

Fact sheet

Destinations of school leavers from major city, regional and remote areas of NSW

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 Post-School Destinations and Experiences Survey. Results are presented for Year 12 completers and early school leavers based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness of their last known school.



Survey sample

In 2022, 67,299 school leavers from schools in major city areas, 17,715 from schools in inner regional areas, and 4,066 from schools in outer regional, remote, or very remote areas were invited to take part in the survey. Of these:

- 23,643 Year 12 completers and 3,705 early school leavers from major city areas responded.
- 4,801 Year 12 completers and 1,742 early school leavers from inner regional areas responded.
- 1,013 Years 12 completers and 476 early school leavers from outer regional, remote, or very remote areas responded.

Refer to page 11 for further information on the ASGS remoteness structure.

Post-school destinations in 2022

Major city school leavers

In 2022 it was estimated that 94.6% of Year 12 completers and 85.9% of early school leavers who attended schools in major cities of NSW were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



Inner regional school leavers

In 2022 it was estimated that 92.4% of Year 12 completers and 86.0% of early school leavers who attended schools in inner regional areas of NSW were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers



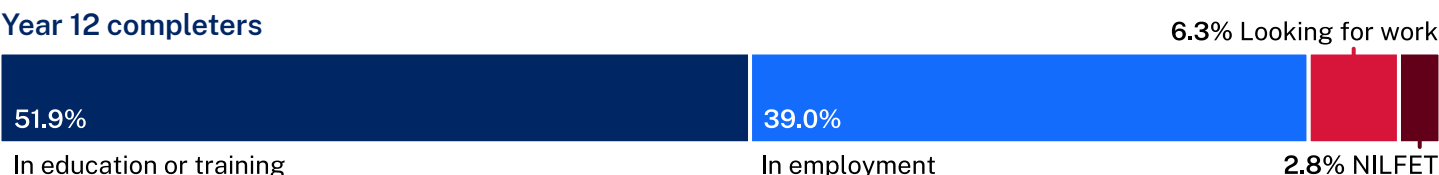
Early school leavers



Outer regional, remote and very remote school leavers

In 2022 it was estimated that 90.9% of Year 12 completers and 81.3% of early school leavers who attended schools in outer regional, remote or very remote areas of NSW were in education, training or employment.

Year 12 completers



Early school leavers



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

School leavers across NSW in education, training or employment

Undertaking a bachelor's degree or VET qualification

	Bachelor	VET cert IV+	VET cert III	VET cert I–II
Major Cities	45.1%  down 2.3 pp ² since 2021	4.7%  down 0.5 pp since 2021	2.5%  down 0.2 pp since 2021	1.2%  down 0.3 pp since 2021
Inner Regional	20.1%  down 1.0 pp since 2021	2.9%  down 0.2 pp since 2021	4.0%  down 1.0 pp since 2021	1.5%  down 0.2 pp since 2021
Outer regional, remote or very remote	14.2%  down 0.5 pp since 2021	2.7%  up 0.2 pp since 2021	3.1%  down 1.3 pp since 2021	1.5%  up 0.5 pp since 2021

In an apprenticeship, traineeship, full-time work or part-time work

	Apprenticeship	Traineeship	Full-time work	Part-time work
Major Cities	12.0%  up 0.2 pp since 2021	5.0%  up 0.4 pp since 2021	8.3%  up 2.2 pp since 2021	13.7%  up 1.9 pp since 2021
Inner Regional	19.0%  up 0.2 pp since 2021	9.0%  up 1.4 pp since 2021	14.5%  up 1.0 pp since 2021	18.8%  up 0.5 pp since 2021
Outer regional, remote or very remote	21.2%  down 0.4 pp since 2021	8.8%  up 0.2 pp since 2021	16.8%  up 1.6 pp since 2021	17.9%  down 0.4 pp since 2021

Compared to school leavers from major city schools there was a:

- lower estimated proportion of school leavers from inner regional and outer regional / remote / very remote schools studying a bachelor degree or VET cert IV+
- higher estimated proportion of school leavers from inner regional and outer regional / remote / very remote schools studying VET cert III (only Inner Regional), apprenticeships or traineeships, engaged in full-time or part-time work or looking for work.

² pp = percentage points



Trends in destinations of school leavers from major city schools between 2014 and 2022:

- Bachelor's degree enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.
- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.5 pp** per year.
- VET cert I–II enrolments have decreased on average by **0.2 pp** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased by **0.4 pp** per year.
- Traineeships have increased by **0.1 pp** per year.
- Full-time work has increased by **0.1 pp** per year.
- Part-time work has increased by **0.6 pp** per year.

Trends in destinations of school leavers from inner regional schools between 2014 and 2022:

- Bachelor's degree enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.
- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.6 pp** per year.
- VET cert I–II have decreased on average by **0.2 pp** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased by **0.8 pp** per year.
- Traineeships have increased by **0.2 pp** per year.
- Full-time work has increased by **0.4 pp** per year.

Trends in destinations of school leavers from outer regional / remote / very remote schools between 2014 and 2022:

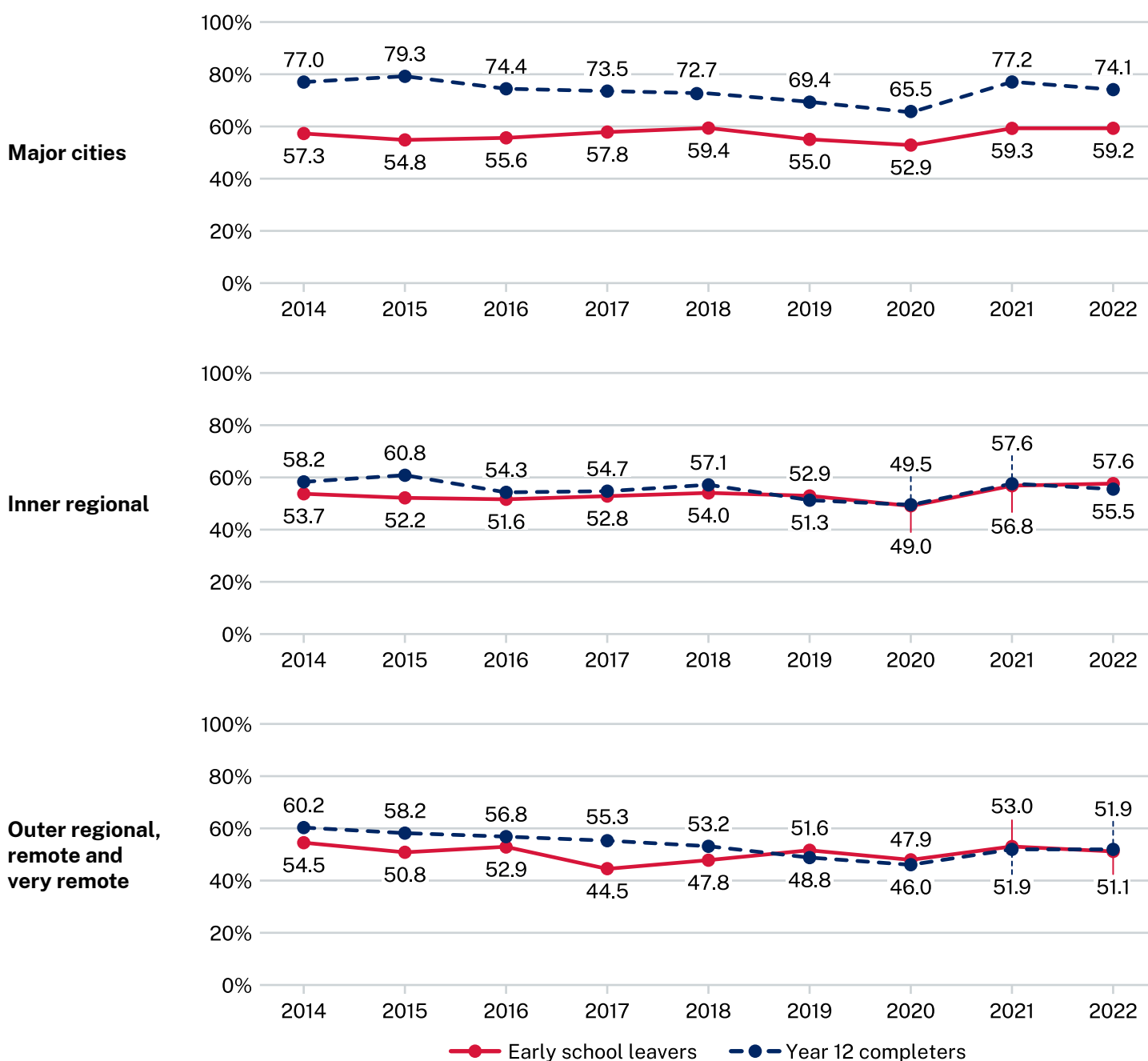
- VET cert IV+ enrolments have decreased on average by **0.6 pp** per year.
- VET cert I–II enrolments have decreased on average by **0.4 pp** per year.
- Apprenticeships have increased by **0.5 pp** per year.
- Part-time work has increased by **0.5 pp** per year.

In education or training

A consistently higher estimated proportion of Year 12 completers who attended schools in major cities were in education or training than early school leavers in major cities over time. The proportion of school leavers in education or training was similar for Year 12 completers and early school leavers for those who attended schools in areas outside major cities.

The estimated proportion of Year 12 completers who attended schools in major cities of NSW who were in education or training has decreased from 2021 by 3.1 pp to 74.1% and for early school leavers this remained stable. For those in inner regional areas of NSW, Year 12 completers in education and training decreased from 2021 by 2.1 pp to 55.5% and for early school leavers this increased slightly by 0.8 pp to 57.6%. For those in outer regional, remote or very remote areas, Year 12 completers in education or training has remained stable from 2021 and for early school leavers has decreased from 2021 by 1.9 pp to 51.1%.

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



Education changes

Year 12 completers

Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Health** enrolments have increased for major city (average growth rate = **0.7 pp** per year) and inner regional (**0.5 pp**) school leavers.
- **Management and commerce** enrolments have decreased for major city (**-0.7 pp**) and inner regional (**-0.6 pp**) school leavers.
- **Society and culture** enrolments have decreased for major city school leavers (**-0.5 pp**).

Early school leavers

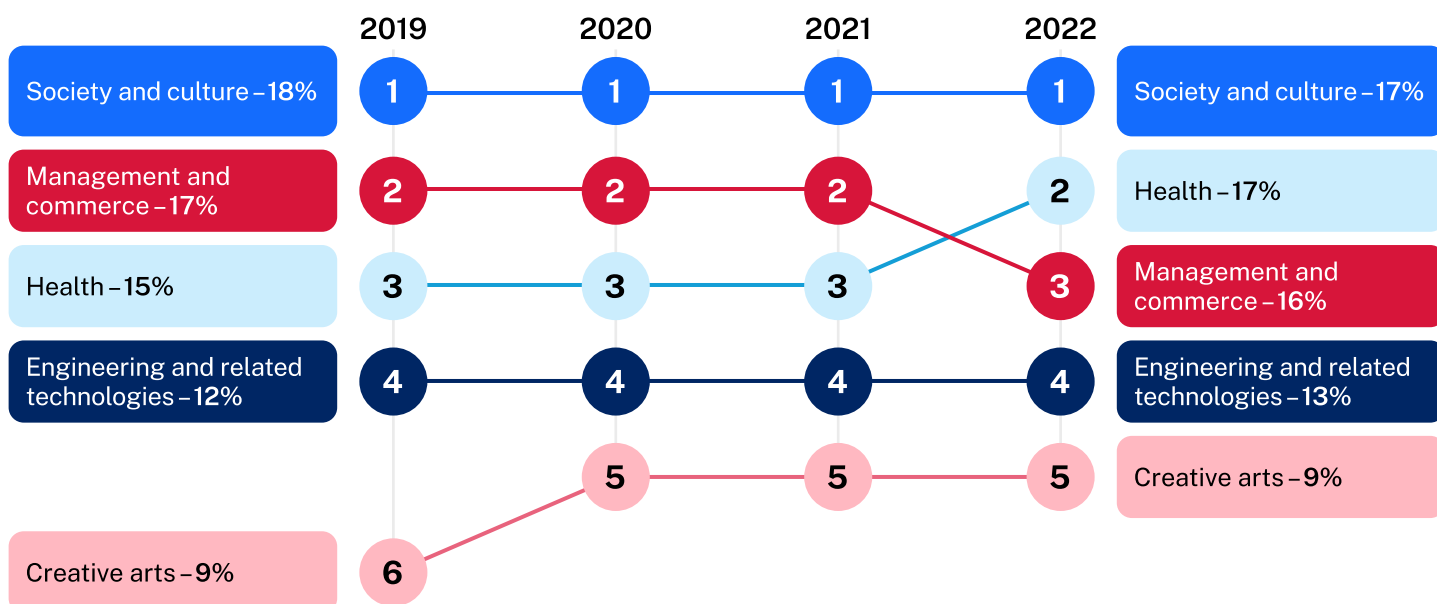
Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Engineering** enrolments have increased for major city (average growth rate = **0.3 pp** per year), inner regional (**0.4 pp**), and outer regional (**0.9 pp**) school leavers.
- **Management and commerce** enrolments have decreased for major city (**-0.7 pp**), inner regional (**-0.7 pp**) and outer regional (**-1.3 pp**) school leavers.
- **Food, hospitality and personal services** enrolments have decreased for major city school leavers (**-0.6 pp**), inner regional (**-0.9 pp**) and outer regional (**-0.7 pp**) school leavers.

Most popular educational areas

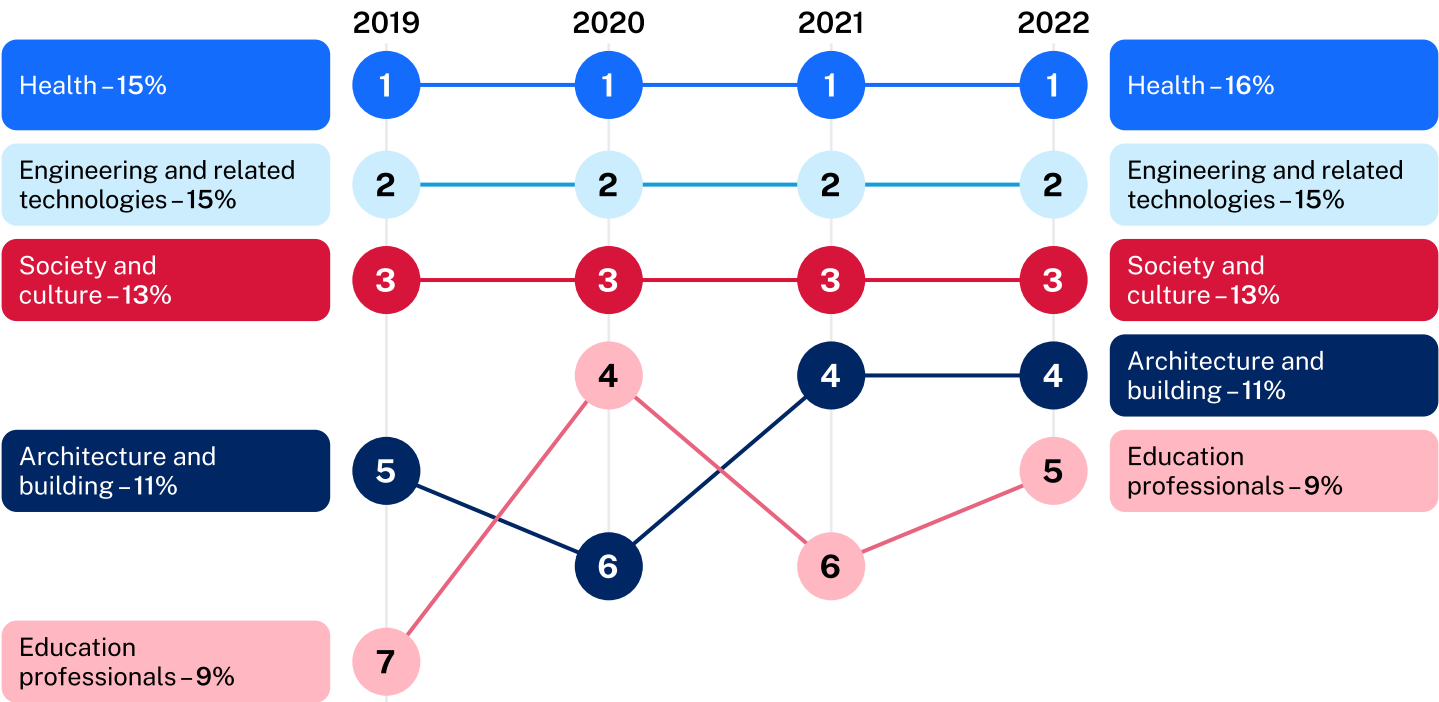
The top 5 areas of education for school leavers from major cities in 2022 have remained consistent since 2019, with little difference between the proportion of school leavers from major cities in the top 3 areas (society and culture = 17%, health = 17%, management and commerce = 16%). Engineering was the fourth most popular between 2019 and 2022 and creative arts the fifth most popular. Although the ranks may have fluctuated over time, the percentages have remained relatively stable.

Historical rankings for top 5 education areas in 2022 – major cities



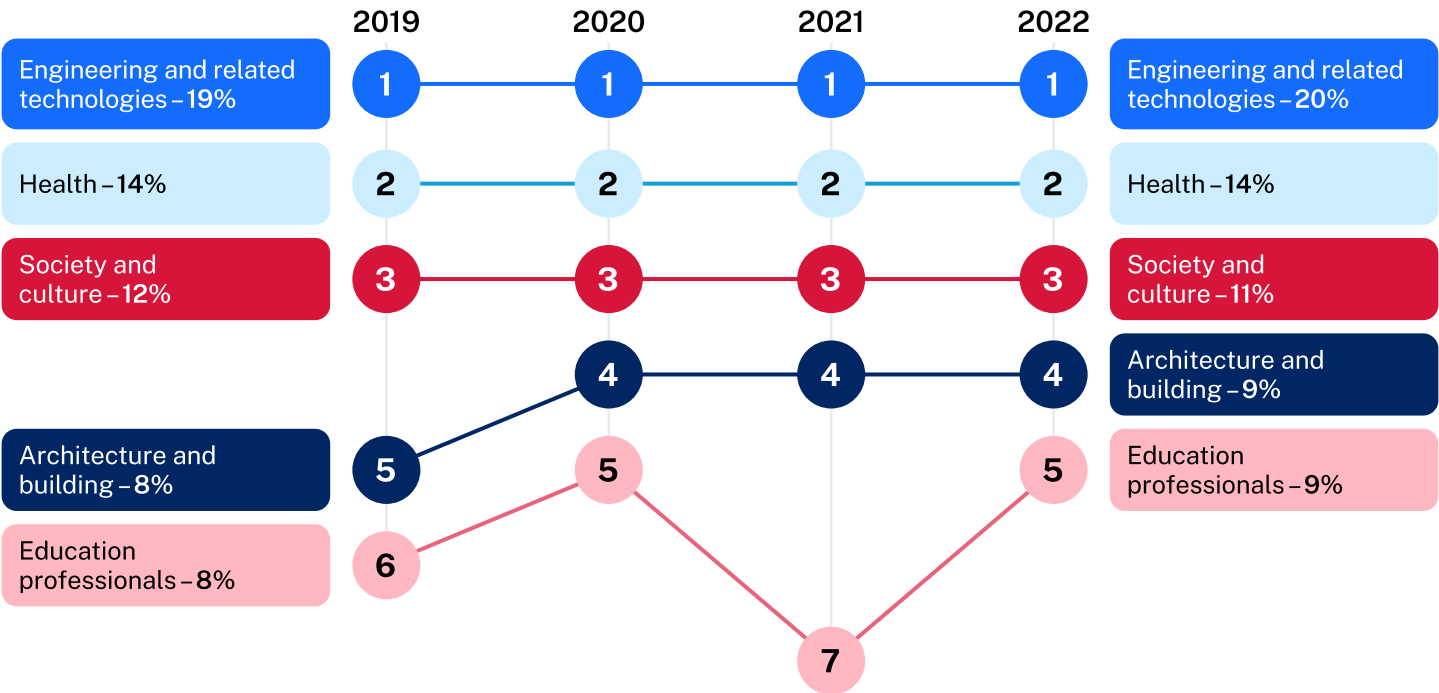
The top 5 areas of education for school leavers from inner regional areas in 2022 have remained consistent since 2019, with little difference between the proportion of school leavers from inner regional areas in the top 3 areas (health = 16%, engineering = 15% and society and culture = 17%). Architecture and building was the fourth most popular in 2022 and education the fifth most popular.

Historical rankings for top 5 education areas in 2022 – inner regional



The top 5 areas of education for school leavers from outer regional, remote or very remote areas in 2022 have remained consistent since 2019. One in 5 school leavers were enrolled in engineering subjects between 2019 and 2022 which was the top educational area. This was followed by health and society and culture, architecture and building, and education.

Historical rankings for top 5 education areas in 2022 – outer regional, remote and very remote

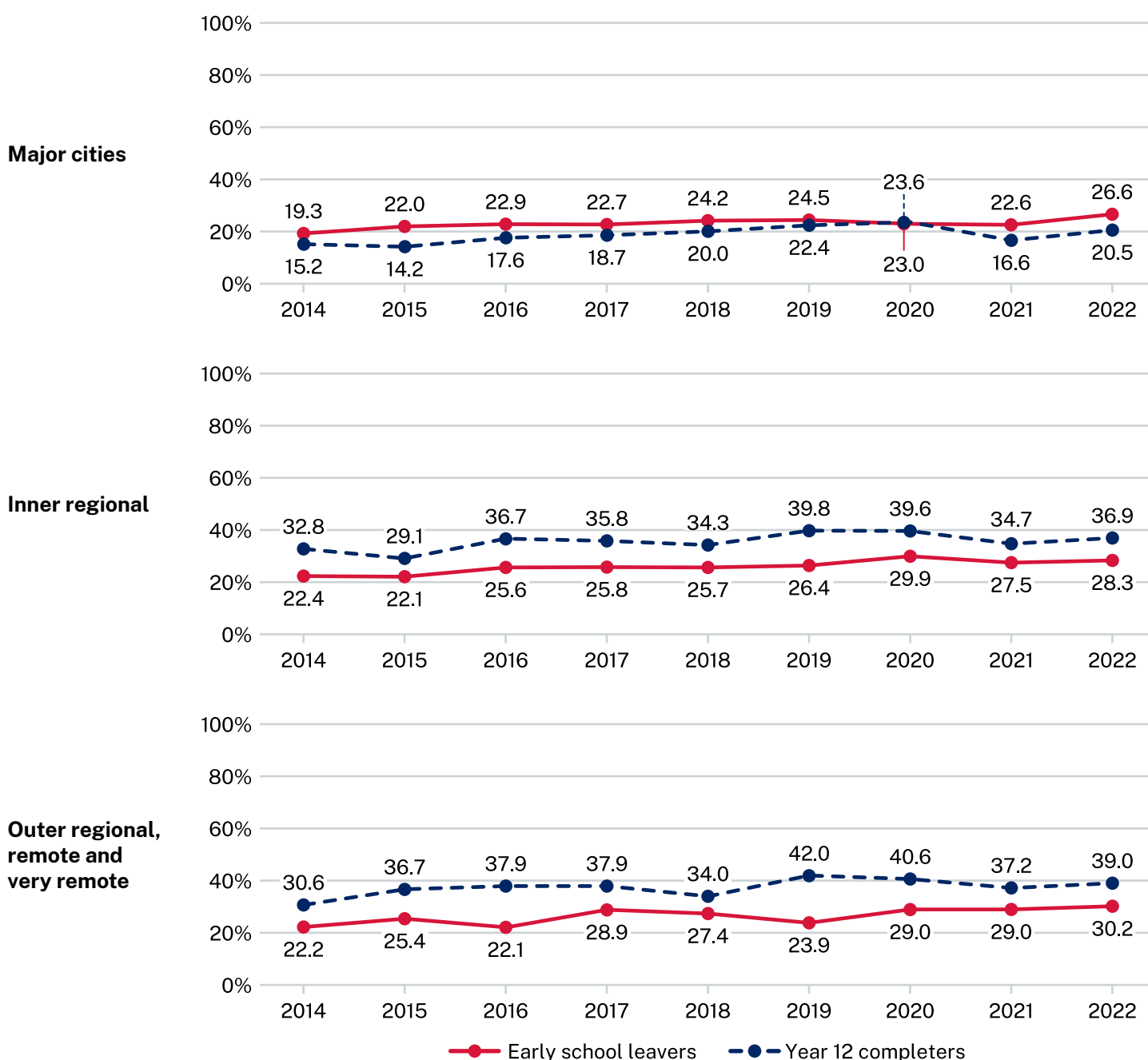


In employment only

A consistently higher estimated proportion of Year 12 completers who attended schools in areas outside major cities were in employment than early school leavers outside major cities over time. The proportion of school leavers in employment was similar for Year 12 completers and early school leavers for those who attended schools in major cities.

The estimated proportion of school leavers in employment has increased for both Year 12 completers and early school leavers who attended schools in all areas across NSW since 2021. The largest increase was seen in major cities of NSW for early school leavers by 4.1 pp to 26.6%, followed by Year 12 completers with an increase of 3.9 pp to 20.5%. The increase outside major cities was greatest for Year 12 completers which increased by 2.3 pp to 36.9% for those who attended schools in inner regional areas, and by 1.8 pp to 39.0% for those who attended schools in outer regional, remote and very remote areas. For early school leavers, the estimated proportion of those who attended schools in inner regional areas increased by 0.9 pp to 28.3%. The estimated proportion of early school leavers who attended schools in outer regional, remote and very remote areas increased by 1.2 pp to 30.2%.

Estimated proportion of school leavers in employment, 2014 to 2022



Employment changes

Year 12 completers

Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Education professionals** has increased for major city (average growth rate = **0.6 pp** per year) and inner regional (**0.3 pp**) school leavers.
- **Storepersons** has increased for major city (**0.9 pp**) and inner regional (**0.9 pp**) school leavers.
- **Sales support workers** has decreased for major city (**-0.7 pp**), inner regional (**-0.6 pp**) and outer regional / remote (**-0.8 pp**) school leavers.

Early school leavers

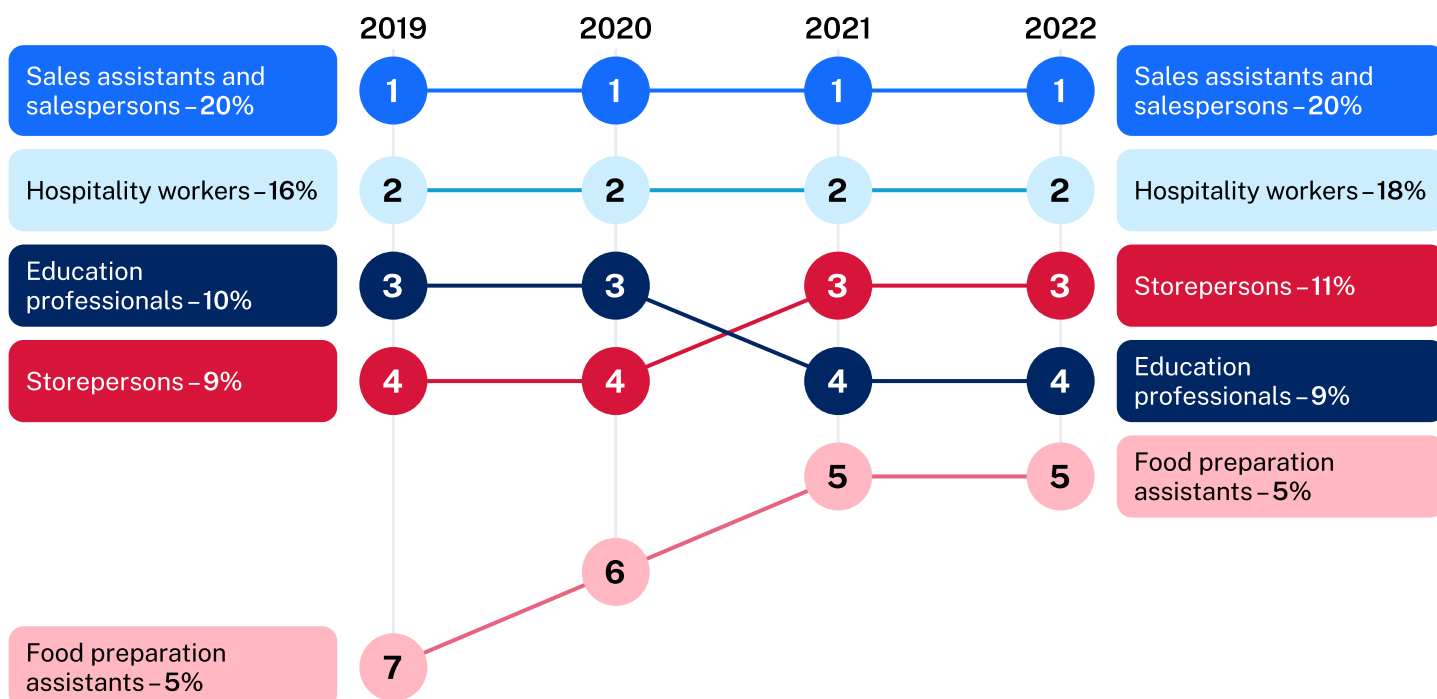
Trends between 2014 and 2022:

- **Hospitality workers** has increased for inner regional (average growth rate = **0.4 pp** per year) and outer regional (**0.8 pp**) school leavers.
- **Storepersons** has increased for major city (**0.6 pp**) and inner regional (**0.3 pp**) school leavers.
- **Sales support workers** has decreased for major city (**-0.7 pp**), inner regional (**-0.7 pp**) and outer regional / remote (**-1.1 pp**) school leavers.

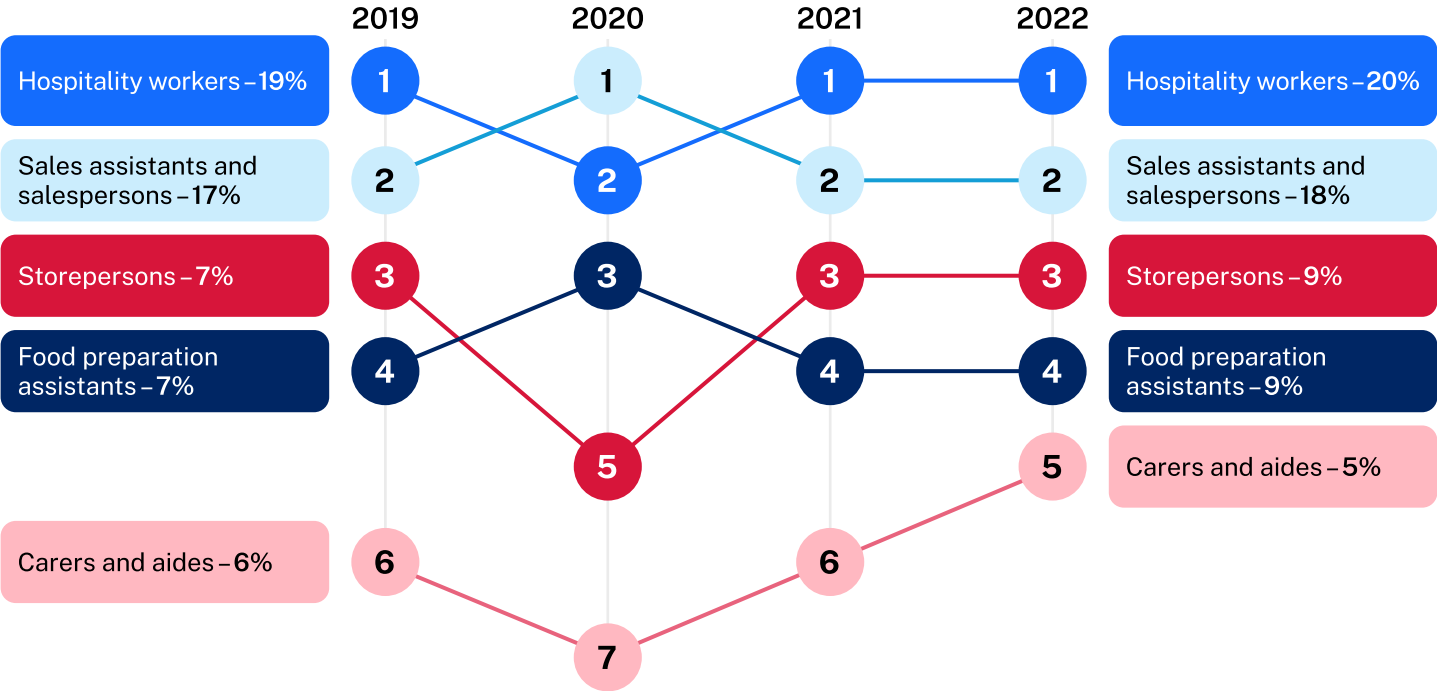
Most popular employment only areas

The top 3 areas of employment for school leavers from all NSW areas has remained consistent since 2019 and was the same for school leavers in all areas of NSW. Approximately 1 in 5 school leavers in employment only post-school destinations were employed as sales assistants and salespersons or in hospitality. Approximately 1 in 10 were employed as storepersons. Food preparation assistants was in the top 5 employment areas for major city and inner regional school leavers, while farm, forestry and garden workers was in the top 5 for school leavers from outer regional, remote or very remote areas.

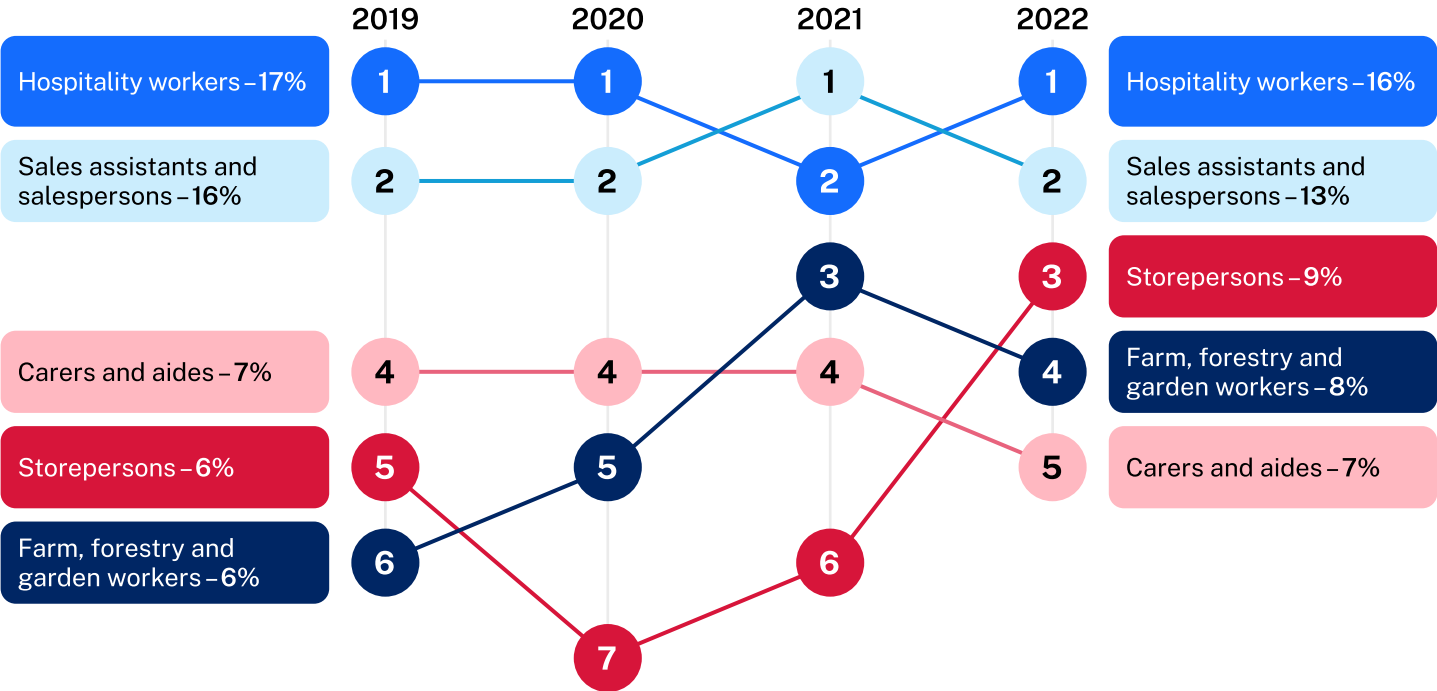
Historical rankings for top 5 employment areas in 2022 – major cities



Historical rankings for top 5 employment areas in 2022 – inner regional

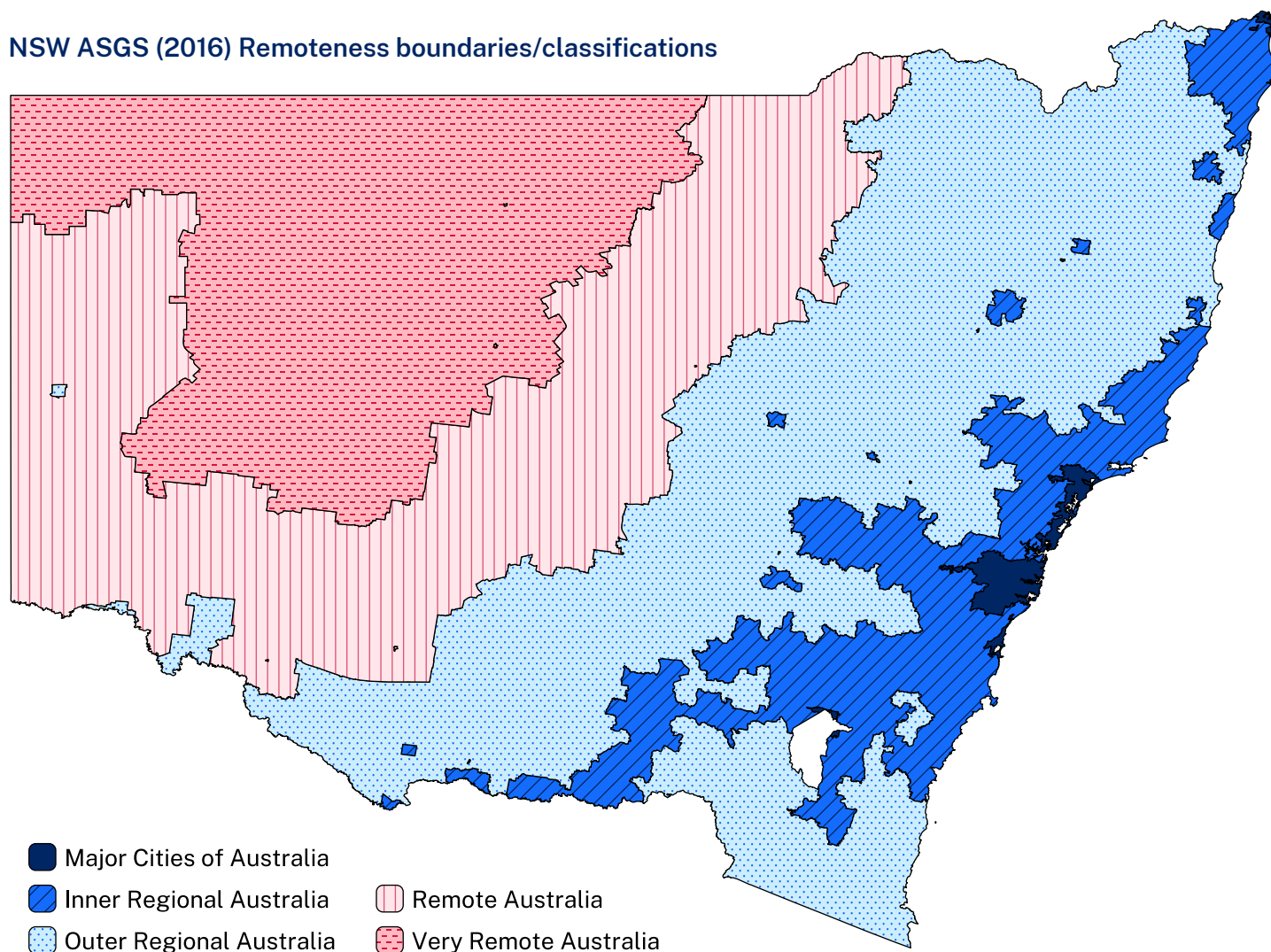


Historical rankings for top 5 employment areas in 2022 – outer regional, remote and very remote



Defining Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness

NSW ASGS (2016) Remoteness boundaries/classifications



The region variable used in this fact sheet was constructed from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) ASGS (2016) remoteness boundaries/classifications. The 5 remoteness classes/categories are determined based on relative access to services and are: Major Cities, Inner Regional; Outer Regional; Remote and Very Remote. The department collapsed across outer regional, remote and very remote categories for reporting due to privacy.

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation GPO Box 33, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia

✉ info@cese.nsw.gov.au

🌐 education.nsw.gov.au/cese

💬 yammer.com/det.nsw.edu.au

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