

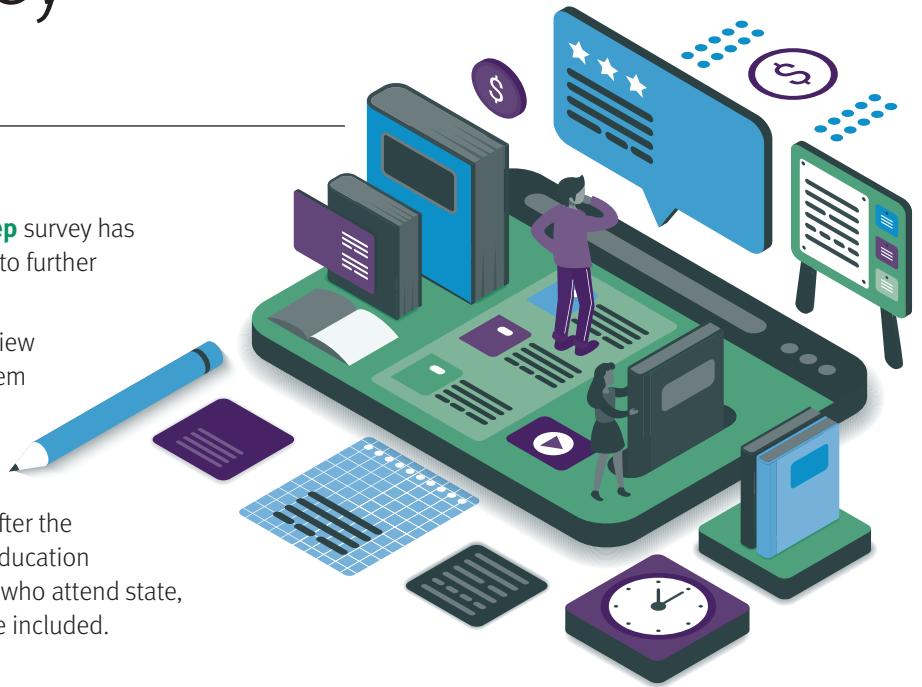
2023 Next Step survey

Destinations of Year 12 completers from 2022 in Queensland

Since 2005, the Department of Education’s **Next Step** survey has captured information about the journey from school to further study and employment for Year 12 completers.

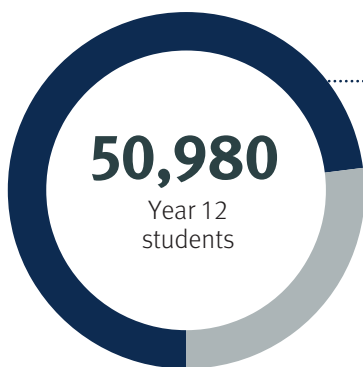
Insights gained from **Next Step** assist schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

The survey is conducted approximately six months after the end of the school year, timed to occur after tertiary education places for the year have been accepted. All students who attend state, Catholic and independent schools in Queensland are included.



2023 Next Step survey

Year 12 students from 2022 were included in the 2023 survey from Queensland schools



37,114
respondents

72.8%
response rate

21,396 State schools

7464 Catholic schools

8254 Independent schools

Find out more

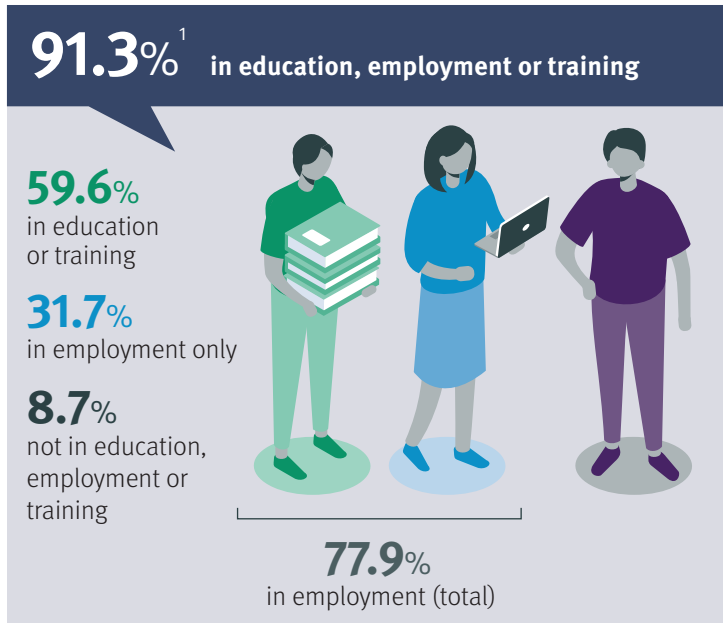


For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/year12completers



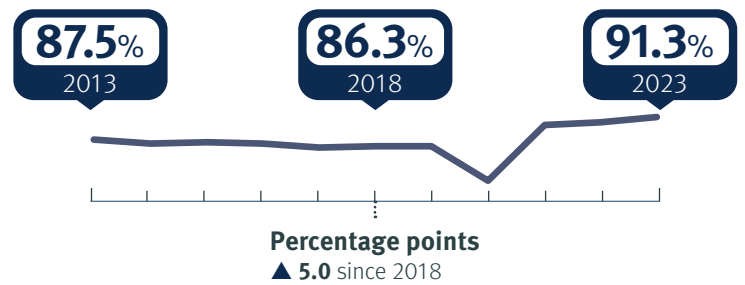
Post-school engagement

Engagement in education, employment or training



All Year 12 completers were assigned to a **main destination**. This categorisation system prioritises education related destinations over other destinations. Those who were both studying and working are reported as studying for their main destination.

In 2023, overall engagement continued to increase to 91.3%, the highest level in more than a decade. Participation in education or training was lower than in 2022, but remains higher than the pre-COVID (2019) level. This was offset by increased participation in employment, which is the highest experienced since 2008. The strong labour market is a likely contributor to these results.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

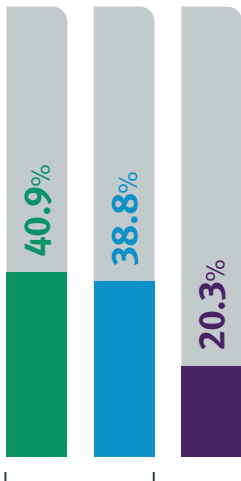


in employment only



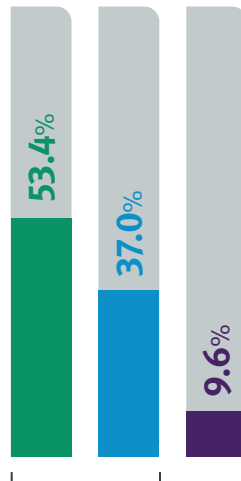
not in education, employment or training

Indigenous



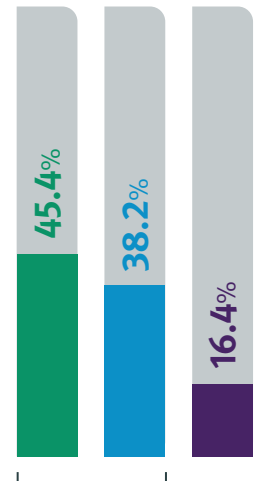
79.7% of 1785 Indigenous respondents² were engaged

Regional and Remote



90.4% of 11,881 regional and remote respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



83.6% of 5355 respondents from disadvantaged areas⁴ were engaged

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

² Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (60.5%)

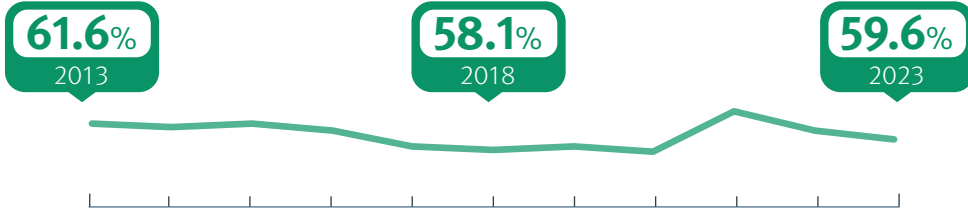
³ Students who were not living in a 'Major Cities' category area of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure (2021)

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

Main destination

In education or training

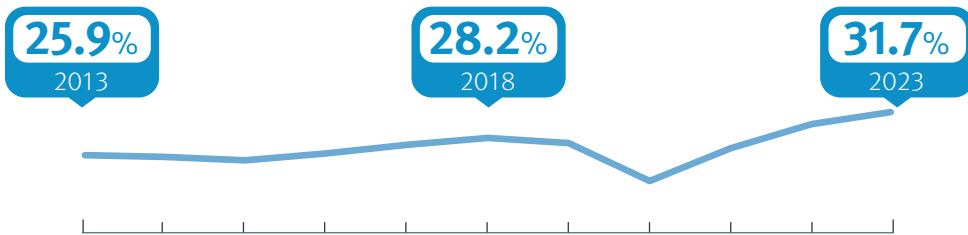
Percentage point change



Bachelor Degree study was slightly lower in 2023 compared with 2022, but remains the most popular destination for Year 12 completers. Small decreases were also experienced in all other education and training categories.

Bachelor Degree	▲ 1.1 since 2018	39.9%
VET Certificate	▼ 1.4 since 2018	8.6%
Apprenticeship	▲ 1.8 since 2018	8.5%
Traineeship	▲ 0.1 since 2018	2.6%

In employment only



The rate of Year 12 completers transitioning to employment only continued to increase in 2023 and is the highest experienced since 2008. This reflects a strong labour market, which has seen high demand for workers across a range of occupations.

Full-time employment	▲ 2.5 since 2018	11.6%
Part-time employment	▲ 1.1 since 2018	20.1%

Are not in education, employment or training



Around 4 in 10 (42.1%) Year 12 completers not in study or work had either deferred a university place and/or were taking a gap year (up 5.1 percentage points since 2018). A further 6.7% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Seeking work	▼ 4.8 since 2018	6.1%
Not in the labour force, education or training	▼ 0.2 since 2018	2.5%

Females

93.0% engaged in work or study



More likely than males to be undertaking Bachelor Degree study

45.5% compared to 33.8%

Males

89.6% engaged in work or study

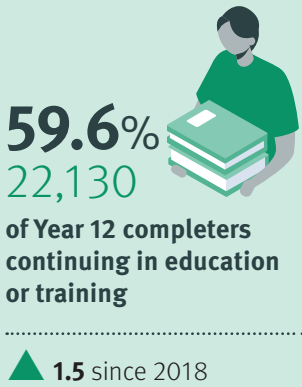


More likely than females to be undertaking employment-based training as an apprentice

15.3% compared to 2.3%

Destination:

Education and training



Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

69.9%

▲ 0.6 since 2018

TAFE

15.8%

▼ 0.6 since 2018

Private training provider

8.5%

▼ 0.6 since 2018

Other institution

5.8%

▲ 0.5 since 2018

In education or training

Females

61.3%



More likely than males to study in the fields of Health or Society and Culture

Males

57.8%



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

What are they studying?^{5,6}



Health

19.1%
4216

- 1639** Nursing
- 694** Rehabilitation Therapies
- 274** Pharmacy



Society and Culture

17.8%
3935

- 1061** Behavioural Science
- 983** Law
- 468** Human Welfare



Engineering and Related Technologies

17.6%
3884

- 953** Electrical & Electronic
- 628** Mechanical & Industrial
- 499** Automotive



Management and Commerce

14.1%
3115

- 1750** Business & Management
- 463** Sales & Marketing
- 387** Banking & Finance

How are they studying?



enrolled in a double degree



studying full-time



combining study with paid employment



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

⁶Both fields of study are counted where students are enrolled in a double degree in different study fields.

Destination:

Employment (total)

◆ Percentage point change

77.9%
28,894
of Year 12 completers
were in paid employment
▲ 12.9 since 2018



Which industries are they working in?



Accommodation & Food Services

30.3%

▼ 4.3 since 2018



Retail Trade

24.1%

▲ 0.4 since 2018



Construction

8.5%

▲ 0.1 since 2018



Health Care & Social Assistance

8.0%

▲ 3.6 since 2018



Education & Training

4.4%

▲ 0.7 since 2018

In paid employment

Females

79.4%



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

Males

76.2%



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

What jobs are they doing?⁸



Sales Workers

32.8%

9467

▼ 2.2 since 2018

7153

Sales Assistants & Salespersons

2047

Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers

178

Sales Support Workers



Community and Personal Service Workers

23.0%

6653

▲ 5.2 since 2018

3558

Hospitality Workers

945

Child Carers

782

Personal Carers and Assistants



Labourers

16.3%

4710

▼ 1.2 since 2018

1620

Food Preparation Assistants

612

Construction & Mining Labourers

542

Freight Handlers and Shelf Fillers



Technicians and Trades Workers

13.3%

3836

▼ 2.8 since 2018

635

Electricians

489

Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners

466

Automotive Electricians and Mechanics

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

64.6%



working **full-time**

30.0%



combining work with **further study**

59.3%

⁷ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all Year 12 completers. The 77.9% figure includes 31.7% who were only working and 46.2% who were both working and studying. Those who were working and studying are reported as studying for their main destination.

⁸ 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

8.7%
3216

of Year 12 completers were not in education, employment or training

5.0 since 2018



Main reason not studying



Wanted a break from study

14.4%

3.9 since 2018



Undecided and considering options

14.1%

0.2 since 2018



Not interested/already finished study

12.8%

3.8 since 2018



Disability

11.5%

3.7 since 2018



Looking for work, apprenticeship or traineeship

8.2%

8.2 since 2018

Not in education, training or employment

Females

7.0%



More likely than males to take a gap year but intend to study in the future

Males

10.4%



More likely than females to prioritise getting a job or apprenticeship over further study

Worked since leaving school



35.0%
1124

Main reason left previous job

260 Not satisfied with job

116 Was laid off/sacked

156 Temporary/Seasonal job

107 Health Reasons

Taking a gap year



41.3%
1328

Post-gap priority

456 University study

265 Other study

268 Work

184 Undecided

Received a QTAC offer to study



13.5%
435

Response to offer

274 Deferred

54 Waiting to start

55 Withdrew from course

36 Declined

Not seeking work



29.4%
945

Main reason not seeking work

389 Disability or health

91 Future study commitment

98 Waiting for a job to start

81 Travel

Where to from here?



Are seeking work

70.6%
2271



Deferred a university offer

8.5%
274



Are waiting for employment or study to commence

11.2%
360

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19.6% of job seekers believe that the main reason they have been unsuccessful in getting a job is due to **lack of experience, skills or qualifications** and a further 17.9% say they have **only just started looking for a job**.