

On Track 2022: 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 September and November 2022, the Department of Education surveyed 21,428 students who completed Year 12 in 2021 and 1,571 students who left school in Years 10, 11 or 12 in 2021 (non-completers). The sample included 12,555 female, 10,382 male, and 62 respondents who either did not identify as either male or female, or for whom such information was unavailable.

KEY FINDINGS 2022

- The proportion of Year 12 completers in employment increased from 18.0% in 2021 to 24.3% in 2022, largely due to growth in full-time employment. The proportion of Year 12 completers who deferred further study also increased from 7.5% in 2021 to 10.3% in 2022.
- The proportion of Year 12 completers undertaking a bachelor's degree decreased from 56.1% in 2021 to 52.3% in 2022. There was a slight decline in the proportion of completers undertaking a certificate/diploma from 11.3% in 2021 to 9.7% in 2022.
- The proportion of non-completers in employment increased considerably from 27.2% in 2021 to 37.8% in 2022, with similar increases to part-time and full-time employment. There was also a decrease in the proportion of non-completers looking for work, from 14.6% in 2021 to 9.7% in 2022.
- The proportion of non-completers undertaking an apprenticeship/traineeship remained steady, while the proportion enrolled in a certificate/diploma decreased slightly from 15.6% in 2021 to 12.0% in 2022.
- The proportion of respondents not in the labour force, education, or training decreased slightly in 2022 for both Year 12 completers and non-completers. This followed a spike in 2020 that returned to pre-2020 levels in 2021.

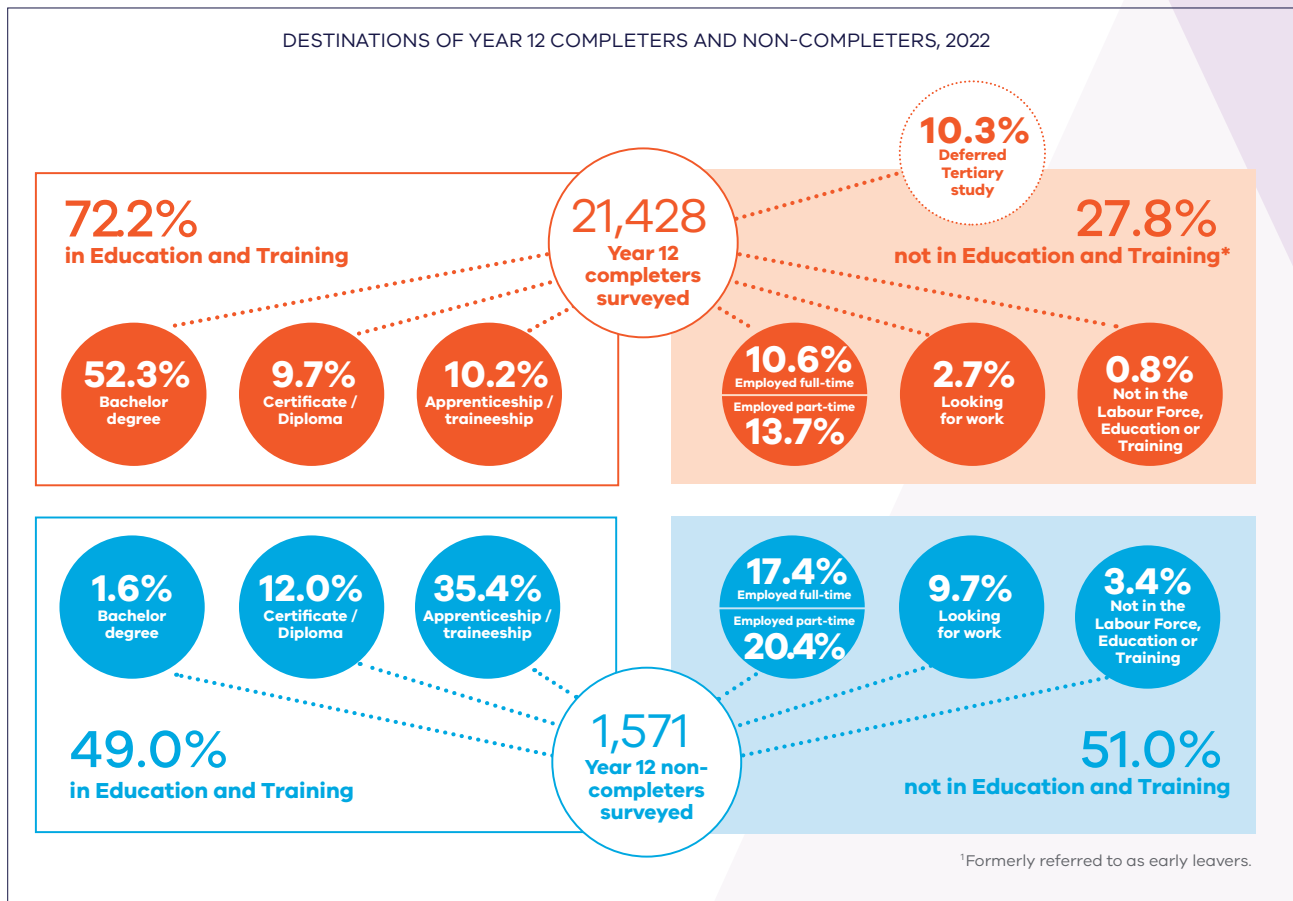


Destinations of Year 12 completers and non-completers differ

The post-school destinations of Year 12 completers and non-completers follow different but well-established patterns, with broad trends from previous years continuing in 2022.

A large majority of Year 12 completers (72.2%) remain in education and training, with enrolment in a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) being the most popular destination. Year 12 completers not in education or training are slightly more likely to be in part-time employment (13.7% of all Year 12 completers) than full-time employment (10.6%).

Around half of non-completers continue education and training (49.0%). Apprenticeships/traineeships remain the most popular destination for non-completers in education or training (35.4% of all non-completers). Non-completers not in education or training were also slightly more likely to be in part-time employment (20.4% of all non-completers) than full-time employment (17.4%).



Note: Respondents that have deferred study are distributed across the remaining categories under not in education or training, that is, they are counted twice. The proportion of respondents that have deferred does therefore not contribute to the total proportion not in education or training.



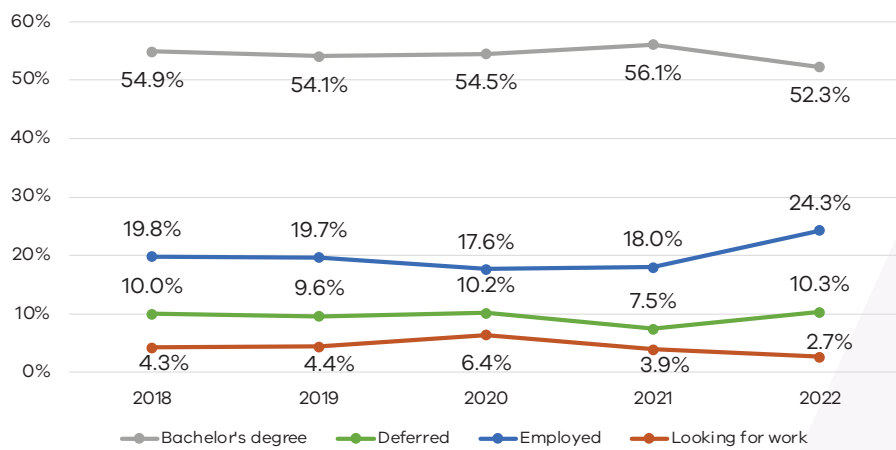
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Destinations patterns have been largely stable over time, with a few notable changes in 2022

The proportion of Year 12 completers in employment increased from 18.0% in 2021 to 24.3% in 2022. This increase was driven by growth in the proportion engaged in full-time employment from 6.0% in 2021 to 10.6% 2022.

The proportion of completers pursuing a bachelor’s degree decreased from 56.1% in 2021 to 52.3% in 2022. This decrease is partly explained by an increase in the proportion deferring study, which returned to 10.3% in 2022 after an historic low of 7.5% in 2021.

FIGURE 1: PROPORTION OF YEAR 12 COMPLETERS BY DESTINATION, 2018 TO 2022

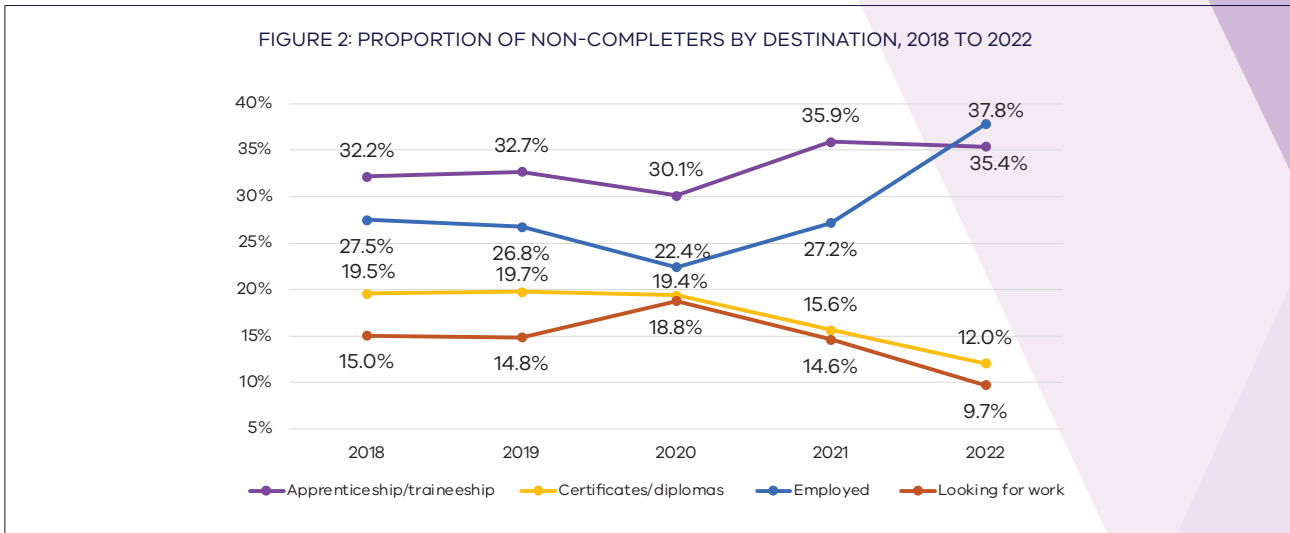


The proportion of non-completers in employment increased substantially from 27.2% in 2021 to 37.8% in 2022, with similar increases to part-time and full-time employment. There were also fewer non-completers looking for work (14.6% in 2021 compared to 9.7% in 2022). These changes continue trends observed from 2020 to 2021.

The proportion of non-completers in apprenticeships/traineeships remained stable (35.9% in 2021 and 35.4% in 2022). The proportion of non-completers enrolled in a certificate/diploma decreased slightly from 15.6% in 2021 to 12.0% in 2022.



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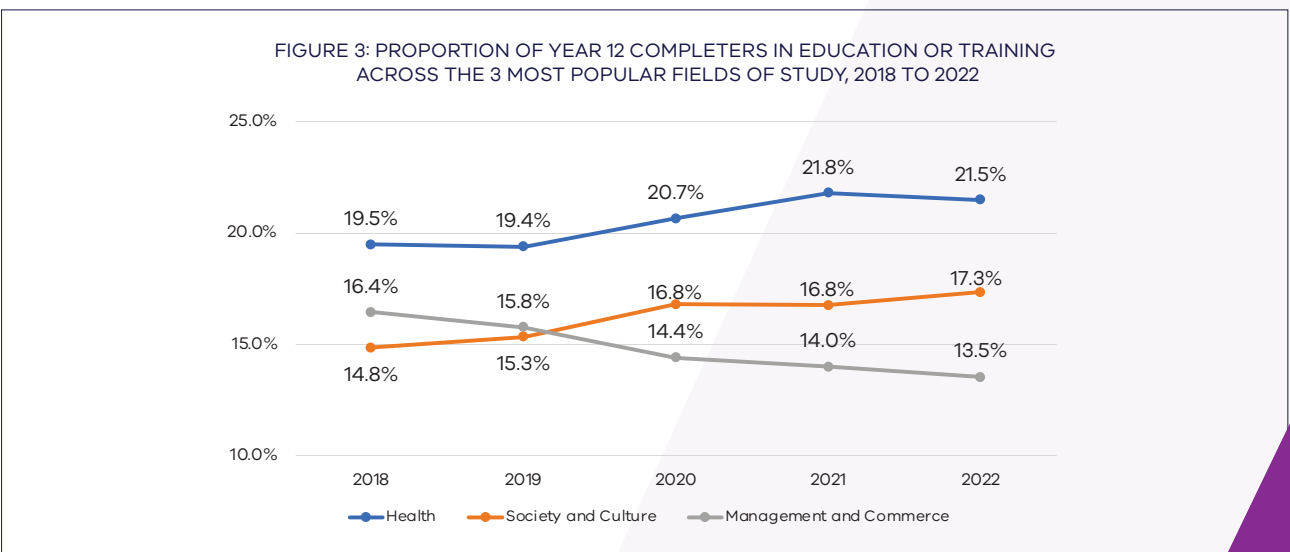


The 2020 On Track survey showed an increase in the proportion of respondents not in the labour force, education, or training for both Year 12 completers (1.5%) and non-completers (7.0%). These figures returned to pre-2020 levels in 2021 (0.9% for Year 12 completers and 4.9% for non-completers) and declined further still in 2022 (0.8% for Year 12 completers and 3.4% for non-completers).

Year 12 completers and non-completers favour different fields of study

In 2022, the most popular field of study for Year 12 completers was Health (21.5%), followed by Society and Culture (17.3%), and Management and Commerce (13.5%). These have been the 3 most popular fields for the past 6 years, but while the proportions of completers studying Health, and Society and Culture have grown over time, Management and Commerce has declined.

In 2022, non-completers were most likely to study Society and Culture (14.6%), followed by Food, Hospitality, and Personal Services (14.1%), and Creative Arts (12.6%). The preferences of non-completers have fluctuated over time with Management and Commerce (11.6%) and Health (12.1%) previously being in the 3 most popular fields of study. The yearly fluctuations are in part due to the smaller sample of non-completers.





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Favoured industries of employment have remained stable over time

Leading industries of employment for Year 12 completers and non-completers have remained largely unchanged since 2017. Respondents who completed Year 12 are most likely to gain employment as Sales Assistants and Storepersons (30.8%), or in the Food, Hospitality and Tourism industry (26.3%). These 2 industries have alternated as the top industry over the past 6 years.

The top 5 industries of employment for non-completers have remained largely unchanged over the past 5 years, with the exception that Electrical and Electronic Trades and Motor Vehicle Service and Repair have previously been as popular as Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty which is currently in fifth place.

TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS, ON TRACK 2022

Year 12 completers	Rank	Year 12 non-completers
Sales Assistants and Storepersons 30.8%	1	20.6% Building and Construction
Food, Hospitality and Tourism 26.3%	2	14.9% Food, Hospitality and Tourism
Teaching, Childcare and Library 7.2%	3	13.5% Sales Assistants and Storepersons
Health, Fitness, Hair and Beauty 6.3%	4	7.5% Electrical and Electronics Trades
Labourers, Factory and Machine Workers 4.9%	5	7.0% Motor Vehicle Service and Repair

Non-completers leave schools for a range of reasons

Reasons for leaving school are categorised as either “pull” factors (leaving school to pursue other opportunities) or “push” factors (leaving school due to negative experiences). In 2022, the most common reason given by non-completers for leaving school was work/career reasons (21.8%), a pull factor. Completing VCAL (5.2%) or studying elsewhere (4.8%) were the sixth and seventh most common reasons. Common push factors include ill health (12.7%), not liking school (11.7%), not coping at school (10.8%), and finding school a poor fit (9.0%). The proportions of respondents citing these reasons have not changed considerably over time, except for ill health which has grown steadily from 7.7% in 2016.

Rank	Reason for leaving school early	2022
1	Work or career reasons	21.8%
2	Ill health	12.7%
3	Did not like school/teachers/not interested in going	11.7%
4	Not coping well at school/failed/failing subjects/too hard	10.8%
5	School was not for me/school was not a good environment/I was not learning	9.0%
6	Finished/finished VCAL	5.2%
7	Study elsewhere/TAFE/different course	4.8%



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Post-school destinations are influenced by respondent characteristics

The On Track survey provides information on post-school destinations by selected student characteristics, including gender, location, and language 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.*

Students with a language background other than English are more likely to enrol in a bachelor’s 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.

*Note: Data represented by gender is described as male and female. This analysis does not include respondents who either did not identify as either male or female or for whom such identifying information was unavailable due to the small number of respondents in this category.

Destinations of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents follow different patterns

In 2022, there were 370 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents (297 Year 12 completers and 73 non-completers) to the On Track survey. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents who completed Year 12 were similarly likely to pursue an apprenticeship/traineeship (24.2%) or a bachelor’s degree (26.9%). Completers were more likely to be employed (32.0%) than the average across all respondents (24.3%). Certificates/diplomas were pursued by both Year 12 completers and non-completers in similar proportions to the average across all respondents.

DESTINATIONS OF ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YEAR 12 COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS, 2022

	In Education or Training			Not in Education or Training		
	Apprenticeship or traineeship	Bachelor’s degree	Certificates/ diplomas	Employed	Looking for work	Not in labour force, education or training
Year 12 completers	24.2%	26.9%	10.8%	32.0%	4.7%	1.3%
Non-completers	26.0%	2.7%	12.3%	34.2%	20.5%	4.1%



Year 12 completers and non-completers have different perceptions of careers advice

In 2022, the proportion of respondents finding career advice somewhat or very useful was greater for Year 12 completers (71.0%) than for non-completers (49.9%). These proportions have decreased over time, particularly since 2020.

PROPORTIONS OF YEAR 12 COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS FINDING CAREER ACTIVITIES SOMEWHAT OR VERY USEFUL, 2020 TO 2022

Cohort	2020	2021	2022
Year 12 completers	78.2%	73.5%	71.0%
Non-completers	61.2%	55.8%	49.9%

The 3 most attended career activities were the same for both Year 12 completers and non-completers. Participation in these activities has declined over time, but their popularity compared to other activities has been consistent.

PROPORTION OF YEAR 12 COMPLETERS AND NON-COMPLETERS ATTENDING THE 3 MOST POPULAR CAREER ACTIVITIES, 2022

Career activity attendance	Year 12 completers	Non-completers
Have a one-on-one talk with the school's career advisor	80.4%	65.1%
Search on-line for career options at school	76.6%	56.3%
Identify careers that match your interests and abilities	72.1%	56.2%



Differences in student destinations between school sectors

In 2022, the proportion of Year 12 completers enrolled in a bachelor’s degrees was greater for the non-government school sector (59.9%) than for the government school sector (45.6%), with both sectors showing declines from 2021 results (64.2% and 48.8% for non-government and government respectively). In the long term, however, enrolment in bachelor’s degrees has increased for both sectors.

Year 12 completers and non-completers from the government sector are more likely to transition into employment than those from the non-government sector. This trend has been consistent over time.

DESTINATIONS FOR YEAR 12 COMPLETERS BY SCHOOL SECTOR, 2022

	In Education or Training			Not in Education or Training		
	Apprenticeship or traineeship	Bachelor’s degree	Certificates/ diplomas	Employed	Looking for work	Not in labour force, education or training
Government	11.2%	45.6%	11.1%	27.7%	3.4%	0.9%
Non-government	9.1%	59.9%	8.1%	20.4%	1.8%	0.8%



Find out more

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