

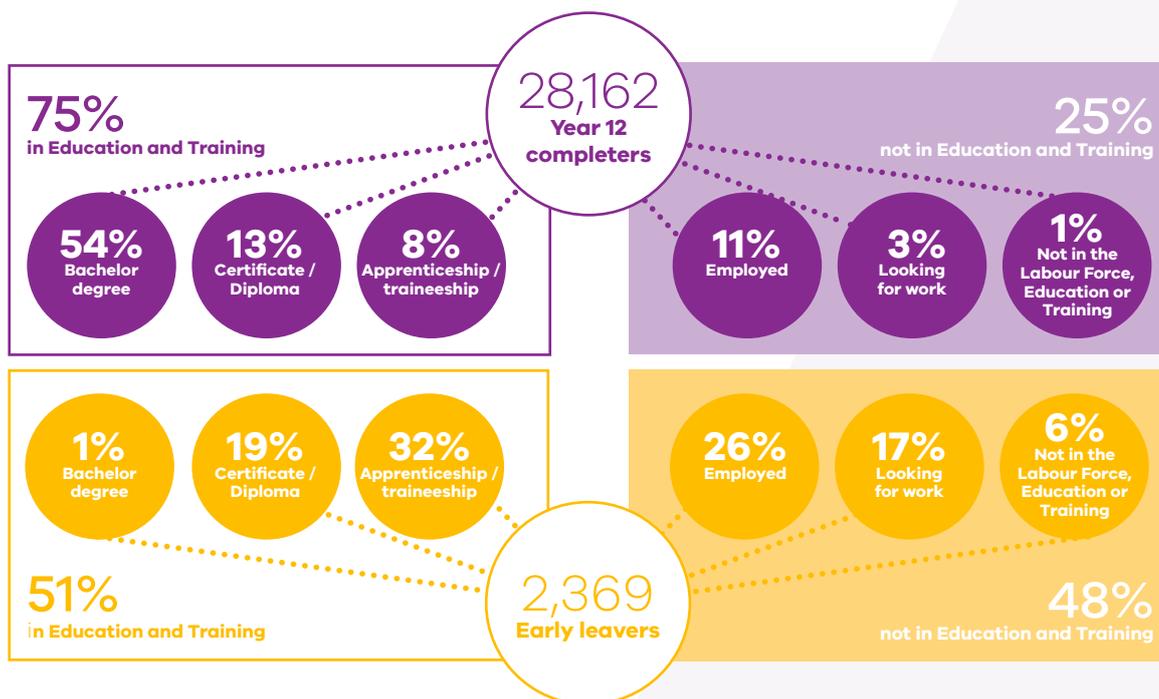
On Track 2017: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

About the study

Since 2003 the annual On Track survey has been tracking destinations of students who finish Year 12 and those who leave early. Between May and June 2017, the Department surveyed students who completed Year 12 or equivalent in Victorian schools (a large majority), TAFE colleges or adult and community learning organisations in 2016 and students who had left school in Years 10, 11 or 12. More than 28,000 Year 12 completers responded (just under 50 per cent of the Year 12 cohort) and around 2,400 early leavers (2,369 or 27 per cent of the early leaver cohort).

There are consistent patterns of post school destinations for Year 12 completers and early leavers

- ▼ Three-quarters of Year 12 completers were in education or training six months after finishing secondary school, compared with just over half of the early leavers. While these proportions fluctuate from year to year (decreasing for both groups in 2017), the general trend is consistent, that completing Year 12 increases the likelihood of pursuing further education and training opportunities.
- ▼ Similar to previous years, the preferred destination for most Year 12 completers is a bachelor degree and an apprenticeship or traineeship for early leavers. Those who leave school early have a greater tendency to enter the labour market, either employed or looking for work, than those who complete Year 12. Higher proportions of early leavers are 'not in the labour force, education or training' (NILFET) – 6 per cent when compared with only 1 per cent of Year 12 completers.



Data relating to total proportions of Year 12 completers does not include students who had deferred tertiary study (10% in 2017). This may differ to previous reports.

Proportions by category (Year 12 completers, early leavers) may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

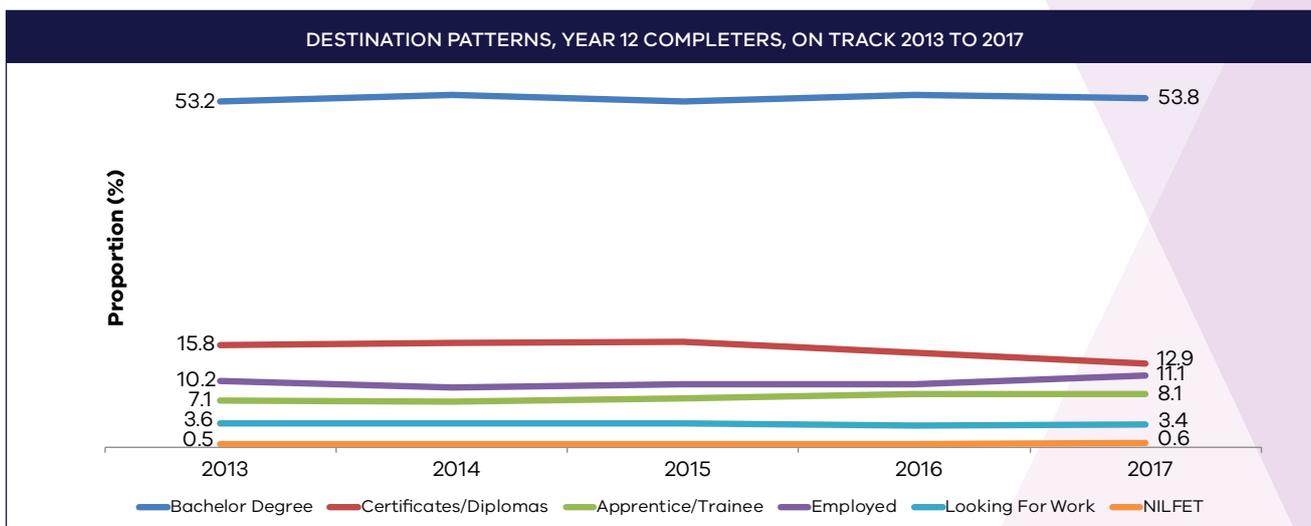


The majority of year 12 completers continue on to higher level qualifications, however there have been slight changes in other destinations

▼ Over half the students who complete Year 12 commence a bachelor degree in the year following school. The figure for 2017, 54 per cent, is consistent with previous years. However there has been a decrease in the proportion of Year 12 completers studying at a certificate or diploma level. In 2017, this proportion was the lowest over the past five

years, dropping from 16 per cent in 2015 to 13 per cent.

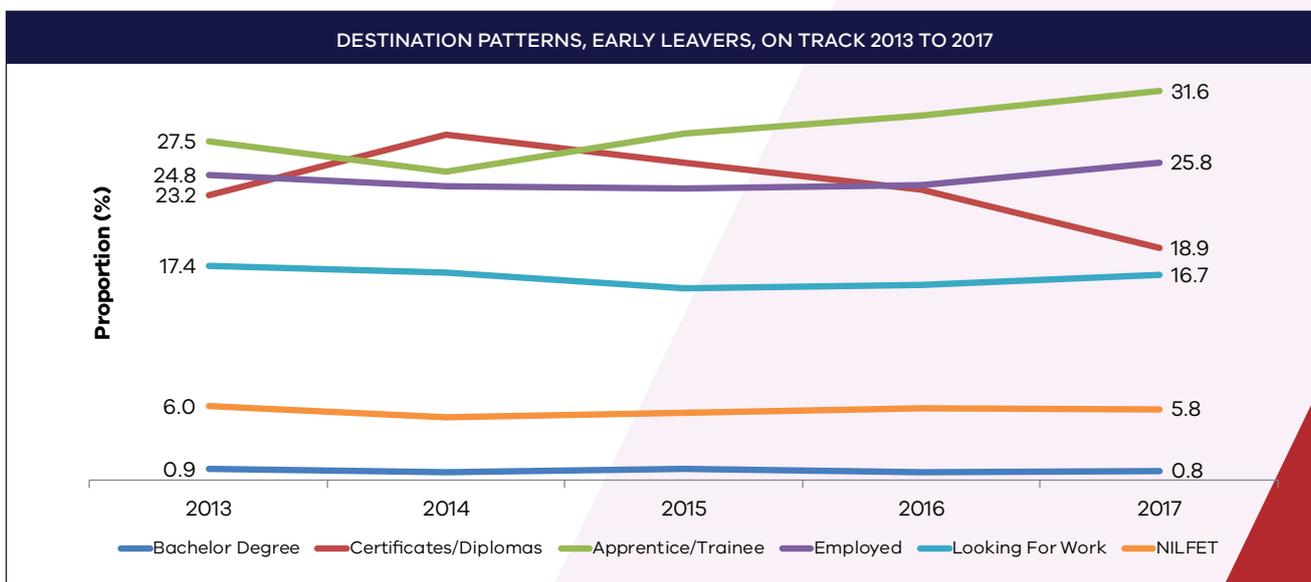
▼ Over the past year there has also been an increase in Year 12 completers entering employment in their post school year, with a higher increase in those in part time work.



Fewer early leavers are studying a Certificate or Diploma

▼ Since 2013 there has been a decrease in the proportion of early leavers enrolling in a certificate or diploma course, from just under one quarter (23 per cent) to under one in five (19 per cent). At the same time there has been an increase in proportions pursuing apprenticeships or

traineeships and employment. Notwithstanding, certificates or diplomas remain the third most popular post school destination for those who leave school early, behind apprenticeships or traineeships and employment.





Education State

The Education State agenda includes a target to keep more young people in education: by 2025, the proportion of students leaving education during Years 9 to 12 will halve.

The Navigator pilot, an initiative of the Education State, supports young people aged 12-17 years of age who are not connected to schools at all, or those at risk of disengaging.

The On Track survey provides an insight into the pathways of those who leave school before finishing Year 12.



Recent trends in post school pathways are indicating a shift away from certain industries and a move towards others

- ▼ Over the past five years there has been a shift in the areas of employment and further study for both students who complete Year 12 and those who don't.
- ▼ Sales was the most popular employment for both groups of students five years ago, particularly for early leavers. The 2017 results indicate some change; more students who completed Year 12 and moved into employment worked in food, hospitality and tourism than any other field, and while sales remained the top profession for early leavers, there was a significant drop, from 32 per cent (2013) to 28 per cent (2017).

- ▼ Over the same period, there has also been a change in the most common areas of further study. In 2017, health was the top pick for students who had completed Year 12 (compared to creative arts in 2013), and while a high proportion of early leavers continue to study food, hospitality and personal service, mixed field programmes (which either encompass multiple fields of study or are more generalist in nature, such as bridging and enabling courses) have recently seen an increase in enrolments.

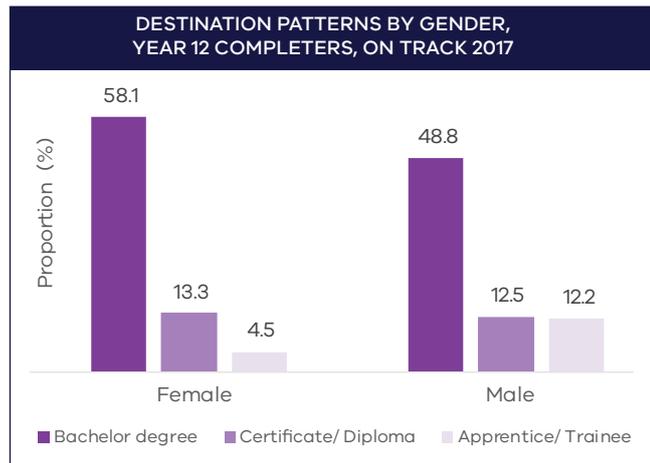
TOP 3 AREAS OF FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, EARLY LEAVERS, ON TRACK 2013 AND 2017

TOP 3 AREAS OF STUDY	2013	2017
YEAR 12 COMPLETERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Arts 18.0% Management and Commerce 16.4% Health 16.2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 18.3% Management and Commerce 16.8% Society and Culture 14.8%
EARLY LEAVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food, Hospitality and Personal Service 19.3% Society and Culture 13.8% Creative Arts 11.5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food, Hospitality and Personal Service 15.7% Mixed Field Programmes 14.0% Society and Culture 12.2%

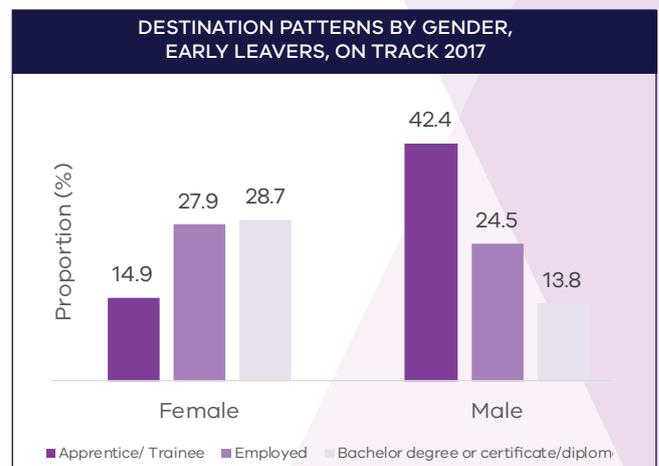


There are patterns between some student characteristics and post school destinations

▼ Females who finish Year 12 are more likely than males to commence a bachelor degree or a certificate/ diploma, whereas males who finish Year 12 are more likely to pursue an apprenticeship or traineeship.



▼ For early leavers, males are significantly more likely to enrol in an apprenticeship or traineeship, and females are significantly more likely to continue with their education. However, over the past year, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of female early leavers enrolling in a bachelor degree or certificate/diploma, from 37 per cent (2016) to 29 per cent in 2017.



▼ Between 2016 and 2017 the biggest shift for both female and males was a decrease in the proportion enrolling in certificates or diplomas, from 15.2 per cent (2016) to 13.3 per cent (2017) for females, and from 13.9 per cent (2016) to 12.5 per cent (2017) for males.

2017 On Track results also show that for both Year 12 completers and early leavers:

▼ Students who attended school in metropolitan areas were more likely to pursue a bachelor degree or certificate/diploma in their year after Year 12, whereas those in non-metropolitan Victoria were more likely to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship

▼ Koorie students were around half as likely to continue their education as non-Koorie students

▼ Students who spoke a language other than English were more likely to pursue further education, whereas higher proportions of those who spoke English as a first language undertook apprenticeships/ traineeships.



Destination patterns differ across school sectors

Students who complete Year 12 in non-government schools are more likely to pursue further education and training than government school students; nearly two thirds compared to just under a half. Students from government schools are twice as likely to move into the labour force (in work or looking for work) than those from the non-government sector.



Find out more

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