

2023 Early School Leavers survey

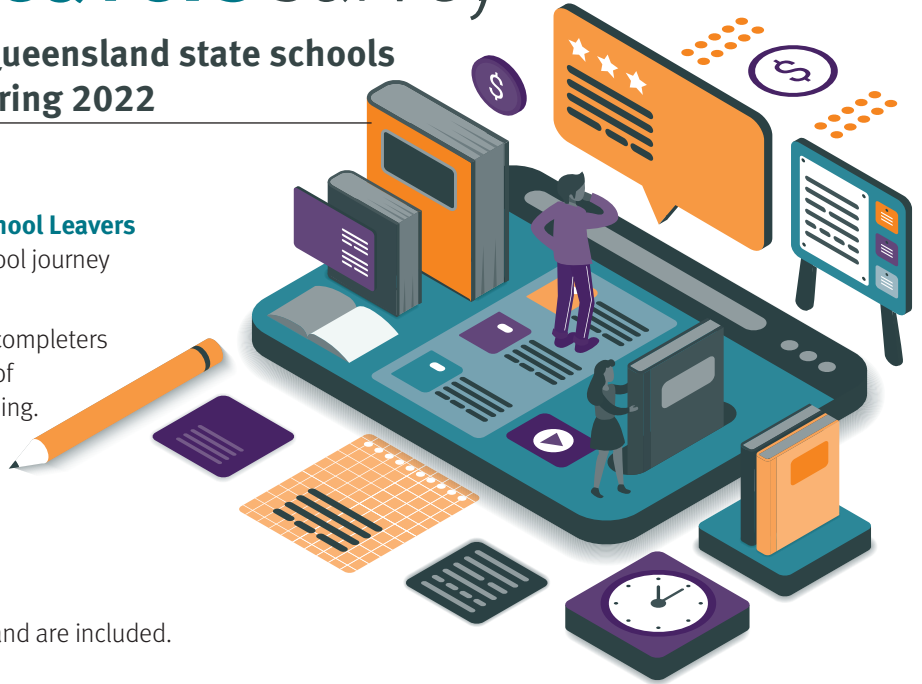
Destinations of students who left Queensland state schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2022

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.

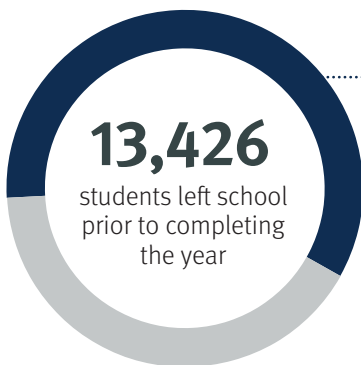
Insights gained from these surveys assist schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

All students who attended State schools in Queensland are included.



2023 Early School Leavers survey

Over 113,414 students were enrolled in Years 10-12 in Queensland state schools at the start of 2022



7981
respondents

59.4%
response rate

2317 left in Year 10

4255 left in Year 11

1409 left in Year 12

Find out more

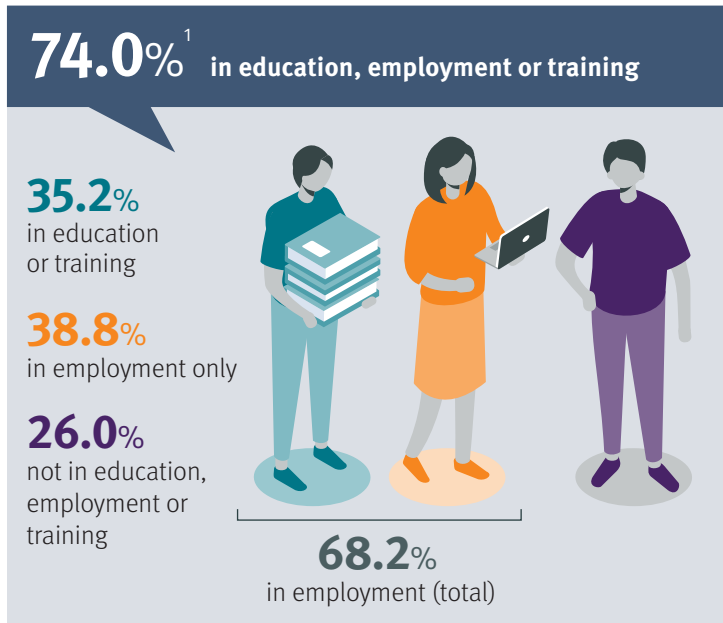


For more information on the survey or to build a customised **Next Step** report for your region visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/earlyschooleavers



Post-school engagement

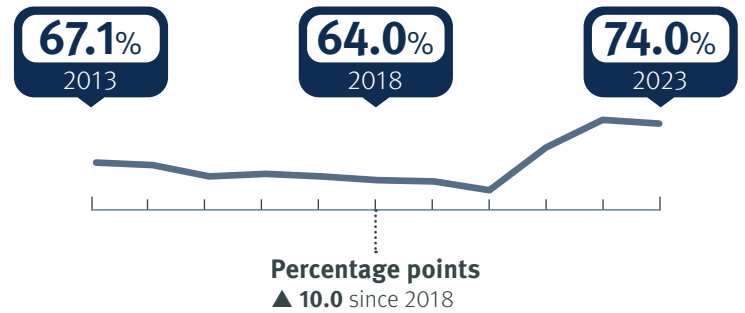
Engagement in education, employment or training



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 2023.

Overall engagement of early school leavers remained at a high level in 2023 with almost three-quarters engaged in work or further study.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

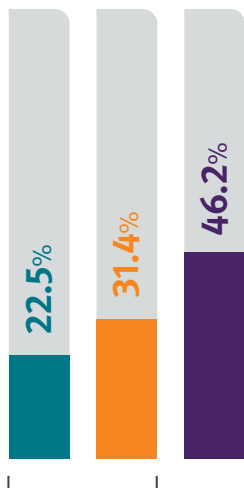


in employment only



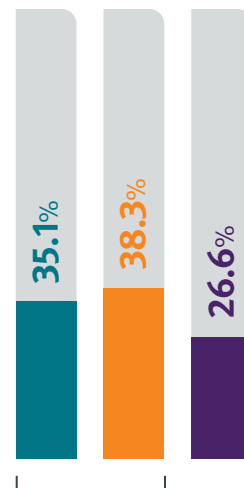
not in education, employment or training

Indigenous



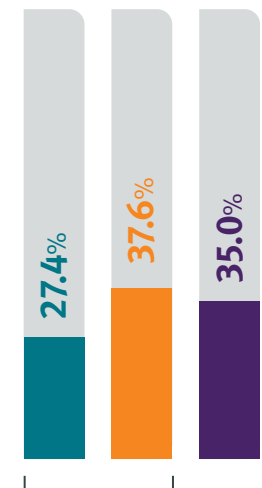
53.8%
of 1122
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



73.4%
of 3742
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



65.0%
of 2260
respondents from
disadvantaged areas⁴
were engaged

¹ Percentages in this report have been rounded to one decimal point. For this reason, sum components may not exactly equal sub-totals or 100%.

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 (45.1%).

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

◆ Percentage point change

Why are they leaving?

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

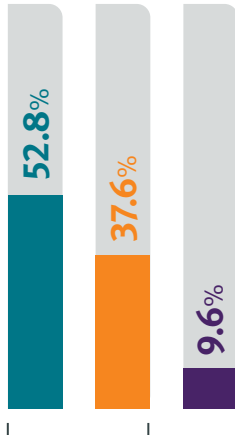
To get a job/apprenticeship



28.6%

2283 respondents

▲ 2.4 since 2022



90.4% engaged

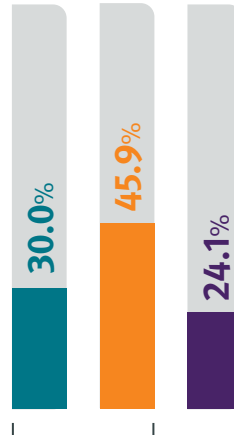
Did not like school



16.7%

1336 respondents

▼ 2.9 since 2022



75.9% engaged

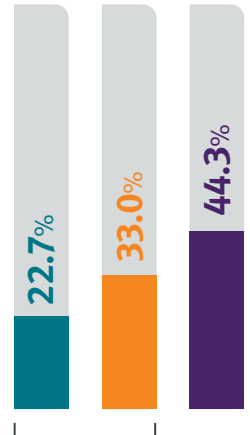
Health reasons



9.8%

783 respondents

▼ 1.9 since 2022



55.7% engaged

Behaviour of other students disrupted my study



9.5%

757 respondents

▲ 0.8 since 2022



68.3% engaged

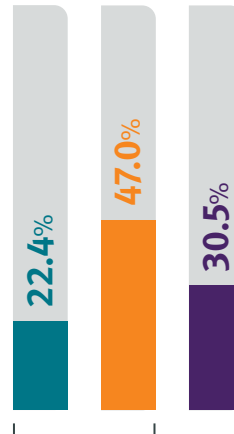
Difficult academically



6.4%

508 respondents

▼ 0.8 since 2022



69.5% engaged

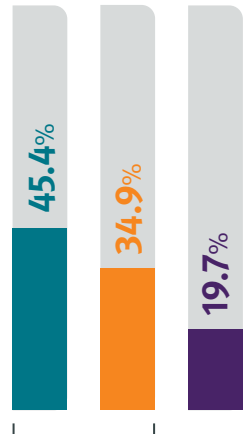
Study options did not meet my needs



6.1%

487 respondents

▼ 0.9 since 2022



80.3% engaged

Females

71.5% in education, training or employment



More likely than males to leave school due to the behaviour of other students;

14.9% compared to 5.8%

Males

75.7% in education, training or employment



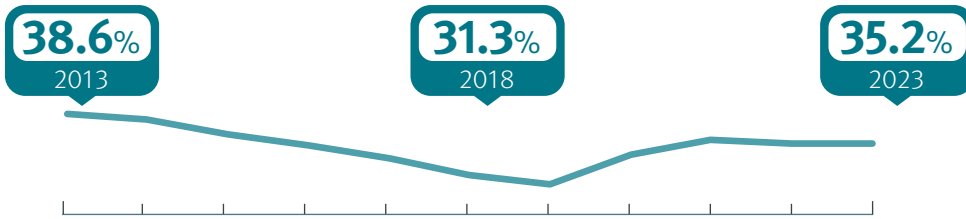
More likely than females to leave school to get a job/apprenticeship;

36.7% compared to 16.9%

Main destination

In education or training

◆ Percentage point change



Apprenticeships and **traineeships** were the most common destination for early school leavers undertaking further study (18.7% and 4.7% respectively). Overall engagement in education or training remained at a similar level as last year, up 0.2 percentage points.

Females

32.7%



More likely than males to be undertaking campus-based study
19.8% compared to 6.3%

Males

36.9%



More likely than females to be undertaking employment-based training as an apprentice
27.6% compared to 5.8%

Bachelor Degree

▼ 0.1 since 2022

0.4%

VET Certificate IV+

▼ 0.1 since 2022

2.8%

VET Certificate III

▼ 0.5 since 2022

3.7%

VET Certificate I-II/other

▲ 0.2 since 2022

3.5%

Apprenticeship

▼ 0.5 since 2022

18.7%

Traineeship

▲ 0.5 since 2022

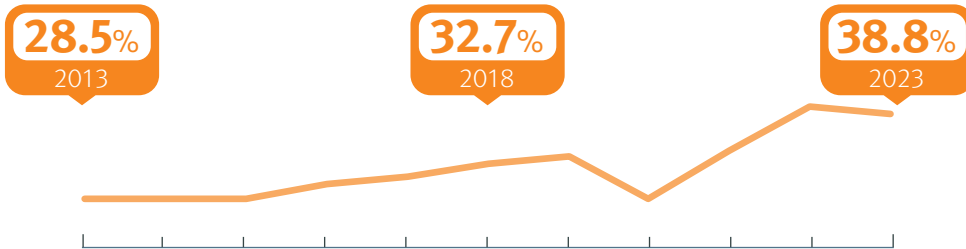
4.7%

Secondary study

▲ 0.6 since 2022

1.4%

In employment only



Entering directly into employment while not undertaking further study continued to be a common pathway for almost 40% of early school leavers. While there was a small shift from full-time to part-time employment, the overall high engagement in employment reflected the relatively strong labour market conditions in the post-COVID period.

Full-time employment

▼ 2.0 since 2022

17.5%

Part-time employment

▲ 1.1 since 2022

21.3%

Not in education, employment or training



Seeking work

▲ 1.1 since 2022

16.5%

Not in the labour force, education or training

▼ 0.4 since 2022

9.6%

While there were 2077 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 46.1% of these have had a job since leaving school and 11.8% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Destination:

Education and training

◆ Percentage point change

35.2%
2809

of early school leavers continuing in education or training

▲ 0.2 since 2022



Where are they studying?



University

2.8%

▼ 1.5 since 2022

TAFE

46.1%

▼ 3.9 since 2022

Private training provider

28.2%

▼ 2.4 since 2022

Other institution

22.9%

▲ 7.7 since 2022

In education or training

Females

32.7%



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

26.5% compared to 8.0%

Males

36.9%



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

38.5% compared to 3.8%

What are they studying?⁵



Engineering and Related Technologies

25.3%
711

289 Automotive
167 Mechanical & Industrial
125 Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and Building

18.0%
505

491 Building
14 Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and Personal Services

15.0%
422

225 Personal Services
197 Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

7.2%
203

141 Human Welfare
26 Sport & Recreation

How are they studying?



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

66.5%



studying **part-time**

84.7%



combining study with **paid employment**

83.5%

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

Destination:

Employment (total)

◆ Percentage point change

68.2%

5441

of early school leavers were in paid employment

▼ 1.1 since 2022



Which industries are they working in?



Accommodation & Food Services

21.5%

▲ 0.2 since 2022



Construction

21.5%

▼ 1.1 since 2022



Retail Trade

14.3%

▲ 0.2 since 2022



Manufacturing

9.5%

▲ 0.2 since 2022



Health Care & Social Assistance

6.2%

▲ 1.0 since 2022

In paid employment

Females

62.4%



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

29.4% compared to 4.1%

Males

72.2%



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

41.3% compared to 10.7%

What jobs are they doing?⁷



Technicians and Trades Workers

29.9%

1627

No change since 2022

268 Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners

231 Auto Electricians & Mechanics

170 Food Trades Workers



Labourers

28.3%

1540

▼ 1.3 since 2022

408 Construction & Mining Labourers

260 Food Preparation Assistants

172 Farm Workers



Sales Workers

18.5%

1007

▼ 0.7 since 2022

623 Sales Assistants & Salespersons

364 Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers



Community and Personal Service Workers

13.6%

738

▲ 1.8 since 2022

326 Hospitality Workers

168 Child Carers

125 Personal Carers & Assistants

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

41.6%



working **full-time**

57.5%



combining work with further study

43.1%

⁶ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 68.2% figure includes 38.8% who were only working and 29.4% 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

26.0%
2027

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

▲ 0.7 since 2022

Main reason not studying



Not interested/
already finished
study

19.9%

▲ 0.5 since 2022



Undecided and
considering
options

13.7%

▲ 1.5 since 2022



Health reasons

13.1%

▼ 1.8 since 2022



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

9.8%

▼ 0.1 since 2022



Disability

8.2%

▲ 0.9 since 2022

Not in education, training or employment

Females

28.5%



More likely than
males to have health
reasons or parenting
commitments

Males

24.3%



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

Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



Transport
difficulties

13.9%

▲ 2.9 since 2022



Health reasons

13.2%

▲ 1.0 since 2022



Only just started
looking for a job

10.7%

▼ 0.7 since 2022



Not trying
very hard

10.7%

▲ 0.9 since 2022



Not enough
jobs available

10.1%

▲ 1.6 since 2022

Worked since leaving school



46.1%
957

Main reason left previous job

239 Not satisfied with the job

143 Got laid off/sacked

142 Health reasons

110 Seasonal/temporary job

Not seeking work



36.8%
764

Main reason not seeking work

207 Health reasons

125 Disability

74 Accepted job that starts later

53 Future study commitments

Where to from here?



Are **seeking work**



63.2%



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



12.3%