



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FACT SHEET ON AGE FOR STUDENTS IN PSET INSTITUTIONS

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1. Background

The Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) publishes, among others, annual statistics on Post-School Education and Training (PSET) institutions. The Statistics on PSET provides enrolment by age groups, the analysis is however not detailed and does not disaggregate completers/graduates by different age groups.

Age analysis of access to PSET institutions is an important indicator as it gives a signal on the provision of education, given the high number of youth that are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). The latest *Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2021, Statistics South Africa*, indicates that the NEET population reached 17.8 million in the first quarter of 2021, and majority were in the age group 25-34 years old (5.6 million). The report also reveals that “Young people who are NEET risk being left permanently behind in the labour market¹”, and the Department has an opportunity to develop policies and interventions to target PSET provisioning to people in these age groups in order to ensure that the vision “to have an integrated, coordinated and articulated PSET system for improved economic participation and the social development of youth and adults” is realised.

This Fact Sheet will be produced annually, subject to the availability of credible enrolment and graduate/completion data from PSET institutions.

2. Purpose of the Fact Sheet

This Fact Sheet provides an analysis of the age of students in PSET institutions, in particular the type of programmes/qualifications they enroll and complete/graduate in. This will also serve as a monitoring tool to track provision of PSET opportunities for this group of individuals.

¹ Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1:2021 (Statistics South Africa) accessible through the link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02111stQuarter2021.pdf>

3. Methodology

Data from 26 public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, 9 Community Education and Training (CET) colleges and registered private colleges was used for this Fact Sheet from the following sources:

- a) The Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), which contain data provided to the Department by public HEIs;
- b) The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Information System (TVETMIS), which contain data provided to the Department by TVET colleges;
- c) CET Unit Level Record data;
- d) Annual Surveys data submitted to the Department which contain data for registered private colleges; and
- e) The National Examinations Database, which contain administrative data about student examinations and certification for the General Education and Training Certificate-Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC-ABET), the National Certificate (Vocational) [NC(V)] and the N part-qualifications.

4. Limitations

This Fact Sheet does not contain age analysis for private HEIs due to unavailability of age data in this sector. ID numbers were used to derive age for TVET, CET and private college's examinations data, and records without ID numbers were classified as unspecified. Age was classified as unspecified for a large number of 2019 examinations data for GETC: ABET level 4 records, and this will therefore affect the age analysis for this section.

5. PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)

5.1 Enrolment in public HEIs

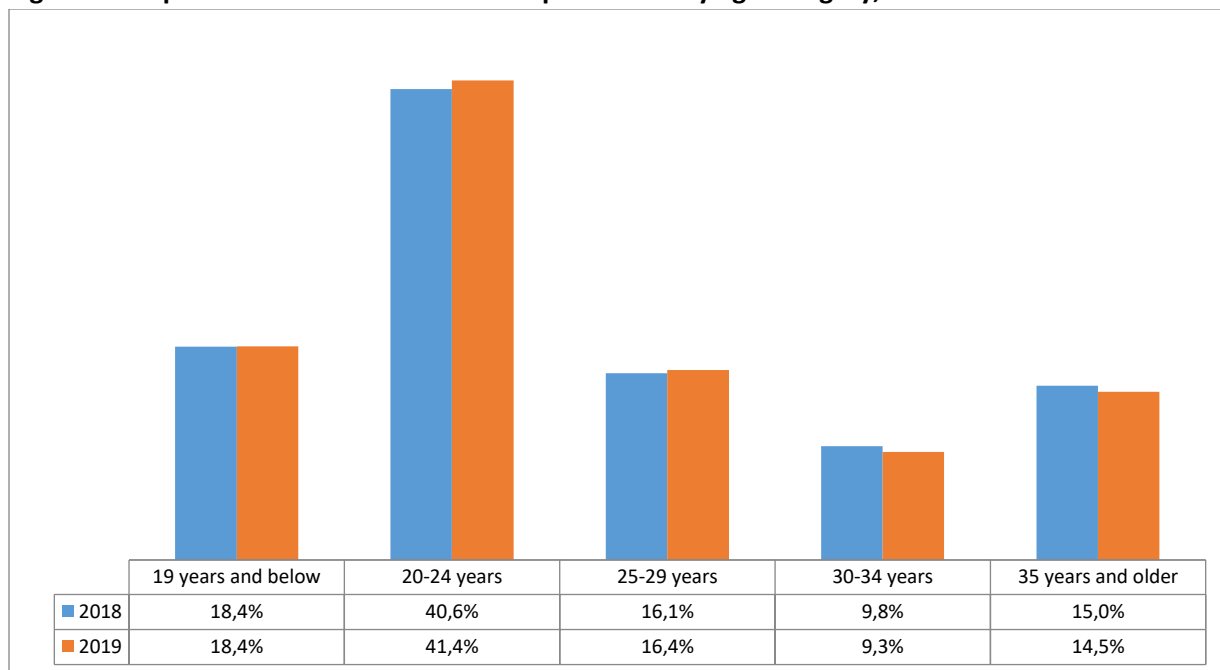
Table 1: Number of students enrolled in public HEIs by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 19 years and below | 199 838 | 198 175 |
| 20-24 years | 440 956 | 444 501 |
| 25-29 years | 175 010 | 176 082 |
| 30-34 years | 106 672 | 100 176 |
| 35 years and older | 163 092 | 155 978 |
| Total | 1 085 568 | 1 074 912 |

Source: HEMIS 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2020.

Enrolment in public HEIs was 1 074 912 in 2019, reflecting a 1.0% (10 656) decline when compared with 2018 (1 085 568). Majority of students enrolled in public HEIs in 2019 were youth aged 20-24 years old (444 501 or 41.4%), followed by those aged 19 years and younger (198 175 or 18.4%). Similar proportions were observed in 2018, however enrolment for students aged 30 years and older declined between 2018 and 2019 while increases were recorded for other age groups (20-24 years old and 25-29 years old) – see Figure 1 and Table 1.

Figure 1: Proportion of students enrolled in public HEIs by age category, 2018 and 2019



Source: HEMIS 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2020.

Table 2: Number of students enrolled in public HEIs by age category and major field of study, 2019

| Age | SET | Business and Management | Education | Other Humanities | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 19 years and below | 76 420 | 47 911 | 23 204 | 50 619 | 198 175 |
| 20-24 years | 142 213 | 110 317 | 79 233 | 112 624 | 444 501 |
| 25-29 years | 48 281 | 43 745 | 42 754 | 41 278 | 176 082 |
| 30-34 years | 25 354 | 28 114 | 22 508 | 24 194 | 100 176 |
| 35 years and older | 30 838 | 35 887 | 43 575 | 45 663 | 155 978 |
| Total | 323 105 | 265 973 | 211 274 | 274 377 | 1 074 912 |

Source: 2019 HEMIS database, data extracted in November 2020.

Note: The total number of enrolments includes 183 students with unspecified Classification of Educational Subject Matter (CESM).

The highest number of enrolments in public HEIs were in the Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) field of study (323 105), and more than 40% of students in these field of study were youth aged 20-24 years (142 213). A similar proportion of students in this age group enrolled for courses in the Other Humanities and Business and Management field of study (112 624 and 110 317 respectively). The second largest enrolments for SET, Business and Management and Other Humanities were for students aged 19 years and younger, while Education field of study had its second largest enrolment in the older age group (35 years and older).

Table 3: Number of students enrolled in public HEIs by age category and qualification type, 2019

| Age | Undergraduate Degrees | Undergraduate Certificates and Diplomas | Postgraduate below Master's level | Master's Degrees | Doctoral Degrees | Occasional Students | Advanced Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Education | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|
| 19 years and below | 145 425 | 51 749 | 51 | 2 | 1 | 935 | 12 | 198 175 |
| 20-24 years | 263 802 | 131 022 | 27 004 | 11 822 | 385 | 4 711 | 5 755 | 444 501 |
| 25-29 years | 81 553 | 43 520 | 20 971 | 17 216 | 4 730 | 3 776 | 4 316 | 176 082 |
| 30-34 years | 44 920 | 19 121 | 14 194 | 12 214 | 5 269 | 2 207 | 2 251 | 100 176 |
| 35 years and older | 61 684 | 28 747 | 23 972 | 20 903 | 14 001 | 3 090 | 3 581 | 155 978 |
| Total | 597 384 | 274 159 | 86 192 | 62 157 | 24 386 | 14 719 | 15 915 | 1 074 912 |

Source: 2019 HEMIS database, data extracted in November 2020.

The largest number of youth aged 20-24 years old enrolled for undergraduate degrees (263 802), followed by undergraduate certificates and diplomas (131 022), postgraduate below Master's level (27 004), advanced diploma and postgraduate certificate in education (5 755) and occasional students (4 711). More than half of enrolments for Doctoral degrees were for students aged 35 years and older, while more than one third of Master's degree enrolment were also dominated by students in this age group.

5.2 Graduates from public HEIs

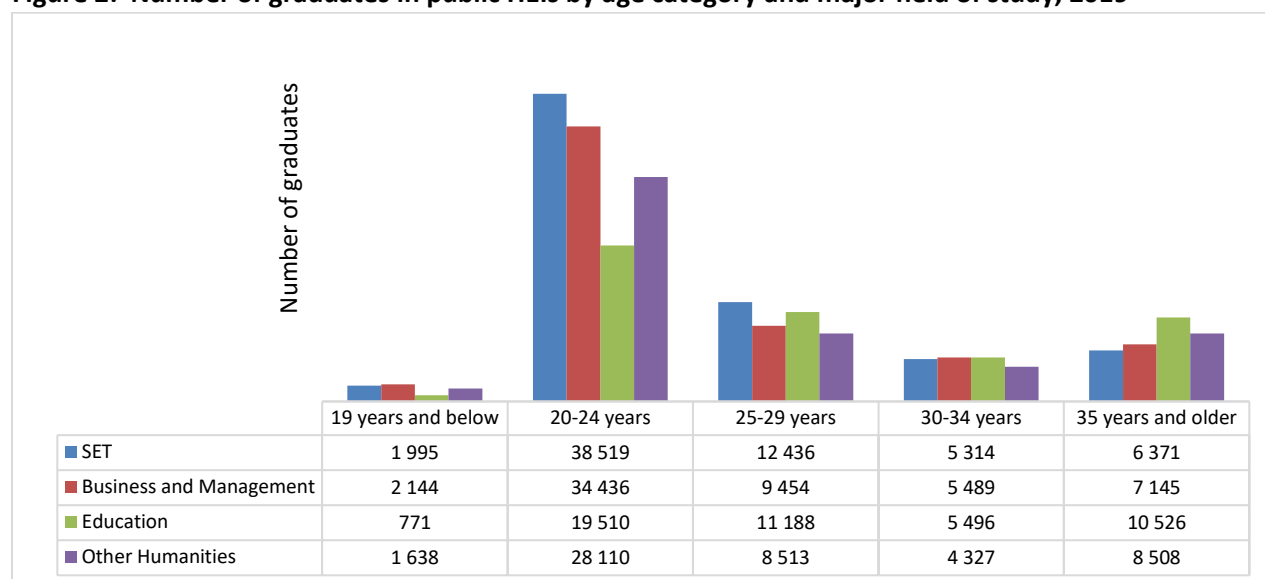
Table 4: Number of graduates in public HEIs by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 19 years and below | 7 318 | 6 549 |
| 20-24 years | 120 870 | 120 613 |
| 25-29 years | 42 056 | 41 597 |
| 30-34 years | 22 076 | 20 631 |
| 35 years and older | 34 868 | 32 552 |
| Total | 227 188 | 221 942 |

Source: HEMIS 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2020.

In 2019, the total number of graduates in public HEIs was 221 942, which was 2.3% (5 246) lower when compared to 2018. More than half of the graduates were youth aged 20-24 years old (54.3% or 120 613) followed by students aged 25-29 years old (18.7% or 41 597). Similar proportions were recorded in 2018.— see Table 4 and Figure 2.

Figure 2: Number of graduates in public HEIs by age category and major field of study, 2019



Source: 2019 HEMIS database, data extracted in November 2020.

Note: The total number of graduates includes 51 students with unspecified Classification of Educational Subject Matter (CESM).

Majority of graduates were 20-24 years old for all major fields of study, and a large proportion of this age category graduated in the SET (31.9% or 38 519), followed by Business and Management (28.6% or 34 436), other Humanities (23.3% or 28 110) and Education (16.2% or 19 510) fields of study. A larger

number of students 35 years and older graduated in the Education (10 526) and Business and Management (8 508) fields of study.

Table 5: Number of graduates in public HEIs by age category and qualification type, 2019

| Age | Undergraduate Degrees | Undergraduate Certificates and Diplomas | Postgraduate below Master's level | Master's Degrees | Doctoral Degrees | Advanced Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Education | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| 19 years and below | 2 640 | 3 860 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6 549 |
| 20-24 years | 66 260 | 31 139 | 17 486 | 2 248 | 13 | 3 467 | 120 613 |
| 25-29 years | 16 070 | 11 024 | 8 427 | 4 105 | 518 | 1 453 | 41 597 |
| 30-34 years | 7 290 | 4 203 | 5 136 | 2 676 | 767 | 559 | 20 631 |
| 35 years and older | 10 127 | 6 680 | 8 049 | 4 490 | 2 147 | 1 059 | 32 552 |
| Total | 102 387 | 56 906 | 39 137 | 13 519 | 3 445 | 6 548 | 221 942 |

Source: 2019 HEMIS database, data extracted in November 2020.

Majority of graduates aged 20-24 years old obtained undergraduate degrees (66 260 or 54.9%), followed by undergraduate certificates and diplomas (31 139 or 25.8%) and postgraduate below Master's level (17 486 or 14.5%). A large number of Masters and Doctoral degree graduates were for students in the older age group (35 years and older) (4 490 and 2 147 respectively).

6. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) COLLEGES

6.1 Enrolment in TVET colleges

Table 6: Enrolment cycle count of students in TVET colleges by age category, 2018 and 2019

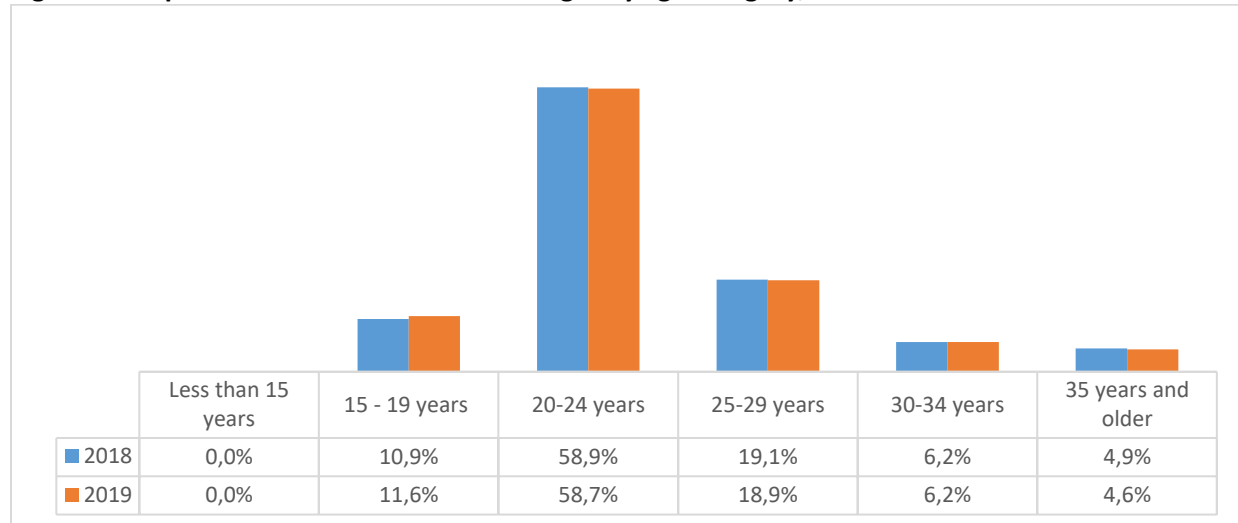
| Age | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Less than 15 years | 33 | 4 |
| 15 - 19 years | 71 882 | 77 867 |
| 20-24 years | 387 254 | 395 064 |
| 25-29 years | 125 461 | 127 558 |
| 30-34 years | 40 558 | 41 693 |
| 35 years and older | 31 945 | 31 304 |
| Total | 657 133 | 673 490 |

Source: TVETMIS 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in December 2020.

Enrolments in TVET colleges was 673 490 in 2019, which was 2.5% (16 357) higher than what was recorded in 2018 (657 133). In 2019, more than half of students enrolled were youth aged 20-24 years old (58.7% or 395 064), followed by 25-29 years old (18.9% or 127 558) and 15-19 years old (11.6% or 77 867).

Between 2018 and 2019, enrolment increased for students in all the age groups except those less than 15 years old and those aged 35 years and older – see Figure 3 and Table 6.

Figure 3: Proportion of students in TVET colleges by age category, 2018 and 2019



Source: TVETMIS 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in December 2020.

Table 7: Enrolment cycle count of students in TVET colleges by age category and qualification type, 2019

| Age | NC(V) | Report 191 | Occupational Qualifications | Other | PLP | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Less than 15 years | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 15 - 19 years | 13 281 | 60 600 | 1 741 | 1 258 | 987 | 77 867 |
| 20 - 24 years | 88 102 | 292 281 | 7 348 | 5 206 | 2 127 | 395 064 |
| 25 - 29 years | 29 394 | 88 296 | 5 939 | 3 586 | 343 | 127 558 |
| 30 - 34 years | 6 140 | 30 515 | 3 208 | 1 735 | 95 | 41 693 |
| 35 years and older | 1 992 | 22 378 | 4 650 | 2 239 | 45 | 31 304 |
| Total | 138 912 | 494 070 | 22 886 | 14 025 | 3 597 | 673 490 |

Source: TVETMIS 2019, data extracted in December 2020.

A large number of enrolments for all programmes was recorded for students aged 20-24 years old, with almost three quarter of them enrolled for Report 191 (74.0% or 292 281), followed by NC(V) (22.3% or 88 102). The second largest enrolment was for students aged 25-29 years old in all programmes except PLP. Contribution to total enrolment for students aged 35 years and older was lower at 4.6% or 31 304, and students in this age group enrolled for Report 191 followed by Occupation a Qualifications, while students between the ages 15-34 years old enrolled mainly for Report 191 followed by NC(V).

6.2 Examination results in TVET colleges

Table 8: Number of students in TVET colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications for Engineering Studies by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | | 2019 | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) |
| Less than 15 years | 214 | 181 | 157 | 86.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 148 | 146 | 135 | 92.5 | 6 935 | 6 139 | 4 125 | 67.2 |
| 20 - 24 years | 29 191 | 27 745 | 23 691 | 85.4 | 39 219 | 35 682 | 24 545 | 68.8 |
| 25 - 29 years | 12 090 | 10 703 | 8 505 | 79.5 | 10 292 | 9 287 | 6 141 | 66.1 |
| 30 - 34 years | 2 575 | 2 168 | 1 677 | 77.4 | 3 031 | 2 674 | 1 806 | 67.5 |
| 35 years and older | 1 079 | 855 | 624 | 73.0 | 1 602 | 1 395 | 877 | 62.9 |
| Unspecified | 8 | 7 | 5 | 71.4 | 627 | 530 | 369 | 69.6 |
| Total | 45 304* | 41 804* | 34 793* | 83.2 | 61 706 | 55 707 | 37 863 | 68.0 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

Note: * As a result of rounding off, numbers may not necessarily add up to totals.

A total of 61 706 students registered for Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications examinations in TVET colleges in 2019, of which 55 707 wrote examinations and 37 863 completed. This was a decline when compared with number of students who registered, wrote and completed Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications in 2018. The completion rate for 2019 was 68.0%, reflecting a 15.2 percentage points decline when compared with 2018 (83.2%). The largest decline in the completion rate was for students aged 20-24 years old (25.3 percentage points).

Table 9 also indicates that the highest number of students who registered, wrote and completed N3 part-qualification were youth aged 20-24 years old, followed by students aged 15-19 years old.

Table 9: Number of students in TVET colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N6 part-qualifications for Engineering Studies by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 339 | 320 | 291 | 90.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 5 | 5 | 5 | 100.0 | 382 | 374 | 365 | 97.6 |
| 20 - 24 years | 8 609 | 8 265 | 6 889 | 83.4 | 16 281 | 15 880 | 14 767 | 93.0 |
| 25 - 29 years | 7 539 | 6 763 | 4 918 | 72.7 | 8 114 | 7 888 | 7 219 | 91.5 |
| 30 - 34 years | 1 524 | 1 299 | 946 | 72.8 | 2 762 | 2 683 | 2 405 | 89.6 |
| 35 years and older | 812 | 632 | 461 | 72.9 | 2 262 | 2 182 | 1 982 | 90.8 |
| Unspecified | 6 | 5 | 4 | 80.0 | 681 | 649 | 605 | 93.2 |
| Total | 18 834 | 17 289 | 13 514 | 78.2 | 30 482 | 29 656 | 27 343 | 92.2 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

Majority of students who registered, wrote and completed N6 part-qualifications were youth aged 20-24 years old followed by youth aged 25-29 years old in both 2018 and 2019. The number of students who completed N6 Engineering Studies part-qualifications increased by 13 829 between 2018 and 2019, and the highest increase was for students aged 20-24 years old (7 878).

The completion rate for 2019 was 92.2%, reflecting a 14.0 percentage points increase when compared with 2018 (78.2%). The largest increase in the completion rate was for students aged 25-29 years old (18.8 percentage points).

Table 10: Number of students in TVET colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N6 part-qualifications for Business Studies, by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 74 | 69 | 65 | 94.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 10 | 10 | 9 | 90.0 | 2 421 | 2 367 | 2 340 | 98.9 |
| 20 - 24 years | 30 396 | 29 425 | 26 825 | 91.2 | 49 614 | 48 659 | 47 723 | 98.1 |
| 25 - 29 years | 25 783 | 24 696 | 21 678 | 87.8 | 23 381 | 22 895 | 22 354 | 97.6 |
| 30 - 34 years | 7 359 | 7 035 | 6 169 | 87.7 | 8 049 | 7 868 | 7 632 | 97.0 |
| 35 years and older | 5 935 | 5 686 | 5 115 | 90.0 | 6 075 | 5 965 | 5 777 | 96.8 |
| Unspecified | 2 | 2 | 2 | 100.0 | 239 | 231 | 224 | 97.0 |
| Total | 69 559 | 66 923 | 59 863 | 89.5 | 89 779 | 87 985 | 86 050 | 97.8 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

The national completion rate for Report 190/1 N6 Business Studies in TVET colleges was 97.8%, which was 8.3 percentage points higher when compared with 2018 completion rate, with the largest increase

recorded for students aged 25-29 years old (9.8 percentage points). The largest number of students who registered, wrote and completed N6 Business Studies were youth aged 20- 24 years old and 25-29 years old in both 2018 and 2019, and the largest increase between the two years were for youth aged 20-24 years old.

The number of students who completed N6 Business Studies part-qualifications increased by 26 187 between 2018 and 2019, and the highest increase was for students aged 20-24 years old (20 898). A large number of students in the age groups (20-24 and 25-29 years old) registered, wrote and completed Business Studies when compared with Engineering Studies.

Table 11: Number of students in TVET colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed NC(V) Level 4 qualifications, by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 14 | 13 | 7 | 53.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 20 | 20 | 16 | 80.0 | 1 369 | 1 144 | 592 | 51.7 |
| 20 - 24 years | 6 978 | 6 347 | 3 976 | 62.6 | 12 502 | 10 688 | 5 940 | 55.6 |
| 25 - 29 years | 13 407 | 12 122 | 6 225 | 51.4 | 9 145 | 7 857 | 3 443 | 43.8 |
| 30 - 34 years | 3 029 | 2 727 | 1 228 | 45.0 | 2 068 | 1 829 | 715 | 39.1 |
| 35 years and older | 840 | 741 | 380 | 51.3 | 631 | 564 | 203 | 36.0 |
| Unspecified | 10 | 8 | 5 | 62.5 | 52 | 44 | 27 | 61.4 |
| Total | 24 298 | 21 978 | 11 837 | 53.9 | 25 767 | 22 126 | 10 920 | 49.4 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

The largest proportion of students who registered, wrote and completed examinations for NC(V) level 4 were youth aged 20-24 years old, followed by those aged 25-29 years old, while fewer students aged 35 years and older registered, wrote and completed the qualification. When comparing 2018 and 2019, the total number of students who completed NC(V) level 4 decreased by 917, and the largest decline was for students aged 20-24 years old (2 782). The completion rate for NC(V) level 4 was 49.4% in 2019, which was 4.5 percentage points lower when compared with 2018 (53.9%).

7. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET) COLLEGES

7.1. Enrolment in CET colleges

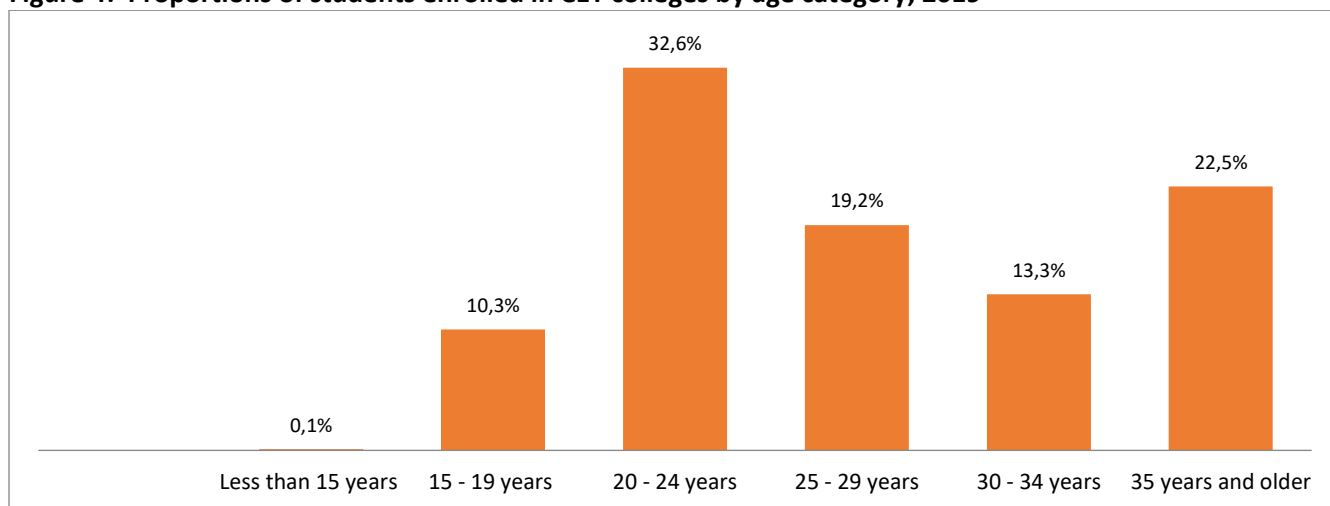
Table 12: Number of students enrolled in CET colleges by age category, 2019

| Age | Number of students | Proportion of students enrolled |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Less than 15 years | 128 | 0.1% |
| 15 - 19 years | 17 632 | 10.3% |
| 20 - 24 years | 55 901 | 32.6% |
| 25 - 29 years | 32 883 | 19.2% |
| 30 - 34 years | 22 782 | 13.3% |
| 35 years and older | 38 516 | 22.5% |
| Unspecified | 3 567 | 2.1% |
| Total | 171 409 | 100.0% |

Source: CET Unit Level Record data, 2019.

Enrolment in CET colleges reached 171 409 in 2019. Almost one third of students enrolled in CET colleges were youth aged 20-24 years old (32.6% or 55 901), followed by students aged 35 years and older (22.5% or 38 516), while fewer enrolments were recorded for students in the younger age groups (19 years old and below) – see Figure 4 and Table 12.

Figure 4: Proportions of students enrolled in CET colleges by age category, 2019



Source: CET Unit Level Record data, 2019.

Table 13: Number of students enrolled in CET colleges by age category and programme, 2019

| Age | AET Level 1 | AET Level 2 | AET Level 3 | GETC: ABET Level 4 (NQF Level 1) | Grade 10 (NQF Level 2) | Grade 11 (NQF Level 3) | Grade 12 (NQF Level 4) | Non-formal programmes | Occupational Qualifications | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <15 years | 14 | 26 | 48 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 128 |
| 15-19 years | 300 | 683 | 2 160 | 7 247 | 0 | 1 | 6 974 | 221 | 46 | 17 632 |
| 20-24 years | 307 | 499 | 1 792 | 23 991 | 0 | 1 | 28 240 | 853 | 218 | 55 901 |
| 25-29 years | 224 | 387 | 905 | 15 598 | 0 | 0 | 15 059 | 589 | 121 | 32 883 |
| 30-34 years | 180 | 350 | 860 | 10 812 | 0 | 0 | 10 111 | 417 | 52 | 22 782 |
| 35 years and older | 1 754 | 3 756 | 3 546 | 16 604 | 0 | 0 | 11 570 | 1 222 | 64 | 38 516 |
| Unspecified | 271 | 488 | 581 | 1 427 | 0 | 0 | 772 | 25 | 3 | 3 567 |
| Total | 3 050 | 6 189 | 9 892 | 75 704 | 0 | 2 | 72 735 | 3 333 | 504 | 171 409 |

Source: CET Unit Level Record data, 2019.

Majority of students in almost all the age groups enrolled for GETC: ABET level 4, while those aged 20-24 years old enrolled mainly for Grade 12. Three in every ten students aged 20-24 years old enrolled for GETC: ABET level 4 (23 991 of the 75 704), while more than one third of students that enrolled for non-formal programmes were aged 35 years and older (36.7% or 1 222).

7.2. Examination results in CET colleges

Table 14: Number of students in CET colleges who registered, wrote and completed the GETC ABET Level 4 qualification, by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | | 2019 | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) |
| Less than 15 years | 1 690 | 1 165 | 474 | 40.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 141 | 62 | 23 | 37.1 | 48 | 33 | 26 | 78.8 |
| 20 - 24 years | 10 734 | 8 466 | 3 135 | 37.0 | 3 032 | 1 981 | 1 593 | 80.4 |
| 25 - 29 years | 7 643 | 6 356 | 3 495 | 55.0 | 2 140 | 1 467 | 1 238 | 84.4 |
| 30 - 34 years | 28 800 | 22 012 | 9 472 | 43.0 | 2 199 | 1 399 | 1 083 | 77.4 |
| 35 years and older | 40 219 | 26 400 | 11 466 | 43.4 | 2 439 | 1 736 | 1 277 | 73.6 |
| Unspecified | 417 | 239 | 89 | 37.2 | 66 122 | 47 329 | 36 421 | 77.0 |
| Total | 89 644 | 64 700 | 28 154 | 43.5 | 75 980 | 53 945 | 41 638 | 77.2 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

Note: Age was unspecified for more than 87% of the 2019 records

The national completion rate for GETC: ABET level 4 qualification was 77.2% in 2019, which was almost double when compared with 2018 completion rate (43.5%). The largest number of students who registered, wrote and were eligible to complete GETC: ABET level 4 were students aged 20-24 years old, followed by students aged 35 years and older.

8. PRIVATE COLLEGES

8.1. Enrolment in private colleges

Table 15: Number of students enrolled in private colleges by age category, 2018 and 2019

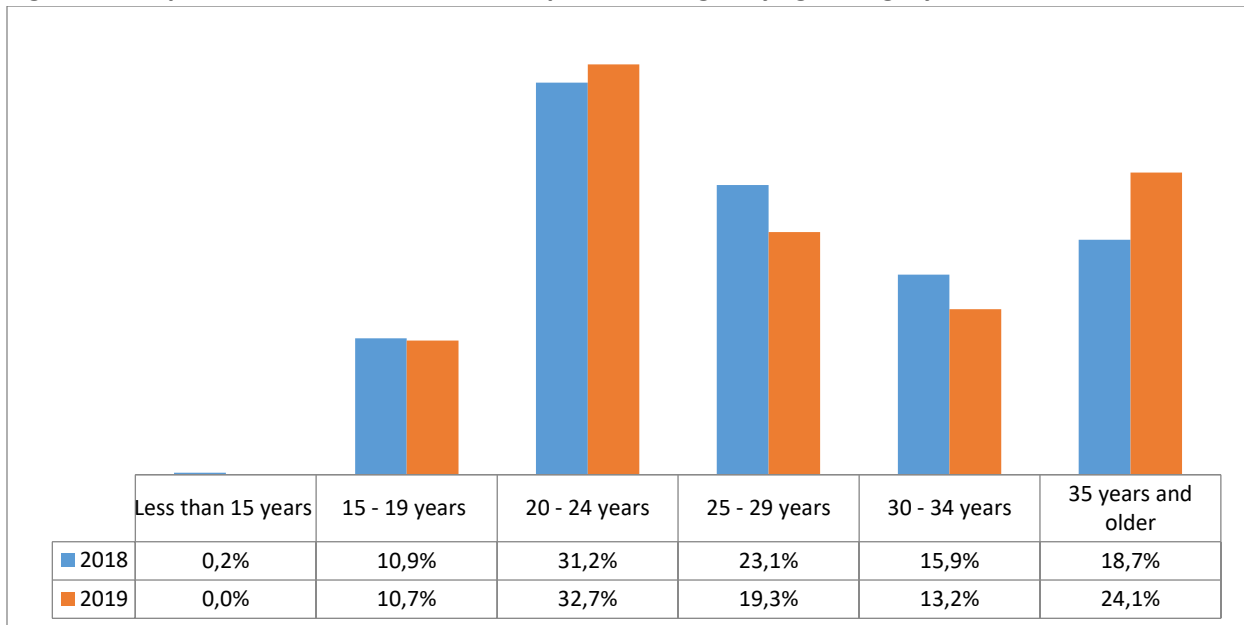
| Age | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Less than 15 years | 340 | 0 |
| 15 - 19 years | 23 910 | 16 169 |
| 20 - 24 years | 68 663 | 49 422 |
| 25 - 29 years | 50 735 | 29 220 |
| 30 - 34 years | 35 031 | 19 940 |
| 35 years and older | 41 158 | 36 385 |
| Total | 219 837 | 151 136 |

Source: PrivateCollge2018_20191119 and PrivateCollge2019_20210108, data for 2019 was extracted in January 2021

Note: Enrolment is based on private colleges which submitted data to the Department. Response rate for 2018 was 80.9% compared to a 53.7% response rate in 2019.

The highest enrolment in private colleges in 2019 was for students aged 20-24 years old (49 422 or 32.7%), followed by those who were 35 years and older (36 385 or 24.1%) and 25-29 years old (29 220 or 19.3%). Enrolment declined in all age groups between 2018 and 2019, with the highest decrease recorded for students aged 25-29 years old (21 515) and students aged 20-24 years old (19 241) – see Figure 5 and Table 15.

Figure 5: Proportion of students enrolled in private colleges by age category, 2018 and 2019



Source: PrivateCollge2018_20191119 and PrivateCollge2019_20210108, data for 2019 was extracted in January 2021

Table 16: Number of students enrolled in private colleges by age category and qualification type, 2019

| Age | NC(V) | Report 191 | Occupational Qualifications | Report 550/ NSC & Other | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Less than 15 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 - 19 years | 296 | 11 205 | 2 486 | 2 182 | 16 169 |
| 20 - 24 years | 1 314 | 31 343 | 8 933 | 7 832 | 49 422 |
| 25 - 29 years | 220 | 13 538 | 6 942 | 8 520 | 29 220 |
| 30 - 34 years | 88 | 7 032 | 4 797 | 8 023 | 19 940 |
| 35 years and older | 106 | 6 110 | 9 697 | 20 472 | 36 385 |
| Total | 2 024 | 69 228 | 32 855 | 47 029 | 151 136 |

Source: PrivateCollege2019_20210108, data for 2019 was extracted in January 2021

The highest enrolment in private colleges was for students aged 20-24 years old (49 422 or 32.7%), followed by those who were 35 years and older (36 385 or 24.1%) and 25-29 years old (29 220 or 19.3%). The majority of youth aged 20-24 years old enrolled for Report 191 programmes (31 343) and occupational qualifications (8 933), while more than half of students aged 35 years and older enrolled for Report 550/NSC and Other.

8.2. Examination results in private colleges

Table 17: Number of students in private colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications for Engineering Studies, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 880 | 513 | 312 | 60.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 242 | 159 | 63 | 39.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 20 - 24 years | 12 802 | 10 246 | 6 019 | 58.7 | 14 571 | 12 164 | 7 079 | 58.2 |
| 25 - 29 years | 6 676 | 4 726 | 2 861 | 60.5 | 7 283 | 5 930 | 4 086 | 68.9 |
| 30 - 34 years | 4 179 | 2 365 | 1 457 | 61.6 | 5 788 | 4 541 | 3 300 | 72.7 |
| 35 years and older | 5 485 | 2 733 | 1 559 | 57.0 | 6 742 | 5 224 | 3 828 | 73.3 |
| Unspecified | 129 | 68 | 26 | 38.2 | 6 314 | 4 849 | 2 770 | 57.1 |
| Total | 30 393 | 20 810 | 12 297 | 59.1 | 40 698 | 32 708 | 21 063 | 64.4 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

A total of 40 698 students registered for Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications examinations in private colleges in 2019, of which 32 708 wrote examinations and 21 063 completed. This was an increase when compared with number of students who registered, wrote and completed Report 190/1 N3 part-qualifications in 2018. The completion rate for 2019 was 64.4%, reflecting a 5.3 percentage points

increase when compared with 2018 (59.1%). The largest increase in the completion rate was for students aged 35 years and older (16.3 percentage points).

The above table also indicates that the highest number of students who registered, wrote and completed N3 part-qualification were youth aged 20-24 years old, followed by students aged 25-29 years old.

Table 18: Number of students in private colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N6 part-qualifications for Engineering Studies, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 449 | 371 | 287 | 77.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 14 | 12 | 11 | 91.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 20 - 24 years | 2 688 | 2 504 | 1 841 | 73.5 | 5 519 | 5 232 | 4 631 | 88.5 |
| 25 - 29 years | 2 076 | 1 701 | 1 187 | 69.8 | 3 548 | 3 383 | 3 120 | 92.2 |
| 30 - 34 years | 1 141 | 909 | 640 | 70.4 | 2 547 | 2 416 | 2 245 | 92.9 |
| 35 years and older | 1 700 | 1 348 | 984 | 73.0 | 3 537 | 3 349 | 3 087 | 92.2 |
| Unspecified | 49 | 40 | 33 | 82.5 | 1 282 | 1 130 | 978 | 86.5 |
| Total | 8 117 | 6 885 | 4 983 | 72.4 | 16 433 | 15 510 | 14 061 | 90.7 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

Majority of students who registered, wrote and completed N6 part-qualifications were youth aged 20-24 years old followed by youth aged 25-29 years old in both 2018 and 2019. The number of students who completed N6 Engineering Studies part-qualifications increased by 9 078 between 2018 and 2019, and the highest increase was for students aged 20-24 years old (2 790).

The completion rate for 2019 was 90.7%, reflecting an 18.3 percentage points increase when compared with 2018 (72.4%). The largest increases in the completion rate were for students in the age groups 30-34 and 25-29 years old (22.5 and 22.4 percentage points respectively).

Table 19: Number of students in private colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed Report 190/1 N6 part-qualifications for Business Studies, by age category and gender, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | Completion rate (%) | 2019 | | | Completion rate (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | |
| Less than 15 years | 344 | 282 | 229 | 81.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 12 | 12 | 11 | 91.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 20 - 24 years | 8 009 | 7 692 | 6 773 | 88.1 | 11 917 | 11 307 | 10 634 | 94.0 |
| 25 - 29 years | 5 375 | 5 092 | 4 350 | 85.4 | 4 481 | 4 283 | 4 112 | 96.0 |
| 30 - 34 years | 1 654 | 1 534 | 1 345 | 87.7 | 1 961 | 1 830 | 1 750 | 95.6 |
| 35 years and older | 2 001 | 1 834 | 1 637 | 89.3 | 2 092 | 1 950 | 1 864 | 95.6 |
| Unspecified | 33 | 28 | 26 | 92.9 | 1 422 | 1 264 | 1 176 | 93.0 |
| Total | 17 428 | 16 474 | 14 371 | 87.2 | 21 873 | 20 634 | 19 536 | 94.7 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

The national completion rate for Report 191 N6 Business studies part-qualification was higher in 2019 (94.7%) which was 7.5 percentage points higher when compared with 2018 (87.2%). The largest increase in the completion rate was for students aged 25-29 years old (10.6 percentage points). The largest number of students who registered, wrote and completed N6 Business studies examinations were aged 20-24 years, followed by students aged 25-29 years old in both 2018 and 2019, and the largest increase between the two years were for youth aged 20-24 years old.

The number of students who completed N6 Business Studies part-qualifications increased by 5 165 between 2018 and 2019, and the highest increase was for students aged 20-24 years old (3 861). A large number of students in the age groups (20-24 and 25-29 years old) registered, wrote and completed Business Studies when compared with Engineering Studies.

Table 20: Number of students in private colleges who registered, wrote examinations and completed NC(V) Level 4 qualifications, by age category, 2018 and 2019

| Age | 2018 | | | | 2019 | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) | Number registered | Number wrote | Number completed | Completion rate (%) |
| Less than 15 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 15 - 19 years | 1 | 0 | 0 | n.a | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a |
| 20 - 24 years | 158 | 140 | 68 | 48.6 | 138 | 78 | 28 | 35.9 |
| 25 - 29 years | 253 | 210 | 95 | 45.2 | 108 | 71 | 19 | 26.8 |
| 30 - 34 years | 60 | 55 | 21 | 38.2 | 19 | 17 | 4 | 23.5 |
| 35 years and older | 20 | 17 | 8 | 47.1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 33.3 |
| Unspecified | 3 | 2 | 1 | 50.0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 495 | 424 | 193 | 45.5 | 272 | 171 | 52 | 30.4 |

Source: National Examinations Database 2018-2019. Data for 2019 data was extracted in November 2019.

Even though a few number of private college students registered, wrote and completed examinations for NC(V) level 4 qualification as compared to TVET college students, the analysis indicates that youth aged 20-24 years old, followed by those aged 25-29 years old wrote and completed the qualification. When comparing 2018 and 2019, the total number of students who completed NC(V) level 4 decreased by 141, and the largest decline was for students aged 25-29 years old (76). The completion rate for NC(V) level 4 was 30.4% in 2019, which was 15.1 percentage points lower when compared with 2018 (45.5%).

9. Conclusion

This Fact Sheet indicates that provision to PSET was mainly for youth aged 20-24 years old in all PSET institutions (i.e. public HEIs, TVET, CET and private colleges). In public HEIs majority of students in this age group enrolled in the SET field of study, while TVET and private colleges' students enrolled mainly for Report 191 programmes, and over 90% of CET colleges' students in this age group enrolled for Grade 12 and GETC: ABET level 4. The second largest enrolment for public HEIs was for students aged 19 years and younger, while CET and private colleges' second largest enrolment was in the older age group (35 years and older). TVET colleges on the other hand had their second largest enrolment in the age group 25-29 years old.

Consequently, students that graduated or completed their qualifications in Public HEIs, TVET and private colleges were youth aged 20-24 years old and 25-29 years old, while CET colleges completion for GETC: ABET level 4 was higher for students aged 20-24 years old followed by those aged 35 years and older. A large number of 20-24 years old graduates in public HEIs completed SET and Business Management field of study. In TVET and private colleges, the majority of 20-24 year old students completed Report 191 part-qualifications.

These findings indicate that all PSET institutions attract young people aged 20-24 years old. Enrolment could however be increased for youth aged 15-34 years old, as the latest *Quarterly Labour Force Survey* findings highlights that over 90% of the unemployed had matric or less than matric as their highest level of education, which shows that people with higher education levels have better chances of finding employment.

The report also reveals that the number of youth (aged 15-24 years old) that are NEET continues to rise and was reported to be 3.3 million in the first quarter of 2021², and this cohort of students could be enrolling in PSET institutions or undertaking skills development programmes through Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs). The latest *Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa, 2019*³ indicates that 11 out of 21 SETAs did not meet their target in registering unemployed people in skills development programmes and learnerships, and this is an area that we need to focus on to provide the much-needed skills for youth and improve their prospects of either finding employment or being self-employed.

² Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1:2021 (Statistics South Africa) accessible through the link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02111stQuarter2021.pdf>

³ Accessible through the link: <https://www.dhet.gov.za/DHET%20Statistics%20Publication/Statistics%20on%20Post-School%20Education%20and%20Training%20in%20South%20Africa%202019.pdf>