



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Summary Statistics for Follow-Up Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition

16th June 2020

This annual statistical publication:

- Provides information on the **follow-up destinations** of school leavers in Scotland.
- Covers all **2018/19 school leavers** from publicly funded mainstream schools.

Follow-up destinations relate to outcomes approximately nine months after the end of the school year. The figures for 2018/19 in this report relate to early April 2020 and therefore will not reflect the full impact of the ongoing **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** pandemic. Further information can be found in section 5.2.

The way in which school leavers undertaking **Personal Skills Development** activity are counted in these statistics has changed. As a result, historic data in this report has been revised to allow consistent comparisons over time. For more information, see section 4.1.

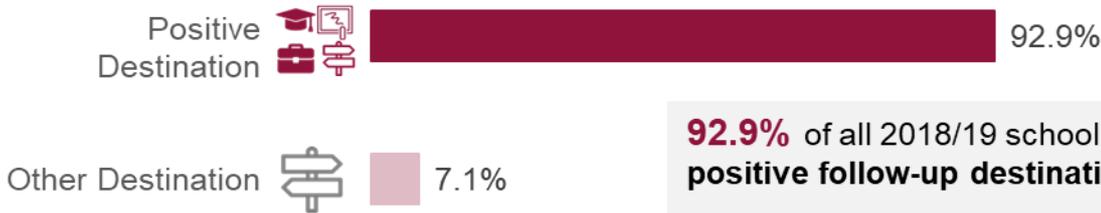
Full results are available from the supplementary tables here:

<http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-83960-803-2>

Summary Statistics for Follow-Up Leaver Destinations, 2018/19

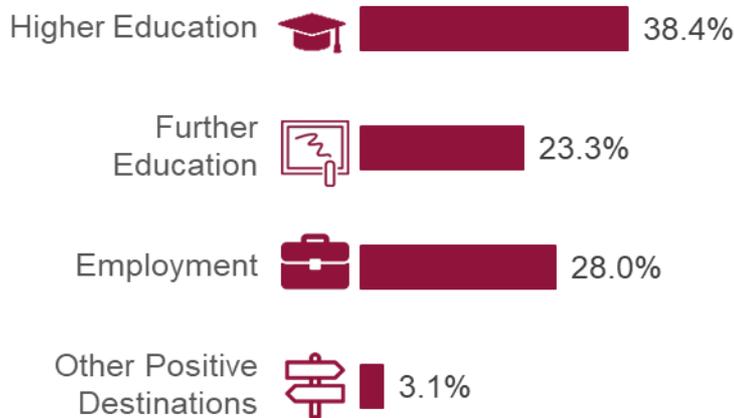


► The percentage of school leavers in positive destinations and other destinations.



92.9% of all 2018/19 school leavers were in a **positive follow-up destination**.
This has **decreased from 93.3% in 2017/18**.

► The percentage of school leavers in each positive destination.

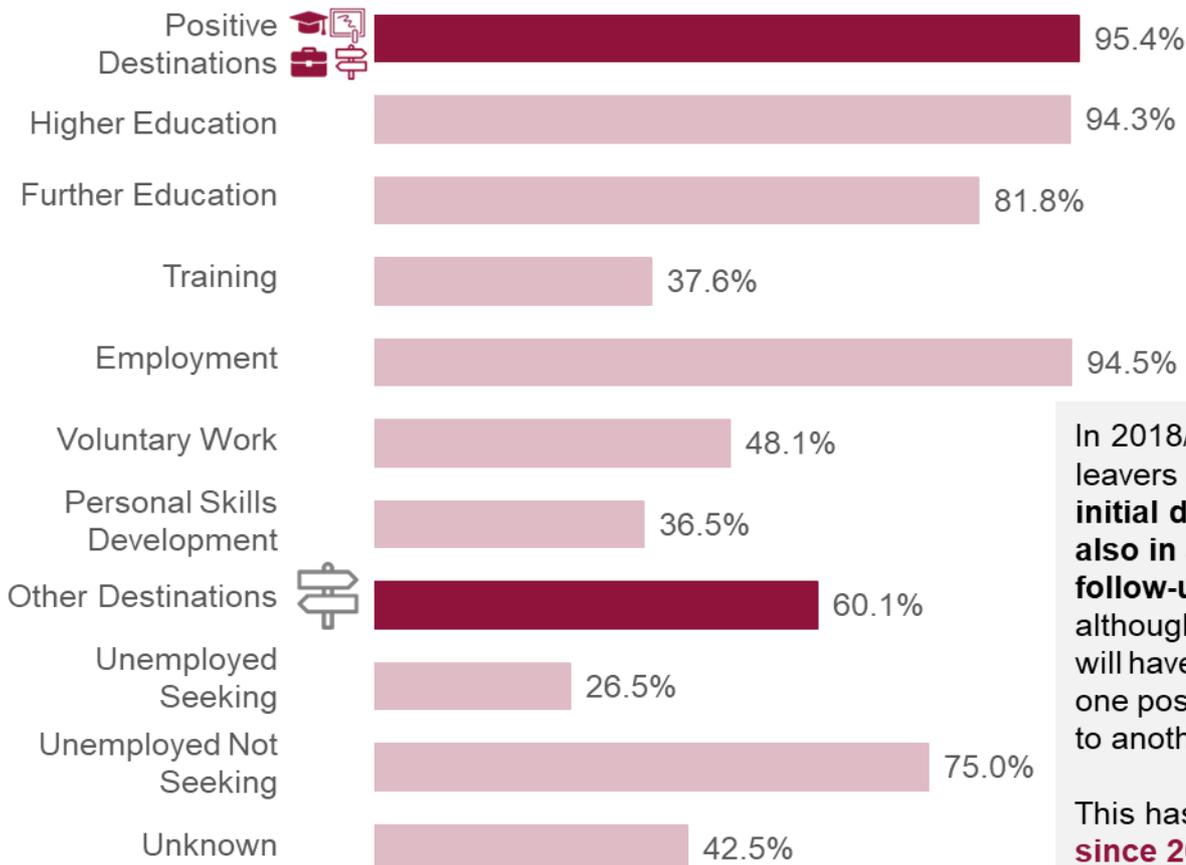


In 2018/19, **38.4%** of leavers were in **Higher Education**. This has **decreased since 2017/18** (39.0%).

28.0% of 2018/19 leavers were in **Employment**. This has **decreased since 2017/18** (28.3%).

23.3% of 2018/19 leavers were in **Further Education**. This has **increased since 2017/18** (22.6%).

► The percentage of school leavers whose follow-up destination was the same as their initial destination.



In 2018/19, **95.4%** of leavers in a **positive initial destination** were also in a **positive follow-up destination**, although some of them will have moved from one positive destination to another.

This has **decreased since 2017/18** (96.0%).

Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	4
Chapter 2: School Leaver Destinations	5
2.1 Destinations	5
2.2 Destinations by Stage	6
2.3 Destinations by Deprivation	6
2.4 Destinations by Pupil Characteristics.....	8
Chapter 3: Initial to Follow-Up Destination Comparison	10
Chapter 4: Changes in this report and planned future changes	12
4.1 Personal Skills Development	12
4.2 Activity Agreements	12
4.3 Reporting schedule.....	13
4.4 Planned future changes	13
Chapter 5: Background notes	14
5.1 National Statistics publication	14
5.2 Coronavirus (COVID-19)	14
5.3 Sources and methodology	15
5.4 Definitions and Symbols	16
5.5 Additional Support Needs	18
5.6 UK comparisons	18
5.7 List of supplementary tables	18
5.8 Cost	19
5.9 Further information	19

Chapter 1: Introduction

This publication provides information on the **follow-up destinations** of **2018/19 school leavers**, relating to outcomes approximately nine months after the end of the school year (first Monday in April 2020).

Follow-up destinations relate to outcomes approximately nine months after the end of the school year. The figures for 2018/19 in this report relate to early April 2020 and therefore will not reflect the full impact of the ongoing **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** pandemic. Further information can be found in section 5.2.

A separate publication – ‘Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations’ – published in February 2020, provided information on the initial destinations of 2018/19 school leavers, approximately three months after the end of the school term (first Monday in October 2019).

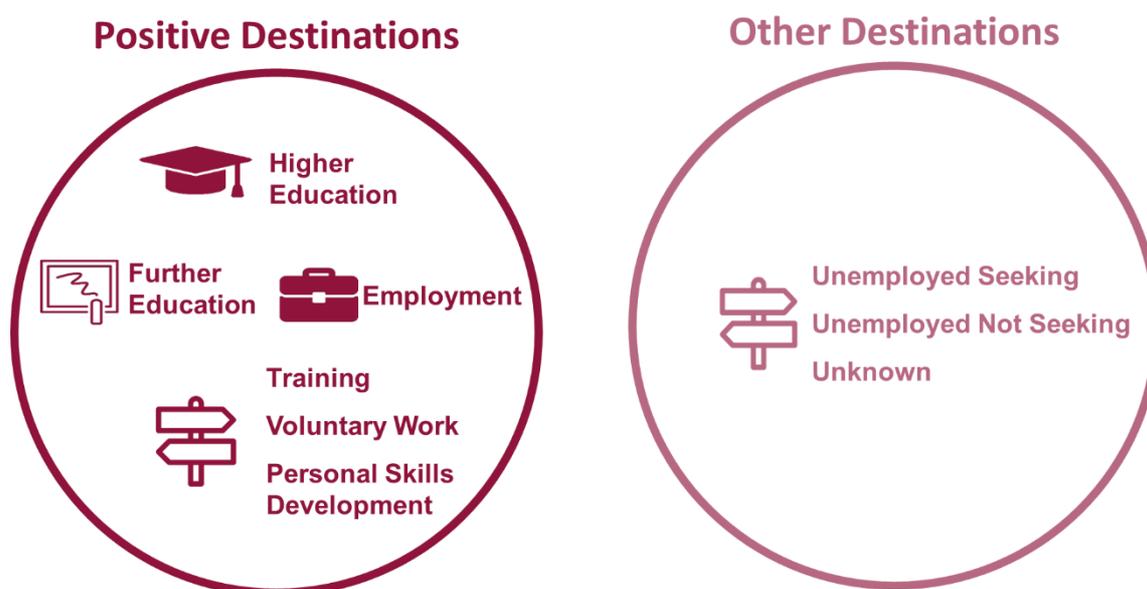
School leaver destinations data is based on the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) ‘Opportunities for All’ shared dataset matched with pupil census records for the school year 2018/19.

A school leaver is defined as a young person of school leaving age, who left school during or at the end of the school year. For 2018/19 school leavers, the leaver year is 19th September 2018 to 17th September 2019. For more information on how this data is collected, see section 5.3.1.

This publication covers school leavers from **all stages** of secondary school. For most young people, S4 (≈15-16 year olds) is the last compulsory year of school, but the majority choose to stay on and complete S5 (≈16-17 year olds) and S6 (≈17-18 year olds)¹.

Figures are based on pupils in **publicly funded mainstream schools**, in the 32 local authorities and one grant aided school.

Destinations are grouped in the following categories within this statistical bulletin:



¹ Pupils ages are based on approximate age ranges, more information is available from the pupil census, here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/>

Chapter 2: School Leaver Destinations

- **92.9 per cent** of 2018/19 school leavers were in a **positive follow-up destination** (93.3 per cent for 2017/18).
- **38.4 per cent** of school leavers were in **Higher Education** (the highest proportion of all categories).

2.1 Destinations

Table 1 shows that 92.9 per cent of all 2018/19 school leavers were in a positive follow-up destination. This was lower than for 2017/18 (93.3 per cent).

Table 1 also shows that, 38.4 per cent of the 2018/19 leavers were in Higher Education. This was lower than for 2017/18 (39.0 per cent). The percentage of school leavers in Further Education has increased from 22.6 per cent in 2017/18 to 23.3 per cent in 2018/19.

The percentage of school leavers in Employment has decreased slightly from 28.3 per cent for 2017/18 leavers to 28.0 per cent in 2018/19.

The percentage of school leavers who were Unemployed has increased slightly from 5.6 per cent for 2017/18 to 5.8 per cent for 2018/19 leavers. The percentage of school leavers whose follow-up destination was Unknown has slightly increased from 1.1 per cent for 2017/18 to 1.3 per cent for 2018/19 leavers.

Table 1: Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination category, 2013/14 to 2018/19

Destination	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Higher Education	38.2	36.8	37.3	38.3	39.0	38.4
Further Education	24.3	23.4	22.4	23.0	22.6	23.3
Training	2.3	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.3
Employment	25.5	27.8	28.7	28.3	28.3	28.0
Voluntary Work	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5
Activity Agreement ¹	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	n/a
Personal Skills Development ²	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Positive Destinations	91.7	92.2	91.6	93.1	93.3	92.9
Unemployed Seeking	6.5	5.6	5.7	4.3	3.8	3.5
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.3
Unknown	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.3
Other Destinations	8.3	7.8	8.4	6.9	6.7	7.1
Number of Leavers	51,293	52,337	52,113	51,172	49,650	49,655

1. For 2018/19, support previously recorded as Activity Agreements is recorded in the Training category. For more information see section 4.2.

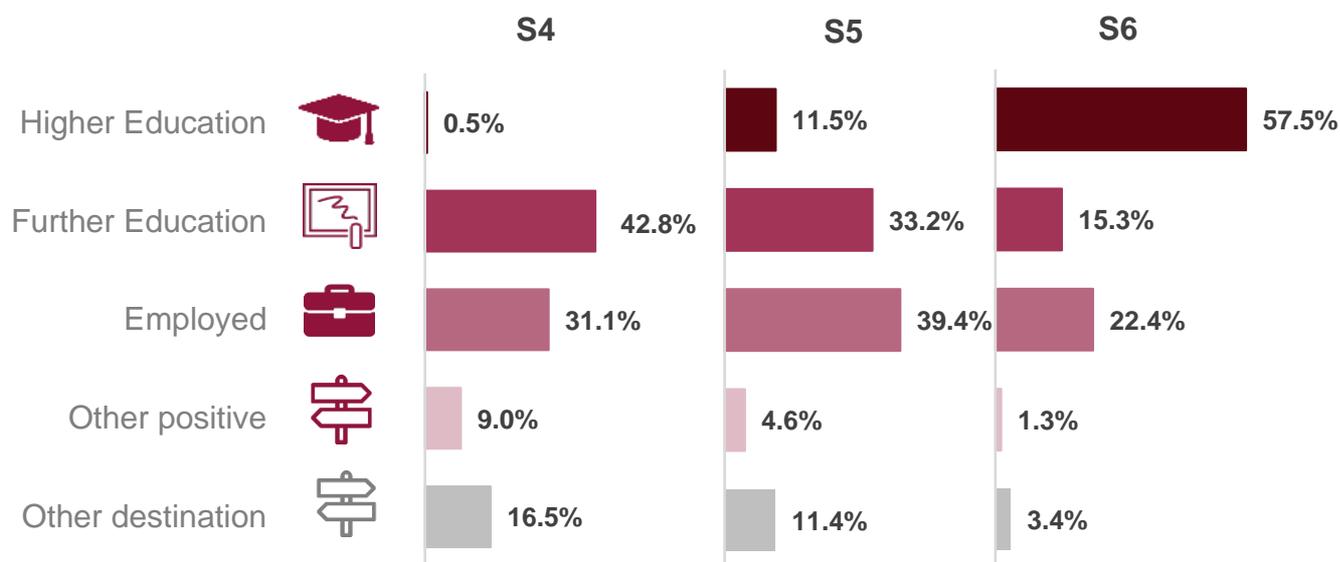
2. All school leavers undertaking Personal Skills Development (PSD) are now recorded in a new standalone PSD category. For more information, see section 4.1.

2.2 Destinations by Stage

The follow-up destinations of 2018/19 school leavers by stage of leaving (Chart 1) show:

- the majority of **S6 leavers** were in Higher Education (57.5 per cent);
- the most common follow-up destination for **S5 leavers** was Employment (39.4 per cent) followed by Further Education (33.2 per cent);
- the most common destination for **S4 leavers** was Further Education (42.8 per cent).

Chart 1. Follow-up destination^{1,2} of leavers by stage of leaving, 2018/19



1. Other positive includes Personal Skills Development, Activity Agreements, Training and Voluntary Work.
2. Other destinations include Unemployed Seeking, Unemployed Not Seeking and Unknown.
3. A small percentage of school leavers left in other stages not shown in this graph. For more information, see the supplementary tables. A list of these tables is available at background note 5.7.

2.3 Destinations by Deprivation

Chart 2 shows that the percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination has decreased slightly for leavers from both the **most deprived** and **least deprived areas** in 2018/19, based on the **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**. The deprivation gap has reduced from 8.6 percentage points in 2017/18 to 8.4 percentage points in 2018/19. The deprivation gap has narrowed because the proportion in a positive follow-up destination decreased by more for pupils from the least deprived areas.

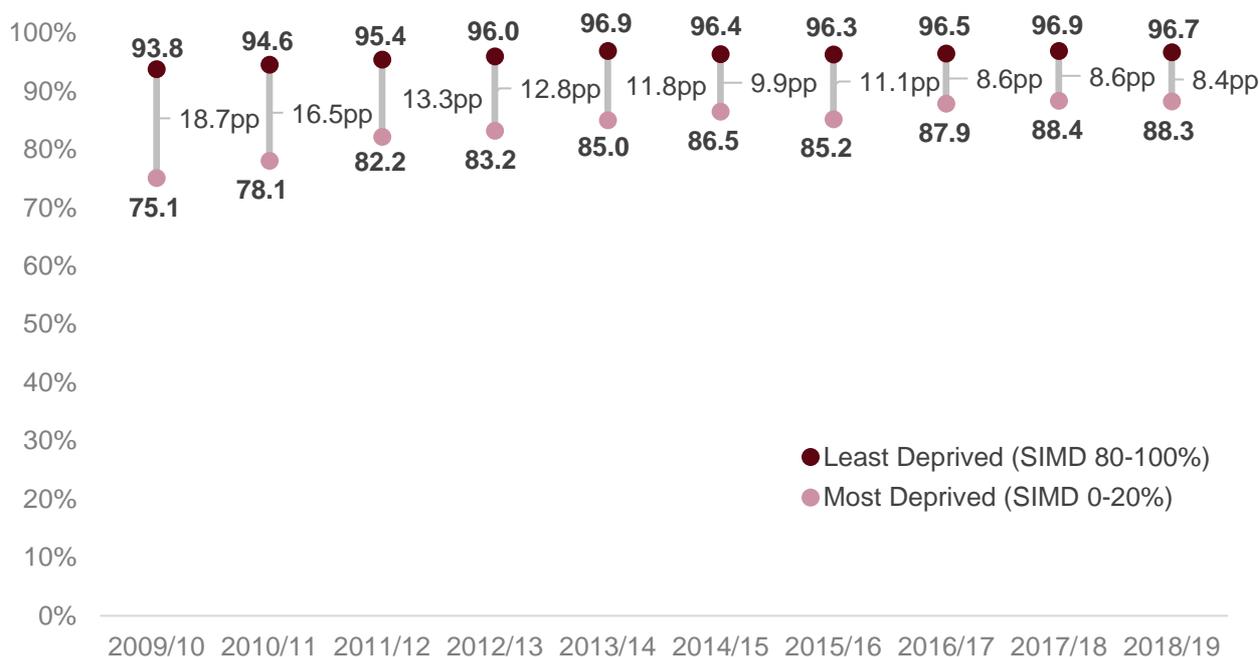
Table 2 provides a breakdown of follow-up school leaver destinations by SIMD. Amongst other things, it shows that pupils from the most deprived areas continue to be less likely to be in Higher Education than those from the least deprived areas.

In 2018/19, the most common destination for leavers from the most deprived areas was Further Education at 31.5 per cent.

In 2018/19, 9.9 per cent of leavers from the most deprived areas were Unemployed, compared to 2.6 per cent of leavers from the least deprived areas.

A time series of destinations by SIMD is available in the supplementary tables. A list of these tables is available at background note 5.7.

Chart 2. Percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination, by SIMD¹, 2009/10 to 2018/19



pp = percentage point difference between most and least deprived SIMD quintile

1. Based on SIMD 2009 for 2009/10 and 2010/11, SIMD 2012 for 2011/12 to 2015/16 and SIMD 2016 for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. More information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-multiple-deprivation-2016/>.

Table 2: Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination category by SIMD¹, 2018/19

Follow-up Destination	0-20% (Most Deprived)	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	80-100% (Least Deprived)	Percentage point gap ²	Total
Higher Education	24.5	29.1	36.9	45.1	57.2	32.8	38.4
Further Education	31.5	28.1	23.2	18.8	14.5	-16.9	23.3
Training ³	4.3	2.6	2.0	1.5	0.9	-3.4	2.3
Employment	27.0	29.9	30.7	29.3	23.3	-3.6	28.0
Voluntary Work	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5
Personal Skills Development ⁴	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	-0.5	0.4
Positive Destinations	88.3	90.5	93.7	95.5	96.7	8.4	92.9
Unemployed seeking	6.2	4.5	3.0	2.1	1.5	-4.7	3.5
Unemployed Not Seeking	3.8	3.0	2.3	1.5	1.1	-2.7	2.3
Unknown	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	-1.1	1.3
Other Destinations	11.7	9.5	6.3	4.5	3.3	-8.4	7.1
Number of Leavers	10,601	9,737	9,566	9,910	9,841		49,655

1. Based on SIMD 2016. More information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-multiple-deprivation-2016/>.

2. The percentage point gap measures the difference between the most and least deprived pupils.

3. For 2018/19, support previously recorded as Activity Agreements is recorded in the Training category. For more information see section 4.2.

4. The way in which Personal Skills Development activity is categorised in these statistics has changed. For more information see section 4.1.

2.4 Destinations by Pupil Characteristics

Table 3 shows the percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination by various characteristics.

The percentage of 2018/19 school leavers in positive follow-up destinations has decreased for most groups, compared to 2017/18.

School leavers in 2018/19 with an additional support need (ASN) were less likely to go on to a positive follow-up destination, compared to leavers without a recorded ASN (87.9 per cent compared to 95.1 per cent).

Pupils of an Asian ethnic background tend to be more likely to go on to a positive follow-up destination than those from other ethnic backgrounds. Rates for most ethnic groups in a positive destination for 2018/19 have decreased compared to 2017/18.

Females continue to be more likely to be in a positive destinations than males; 93.7 per cent of females and 92.1 per cent of males were in a positive destination.

Other Urban areas had the lowest proportion of leavers in positive destinations (92.1 per cent), compared to Remote Rural areas which had the highest (94.6 per cent).

More information on destinations by pupil characteristics is available in the supplementary tables. A list of these tables is available at background note 5.7.

Table 3: Percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination, by pupil characteristic, 2013/14 to 2018/19

Pupil Characteristic	Percentage					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Sex						
Male	90.6	91.4	90.9	92.4	92.4	92.1
Female	92.8	92.9	92.3	94.0	94.3	93.7
Ethnicity¹						
White - Scottish	91.6	92.1	91.5	93.0	93.2	92.7
White - non-Scottish	92.9	92.2	92.8	93.9	94.2	93.5
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	93.6	93.0	93.0	92.7	93.6	92.8
Asian - Indian	*	96.3	96.9	*	97.2	94.4
Asian - Pakistani	93.2	95.2	92.5	95.7	93.5	94.8
Asian - Chinese	*	97.1	95.9	*	96.8	*
Asian - Other	97.0	96.2	95.1	95.3	93.9	*
African/ Black/ Caribbean ²	96.0	94.4	92.3	93.9	96.0	94.1
All other categories ³	92.6	91.2	88.4	94.5	92.0	93.6
Not Disclosed/Not known	89.1	90.6	88.8	90.7	89.8	88.9
Urban/Rural						
Large Urban Areas	90.7	91.6	90.2	92.4	92.4	92.4
Other Urban Areas	91.5	91.7	91.6	92.4	92.9	92.1
Accessible Small Towns	93.2	93.5	93.6	93.3	93.7	93.7
Remote Small Towns	93.2	93.5	93.3	94.6	94.8	93.6
Accessible Rural	92.5	92.7	92.4	95.2	95.1	94.5
Remote Rural	95.5	95.8	93.2	96.4	95.9	94.6
Additional Support Needs⁴						
ASN	84.7	86.2	85.2	87.7	88.4	87.9
No ASN	93.3	93.7	93.5	95.0	95.3	95.1
All Leavers	91.7	92.2	91.6	93.1	93.3	92.9

1. Some categories have been grouped together due to small numbers. Some categories contain between 100-200 leavers.

2. For 2013/14 to 2018/19 the 'African/ Black/ Caribbean' category includes 'African', 'African - Other', and the 'Caribbean or Black' categories.

3. For 2013/14 to 2018/19, 'All other categories' includes 'Other - other' and 'Other - Arab'.

4. Pupils who have a CSP, IEP, Child's Plan are assessed or declared disabled or have another need.

Chapter 3: Initial to Follow-Up Destination Comparison

- **95.4 per cent** of 2018/19 school leavers who were in a positive initial destination were also in a **positive follow-up destination**.

A school leaver's follow-up destination, nine months after they leave school, may differ from their initial destination, three months after they leave school. Information on the initial destinations of 2018/19 school leavers was published in February 2020, here: [‘Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition’](#).

Chart 3 compares 2018/19 school leaver initial destination rates 3 months after leaving school with follow-up destination rates (9 months after leaving school). The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination (92.9 per cent) was lower than the percentage of school leavers in a positive initial destination (95.0 per cent) in 2018/19; a similar pattern can be seen across previous school leaver cohorts. The largest reductions between initial and follow-up destinations were in Further Education and Higher Education, by 3.9 and 2.0 percentage points respectively. Whereas the proportion in Employment increased by 5.1 percentage points between initial and follow-up destination.

The proportion of leavers in other destinations increased by 2.2 percentage points between initial and follow-up destinations with Unemployed Not Seeking increasing by 0.9 percentage points. A time series of initial and follow-up destinations is available in the supplementary tables. A list of these tables is available at background note 5.7.

Chart 3: Percentage of school leavers in an initial and a follow-up destination category, 2018/19

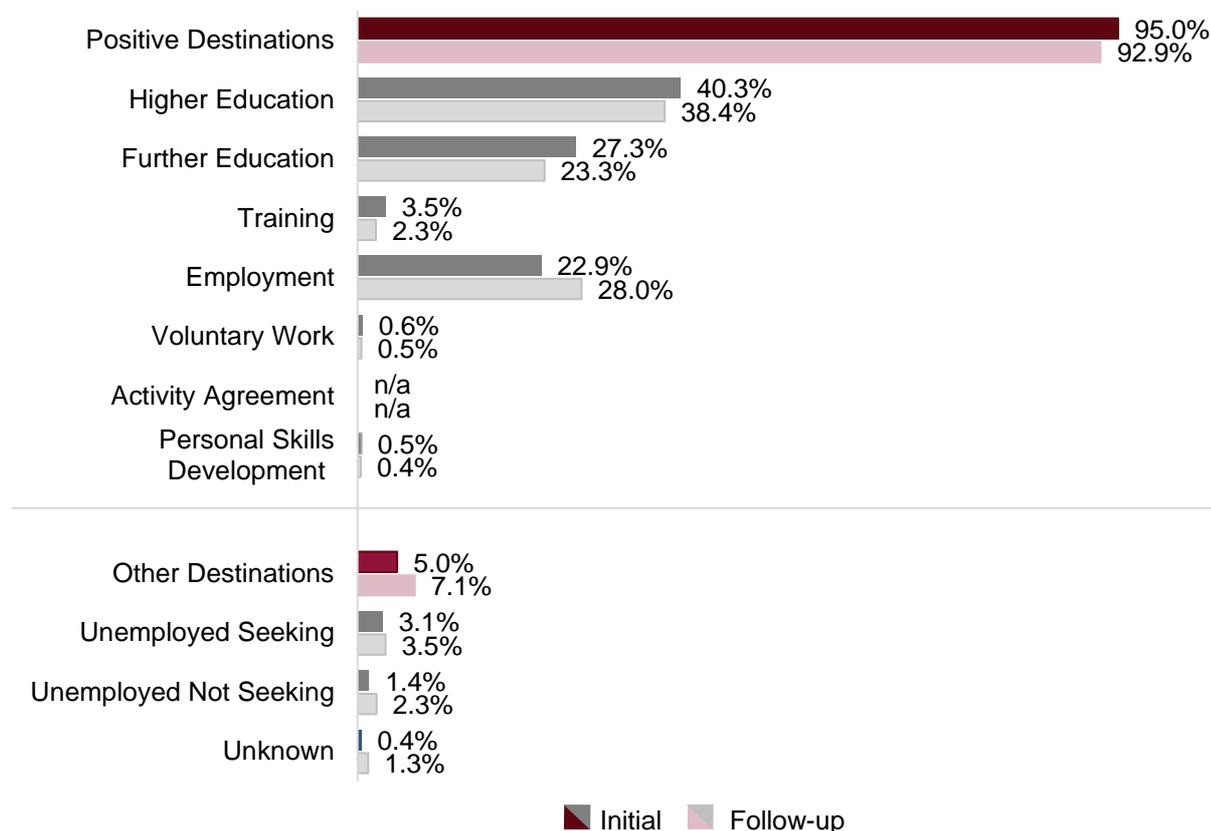
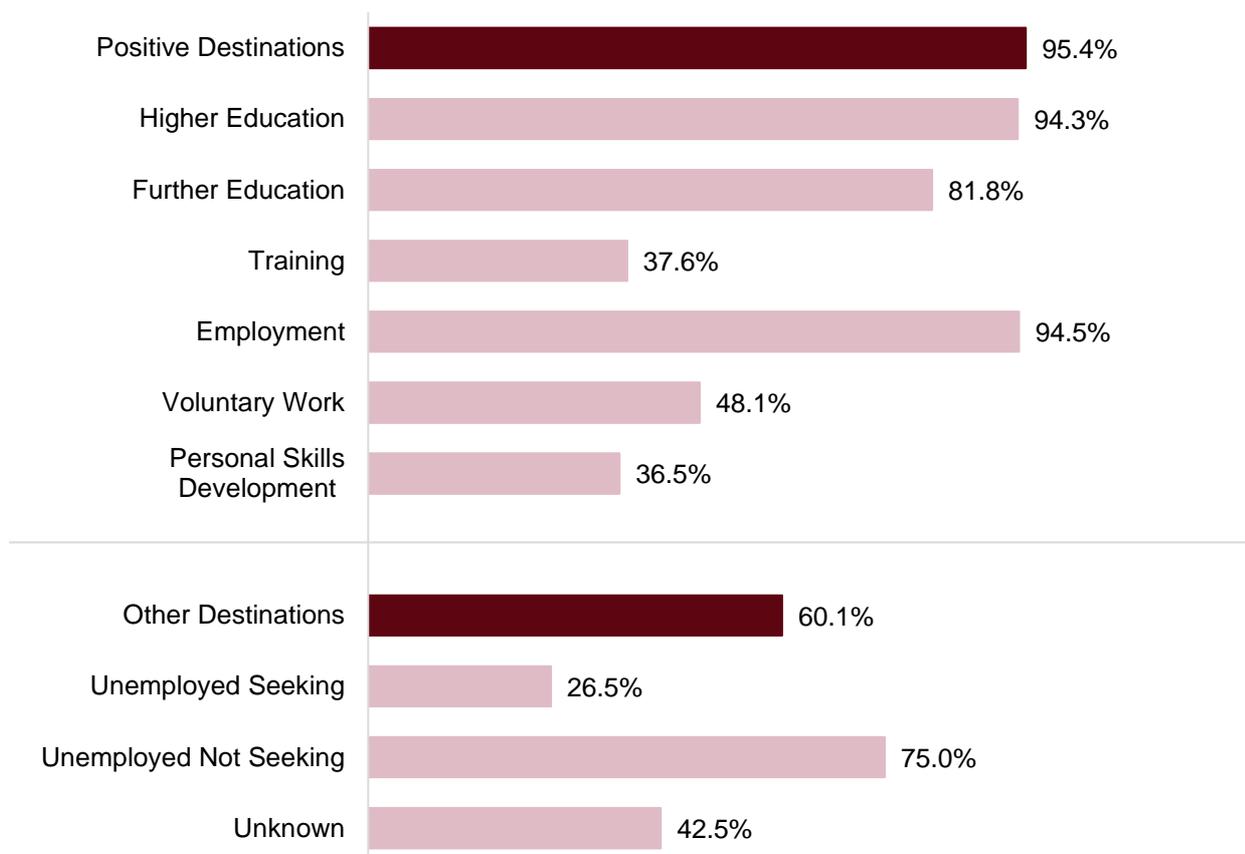


Chart 4 shows the percentage of school leavers whose follow-up destination was the same as their initial destination. In 2018/19, 95.4 per cent of those in a positive initial destination were also in a positive follow-up destination, although some of them will have moved from one positive destination to another. The largest group of school leavers who remained in the same destination was those in Employment, at 94.5 per cent; closely followed by Higher Education at 94.3 per cent. School leavers whose initial destination was Personal Skills Development were less likely to remain in the same destination. More information on school leavers who sustained a destination or moved into another destination category is available in the supplementary tables. A list of these tables is available at background note 5.7.

Chart 4: Percentage of school leavers whose follow-up destination was the same as their initial destination, 2018/19



Chapter 4: Changes in this report and planned future changes

4.1 Personal Skills Development

The way in which school leavers undertaking Personal Skills Development activity are counted in these statistics has changed. This change was first introduced in 'Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition', published 25th February 2020.

In previous publications, young people participating in Personal Skills Development (PSD) were individually mapped to destination categories; this mapping was carried out by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Scottish Government analysts based on details of the PSD activity recorded on the SDS Customer Support System (CSS). Depending on the evidence, a leaver could be mapped to a positive destination or an Unemployed seeking or Unemployed Not Seeking destination.

This meant that school leavers from special units within mainstream schools, specifically those with severe and complex needs, participating in PSD were not always being classified as in a 'positive destination'. In light of user feedback, we undertook to consider the categorisation of school leavers undertaking PSD.

A consultation sought users' views on a proposal to record all school leavers undertaking Personal Skills Development in a new standalone Personal Skills Development category, which would be a positive destination.

The consultation ran during October 2019. It was published on the Scottish Government website and promoted to known users. It received 31 responses and all respondents indicated that they were in agreement with the proposal to count all school leavers undertaking Personal Skills Development as being in a positive destination. The results of the consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781839605567>.

Based on historic data we estimate that the proportion of school leavers counted as being in a positive destination has increased by around 0.2 percentage points each year, as a result of the change. The proportion in unemployed destinations is estimated to have fallen by an equivalent amount, and there are other associated small changes to individual sub-categories.

Historic data back to 2009/10 have been revised to allow comparison over time on a consistent basis.

4.2 Activity Agreements

Activity Agreements were 'agreements between a young person and an advisor that the young person will take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment'.

Since 2010/11 a separate 'Activity Agreement' category has been included in school leaver destination statistics and counted as a positive destination.

The integration of funding streams, as part of the ongoing implementation of No One Left Behind², means that although local authorities will provide the same type of support and opportunities for young people, this activity will no longer be funded under the banner of 'Activity Agreements'. This means it is no longer appropriate to record school leavers receiving this support under this category. Instead, school leavers receiving this support who left during or at the end of the 2018/19 academic year are recorded in the Training category. Note that data for earlier years continues to include the Activity Agreements category reflecting the support and funding streams available at the time. This means that the proportion of school leavers recorded in the Training category in 2018/19 is not directly comparable with the proportion recorded in this category in previous years.

4.3 Reporting schedule

The reporting schedule of school leaver attainment and destination statistics changed in 2019 to better meet user needs. This is the second edition of 'Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations'. The second edition of 'Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations' was published in February 2020. These publications report on all school leavers. In previous years all of these statistics were published in June in 'Summary Statistics for Attainment, Leaver Destinations and Healthy Living'. These changes reflect the results from the user consultation which was conducted in September 2017.

4.4 Planned future changes

The Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland are investigating methods to develop a new measure of long-term outcomes for school leavers using the Annual Participation Measure (APM) methodology. We will consult with stakeholders on this in due course, and, if feasible, the intention is that it will replace the existing school leaver follow-up destination measure. For further information about the Annual Participation Measure produced by Skills Development Scotland, see background note 5.9.

² No One Left Behind: review of employability services sets out the next steps that will be taken to deliver more effective and joined-up employability support across Scotland. As part of this the funding streams associated with Activity Agreements and other programmes are being integrated into a new local employability delivery model managed collaboratively between Scottish Government and Local Government from April 2019.

Chapter 5: Background notes

5.1 National Statistics publication

This is a National Statistics Publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. This publication has been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority.

5.2 Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The statistics in this report are based on data held on the 'Opportunities for All' shared dataset. They provide information on school leavers' latest destination status recorded as at Monday, 6th April 2020 and extracted from the dataset in early May 2020 (see section 5.3.1).

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) aim to validate statuses of the school leaver cohort using a combination of data received through data sharing, ongoing case management of customers and direct follow up of customers by staff in SDS centres and their local contact centre. Most statuses are confirmed throughout March and April. In some cases, it is not possible to confirm a status, in which case latest status recorded is used. This is particularly the case for the employment category which is more reliant on manual data collection by SDS staff as SDS does not currently have any regular administrative data feed of employment information.

The effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the UK and its economy have been felt since March 2020. As part of the response the UK and Scottish Governments ordered the closure of pubs, restaurants and other businesses on the 20th March 2020. At the same time, the Government's Furlough scheme was announced with support for self-employed workers announced on 26th March. UK-wide restrictions began on 23rd March and this included the closure of all non-essential shops, businesses and venues. The closures of businesses often affected sectors where young people are more likely to be employed³. The follow-up destination information held for school leavers will have been gathered before, during and after these restrictions came into force. As a result, the statistics in this report will not reflect the full impact of the ongoing **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** pandemic.

School leavers on the Furlough scheme are recorded as being in Employment in these statistics.

The Covid-19 pandemic may have also affected the local partnerships' ability to track some school leavers through home visits which is likely to have partially contributed to the larger proportion of school leavers with an Unknown status compared to previous years.

³ See for example the chart on page 16 of the April 2020 State of the Economy Report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/state-economy-april-2020/>

5.3 Sources and methodology

5.3.1 Source and Quality Assurance

School leaver destination data is sourced from the 'Opportunities for All' shared dataset which is managed and hosted by SDS on behalf of partners. The data is held on the SDS operational Customer Support System (CSS). This data set contains information shared by local authorities, colleges, Scottish Funding Council, Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) via a secure online portal known as the 16+ Data Hub. The data to be shared is documented within the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013 and there are a series of business rules governing the processing of this data.

Data that has been shared by partners is combined with information gathered directly from young people, their parents/carers or their representatives by SDS staff delivering services to individuals, including transitional support to school leavers. SDS has at least one named adviser for each school in Scotland who work directly with pupils and school staff to support the transition of young people from school. As this combined data is primarily used for operational purposes the quality is continually monitored to ensure SDS, local authorities and colleges can monitor and plan for a young person's involvement in education, training or employment and identify those young people who require advice or support.

SDS has developed guidance documents for their staff which set out the specific activities and processes involved in identifying, engaging with and confirming the status of SDS customers. This information includes definitions of the available statuses on CSS and step by step recording guidance. SDS staff have access to specific reports for data quality and more specifically to support the school leaver destination process. These reports will identify school leavers and provide details of their destinations including the source of the information and the date the information was validated.

Prior to destination data being shared with the Scottish Government, final quality checks are carried out centrally by the Corporate Planning and Performance Reporting team within SDS. These include a review of statuses to ensure the reported destination reflects the available detail e.g. course details and course levels are correctly reported as higher or further education. In addition, final checks of shared data are made to ensure destinations are consistent with data sources e.g. matching information about modern or graduate apprentices.

5.3.2 Methodology

A pupil is counted as a school leaver if they have a leaver record on the 'Opportunities for All' shared data set, a pupil census record for the same academic year, and no pupil census record in the following academic year.

The initial destinations data (published in February) provides information on the outcomes for young people approximately three months after the end of the academic year (1st Monday in October) while the follow-up data in this publication provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately nine months after the end of the academic year

(1st Monday in April). These collections should be seen as complementary to one another but it should be noted that various factors may affect the results at different time periods.

Throughout this publication the follow-up destination statistics exclude special school leavers from the calculations.

5.4 Definitions and Symbols

5.4.1 Definitions

Leaver destinations are categorised by SDS based on shared administrative data wherever possible. Alternatively, they have been captured by staff in data sharing organisations or through direct data input by SDS staff, as a result of contact with individuals, their parents/carers or organisations an individual is engaging with. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in this statistical bulletin:

Positive destination: includes higher education, further education, training, employment, voluntary work, Personal Skills Development and (between 2010/11 and 2017/18) Activity Agreements.

Higher Education: includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, i.e. above SCQF Level 7. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

Further Education: includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll. This may include National Qualifications.

Training: includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as the Employability Fund national training programme. It also includes leavers who are on local authority or third sector funded training programmes that are in receipt of a training allowance or those participating in Community Jobs Scotland.

From 2018/19 this category includes school leavers receiving support that would previously have been recorded as 'Activity Agreements'. This means that the proportion of 2018/19 school leavers with a destination category of Training cannot be directly compared to the proportion recorded for previous years. Further information can be found in the Activity Agreements definition below.

Employment: includes those who consider themselves to be employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through national training programmes such as Modern Apprenticeships and Graduate Apprenticeships.

Voluntary Work: includes those undertaking voluntary work/volunteering which will involve a young person giving of their time and energy through a third party with or without financial allowance.

Personal Skills Development: Young people who have a destination as Personal Skills Development (PSD) on the 'Opportunities for All' shared dataset fall into one of two different categories:

PSD (Employability): including individuals who participate in activities with the aim of employment. For example programmes run by community learning and development or third sector organisations.

PSD (Social & Health): includes individuals who may not be ready to enter the labour market and require access to support from support services to make transitions into learning/work or adulthood. An example of this is where an individual undertakes structured opportunities appropriate to their long term needs or to address their barriers to engaging in education, employment or training.

The way in which school leavers undertaking Personal Skills Development are counted in these statistics has changed. Further information can be found in section 4.1.

Activity Agreements: prior to 2018/19 this included those for whom there was an agreement between a young person and an advisor that the young person would take part in a programme of learning and activity which helped them become ready for formal learning or employment.

The integration of funding streams as part of the ongoing implementation of No One Left Behind⁴ means that although local authorities will provide the same type of support and opportunities for young people, this activity will no longer be funded under the banner of 'Activity Agreements'. This means it is no longer appropriate to record school leavers receiving this support using this category. Instead they are recorded in the Training category for 2018/19. Note that data for earlier years continues to include the Activity Agreements category reflecting the support that was available at the time.

Unemployed seeking: includes those known by Skills Development Scotland or their partners to be seeking employment or training. This includes those receiving support from SDS, Department of Working and Pensions and other partners. It is based on regular contact between the supporting organisation and the individual. This does not refer to the definition of 'Unemployed' used by the Department of Work and Pensions to calculate published unemployment rates.

Unemployed not seeking: includes all those individuals who are not yet ready or are unavailable to enter the labour market for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve ill health/sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

Unknown: includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland, the school attended, other partners or were not able to be contacted at the survey point.

5.4.2 Symbols

The following symbols are used:

- = nil

* = value suppressed to protect against the risk of disclosure of personal information

⁴ No One Left Behind: review of employability services sets out the next steps that will be taken to deliver more effective and joined-up employability support across Scotland. As part of this the funding streams associated with Activity Agreements and other programmes are being integrated into a new local employability delivery model managed collaboratively between Scottish Government and Local Government from April 2019.

5.5 Additional Support Needs

An Additional Support Need (ASN) is recorded where a pupil is receiving any form of additional support for learning, this could be for a wide variety of reasons, of different durations and of any type. The different types of support provided include Co-ordinated Support Plans (CSP) and Individualised Educational Programmes (IEP) as well as disabilities, Child's Plans and other plans. Under previous legislation a pupil may have been categorised as having a Record of Need (RoN).

5.6 UK comparisons

The information presented here is for young people who have left school, while in England and Wales information is collected on 16-19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training. As a result direct comparisons cannot be made.

5.7 List of supplementary tables

Supplementary tables on leaver destinations are available at <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-83960-803-2>

These tables on school leaver follow-up destinations include breakdowns by: characteristics of leavers; local authority; additional support needs; stage of leaving; and subject. There will be information on attainment and leaver destinations of those from special schools.

School Leaver Destinations

- C1.1: Number and percentage of follow-up school leavers by stage of leaving, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.1. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category, 2006/07 to 2018/19
- Table L1.2. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and sex, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.3. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and 6-fold Urban Rural classification of school, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.4. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and Additional Support Need, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.5. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and ethnic background, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.6. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and national identity, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L1.7. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by follow-up destination category and whether declared or assessed disabled, 2009/10, 2014/15 to 2018/19
- Table L1.8. Percentage of school leavers who sustained a destination or moved into another destination category, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L2.1. Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination and local authority, 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Table L2.2. Number of school leavers by follow-up destination and local authority, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table L2.3. Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination and local authority and SIMD, 2009/10 to 2018/19
- Table A1.1. Percentage of school leavers by highest SCQF Level achieved and follow-up destination category, 2009/10 to 2018/19

5.8 Cost

As part of the overall approach to delivering the Scottish Government's Opportunities for All commitment the follow-up of school leavers is a business as usual activity for Skills Development Scotland and costs are embedded within their daily operations. This is unlike earlier years where two dedicated exercises were undertaken and costs could be attributed to the school leaver follow up exercise.

5.9 Further information

This publication is available on the Scottish Government's website at:

<http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-83960-803-2>

School level information, including positive initial destinations of senior phase school leavers is available through Insight (a professional benchmarking tool used by local authorities and schools) and published on the School Information Dashboard:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Dashboards> .

The scope of these destination statistics is limited to school leavers, but other sources are available to assess patterns across the wider society. For example, information on employment trends more broadly is available from the [Scottish Government labour market statistics website](#), and the [Scottish Funding Council](#) publishes data on participation in Higher Education.

The Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) have developed the Annual Participation Measure (APM) which complements school leaver destination statistics. Published every August, the APM captures the activity of all 16-19 year olds across a complete year, including those who choose to stay on at school as well as those who have left school. The APM has been adopted as the metric for measuring success in relation to the Young people's participation national indicator within the [National Performance Framework](#). The indicator measures the percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment.¹ Latest results were published in August 2019 and are available here:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/participation-measure>.

The table below provides summary information for some of the key sources of data on attainment and the activity of young people in Scotland.

Source	Organisation, date of next publication, web link	Key points
Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations	Scottish Government, February 2020, www.gov.scot/	Provides information on the attainment of school leavers and on the activities being undertaken by school leavers 3 months after leaving school . Coverage: School leavers
THIS PUBLICATION Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations	Scottish Government, June 2020, www.gov.scot/	Provides information on the activities being undertaken by school leavers 9 months after leaving school . Coverage: School leavers
Annual Participation Measure	Skills Development Scotland, August 2020, www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk	Reports on the economic and employment activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort , including those at school. Coverage: All 16-19 year olds

Media enquiries about the information in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to Michael Berry 0131 244 2967.

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Eoin Clarke

Education Analytical Services,

Telephone: 0131 244 0893,

E-mail: school.stats@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442

E-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact school.stats@gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 2W, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat

Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/statistics

ISSN 1479 - 7569 ISBN 978-1-83960-803-2

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/