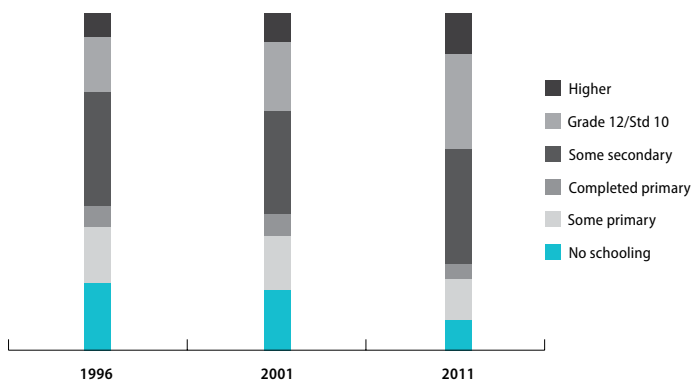


# Skills and Education at a Glance

At the end of November 2012, the Department of Basic Education released the results of its Annual National Assessment tests – a means to establish learner capacity in basic literacy and numeracy. While the results in some instances pointed to isolated improvements, the overall picture remains bleak. Findings such as the one suggesting that only 13 per cent of Grade 9 learners have the requisite mathematics skills for their age explain why South Africa was ranked 143 out of 144 countries for maths and science education in the World Economic Forum's 2012/13 *Global Competitiveness Index*. Although not the sole cause, a deficient education system still continues to entrench high levels of unemployment – and hence poverty – in an economy characterised by a stark imbalance between the demand for and supply of skilled labour.

## Education level of persons aged 20 and older

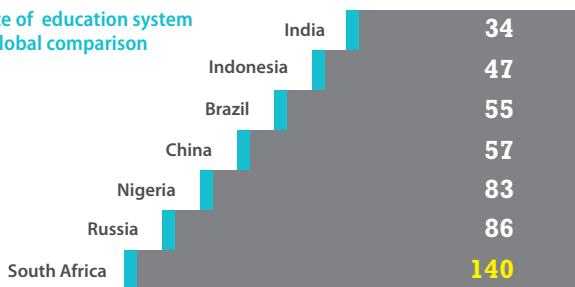


Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011

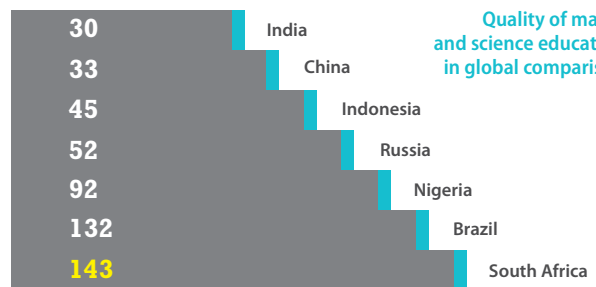
**12.1%**  
The proportion of South Africans 20 years and older with a tertiary education

## South African skills and education in comparative perspective (ranking out of 144 countries)

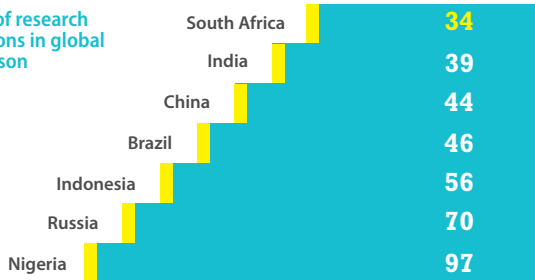
### State of education system in global comparison



### Quality of maths and science education in global comparison



### Quality of research institutions in global comparison

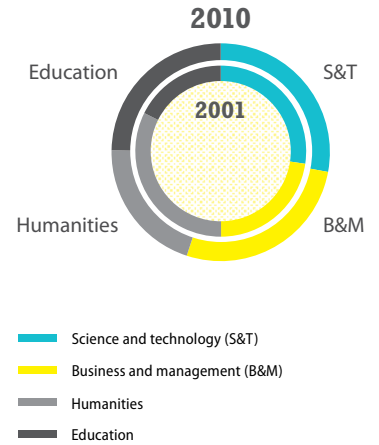
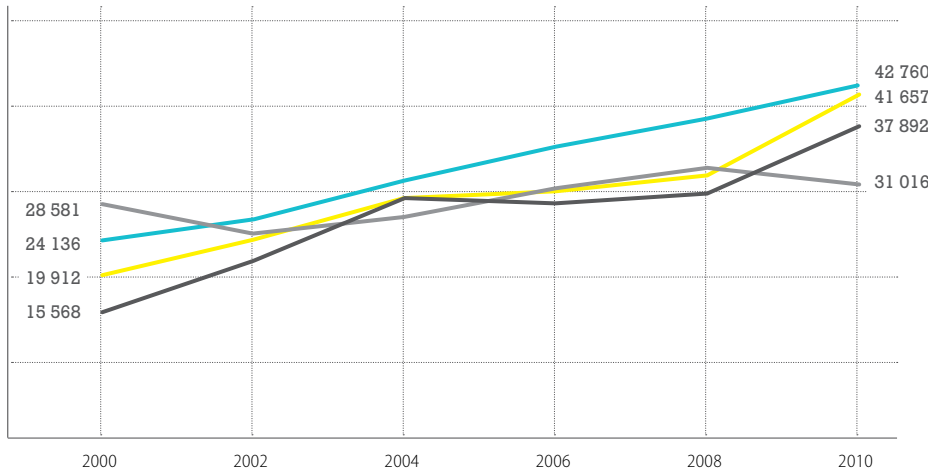


### Availability of scientists and engineers in global comparison



Source: World Economic Forum, 2012: Executive Opinion Survey

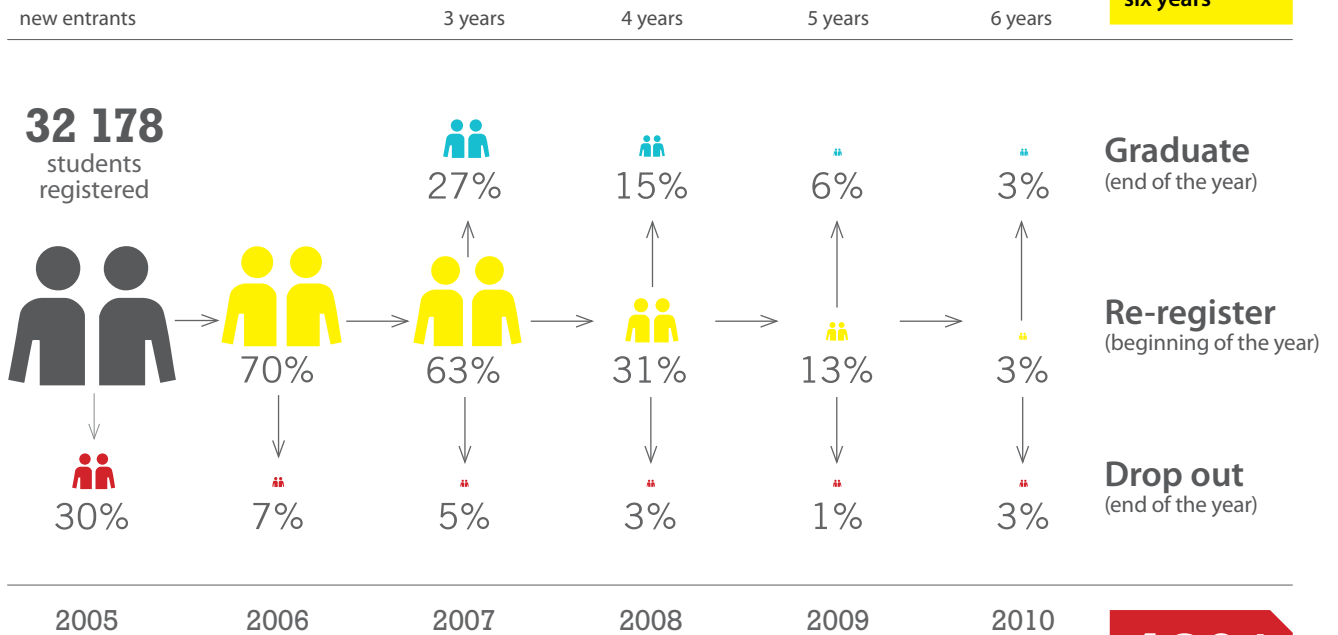
### Graduates by broad fields of study 2000 to 2010



Source: Centre for Higher Education Transformation, 2012. 2013 South African Public Higher Education Key Statistics. [www.chet.org.za/data](http://www.chet.org.za/data)

### Undergraduate throughput rates 2005 cohort

**51%**  
graduate in six years



**49%**  
drop out in six years

Source: Centre for Higher Education Transformation, 2012. 2013 South African Public Higher Education Key Statistics. [www.chet.org.za/data](http://www.chet.org.za/data)