

## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

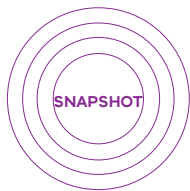
### About the study

Since 2003, the annual On Track survey has followed the outcomes of Victorian students who finish Year 12 and those who leave school before completion. Between April and July 2021, the Department surveyed 27,085 students who completed Year 12 in 2020 and 1678 students who had left school in Years 10, 11 or 12 in 2020. The total respondents included 15,511 female, 13,212 male and 40 gender X (undefined) respondents.



### KEY FINDINGS 2021

- The 2021 On Track survey results marked a return to pre-COVID-19 proportions of respondents indicating they were in **employment** and 'not in labour force, education or training' (NILFET).
- More respondents are pursuing education or training in 2021, with an **increase in apprenticeships or traineeships** the major driver for this growth.
- Female respondents who did not complete year 12 represent the largest proportional increase in the uptake of apprenticeships/ traineeships.
- Greater proportions of Year 12 completers in both government and non-government schools, and non-completers are accessing education or training once they leave school.
- More respondents are pursuing **Bachelor degrees** and **deferrals** of study overall are lower in 2021 than they have been over the past five years.
- Respondents who complete Year 12 continue to pursue further education or training opportunities at greater proportions than respondents who have left school prior to Year 12 completion.
- Differences between **gender, location and sector** are consistent with previous years.
- Employment destinations were similar to those of previous years, with **Food, Hospitality and Tourism** the most popular sectors for Year 12 completers and **Building and Construction** representing the most popular field for non-completers.
- **Management and Commerce** has risen to be the most popular field of study for non-completers (previously Society and Culture)
- Reported **reasons for leaving school** were broadly in line with previous years, although there was a decline in respondents identifying 'study elsewhere' as a reason to leave early.



## Exit destinations

### Young people who complete Year 12...

are significantly more likely to continue their education and training journey than seek employment in the workplace.

77.2%



In education or training

56.1%



Bachelor degree

The majority of young people who complete Year 12 enrol in a Bachelor degree at university.

Year 12 completers

Year 12 non-completers

### For young people who do not complete Year 12...

around half continue on to education and training.

53.3%



In education or training

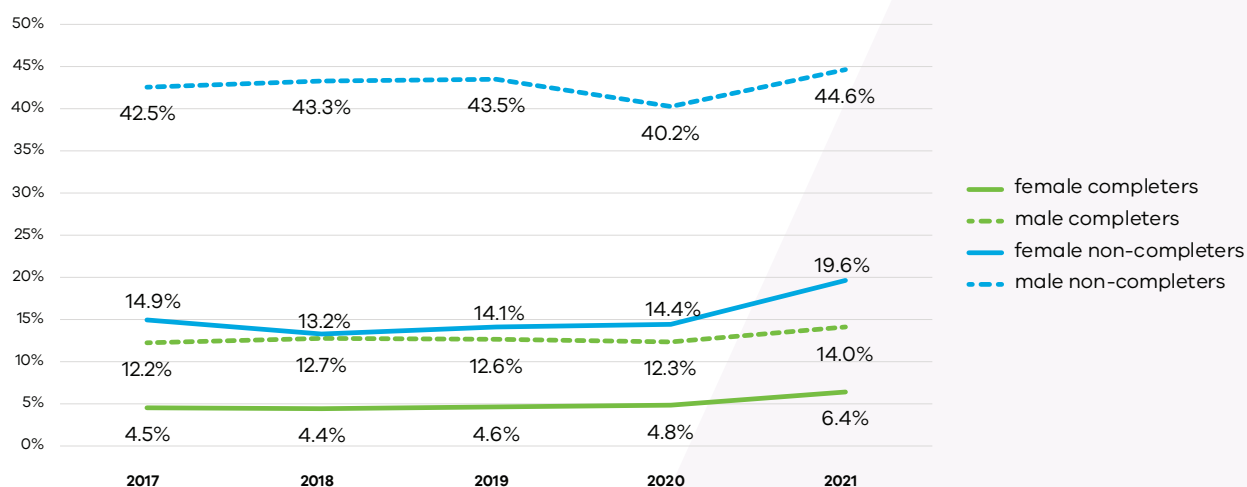
35.9%

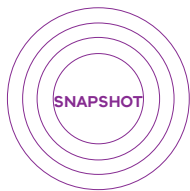


Apprenticeship or traineeship

More than a third of young people who do not complete Year 12 choose to take up an apprenticeship or traineeship.

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS INDICATING APPRENTICESHIP/ TRAINEESHIP AS EXIT DESTINATION



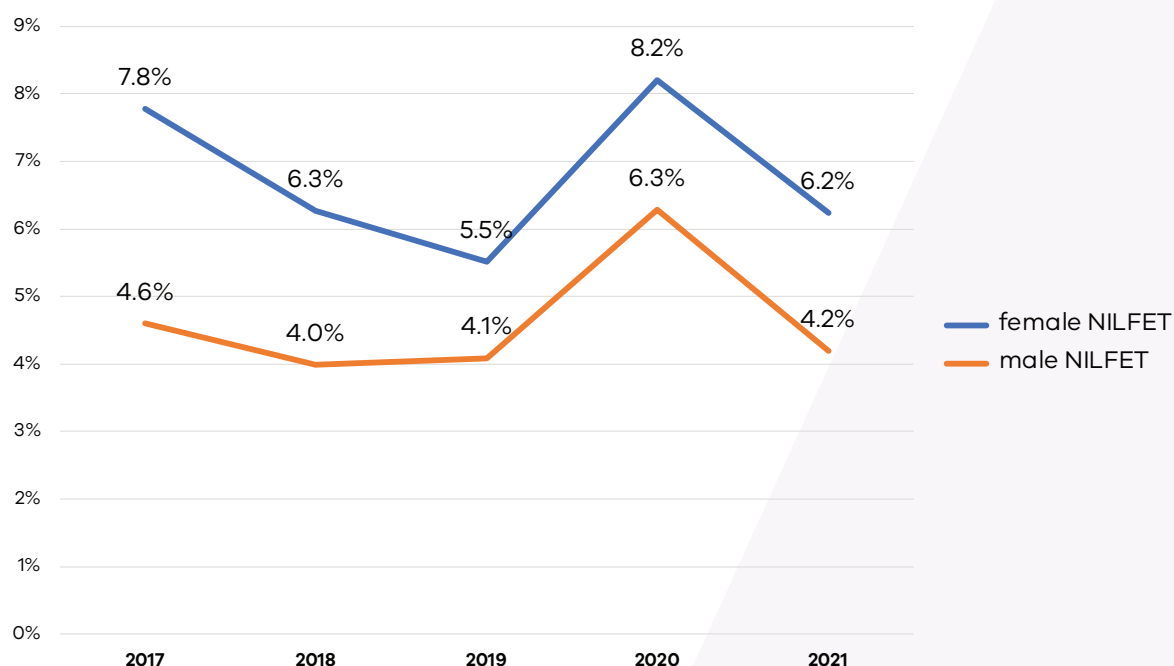


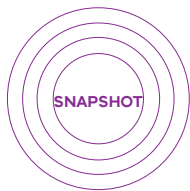
## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

While overall rates of Year 12 non-completers entering further education and training and employment have remained stable, there have been some notable changes compared to 2020.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The proportion of Year 12 non-completers gaining employment increased in 2021.	25.9%	27.5%	26.8%	22.4%	27.2%
The proportion of Year 12 non-completers choosing an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2021 has increased.	31.7%	32.2%	32.7%	30.1%	35.9%

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE OF NON-COMPLETERS IDENTIFYING NILFET (NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, EDUCATION OR TRAINING) STATUS





## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

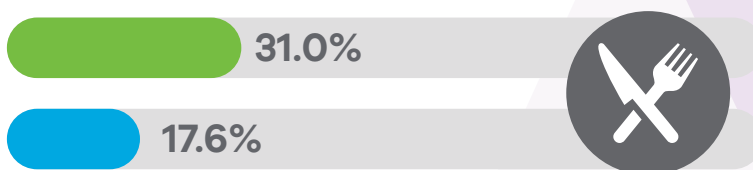
### Employment destinations

Employment destinations remain largely unchanged since 2017. Respondents who completed Year 12 are most likely to gain employment in the food, hospitality and tourism industry whereas non-completers are most likely to be employed in building and construction.

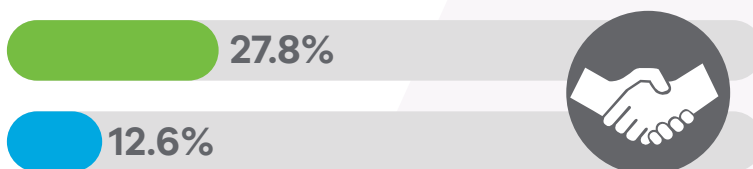
Year 12 completers	Rank	Year 12 non-completers
Food, Hospitality and Tourism <b>31.0%</b>	1	<b>26.7%</b> Building and Construction
Sales Assistants and Storepersons <b>27.8%</b>	2	<b>17.6%</b> Food, Hospitality and Tourism
Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty <b>7.0%</b>	3	<b>12.6%</b> Sales Assistants and Storepersons

#### 'Food, Hospitality and Tourism'

remains a popular employment field, regardless of school completion but is the most popular type of employment for respondents who have completed year 12.

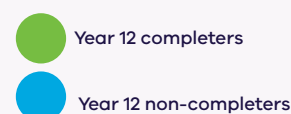
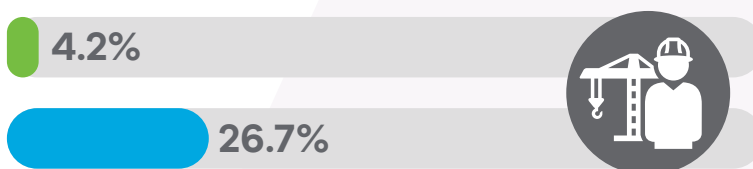


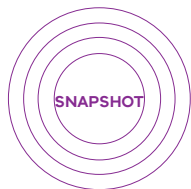
'Sales/Store person' is the second most popular employment field among Year 12 completers and the third highest for Year 12 non-completers.



#### 'Building and Construction'

remains the most popular employment field among Year 12 non-completers.



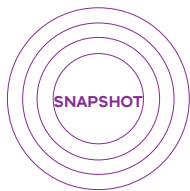


## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

General trends are continuing for post-school destinations, along with consistency in study choices for survey respondents.

Study choice Year 12 completers	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Health</b> remains the preferred course of study for Year 12 completers.	18.3%	19.5%	19.4%	20.7%	21.8%
<b>Society and Culture</b> remains popular among Year 12 completers.	14.9%	14.8%	15.3%	16.8%	16.8%
<b>Creative Arts</b> declined in popularity in 2020, but remained stable in 2021 for respondents who completed Year 12.	13.0%	12.4%	12.3%	10.8%	10.6%

Study choice Year 12 non-completers	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Management and Commerce</b> has become the preferred course of study for respondents who did not complete Year 12 (previously Society and Culture 2018-2020).	8.5%	10.3%	9.2%	10.8%	14.1%
In 2021, <b>Health</b> has dropped slightly in popularity for those who did not complete Year 12 in 2021, after previous increases.	8.7%	6.8%	9.8%	13.5%	12.7%
<b>Food, Hospitality &amp; Personal Services</b> remained stable in 2021 for non-completers.	16.1%	15.3%	11.4%	11.1%	11.2%

**On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers****The proportion of respondents completing Year 12 and looking for work has decreased in 2021**

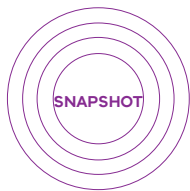
The 2021 On Track survey results show that the proportion of Year 12 completers looking for work has decreased (3.9 per cent in 2021 compared with 6.4 per cent in 2020). The proportion of respondents reporting that they were studying a Bachelor degree has increased (56.1 per cent of all Year 12 completers surveyed in 2021).

Year 12 completers		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
In Education or Training	Apprenticeship/traineeship	8.1%	8.1%	8.3%	8.2%	9.8%
	Bachelor degree	53.9%	54.9%	54.1%	54.5%	56.1%
	Certificates/diplomas	12.9%	12.1%	12.8%	11.9%	11.3%
Not in Education or Training	Employed	19.5%	19.8%	19.7%	17.6%	18%
	Looking for work	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%	6.4%	3.9%
	NILFET	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	0.9%

**The largest proportion of respondents not completing Year 12 undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship**

One-third of Year 12 non-completers undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship in the year after they leave school. This proportion has steadily increased since 2017 (35.9 per cent in 2021 compared to 31.7 per cent in 2017), driven by growth in the uptake of apprenticeships.

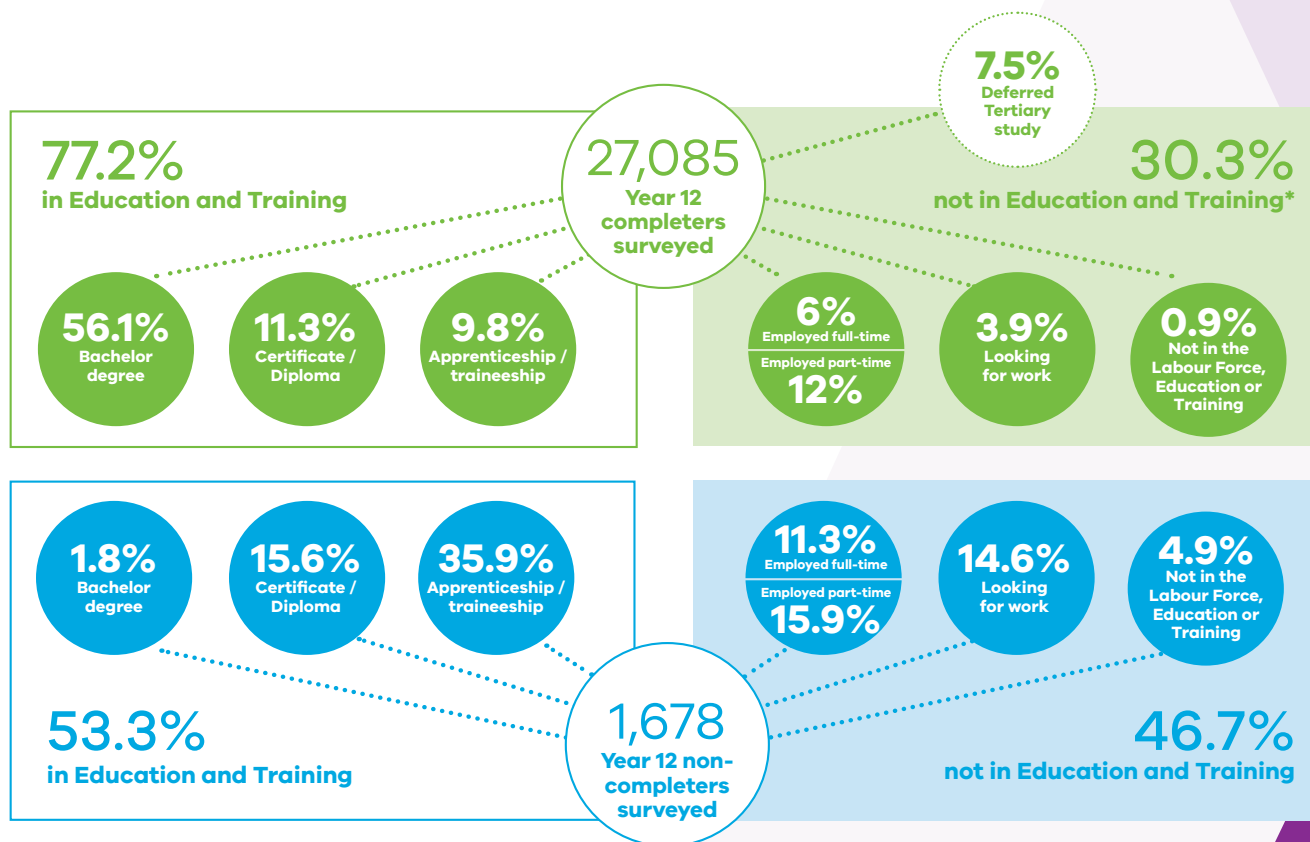
Year 12 non completers		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
In Education or Training	Apprenticeship/traineeship	31.7%	32.2%	32.7%	30.1%	35.9%
	Bachelor degree	0.8%	0.9%	1.3%	2.3%	1.8%
	Certificates/diplomas	18.9%	19.5%	19.7%	19.4%	15.6%
Not in Education or Training	Employed	25.9%	27.5%	26.8%	22.4%	27.2%
	Looking for work	16.8%	15.0%	14.8%	18.8%	14.6%
	NILFET	5.8%	4.8%	4.7%	7.0%	4.9%



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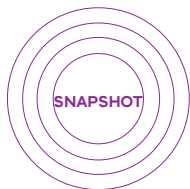
	Reason for leaving school early	2019	2020	2021
PUSH FACTORS	Did not like school/ teachers/was not interested in going.	15.8%	12.4%	14.6%
	School was not for me/school was not a good environment/I was not learning.	8.7%	9.6%	10.9%
	Ill health.	10.7%	10.4%	10.3%
PULL FACTORS	Work or career reasons.	22.6%	22.8%	23.3%
	Study elsewhere/TAFE/different course.	5.3%	6.6%	3.7%

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



\*Formerly referred to as early leavers.





## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

Despite minor fluctuations across years, respondents who complete Year 12 continue to pursue further education or training opportunities in greater proportions than those students who leave school prior to Year 12 completion. In 2021, just over three quarters of Year 12 completers were enrolled in education or training six months after finishing school, compared with just over half of those who left school early.

A significantly greater number of respondents who complete Year 12 continue their studies through a Bachelor degree than any other education or training pathway. At just over 56 per cent in 2021, this figure has trended upwards over the last five years.

The proportion of students who undertake apprenticeships or traineeships has significantly increased. In 2021 it is the highest it has been over the last five years with 35.9 per cent of early leavers and 9.8 per cent of Year 12 completers undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2021.

There has been a slight increase in those entering employment in 2021 compared to 2020. The proportion of Year 12 completers not in the labour force, education, or training (NILFET) decreased from 1.5 per cent in 2020 to 0.9 per cent in 2021. Similarly, the proportion of Year 12 non-completers who categorised themselves as NILFET, declined from 7.0 per cent in 2020 to 4.9 per cent in 2021.

### Employment preferences have remained relatively consistent, while there has been some variation in chosen fields of study

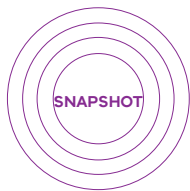
#### What are Victorian young people choosing to study?

Health remains the most popular field of study for Victorian Year 12 completers, with 21.8 per cent undertaking health related studies as part of a Bachelor degree, Certificate or Diploma course at a University or TAFE. Society and Culture is the second most popular field of study for Year 12 completers, increasing to 16.7 per cent in 2021 from 14.8 per cent in 2017. There has been a trending decline in the proportion of Year 12 completers studying Management and Commerce or the Creative Arts when compared to figures for 2017.

Management and Commerce has experienced a surge in popularity for Year 12 non-completers in 2021, reaching 14.1 per cent, the highest proportion in the last 5 years. Society and Culture is now the second most popular field of study for Year 12 non-completers, declining to 13.4 per cent in 2021.

Top primary fields of study 2017-2021			
	2017	2019	2021
Year 12 completers	<div>18.3%</div> <div>Health</div>	<div>19.4%</div> <div>Health</div>	<div>21.8%</div> <div>Health</div>
Year 12 non-completers	<div>12.5%</div> <div>Society &amp; Culture</div>	<div>16.5%</div> <div>Society &amp; Culture</div>	<div>14.1%</div> <div>Management &amp; Commerce</div>





## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

### Where are Victorian young people seeking employment?

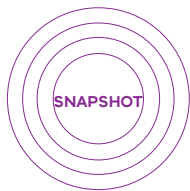
Eighteen per cent of Year 12 completers who responded to the 2021 On Track survey were employed, either part-time (12.0%) or full-time (6.0%). Just under four per cent were looking for work and 0.9 per cent reported they were not in the Labour Force, Education or Training (NILFET). The proportions of respondents looking for work and NILFET have decreased back to pre-2020 levels and the proportion of those reporting that they are in full-time employment has risen back to pre-2020 levels.

Among non-completers in 2021, 11.3 per cent were employed full time and 15.9 per cent part-time. Slightly less than fifteen per cent were looking for work (14.6%) and 4.9 per cent were NILFET. While the proportion of part-timers is very similar to 2020, the proportion of full timers increased substantially from 7.5 per cent in 2020. Substantial decreases occurred in the proportions looking for work (18.8 per cent in 2020 compared to 14.6% in 2021), and NILFET (7.0 percent in 2020 compared to 4.9% in 2021).

For those in employment, the preferred workforces have remained largely unchanged in comparison to previous years. In 2021, the three most popular employment destinations were the same in 2017 for both completers and non-completers, although the proportion of Year 12 completers employed in sales assistance or as store persons declined. Food, hospitality and tourism replaced this as the top employment destination for these respondents. Building and construction remains the top employment destination for Year 12 non-completers.

#### TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS, ON TRACK 2017 AND 2021

	2017	Rank	2021
Year 12 completers	Sales Assistants and Storepersons <b>30.2%</b>	1	<b>31.0%</b> Sales Assistants and Storepersons
	Food, Hospitality and Tourism <b>30.2%</b>	2	<b>27.8%</b> Food, Hospitality and Tourism
	Teaching, Childcare and Library <b>6.8%</b>	3	<b>7.0%</b> Teaching, Childcare and Library
	Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty <b>6.4%</b>	4	<b>6.9%</b> Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty
	Building and Construction <b>4.5%</b>	5	<b>4.2%</b> Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers
Year 12 non-completers	Building and Construction <b>24.8%</b>	1	<b>26.7%</b> Building and Construction
	Food, Hospitality and Tourism <b>17.6%</b>	2	<b>17.6%</b> Food, Hospitality and Tourism
	Sales Assistants and Storepersons <b>15.5%</b>	3	<b>12.6%</b> Sales Assistants and Storepersons
	Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers <b>6.1%</b>	4	<b>6.9%</b> Electrical and Electronics Trades
	Motor Vehicle Service and Repair <b>6.0%</b>	5	<b>5.3%</b> Motor Vehicle Service and Repair



## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

### Post-school destinations change according to different respondent characteristics

The On Track survey provides information on post-school pathways by selected student characteristics, including gender, location and English-speaking background. For both cohorts of students (those who complete Year 12 and those who do not) the following trends can be seen:

males are more likely to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship, while females are more likely to pursue further education\*

higher proportions of students with a language background other than English enrol in a Bachelor degree or Certificate /Diploma than those of English-speaking backgrounds

young people in non-metropolitan Victoria are more likely to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship than their metropolitan counterparts.

*\*Please note that 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).*

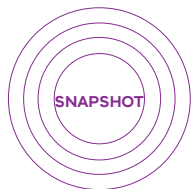
### Nearly one third of Aboriginal respondents went on to study a bachelor's degree at university or TAFE

In 2021, 31.8 per cent of Aboriginal respondents who completed Year 12 in 2020 were enrolled in a Bachelor degree at either university or TAFE six months later. Whilst this is low compared to non-Aboriginal Year 12 completers (56.5%), the significantly lower numbers of Aboriginal young people surveyed makes it difficult to draw strong conclusions about what this data is telling us, given that small movements in such small numbers would lead to large fluctuations in proportions of the population (in 2021, the number of young people surveyed who identified as Aboriginal was around one per cent of the total survey sample).

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aboriginal	27.7%	32.9%	29.8%	32.5%	31.8%
Non-Aboriginal	54.6%	55.6%	54.9%	54.9%	56.5%

Despite fluctuations between years, some general trends have emerged over the past five years in the destinations of Aboriginal respondents who go on to complete Year 12. Each year since 2017, between 50 to 60 per cent have gone on to either employment or study at the Bachelor degree level. More Aboriginal Year 12 completers are pursuing an apprenticeship or traineeship (19.7 per cent in 2021, up from 16.4 per cent in 2020).

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
In Education or Training	Apprenticeship/traineeship	17.4%	15.5%	17.3%	16.4%	19.7%
	Bachelor degree	27.7%	32.9%	29.8%	32.5%	31.8%
	Certificates/diplomas	12.9%	16.8%	15.7%	13.9%	12.4%
Not in Education or Training	Employed	27.7%	24.7%	29.2%	23.2%	23.1%
	Looking for work	11.6%	9.2%	7.4%	12.1%	10.4%
	NILFET	2.6%	0.9%	0.6%	1.9%	2.5%



## On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers

### Perceptions of careers advice and education vary for Year 12 completers and non-completers

Young people who completed Year 12 in 2020 found careers advice more useful than non-completers overall (73 per cent of completers reporting somewhat/very useful compared with 56 per cent of non-completers).

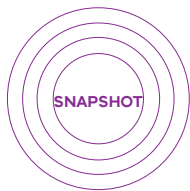
Attendance or participation in career activities is mixed across the two groups. Generally speaking, higher proportions of Year 12 completers engaged with career activities.

The top three activities of choice for each group of students have remained the same (albeit with some movement in ranking) over the last five years.

	2021 results and rank			
	Year 12 completers	RANK		Year 12 non-completers
Have a one-on-one talk with the school's career advisor	82%	1	1	67%
Search on-line for career options at school	78%	2	2	58%
Identify careers that match your interests / Receive written material about career and study options:	74%	3	3	56%

Of those students who answered questions relating to Career Action Plans, 49 per cent of Year 12 completers and 43 per cent of those students who did not complete Year 12 completed a Career Action Plan prior to the end of 2020. Not all students who completed a career plan took a copy with them when they left school. However, over 50 per cent of both Year 12 completers and non-completers who prepared a career action plan, followed up on actions in their career plan after school.

	Year 12 completers	Year 12 non-completers
Did you prepare a career action plan?	48.9%	43.5%
Did you have a copy of this plan when you left school?	45.5%	33.2%
Have you followed up on actions in your plan?	52.8%	54.5%

**On Track 2021: Destinations of Victorian School Leavers****Differences in student pathways between school sectors remain evident**

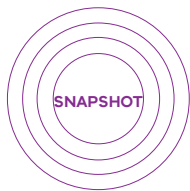
Survey respondents from the non-government sector continue to complete their schooling and pursue a Bachelor degree in greater proportions than respondents from Victoria's government schools. Subsequently, respondents from the government sector are more likely to undertake a Certificate/Diploma, apprenticeship or traineeship, or be employed six months after leaving school.

2021 On Track results show that close to two-thirds of respondents who left a non-government school after completing Year 12 went on to study a Bachelor degree, compared to just under one-half of respondents from the government sector. The proportion for respondents from government schools in a Bachelor degree six months after school's end is also under the Year 12 completer respondent average (48 per cent).

		<b>Government</b>	<b>Non-Government</b>	<b>All Year 12 completer respondents</b>
<b>In Education or Training</b>	Apprenticeship/traineeship	10.7%	8.8%	9.8%
	Bachelor degree	48.8%	64.2%	56.1%
	Certificates/diplomas	13.0%	9.4%	11.3%
<b>Not in Education or Training</b>	Employed	21.2%	14.5%	18.0%
	Looking for work	5.2%	2.4%	3.9%
	NILFET	1.1%	0.7%	0.9%

**Key findings across sectors over time**

- In 2021, there has been an increase in government school students continuing on into education and training after completing Year 12 (increasing from 70.0 per cent in 2017 to 72.5 per cent in 2021). This is mainly due to rises in respondents commencing apprenticeships or traineeships and pursuing degrees which both had been stable prior to 2020.
- In non-government schools in 2021, 82.4 per cent of respondents reported continuing on into education or training. This figure had been relatively stable prior to 2021 and up from 80.9 per cent in 2017.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of Year 12 completers from government schools proceeding to Bachelor degree studies (48.8 per cent in 2021, up from 45.4 per cent in 2017).
- While the employment opportunities for both government and non-government school leavers were disrupted by COVID-19, students leaving a government school after completing Year 12 were employed in higher proportions (21.2 per cent) than their counterparts from non-government schools (14.5 per cent).
- Numbers of those looking for work has dropped back to lower than pre-2020 levels for both government and non-government school respondents (5.2 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively).

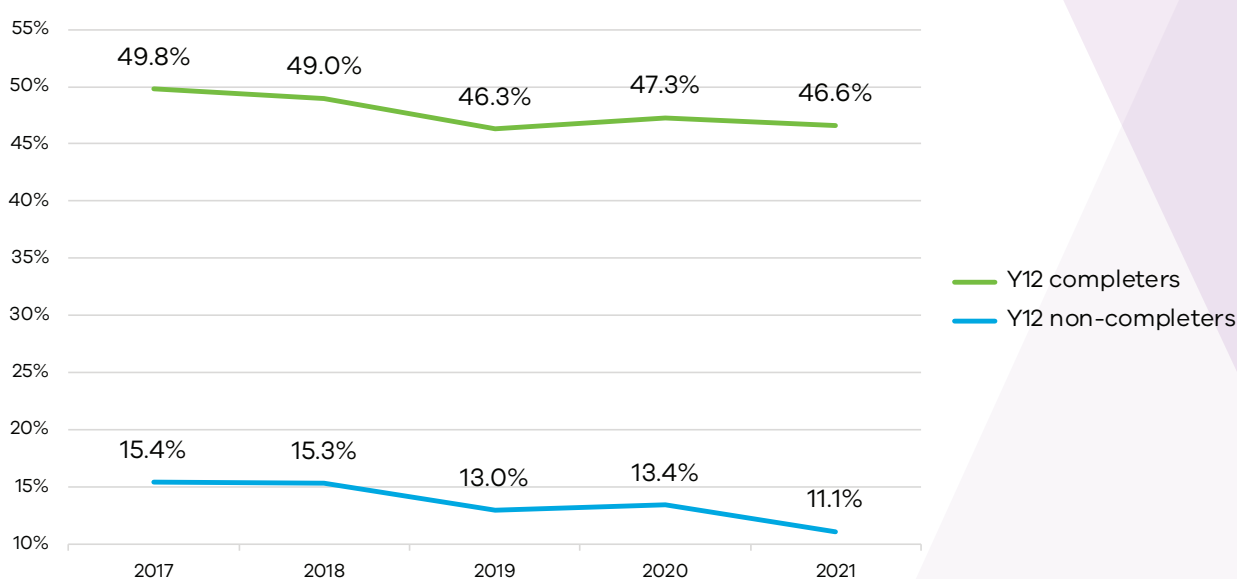


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### Proportion of completers and non-completers responding to On Track

The proportions of Year 12 completers responding to the survey has declined from 49.8 per cent in 2017, to 46.6 per cent in 2021. The proportions of Year 12 non-completers responding to the survey has declined from 15.4 per cent in 2017, to 11.1 per cent in 2021. It is not possible to accurately assess the representativeness of the responses to the 2021 survey. The representativeness is, however, likely to be different to that of earlier collections of the survey.

FIGURE 3. PROPORTIONS OF ALL VICTORIAN YEAR 12 COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS (EL) WHO RESPONDED TO ON TRACK SURVEYS BETWEEN 2017 AND 2021



#### Find out more

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