

Tertiary Enrolment & Labour Market Trends, 2002 to Present: A Global Snapshot

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Abstract

The impact of the US financial crisis has been significant in the ICT sector. There has been a dramatic change in the demand for prospective employees in the sector within New Zealand in the last 12 months. This change has major implications for ITP's and NACCQ. The authors have analysed EFTS and job vacancy data covering the last eight years and present this information in chart form. While the authors acknowledge the data provides a 'hindsight' perspective, analysis of the trends may provide insights for future decision making by the NACCQ executive.

Introduction

In recent years the world has experienced a critical shortage of employment candidates with ICT skills. Perversely, during this time of great demand, global enrolments in this field of study have seriously declined.

This poster presents a snapshot of New Zealand (NZ) tertiary enrolment trends from 2002 to the present. ICT enrolments in Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITP) from 2002 to 2008 are charted, together with the labour market trends in Australasia over a similar period. Reference is also made to enrolment trends in Computer Science and Computer Engineering in the United States of America (USA).

Content

Enrolments in Computer Science and IT programmes/courses world wide have been declining since 2000, with young women in Australia turning away at a greater rate than young men (Lang, C; Lewis, S; McKay, J; 2005).

In NZ ICT enrolments in the ITP sector have declined 49% over the period 2002 to 2007. During a similar period ICT vacancies in NZ increased by approximately 300%. It could be expected that enrolments would decline if job seekers interested in ICT were being employed in the sector; the continued increase in vacancies seems to indicate that this was not the case.

Conclusion

The content of the PowerPoint presentation highlights past and current ICT enrolment and job vacancy trends. Analysis of these trends leads the authors to conclude that the harmonisation of the framework of qualifications by NACCQ is important to the continued success of the organisation. The Blue Book qualifications continue to meet the needs of the domestic market, providing opportunities for New Zealand students to pathway into an ICT career. Conference attendees viewing this presentation are invited to posit their own opinions and conclusions from the data presented.

References

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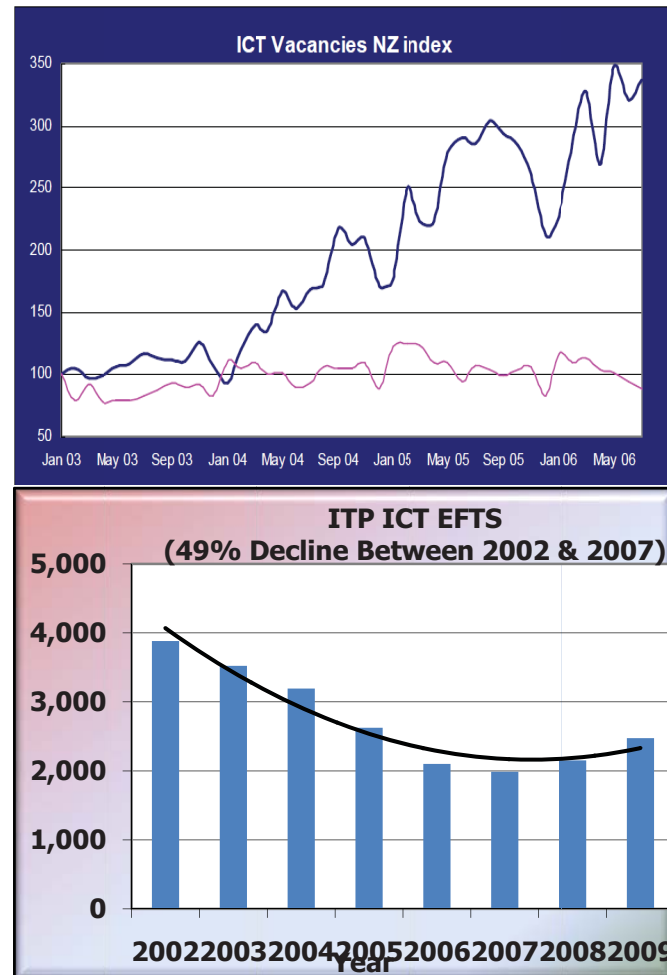
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