

2024 Early School Leavers report

Destinations of students who left Queensland schools in Years 10, 11 or early in Year 12 during 2023

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

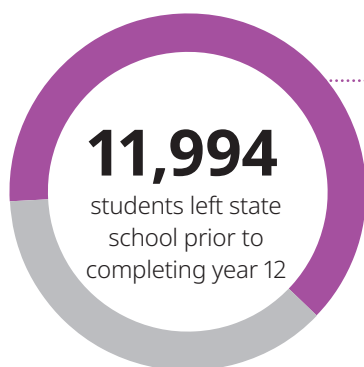
This survey is a companion to the survey of Year 12 completers and together they provide a comprehensive picture of students in the year following the end of their schooling.

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.

2024 State School Leavers survey

Over 115,000 students were enrolled in
Years 10-12 in Queensland state schools
at the start of 2023



7,609
respondents

63.4%
response rate

2471 left in Year 10
3970 left in Year 11
1168 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/earllyschoollleavers

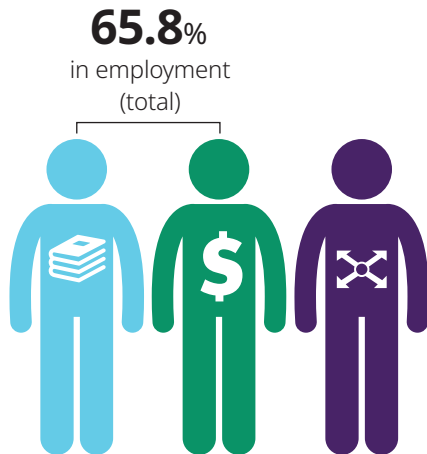
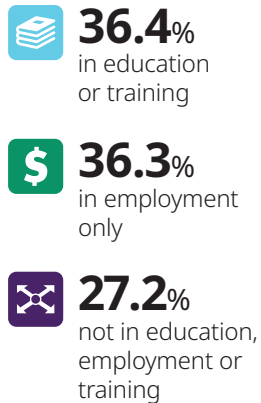


**Queensland
Government**

Post-school engagement

Engagement in education, employment or training

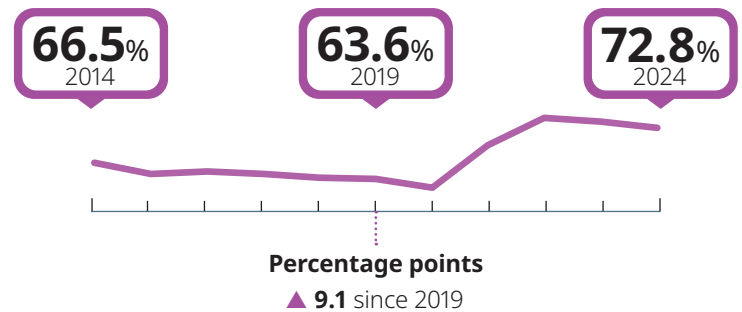
72.8%¹ in education, employment or training



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 2024.

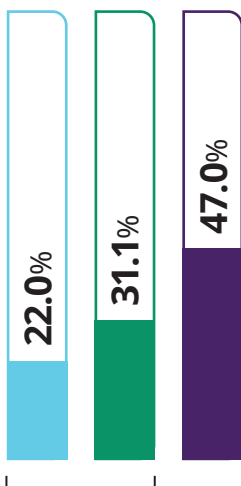
Overall engagement of early school leavers remains high with over 7 in 10 engaged in work or further study.



Engagement by subgroups

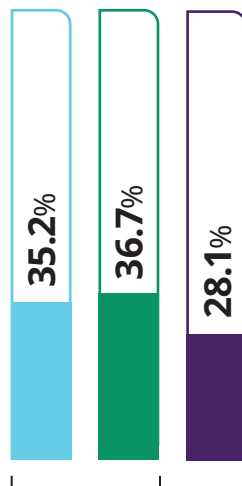


Indigenous



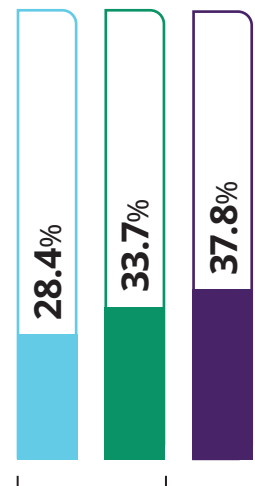
53.0%
of 1111
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

Regional and Remote



71.9%
of 3865
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



62.2%
of 2250
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 (49.3%).

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

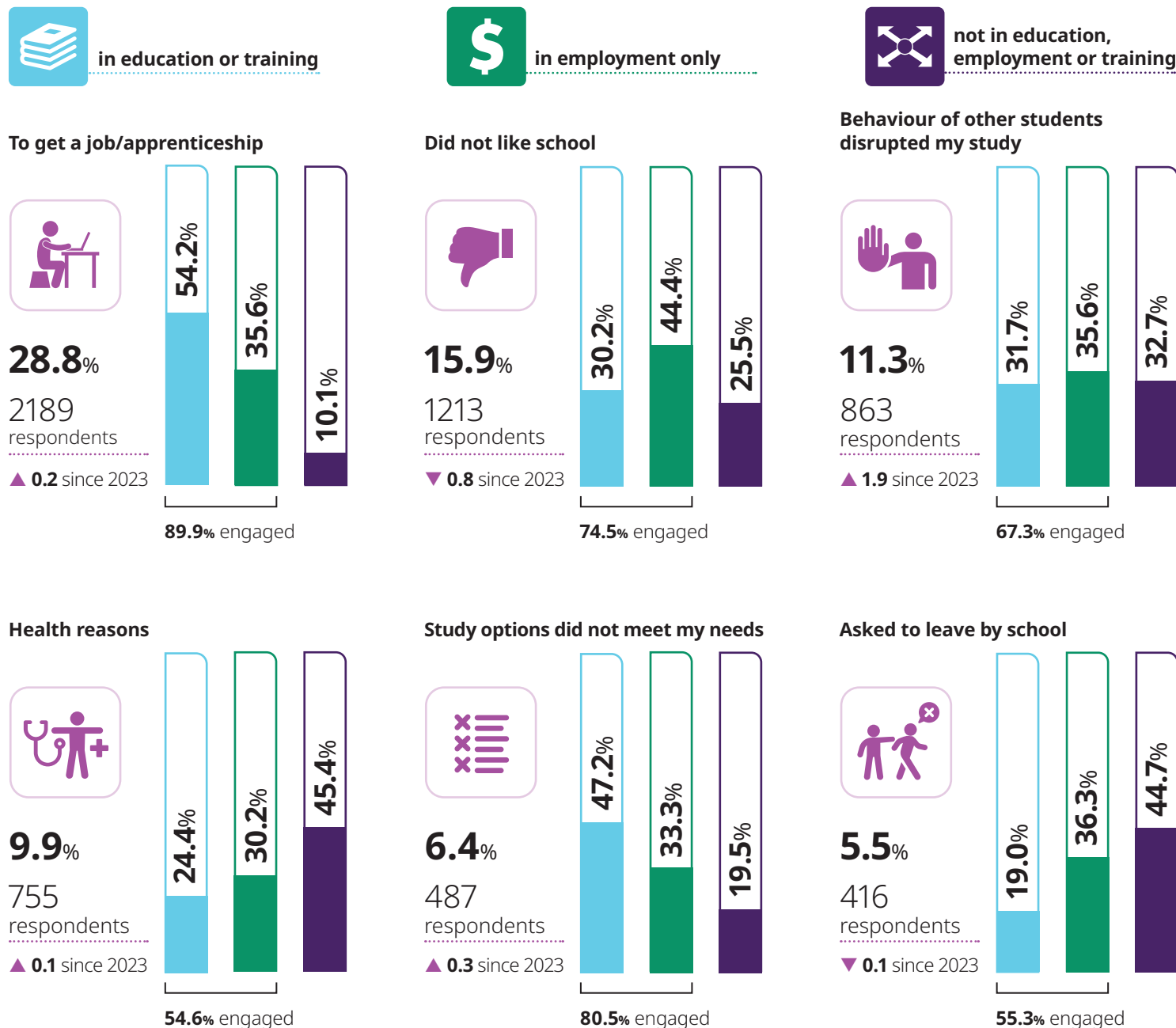
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

Post-school engagement

Why are they leaving?

◆ Percentage point change

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



Females

72.4% in education, training or employment

More likely than males to leave school due to disruptive behaviour of other students; **17.3% compared to 7.1%**

Males

73.0% in education, training or employment

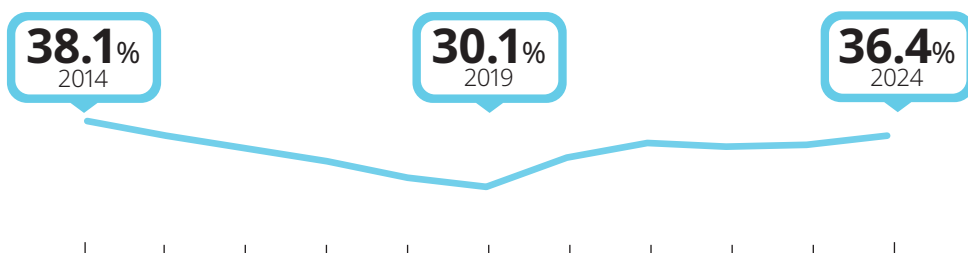
More likely than females to leave school to get a job/apprenticeship; **37.0% compared to 17.3%**

Main destination



In education or training

Percentage point change



Between 2023 and 2024 there was an overall increase in education and training, mostly in the VET certificate III and IV+ categories, while **apprenticeships**, which is the largest group, has decreased slightly from 18.7% to 17.8%.

Females
35.9%



More likely than males to be undertaking campus-based study
23.2% compared to 7.3%

Males
36.8%



More likely than females to be undertaking employment-based training as an apprentice
26.6% compared to 5.5%

Bachelor Degree 0.5%

▲ 0.1 since 2023

VET Certificate IV+ 3.7%

▲ 0.9 since 2023

VET Certificate III 4.5%

▲ 0.9 since 2023

VET Certificate I-II/other 3.4%

▼ 0.1 since 2023

Apprenticeship 17.8%

▼ 0.8 since 2023

Traineeship 4.7%

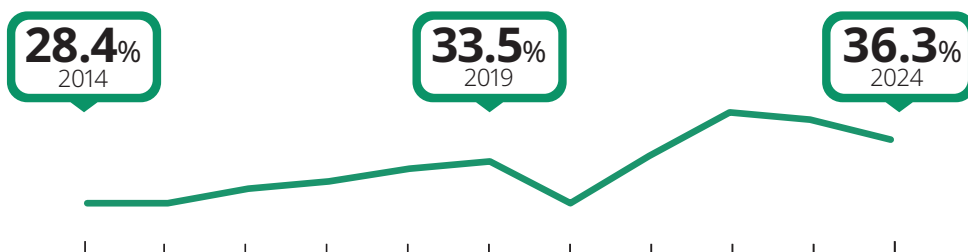
▼ 0.1 since 2023

Secondary study 1.8%

▲ 0.4 since 2023



In employment only



The proportion of early school leavers in **employment only** continues to fall from the post pandemic high in 2022, but is still above pre-pandemic levels.

Full-time employment 15.2%

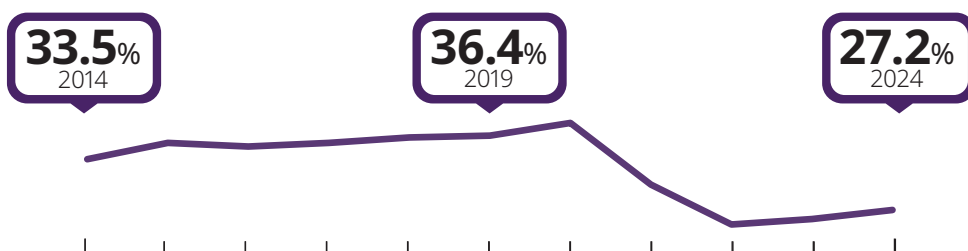
▼ 2.3 since 2023

Part-time employment 21.1%

▼ 0.2 since 2023



Not in education, employment or training



Seeking work 18.3%

▲ 1.9 since 2023

Not in the labour force, education or training 8.9%

▼ 0.7 since 2023

While there were 2073 early school leavers who were not engaged in work or study at the time of the survey, 40.7% of these have had a job since leaving school and 10.7% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Education and training



36.4%
2772
of early school leavers
continuing in education
or training

▲ 1.2 since 2023

In education or training

Females
35.9%



More likely than
males to study in the field
of Food, Hospitality and
Personal Services
22.8% compared to 7.4%

Males
36.8%



More likely than
females to study in the field
of Engineering and Related
Technologies
37.5% compared to 2.9%

Where are they studying?

◆ Percentage point change



University

3.4%

▲ 0.6 since 2023



TAFE

47.6%

▲ 1.5 since 2023



Private training provider

26.7%

▼ 1.5 since 2023



Other institution

22.3%

▼ 0.7 since 2023

What are they studying?⁵



Engineering and
Related Technologies

23.3%
647

- 257 Automotive
- 151 Mechanical & Industrial
- 118 Electrical & Electronic



Architecture and
Building

15.4%
427

- 409 Building
- 18 Architecture & Urban Environment



Food, Hospitality and
Personal Services

13.7%
380

- 222 Personal Services
- 158 Food & Hospitality



Society and Culture

7.0%
193

- 130 Human Welfare
- 22 Sport & Recreation
- 14 Justice & Law Enforcement

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**

61.8%



studying **part-time**

81.1%



combining study with **paid employment**

80.8%

Destination:

Employment



65.8%⁶

5003

of early school leavers
were in paid employment

▼ 2.4 since 2023

Which industries are they working in?

Percentage point change



**Accommodation
& Food Services**

21.9%

▲ 0.4 since 2023



Construction

21.1%

▼ 0.4 since 2023



Retail Trade

13.9%

▼ 0.4 since 2023



Manufacturing

9.8%

▲ 0.3 since 2023



**Health Care
& Social
Assistance**

6.9%

▲ 0.7 since 2023

In paid employment

**Females
62.0%**



More likely than
males to be working as
Sales Workers

34.8% compared to 10.9%

**Males
68.4%**



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

42.8% compared to 10.1%

What jobs are they doing?⁷



**Technicians and
Trades Workers**

30.0%
1499

▲ 0.1 since 2023

- 226 Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners
- 199 Auto Electricians & Mechanics
- 147 Fabrication Engineering Trades Workers



Labourers

27.2%
1362

▼ 1.1 since 2023

- 359 Construction & Mining Labourers
- 292 Food Preparation Assistants
- 116 Factory Process Workers



Sales Workers

20.2%
1013

▲ 1.7 since 2023

- 647 Sales Assistants & Salespersons
- 340 Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers



**Community and
Personal Service
Workers**

13.5%
674

▼ 0.1 since 2023

- 294 Hospitality Workers
- 169 Child Carers
- 118 Personal Carers & Assistants

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

44.6%



working **full-time**

54.6%



combining work with further study

44.8%

⁶ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all early school leavers. The 65.8% figure includes 36.3% 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



27.2%
2073

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

▲ 1.2 since 2023

Main reason not studying

Percentage point change



Not interested/
already finished
study

18.6%

▼ 1.3 since 2023



Undecided and
considering
options

15.8%

▲ 2.1 since 2023



Health reasons

13.1%

▼ 0.1 since 2023



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

10.0%

▲ 0.2 since 2023



Disability

8.1%

▼ 0.1 since 2023

Not in education, training or employment

Females

27.6%



More likely than
males to be undecided
about further study or have
parenting commitments

Males

27.0%



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

Why are they unsuccessful finding a job?



Transport
difficulties

12.5%

▼ 1.5 since 2023



Health reasons

12.3%

▼ 0.9 since 2023



Not enough
jobs available

10.8%

▲ 0.7 since 2023



Not enough
job experience

10.3%

▲ 2.7 since 2023



Not trying
very hard

10.3%

▼ 0.4 since 2023

Worked since leaving school



40.7%
843

Main reason left previous job

193 Not satisfied with the job
126 Got laid off/sacked

112 Seasonal/temporary job
102 Health reasons

Not seeking work



32.7%
678

Main reason not seeking work

192 Health reasons
108 Disability

56 Future study commitments
55 Family commitments -
pregnancy/parenting

Where to from here?



Are seeking work

67.3%



Are waiting for employment or study to commence

11.0%