

2020 Early School Leavers survey

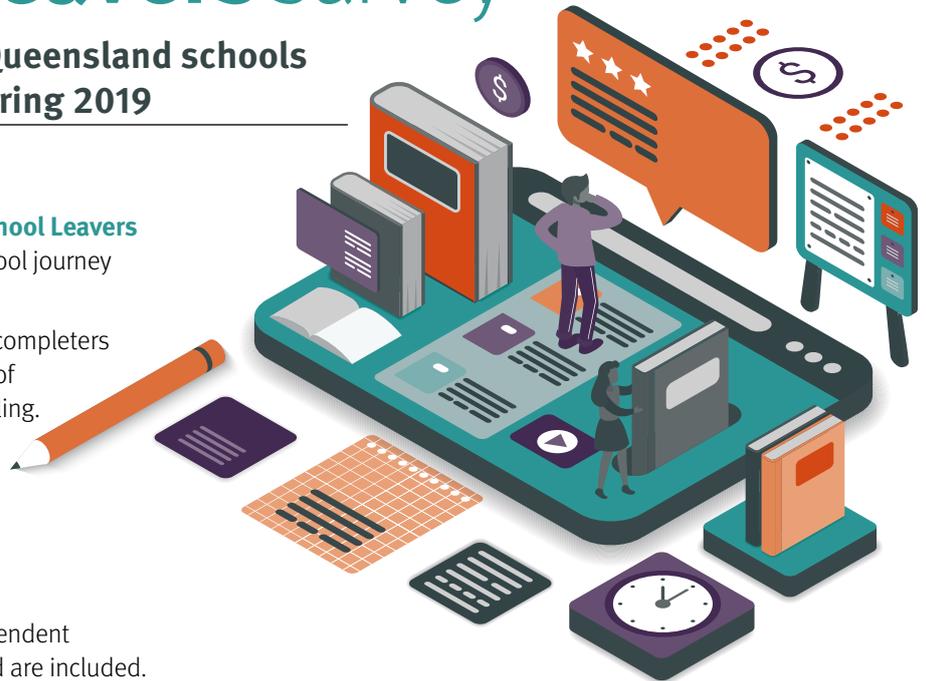
Destinations of students who left Queensland schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2019

Since 2007, the Department of Education's **Early School Leavers** survey has captured information about the post-school journey of students who leave school early.

This survey is a companion to the survey of Year 12 completers and together they provide a comprehensive picture of students in the year following the end of their schooling.

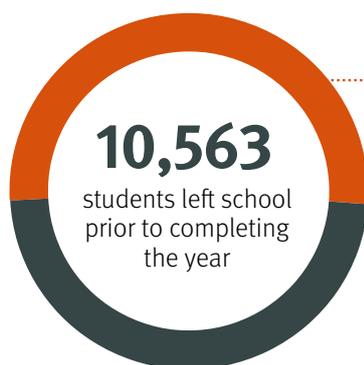
Insights gained from these surveys assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

All students who attended State, Catholic and Independent schools, and TAFE secondary colleges in Queensland are included.



2020 Early School Leavers survey

Over 160,000 students were enrolled in Years 10-12 in Queensland schools at the start of 2019



5,480
respondents

51.9%
response rate

1809 left in Year 10

2750 left in Year 11

921 left in Year 12

Find out more



For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/earllyschoolleavers



Queensland
Government

Post-school engagement

Engagement in education, employment or training

63.5%¹ in education, employment or training

35.6%
in education
or training

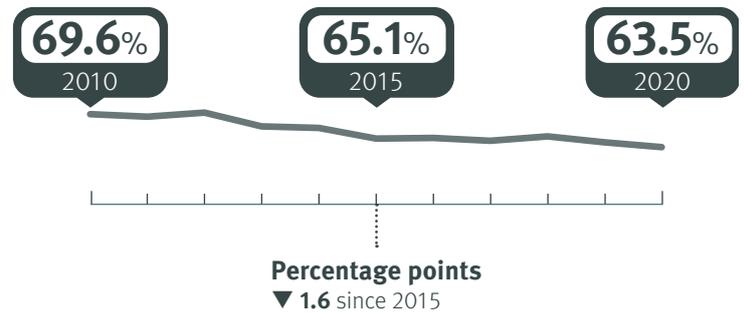
27.9%
in employment only

36.5%
not in education,
employment or
training



All early school leavers were assigned to a **main destination**. This categorisation system prioritises education related destinations over other destinations. For example early school leavers who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination. Apprentices and trainees are reported as being in education or training.

The survey was conducted in August/September 2020, a time when the economy was beginning to recover from the **COVID-19** recession.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

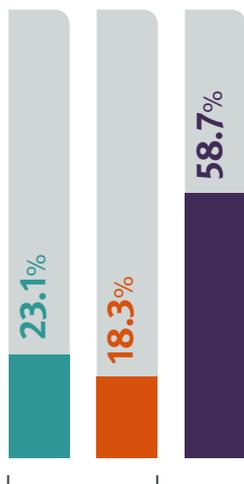


in employment only



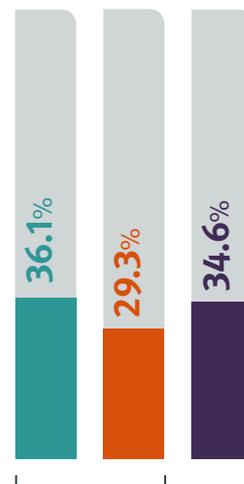
not in education,
employment or training

Indigenous



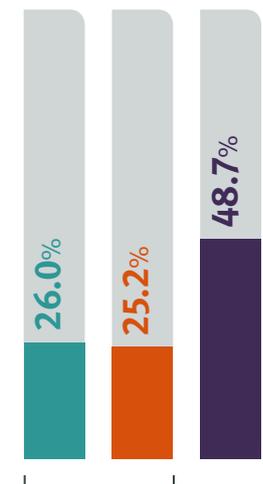
41.3%
of 668
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



65.4%
of 2691
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



51.3%
of 1479
respondents from
disadvantaged areas⁴
were engaged

¹ Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point

² Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (38.2%)

³ Students who were not living in a 'Major Cities' category area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

Post-school engagement

Why are they leaving?

▲ Percentage point change

Single most important reason for leaving school and how they are engaged now



in education or training



in employment only



not in education, employment or training

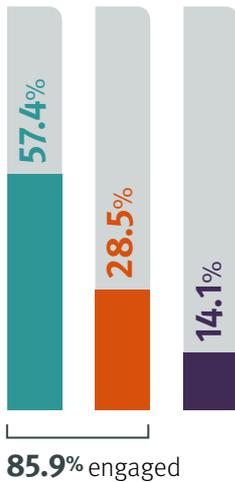
To get a job/apprenticeship



22.4%

1230 respondents

▲ 0.5 since 2015



Did not like school



17.0%

932 respondents

▼ 3.6 since 2015



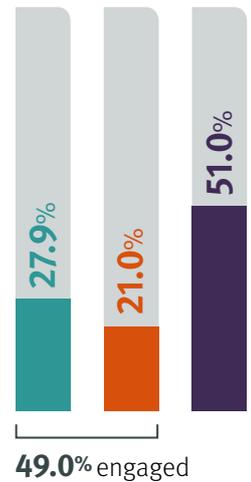
Health reasons



12.2%

670 respondents

▲ 4.0 since 2015



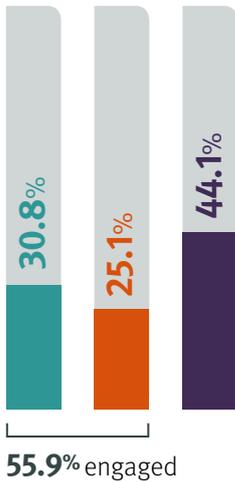
Behaviour of other students disrupted my study



8.9%

490 respondents

▼ 0.3 since 2015



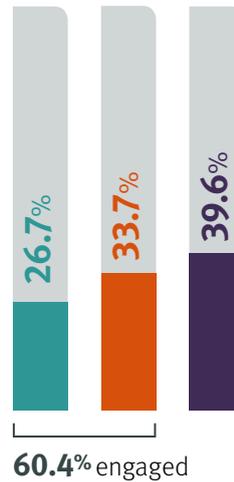
Difficult academically



8.3%

457 respondents

▲ 2.1 since 2015



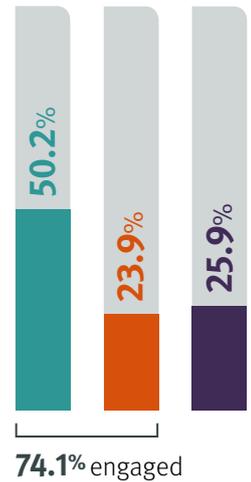
Study options did not meet my needs



8.2%

448 respondents

▲ 0.5 since 2015



Females

62.3% in education, training or employment



More likely than males to leave school due to health reasons; **18.4% compared to 8.4%**

Males

64.3% in education, training or employment

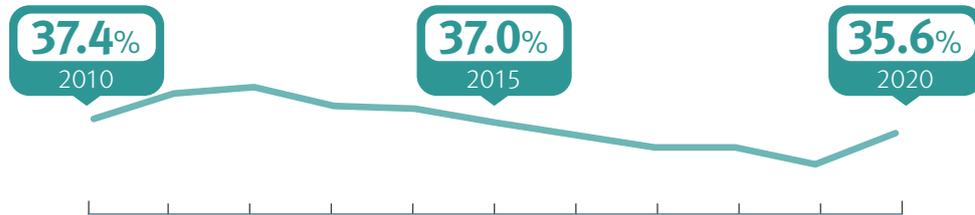


More likely than females to leave school to get a job/apprenticeship; **29.0% compared to 11.9%**

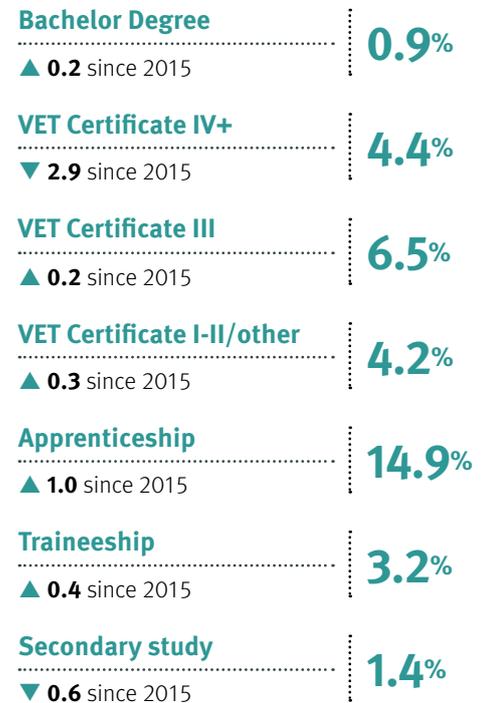
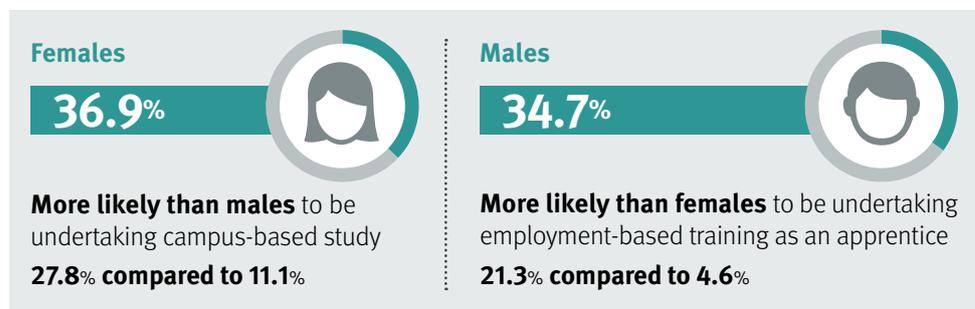
Main destination

In education or training

▲ Percentage point change



Apprenticeship remains the most popular education and training destination for early school leavers. Between 2019 and 2020 there was an increase for most education and training categories, except apprenticeships and secondary study, reflecting the tendency for young people to opt for study over employment during an economic downturn.



In employment only



Almost a third of early school leavers entered into employment without any further education or training. Between 2019 and 2020 there was a large decrease in the proportion of early school leavers in employment, reflecting the impact on the economy approximately six months after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in Australia.



Not in education, employment or training



While there were 2000 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 36.2% had a job since leaving school. Overall, nearly 3 in 10 (29.3%) said the coronavirus pandemic was the main reason that they were not engaged and 12.5% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Destination:

Education and training

◆ Percentage point change

35.6%
1949

of early school leavers continuing in education, training

▼ 1.4 since 2015



Where are they studying?



University

5.5%

▲ 2.0 since 2015

TAFE

46.2%

▲ 2.5 since 2015

Private training provider

32.0%

▼ 4.2 since 2015

Other institution

16.3%

▼ 0.3 since 2015

In education or training

Females

36.9%



More likely than males to study in the field of Food, Hospitality and Personal Services

Males

34.7%



More likely than females to study in the field of Engineering and Related Technologies

What are they studying?⁵



Engineering and Related Technologies

23.9%
466

197 Automotive
105 Mechanical & Industrial
79 Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and Building

14.7%
286

266 Building
20 Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and Personal Services

14.0%
273

142 Personal Services
131 Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

9.5%
185

105 Human Welfare
21 Sport and Recreation
17 Language & Literature

⁵ Field of study categories are based on the Australian Standard Classification of Education (broad, narrow and detailed).

How are they studying?



employment-based study as an **apprentice or trainee**

50.9%



studying **part-time**

75.1%



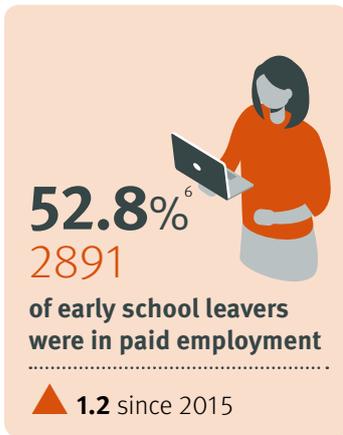
combining study with paid employment

69.8%

Destination:

Employment (total)

Percentage point change



Which industries are they working in?



In paid employment

Females

46.4%

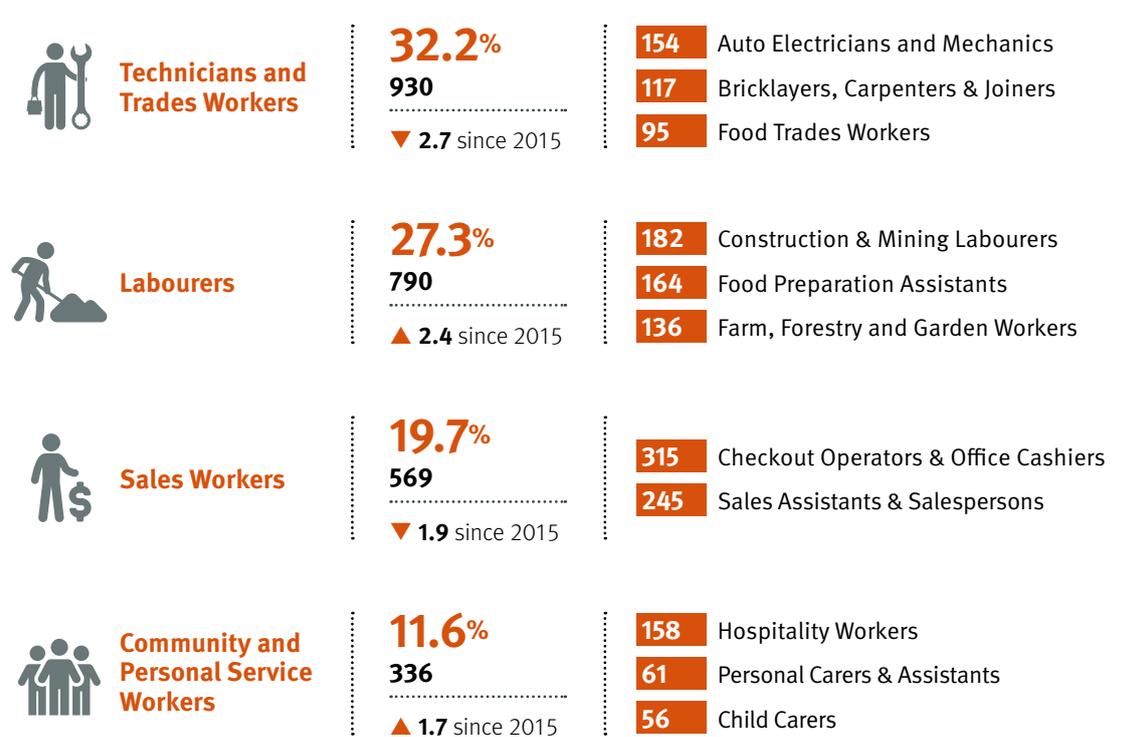
More likely than males to be working as Sales Workers or Community and Personal Service Workers

Males

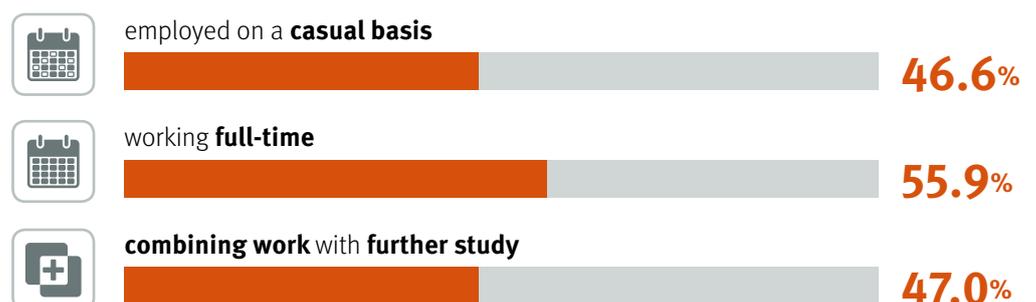
56.6%

More likely than females to be working as Technician and Trades Workers or Labourers

What jobs are they doing?



How are they working?



⁶ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 52.8% figure includes 27.9% who were only working and 24.8% who were both working and studying. Those who were working and studying are reported as studying for their main destination.

⁷ Occupation categories are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (major and minor groups).

Destination:

Not in education, employment or training

Percentage point change

36.5%
2000

of early school leavers were not in education, employment or training

▲ 1.6 since 2015



Main reason not studying



Not interested/
already finished
study

16.9%

▲ 1.5 since 2015



Undecided and
considering
options

13.7%

▼ 3.5 since 2015



Health reasons

12.9%

▲ 6.4 since 2015



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

10.6%

▼ 5.2 since 2015



Waiting for
course/training
to begin

8.8%

▼ 0.8 since 2015

Not in education, training or employment

Females

37.7%



More likely than
males to have
parenting or family
commitments

Males

35.7%



More likely than
females to not be
interested in further
study and looking
for work

Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

28.1%



Not enough
jobs

10.5%



Health reasons

9.3%



Not enough
experience

8.8%



Transport
difficulties

6.4%

Worked since leaving school



36.2%
724

Main reason left previous job

210 Coronavirus (COVID-19)

99 Seasonal/temporary job

99

Not satisfied with the job

90

Health reasons

Not seeking work



34.0%
680

Main reason not seeking work

182 Health reasons

75 Disability

70

Future study commitment

67

Parenting commitments

Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**

66.0%



Have **been impacted by Coronavirus**

29.3%



Are **waiting for employment or study to commence**

12.5%