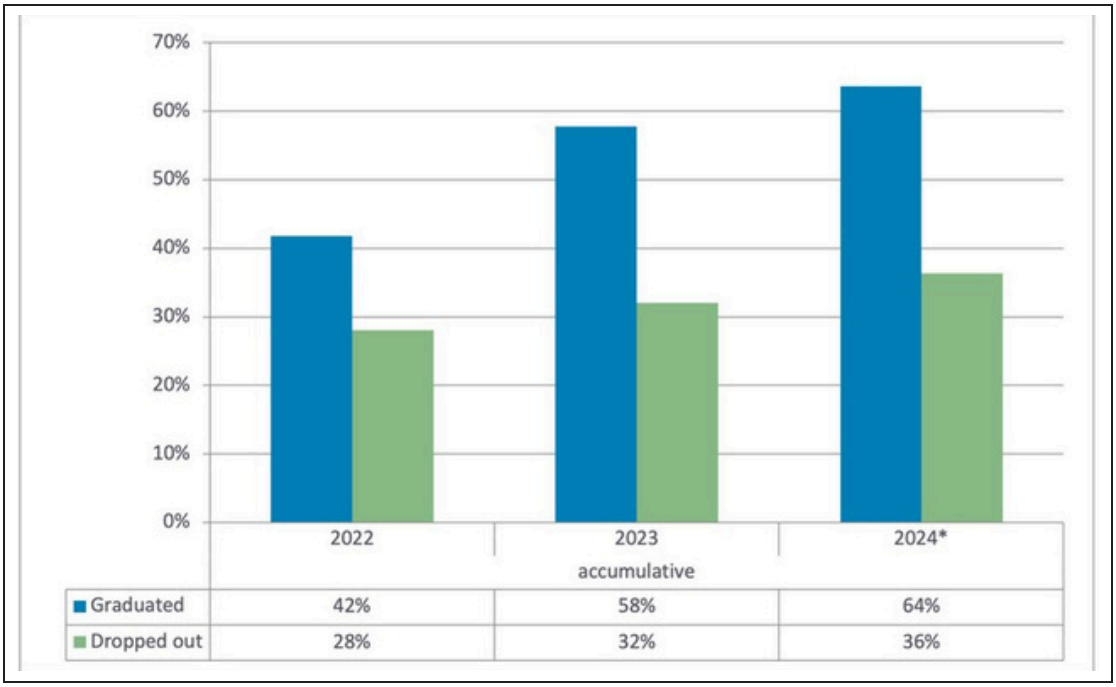


Figure 181: Throughput rates for 4-year degrees (Agriculture) with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

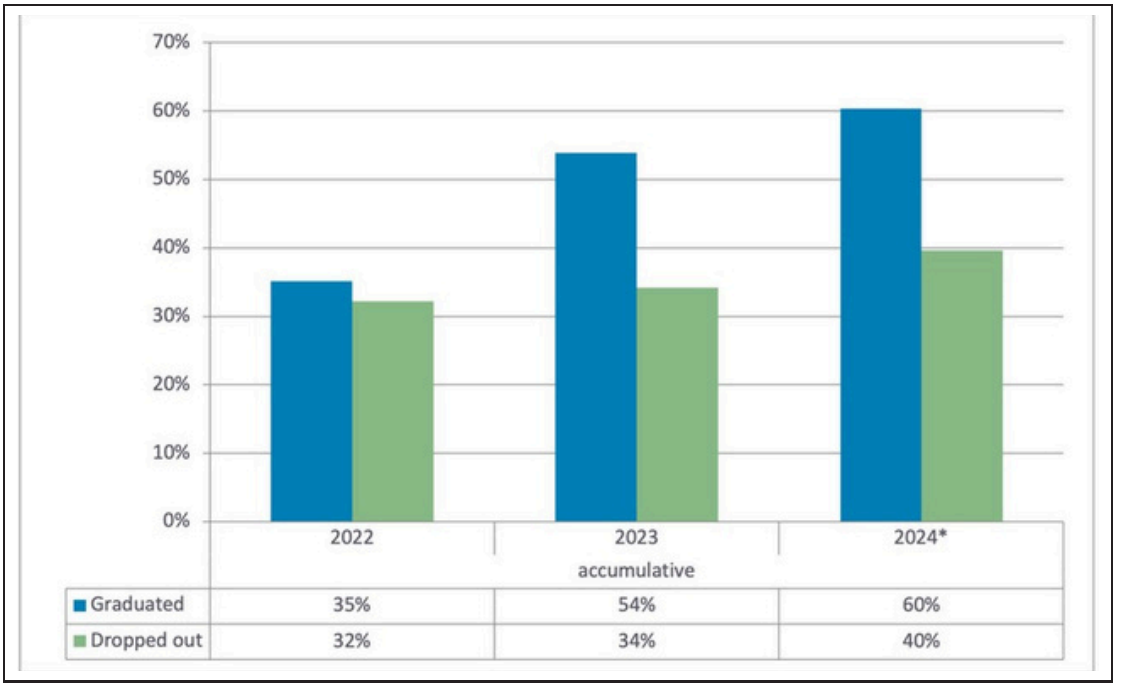


Figure 182: Throughput within regulation time up to n+2 years for 360-credit diplomas, 3-year degrees, 4-year degrees and weighted national rate with first enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)

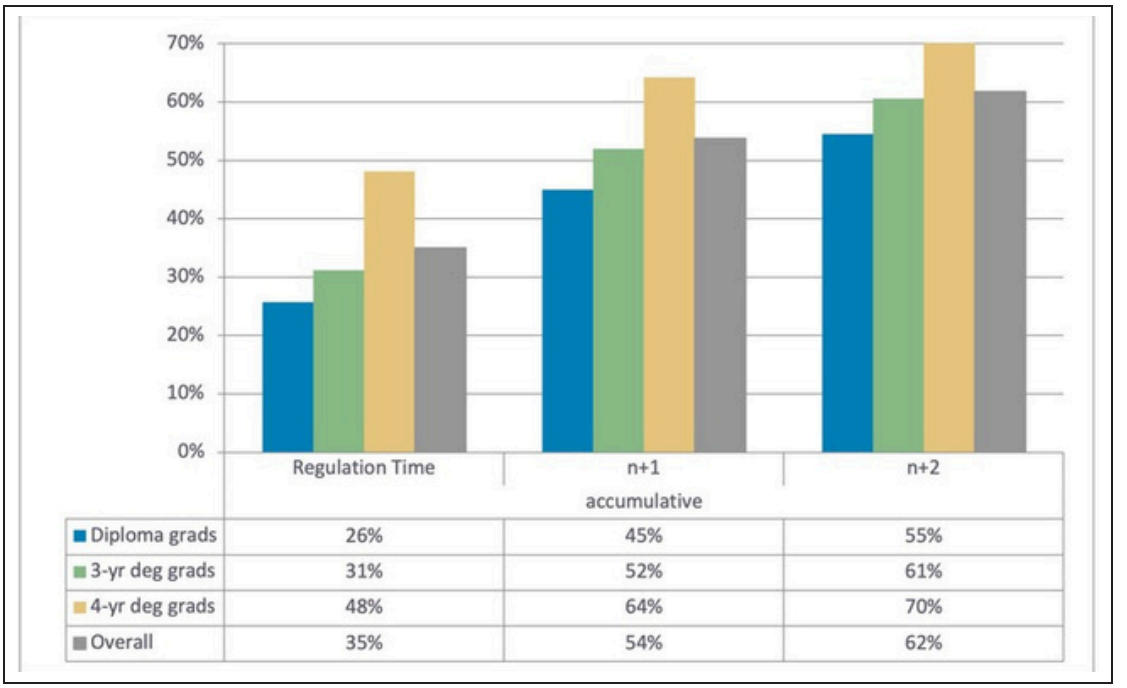
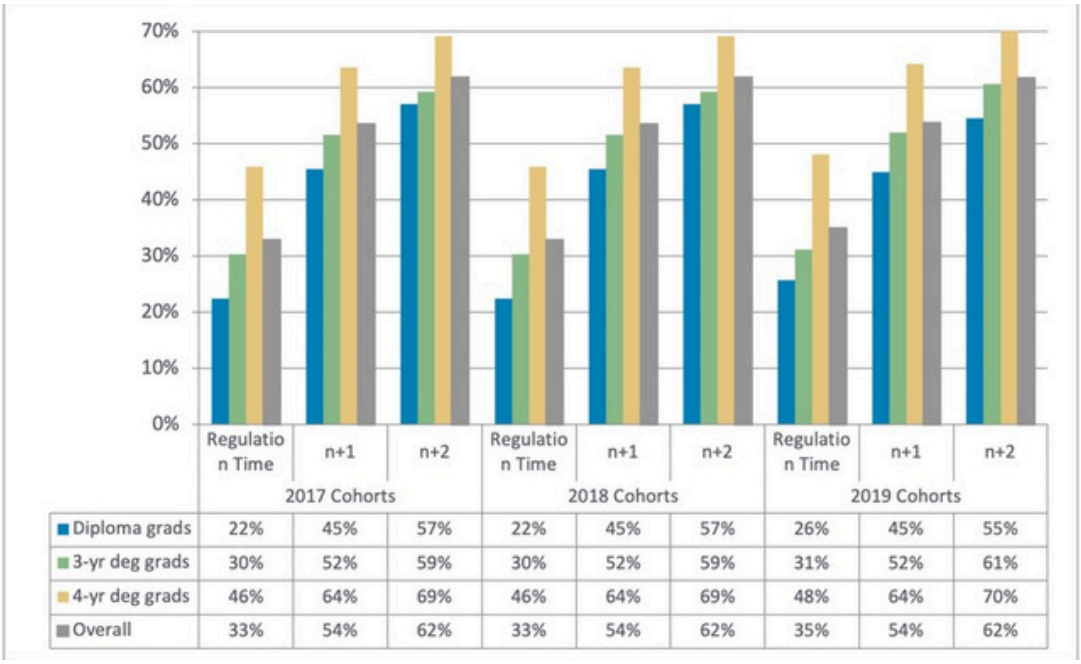
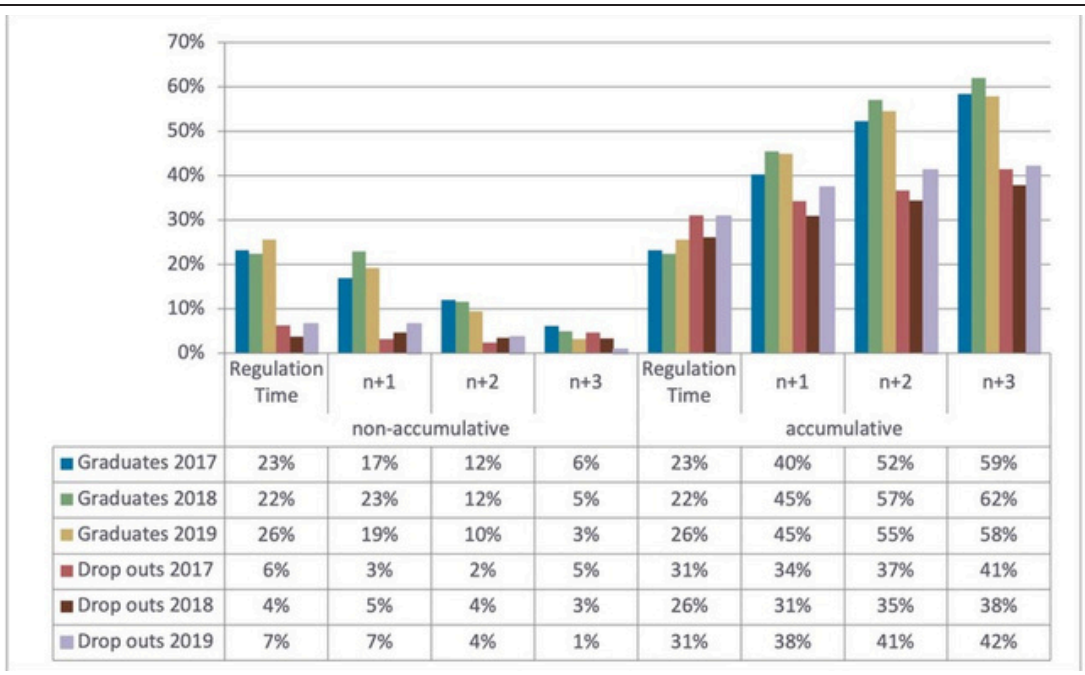


Figure 183: Accumulative throughput comparison of 2017, 2018 and 2019 cohorts finishing within regulation time up to n+2 years for 3-year diplomas, 3-year degrees, 4-year degrees and weighted by national rate- share of qualifications in each category (excluding UNISA)



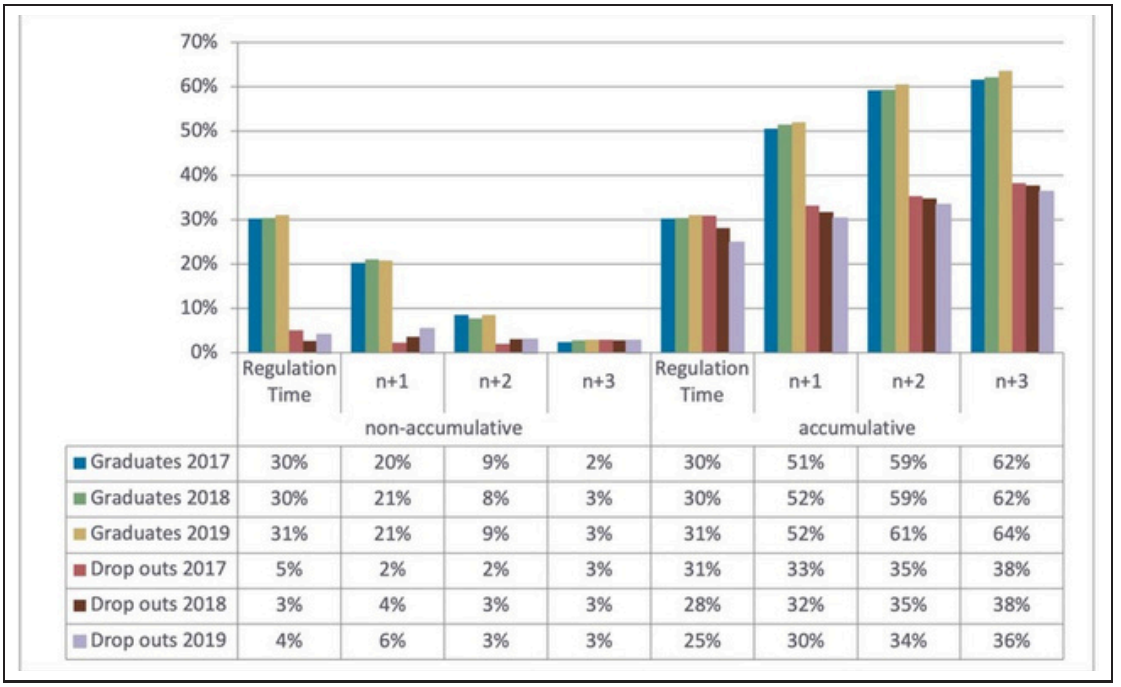
	2017 Cohorts			2018 Cohorts			2019 Cohorts		
	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2
Diploma grads	22%	45%	57%	22%	45%	57%	26%	45%	55%
3-yr deg grads	30%	52%	59%	30%	52%	59%	31%	52%	61%
4-yr deg grads	46%	64%	69%	46%	64%	69%	48%	64%	70%
Overall	33%	54%	62%	33%	54%	62%	35%	54%	62%

Figure 184: Throughput comparison of 2017, 2018 and 2019 cohorts from regulation time up to n+3 years for 360-credit diplomas (excluding UNISA)



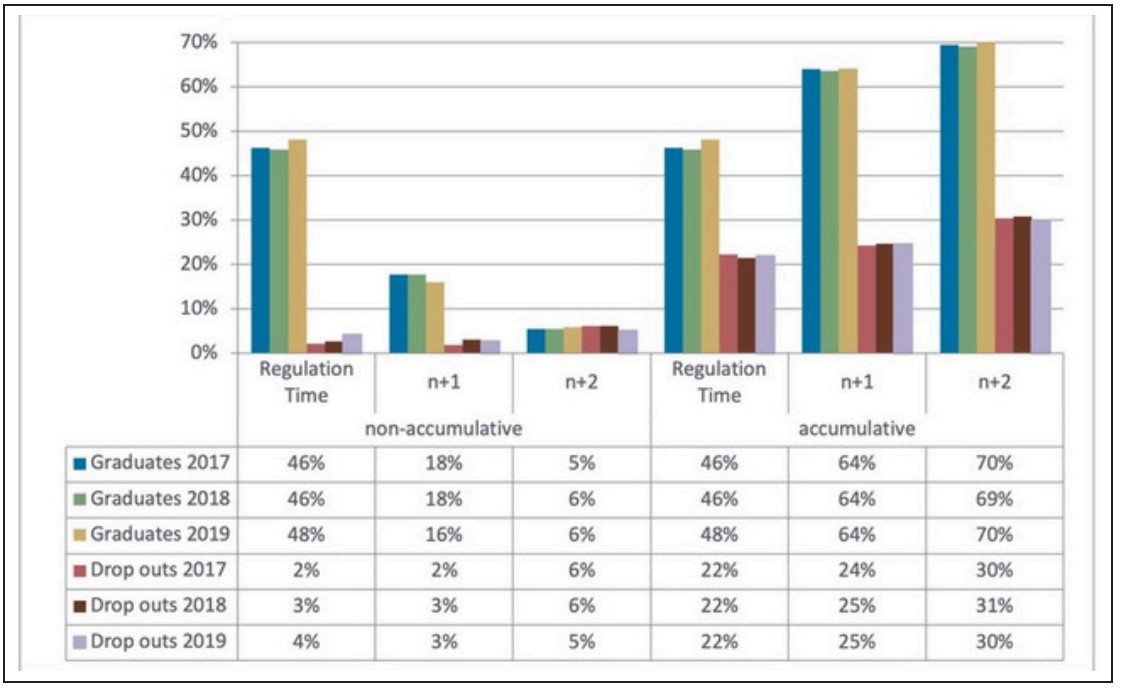
	non-accumulative				accumulative			
	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	n+3	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	n+3
Graduates 2017	23%	17%	12%	6%	23%	40%	52%	59%
Graduates 2018	22%	23%	12%	5%	22%	45%	57%	62%
Graduates 2019	26%	19%	10%	3%	26%	45%	55%	58%
Drop outs 2017	6%	3%	2%	5%	31%	34%	37%	41%
Drop outs 2018	4%	5%	4%	3%	26%	31%	35%	38%
Drop outs 2019	7%	7%	4%	1%	31%	38%	41%	42%

Figure 185: Throughput comparison of 2017, 2018 and 2019 cohorts from regulation time up to n+3 years for 3-year degrees (excluding UNISA)



	non-accumulative				accumulative			
	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	n+3	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	n+3
Graduates 2017	30%	20%	9%	2%	30%	51%	59%	62%
Graduates 2018	30%	21%	8%	3%	30%	52%	59%	62%
Graduates 2019	31%	21%	9%	3%	31%	52%	61%	64%
Drop outs 2017	5%	2%	2%	3%	31%	33%	35%	38%
Drop outs 2018	3%	4%	3%	3%	28%	32%	35%	38%
Drop outs 2019	4%	6%	3%	3%	25%	30%	34%	36%

Figure 186: Throughput comparison of 2017, 2018 and 2019 cohorts from regulation time up to n+2 years for 4-year degrees (excluding UNISA)



	non-accumulative			accumulative		
	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2	Regulation Time	n+1	n+2
Graduates 2017	46%	18%	5%	46%	64%	70%
Graduates 2018	46%	18%	6%	46%	64%	69%
Graduates 2019	48%	16%	6%	48%	64%	70%
Drop outs 2017	2%	2%	6%	22%	24%	30%
Drop outs 2018	3%	3%	6%	22%	25%	31%
Drop outs 2019	4%	3%	5%	22%	25%	30%

UNISA**

Figure 187: Throughput rates at UNISA for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2017

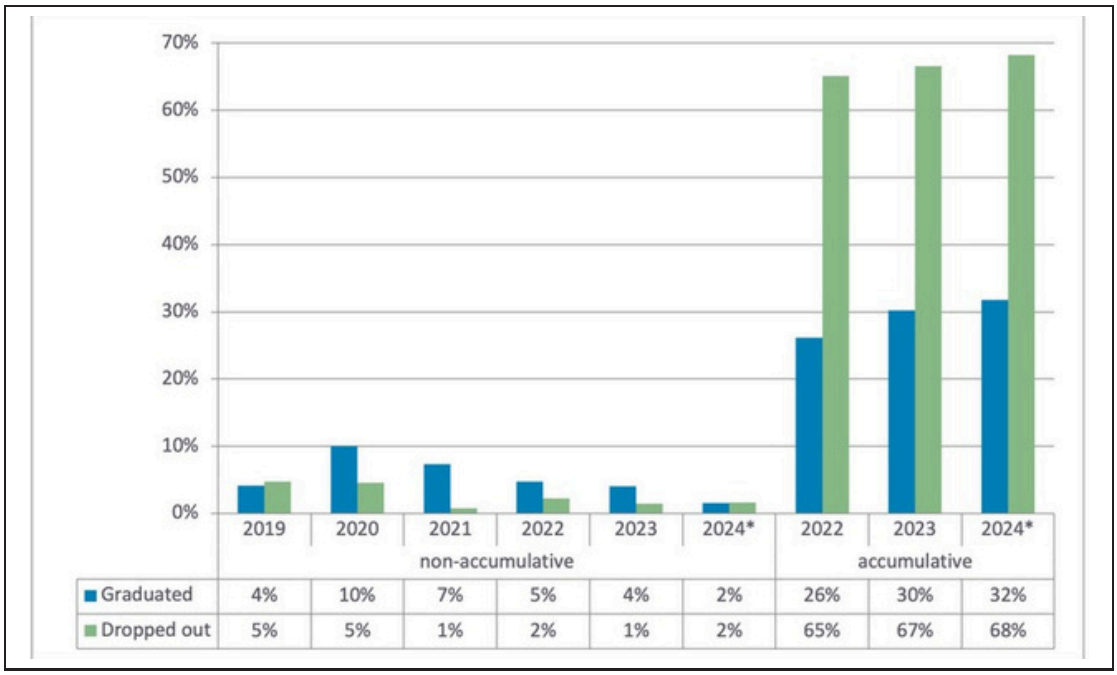
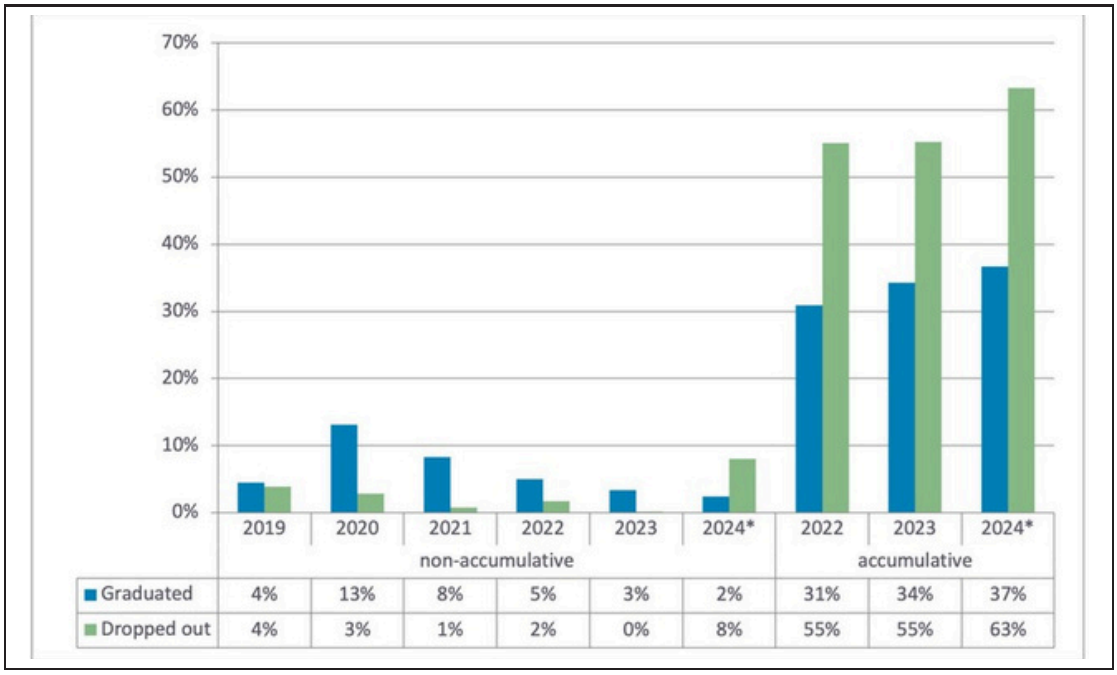


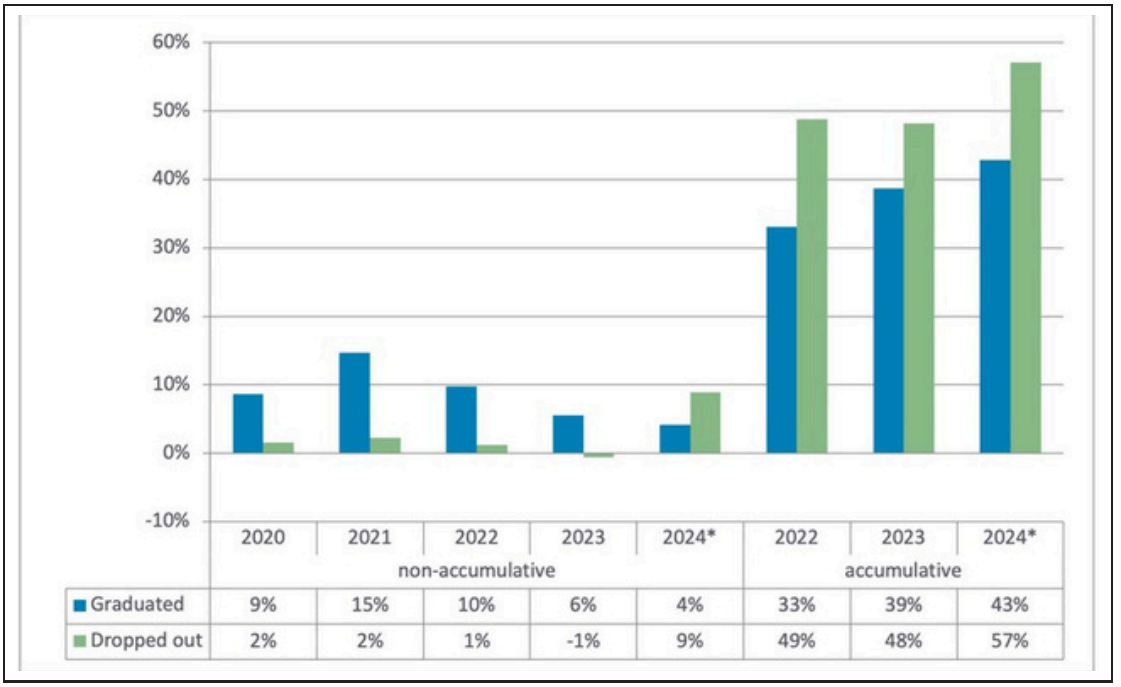
Figure 188: Throughput rates at UNISA for 3-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2017



**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

***** The different mode of study (distance and often part-time) at the University of South Africa (UNISA), impacts on the time it takes a student to graduate. These completion rates cannot be compared to those for the sector as a whole.***

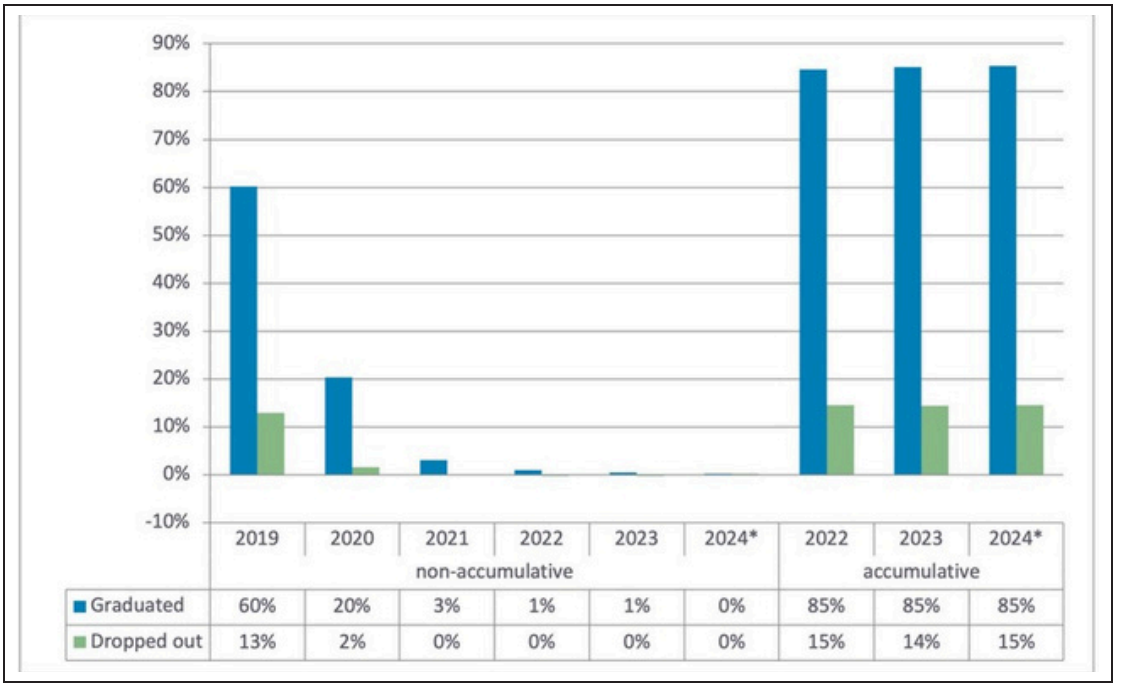
Figure 189: Throughput rates at UNISA for 4-year degrees with first year of enrolment in 2017



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2022	2023	2024*
	non-accumulative					accumulative		
Graduated	9%	15%	10%	6%	4%	33%	39%	43%
Dropped out	2%	2%	1%	-1%	9%	49%	48%	57%

Postgraduates

Figure 190: Throughput rates for postgraduate diplomas or certificates with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2022	2023	2024*
	non-accumulative						accumulative		
Graduated	60%	20%	3%	1%	1%	0%	85%	85%	85%
Dropped out	13%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	14%	15%

**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 191: Percentage of the 2019 cohort doing postgraduate diplomas or certificates that graduated in 3 years or by 2021 (excluding UNISA)

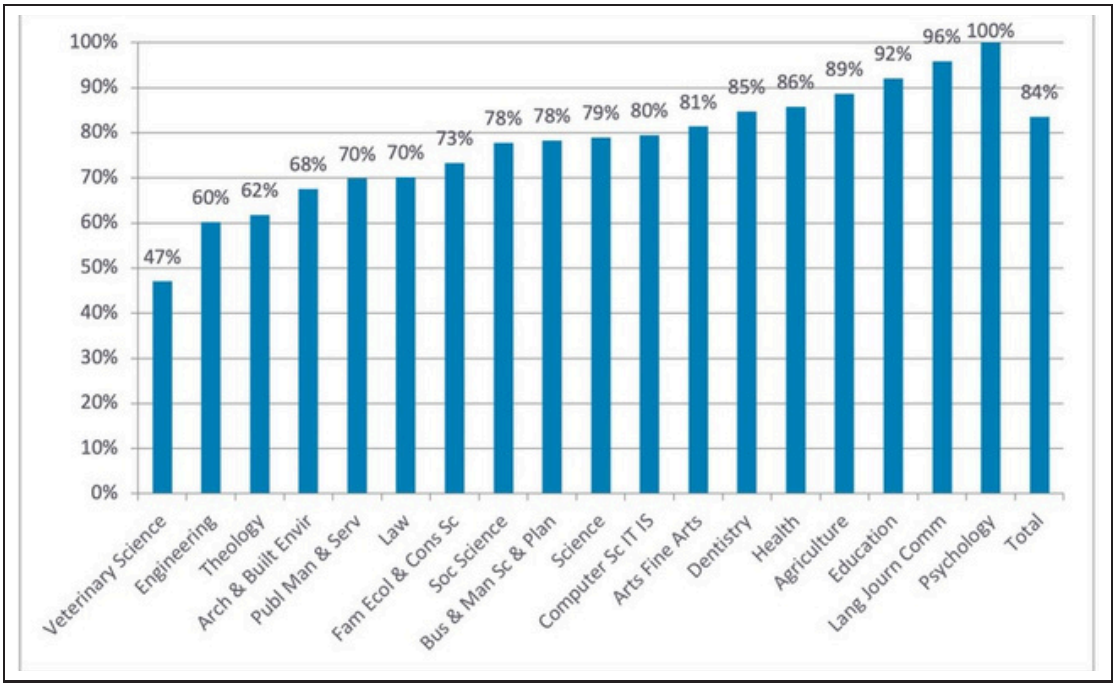


Figure 192: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing postgraduate diplomas or certificates that graduated in 3 years or by 2021 (excluding UNISA)

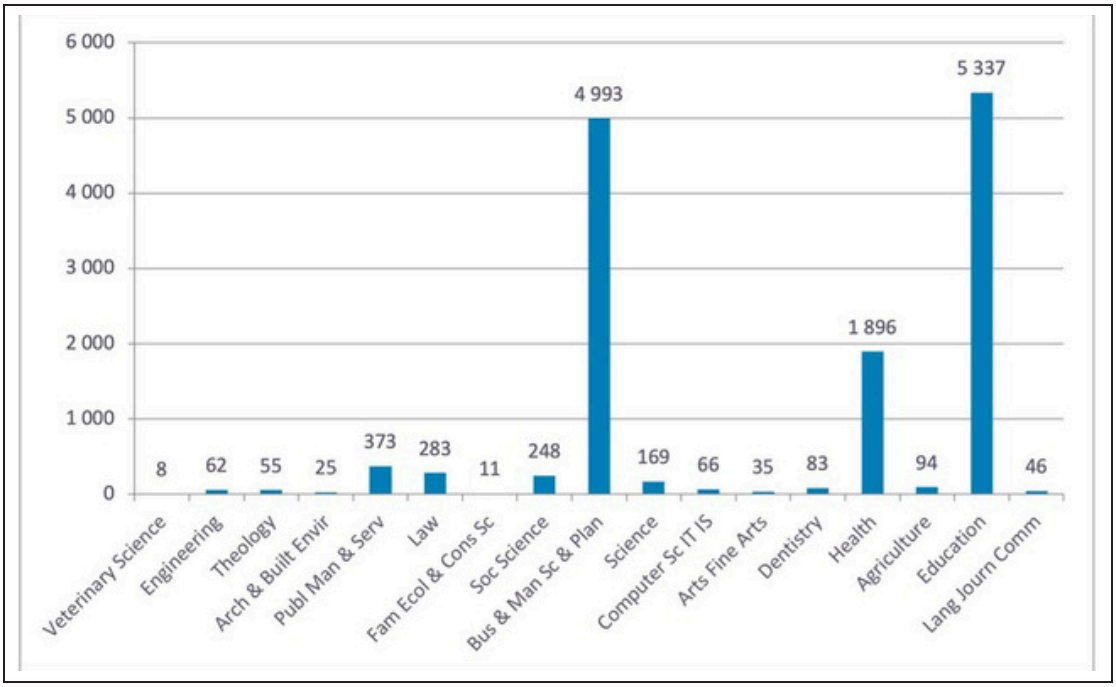


Figure 193: Percentage of the 2019 cohort doing Honours that graduated in 3 years or by 2021

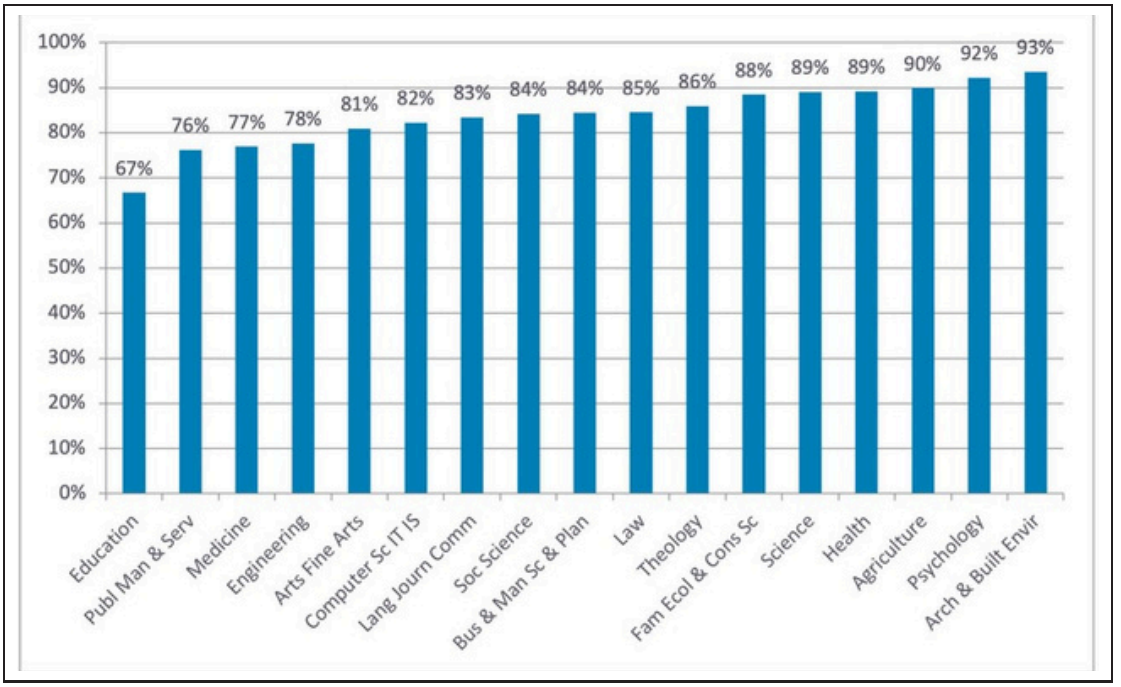


Figure 194: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing Honours that graduated in 3 years or by 2021

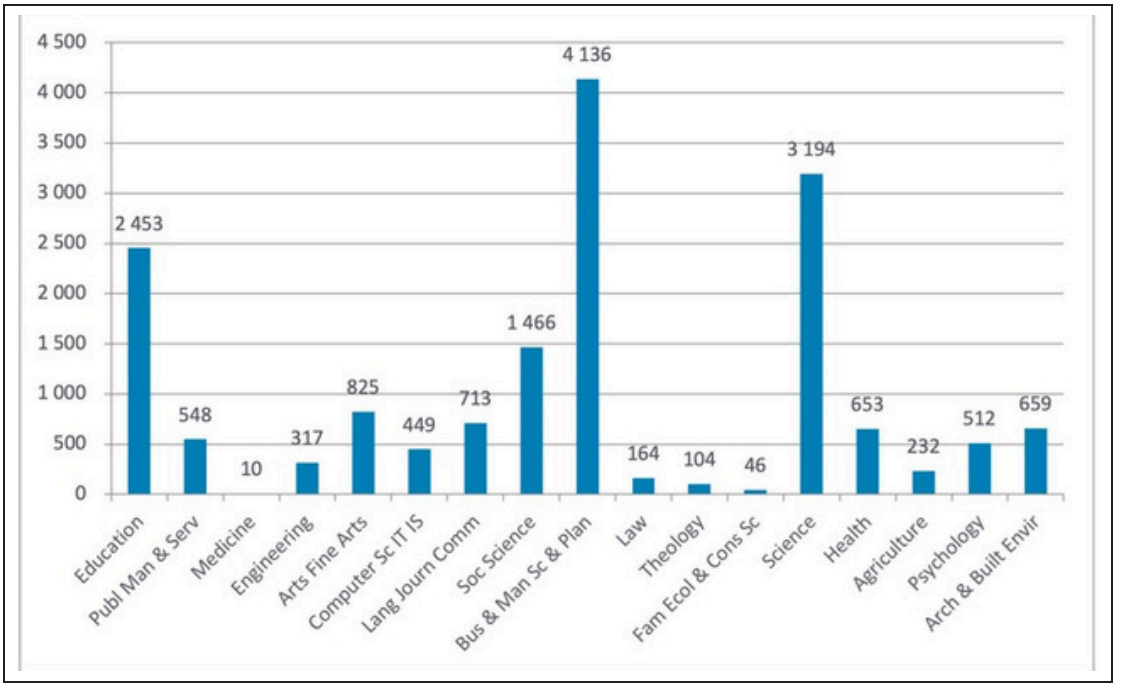
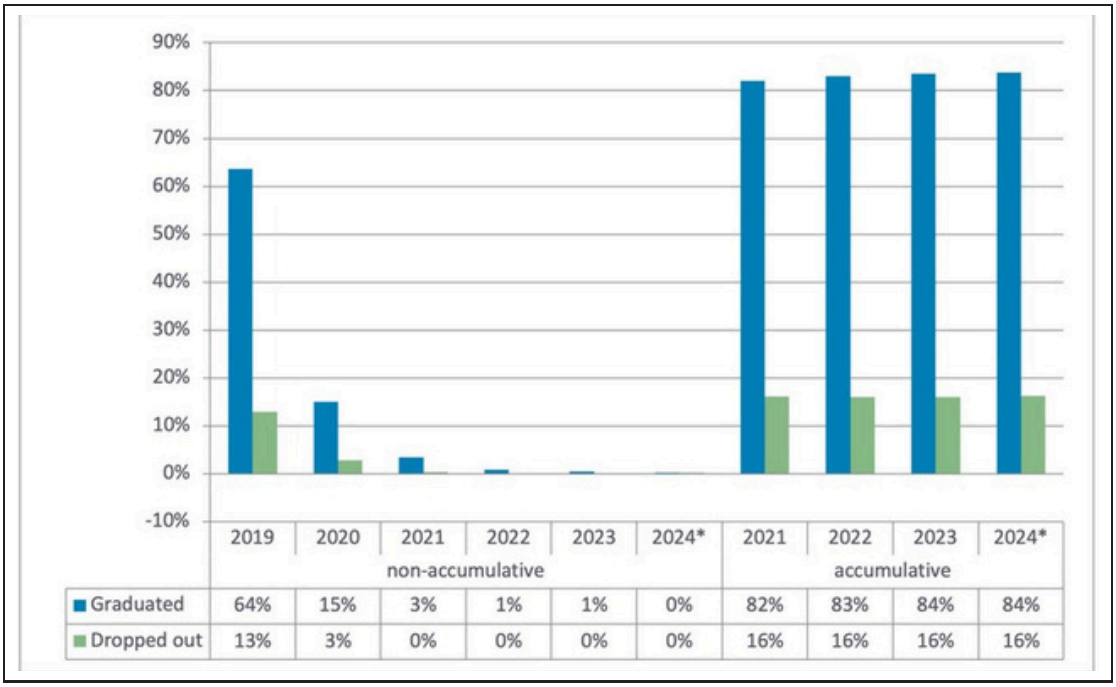
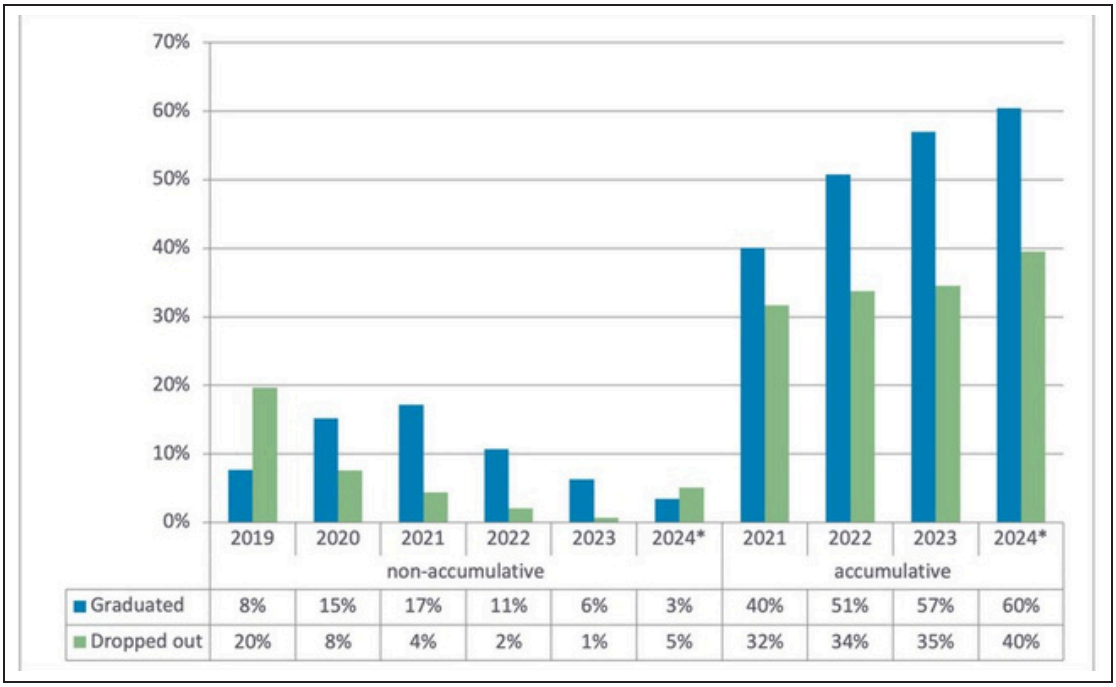


Figure 195: Throughput rates for Honours with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2021	2022	2023	2024*
	non-accumulative						accumulative			
Graduated	64%	15%	3%	1%	1%	0%	82%	83%	84%	84%
Dropped out	13%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%	16%	16%	16%

Figure 196: Throughput rates for coursework Masters with first year of enrolment in 2019 (excluding UNISA)



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2021	2022	2023	2024*
	non-accumulative						accumulative			
Graduated	8%	15%	17%	11%	6%	3%	40%	51%	57%	60%
Dropped out	20%	8%	4%	2%	1%	5%	32%	34%	35%	40%

**** There may be potential graduates remaining in the system after 2024.***

Figure 197: Percentage of the 2019 cohort doing coursework Masters that graduated in 4 years.

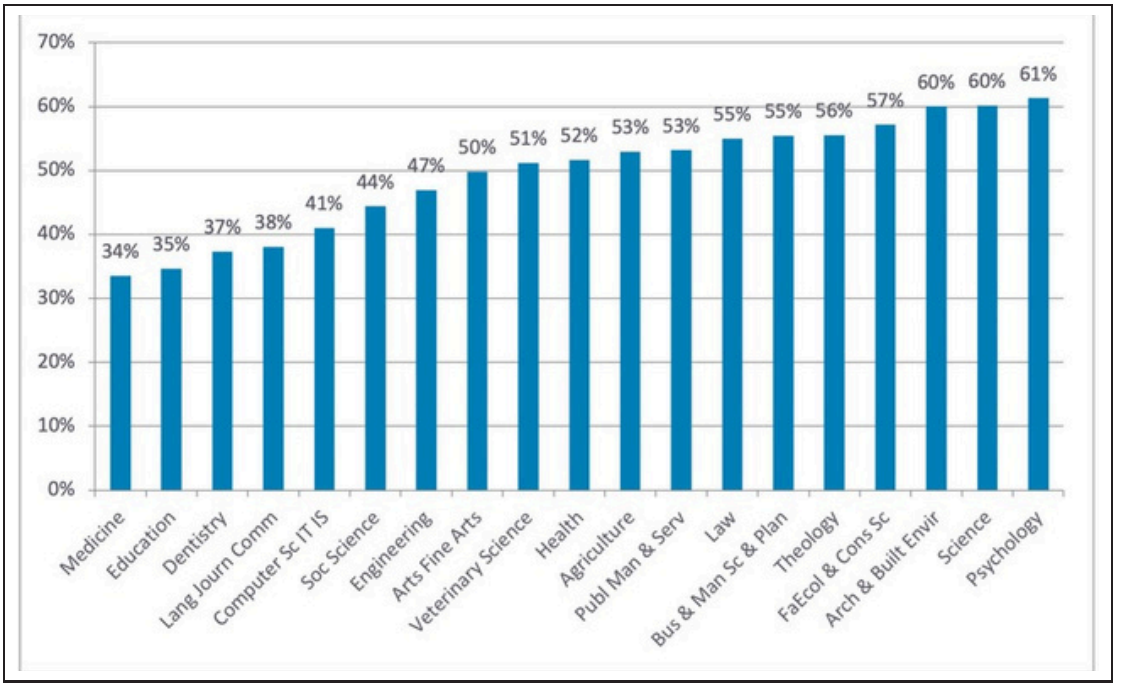
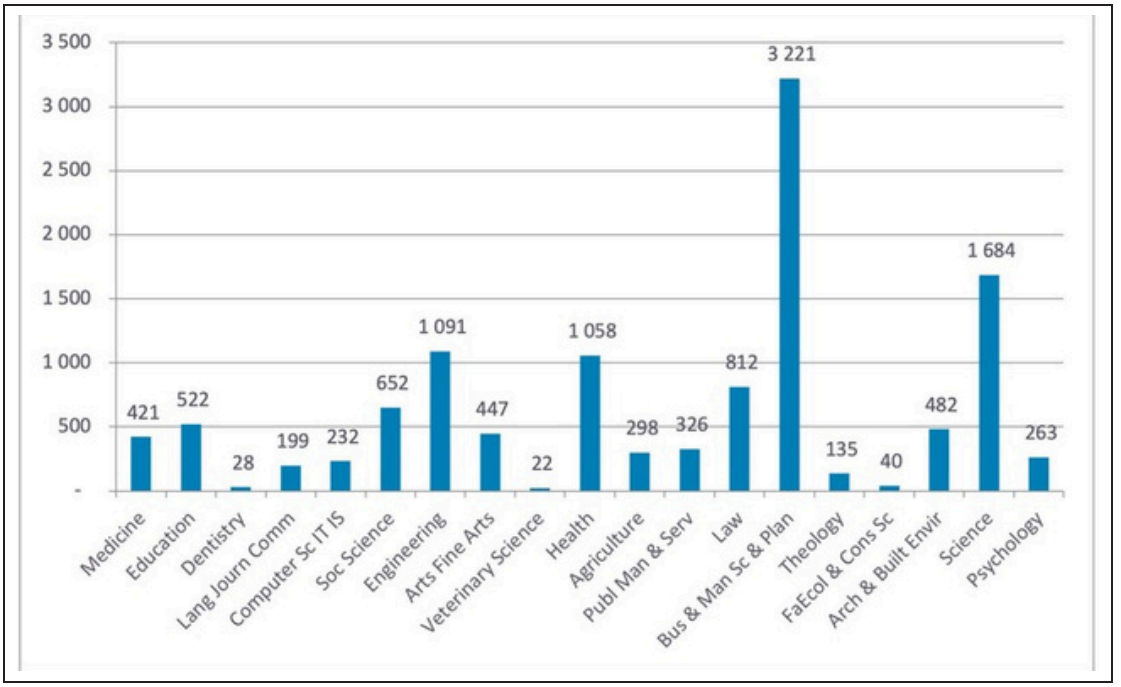


Figure 198: Headcount of the 2019 cohort doing coursework Masters that graduated in 4 years or by 2022



Appendix 1:
Publicinstitutions by institutional type

Traditional Universities

- North-West University (NWU)
- Rhodes University (RU)
- University of Cape Town (UCT)
- University of Fort Hare (UFH)
- University of the Free State (UFS)
- University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
- University of Limpopo (UL)
- University of Pretoria (UP)
- University of Stellenbosch (SU)
- University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)

Comprehensive Universities

- Nelson Mandela University (NMU)
- Sol Plaatjie University (SPU)
- University of Johannesburg (UJ)
- University of South Africa (UNISA)
- University of Venda (UV)
- University of Zululand (UZ)
- Walter Sisulu University (WSU)
- Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU)
- University of Mpumalanga (UMP)

Universities of Technology

- Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
- Central University of Technology (CUT)
- Durban University of Technology (DUT)
- Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT)
- Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
- Vaal University of Technology (VUT)

Appendix 2:

Classificationof Educational Subject Matter (CESM) categories

CESM 01:	Agriculture, Agricultural Operations and Related Sciences
CESM 02:	Architecture and the Built Environment
CESM 03:	Visual and Performing Arts
CESM 04:	Business, Economics and Management Studies
CESM 05:	Communication, Journalism and Related Studies
CESM 06:	Computer and Information Sciences
CESM 07:	Education
CESM 08:	Engineering
CESM 09:	Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences
CESM 10:	Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences
CESM 11:	Languages, Linguistics and Literature
CESM 12:	Law
CESM 13:	Life Sciences
CESM 14:	Physical Sciences
CESM 15:	Mathematics and Statistics
CESM 16:	Military Sciences
CESM 17:	Philosophy, Religion and Theology
CESM 18:	Psychology
CESM 19:	Public Management and Services
CESM 20:	Social Sciences

Appendix 3:
CohortMethodology and Fields of Study Covere

Methodological noteforcohort analysis

Based on CESM categories and qualification titles (specialisations) , qualifications were recoded into uniform qualification names for the purpose of uniformity and to reduce the number of groups to be analysed.

Student cohorts were then defined and identified as follows:

- At undergraduate level (for first qualifications), a cohort comprised the first-time entering students in a particular year, in the relevant qualification group who were selected as the new entrants.
- For honours and postgraduate diplomas and certificates the cohort comprised new entrants made up of students from all three categories; namely, first-time entering, transfer and entering.
- For masters and doctoral students all students who had not been enrolled in the previous year were deemed to be new entrants.

Any student in a cohort who graduated before the minimum expected duration of a qualification they are enrolled in, were deleted from the cohort on the assumption that the entrance category of the student was incorrect, or that the student had carried credits into the qualification being analysed.

Two types of analyses were performed:

1. Where cohort analyses were performed by uniform qualification name, any student who discontinued his/her studies in a particular uniform qualification during the period analysed was counted as a dropout for that particular uniform qualification classification.

2. An analysis was also done ignoring the uniform qualification classification, and any student who qualified in the same qualification type, which is a degree or diploma of any sort, was counted as a successful graduate. This analysis showed slightly higher completion rates. Students who discontinued their studies in the qualification type being analysed and who moved to a different qualification type e.g. from a degree to a diploma, were seen as a dropout for the degree, but a completion for the diploma.

In both analyses, students who discontinued their studies during the period of analysis and then returned (stop-outs) were discounted against the number of dropouts in the year that they returned. This accounts for the negative dropout numbers shown in some graphs. They were counted as successful if they graduated during the period analysed.

UNISA's cohort analyses are complicated by the fact that large numbers of students interrupt their studies for a number of years.

**** Please note that all extendedprogrammes wereincludedinthesegroupingsas theyare toocomplex toexclude.***

***** These cohort analyses address a particular research question: Of those students entering in a particular qualification, what is the throughput within that particular qualification.***

It does not consider students who entered in a particular qualification, dropped out of that qualification to enter unde a different qualification. Such students are considered dropouts.

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