New Zealand as a science nation

SciVal analysis of New Zealand's scholarly output as of 2024

New Zealand's overall outputs

Investment

Investment in R&D in 2024

1.54% of GDP

OECD average

2.7% of GDP*

(StatsNZ, 2024; OECD, 2025)

A strong global contributor to science

63.1%

63.1% of New Zealand's output involves international collaboration

22.3%

22.3% is the world average for international collaboration

A significant impact on policy

12.2%

of scholarly articles published between 2019 and 2024 cited in policy documents

2.9%

is the world average

2025 overview

Total output **11,581**

Average FWCI **1.58**

New Zealand universities

SciVal analysis of New Zealand's scholarly output from 2019-2024

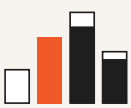
Scholarly output

83%

New Zealand universities contribute to **83%** of New Zealand's total scholarly output

The **University of Auckland** leads in volume of scholarly output with international collaboration

Key subjects and technologies



Subject distribution sees the largest share within for subjects in **Biomedical and Clinical Sciences**, followed by **Biological Sciences** and **Health Sciences**

Key technologies, such as **Artificial intelligence**, **Biotechnology** and other sub-categories within **Engineering** have a strong presence

Crown Research Institutes

SciVal analysis of New Zealand's scholarly output from 2019-2024

Citation impact

Average FWCI

1.39

↑ **43%**

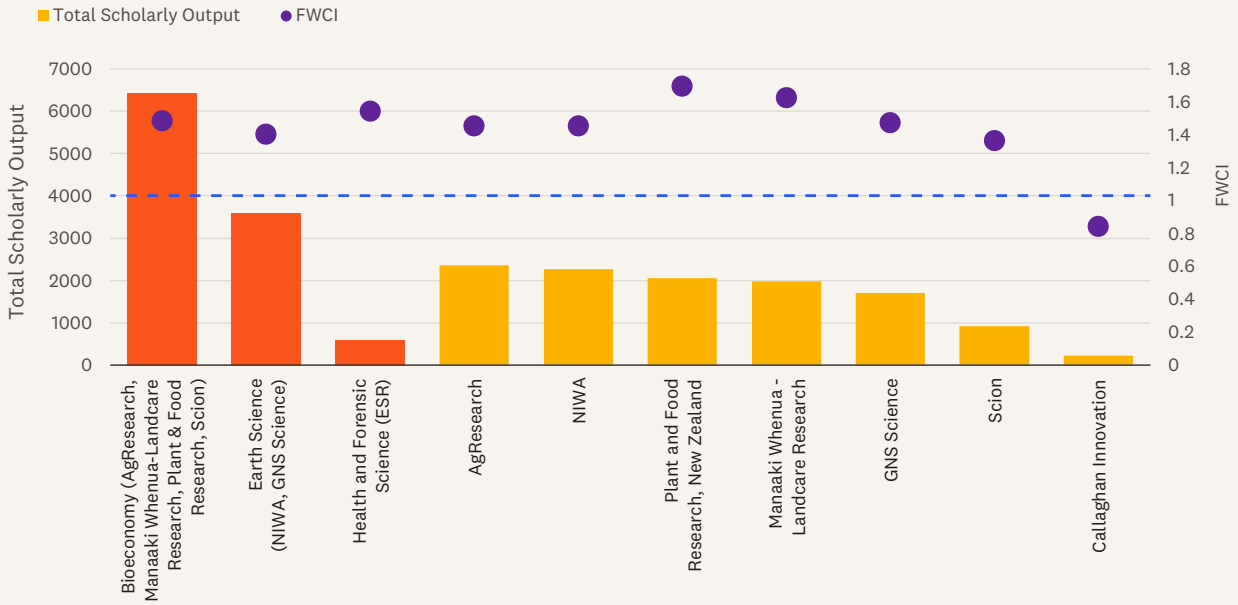
CRI work is **43%** more cited than the global benchmark

Shift to Public Research Organizations

By merging the institutes into PROs, for example NIWA and GNS Science merging with the focus on Earth Science, would have capability to produce higher quality output and achieve even higher than NIWA's current policy citation rate of 33.6%.

Scholarly output mapped along FWCI

It is evident that the current structure results with each entity having a relatively low scholarly output. The potential post-merger PROs, as the orange bars in the figure below show results in a larger output for each new entity.



The dotted blue line denotes the world average FWCI (1.0). The output of the future PROs is calculated as a total sum of current CRIs to be merged.

Impact outcomes

Sustainable Development Goals

New Zealand demonstrates higher relative activity, in thirteen out of the sixteen SDGs, particularly in **Life Below Water (14)** and **Life on Land (15)**

56%

Over half, **56%**, of New Zealand's research is related to at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Scan the QR code to read the full report

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