

Fact sheet

Early school leavers

Pathways Outcomes for Learners

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of findings from the Pathways Outcomes for Learners dashboard relating to **early school leavers**.

The **Pathways Outcomes for Learners** dashboard maps the journeys of about 140,000 NSW students from school at age 15 (in 2004 and 2005) to employment at age 24 (in 2013 and 2014). Early school leavers are defined as NSW students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who left school before completing Year 12. This fact sheet compares outcomes for early school leavers with outcomes for all students from their wider Year 10 cohort.

Secondary enrolments from age 15



30% of students left school early

Outcomes at age 24¹

Early school leavers

- 51%** earning above minimum wage
- 8%** studying
- 18%** earning below minimum wage
- 10%** income support
- 13%** no available data

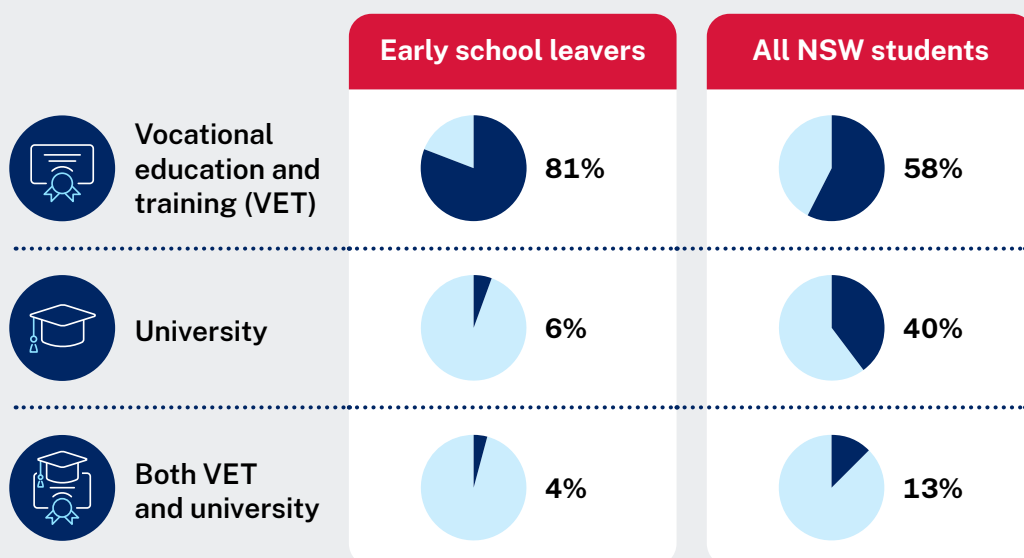
All NSW students

- 57%** earning above minimum wage
- 12%** studying
- 16%** earning below minimum wage
- 6%** income support
- 10%** no available data

51% of early school leavers were earning above minimum wage at age 24

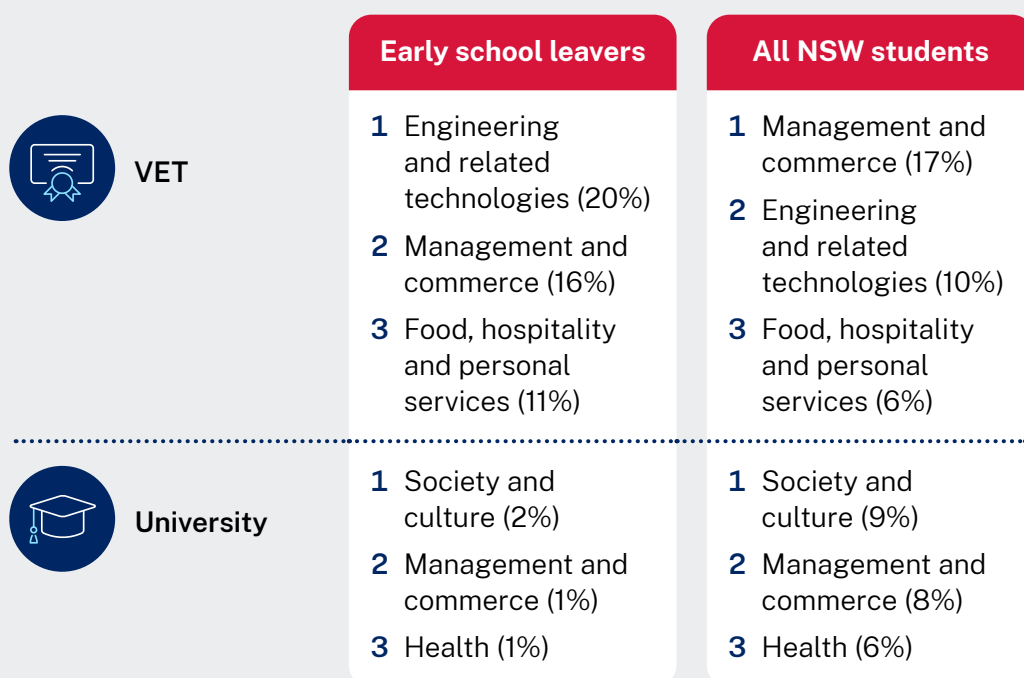
¹ Due to rounding, the sum of the categories may not add up to 100%.

Tertiary enrolments by age 24



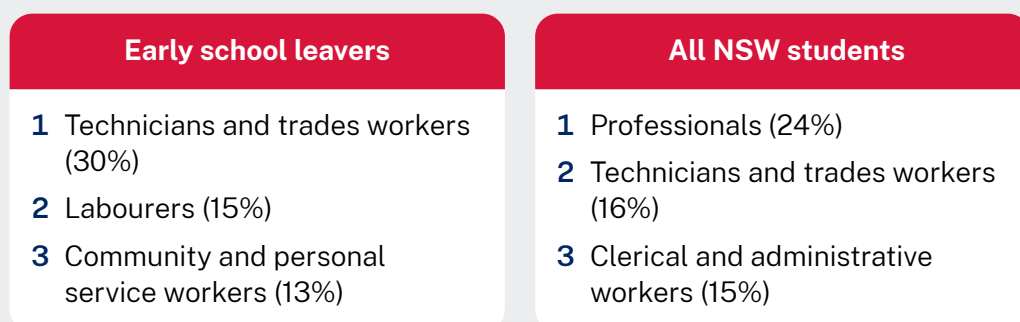
81% of early school leavers enrolled in tertiary VET, while only **6%** enrolled in university

Top tertiary fields of study by age 24



VET study in **engineering and related technologies** was the most common tertiary field of study for early school leavers

Top occupations at age 24²



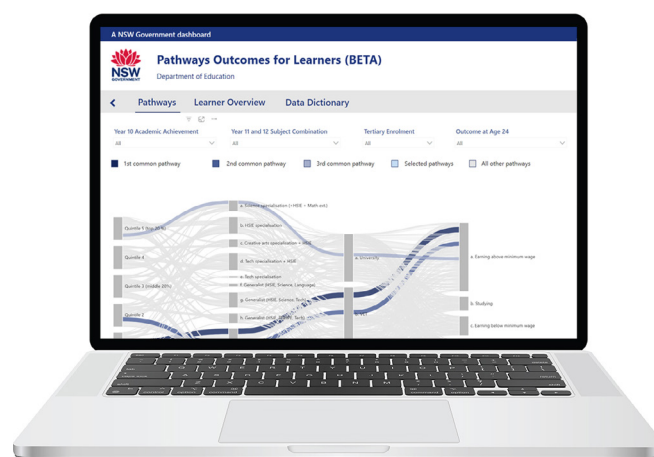
Technicians and trades workers was the most common occupation for early school leavers

² Percentages expressed as a proportion of students employed at age 24.

More information about Pathways Outcomes for Learners

Pathways Outcomes for Learners draws on [Pathways for the Future Program](#) pilot data which covers the background, education and employment data of 3.5 million young people aged 15 to 24 in NSW over the period 1996 to 2016.

The dashboard is a data visualisation tool and can offer high-level insights about pathways students take in senior secondary school through to tertiary study and into employment.



Data sources

The NSW Department of Education would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following organisations in the supply of data and preparation of this fact sheet:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Australian Government Department of Education
- Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee
- NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
- NSW Skills Board
- TAFE NSW
- The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL), NSW Ministry of Health.

A note about Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) data:

The results of these studies are based, in part, on tax data supplied by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to the ABS under the

Taxation Administration Act 1953, which requires that such data is only used for the purpose of administering the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the data for statistical purposes, and is not related to the ability of the data to support the ATO's core operational requirements.

Legislative requirements to ensure privacy and secrecy of these data have been followed. For access to MADIP data under section 16A of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* or enabled by section 15 of the *Census and Statistics (Information Release and Access) Determination 2018*, source data are de-identified and so data about specific individuals has not been viewed in conducting this analysis. In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, results have been treated where necessary to ensure that they are not likely to enable identification of a particular person or organisation.

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