

**Table 5: Main employment setting of active medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians, by sex, 2008**

Main employment setting	Medical Laboratory Scientists				Medical Laboratory Technicians			
	Male	Female	Not reported	Total	Male	Female	Not reported	Total
DHB	123	345	2	470	107	464	1	572
Community laboratory	44	349	1	394	79	331	0	410
Private practice (group practice)	10	41	0	51	6	35	0	41
Government dept/Crown agency	3	14	0	17	1	11	0	12
Private practice (self employed)	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0
Commercial/industrial organisation	1	5	0	6	0	4	0	4
University/Polytechnic	3	3	0	6	2	3	0	5
Other	4	15	0	19	6	14	0	20
Not reported	36	99	0	135	25	77	1	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1167</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

The Ministry of Health would like to thank all the health care professionals who completed the 2008 workforce questionnaire. This is an annual survey which all health care professionals are encouraged to complete.

If you have any comments or require further survey results please contact:

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## Medical Laboratory Scientist and Technician Workforce

### Summary Results from the 2008 Health Workforce Annual Survey

**Table 6: Worktype by main employment setting for active medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians, 2008**

Employer description	Blood collection	Clinical biochemist	Cytogenetics	Cytology	Embryology	General/MLS	Haematology	Histology	Immunology	Management	Microbiology	Nuclear medicine	Sample collection	Serology	Study / research	Teaching	Transfusion science	Virology	Other	Not reported	Total
<b>Medical laboratory scientists</b>																					
Hospital and health service/DHB	52	84	38	11	0	20	60	24	11	16	67	0	10	5	4	1	112	14	35	7	571
Community laboratory	192	46	1	33	0	7	29	10	13	10	69	0	49	1	0	11	9	0	8	6	494
Private practice (group practice)	9	11	0	5	8	4	5	3	3	1	7	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	8	1	72
Government dept / Crown agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	9	0	0	1	3	0	1	3	4	0	25
University / polytechnic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	8
Commercial / industrial organisation	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
Private practice (self employed)	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	7
Other	2	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	4	4	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	2	0	29
Not reported	26	13	3	3	1	6	8	5	4	2	12	0	5	1	0	1	12	2	4	54	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1375</b>
<b>Medical laboratory technicians</b>																					
Hospital and health service / DHB	51	128	9	13	0	39	128	29	14	38	116	1	9	8	2	2	95	5	47	5	739
Community laboratory	161	62	0	18	0	10	60	13	9	34	101	0	28	3	0	4	15	1	5	2	526
Private practice (group practice)	8	14	0	4	1	2	9	2	3	2	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	57
Government dept / Crown agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	2	0	13
University / polytechnic	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	8
Commercial/industrial organisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Other	0	5	0	0	0	4	5	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	1	31
Not reported	10	9	1	1	1	4	10	4	4	2	4	0	1	1	0	2	6	1	5	52	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1497</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

A health workforce survey was included with each invoice for Annual Practising Certificates (APC) sent to medical laboratory scientists and technicians in February 2008.

Of the 1594 medical laboratory scientists who were sent an invoice, 1105 (69.3 percent) indicated that they were working actively as medical laboratory scientists, 28 (1.8 percent) responded to the 2008 survey but did not report that they were actively working and 461 (28.9 percent) did not respond to the survey.

Of the 1377 medical laboratory technicians who were sent an invoice, 1167 (84.2 percent) indicated that they were working actively as medical laboratory technicians, 27 (2.5 percent) responded to the 2008 survey but did not report that they were actively working and 183 (13.3 percent) did not respond to the survey.

The following statistics are based on the 1105 active medical laboratory scientists and 1167 active medical laboratory technicians.

Of the active medical laboratory scientist, 79.5 percent were female, while 80.5 percent of medical laboratory technicians were female (Table 1). The median age of medical laboratory scientists was 44 years and medical laboratory technicians 50 years.

**Table 1: Age and sex of active medical laboratory scientists and technicians, 2008**

Age group	Medical Laboratory Scientists				Medical Laboratory Technicians			
	Male	Female	Not reported	Total	Male	Female	Not reported	Total
20–	2	21	0	23	0	3	0	3
25–	27	95	0	122	3	19	0	22
30–	40	116	0	156	5	37	0	42
35–	33	100	0	133	18	65	1	84
40–	26	93	0	119	30	145	0	175
45–	29	149	0	178	43	160	1	204
50–	30	135	1	166	36	177	0	213
55–	21	110	2	133	41	173	0	214
60+	16	55	0	71	43	129	0	172
Not reported	0	4	0	4	7	31	0	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1167</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

The majority of the active medical laboratory scientists and technicians identified themselves as belonging to the NZ European ethnic group (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Ethnicity of active medical laboratory scientists and technicians, 2008**

Ethnicity	MLS		MLT	
	Total	%	Total	%
NZ European	649	58.7	804	68.9
Māori	37	3.3	23	2.0
Other European	117	10.6	95	8.1
Chinese	55	5.0	9	0.8
Indian	51	4.6	45	3.9
Other Asian	19	1.7	22	1.9
South East Asian	16	1.4	18	1.5
Fijian	14	1.3	13	1.1
Samoan	12	1.1	11	0.9
Cook Island Māori	5	0.5	2	0.2
Other Pacific	5	0.5	1	0.1
Tongan	5	0.5	3	0.3
Niuean	1	0.1	0	0.0
Other	55	5.0	37	3.2
Not reported	64	5.8	84	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

Also, numbers greater than zero but less than five have been suppressed for privacy reasons.

Of those DHBs with more than five respondents, the highest average hours worked per week for medical laboratory scientists was in Northland (53.5 hours). For medical laboratory technicians the highest average hours worked per week was Northland (52.4 hours).

Table 5 shows that the main employment setting of active medical laboratory scientists and technicians were DHBs and community laboratories.

Table 6 shows the main employment setting by work type of the active respondents to the 2008 survey.

Most medical laboratory scientists and technicians qualified in New Zealand. The next most common qualification country was the United Kingdom for medical laboratory scientists and South Africa for technicians (table 3).

Table 4 shows District Health Board (DHB) of employer, by average hours worked. Please note that, because the number of active practitioners in some DHBs is very low, the average figure must be treated with caution.

**Table 3: Qualification country of active medical laboratory scientists and technicians, 2008**

Qualification country	MLS		MLT	
	Total	%	Total	%
New Zealand	919	83.2	902	77.3
United Kingdom	77	7.0	20	1.7
India	17	1.5	11	0.9
Australia	13	1.2	5	0.4
South Africa	11	1.0	46	3.9
Zimbabwe	8	0.7	8	0.7
USA	7	0.6	0	0.0
China	7	0.6	2	0.2
Canada	5	0.5	2	0.2
Croatia	2	0.2	0	0.0
Fiji	2	0.2	15	1.3
Ireland	2	0.2	0	0.0
Philippines	1	0.1	16	1.4
Other	23	2.1	46	3.9
Not reported	11	1.0	94	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

**Table 4: District Health Board of employer, by average hours worked, 2008**

DHB Description	MLS		MLT	
	Number	Ave. full-time hrs per week	Number	Ave. full-time hrs per week
Northland	27	40.2	27	39.1
Waitemata	54	39.1	55	38.6
Auckland	203	40.2	186	39.9
Counties-Manukau	56	38.6	46	39.1
Waikato	76	40.1	56	38.7
Lakes	9	38.2	18	38.9
Bay of Plenty	23	37.9	32	40.2
Tairāwhiti	11	41.5	6	40.8
Hawkes Bay	27	38.9	20	40.9
Taranaki	13	39.1	12	39.5
MidCentral	30	38.4	21	38.0
Whanganui	4	40.0	8	40.8
Capital & Coast	76	40.2	75	37.8
Hutt Valley	13	42.2	13	38.8
Wairarapa	7	39.1	3	38.3
Nelson-Marlborough	12	35.3	12	40.4
West Coast	2	40.0	5	39.2
Canterbury	125	40.0	102	38.4
South Canterbury	10	39.7	6	40.0
Otago	42	38.8	34	38.8
Southland	11	38.5	4	44.3
DHB not reported	21	38.7	30	39.6
<b>Total full-time</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>39.1</b>
<b>Part-time</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>19.7</b>
<b>Hours not reported</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

Each medical laboratory scientist or technician could specify more than one work type. Table 6 shows that the 1105 active medical laboratory scientists reported 1375 worktypes (1.2 worktypes per active medical laboratory scientist). The 1167 active medical laboratory technicians reported 1497 worktypes (1.3 worktypes per active medical laboratory technician).

For medical laboratory scientists, the most common combination of worktype and employment setting was blood collection-related activities in a community laboratory. For medical laboratory technicians, it was clinical biochemistry or haematology in a DHB.