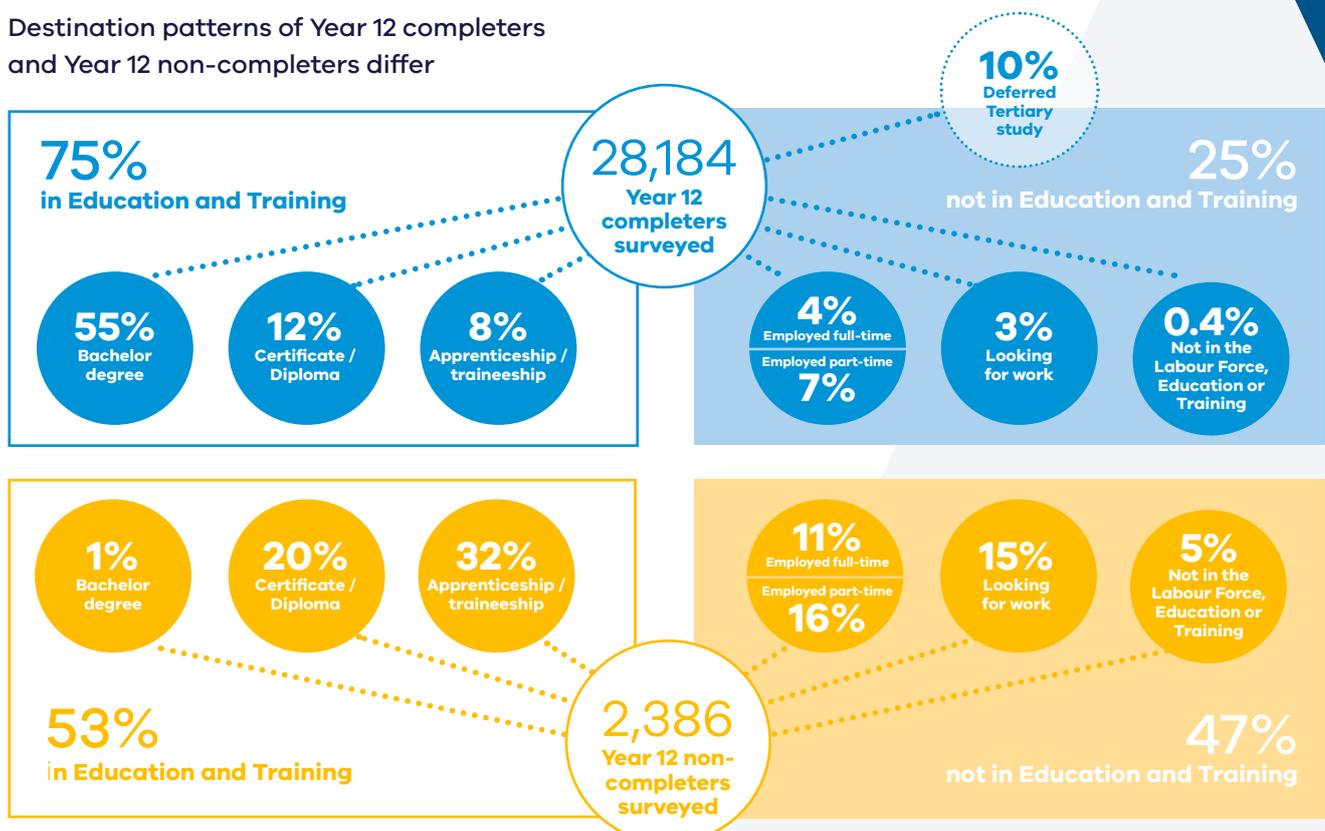


On Track 2018: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

About the study

Since 2003 the annual On Track survey has been tracking what's next for students who finish Year 12 and those who do not. Between May and June 2018, the Department surveyed 28,184 students who completed Year 12 (49 per cent of the Year 12 cohort) and 2,386 students who had left school in Years 10, 11 or 12 (28 per cent of the Year 12 non-completer cohort¹).

Destination patterns of Year 12 completers and Year 12 non-completers differ



¹Formerly referred to as early leavers.

Proportions by category (Year 12 completers, Year 12 non-completers) may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Revised November 12

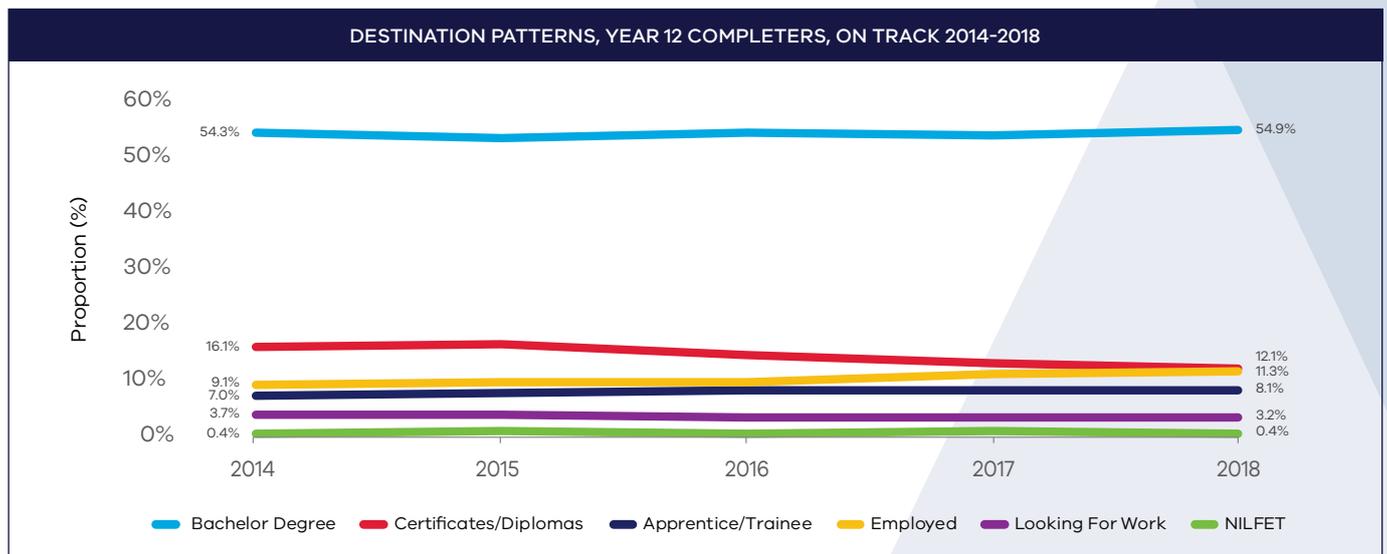


Young people who complete Year 12 have a greater tendency to pursue further education or training opportunities. In 2018, three quarters of Year 12 completers were enrolled in education or training six months after finishing school, compared with half of those who left before completing Year 12.

Bachelor degrees are most popular among Year 12 completers, while Year 12 non-completers are more likely to commence a certificate or diploma course or an apprenticeship or traineeship. A higher proportion of Year 12 non-completers enter the labour market (either employed or looking for work) compared to Year 12 completers. Those who leave school before completing Year 12 are more likely to be 'not in the labour force, education or training' (NILFET) than those who complete Year 12.

Despite these differences, some similarities can be found between the destination patterns of Year 12 completers and Year 12 non-completers. In the last five years, rates of employment have been steadily increasing for both cohorts. Enrolments in certificate or diploma courses have been declining for Year 12 completers since 2015, and for Year 12 non-completers since 2014.

Destination patterns for Year 12 completers have remained relatively consistent since 2014



The majority of Year 12 completers (75.1 per cent) continue on to further education and training after school. A bachelor degree continues to be the preferred pathway for this cohort, with the proportion of Year 12 completers pursuing this qualification remaining relatively stable since 2014 (54.3 per cent in 2014, compared to 54.9 per cent in 2018).

Since 2014, the most obvious trend for Year 12 completers has been a steady decline in the rate of enrolments in certificates or diplomas. After reaching 16.3 per cent in

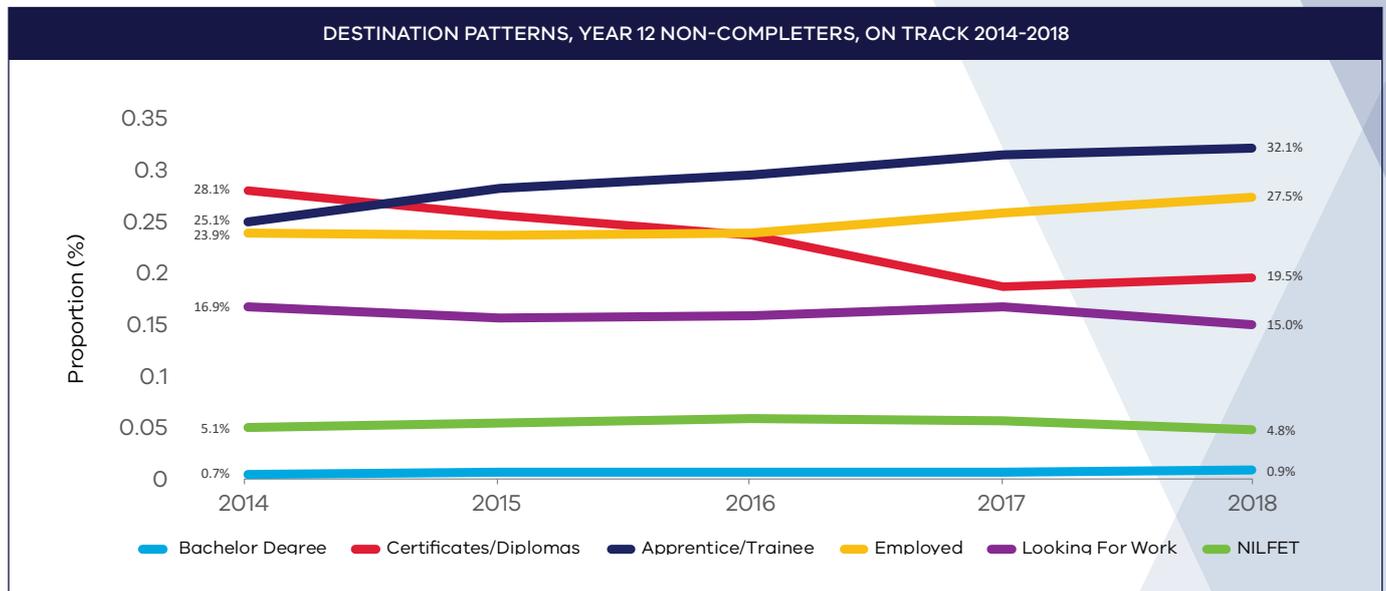
2015, the proportion of completers enrolled in this type of course dropped to 12.1 per cent in 2018.

Between 2014 and 2018, the proportion of Year 12 completers in employment increased, while the proportion of those either looking for work or not in the labour force, education or training (NILFET) decreased.

After increasing slightly in 2015 and 2016, there has been no further change in the proportion of Year 12 completers undertaking apprenticeships or traineeships.



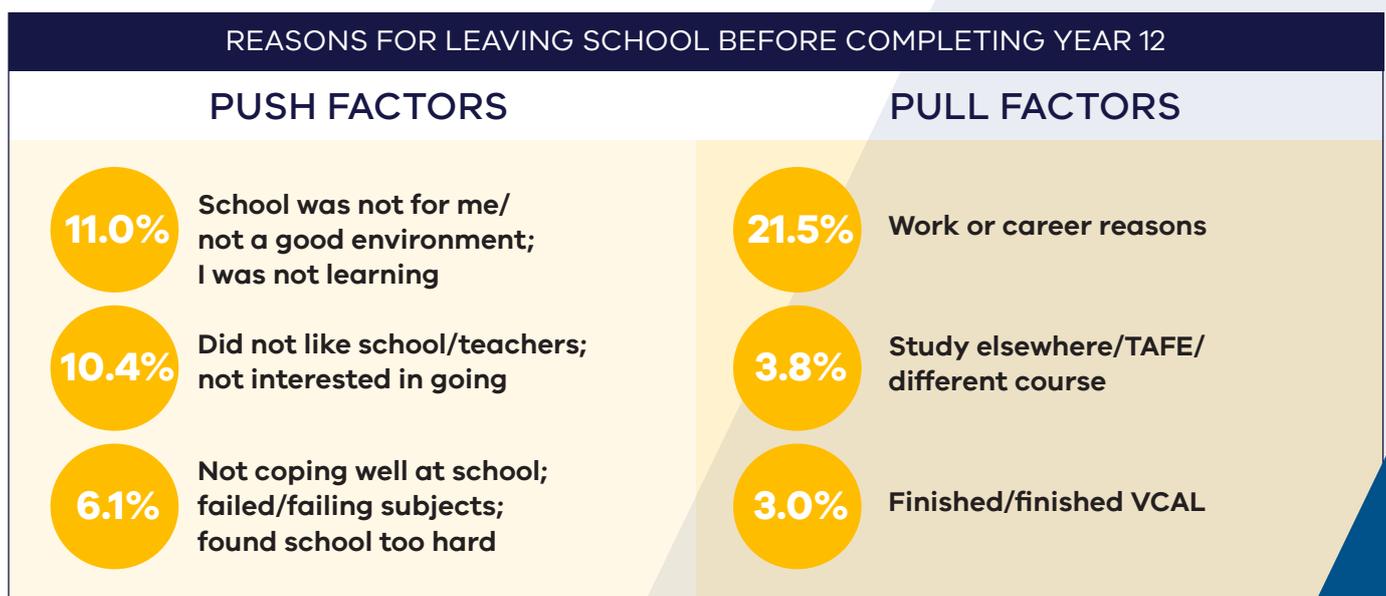
Destination patterns for Year 12 non-completers have varied over the past five years



The preferred destination of almost one in three Year 12 non-completers is an apprenticeship or traineeship (32.1 per cent in 2018). Since 2014, the proportion of Year 12 non-completers undertaking this pathway has steadily increased (from 25.1 per cent to 32.1 per cent), however this trend is best explained by growth in the rate of Year 12 non-completers undertaking apprenticeships, rather than traineeships, which have declined. This is consistent with structural change in the broader VET market in Victoria.

Despite decreasing steadily since 2014, the proportion of Year 12 non-completers enrolled in a certificate or diploma in 2018 was similar to 2017 rates. A slightly different trend is apparent for enrolments in a certificate I-III or certificate IV and above.

The proportion of Year 12 non-completers enrolled in a bachelor degree has remained relatively stable, increasing slightly since 2014.





Employment and study preferences have remained relatively consistent since 2014

Fields of study

For both Year 12 completers and Year 12 non-completers, the five most popular fields of study have remained stable since 2014, although the ranking of each field has changed. In 2017 and 2018, health was the top enrolment choice for students who completed Year 12, compared to management and commerce in 2015 and 2016 and creative arts in 2014. In 2018, society and culture was the most popular field of study for Year 12 non-completers, compared to food, hospitality and personal services in 2014, 2016, and 2017, and management and commerce in 2015.

There are a number of fields of study that are popular among both Year 12 non-completers and Year 12

completers. However, Year 12 non-completers are more likely to pursue study in food, hospitality, personal services and mixed field programs, while Year 12 completers are more likely to study health and science courses.

The increasing trend for Year 12 completers to study health may reflect that the healthcare and social assistance sector is Victoria's largest and fastest growing source of employment.² However, this trend is not reflected among Year 12 non-completers, with the proportion of this cohort pursuing further education and training in the health sector declining.

| TOP 5 AREAS OF FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, ON TRACK 2014 AND 2018 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2014 | 2018 |
| YEAR 12 COMPLETERS | Creative arts 16.8% | Health 19.4% |
| | Health 16.7% | Management and commerce 16.4% |
| | Management and commerce 16.7% | Society and culture 14.8% |
| | Natural and physical sciences 12.6% | Natural and physical sciences 13.3% |
| | Society and culture 12.4% | Creative arts 12.3% |
| YEAR 12 NON-COMPLETERS | Food, hospitality, personal services 17.6% | Society and culture 16% |
| | Society and culture 15.3% | Food, hospitality, personal services 14.4% |
| | Mixed field programs 10.8% | Management and commerce 9.7% |
| | Management and commerce 10.1% | Creative arts 9.5% |
| | Creative arts 9.3% | Mixed field programs 9.3% |

²Future Social Services Institute (2018) Social opportunity, economic growth: Building Victoria's social economy. Retrieved from: <https://vcoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FSSI-2018-Victorias-Social-Economy-Report.pdf>.



Employment destinations

The three most popular employment destinations were the same for both Year 12 completers and Year 12 non-completers not continuing in education or training. Preferred employment destinations have remained largely the same since 2014. Young people not continuing in education or training are likely to enter employment in retail, food, hospitality and tourism or as labourers regardless of whether or not they completed Year 12. Of those young people who were employed in 2018, a higher proportion of Year 12 non-completers were in full time employment (40.7%) compared to Year 12 completers (34.5%). Across both cohorts, it was more common for young people to be employed on a part time basis.

| TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS, ON TRACK 2014 AND 2018 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2014 | 2018 |
| YEAR 12 COMPLETERS | Sales assistants and storepersons 36.5% | Sales assistants and storepersons 29.9% |
| | Food, hospitality and tourism 28.5% | Food, hospitality and tourism 29.7% |
| | Labourers, factory and machine workers 6.5% | Labourers, factory and machine workers 8.7% |
| | Clerks, receptionists and secretaries 4.1% | Teaching, childcare and library 4.4% |
| | Health, fitness, hair and beauty 3.8% | Clerks, receptionists and secretaries 4.3% |
| YEAR 12 NON-COMPLETERS | Food, hospitality and tourism 30.3% | Food, hospitality and tourism 28.7% |
| | Sales assistants and storepersons 20.2% | Sales assistants and storepersons 21.6% |
| | Labourers, factory and machine workers 12.3% | Labourers, factory and machine workers 14.4% |
| | Other 7.2% | Building and construction 8.9% |
| | Building and construction 6.6% | Gardening, farming and fishing 6.1% |

Post school destinations differ between genders

Across both cohorts, males remain more likely to commence an apprenticeship than females. Females are more likely to pursue further education than males.

While females are more likely to enrol in a bachelor degree than males regardless of whether they completed school, enrolment trends differ between cohorts. The proportion of female Year 12 completers

enrolled in a bachelor degree has increased since 2014. For female Year 12 non-completers, the proportion of those enrolled in a bachelor degree, certificate or diploma increased in 2018, reversing a downward trend since 2014.

Data represented by gender is described as male and female. This analysis does not include respondents who identified as undefined gender or incomplete responses. Statewide results include all respondents (male, female, undefined, self described and incomplete responses).



Survey results and trends are mixed for participation rates and perceptions of career education

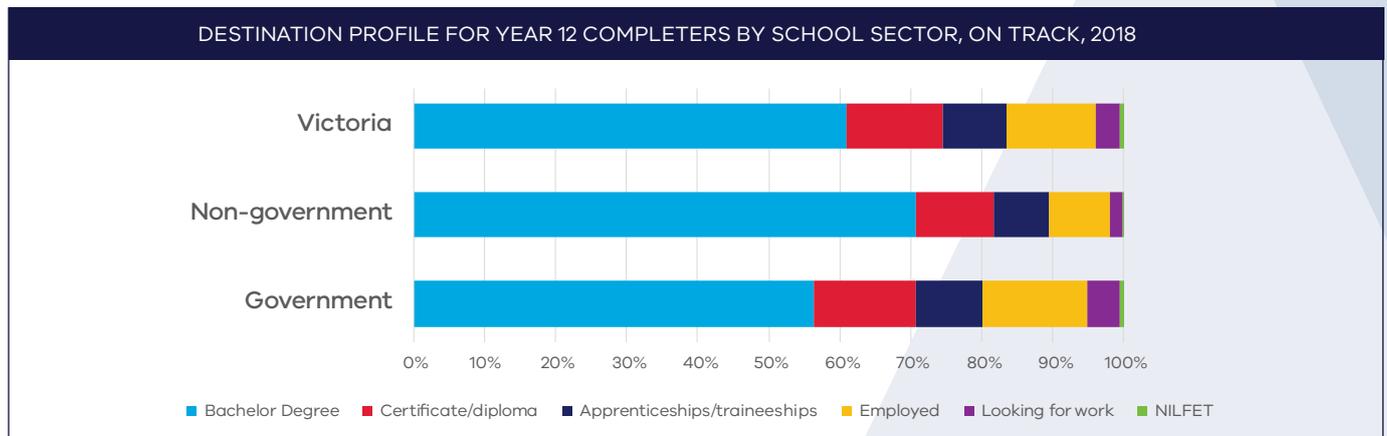
While the proportion of young people from both cohorts with positive perceptions of career education is increasing overall, this trend is largely being driven by an increase in the proportion of young people reporting that they found career advice 'somewhat useful'. In contrast, the proportion of Year 12 completers who found career advice 'very useful' continues to decline (from 32.4 per cent in 2014 to 27.8 per cent in 2018). Although perceptions of career advice as 'very useful' have increased among Year 12 non-completers (from 17.1 per cent in 2014 to 18.6 per cent in 2018), this proportion has declined since 2015.

On Track 2018 data shows that students' participation in career education activities is mixed. The proportion of Year 12 completers who attended a talk from a career advisor improved slightly between 2017 (57.8 per cent) and 2018 (61.4 per cent). There was also an increase in

the proportion of Year 12 completers who agreed that activities at their school helped them to identify careers that match their interests and abilities between 2017 (69.2 per cent) and 2018 (76.8 per cent). There was a small decrease in the proportion of respondents who had attended a TAFE taster program or information session organised through the school (from 21.2 per cent in 2017 to 18.9 per cent in 2018).

Participation trends for Year 12 non-completers were predominantly stable or positive. Similarly to the Year 12 completer cohort there was an increase in the proportion of respondents who agreed that activities at their school helped them to identify careers that match their interests and abilities between 2017 (53.5 per cent) and 2018 (59.5 per cent). There was also a small increase in the proportion of Year 12 non-completers who had a one-on-one talk with their school's career advisor (from 67.7 per cent in 2017 to 69.4 per cent in 2018).

Destination patterns continue to differ across school sectors



Students who completed Year 12 in non-government schools were more likely to pursue a bachelor degree than government school students. Students from government schools were more likely to have commenced employment, a certificate or diploma course or an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Since 2014, enrolment trends have been largely the same across government and non-government schools.

The proportion of Year 12 completers from both sectors undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship has increased, along with the proportion of young people enrolled in a bachelor degree. Over the same period, the proportion of Year 12 completers commencing a certificate or diploma has declined among government and non-government school students.



Find out more

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