Tertiary ICT Enrolments and Job Vacancies: Reflecting on Trends
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Introduction
National and international publications, such as Computerworld and TechRepublic, regularly feature articles publicising the growing global ICT skills shortage. Here in NZ it is apparent that the ICT industry leaders are extremely concerned about the impact of the skills shortage on the potential growth of the sector and NZ’s productivity. Publication of the author’s monthly ICT trend series on the CITRENZ website highlights this increasing requirement for suitably qualified personnel to fulfil the growing demand.

Content
The ratio between the availability of ICT graduates versus industry demand significantly impacts the ICT sector and NZ as a whole. The trend of both has caused considerable concern in recent years and (has resulted) in a significant international skills shortage (NZCS Newsline, June 2011). Figure 1 illustrates the NZ IT enrolment trends from the 2002 peak to the present. Bachelor’s degree EFTS enrolments are 43% lower, or 4210 fewer, in 2010 than in the 2002 peak enrolment year. Diploma EFTS enrolments are 32% lower, or 1680 fewer, for the same period.

Figure 2 illustrates the Seek ICT job adverts with the September 2007 peak preceding the economic recession, followed by a recovery in demand. In spite of the dip in the April, 2012, job adverts the overall trend indicates a steadily increasing requirement for skilled and experienced personnel.

Conclusion
An extract from the NZICT 2010 policy document, postulates an overall strategy for addressing the problem; “A focus on ICT-related education and skills are fundamental to New Zealand’s endeavour to improve its Digital Economy”.

Industry, professional organisations and tertiary institutions need to work with government to develop programmes that increase the flow into the ICT talent pipeline.

References
Education Counts (Accessed May 2011)
Seek ICT Jobs (Accessed May 2011)