

2024 Next Step Year 12 Completers

Destinations of Year 12 completers from 2023 in Queensland

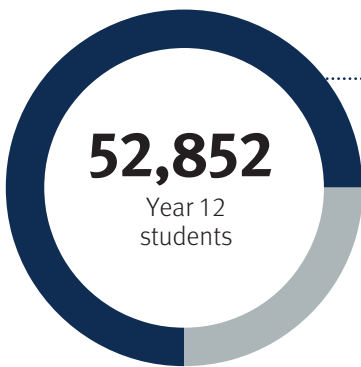
Since 2005, the Department of Education’s **Next Step** survey has captured information about the journey from school to further study and employment for Year 12 completers.

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 between March and June, 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.

2024 Next Step survey

Year 12 students from 2023 were included in the 2024 survey from Queensland schools



39,587
respondents

74.9%
response rate

23,033 State schools

7,997 Catholic schools

8,557 Independent schools

Find out more

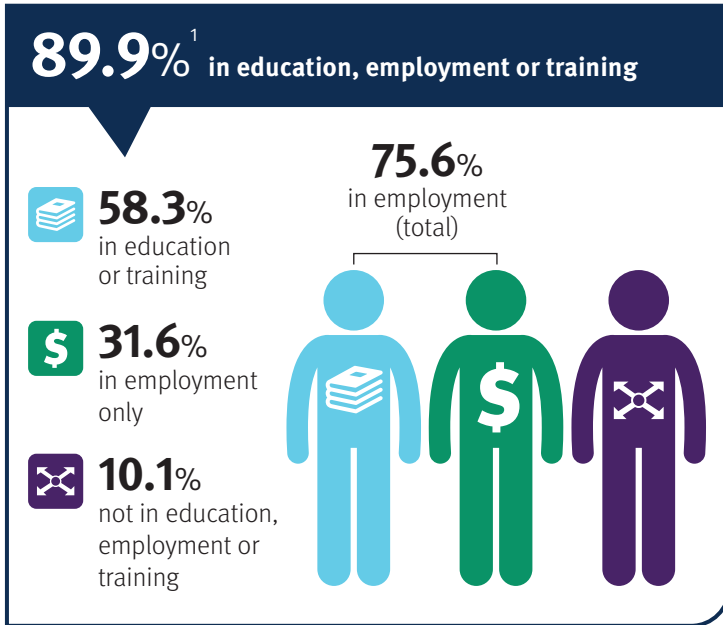


For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/year12completers



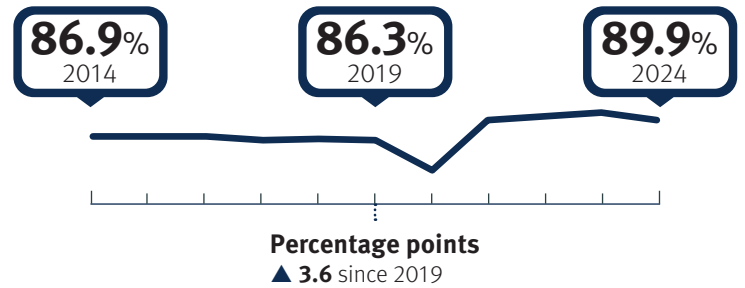
Post-school engagement

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 2024, overall engagement decreased to 89.9%, but remains higher than the pre-COVID (2019) level. Post-school destinations are strongly linked to the health of the broader economy. Since peaking in 2021 during early COVID engagement in study has trended downwards to reach pre-COVID levels whereas engagement in employment remains high in the context of historically low unemployment.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

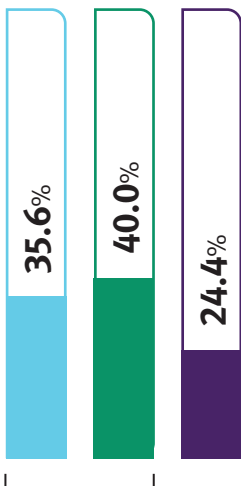


in employment only



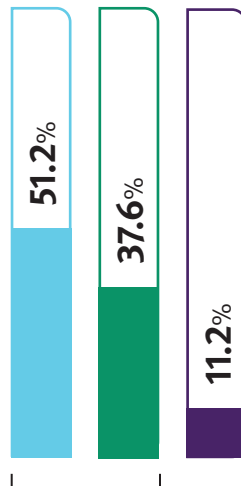
not in education, employment or training

Indigenous



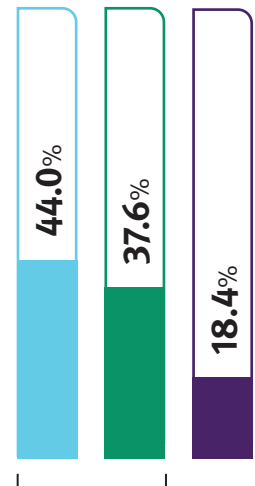
75.6%
of 1,986
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



88.8%
of 12,857
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



81.6%
of 5,871
respondents from
disadvantaged areas⁴
were engaged

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

² The word Indigenous in this document refers to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Comparisons with other groups should be interpreted with caution due to the lower survey response rate for Indigenous persons (63.6%).

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

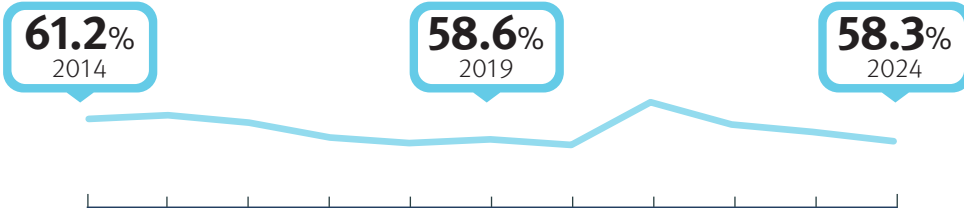
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

Main destination



In education or training

◆ Percentage point change

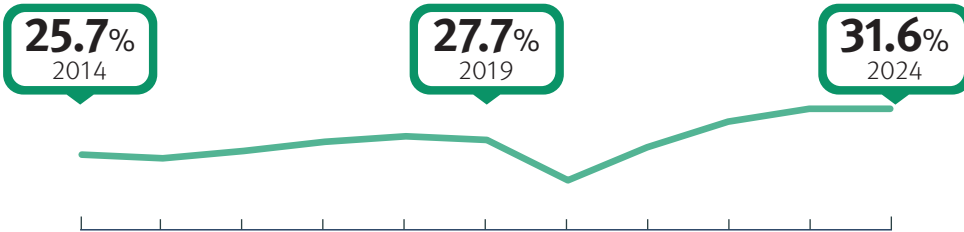


Since peaking in 2021, with the first cohort affected by COVID, engagement in education and training continued to decline to a level in 2024 similar to the pre-COVID norm (58.6% in 2019), with the decrease most evident for those pursuing a Bachelor degree.

Bachelor Degree	38.9%
▼ 1.0 since 2023	
VET Certificate	8.5%
▼ 0.2 since 2023	
Apprenticeship	8.3%
▼ 0.2 since 2023	
Traineeship	2.6%
no change since 2023	



In employment only

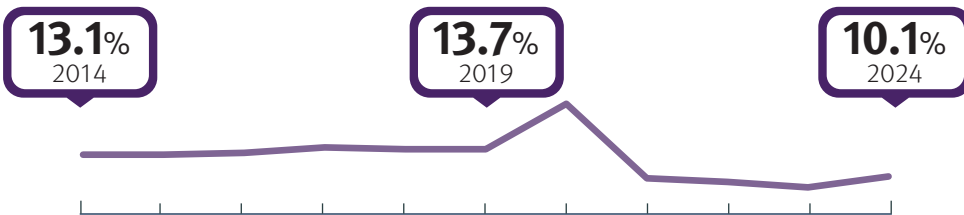


In contrast, engagement in employment only, remained relatively strong, similar to the 2023 levels and above pre-COVID levels. Part-time employment continued to trend upwards while there was a decrease in full-time employment in 2024.

Full-time employment	10.5%
▼ 1.0 since 2023	
Part-time employment	21.1%
▲ 0.9 since 2023	



Not in education, employment or training

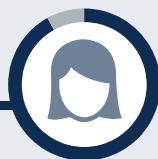


Around 4 in 10 (42.8%) Year 12 completers not in study or work had either deferred a university place and/or were taking a gap year (up 0.7 percentage points since 2023). A further 6.6% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Seeking work	7.4%
▲ 1.2 since 2023	
Not in the labour force, education or training	2.7%
▲ 0.2 since 2023	

Females

91.5% engaged in work or study



More likely than males to be undertaking Bachelor Degree study

44.2% compared to 33.2%

Males

88.2% engaged in work or study



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

14.5% compared to 2.5%

Destination:

Education and training



58.3%

23,075

of Year 12 completers continuing in education or training

▼ 1.3 since 2023

In education or training

Females
60.2%



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

Males
56.3%



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

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

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

Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

69.7%

▼ 0.2 since 2023



TAFE

15.8%

no change since 2023



Private training provider

8.8%

▲ 0.3 since 2023



Other institution

5.7%

▼ 0.1 since 2023

What are they studying?^{5,6}



Health

19.7%
4,552

1,766 Nursing
764 Rehabilitation Therapies
260 Pharmacy



Engineering and Related Technologies

18.5%
4,273

1,056 Electrical & Electronic
658 Mechanical & Industrial
510 Automotive



Society and Culture

16.9%
3,902

1,058 Law
1,017 Behavioural Science
474 Human Welfare



Management and Commerce

13.9%
3,213

1,722 Business & Management
507 Banking & Finance
475 Sales & Marketing

How are they studying?



enrolled in a **double degree**

15.4%



studying **full-time**

72.7%



combining study with paid employment

75.4%

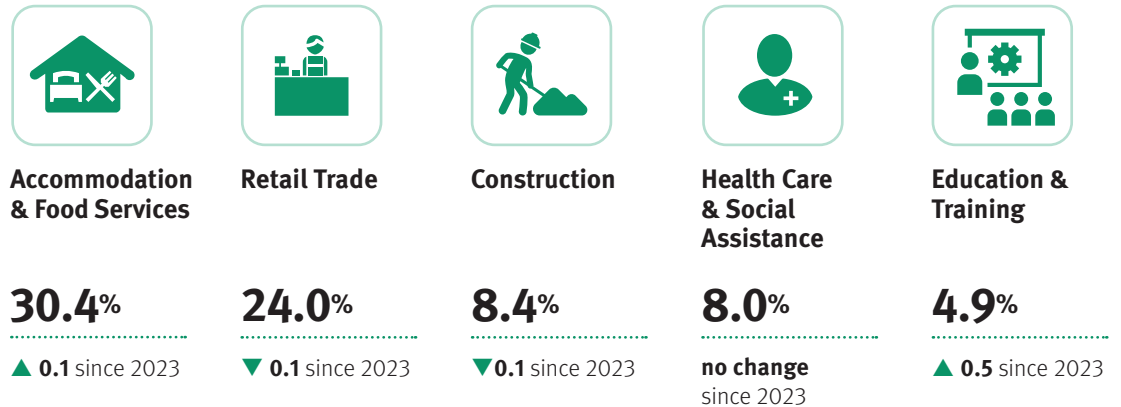
Destination:

Employment (total)

◆ Percentage point change

\$
75.6%
29,911
of Year 12 completers
were in paid employment
▼ **2.3** since 2023

Which industries are they working in?



In paid employment

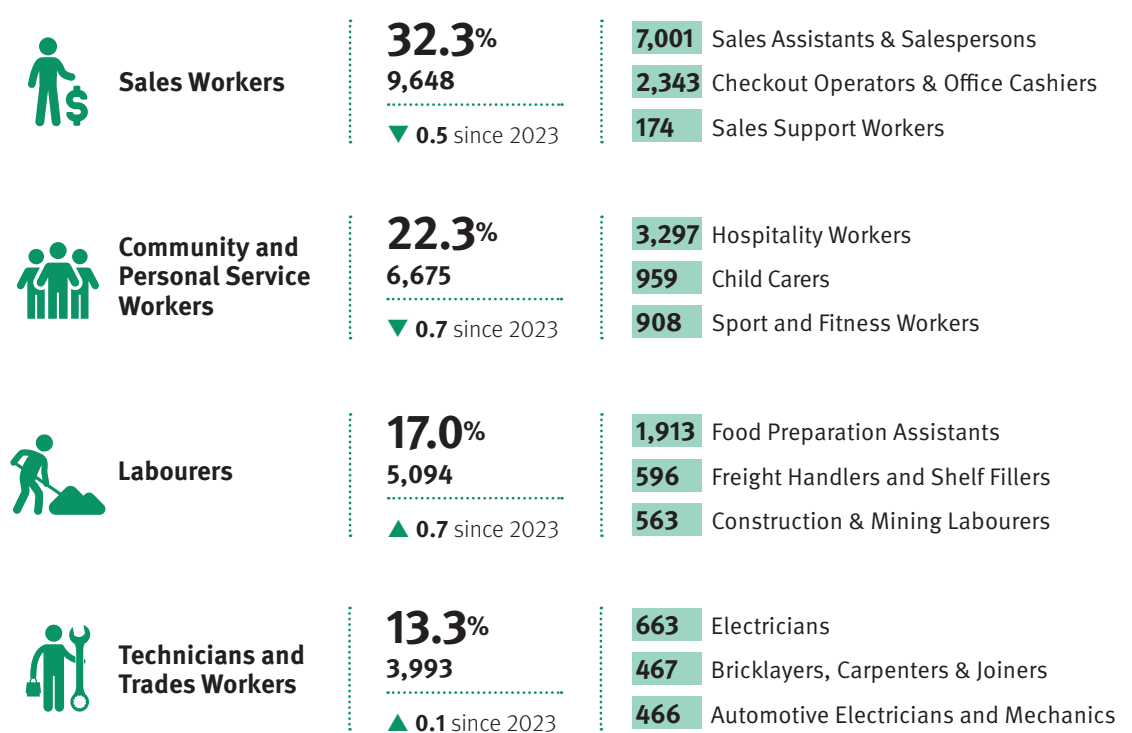
Females
76.9%

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

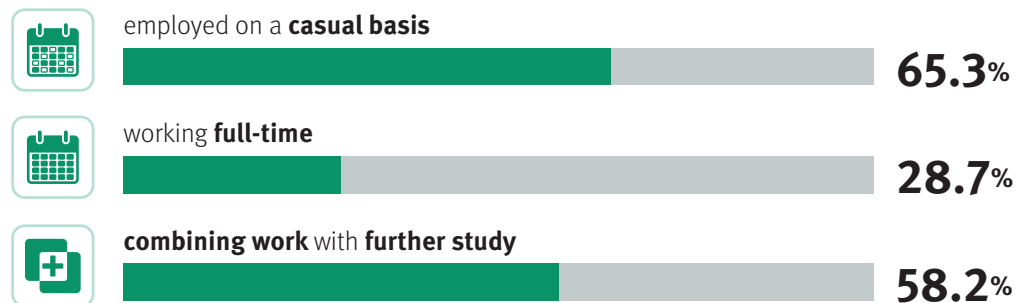
Males
74.1%

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

What jobs are they doing?⁸



How are they working?



⁷ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all Year 12 completers. The 75.6% figure includes 31.6% who were only working and 44.0% 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).

Not in education, employment or training

◆ Percentage point change



10.1%
3,997

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

▲ 1.4 since 2023

Main reason not studying



Wanted a break from study

15.3%

▲ 1.0 since 2023



Undecided and considering options

14.5%

▲ 0.4 since 2023



Not interested/already finished study

12.8%

no change since 2023



Disability

11.0%

▼ 0.5 since 2023



Looking for work, apprenticeship or traineeship

9.3%

▲ 1.0 since 2023

Not in education, training or employment

Females

8.5%



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

Males

11.8%



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

Worked since leaving school



29.5%
1,181

Main reason left previous job

274 Not satisfied with job

116 Was laid off/sacked

188 Temporary/seasonal job

113 Not enough work/unsuitable hours

Taking a gap year



42.0%
1,680

Post-gap priority

610 University study

308 Other study

341 Work

233 Undecided

Received a QTAC offer to study



13.0%
521

Response to offer

340 Deferred

50 Declined

70 Waiting to start

42 Withdrew from course

Not seeking work



27.1%
1,082

Main reason not seeking work

433 Disability or health

108 Waiting for job to start

115 Travel

77 Future study commitment

Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**



72.9%
2,915



Deferred a university offer



8.5%
340



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



10.7%
428



23.3% 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 16.0% say they have **only just started looking for a job.**