

2022 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey

Annual report

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation



Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

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- trialling innovative initiatives to improve student outcomes.

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We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay our respect to Country.

Table of contents

Introduction and summary	7
Who are our NSW 2022 school leavers?	9
Destinations of NSW school leavers in 2022	12
Historical destinations of NSW school leavers	13
School leavers in education or training	16
Year 12 completers in education and training	17
Early school leavers in education and training	17
Year 12 completers who deferred further education	18
Early school leavers who deferred further education	18
School leavers in employment only	19
Methodology	20
Appendix: Main destinations tables	21

List of figures

Figure 1 Sample frame of 2022 Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey	9
Figure 2 Proportion of early school leavers whose final year at school was Year 10, 11 or 12	10
Figure 3 Estimated proportion of most recent NSW school leavers in education, training or employment 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022	12
Figure 4 Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education, training or employment 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022	13
Figure 5 Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education, training, employment only, looking for work or NILFET 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022	14
Figure 6 Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education or training 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022	16
Figure 7 Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in full-time or part-time employment only 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022	19

List of tables

Table 1	
Top 7 reasons early school leavers left before completing Year 12	11
Table 2	
All school leavers by year, 2014 to 2022	21
Table 3	
Year 12 completers by year, 2014 to 2022	21
Table 4	
Early school leavers by year, 2014 to 2022	22
Table 5	
All school leavers by gender, 2022	22
Table 6	
Year 12 completers by gender, 2022	23
Table 7	
Early school leavers by gender, 2022	23
Table 8	
All school leavers by socioeconomic status (SES) quartile, 2022	24
Table 9	
Year 12 completers by SES quartile, 2022	24
Table 10	
Early school leavers by SES quartile, 2022	25
Table 11	
All school leavers by school sector, 2022	25
Table 12	
Year 12 completers by school sector, 2022	26
Table 13	
Early school leavers by school sector, 2022	26
Table 14	
All school leavers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022	27
Table 15	
Year 12 completers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022	27
Table 16	
Early school leavers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022	28
Table 17	
All school leavers by language background other than English (LBOTE) status, 2022	28
Table 18	
Year 12 completers by LBOTE status, 2022	29
Table 19	
Early school leavers by LBOTE status, 2022	29
Table 20	
Early school leavers by minimum school leaving age, 2022	30

Table 21	
All school leavers by Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness, 2022	30
Table 22	
Year 12 completers by ASGS Remoteness, 2022	31
Table 23	
Early school leavers by ASGS Remoteness, 2022	31
Table 24	
All school leavers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022	32
Table 25	
Year 12 completers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022	33
Table 26	
Early school leavers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022	34
Table 27	
All school leavers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022	35
Table 28	
Year 12 completers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022	35
Table 29	
Early school leavers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022	36
Table 30	
Early school leavers' reasons for leaving	37

Introduction and summary

The annual NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey (Destinations survey) collects information about where school leavers from NSW Government, Catholic or independent schools are, 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving school. The Destinations survey has been conducted since 2014 and unpacks information on educational pathways, attainments and destinations of young people in NSW, and informs policymaking related to students' post-school education, training and employment. Results from the Destinations survey are also used to support program evaluation relating to post-school destinations of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students.

The NSW Department of Education considers school-to-work transition as one of the most important transitional experiences, particularly with respect to future employment outcomes. The department provides a range of programs and initiatives to ensure young people are prepared for higher education, training and work. Almost all secondary schools provide work-readiness training and opportunities for students to participate in work experience.

This report describes the findings from the 2022 survey which was conducted between July and November 2022. NSW school leavers who completed Year 12 in 2021 (Year 12 completers) or who left school in 2021 while they were in Year 10, 11 or 12 (early school leavers) participated in the survey.

There were 10 main school destinations that relate to further education and current employment: bachelor's degree, vocational education and training (VET) certificate IV+, VET certificate III, VET certificate I–II, apprenticeship, traineeship, full-time work, part-time work, looking for work, and not in the labour force or further education or training (NILFET).¹

School leavers in post-school destinations in 2022 were not impacted by COVID-19 to the extent that school leavers in post-school destinations during 2020 and 2021 were, with around 1 in 4 school leavers in post-school destinations in 2020 noting COVID-19 impacted their planned destination.² For example, some of these school leavers reported an inability to find a job and working fewer hours than normal. Students who left school in 2019 experienced their first post-school year in 2020 when COVID-19 began. This included periods of strict lockdowns and loss of work. Students who left in 2020 and experienced their first post-school year in 2021 underwent lockdown during their final year of school and a further lockdown at the time of the Destinations survey. Unlike these cohorts, 2022 post-school destinations experienced a post-pandemic shift which saw a recovering economy and labour market, changes in education delivery and the impacts of the reopening of international borders.

1 This classification system is hierarchical and prioritises education-related post-school destinations over participation in paid employment (unless employed as an apprentice or trainee). As such, it represents a young person's main destination since leaving school. For an explanation of the difference between an apprenticeship and a traineeship, refer to [Benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships](#) on the NSW Department of Education website. 'Not in the labour force' means that a person is not working and not looking for work.

2 CESE (Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation), '[Impacts of COVID-19 on recent school leavers' post-school destinations](#)', *2020 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey fact sheets*, NSW Department of Education, 2021, accessed 4 September 2023.

Improvements in post-school outcomes of school leavers who participated in the 2022 Destinations survey indicate a potential post-pandemic recovery. These improvements were evident across equity groups within NSW (refer to the 2022 Destinations fact sheets) and in comparison to the Destinations survey results from previous years.

Key results from the 2022 Destinations survey include:

- Of the 89,083 NSW school leavers in scope for this survey, 9 in 10 school leavers were estimated to be in education, training or employment in 2022.³
- After a notable drop in 2020 due to the pandemic, 2 years after this, the proportion of school leavers in education, training or employment has recovered and exceeded previous years.
- A higher proportion of Year 12 completers were in education or training than early school leavers and a slightly higher proportion of early school leavers were looking for work than Year 12 completers, with both leaver types having similar proportions in employment-only destinations over time, including 2022.
- The lowest proportion of early school leavers were looking for work or NILFET in 2022 than previous years, reducing by 6.3 and 2.8 percentage points (pp) respectively since 2014. Simultaneously, the highest proportion of early school leavers in employment-only destinations was in 2022 in comparison to previous years.
- The most common study areas in the education categories were:
 - bachelor's degree – health (22.1%)
 - VET certificate IV+ – creative arts (18.0%)
 - VET certificate III – health (16.8%)
 - VET certificate I–II – health (17.5%).
- Approximately one-quarter of Year 12 completers and early school leavers were employed and not in education or training in 2022.

Most school leavers continued to remain in education, training or employment after leaving school. The NSW education sector has demonstrated resilience with the proportion of school leavers in post-school destinations having recovered or exceeded the notable drop following the pandemic.

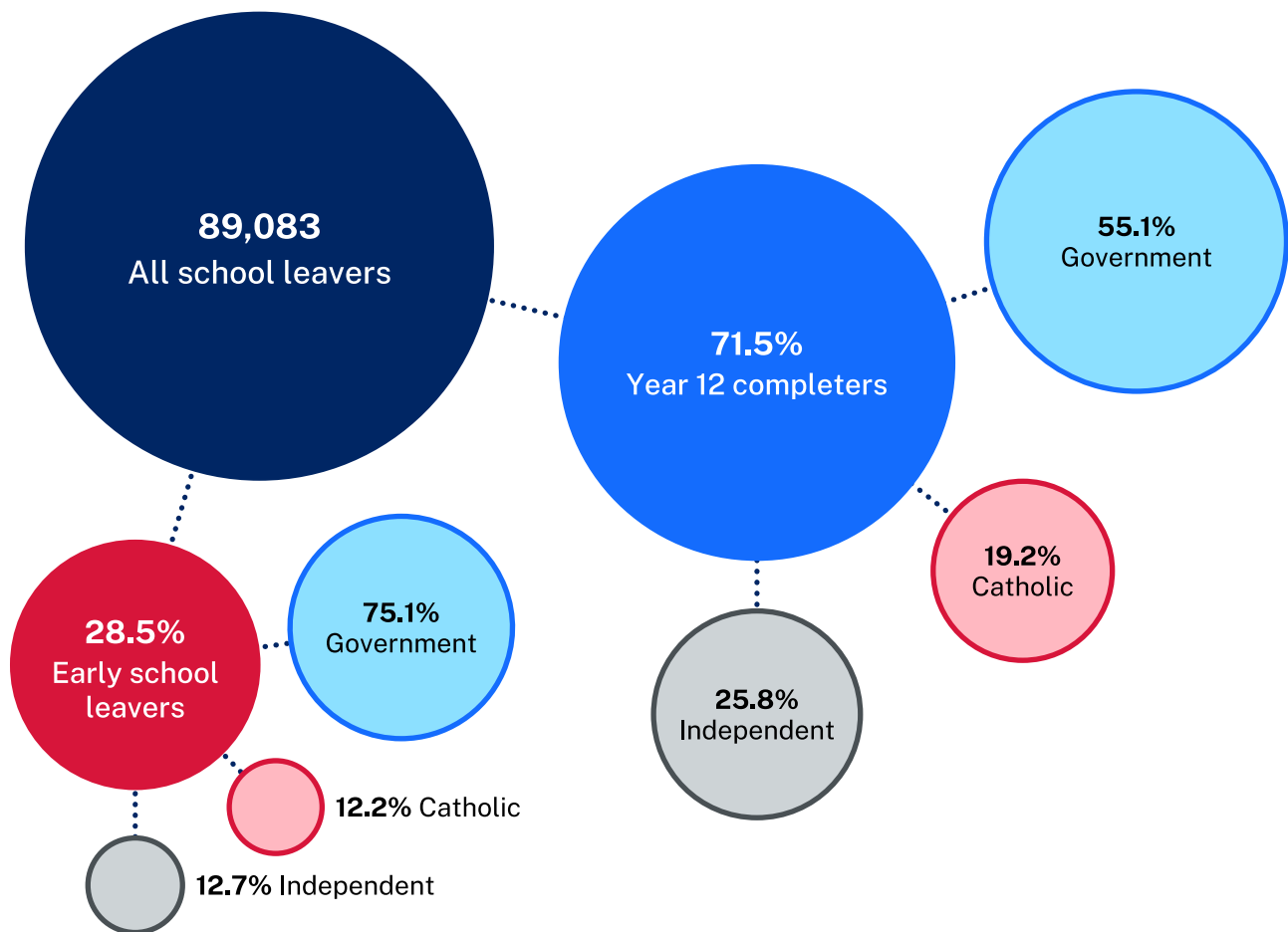
The data collected through this survey is essential for policy development, changes, and fulfilling our Australian Government obligations to report on the destinations of early school leavers and Year 12 completers. This information, combined with the actual destinations these students opt for, will help the NSW education sector to prioritise the type of support to be provided to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, to set them up for life ahead.

3 Refer to the [2022 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey technical report](#) for more information on estimates.

Who are our NSW 2022 school leavers?

Figure 1

Sample frame of 2022 Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey



Note. 'All school leavers' are Year 10, 11 or 12 NSW Government, Catholic or independent school students who left school in 2021. 'Early school leavers' are students who left school in Year 10, 11 or 12 before completing Year 12. 'Year 12 completers' are students who completed Year 12 and may or may not have received a HSC.

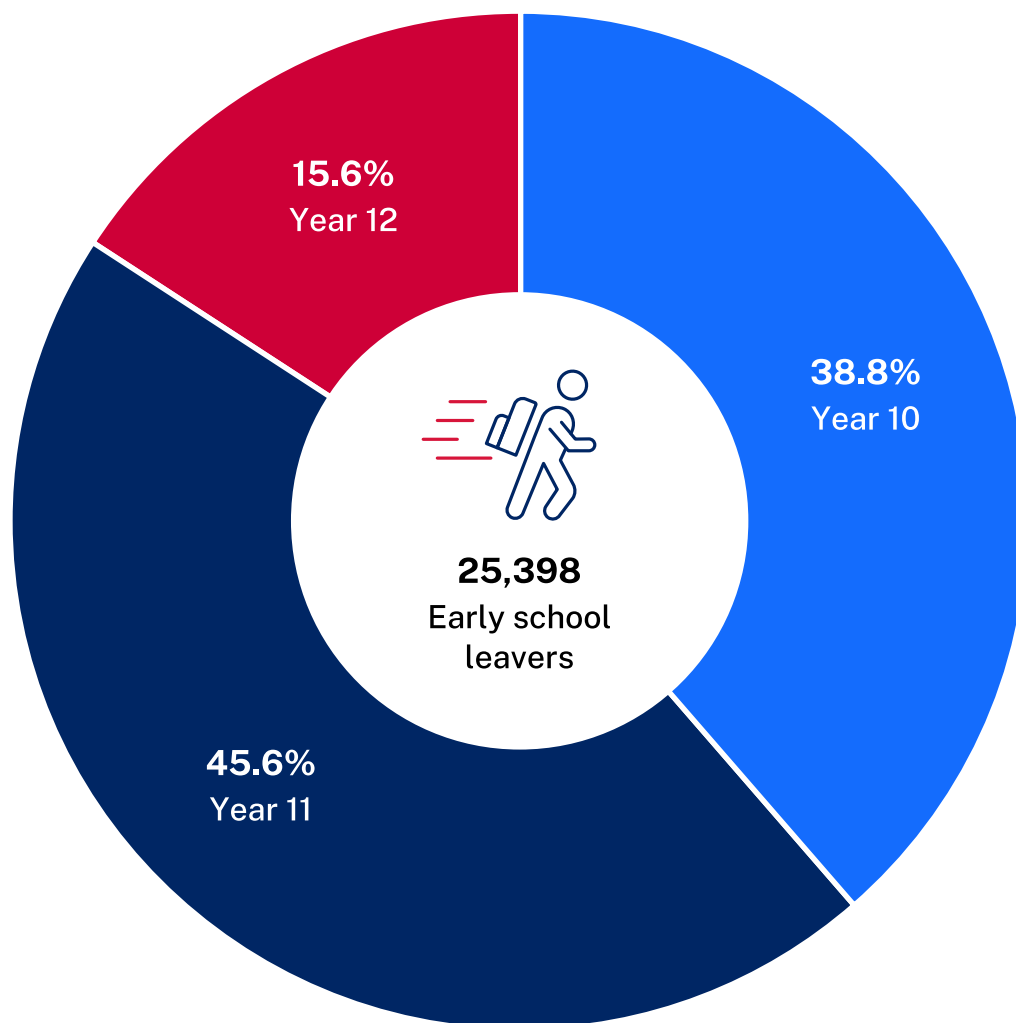
Our 2022 NSW school leavers were Year 10, 11 or 12 NSW Government, Catholic or independent school students who left school in 2021. These students may have left before or after completing Year 12. Students who left before completing Year 12 (who may have been in Year 10, 11 or 12 when they left) are categorised as early school leavers for the purposes of the Destinations survey reporting and students who completed Year 12, who may or may not have attained the HSC, are categorised as Year 12 completers.

In 2022, all students who left school in 2021 were invited to complete the survey. This report focuses specifically on the educational pathways, attainment and destinations of Year 12 completers 6 to 12 months in the year after they leave school. A total of 63,685 Year 12 completers and 25,398 early school leavers were invited to take part in the 2022 survey.⁴ Responses were received from 29,457 Year 12 completers and 5,923 early school leavers.

Close to half (45.6%) of early school leavers were in Year 11 for their final year of study (refer to Figure 2) with over a quarter of early school leavers specifying work or career aspirations as their main reason for leaving school (refer to Table 1).

Figure 2

Proportion of early school leavers whose final year at school was Year 10, 11 or 12



⁴ A detailed outline of the survey method, including eligibility guidelines and the selection process, can be found in the technical report.

Table 1

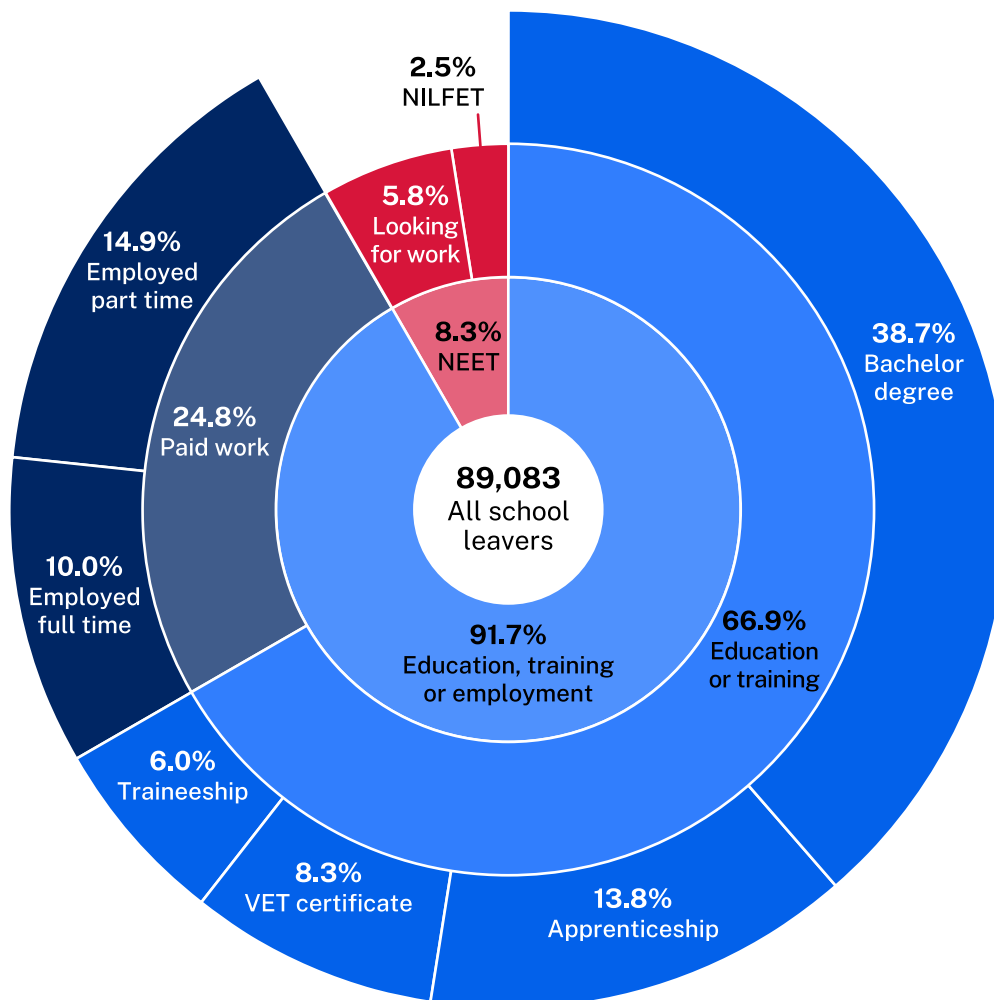
Top 7 reasons early school leavers left before completing Year 12

Reason for leaving	School leavers	
	Number	%
Work reasons / career reasons	6,809	26.8
School not for me / not good environment for learning	4,419	17.4
Did not like school / teachers	3,266	12.9
Mental health issues	2,070	8.2
Was not interested in going / bored	2,062	8.1
Not coping well at school / failed / failing subjects / too hard	1,663	6.5
Other	5,106	20.1

Destinations of NSW school leavers in 2022

Figure 3

Estimated proportion of most recent NSW school leavers in education, training or employment 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022



Of 89,083 NSW school leavers, 9 in 10 school leavers were estimated to be in education, training or employment in 2022.⁵ Two-thirds of this category were in education or training, of which the most popular destination was enrolment in a bachelor's degree (38.7%). Apprenticeship (13.8%) and VET certificate (8.3%) were the second and third preferred options, with traineeships (6.0%) closely following the latter. One-quarter of school leavers were in paid work only in 2022, with 14.9% in part-time employment and 10.0% in full-time employment.

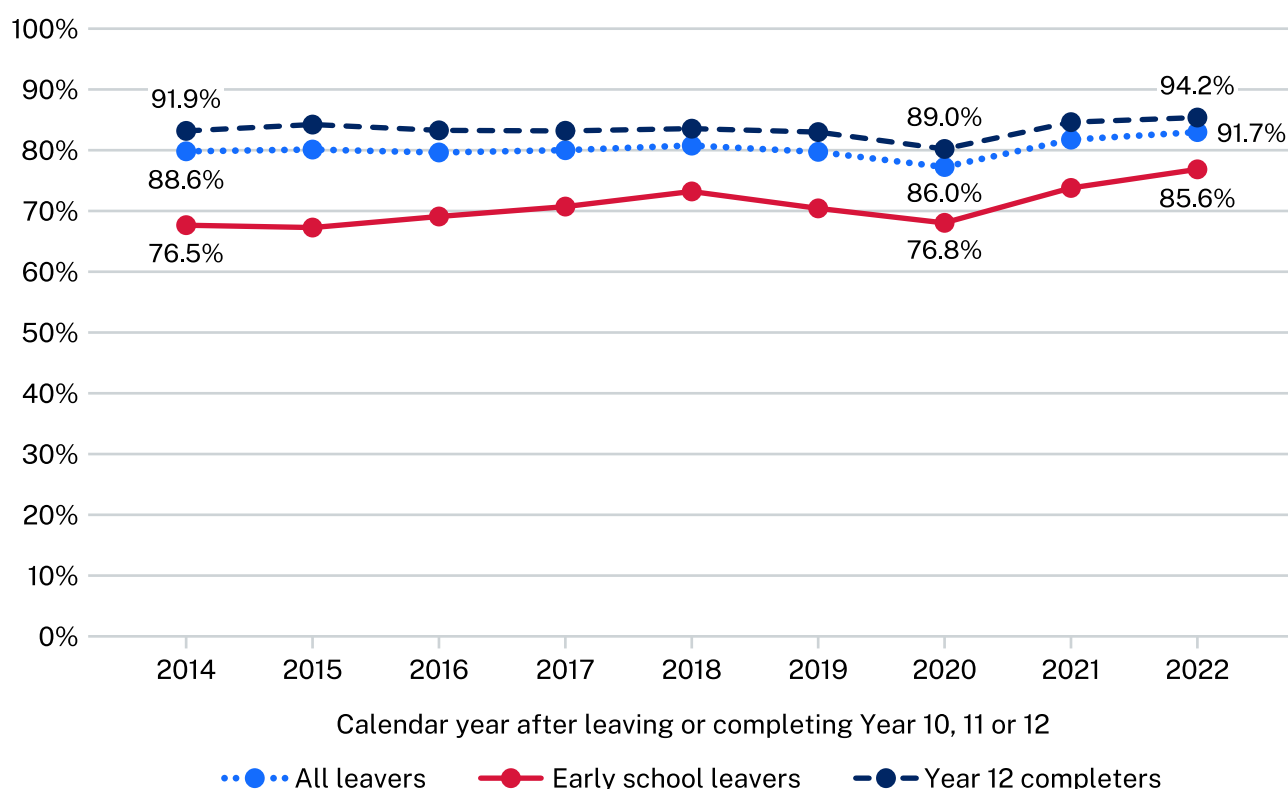
One in 40 school leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET), with 5.8% stating they were looking for work and 2.5% categorised under NILFET.

⁵ Refer to the [2022 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey technical report](#) for more information on estimates.

Historical destinations of NSW school leavers

Figure 4

Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education, training or employment
6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022



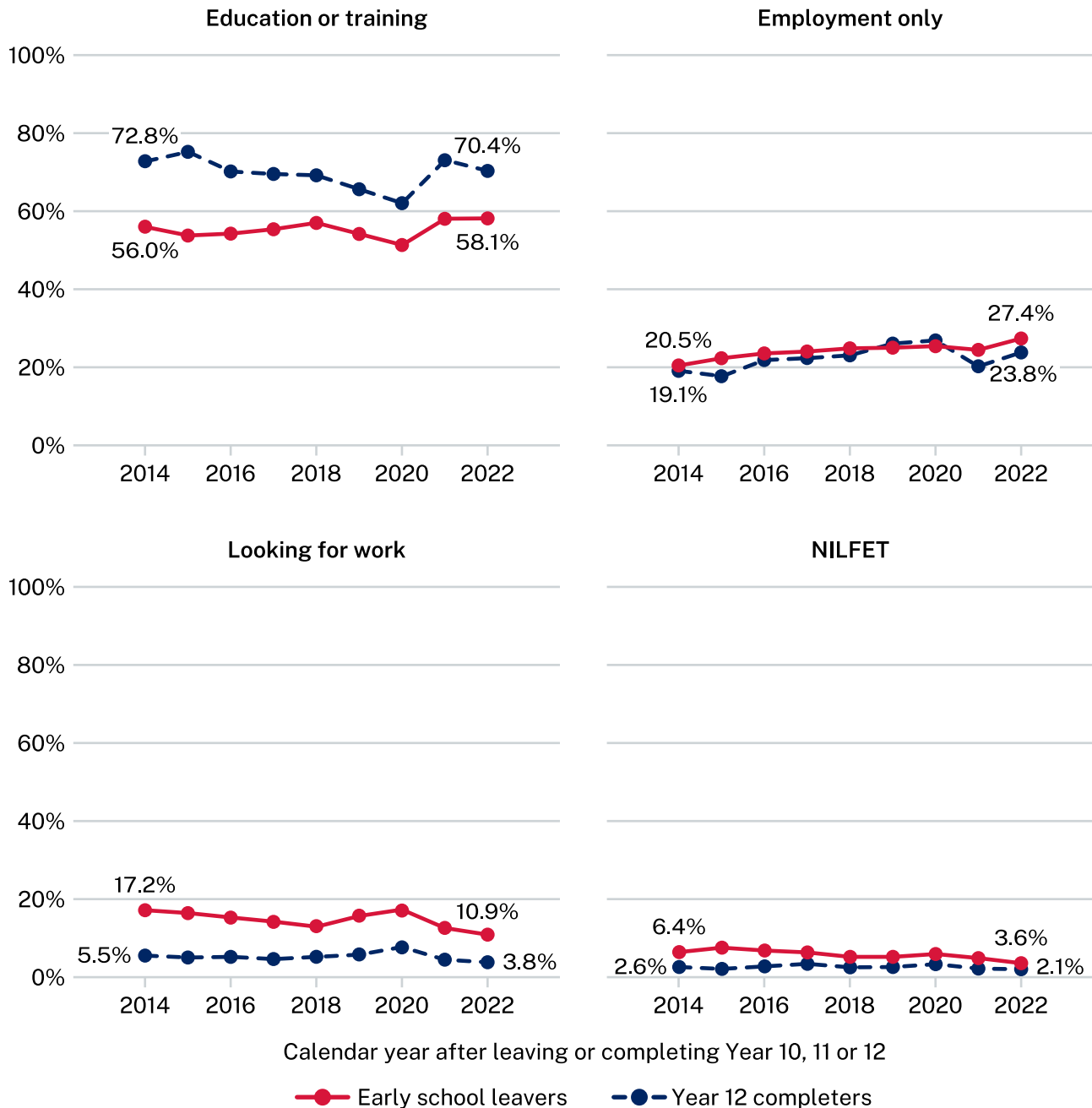
In 2022, 91.7% of all leavers were in education, training or employment, which is the highest level since data collection for the Destinations survey began. For all leaver types, 2022 saw the highest proportion of school leavers in education, training or employment since 2014, with 91.7% of all leavers, 94.2% of Year 12 completers and 85.6% of early school leavers in education, training or employment (refer to Figure 3). Except for 2020, the greatest increase in proportion of school leavers in education, training, or employment since 2014 was for early school leavers in comparison to Year 12 completers, gradually increasing from 2014 to 2022 by 9.1 pp.

With 71.5% of school leavers having completed Year 12 (refer to Figure 1), the historical trend of all leavers in education, training and/or employment was similar to Year 12 completers. For all leavers, the increase from 2014 to 2022 was 3.1 pp, and for Year 12 completers the increase was 2.3 pp.

A notable drop was observed for all school leaver types in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Two years after this, the proportion of school leavers in education, training or employment has recovered and exceeded previous years.

Figure 5

Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education, training, employment only, looking for work or NILFET 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving or completing Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022



Between 2014 and 2022, the main post-school destinations differed slightly between early school leavers and Year 12 completers (refer to Figure 5). A higher proportion of Year 12 completers were in education or training than early school leavers and a higher proportion of early school leavers were looking for work than Year 12 completers, with both leaver types having similar proportions in employment only over time.

Among early school leavers, 3 in 5 (58.1%) school leavers were undertaking some form of education or training in 2022, while for Year 12 completers this was slightly higher (70.4%). The proportion of early school leavers and Year 12 completers in education or training was stable with a slight decline in 2020 followed by an increase in 2021. Between 2021 and 2022 there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of Year 12 completers in education or training (-2.8 pp.) but no change for early leavers. There was also a gradual decline in early school leavers looking for work and NILFET from 2014 to 2022, with the lowest proportion of early school leavers looking for work or NILFET in 2022 than previous years, reducing by 6.3 and 2.8 pp respectively since 2014.

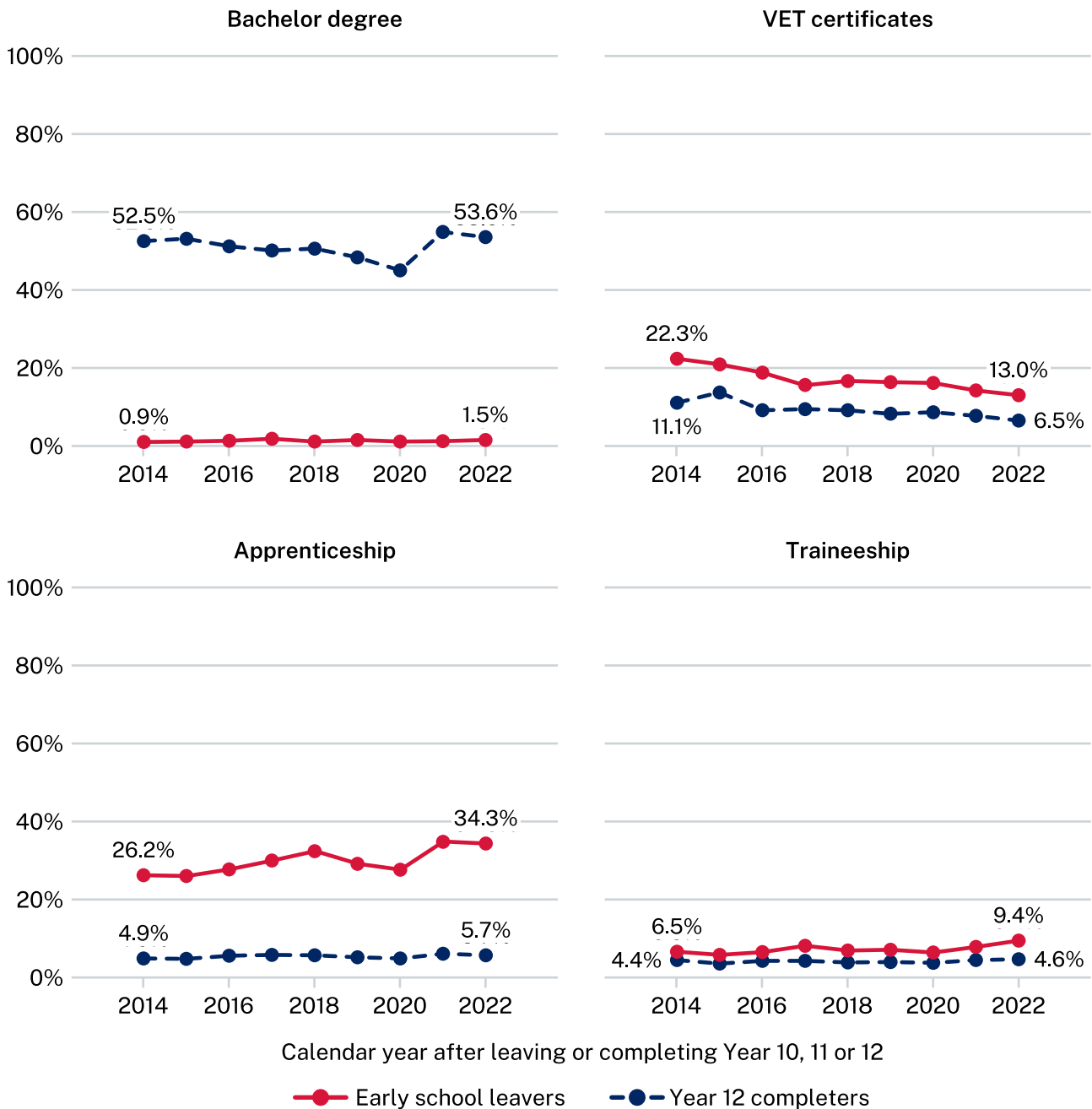
Simultaneously, there was an increase in the proportion of early school leavers in employment-only destinations since 2014 with the highest proportion of early school leavers in employment only in 2022 in comparison to previous years, increasing by 6.9 pp since 2014.

For Year 12 completers, the proportion of school leavers looking for work or NILFET remained stable with a slight decline between 2014 and 2022. In contrast, Year 12 completers in employment only increased by 7.8 pp between 2014 and 2020 to 26.9% before declining in 2021 to 20.2% and increasing to 23.8% in 2022.

School leavers in education or training

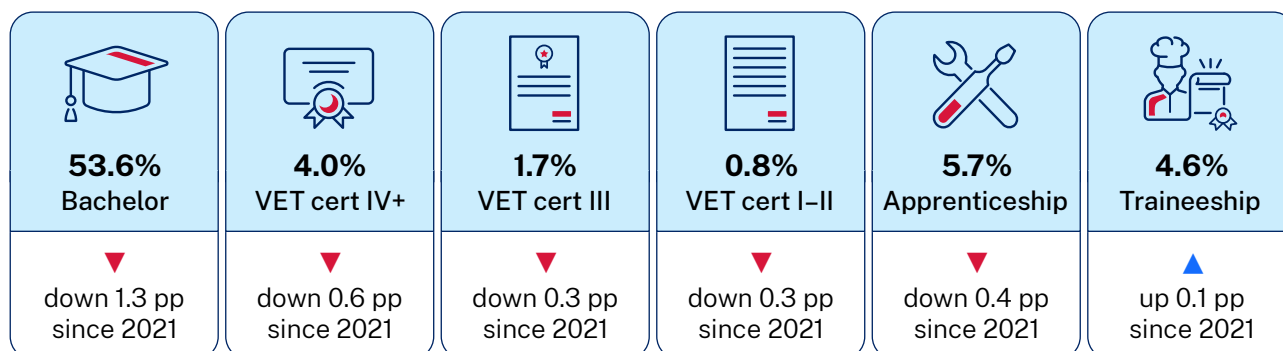
Figure 6

Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in education or training 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022



Education and training destinations of NSW students who left in or after completing Year 10, 11 or 12 differed slightly by leaver type, with a higher proportion of Year 12 completers moving on to a bachelor's degree than early school leavers and a higher proportion of early school leavers moving on to VET certificates or apprenticeships than Year 12 completers. For both leaver types, participation in VET certificate courses that do not form part of an apprenticeship or traineeship has gradually decreased over time – by 9.3 pp for early school leavers and 4.6 pp for Year 12 completers from 2014 to 2022.

Year 12 completers in education and training

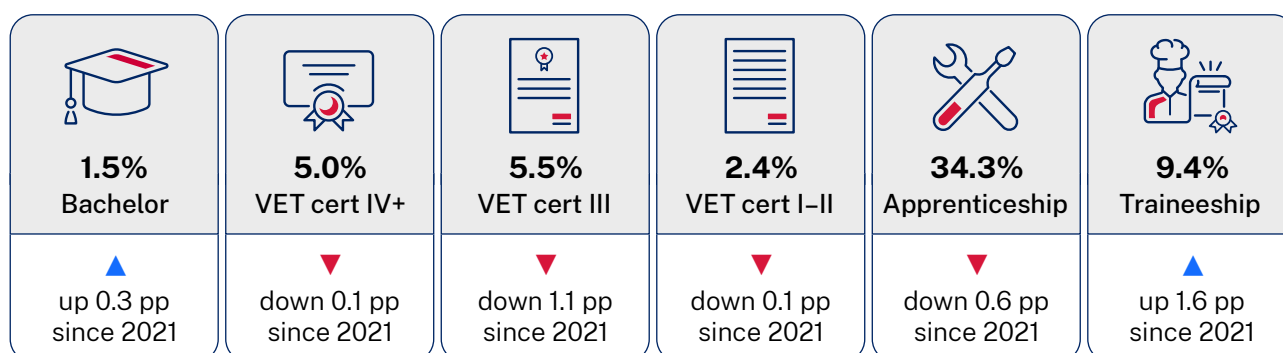


Bachelor's degrees continue to be the most popular destination among Year 12 completers. However, this post-school destination has dropped 1.3 pp since 2021. Of the Year 12 completers undertaking a bachelor's degree in 2022, 27.4% were undertaking a double degree. Of the Year 12 completers who were enrolled to study in 2022 (both current and deferred), 80.4% enrolled at university and 13.9% enrolled through TAFE or a government VET provider.

The most common study areas in the education categories were:

- bachelor's degree – health (22.1%)
- VET certificate IV+ – creative arts (18.0%)
- VET certificate III – health (16.8%)
- VET certificate I-II – health (17.5%).

Early school leavers in education and training

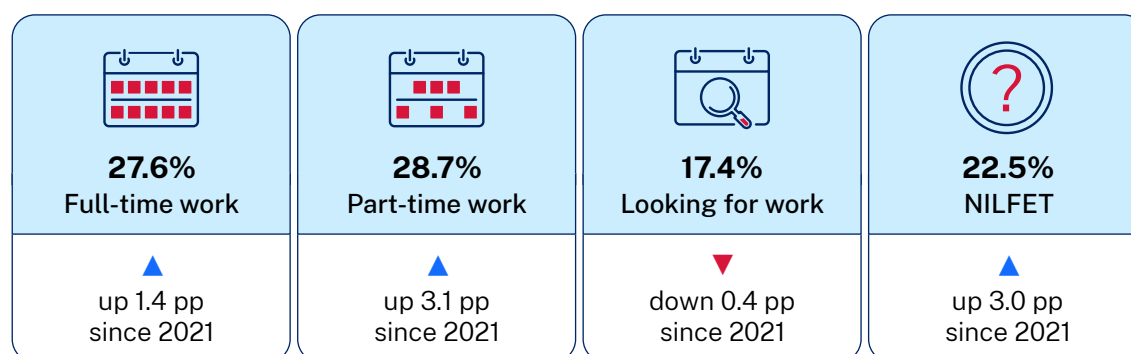


The most popular destination among early school leavers was apprenticeships, increasing by 8.7 pp between 2014 and 2021, with the proportion of early school leavers in apprenticeships remaining stable thereafter in 2022. Early school leavers taking up traineeships has remained stable from 2014 to 2020 with 2 consecutive increases in 2021 and 2022 of 1.4 and 1.6 pp respectively, providing an overall increase of early school leavers taking up traineeships by 2.9 pp between 2014 to 2022.

Of the early school leavers who were enrolled to study in 2022 (both current and deferred), 80.4% enrolled through TAFE or a VET provider and 11.1% were enrolled through a private training college or adult and community education provider.

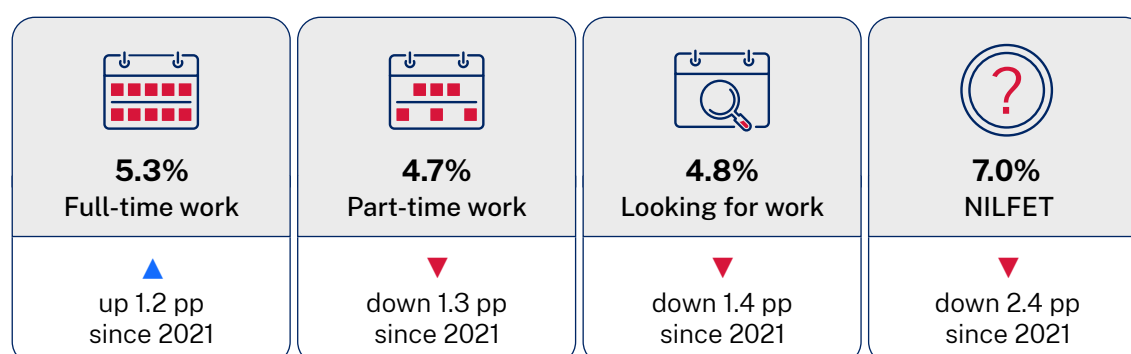
Year 12 completers who deferred further education

Over 1 in 5 (22.5%) Year 12 completers who were NILFET indicated they were enrolled in a course of study but had deferred it in 2022. Comparative rates of deferment were higher for those in employment only and slightly lower for those looking for work. The percentage of Year 12 completers in full-time work, part-time work and NILFET who have deferred further education has increased since 2021.



Early school leavers who deferred further education

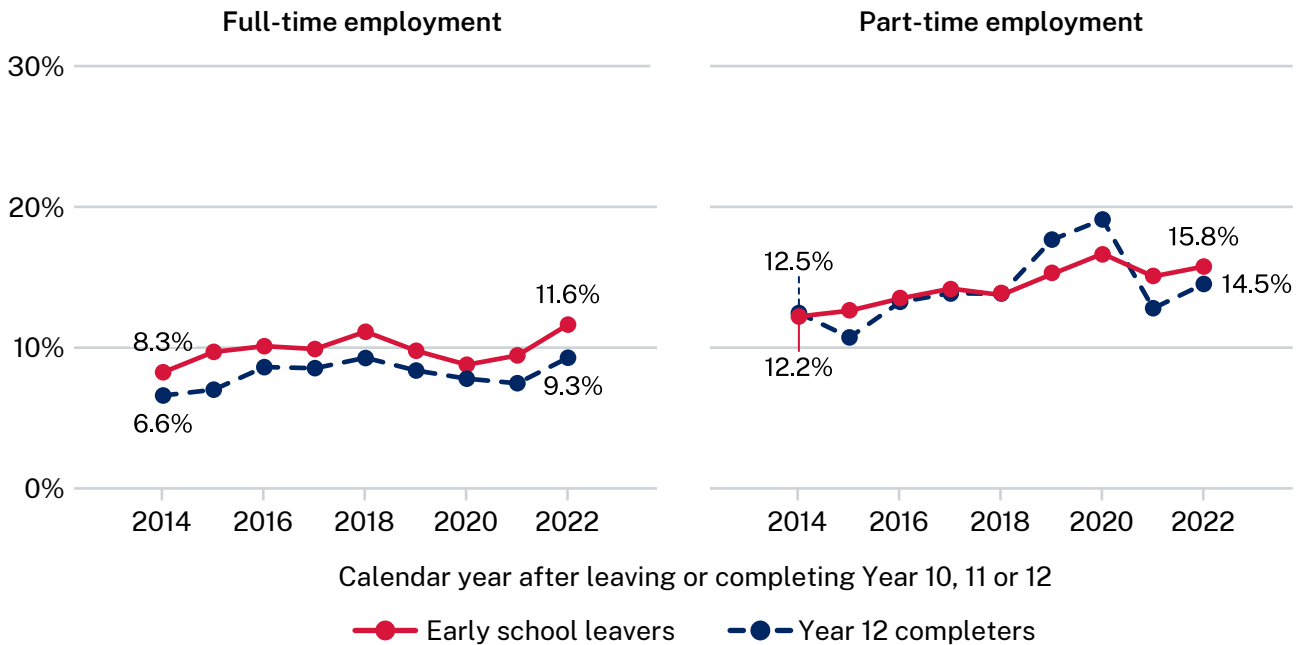
Approximately 7% of early school leavers who were NILFET indicated they were enrolled in a course of study but had deferred it in 2022. Lower rates of deferment were found for those in employment only or looking for work compared with those who were NILFET. The percentage of early leavers in full-time work who have deferred further education has increased since 2021. For part-time work, looking for work and NILFET this percentage has decreased since 2021.



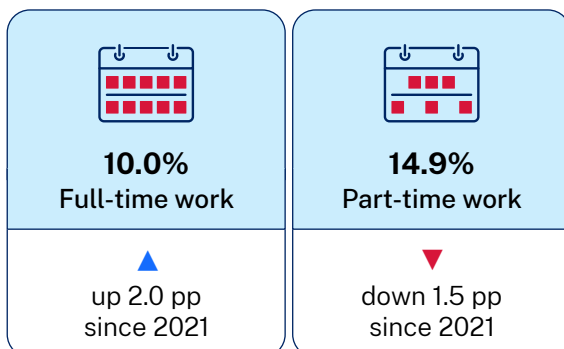
School leavers in employment only

Figure 7

Estimated proportion of NSW school leavers in full-time or part-time employment only 6 to 12 months in the year after leaving Year 10, 11 or 12, 2014 to 2022



A similar proportion of school leavers from both leaver types were in full-time or part-time employment only after leaving school. Almost one-quarter (23.8%) of Year 12 completers and just over one-quarter (27.4%) of early school leavers were employed and not in education or training in 2022. Since 2021, participation in full-time or part-time employment has increased respectively by 2.0 and 1.5 pp for all school leavers. In addition, 48.8% of Year 12 completers and 53.7% of early school leavers whose main destination was part-time work would prefer to be working more hours.



Methodology

This report provides a brief overview of the main findings of the 2022 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey. Several points should be kept in mind when considering the findings.

How respondents are assigned into their main post-school destination

Respondents are assigned to one of 10 post-school destinations based on their survey responses to a series of questions about education, training and work. Where respondents indicate several destination choices, a hierarchical system facilitates prioritisation of education-related post-school destinations over participation in employment. As such, it represents a young person's main destination since leaving school. The post-school destinations include: bachelor's degree, VET certificate IV+, VET certificate III, VET certificate I–II, apprenticeship, traineeship, full-time work, part-time work, looking for work, and not in the labour force or further education or training (NILFET). A full discussion of the classification system can be found in the [2022 technical report](#).

The weighting of data to ensure results represent the population

All data was weighted to match relevant population parameters. Refer to the 2022 technical report for full details.

Additional points to note

- In some cases, values may differ from the apparent sum of their component elements. This is due to the effects of rounding.
- Where appropriate, comparisons have been made to previous survey waves.
- Education and occupation coding: 'field of education' was coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Education (Australian Bureau of Statistics catalogue number 1272.0). 'Occupation' was coded to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (Version 1.3, Australian Bureau of Statistics catalogue number 1220.0).

For further information about the survey background and method, please refer to the 2022 technical report.

Appendix:

Main destinations tables

Table 2

All school leavers by year, 2014 to 2022

Main destination	2014 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %	2018 %	2019 %	2020 %	2021 %	2022 %
Population estimates for all leavers (N)	80,204	84,419	86,267	86,821	87,252	87,429	84,688	88,051	89,080
Bachelor's degree	41.5	40.7	38.5	37.7	37.7	36.5	34.2	40.8	38.7
VET cert IV+	7.4	9.1	7.1	6.3	6.2	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.3
VET cert III	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.2	2.8
VET cert I–II	2.9	3.2	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3
Apprenticeship	9.4	9.8	11.2	12.0	12.7	11.2	10.4	13.6	13.8
Traineeship	4.9	4.1	4.8	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.4	5.4	6.0
Full-time work	6.9	7.6	9.0	8.9	9.7	8.7	8.0	8.0	10.0
Part-time work	12.4	11.2	13.3	13.9	13.8	17.0	18.5	13.4	14.9
Looking for work	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.1	7.2	8.3	10.0	6.6	5.8
NILFET	3.4	3.4	3.8	4.2	3.2	3.2	4.0	2.9	2.5

Table 3

Year 12 completers by year, 2014 to 2022

Main destination	2014 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %	2018 %	2019 %	2020 %	2021 %	2022 %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (N)	63,161	64,272	64,392	64,555	64,381	65,151	63,879	64,966	63,685
Bachelor's degree	52.5	53.2	51.2	50.1	50.6	48.4	45.0	54.9	53.6
VET cert IV+	7.3	8.9	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.0
VET cert III	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.7
VET cert I–II	1.8	2.7	1.0	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.8
Apprenticeship	4.9	4.7	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.1	4.8	6.1	5.7
Traineeship	4.4	3.6	4.3	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.5	4.6
Full-time work	6.6	7.0	8.6	8.5	9.3	8.4	7.8	7.5	9.3
Part-time work	12.5	10.7	13.2	13.8	13.8	17.7	19.1	12.8	14.5
Looking for work	5.5	5.0	5.2	4.6	5.2	5.7	7.7	4.5	3.8
NILFET	2.6	2.1	2.8	3.4	2.5	2.5	3.3	2.2	2.1

Table 4

Early school leavers by year, 2014 to 2022

Main destination	2014 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %	2018 %	2019 %	2020 %	2021 %	2022 %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (N)	17,043	20,147	21,875	22,266	22,871	22,278	20,809	23,085	25,395
Bachelor's degree	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.5
VET cert IV+	7.8	9.6	9.1	7.3	8.0	5.9	5.8	5.1	5.0
VET cert III	7.6	6.4	6.6	5.5	5.9	7.3	7.7	6.6	5.5
VET cert I–II	7.0	4.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.4
Apprenticeship	26.2	26.0	27.8	30.0	32.4	29.1	27.7	34.9	34.3
Traineeship	6.5	5.8	6.5	8.1	6.9	7.1	6.4	7.8	9.4
Full-time work	8.3	9.7	10.1	9.9	11.1	9.8	8.8	9.4	11.6
Part-time work	12.2	12.6	13.5	14.2	13.7	15.2	16.7	15.0	15.8
Looking for work	17.2	16.4	15.3	14.2	12.9	15.7	17.3	12.6	10.9
NILFET	6.4	7.6	6.9	6.3	5.2	5.2	5.9	4.8	3.6

Table 5

All school leavers by gender, 2022

Main destination	Female %	Male %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	43,295	45,785
Bachelor's degree	44.8	33.0
VET cert IV+	5.1	3.5
VET cert III	3.8	1.9
VET cert I–II	1.5	1.1
Apprenticeship	3.4	23.8
Traineeship	7.5	4.5
Full-time work	9.3	10.6
Part-time work	16.9	12.9
Looking for work	5.4	6.2
NILFET	2.3	2.7

Table 6

Year 12 completers by gender, 2022

Main destination	Female %	Male %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	33,138	30,547
Bachelor's degree	57.7	49.1
VET cert IV+	4.0	3.9
VET cert III	2.1	1.3
VET cert I–II	0.9	0.7
Apprenticeship	1.5	10.3
Traineeship	5.2	4.0
Full-time work	8.8	9.8
Part-time work	15.1	13.9
Looking for work	3.1	4.5
NILFET	1.7	2.5

Table 7

Early school leavers by gender, 2022

Main destination	Female %	Male %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	10,157	15,238
Bachelor's degree	2.8	0.6
VET cert IV+	8.5	2.7
VET cert III	9.4	2.9
VET cert I–II	3.4	1.8
Apprenticeship	9.4	50.9
Traineeship	15.3	5.5
Full-time work	11.0	12.1
Part-time work	23.0	10.9
Looking for work	12.8	9.6
NILFET	4.3	3.1

Table 8

All school leavers by socioeconomic status (SES) quartile, 2022⁶

Main destination	Higher parental SES			Lower parental SES		
	Highest %	Upper middle %	Subtotal %	Lower middle %	Lowest %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	36,454	21,816	58,270	15,796	12,494	28,290
Bachelor's degree	53.5	33.9	46.2	26.1	20.6	23.6
VET cert IV+	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.9	3.9	4.5
VET cert III	1.8	3.2	2.3	3.8	3.7	3.8
VET cert I–II	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
Apprenticeship	8.9	17.7	12.2	18.9	17.1	18.1
Traineeship	4.3	7.5	5.5	8.2	6.3	7.4
Full-time work	7.9	11.1	9.1	12.4	12.4	12.4
Part-time work	13.4	13.7	13.5	15.4	17.6	16.3
Looking for work	3.4	5.0	4.0	6.4	12.5	9.1
NILFET	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.5	4.4	3.4

Table 9

Year 12 completers by SES quartile, 2022⁷

Main destination	Higher parental SES			Lower parental SES		
	Highest %	Upper middle %	Subtotal %	Lower middle %	Lowest %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	30,727	14,873	45,600	9,698	6,783	16,481
Bachelor's degree	62.9	48.8	58.3	42.0	37.5	40.2
VET cert IV+	3.3	4.3	3.6	5.0	5.2	5.1
VET cert III	1.1	1.7	1.3	2.9	2.5	2.7
VET cert I–II	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.5	1.1
Apprenticeship	3.9	8.5	5.4	7.5	7.5	7.5
Traineeship	3.7	6.0	4.5	7.2	3.9	5.8
Full-time work	7.8	10.9	8.8	12.4	10.8	11.7
Part-time work	13.0	13.4	13.1	15.8	17.1	16.4
Looking for work	2.5	3.7	2.9	3.8	9.0	5.9
NILFET	1.2	1.6	1.3	2.5	4.9	3.5

⁶ As parental SES questions formed part of a module for Year 12 completers in 2022, population weights had to be multiplied by separate design weights for the Year 12 completer subsample when calculating estimates for all recent school leavers. Refer to the technical report for further details.

⁷ There were an additional estimated 1,604 Year 12 completers whose parental SES measures could not be calculated.

Table 10

Early school leavers by SES quartile, 2022⁸

Main destination	Higher parental SES			Lower parental SES		
	Highest %	Upper middle %	Subtotal %	Lower middle %	Lowest %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	5,728	6,942	12,670	6,098	5,710	11,808
Bachelor's degree	3.0	1.8	2.4	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
VET cert IV+	7.6	5.3	6.3	4.7	2.4	3.6
VET cert III	5.7	6.2	6.0	5.2	5.3	5.2
VET cert I–II	4.4	1.9	3.0	<3.0	<2.0	<2.0
Apprenticeship	35.6	37.4	36.6	37.0	28.4	32.9
Traineeship	7.7	10.7	9.3	9.9	9.2	9.6
Full-time work	8.5	11.4	10.1	12.5	14.2	13.3
Part-time work	15.8	14.4	15.0	14.7	18.0	16.3
Looking for work	8.0	7.7	7.8	10.5	16.8	13.5
NILFET	3.8	3.1	3.4	2.5	3.8	3.1

Table 11

All school leavers by school sector, 2022

Main destination	Government %	Non-government		
		Catholic %	Independent %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	54,156	15,297	19,628	34,924
Bachelor's degree	31.2	43.5	55.8	50.5
VET cert IV+	4.2	4.7	4.1	4.4
VET cert III	3.3	2.3	1.9	2.1
VET cert I–II	1.5	0.8	0.9	0.9
Apprenticeship	15.0	15.2	9.6	12.1
Traineeship	6.3	6.7	4.5	5.5
Full-time work	10.7	10.1	7.7	8.8
Part-time work	16.5	13.0	11.7	12.3
Looking for work	8.1	2.4	2.2	2.3
NILFET	3.2	1.2	1.4	1.3

⁸ There were an additional 917 early school leavers for whom SES quartile could not be calculated.

Table 12

Year 12 completers by school sector, 2022

Main destination	Government %	Non-government		
		Catholic %	Independent %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	35,080	12,199	16,406	28,605
Bachelor's degree	47.5	54.4	65.9	61.0
VET cert IV+	4.4	4.1	2.9	3.4
VET cert III	2.2	1.5	0.8	1.2
VET cert I–II	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.4
Apprenticeship	6.0	6.9	4.1	5.3
Traineeship	4.6	5.7	3.8	4.6
Full-time work	9.8	10.1	7.5	8.6
Part-time work	16.3	13.5	11.4	12.3
Looking for work	5.4	2.0	1.7	1.8
NILFET	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2

Table 13

Early school leavers by school sector, 2022

Main destination	Government %	Non-government		
		Catholic %	Independent %	Subtotal %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	19,076	3,098	3,221	6,319
Bachelor's degree	1.1	<2.0	<5.0	2.7
VET cert IV+	3.9	6.9	10.2	8.5
VET cert III	5.3	5.5	6.8	6.2
VET cert I–II	2.3	2.0	3.6	2.9
Apprenticeship	31.5	48.0	37.6	42.7
Traineeship	9.4	10.6	8.1	9.3
Full-time work	12.4	10.4	8.7	9.5
Part-time work	17.0	11.0	13.3	12.2
Looking for work	13.1	4.0	4.6	4.3
NILFET	4.1	<2.0	<3.0	1.8

Table 14

All school leavers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022

Main destination	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	5,411	83,669
Bachelor's degree	9.2	40.6
VET cert IV+	2.6	4.4
VET cert III	4.3	2.7
VET cert I–II	1.9	1.2
Apprenticeship	18.1	13.6
Traineeship	10.1	5.7
Full-time work	13.6	9.7
Part-time work	18.5	14.6
Looking for work	18.0	5.0
NILFET	3.6	2.4

Table 15

Year 12 completers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022

Main destination	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	2,239	61,446
Bachelor's degree	22.1	54.7
VET cert IV+	3.2	4.0
VET cert III	3.6	1.7
VET cert I–II	1.1	0.8
Apprenticeship	8.5	5.6
Traineeship	10.1	4.4
Full-time work	13.6	9.1
Part-time work	21.6	14.3
Looking for work	12.7	3.5
NILFET	3.5	2.0

Table 16

Early school leavers by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, 2022

Main destination	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	3,172	22,223
Bachelor's degree	<2.0	<2.0
VET cert IV+	<3.0	<6.0
VET cert III	4.7	5.6
VET cert I–II	2.5	2.4
Apprenticeship	24.9	35.6
Traineeship	10.2	9.3
Full-time work	13.6	11.4
Part-time work	16.3	15.7
Looking for work	21.7	9.3
NILFET	3.8	3.5

Table 17

All school leavers by language background other than English (LBOTE) status, 2022

Main destination	Language background other than English	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	22,629	66,451
Bachelor's degree	56.5	32.7
VET cert IV+	4.7	4.1
VET cert III	2.1	3.1
VET cert I–II	1.2	1.3
Apprenticeship	7.4	16.1
Traineeship	3.4	6.8
Full-time work	6.1	11.3
Part-time work	10.5	16.4
Looking for work	5.5	5.9
NILFET	2.6	2.4

Table 18

Year 12 completers by LBOTE status, 2022

Main destination	Language background other than English	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	19,154	44,531
Bachelor's degree	66.4	48.0
VET cert IV+	4.3	3.8
VET cert III	1.5	1.8
VET cert I–II	0.8	0.8
Apprenticeship	3.7	6.6
Traineeship	2.8	5.4
Full-time work	5.1	11.1
Part-time work	9.9	16.5
Looking for work	3.4	4.0
NILFET	2.2	2.0

Table 19

Early school leavers by LBOTE status, 2022

Main destination	Language background other than English	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	3,476	21,919
Bachelor's degree	1.9	1.4
VET cert IV+	7.1	4.7
VET cert III	5.4	5.5
VET cert I–II	3.0	2.4
Apprenticeship	27.8	35.3
Traineeship	7.1	9.8
Full-time work	11.9	11.6
Part-time work	13.7	16.1
Looking for work	17.2	9.9
NILFET	5.0	3.3

Table 20

Early school leavers by minimum school leaving age, 2022

Main destination	Aged under 17 years %	Aged 17 years and over %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	12,855	12,540
Bachelor's degree	1.0	2.0
VET cert IV+	5.0	5.1
VET cert III	6.4	4.6
VET cert I–II	2.2	2.7
Apprenticeship	41.9	26.5
Traineeship	10.2	8.5
Full-time work	9.5	13.8
Part-time work	12.6	19.0
Looking for work	8.4	13.5
NILFET	2.8	4.4

Table 21

All school leavers by Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness, 2022

Main destination	Major Cities %	Inner Regional %	Outer Regional, Remote or Very Remote %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	67,299	17,715	4,066
Bachelor's degree	45.1	20.1	14.2
VET cert IV+	4.7	2.9	2.7
VET cert III	2.5	4.0	3.1
VET cert I–II	1.2	1.5	1.5
Apprenticeship	12.0	19.0	21.2
Traineeship	5.0	9.0	8.8
Full-time work	8.3	14.5	16.8
Part-time work	13.7	18.8	17.9
Looking for work	5.1	7.3	10.3
NILFET	2.3	3.0	3.4

Table 22

Year 12 completers by ASGS Remoteness, 2022

Main destination	Major Cities %	Inner Regional %	Outer Regional, Remote or Very Remote %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	51,291	10,295	2,099
Bachelor's degree	58.6	33.8	27.1
VET cert IV+	4.1	3.1	3.6
VET cert III	1.5	2.7	3.0
VET cert I–II	0.8	<2.0	<2.0
Apprenticeship	5.2	7.2	9.4
Traineeship	3.9	7.5	8.3
Full-time work	7.4	16.7	18.9
Part-time work	13.1	20.3	20.1
Looking for work	3.4	5.2	6.3
NILFET	2.0	<3.0	<3.0

Table 23

Early school leavers by ASGS Remoteness, 2022

Main destination	Major Cities %	Inner Regional %	Outer Regional, Remote or Very Remote %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	16,008	7,420	1,967
Bachelor's degree	1.8	<2.0	<2.0
VET cert IV+	6.6	<3.0	<2.0
VET cert III	5.7	5.8	3.3
VET cert I–II	2.7	2.0	2.5
Apprenticeship	33.9	35.3	33.8
Traineeship	8.6	11.0	9.4
Full-time work	11.3	11.5	14.6
Part-time work	15.3	16.8	15.6
Looking for work	10.8	10.2	14.6
NILFET	3.3	3.9	4.1

Table 24

All school leavers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022

Main destination	NSW total %	Sydney Inner %	Sydney North %	Sydney North West %	Sydney South %	Sydney South West %	Sydney West %	Central Coast Hunter %	North East NSW %	North West NSW %	South East NSW %	South West NSW %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	89,080	8,624	10,604	7,261	8,048	9,647	9,037	11,563	7,329	3,747	7,302	5,918
Bachelor's degree	38.7	56.9	59.7	44.4	49.1	41.9	46.7	24.3	19.0	14.4	25.5	20.6
VET cert IV+	4.3	5.5	3.7	4.7	5.0	5.5	5.0	4.1	2.5	2.1	3.6	3.2
VET cert III	2.8	2.1	1.4	2.2	1.7	2.9	2.6	3.9	4.7	2.6	3.3	3.8
VET cert I–II	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.2
Apprenticeship	13.8	6.9	6.8	14.7	12.6	13.3	10.1	18.2	14.9	20.7	19.8	22.3
Traineeship	6.0	2.4	3.4	5.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	8.4	8.6	7.7	9.3	8.7
Full-time work	10.0	6.1	7.0	8.0	7.5	8.8	8.5	11.7	13.7	17.9	10.9	16.3
Part-time work	14.9	12.7	12.7	13.5	11.3	12.5	12.4	17.8	23.0	18.3	16.6	16.1
Looking for work	5.8	4.1	2.5	4.2	5.0	6.8	6.2	6.8	8.0	12.1	6.5	5.7
NILFET	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.3	4.2	2.7	3.1	2.0

Table 25

Year 12 completers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022

Main destination	NSW total %	Sydney Inner %	Sydney North %	Sydney North West %	Sydney South %	Sydney South West %	Sydney West %	Central Coast Hunter %	North East NSW %	North West NSW %	South East NSW %	South West NSW %
Population estimates for all Year 12 completers (n)	63,685	7,233	9,392	5,435	6,376	7,301	7,098	6,605	4,309	1,998	4,479	3,459
Bachelor's degree	53.6	67.0	66.8	59.0	61.6	55.0	59.0	41.6	31.8	26.1	40.9	34.5
VET cert IV+	4.0	4.0	2.7	4.0	4.4	5.2	5.0	4.2	2.6	3.1	4.2	3.1
VET cert III	1.7	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.5	1.8	2.8	1.9	3.4	2.7
VET cert I–II	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.7
Apprenticeship	5.7	3.4	3.3	5.9	5.6	6.1	5.7	7.6	6.2	9.2	7.0	8.1
Traineeship	4.6	2.6	3.1	4.7	3.2	3.8	4.0	6.0	7.2	7.3	6.5	8.4
Full-time work	9.3	5.2	7.0	7.4	6.3	7.8	7.0	11.5	15.0	21.2	11.7	19.0
Part-time work	14.5	11.8	12.4	13.0	11.8	11.6	11.2	19.1	24.3	20.7	17.5	17.7
Looking for work	3.8	2.7	1.8	2.6	3.5	4.9	3.6	4.4	6.0	7.0	5.4	3.8
NILFET	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.1

Table 26

Early school leavers by NSW region (Statistical Area Level 4 cluster), 2022

Main destination	NSW total %	Sydney Inner %	Sydney North %	Sydney North West %	Sydney South %	Sydney South West %	Sydney West %	Central Coast Hunter %	North East NSW %	North West NSW %	South East NSW %	South West NSW %
Population estimates for all early school leavers (n)	25,395	1,391	1,212	1,826	1,672	2,346	1,939	4,958	3,020	1,749	2,823	2,459
Bachelor's degree	1.5	3.9	5.2	0.9	1.6	0.8	1.6	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.1
VET cert IV+	5.0	13.5	11.0	6.8	7.4	6.5	5.2	4.1	2.5	0.9	2.7	3.5
VET cert III	5.5	8.4	5.5	3.9	3.7	5.2	6.6	6.6	7.3	3.5	3.2	5.4
VET cert I–II	2.4	2.8	3.3	2.3	1.7	1.5	2.1	3.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9
Apprenticeship	34.3	25.2	34.5	41.1	39.6	35.5	26.0	32.4	27.3	33.7	40.1	42.3
Traineeship	9.4	1.8	5.7	8.6	10.0	7.7	7.4	11.6	10.4	8.1	13.8	9.2
Full-time work	11.6	10.7	7.7	9.7	12.2	11.8	14.2	11.9	11.9	14.3	9.6	12.7
Part-time work	15.8	17.0	14.6	15.0	9.3	15.3	16.9	16.1	21.0	15.6	15.2	13.8
Looking for work	10.9	11.5	7.8	9.0	10.7	12.7	15.8	9.9	10.7	17.9	8.3	8.3
NILFET	3.5	5.1	4.7	2.7	3.7	3.0	4.3	2.4	6.1	2.7	3.8	2.0

Table 27

All school leavers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022

Main destination	Identified disability and/or additional learning needs ⁹	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for all leavers (n)	17,452	71,628
Bachelor's degree	29.3	41.0
VET cert IV+	5.1	4.0
VET cert III	4.4	2.4
VET cert I–II	2.8	0.9
Apprenticeship	8.3	15.2
Traineeship	6.0	6.0
Full-time work	8.7	10.3
Part-time work	19.7	13.7
Looking for work	10.1	4.8
NILFET	5.6	1.7

Table 28

Year 12 completers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022

Main destination	Identified disability and/or additional learning needs	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for Year 12 completers (n)	10,861	52,824
Bachelor's degree	45.5	55.2
VET cert IV+	4.1	3.9
VET cert III	2.7	1.5
VET cert I–II	1.8	0.6
Apprenticeship	3.0	6.2
Traineeship	5.1	4.5
Full-time work	8.2	9.5
Part-time work	17.4	13.9
Looking for work	7.3	3.1
NILFET	4.9	1.5

⁹ All survey respondents were asked whether they had a disability and/or additional learning needs. Recent leavers who responded that they were unsure or preferred not to say were recoded as no for analysis and reporting. Schools for specific purposes were not included in the sample frame for Year 12 completers or early school leavers in the 2022 survey.

Table 29

Early school leavers by disability and/or additional learning needs status, 2022

Main destination	Identified disability and/or additional learning needs	
	Yes %	No %
Population estimates for early school leavers (n)	6,591	18,804
Bachelor's degree	2.5	1.1
VET cert IV+	6.8	4.4
VET cert III	7.2	4.9
VET cert I–II	4.6	1.7
Apprenticeship	17.0	40.4
Traineeship	7.5	10.0
Full-time work	9.5	12.4
Part-time work	23.6	13.0
Looking for work	14.8	9.5
NILFET	6.6	2.5

Table 30

Early school leavers' reasons for leaving

Reason for leaving	Early school leavers	
	Number	%
Work reasons / career reasons	6,809	26.8
School not for me / not good environment for learning	4,419	17.4
Did not like school / teachers	3,266	12.9
Mental health issues	2,070	8.2
Was not interested in going / bored	2,062	8.1
Not coping well at school / failed / failing subjects / too hard	1,663	6.5
Study elsewhere / TAFE / different course	911	3.6
I was bullied	725	2.9
COVID-19	404	1.6
School did not offer subject choices I wanted	392	1.5
Asked to leave / expelled / got in trouble	387	1.5
Physical illness or sickness	266	1.0
Refused	251	1.0
Other	238	0.9
Family commitments (not including pregnancy)	223	0.9
Moved away from area	222	0.9
School did not offer VET options	212	0.8
I felt I would not meet the HSC minimum standard	203	0.8
Disability / school could not cater for my disability	170	0.7
Don't know	125	0.5
Financial hardship	110	0.4
Pregnancy	93	0.4
Personal reasons – no further information (NFI)	75	0.3
Ill health / sickness	58	0.2
Travel time / too long a commute	sp ¹⁰	<0.2
No main reason	sp	<0.2

10 In Table 30, 'sp' means suppressed data. Suppression was used to protect the privacy of respondents in categories with low cell counts.

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