

El Camino College: Time to Completion 2012-2013

Executive Summary

This report examined the time between first enrollment and completion for the 3,008 degrees and certificates awarded at El Camino College (ECC) and ECC Compton Center (Compton Center) during the 2012-2013 academic year. Results showed that few students finished a degree within their first two years (10% ECC, 6% Compton Center), with median times to degree of 4 years for ECC, and 4.5 years for Compton Center. Certificate earners had similarly modest completion numbers, with 17% of ECC and 18% of Compton Center students completing their certificates within normal time. The median time to completion for certificate earners was 4 years at ECC and 3.5 years at Compton Center. Results are disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age, and units completed.

Introduction

In 2012-13, 2,628 degrees and certificates were awarded to students at El Camino College (ECC). At El Camino College Compton Center (Compton Center), 380 awards were granted to students. Table 1 provides an outline of the time that these students took to earn their degrees and certificates. Normal time to completion is based on the amount of time necessary for a student to complete all requirements for a degree or certificate assuming full-time enrollment and academic readiness for college, not necessarily the “typical” time to completion. For this report, time to completion for degrees is categorized into 3 groups based on normal time to completion: 1) 100% - up to 2 years, 2) 150% - up to 3 years, and 3) 200% - up to 4 years.

Because certificates vary in normal time to completion, time to completion is categorized into three groups based on the program’s normal time to completion: 1) 100% - within normal time, 2) 150% - within 1.5 times the length of normal time, and 3) 200% - within 2 times the length of normal time. Given that the time to completion is positively skewed (i.e., some students took much longer than most), the median (the point at which half of students completed their certificate or degree earlier, and half completed later) is a better measure than the mean (or average) of the typical time to completion.

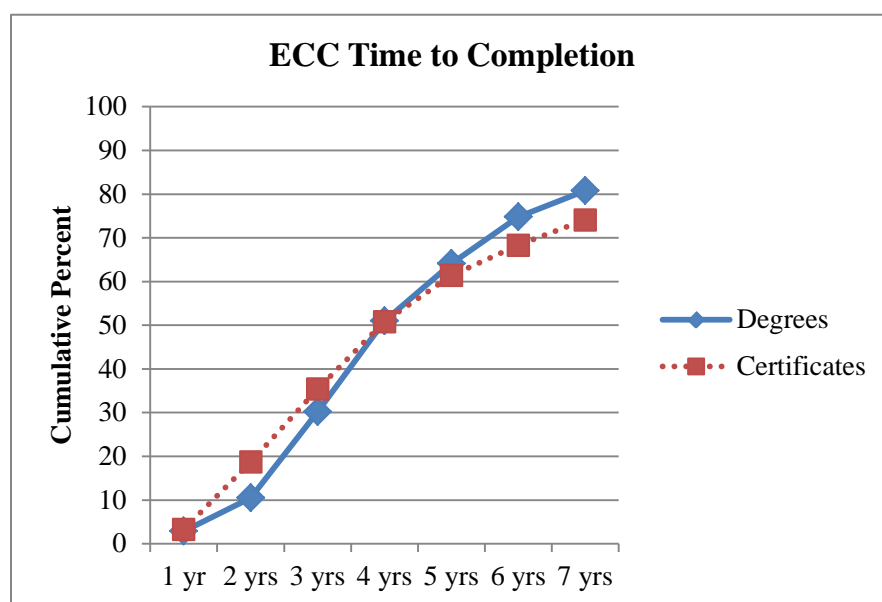
Table 1. Time to Completion by Location and Award Type

| Location | Award Type | Total Awards | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median (Years) |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | | | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | |
| ECC | | | | | | | | |
| | Degrees | 2,029 | 10% | 30% | 51% | 5.4 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| | Certificates | 599 | 17% | 30% | 43% | 5.7 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| Compton Center | | | | | | | | |
| | Degrees | 282 | 6% | 26% | 49% | 4.9 | 2.8 | 4.5 |
| | Certificates | 98 | 18% | 28% | 38% | 4.3 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| Total | | | 12% | 30% | 49% | 5.4 | 3.8 | 4.0 |

Note. Certificate programs vary in length, therefore time to completion is grouped as follows: 100% or less – within normal time, 2) 150% - within 1.5 times the length of normal time, and 3) 200% - within 2 times the length of normal time. Additionally, given that the certificate offerings differ between ECC and Compton Center, a direct comparison between the two locations is not advised.

El Camino College

Figure 1. ECC Graduate's Time to Completion



Time to completion of a degree or certificate at ECC ranged between one semester and 21 years. The median time to completion for both degrees and certificates was 4 years. Of those who earned a degree, only 11% finished within 2 years and 51% within 4 years. This means that 49% of students who earned a degree in 2012-13 took longer than 4

years to complete their degree. For certificates, only 17% finished within the normal time to completion and 43% finished within 2 times the length of normal time to completion. Figure 1 highlights the cumulative percent of students who completed degrees and certificates within 7 years. The figure illustrates that approximately 20 percent of award-earners had not completed their degree or certificate 7 years after first enrolling at ECC.

Units Earned and Time to Degree

There are many important factors that may influence the amount of time a student takes before he or she earns a degree. To earn an Associate Degree at ECC, students must complete at least 60 degree-applicable units. Some of these units may be transferred from other institutions, but at least 12 units must be completed in residence (at ECC and/or Compton Center). Given that the number of units needed for certificates is varied, this section focuses only on degree earners.

Figure 2. Total Units Earned by ECC Degree Earners

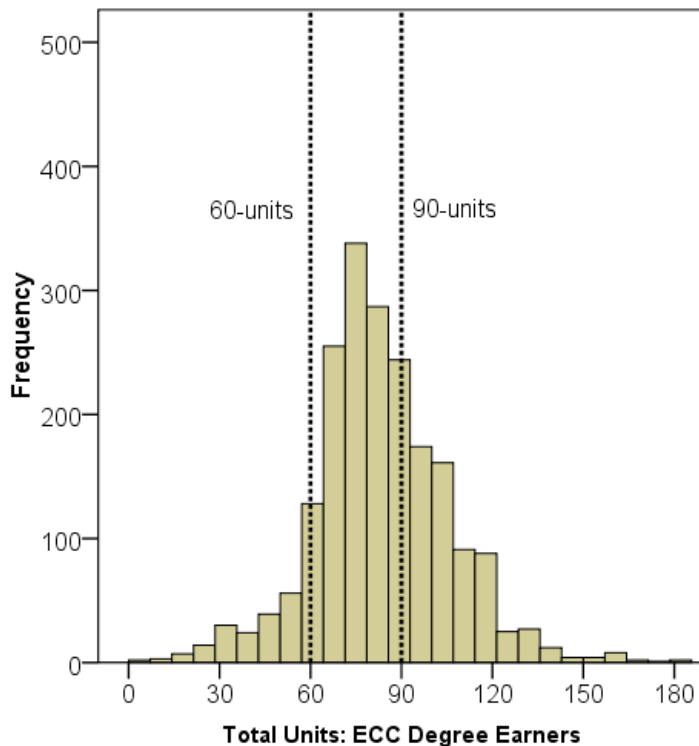


Figure 2 shows the distribution of total units earned by ECC degree earners. Table 2 shows the mean, standard deviation from the mean, median, and percent of ECC students who earned 45 and fewer, 46-60, 61-75, 76-90, and more than 90 units at ECC and/or Compton Center. These unit groupings were chosen to more closely examine those within 15 units (approximately one semester of full-time courses) of the 60 units needed for an Associate degree. Additionally, students may face financial aid or other ramifications for having more than 90 units. The median number of units earned for ECC degree earners was 81. The majority of students earned between 61 and 90 units (57%). However, a sizeable

number of students earned more than 90 units (32%).

Table 2. Units Earned for Associate Degrees by Location

| Location | Units Earned | Mean | | Median | n | % |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----|-----|
| | | (Units) | SD | (Units) | | |
| ECC | | 83.3 | 23.0 | 81.0 | | |
| | 45 and fewer | | | | 101 | 5% |
| | 46-60 | | | | 120 | 6% |
| | 61-75 | | | | 527 | 26% |
| | 76-90 | | | | 623 | 31% |
| | More than 90 | | | | 658 | 32% |
| Compton Center | | 73.8 | 24.4 | 75.0 | | |
| | 45 and fewer | | | | 34 | 12% |
| | 46-60 | | | | 37 | 13% |
| | 61-75 | | | | 79 | 28% |
| | 76-90 | | | | 68 | 24% |
| | More than 90 | | | | 64 | 23% |
| Total | | | | | | |

Note. This table represents information from Associate Degrees, excluding certificates.

Examining degree earners, we can see that the more units earned at ECC, the less likely students were to complete their degree within normal time (Table 3). This is understandable given that it takes time to acquire more units. However, students with between 76 and 90 units earned took approximately one semester longer to earn their degree than students with between 61 and 75 units (4.0 years vs. 3.5 years, respectively). Even more dramatically, students with more than 90 units earned at ECC and/or Compton Center took 1.5 years longer to complete their degree than students who earned between 61 and 75 units (5.0 years vs. 3.5 years, respectively). It is not clear why students earned more than 90 units – it could be that students previously earned a different degree or certificate, were pursuing a double-major, changed their major after taking several courses, or that students were not focused during their initial time at ECC. It is hoped that the latter will be less likely to happen in the future with the usage of educational planning during matriculation.

Table 3. Time to Completion for Associate Degrees by Location and Units Completed

| Location | Units Earned | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| ECC | | | | | | | |
| | 45 and fewer | 34% | 51% | 69% | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| | 46-60 | 26% | 49% | 66% | 4.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| | 61-75 | 17% | 43% | 63% | 4.7 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| | 76-90 | 5% | 28% | 51% | 5.2 | 3.2 | 4.0 |
| | More than 90 | 4% | 16% | 36% | 6.5 | 4.1 | 5.0 |
| Compton Center | | | | | | | |
| | 45 and fewer | 24% | 32% | 53% | 4.7 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
| | 46-60 | 3% | 32% | 62% | 4.4 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| | 61-75 | 6% | 28% | 54% | 4.5 | 1.9 | 4.0 |
| | 76-90 | 1% | 22% | 44% | 5.2 | 3.0 | 4.5 |
| | More than 90 | 2% | 19% | 39% | 5.6 | 3.1 | 5.0 |
| Total | | 10% | 30% | 51% | 5.4 | 3.6 | 4.0 |

Note. This table represents information from Associate Degrees, excluding certificates.

Demographics

Tables 4 – 6 show the time to completion by gender, ethnicity, and age group across all awards (degrees and certificates) earned by ECC students. The median time for completion was 4 years for men, and 4.5 years for women. Asian students had the lowest median time to completion (3.5 years). American Indian/ Alaskan Native students and those whose ethnicity was unknown took the longest (5.5 years each). Students aged 17 to 19 finished the quickest, with a median time to completion of 2 years. This is not surprising given that this age group is not old enough to have attended ECC for as long as their older colleagues.

Table 4. ECC Time to Completion by Gender

| Gender | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| Female | 11% | 28% | 47% | 5.6 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| Male | 13% | 33% | 52% | 5.3 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| Total | 12% | 30% | 49% | 5.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |

Table 5. ECC Time to Completion by Ethnicity

| Ethnicity | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| African American | 9% | 27% | 44% | 5.8 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| American Indian/ Alaskan Native | 0% | 11% | 11% | 6.2 | 2.4 | 5.5 |
| Asian | 19% | 43% | 62% | 4.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Latino or Hispanic | 8% | 24% | 44% | 5.5 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| Pacific Islander | 19% | 38% | 50% | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.8 |
| White Non-Hispanic | 14% | 33% | 47% | 5.9 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Two or More Races | 19% | 36% | 79% | 4.2 | 2.6 | 4.0 |
| Unknown or Decline | 4% | 7% | 28% | 7.1 | 4.4 | 5.5 |
| Grand Total | 12% | 30% | 49% | 5.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |

Table 6. ECC Time to Completion by Age Group at Time of Award

| Age Category | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| 17 to 19 | 66% | 84% | 96% | 2.5 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| 20 to 24 | 10% | 34% | 60% | 4.0 | 1.7 | 4.0 |
| 25 to 29 | 8% | 18% | 27% | 6.5 | 3.1 | 6.8 |
| 30 to 39 | 16% | 27% | 37% | 8.3 | 5.8 | 6.5 |
| 40 to 49 | 6% | 15% | 32% | 8.7 | 6.3 | 6.0 |
| 50+ | 9% | 18% | 26% | 9.1 | 6.7 | 6.5 |
| Total | 12% | 30% | 49% | 5.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |

Initiatives

There are several initiatives currently active at ECC that focus on students' success in specific majors. These initiatives include Career and Technical Education (CTE); Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (SEM). CTE programs are technical or career oriented in nature, ranging from Administration of Justice to Welding. Some CTE programs, mostly in the technical area, are also part of the STEM initiative. STEM comprises three divisions – Industry and Technology, Mathematical Sciences, and Natural Sciences. SEM includes only Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The primary difference between STEM and SEM is the latter's focus on transfer programs as opposed to technical programs that include options for certificates. For the purposes of this report, majors were classified as STEM via the 2012 Department of Homeland Security STEM list. This list is tied directly to the federal Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes, and allows for direct comparison of ECC and Compton Center to other institutions.

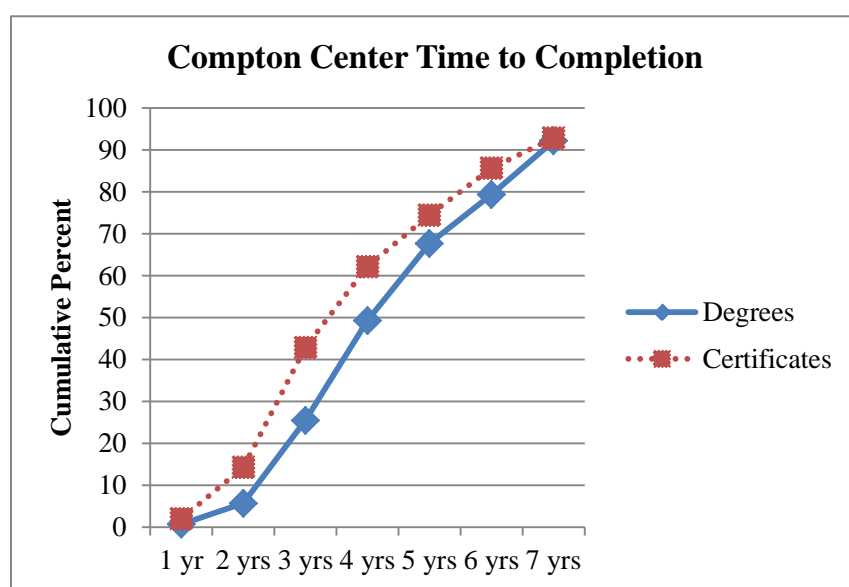
At ECC, the median years to completion for CTE, STEM, and SEM initiatives were 4.5, 4, and 4, respectively (Table 7). Notably, 59% of CTE students took more than 2 times the normal time to completion compared to 44% and 36% of STEM and SEM respectively.

Table 7. ECC Time to Completion by Initiative

| Initiative | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| CTE | 13% | 26% | 41% | 6.1 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| STEM | 10% | 36% | 56% | 5.1 | 3.6 | 4.0 |
| SEM | 8% | 38% | 64% | 4.5 | 2.8 | 4.0 |
| Total | 12% | 30% | 49% | 5.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |

ECC Compton Center

Figure 3. Compton Center's Time to Completion



Time to completion of a degree or certificate at Compton Center varied between one semester and 21 years. As can be seen in Table 1, the median time to completion for both degrees was 4.5 years and for certificates was 3.5 years. Of those who earned a degree, only 6% finished within 2 years and 49% within 4 years. This means that 51% of students who

earned a degree in 2012-13 took longer than four years to complete their degree. For certificates, only 18% finished within the normal time to completion and 38% finished within 2 times the length of normal time to completion. Figure 3 highlights the cumulative percent of students who completed degrees and certificates within 7 years.

Units Earned and Time to Degree

There are many important factors that may influence the amount of time a student takes before he or she earns a degree. To earn an Associate Degree at Compton Center, students must complete at least 60 degree-applicable units. Some of these units may be transferred from other institutions, but at least 12 units must be completed in residence (at ECC and/or Compton Center). Given that the number of units needed for certificates is varied, this section focuses only on degree earners.

Figure 4. Total Units Earned by Compton Center Degree Earners

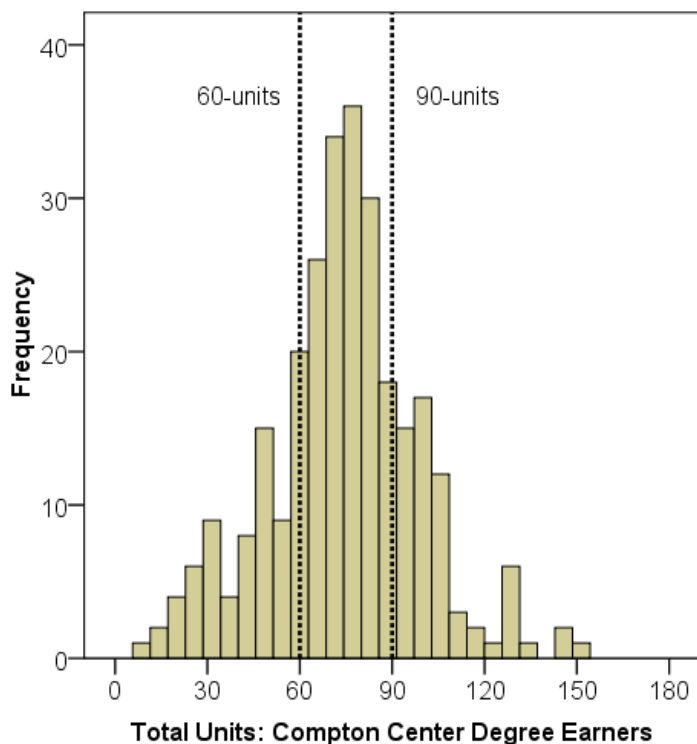


Figure 4 shows the distribution of total units earned by Compton Center degree earners. Table 2 shows the mean, standard deviation from the mean, median, and percent of Compton Center students who earned 45 and fewer, 46-60, 61-75, 76-90, and more than 90 units at ECC and/or Compton Center. The median number of units earned for Compton Center students was 75. The majority of students earned between 61 and 90 (52%) units. However, a sizeable number of students earned more than 90 units (23%).

Examining degree earners, we can see that the more units earned at ECC or Compton Center, the less likely students were to complete their degree within normal time (Table 3). This is understandable given that it takes time to acquire more units. However, students with between 76 and 90 units took approximately one semester longer to earn their degree compared with students who earned between 61 and 75 units (4.5 years vs. 4.0 years, respectively). Even more dramatically, students who earned more than 90 units at ECC and/or Compton Center took 1 year longer to complete their degree compared with students who earned between 61 and 75 units (5.0 years vs. 4.0 years, respectively). It is not clear why students earned more than 90 units – it could be that students previously earned a different degree or certificate, were pursuing a double-major, changed their major after taking several courses, or that students were not focused during their initial time at Compton Center. It is hoped that the latter will be less likely to happen in the future with the usage of educational planning during matriculation.

Demographics

Tables 8 – 10 show the time to completion by gender, ethnicity, and age group across all awards (degrees and certificates) earned by Compton Center students. The median time for completion was 4 years for men, and 4.3 years for women. African American, Asian, Hispanic, and those with two or more races had the shortest median time to degree (4 years), with White non-Hispanic students having the longest (5.5 years). Students aged 17 to 19 finished the quickest, with a median time to completion of 1.3 years. This is not surprising given that this age group is not old enough to have attended ECC as long as their older colleagues.

Table 8. Compton Center Time to Completion by Gender

| Gender | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| Female | 6% | 25% | 44% | 4.9 | 2.8 | 4.3 |
| Male | 15% | 28% | 52% | 4.5 | 2.8 | 4.0 |
| Total | 9% | 26% | 46% | 4.8 | 2.8 | 4.0 |

Table 9. Compton Center Time to Completion by Ethnicity

| Ethnicity | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| African American | 10% | 25% | 45% | 4.9 | 3.1 | 4.0 |
| Asian | 4% | 33% | 54% | 4.5 | 2.3 | 4.0 |
| Latino or Hispanic | 9% | 26% | 46% | 4.5 | 2.3 | 4.0 |
| Pacific Islander | 0% | 50% | 50% | 4.3 | 1.8 | 4.3 |
| White Non-Hispanic | 20% | 20% | 40% | 5.6 | 3.4 | 5.5 |
| Two or More Races | 13% | 38% | 75% | 3.9 | 1.5 | 4.0 |
| Unknown or Decline | 0% | 13% | 25% | 7.8 | 6.3 | 4.8 |
| Grand Total | 9% | 26% | 46% | 4.8 | 2.8 | 4.0 |

Table 10. Compton Center Time to Completion by Age Group at Time of Award

| Age Category | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| 17 to 19 | 100% | 100% | 100% | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| 20 to 24 | 7% | 29% | 55% | 4.1 | 1.3 | 4.0 |
| 25 to 29 | 8% | 25% | 34% | 5.1 | 2.6 | 4.8 |
| 30 to 39 | 5% | 19% | 46% | 5.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| 40 to 49 | 14% | 23% | 37% | 5.4 | 3.7 | 4.5 |
| 50+ | 18% | 32% | 50% | 4.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Total | 9% | 26% | 46% | 4.8 | 2.8 | 4.0 |

Initiatives

At Compton Center, the median years to completion for CTE, STEM, and SEM initiatives were 4, 4, and 5, respectively (Table 11). Notably, 58% of CTE students and 57% of SEM students took more than 2 times the normal time to completion compared to 46% of STEM students.

Table 11. Compton Center Time to Completion by Initiative

| Initiative | Cumulative Percent | | | Mean | | Median |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| | 100% | 150% | 200% | (Years) | SD | (Years) |
| CTE | 11% | 24% | 42% | 4.9 | 3.2 | 4.0 |
| STEM | 23% | 35% | 54% | 4.2 | 1.8 | 4.0 |
| SEM | 0% | 14% | 43% | 5.1 | 1.6 | 5.0 |
| Total | 9% | 26% | 46% | 4.8 | 2.8 | 4.0 |