

Fact sheet

Destinations of female and male school leavers

2022 NSW Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of findings from the 2022 NSW Destinations and Experiences Survey relating to male and female Year 12 completers and early school leavers. The department recognises that there is a wide range of genders that school leavers identify as, but due to the lower number of responses from the other gender categories, only statistics for females and males are reported.



Survey sample

In 2022, a total of 43,295 females and 45,785 males were invited to take part in the survey. Responses were received from 18,508 females (2,314 early school leavers, 16,194 Year 12 completers) and 16,872 males (3,609 early school leavers, 13,263 Year 12 completers).

There were some sociodemographic differences in 2022 between female and male survey participants and non-participants. These differences were controlled for through weighting.

Post-school destinations in 2022

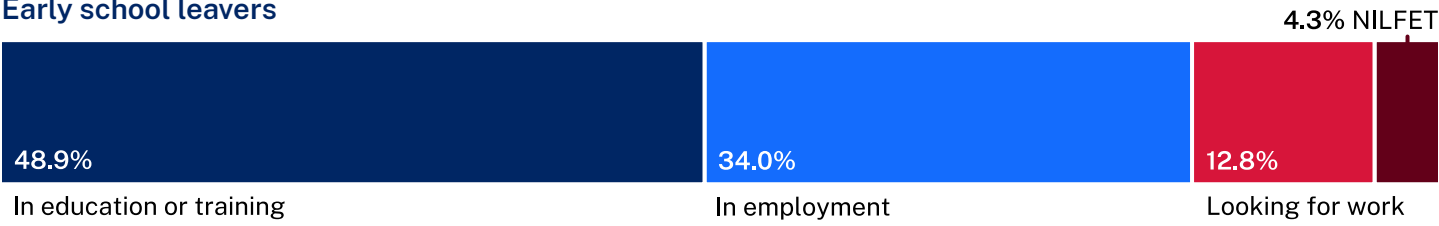
Female school leavers

In 2022 it was estimated that 95.2% of female Year 12 completers and 82.9% of female early school leavers were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



Male school leavers

In 2022 it was estimated that 93.0% of male Year 12 completers and 87.3% of male early school leavers were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers

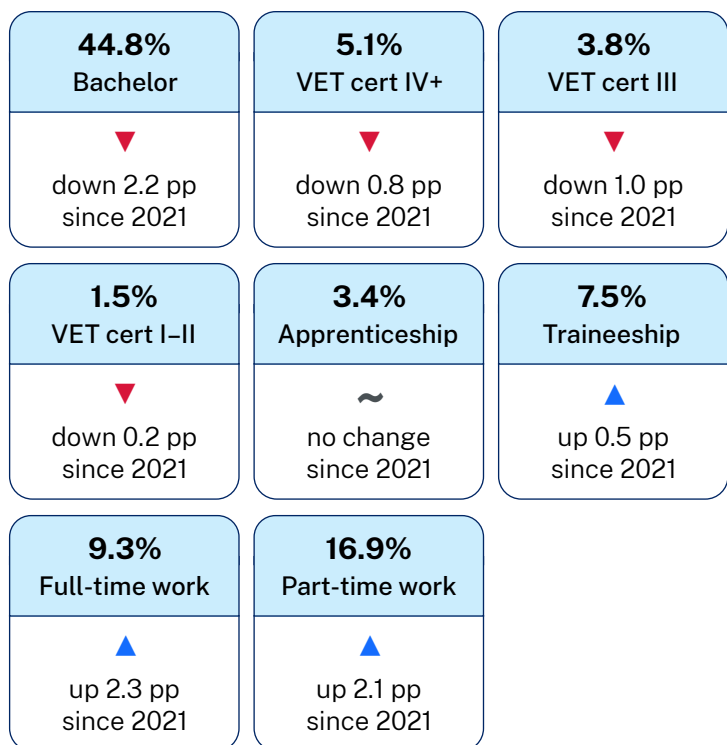


Early school leavers



¹ NILFET = not in the labour force, education or training

Female school leavers in education, training or employment

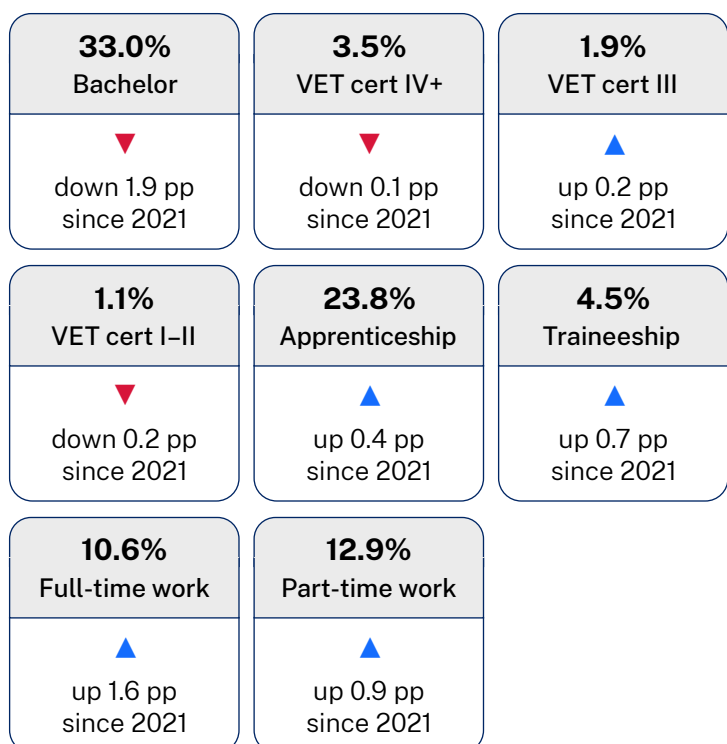


There was a lower estimated proportion of female school leavers undertaking a bachelor's degree, VET certificate IV+ or VET certificate III in 2022 than 2021. A higher estimated proportion of females were employed in part-time or full-time work.

Trends in destinations of female school leavers between 2014 and 2022:

- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.6 pp** (percentage points) per year.
- Part-time work has increased on average by **0.6 pp** per year.

Male school leavers in education, training or employment



There was a higher estimated proportion of male school leavers enrolled in traineeships or engaged in full-time employment in 2022 than 2021. There was a lower estimated proportion of males studying bachelor's degrees or looking for work.

Trends in destinations of male school leavers between 2014 and 2022:

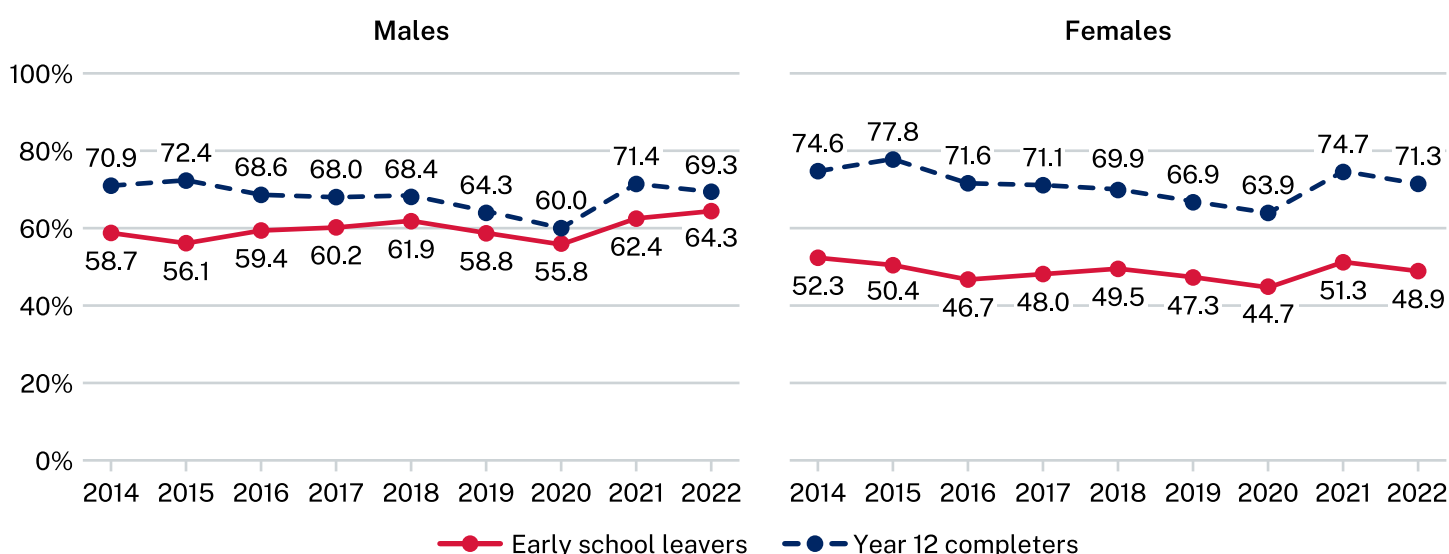
- Bachelor's degree enrolments have decreased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.
- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased on average by **0.8 pp** per year.
- Part-time work has increased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.

In education or training

A consistently higher estimated proportion of Year 12 completers were in education or training than early school leavers for both males and females over time. A consistently higher estimated proportion of male early school leavers were in education or training than female early school leavers over time.

Between 2014 and 2020 the estimated proportions of female (average decline = 1.6 pp per year) and male (average decline = 1.3 pp per year) school leavers in education or training decreased. This was followed by a steep increase in the proportion of early school leavers (males = 6.6 pp; females = 6.6 pp increase) and Year 12 completers (males = 11.4 pp; females = 10.8 pp increase) entering education or training between 2020 and 2021, followed by a slight decline greater than 2 pp for all cohorts except male early school leavers which saw a further increase from 2021 to 2022 by 1.9 pp.

Estimated proportion of female and male school leavers in education or training, 2014 to 2022



Education changes

Female school leavers

Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Engineering** enrolments have increased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 3.6% in 2022.
- **Health** enrolments have increased on average by **0.8 pp** per year to 24.1% in 2022.
- **Management and commerce** enrolments have decreased on average by **0.8 pp** per year to 13.5% in 2022.
- **Society and culture** enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year to 22.9% in 2022.
- **Food, hospitality and personal services** have decreased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 4.8% in 2022.

Male school leavers

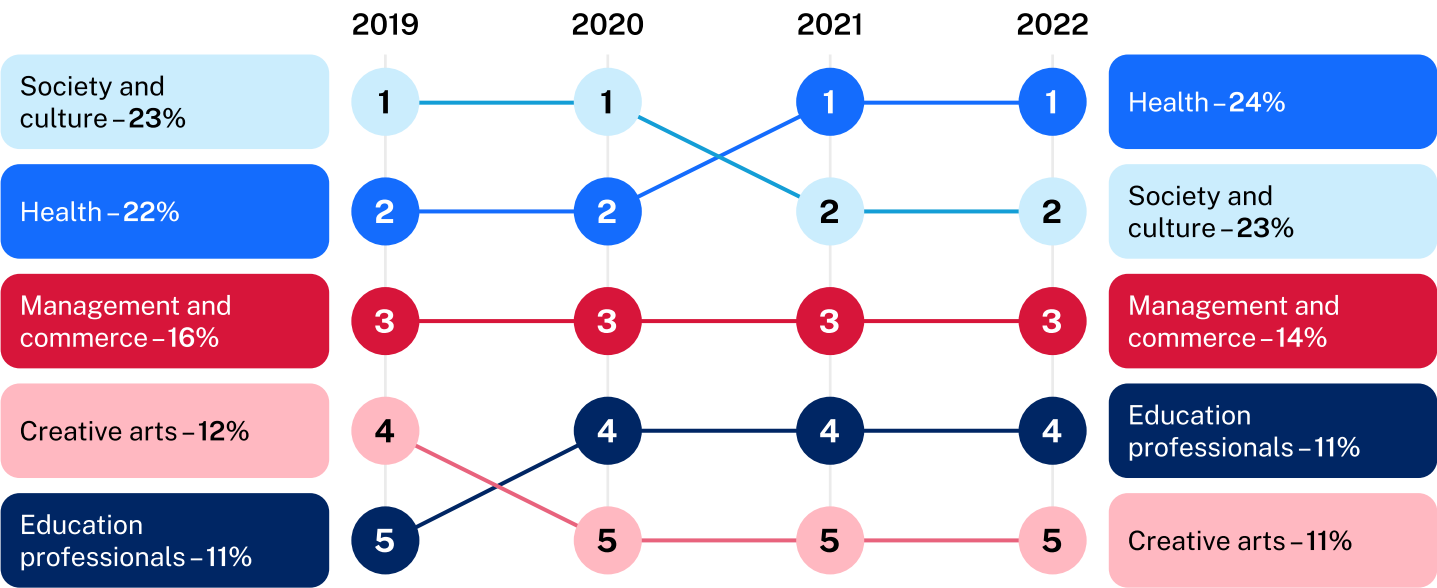
Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Information technology** enrolments have increased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 10.2% in 2022.
- **Engineering** enrolments have increased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 23.1% in 2022.
- **Architecture and building** enrolments have increased on average by **0.4 pp** per year to 15.5% in 2022.
- **Management and commerce** enrolments have decreased on average by **0.6 pp** per year to 14.4% in 2022.
- **Society and culture** enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year to 10.2% in 2022.

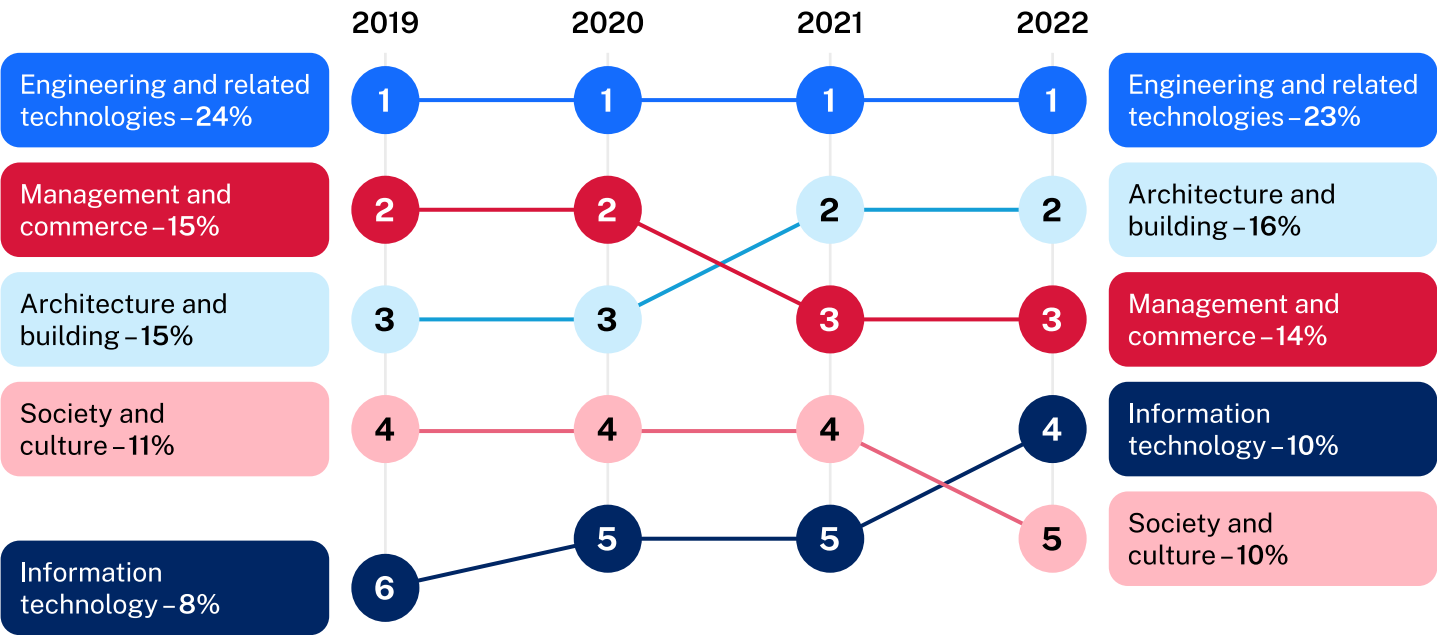
Most popular educational areas

The top 5 educational areas for female and male school leavers in 2022 have stayed relatively consistent since 2019. For females, health overtook society and culture as the most popular area of education from 2021 onwards. For males, engineering has consistently been the most popular area of education since 2019.

Historical rankings for top 5 education areas in 2022 (females)



Historical rankings for top 5 education areas in 2022 (males)

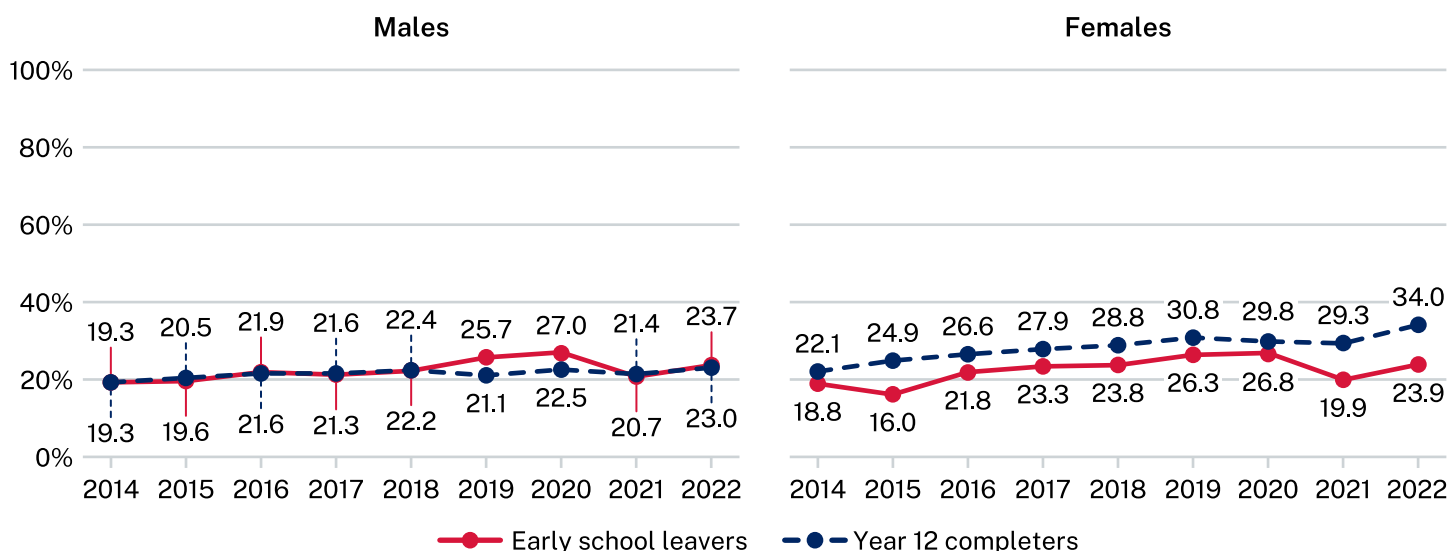


In employment only

A similar estimated proportion of males Year 12 completers were in employment only as male early school leavers over time. For females, an estimated higher proportion of Year 12 completers were in employment only than early school leavers.

Since 2014 the estimated proportions of female school leavers (average growth = 0.9 pp per year) and male school leavers (average growth = 0.5 pp per year) in employment have increased.

Estimated proportion of female and male school leavers in employment, 2014 to 2022



Employment changes

Female school leavers

Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Education** has increased on average by **0.5 pp** per year to 7.9% in 2022.
- **Sales assistants and salespersons** has decreased on average by **0.8 pp** per year to 22.8% in 2022.
- **Sales support workers** has decreased on average by **1.0 pp** per year to 5.7% to 2022.
- **Storepersons** has increased on average by **0.7 pp** per year to 7.6% in 2022.

Male school leavers

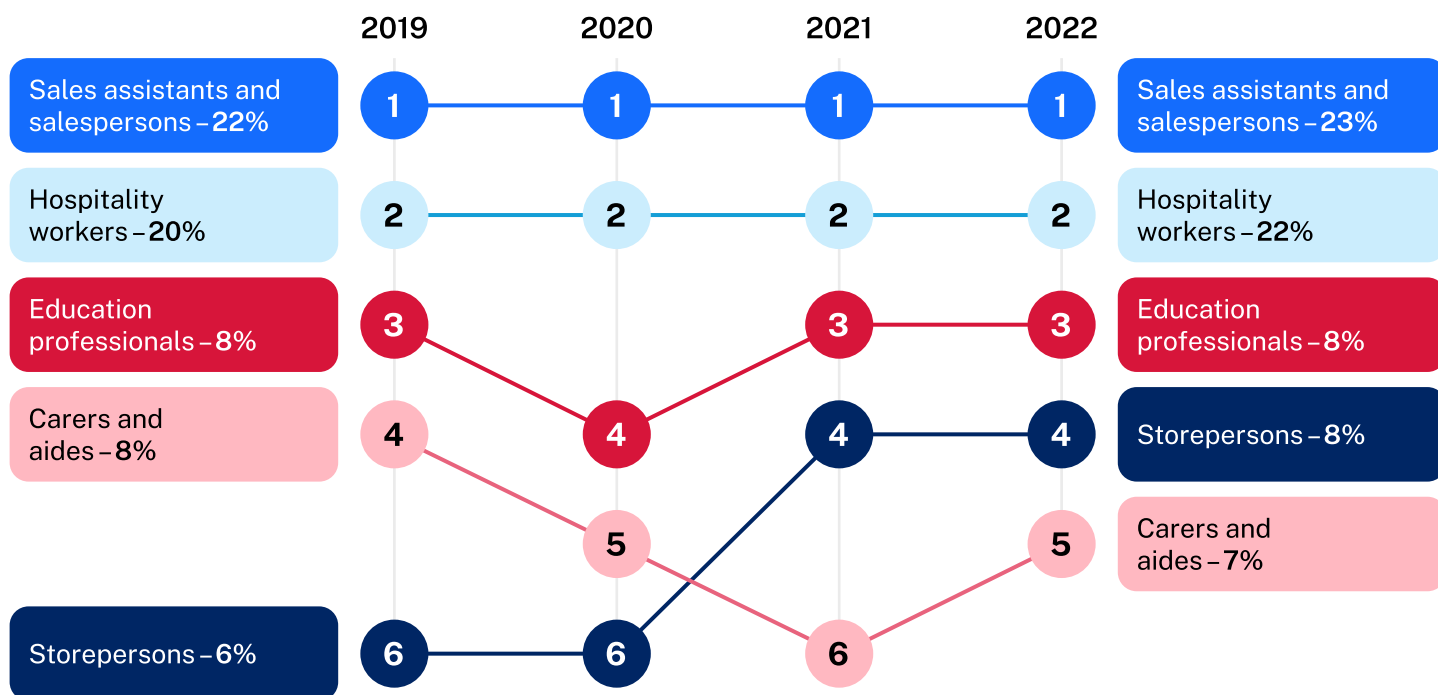
Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Sports and personal service workers** has decreased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 2.9% in 2022.
- **Education** has increased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 7.4% in 2022.
- **Sales assistants and salespersons** has decreased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 14.3% in 2022.
- **Sales support workers** has decreased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 3.2% in 2022.
- **Storepersons** has increased on average by **0.9 pp** per year to 13.2% in 2022.
- **Food preparation assistants** has decreased on average by **0.3 pp** per year to 8.0% in 2022.

Most popular employment only areas

The top 5 areas of employment have remained consistent since 2019 and were similar for both male and female school leavers. One in five females worked as sales assistants and salespersons or hospitality while one in seven males occupied these jobs. For females, the third, fourth and fifth positions varied slightly over time. Storepersons was the sixth most popular employment area for females in 2019 and reached fourth position in 2022. For males, hospitality was the third most popular employment area in 2019 and reached the second position in 2022.

Historical rankings for top 5 employment areas in 2022 (females)



Historical rankings for top 5 employment areas in 2022 (males)

