

2025 Next Step Year 12 Completers

Destinations of Year 12 completers from 2024 in Queensland

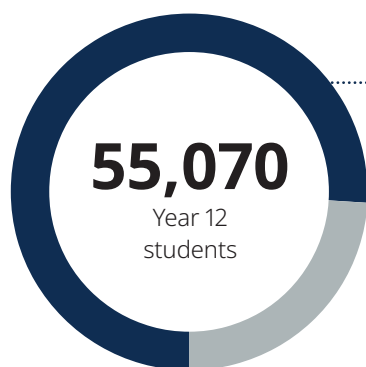
Since 2005, the Department of Education's **Next Step** survey has captured information about the journey from school to further study and employment for Year 12 completers.

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.

2025 Next Step survey

Year 12 students from 2024 were included in the 2025 survey from Queensland schools



42,077
respondents

76.4%
response rate

24,184 State schools

8,291 Catholic schools

9,602 Independent schools

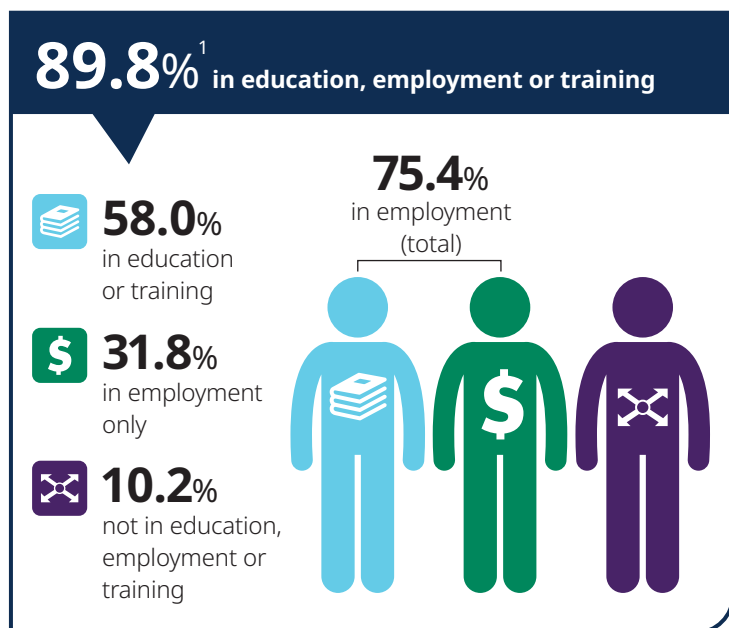
Find out more



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

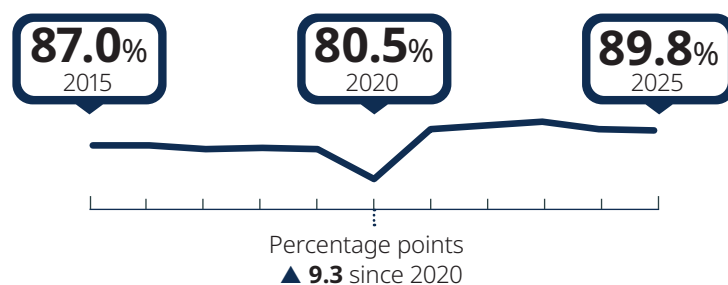
Post-school engagement

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 2025, overall engagement remains high at 89.8%. Post-school destinations are strongly linked to the health of the broader economy. Since peaking in 2021 during the uncertainty of the pandemic, engagement in study has trended downwards whereas engagement in employment remains high in the context of positive labour market conditions.



Engagement by subgroups



in education or training

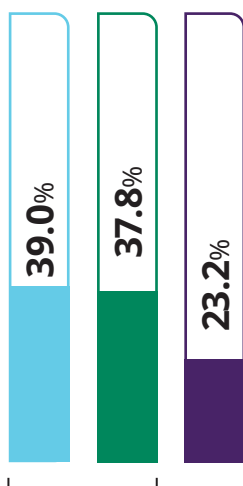


in employment only



not in education, employment or training

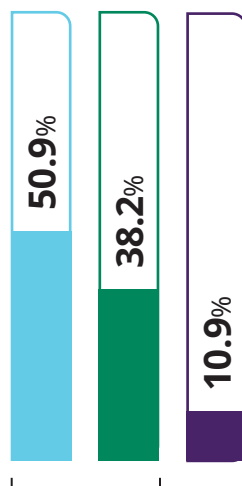
Indigenous



76.8%

of 2,356
Indigenous respondents²
were engaged

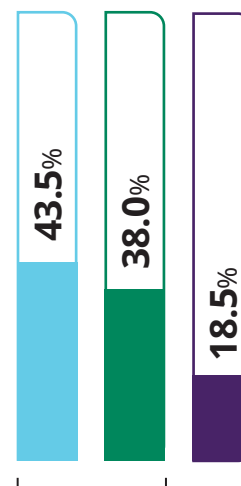
Regional and Remote



89.1%

of 13,265
regional and remote
respondents³ were engaged

Disadvantaged



81.5%

of 6,122
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 (66.4%).

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

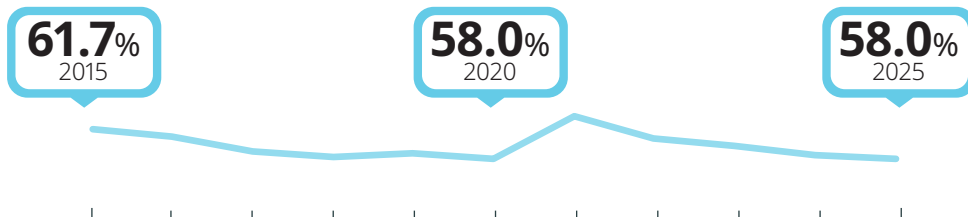
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Queensland, Quintile 1, area based).

Main destination



In education or training

Percentage point change



Since peaking in 2021, during the uncertainty of the pandemic, engagement in study has trended downwards to the same level as 2020. In 2025, the slight increase in the proportion of those pursuing a Bachelor degree was offset by small falls in participation across other study categories.

Bachelor Degree	39.2%
▲ 0.3 since 2024	
VET Certificate	8.4%
▼ 0.1 since 2024	
Apprenticeship	8.1%
▼ 0.2 since 2024	
Traineeship	2.3%
▼ 0.3 since 2024	



In employment only

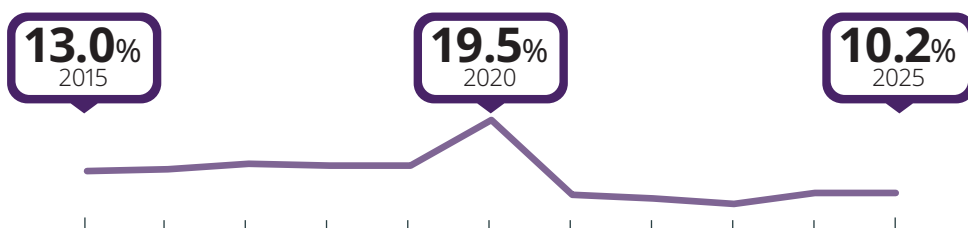


Engagement in employment only, remained relatively strong, similar to the 2024 level with full-time employment recording an increase while there was a slight decrease in part-time employment in 2025.

Full-time employment	10.8%
▲ 0.3 since 2024	
Part-time employment	21.0%
▼ 0.1 since 2024	



Not in education, employment or training



Around 4 in 10 (43.3%) Year 12 completers not in study or work had either deferred a university place and/or were taking a gap year (up 0.5 percentage points since 2024). A further 8.0% were waiting for a job or study course to begin.

Seeking work	7.4%
No change since 2024	
Not in the labour force, education or training	2.8%
▲ 0.1 since 2024	

Females

91.4% engaged in work or study



More likely than males to be undertaking Bachelor Degree study

44.6% compared to 33.5%

Males

88.1% engaged in work or study



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

14.0% compared to 2.5%

Destination:

Education and training



58.0%
24,399
of Year 12 completers
continuing in education
or training

▼ 0.3 since 2024

In education or training

Females
60.1%



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

Males
55.7%



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

70.8%

▲ 1.1 since 2024



TAFE

15.2%

▼ 0.6 since 2024



Private training provider

8.6%

▼ 0.2 since 2024



Other institution

5.4%

▼ 0.2 since 2024

What are they studying?^{5,6}



Health

20.5%
4,997

1,986 Nursing
890 Rehabilitation Therapies
289 Pharmacy



Engineering and
Related Technologies

19.3%
4,699

1,207 Electrical & Electronic
746 Mechanical & Industrial
519 Automotive



Society and Culture

17.2%
4,192

1,162 Law
1,094 Behavioural Science
514 Human Welfare



Management
and Commerce

13.9%
3,386

1,759 Business & Management
532 Banking & Finance
464 Sales & Marketing

How are they studying?



enrolled in a double degree

15.3%



studying full-time

73.2%



combining study with paid employment

75.2%

Destination:

Employment (total)



75.4%⁷
31,738

of Year 12 completers
were in paid employment

▼ 0.1 since 2024

In paid employment

Females
76.5%



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

Males
74.3%



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

⁷ This section examines the labour market outcomes for all Year 12 completers. The 75.4% figure includes 31.8% who were only working and 43.6% 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).

Which industries are they working in?

Percentage point change



Accommodation
& Food Services

30.5%

▲ 0.1 since 2024



Retail Trade

23.5%

▼ 0.5 since 2024



Construction

8.9%

▲ 0.5 since 2024



Health Care
& Social
Assistance

8.0%

no change
since 2024



Education &
Training

5.2%

▲ 0.3 since 2024

What jobs are they doing?⁸



Sales Workers

31.9%
10,137

▼ 0.3 since 2024

7,463 Sales Assistants & Salespersons
2,278 Checkout Operators & Office Cashiers
277 Sales Support Workers



Community and
Personal Service
Workers

22.7%
7,209

▲ 0.4 since 2024

3,669 Hospitality Workers
1,021 Sport and Fitness Workers
962 Child Carers



Labourers

17.8%
5,636

▲ 0.7 since 2024

2,169 Food Preparation Assistants
708 Construction & Mining Labourers
569 Freight Handlers and Shelf Fillers



Technicians and
Trades Workers

12.9%
4,102

▼ 0.4 since 2024

764 Electricians
492 Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners
487 Automotive Electricians and Mechanics

How are they working?



employed on a **casual basis**

67.9%



working **full-time**

28.7%



combining work with **further study**

57.8%

Destination:

Not in education, employment or training



10.2%
4,297

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

▲ 0.1 since 2024

Main reason not studying

Percentage point change



Undecided and
considering
options

14.2%

▼ 0.3 since 2024



Wanted a break
from study

13.1%

▼ 2.3 since 2024



Not interested/
already finished
study

12.4%

▼ 0.5 since 2024



Disability

10.5%

▼ 0.4 since 2024



Looking for work,
apprenticeship
or traineeship

10.5%

▲ 1.2 since 2024

Not in education, training or employment

Females

8.6%



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

Males

11.9%



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

Worked since leaving school



29.2%
1,256

Main reason left previous job

311

Not satisfied with job

133

Not enough work/unsuitable hours

219

Temporary/seasonal job

117

Got laid off/sacked

Taking a gap year



42.3%
1,818

Post-gap priority

629

Bachelor degree study

340

Other study

403

Work

243

Undecided

Received a QTAC offer to study



13.7%
590

Response to offer

342

Deferred

67

Withdrew from course

105

Waiting to start

58

Declined

Not seeking work



27.5%
1,180

Main reason not seeking work

442

Disability or health

121

Waiting for job to start

132

Future study commitments

96

Travel

Where to from here?



Are seeking work

72.5%
3,117



Deferred a university offer

8.0%
342



Are waiting for employment or study to commence

13.9%
599



21.5% 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 **15.8%** say there are **not enough jobs available**.